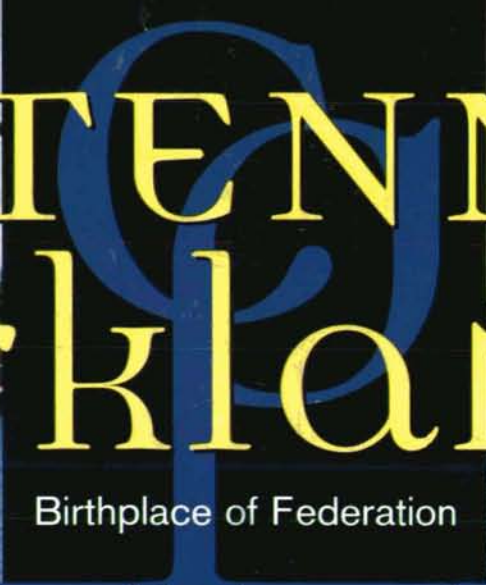


CENTENNIAL parklands




Birthplace of Federation

VOL 5

the magazine of the centennial park & moore park trust

SPRING/SUMMER 1998



what's
a park
to you?

foreword:

happy first birthday "centennial parklands"!



It has been a little more than a year since the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust started this quarterly magazine as a key component of its community relations program. With each issue we have seen some major (and some less major) changes to the physical and social landscape throughout the Parklands and surrounding areas.

This magazine has been the vehicle to report those changes and provide updates to the community on the projects affecting this precious resource. As we arrive at the final stages of production on the Trust's 97/98 annual report, we have realised just how full the past twelve months have been and how diverse the Trust's business has become.

In twelve months we have seen rapid progress made on the Eastern Distributor roadway. The Trust has been at the forefront of negotiations to ensure that Moore Park is returned to quality parkland area on completion of the project. The first stage of the Eastern Distributor compensation package was delivered with the relocation of the Frank Saywell Kindergarten and its opening as the new Centennial Parklands Children's Centre at the ES Marks Athletics Stadium in July.

Earlier this year the Trust also assumed responsibility for the two old Sydney Showground venues, the Royal Hall of Industries and the Hordern Pavilion, and the badly needed restoration of these heritage buildings. The Trust has worked closely with the government and with Playbill Venue Management to ensure that these Sydney icons are preserved for continued community use.

The redevelopment of the old Showground stables and their June opening as the new \$10.5 million Centennial Parklands Equestrian Centre has added a world-class facility to the Parklands and with close to full occupancy of the stables, we are clearly meeting a need for equestrian facilities close to the CBD. It is wonderful to see the historic link between the equestrian community and the Parklands continue and I thank the Redevelopment Working Party members who have contributed their time and expertise to realise this very successful project.

The other key issue the Trust has focused on over the past year is the special event access strategy for Moore Park. A special event bus station and roadway is currently under construction in Moore Park to service the needs of people coming to the Moore Park precinct to attend events at the SCG, the football stadium and the Showground. We are

working with the Department of Transport to improve public transport access to the area and reduce the car parking on Moore Park.

The Trust has not only been involved in issues outside the park gates and, you will see as you look through this 'first birthday issue', the Parklands staff are more than ever focused on the 'core asset', literally the grass and trees.

Parklands staff have established the first computerised tree management system implemented in a NSW park environment. The system will be an invaluable management tool which registers some 10,000 trees throughout the parks, recording details of their location, species, age, and maintenance.

The Friends of Centennial Parklands celebrated its second birthday in June with the marriage of the Tree Replacement Program to the 'Dedicated Friends' membership category. This membership provides for the planting of significant trees which can be dedicated to family, friends and loved ones in the Centennial Parklands Tree Register.

This issue goes right back to basics to define the word 'park', looks at the benefits – social and environmental – of open space in an urban culture, and assesses whether we are providing what our park users need. Parklands staff are tackling these issues to arrive at a visitor management strategy that will carry the Parklands beyond 2000.

Our focus in the Parklands now turns to planning for the Olympic events – the marathon and cycling – and to the intensive planning for the Centenary of Federation celebrations in 2001. You will read more about both in future issues.

I congratulate the Trust on making communication with its stakeholders a priority during this period of constant evolution in the Parklands and I encourage the Parklands staff to carry this quality publication through its second year with as much enthusiasm as the first.

Pam Allan MP Minister for the Environment

Picture: Environment Minister Pam Allan plants a bushtucker garden with children at the new Centennial Parklands Children's Centre (see page 10).

Editor's Note

We farewell Tina Broad, Manager Marketing and Community Relations and Editor of Centennial Parklands, in July. While her raw enthusiasm, energy and can-do philosophy is missed, she has left the Parklands well-placed to continue the open discourse with its stakeholders and the community at large. Her development of a solid marketing and community relations program will see the Parklands through the next few very challenging years. The Trust welcomes Dianne Brien as its new Manager Marketing and Community Relations.

We are still very keen to receive your feedback on Centennial Parklands, particularly as it embarks on its second year. In the meantime, they're your Parklands and we hope you are taking advantage of all the benefits they have to offer!

escape and explore your parklands this spring



After the heavy winter rain which saw much of the Parklands under water, the gardens are looking more vibrant than ever and now is the time to explore the parts you don't know. Join the Rangers and

horticultural staff for a range of informative and entertaining walks and talks through the Parklands during the next few months.

Take your pick from: a Twilight Heritage Walk by Lantern Light, a Spotlight Prowl, Birdwatchers Breakfast, Bushtucker Walk, Wetland Wander, Ted's (now famous) Tree Walks with Senior Arborist Ted Hoare, and an introduction to Centennial Park's gardens with the senior horticultural staff. Bookings are essential. Call 9339 6699 for details of the Parklands' Escape & Explore Walk and Talk Program. Friends of the Parklands receive discounts on all activities.

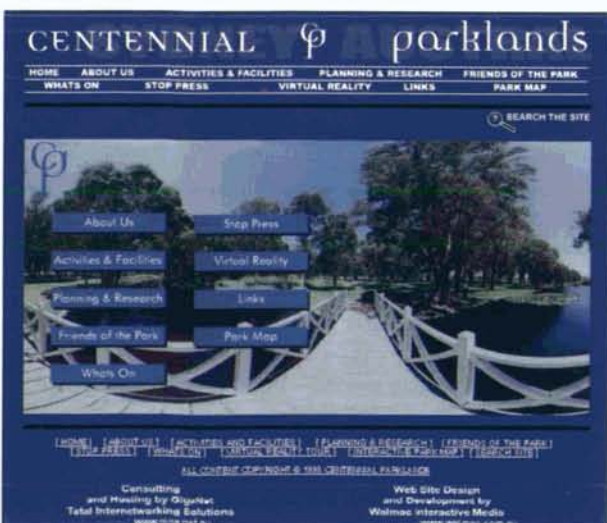
Coming Events

November 27: Moonlight Cinema starts at the Amphitheatre and runs through summer. Information: 03 9663 9555 or check listings during the season

December 6: Car Free Day. Car Free Days fall on the first Sunday of the season. Information: 9339 6699

January 4-24: Escape & Explore School Holiday Program. Call 9339 6699 for a brochure on the program activities.

January 7: Cirque du Soleil appears in Moore Park as a key event of the Sydney Festival. This world renown Canadian circus will perform under its 'grand chapiteau' until March 7, 1999. Check daily newspapers and the Festival program for more details or call Ticketek 9266 4810.



Escape & Explore in cyberspace! Take yourself on a virtual reality tour of Centennial Parklands and discover more of your parks without leaving your desk! Visit the new website at: www.cp.nsw.gov.au

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The Centennial Parklands that we all enjoy today are the product of many forward thinking citizens.

One such citizen was Charles Moore. **Phillip Black** reports.

In the late 19th century two Charles Moores made separate, significant contributions to the development of the Centennial Parklands.

One a Scottish botanist, born in 1820 Charles Muir, changed his family name to Moore with a move to Ireland. He settled in Sydney in 1848 following his appointment as Director of the Botanic Gardens, a post he held till 1896. During this time he was responsible for the Gardenesque layout of Centennial Park.

The other Charles Moore (1820-1895) was an Irish draper who came to the Australian colonies in 1849 to sell cloth. Settling in Sydney in 1850 he was well placed to benefit from the hectic days of the "Gold Rush", soon establishing a drapery business and auction rooms in Pitt Street. By 1860 he had built a substantial house at Coogee and began his public life as an alderman on the Randwick Municipal Council.

Each day Charles Moore travelled the "Randwick Road" (now Anzac Parade) to his city business and was aware of the poor state of the road and the sorry state of the "Sydney Common" (now Centennial Park). In 1865 he was elected as an alderman to the Sydney City Council and he served as Lord Mayor between 1867-9. As an alderman Moore initiated many civic works needed for Sydney's growing population, with road improvement and restoration of the Sydney Common two of his prime objectives. For improvements to the Common, he was able to secure the support of the Minister for Lands and in turn the Premier, Sir Henry Parkes. A select Committee was established which recommended the transfer from the Crown of the western part of the Common to the Sydney City Council, retaining the eastern section for water supply

purposes. Improvements began with the "Sydney Common Improvement Act" of 1866 and by 1869 the Road Trust's responsibility for maintaining Randwick Road was transferred to the City and Randwick Councils.

Consequently much of the drifting sand on the Common was moved into a chain of swamps to rebuild "Randwick Road" as a 100ft wide boulevard and "Park Road" was established by filling the site of the quarry from which stone for Victoria Barracks was obtained. Following these developments of the park, the area was named "Moore Park" in 1867 in his honour.

charles moore MLC

19th century Greenie

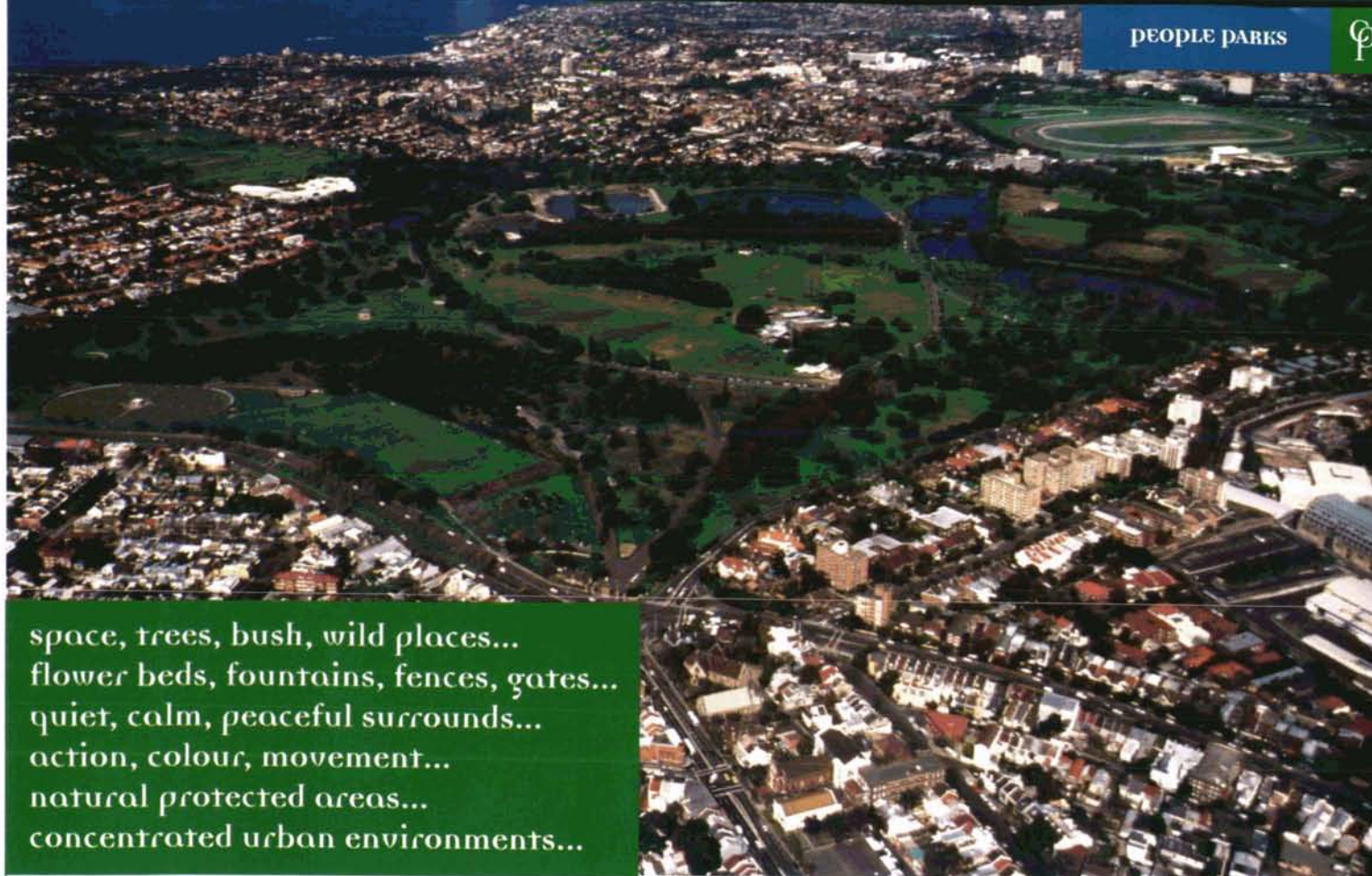
The crowning point of Moore's life was his election to the NSW Legislative Assembly in 1874 and in 1880 his appointment to the Legislative Council where he sat till his death in 1895.

Over the intervening century, areas of Moore Park witnessed many and varied uses; a garbage tip and incinerator site, Zoological Gardens, army training ground, car parking, tram depot, child care facility, golf course and other sport and recreation facilities including a bandstand used till 1937, now revealed with the removal of the old Leisure Centre buildings.

In 1989 the two separate parts of the original common were reunited under the management of the "Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust". Today Moore Park is an important recreational space that provides a range of sporting facilities including an 18 hole public golf course and the ES Marks Athletics Stadium. The Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust continues to address the pressures imposed on this important community resource, such as the impact of the Eastern Distributor. In February 1997 the Plan of Management for the Centennial Parklands was released for public comment and this is the blue print for future planning. ⁴⁾

** Phillip Black is President of South Sydney Historical Society, a geologist and former school teacher. He is a member of the Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust's Community Consultative Committee.*





space, trees, bush, wild places...
 flower beds, fountains, fences, gates...
 quiet, calm, peaceful surrounds...
 action, colour, movement...
 natural protected areas...
 concentrated urban environments...

what's a park to you?

Everyone's definition of a park varies greatly and we all perceive and use parks very differently. Centennial Parklands Research Officer **Rebekah Gomez-Fort** explores the notion of parks, what they mean to us, and why we need them so much.

The concept of green open space in the urban environment appears to be as old as settlement itself. A long tradition of supplying and maintaining parks is something of a universal tradition and has only really come under threat as a result of urban expansion and population explosion over the last two centuries.

Some of the earliest records of public parks in England date back to the sixteenth century when they were included on town maps. At the turn of the 19th century, a European trend for landscape gardening took off in England and resulted in the appearance of pleasure gardens and botanical gardens.



The need for open space was generally satisfied by commons and market places until the 1840s when an upper middle class urban reform movement gained popularity and highlighted the issues of public health and sanitation. For the wealthier classes, private parks supplied a venue for the Sunday stroll in the fresh air, but there was an increasing need for industrial workers of the lower class to escape their oppressive work conditions and the public park movement, parks bought and built from public funds, was born.

what defines a park?

There is general agreement that parks are green open spaces, but more technical terms such as 'metropolitan', 'urban', 'regional', 'pocket', 'district' and 'national' park are used and conjure up different images for different people.

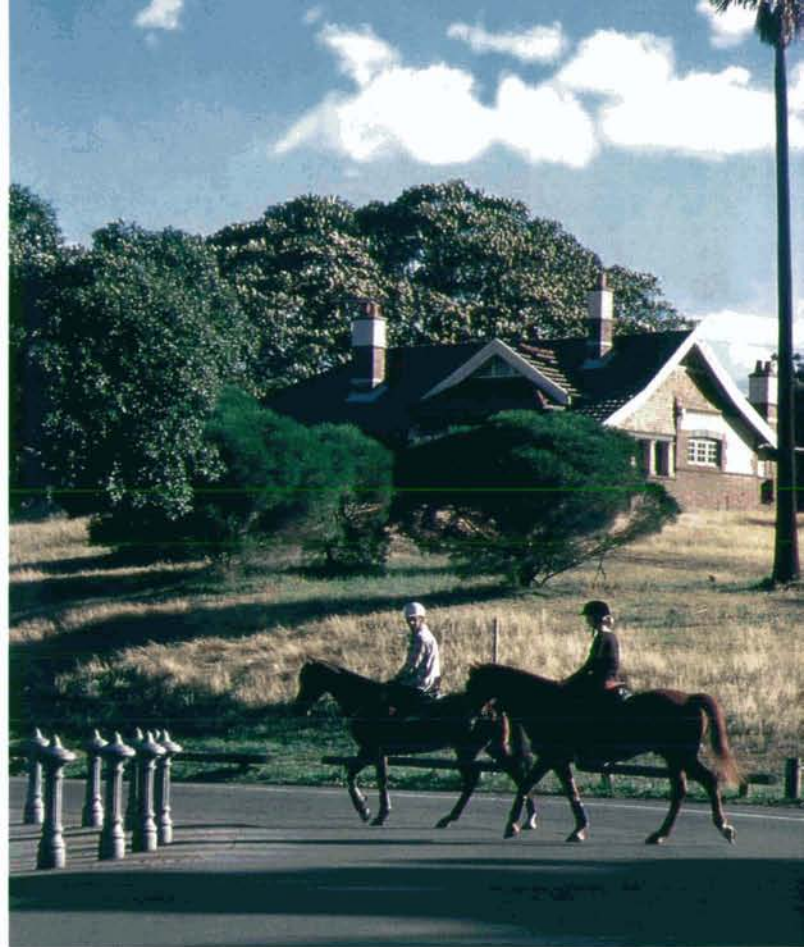
Parks are often spoken about or defined by their locality and the elements one finds in them. Elery Hamilton-Smith says that 'park' can mean, for example, the pocket of bushland at the end of a suburban street, the neighbourhood playground and basketball court, or the landscaped and paved meeting place in the CBD.

Broadly speaking, parks tend to fall into four accepted categories: national parks, recreational parks, sporting areas, other parks. Gardens, on the other hand, are perceived to be quite different from parks. They tend to be more formal and less interactive and may have some scientific purpose.

the benefits of parks

The restorative nature of urban parks stemmed from the effects of industrialisation – overcrowding, pollution and unsanitary conditions.

Landscapes were seen to be an important source of pleasure and aesthetic beauty in art as well as in nature. Green open spaces were seen to hold a certain amount of symbolism



for both lower and upper classes, although for different reasons.

Today, there is a significant amount of research available that highlights the benefits of outdoor recreation. These are associated with:

the physical benefits of exercise –

- decreased blood pressure
- decrease heart rate and improved cardiovascular function

the psychological benefits –

- reduction in anxiety
- decreases in depression
- improved feelings of well-being
- enhanced self-esteem and increased confidence

the social benefits –

- reduction in alienation, loneliness, antisocial behaviour and provision of opportunities for ethnic activities and exchange of culture

the economic benefits –

- tourism, increased property values and reduction in medical costs, and

the environmental benefits –

- increased environmental awareness, provision of habitat for native species and so on.

Parks provide:

- free space to undertake a significant variety of activities with minimal restrictions on behaviour
- a large variety of recreational opportunities in close proximity to residential areas, for example: rollerblading, horseriding, walking, cycling, etc.
- and allow office workers to break from the everyday work scene without having to travel significant distance.

Horses for Courses

COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS in the qualitative research conducted for Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust during 1995 demonstrated that there are views on both sides of the fence for almost every issue in the park. Some examples follow:

- **Car free days:** visitors who are able to walk to the park tend to enjoy car free days while those who have to travel further tend to find car free days inconvenient.
- **Car speeding:** most visitors want the cars to slow down but rangers whose responsibility it is to police speeding cars, have been criticised for being too restrictive and bureaucratic.
- **Shade in the park:** a number of comments have been received from park users who wish for an increase in the amount of shelter in the park, but quite a few respondents also stated that they do not want any more buildings in the park.
- **Dogs:** respondents have noted that dogs should be given either more liberty or more restrictions, depending on your view of dogs.

The challenges for park managers

"... places for the indigenous vegetation, which the march of civilisation is gradually exterminating from the city and suburbs. ... The crowds which flocked to the park to witness the manoeuvres on the occasion of the Queen's Jubilee devastated the vegetation in a manner which, though unavoidable, was distressing to see..."

The above quotation appeared in the first annual report recorded in 1897 by Joseph Henry Maiden, one of Centennial Park's first designers. The statement reflects issues that are still of significant importance to the present day managers of Centennial Parklands: conserving indigenous species while still reflecting the original Victorian style of the park; and, attempting to address issues of overcrowding.

Park management like other fields of resource management, is a complex area of multiple and often competing objectives. Users of parks frequently have conflicting opinions about how parks should be managed.

In addition to the complexity raised by servicing customers with differing views, there are challenges as a result of operating in an ever changing environment. Some of these aspects are: changes in population structure ultimately resulting in an aged population and overall increase in population size; increasing cultural diversity; continued environmental degradation; increased pressure to cope with progressively doing more with less and finding alternative funding sources whilst improving quality outputs.

The situation is further complicated by the diversity of Centennial Park, Moore Park and Queens Park. Centennial Park (220 ha) is an example of a Victorian landscaped park with historical values, wildlife habitat areas and grand avenues; while Moore Park (120 ha) and Queens Park (25 ha) are maintained and primarily used for more organised sport and contain netball courts, cricket, soccer and football fields.

How is the centennial park and moore park trust responding to these challenges?

If there is one word that describes both the environment in which the Trust operates as well as the resource the Trust is required to manage, it is 'diversity'.

The Parklands are managed by the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust. The Trust's board is made up of eight trustees and the organisation employs a wide variety of professionals including landscape architects, arborists, rangers, horticulturalists, event managers, marketing and research staff, community relations staff, business services

Current Management Challenges

Eastern Distributor
Showground redevelopment
Financial viability
Water Quality

Future Management Challenges

Visitor Demand Management
Centenary of Federation 2001
Olympics 2000

and field staff. This diversity of staffing is a direct reflection of the diversity of operations within the Parklands and the complexity of the operating environment.

There has been a recent shift in the Trust's management approach. Features of this shift include: entering a new marketing phase which is expanding its visitors' appreciation, awareness, and understanding of the Parklands values and



Diversity of Services and Facilities

- Golf Course and Driving Range
- Cafe and Restaurant
- Cycling course and learners track
- Horseriding track
- Equestrian Centre and fields
- Walking and rollerblading tracks
- Events administration
- Picnic and barbecue facilities
- Ranger guided walks and activities
- Ponds and waterways
- Sporting fields
- Photo and film location
- Formal gardens and plantings

benefits, seeking to re-position the Trust's approach in order to highlight the regional, national and even international significance of the Parklands; and preparing to address some hard decisions such as the management of the ever increasing demand for usage of the Parklands.

The Trust has also responded to a challenging operating environment by taking an integrated approach towards management. This approach is reflected by a change of name – from Centennial Park, Moore Park and Queens Park to Centennial Parklands. This is not just semantics, but demonstrates that the Trust is determined to ensure that the Parklands integrity is maintained.

A 'Dead set' Legend



Arguably one of Australia's best known sports celebrities, Greg Mathews could be credited for pushing cricket past the status of sport and into the realm of entertainment. Parklands Community Relations Officer **Georgia Stynes** caught up with him for this profile during his sons' soccer training in the Parklands.

Mathews' most treasured memories of first class cricket are not of bowling an LBW in the final wicket of a tied test against India in Madras, or of his maiden test century with a six over midwicket at the Gabba.

"The things I really remember are the conversations I had with some great people, or walking into the first training session of the year and seeing everyone again, or having a shower after a really hard day's play," he said.

One of the greatest thrills of his cricketing career was the time spent in the SCG change rooms, before and after a match.

Local residents for many years, Greg Mathews, his wife Gillian and their three children can often be found in the park feeding the ducks, playing soccer, cycling, and – while some would not believe it of this lively personality – bird watching. A self-professed lover of Australian wildlife, Mathews has a soft spot for the native birds in the Parklands including the Tawny Frogmouth.

Mathews has accrued an enviable record as an all rounder with 116 Sheffield Shield matches for NSW and 33 tests for Australia.

Although his state and international career has come to a close, Mathews is far from idle and continues to play cricket with his club, Easts, and meet his various sponsorship commitments.

He can also be heard on Triple M Radio on the 'Dead Set Legends' Segment with Ray Warren, Mike Whitney and Russel Barwick. "It's a really enjoyable, and a wonderful opportunity, especially working with Ray Warren. And I have an awful lot of respect for Andrew Denton, he is just so quick."

"just walking into the change rooms, to be in the spot where the legends have been, to sit in their corners. sir donald bradman was here"

"Just walking into the change rooms, to be in the spot where the legends have been, to sit in their corners. The majority of times I walked into those rooms, I just couldn't believe it – Sir Donald Bradman was here, that was Keith Miller's spot, the likes of Davo and Richie Benaud... it's a very special place and a special ground to play at".

The Mathews family use the Parklands for many reasons and have trouble identifying their favourite spot. "We're here pretty regularly, cycling round the track, feeding the ducks, or celebrating birthdays". During discussions about the Parklands in future years, Greg Mathews said he has

his own vision for them, "more gum trees and less ibis". Undoubtedly a vision shared by many Parkland picnickers! ♡

** Centennial Parklands thanks Greg Mathews for participating in the recording of community service announcements with NSW Minister for the Environment Pam Allan to promote public transport to sporting events at Moore Park.*

showground redevelopments

Centennial Parklands Equestrian Centre: from go to whoa!

The Centennial Parklands Equestrian Centre, previously the Royal Agricultural Society's Showground Stables, emerged from a twelve month redevelopment program in June this year. The \$10.5 million restoration of the heritage stables is a major boost for Sydney, retaining the city's standing – along with New York's Central Park and London's Hyde Park – as one of only three parks in the world providing horse-riding facilities so close to the city centre. Though the Equestrian Centre has been operational since January, it was officially opened by NSW Environment Minister Pam Allan at the end of June. As well as the fully restored historic stabling pavilions, the upgraded Centre incorporates a new covered working area, ten wash bays, four sand rolls, two uncovered arenas, a lunging yard and a state-of-the-art event arena. Centennial Parklands Equestrian Centre enquiries: 9332 2809.



Work in Progress: the Hordern Pavilion and Royal Hall of Industries

The \$24 million restoration of the Hordern Pavilion and Royal Hall of Industries (RHI) is expected to reach completion early in 1999. The scale of the restoration work has seen both buildings completely re-roofed and reinforced and brought up to national building standards. The redevelopment of these historic Showground buildings will ensure that they continue to play an important role as premier entertainment and exhibition venues in Sydney alongside the Fox Studios development. While the Hordern and RHI fall under the responsibility of the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust, they are managed by Playbill Venue Management.



CENTENNIAL PARKLANDS RESTAURANT

The Centennial Parklands Restaurant offers one of Sydney's most beautiful aspects for breakfast or lunch, overlooking rolling parkland, magnificent Spring beds of cannas and sunflowers, and the hive of activity on Grand Drive.

The daily menu and the wine list are extensive to suit everyone's tastes and Springtime captures the imaginations of the restaurant's chefs who are creating some inspired flavours.

Grilled swordfish fillet with sweet potato, kalamata olives, and salsa verde (for 4)

Make the salsa verde and the sweet potato mash before grilling the swordfish steaks.

Salsa Verde

- 1 bunch finely chopped parsley
- 3 anchovy fillets finely chopped
- 3 tbsp. well drained and finely chopped capers
- 1 boiled egg finely chopped
- half tsp. finely chopped garlic
- 20 ml freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 150ml extra virgin olive oil
- a pinch of salt and pepper

Mix all the ingredients in a bowl, cover and refrigerate.

Sweet Potato Mash

- 600 gms sweet potato peeled and chopped
- 150 gms unsalted butter
- 1 tsp chopped garlic
- 1 tsp rosemary chopped
- 4 tsp brown sugar
- 4 tsp red wine vinegar
- a pinch of salt and pepper

Boil the sweet potato until soft, then drain and mash. Saute the garlic and rosemary in butter and add sugar and vinegar. Stir this through the mash with a pinch of salt and pepper.

Grill four 150gm swordfish steaks on medium heat for a few minutes until cooked through. Serve with hot mash, olives, and salsa verde.

escape & explore toddlers discover the natural world

NSW Environment Minister Pam Allan recently launched an innovative environmental education program for young children when she officially opened the new \$1.2 million Centennial Parklands Children's Centre.

The Escape and Explore Early Childhood Program, run by Centennial Parklands' education/interpretation rangers, provides nature-based experiences to help very young children develop an awareness and enjoyment of the environment.

In a 1997 Environment Protection Authority survey, conducted to find out if attitudes to the environment are changing, people were asked to nominate the single most important thing the State Government should do to protect the environment in the next few years. Education about environmental issues was the most common response.

"We've got to start as early as possible to instil in our children a sense of ownership and responsibility for the environment," the Minister said.

"This early childhood program is one of the few environmental education programs aimed at the Under 5s," she said.

Education and Interpretation Ranger Carolyn Culey said the idea of a specific program for toddlers was born when the Parklands' rangers noticed huge demand from parents of small children for structured programs during the school holidays when older siblings were participating in holiday activities.

"The program has been developed as an antidote to indoor, TV-driven activities which are increasingly becoming a feature of city children's play," Carolyn Culey said.

Activities include bushcraft, 'green games' and sensory nature walks, all designed to engage and inspire young children's interest in the natural world around them.

The rangers can provide hands-on, multi-sensory experiences in the Park environment or they will take the mobile ranger station direct to children's centres if it's not possible to bring children to the Parklands.

The program was trialed with children's services around Sydney's eastern suburbs with an extremely positive response, and with the mobile ranger station, children's centres beyond the eastern suburbs have also been taking advantage of the program.

For bookings and enquiries about the Escape and Explore Early Childhood Program, please call 9339 6699.

centennial parklands friends and the tree replacement program

The Friends of Centennial Parklands celebrated the group's second anniversary with a tree dedication ceremony in July and formally tied the knot with the Parklands' Tree Replacement Program.

The Friends of the Parklands has grown steadily since the group was born a little over two years ago. The first planting of significant trees for Foundation Friends took place in Moore Park early in 1997 and those trees, mostly fig varieties, are flourishing despite the urban pressures of road building and traffic.

'Significant trees' are defined as the grand old fig, paperbark, sheoak, gum, and tallow wood varieties which were integral to the Parklands' original planting and landscape design. They can be seen in avenue and grove plantings all over the Parklands and many of the finest examples of these significant trees are on Grand Drive.

The Parklands Senior Arborist, Ted Hoare, told the group at the dedication that many of these significant trees are over 100 years old and are coming to the end of their lives. As they die, they must be replaced with new trees to ensure that the integrity of the Parklands' heritage planting design is maintained.

Officiating at the anniversary dedication, Lady Martin, Patron of the Friends, said "it's appropriate that the trees are planted according to the original plans which allowed for grand trees of real significance to give these parklands the character they have today – it's up to us to preserve that character which is unique to Centennial, Moore and Queens Parks".

While the Foundation Friend membership period was closed at the second anniversary, people can continue to join the Friends in a similar membership category, 'Dedicated Friends'.

Dedicated Friends play a vitally important role in the Parklands' Tree Replacement Program as their membership provides for the planting of new significant trees which can be dedicated to a family, friend or loved one in the Centennial Parklands Tree Register.



Lady Martin, Friends' Patron and Ted Hoare, Trust Arborist, celebrate the second anniversary of the Friends

**"it's up to us to
preserve that
character which is
unique to
centennial, moore
and queens
parks"**

Lady Martin thanked the Foundation and Dedicated Friends saying, "you may have dedicated your tree to the memory of someone you love, to someone with a life still ahead of them, or to mark a significant occasion in your life or that of your family or friends. You may be dedicating your tree to the people of Sydney or to people who love parks.

"This is one of the most substantial and tangible memberships of any organisation and it must surely be one of the longest lasting; these trees will stand here for generations and will be as grand as the trees you see around the Parklands today.

"They represent the people who have gone before us and the people who will come after us; they are significant historically and environmentally," she said.

"You have made a valuable investment which will be enjoyed not only by you and your family but by the millions of people who will come here to enjoy this green oasis," Lady Martin said.

** If you have a passion for parks, why not join the Friends of Centennial Parklands? Special events, programs and workshops are regular features of the Friends calendar and you can join as an individual, family or Dedicated Friend. For more information on Friends of the Parklands, telephone 9339 6699.*

\$10 MILLION FEDERATION FUNDING FOR PARKLANDS

The Commonwealth Government recently announced funding of \$10 million from the national Federation Fund for improvements to Centennial Park and Moore Park to celebrate the Centenary of Federation in 2001.

Centenary celebrations will focus on Centennial Park which is the home of the 'Federation Stone' and the place where the States came together to proclaim the Federation of Australia on New Year's Day 1901 – it is the birthplace of the nation.

The Federation funding will contribute to the restoration of Federation Valley and the Federation Monument, Federation Drive (the old Grand Drive which runs parallel to Lang Road and links Moore Park to Centennial Park), an 'Avenue of Nations', and a Federation Garden which will see species from each state planted in the south-west part of Centennial Park. More details in the next issue of Centennial Parklands.

MOORE PARK EVENT ACCESS

Construction of the Special Event Bus Roadway and Bus Station in Moore Park is close to completion. These public transport facilities will greatly improve access to events in the Moore Park precinct (SCG, football stadium, etc.) and use of the special event bus shuttles and park 'n' ride services will greatly reduce the traffic and parking congestion around and on Moore Park. The conflicts between pedestrians, cars and buses will be reduced and access will be safer, faster and more convenient for event-goers as Moore Park is converted from badly degraded area to high quality parkland, playing fields, and pedestrian thoroughfares.

PONDS RESTORATION PROGRAM GETS BOOST WITH \$1.2 MILLION STAGE 2

You may have noticed that the Trust has embarked upon Stage 2 of the restoration program for the Park's heritage ponds. Stage One saw work completed at Fly Casting Pond and Model Yacht Pond. Stage Two now focuses on the three ponds on the eastern side of Centennial Park – Willow, One More Shot and Musgrave Ponds – which are a primary stormwater inlet. Stormwater from over 590 hectares of the eastern suburbs drains directly into the ponds system and between 600kgs and 800kgs of rubbish is removed from Musgrave Pond alone. The Trust secured \$250,000 in this year's round of NSW Stormwater Trust grants.

The grant will pay for installation of a state-of-the-art pollution trap at the entrance to one of the Parklands' most polluted areas. Given the extraordinarily heavy rain during August, this pollution trap should make a huge difference to the level of stormwater pollution in the ponds. Stage 2 works also include: stabilising the banks, removing contaminated silt, weed removal, establishing native aquatic plants which act as filters and will improve habitat, redirecting flows to improve the flushing of the ponds system, and revegetating the island in Willow Pond. The work has been scheduled around the breeding times of the Ponds' birdlife.

OLYMPIC-SIZED PLANNING

Parklands staff have joined the frenetic planning for Sydney 2000 as negotiations for three Olympic events and two Paralympic events in Parkland venues reach the final agreement stage. While many of the details are yet to be confirmed, Olympic and Paralympic training, trials and events will take place in the Parklands for the road cycling and marathon. Trial events will be held in November 1999. The Hordern Pavilion and Royal Hall of Industries will be the venue for the Olympic Fencing events. The Parklands own 'Olympic team' of event planners will continue to work closely with SOCOG, the Olympic Coordination Authority and the Olympic Roads & Traffic Authority in the lead up to 2000.

Centennial Parklands Facilities

Centennial Parklands	
Equestrian Centre.....	9332 2809
Moore Park Golf Course	9663 1064
Moore Park Pro Shop & Driving Range..	9663 4966
Parklands Tennis Centre.....	9662 7033
Centennial Parklands Restaurant.....	9360 3355
Sports Facilities – including lawn bowls, hockey, soccer, cricket and touch football.	
Bookings	9339 6699
Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust	9339 6699
Escape and Explore – Ranger-guided program bookings.....	9339 6699