

Centennial Parklands *Annual Report 1998-99*

beauty

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Our vision

The Centennial Parklands will be a place of beauty, peace, excitement and culture in the hearts of the people of Sydney; a place where diversity of activities can be safely pursued by people of all ages and abilities; a place where national, civic and individual milestones are marked and treasured in landscapes, events, monuments and memories.

Our mission

The sustainable development of urban parkland and leisure facilities on behalf of the community through the application of the principles of best practice management.

Front cover: Beauty – it is the essence of the Parklands, and a key aspect of our vision statement. Each of the photographs in this Report captures an element of our vision as a tangible moment in the life of the Parklands.

Profile

The Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust manages some of Australia's most highly used and valued recreational space, known collectively as the Centennial Parklands.

Extending over 385 hectares, the Parklands are a national asset of immense significance. They are located strategically between the Sydney central business district and its popular eastern beaches.

The Parklands include Australia's grandest 19th century park, Centennial Park, as well as Queens Park, Moore Park and the former Sydney Showground.

The Centennial Parklands have an estimated annual value to the community of \$94 million, with a total asset base worth more than \$500 million. They contribute some \$10 million a year to the State from tourism and drew more than 5 million visits in 1998-99.

For more than a century the Parklands have been cherished by generations of Australians. Their significance as a historic area for leisure, so close to the centre of Australia's largest city, cannot be undervalued.



peace

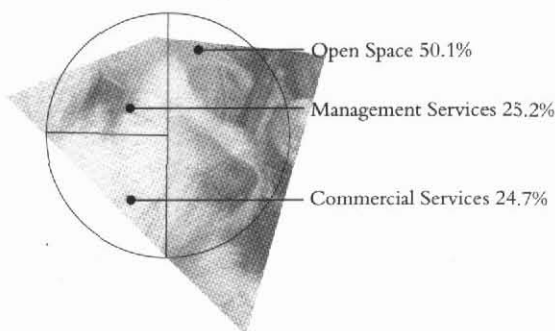
Highlights

- Moore Park Event Bus Station and Forecourt were opened in January 1999 – the centrepiece of a plan to increase public transport use for events, relieve traffic congestion and reduce demand for parking on Moore Park.
- Rehabilitation of Moore Park continued under a \$12 million program to significantly upgrade this Park by 2002.
- The Centennial Parklands Children's Centre was opened in July 1998 – a \$1.3 million facility built to replace the former Frank Saywell Kindergarten in Moore Park.
- Stage Two of the Ponds Restoration Program was completed, part of a \$6.5 million overhaul of Centennial Park's heritage pond system.
- We made major progress in our preparations for the Centenary of Federation. The Trust successfully secured a \$10 million grant from the national Federation Fund for three projects to mark the Centenary of Federation.
- Our Education and Interpretation programs were expanded to include a new Schools Program and a nature trail at Lachlan Swamp. Nearly 6,500 people participated in our Ranger-guided activities – a 100% increase on last year.

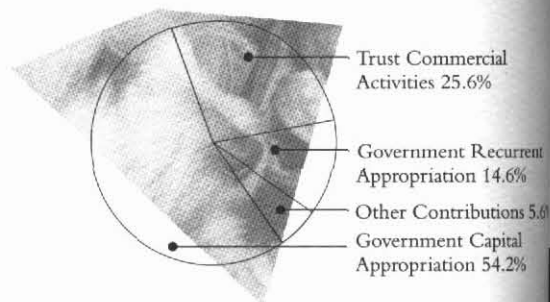
- The number and variety of cultural events increased significantly, and included performances by Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Cirque du Soleil and a record season of Moonlight Cinema.
- We launched our award winning website in July 1998, and continued the expansion of *Parklands* magazine and other public information initiatives.
- A comprehensive study of more than 8,770 trees was completed, forming the basis of a computerised tree database – the first of its kind in Australia.
- We completed work on our first Tree Master Plan for all three parks, which takes an integrated approach to managing tree environments across the entire Parklands.
- The Parklands' trees were recognised as an asset for the first time to fair value of \$90.4 million.
- Improved marketing of products and services resulted in a 56% increase in revenue from filming and photography, sports bookings, events and venues.
- The Trust conducted a comprehensive analysis of our key financial risks, which identified liabilities relating to asset management and maintenance, important to the Trust's long term financial position.



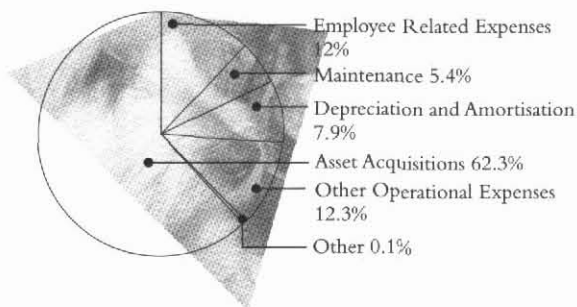
How our dollars were allocated



Where funds came from



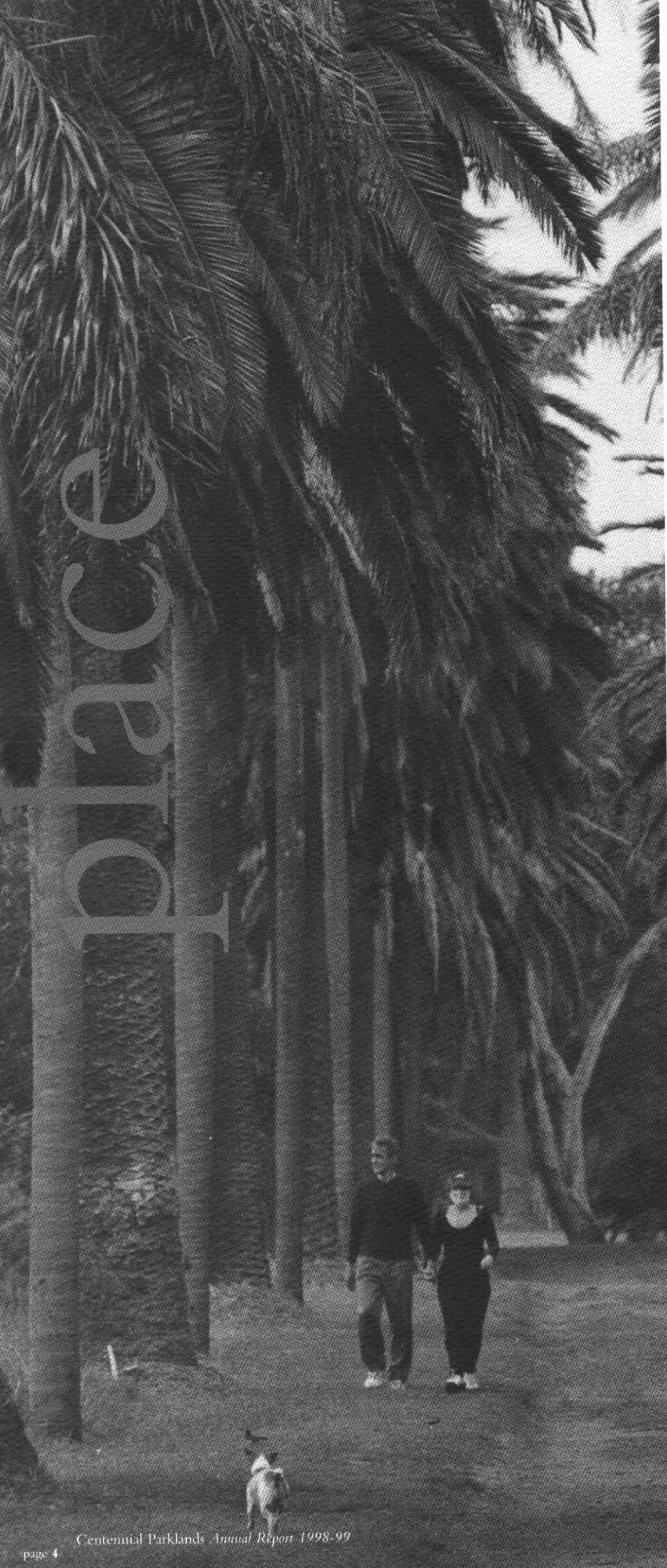
Where funds were spent



Financial performance

	Budget 98-99	Actual 98-99
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Total expenses	11,124	11,296
Total revenues	6,824	8,031
Net cost of services	4,300	3,413
Government contributions	19,682	18,692
Surplus	15,382	15,279
Total assets	399,647	516,517
Total liabilities	1,708	2,080





The Hon. Bob Carr MP
Premier of New South Wales
Level 40
Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Premier

It is with pleasure that we submit the 15th Annual Report of the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust for the year ended 30 June 1999 for presentation to the NSW Parliament.

The Report has been prepared in accordance with the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984* and the *Public Finance Audit Act 1983* and the Regulations under those Acts.

Yours sincerely



Annette O'Neill
Chairman



John Walker
Trustee

Premier's Message

As we look to the future and our celebration of Federation, the special place that the Centennial Parklands hold in our lives is brought into sharp focus.

The Parklands are an important link to our past. It was in Centennial Park, on 1 January 1901, that Lord Hopetoun declared himself the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and Edmund Barton Australia's first Prime Minister. While many of us enjoy taking a walk along the pathways of history, all of us relish the everyday beauty of the Centennial Parklands.

I am not surprised that surveys conducted by the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust show that people regard the parks as "a rare and valued contrast to the urban environment".

All of the Trust's extensive consumer research demonstrates that people have a real affection for the parks.

I know that Nobel laureate Patrick White, who lived opposite Centennial Park, described it as "a living living room". Others see it as a place of "spiritual refreshment", a place to "commune with nature", "a breathing space" and "a historic link with the past".

I support the important work of the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust in preserving the historical significance of the Parklands and enhancing their environmental and leisure benefits.

As well as the important Plan of Management, *Into the 21st Century*, the Trust recently completed work on its first Tree Master Plan to ensure coordinated management of these assets – now valued at \$90 million – and ensure future plantings continue the historical and ecological pattern of the Parklands. Following consultation with the community, the Plan will be finalised and implemented.

Work has begun on several major projects intended to enhance the beauty and grace of the Parklands.

I applaud the Trust for its plans to restore Parkes Drive, the imposing avenue of palms blighted by the fungus, *fusarium wilt*. This once grand avenue will be replanted to create an 'Avenue of Nations', dedicated to the many nations that have made Australia such an interesting and successful multicultural society.

Among the Trust's most imaginative Federation plans is the \$9.5 million project to build a principal western entrance, a Grand Drive, to Centennial Park as was originally proposed in the early 1880s. Such a plan would more powerfully integrate Moore Park with Centennial Park.

And, appropriately, the Trust has allocated \$1.6 million to ensure that Federation Valley, the original site of the Federation ceremony, is refurbished and enhanced in time for the Federation celebrations in 2001.

I appreciate the Trust's involvement in community consultation and its subsequent action on identified key issues such as cultural and heritage information programs, flora and fauna education programs, upgraded visitor facilities, special needs access and restoration of the ponds.

The Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust is to be congratulated for its ongoing commitment to enhancing the integrity of the Centennial Parklands and improving and maintaining their unique natural and cultural heritage.

The Hon. Bob Carr MP
Premier of New South Wales



Chairman's Report

Generations of residents and their visitors have enjoyed the peace and pleasures of Moore Park, Centennial Park and Queens Park – the Centennial Parklands.

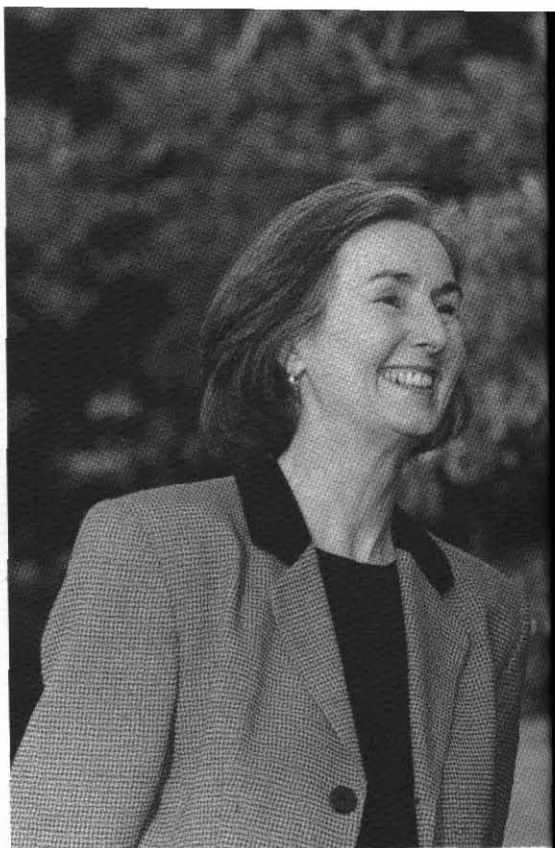
As well as encouraging passive leisure, allowing repose in a calming and inspirational haven, this open space maintains the "lungs of Sydney" – to improve health through exercise and lowering stress. From such parklands children learn to appreciate the environment and exercise their growing physical skills.

The Trust has restated its commitment to preserving and enhancing the Park environment as its fundamental imperative; nevertheless, the management of significant parklands in a world city no longer involves merely mowing grass, maintaining flora and managing fauna, however essential these may be. The challenges of the past year have been considerable for the Trust. Prudent management of the impact of the intrusion of the Eastern Distributor, the planning for Olympics, the upgrading of the Hordern Pavilion and the Royal Hall of Industries, the management of its various commercial facilities including the Equestrian Centre, the Golf Course, the Tennis Centre and ongoing negotiation with Fox Studios have taken considerable skill and resources.

The first full year of reporting against the 1998 Plan of Management confirms the need for a sophisticated balance of often conflicting uses of the Parklands. Recognising this tension, the Trust in 1998–99 has focussed on long term strategic planning to ensure that the Parklands are sustainable yet able to respond to the recreational and cultural needs of the people of Sydney. In a joint workshop in February the Trustees and the Executive identified common values, aspirations and priorities for future planning.

As part of this process the Trust commissioned a major assessment of the financial liability of its natural assets. This review identified an urgent need to make budgetary provision for investment in major upgrading to ensure the integrity of the Parklands in the next century. Although the Trust has been successful in securing income from its events, leases and licences, it requires commitment for guaranteed ongoing support to ensure that its natural environment is sufficiently and regularly maintained.

With increasing and substantial diversity within the Parklands, the Trust this year began to analyse, clarify and document its corporate governance responsibilities. In the coming year it will complete this process, including a manual for Trustees and terms of agreement between the Trust and the Executive.



Trust Chairman Annette O'Neill and Director Peter Duncan.

The Trust actively recognises the importance of involving the community in planning for the 'People's Park'. As well as formal consultation about specific projects in accordance with the Plan of Management, the Trust continues to communicate through its Community Consultative Committee, its *Parklands* newsletter and its Friends program. It encourages participation from local schools, the Guriwal Aboriginal Corporation and its neighbouring communities.

Accessible on foot to a large local population, as well as to visitors from elsewhere by car, the Centennial Parklands help provide for the open space needs of residents of four adjoining municipalities – Woollahra, Waverley, Randwick and South Sydney. With the high density development of the Green Square area of South Sydney, and the pedestrian bridges over the Eastern Distributor, use of the Parklands by the community is set to increase dramatically.

There is a need for greater recognition of this considerable contribution of the Parklands to local open space. With this in mind I am keen to see the Trust collaborate with Councils and other agencies to establish some connection between the Parklands and the city, other urban parks, the harbour and beaches through green pedestrian or bicycle corridors.

As promised last year, the Trust continued to work towards the reduction of car parking on the Moore Park sporting fields. Australia's reputation as a sporting nation depends upon giving young players excellent opportunities to learn their skills. The continuing use of these playing fields for car parking reduces access for amateur sport.



Director's Report

The accomplishments in this Report in great measure are due to the sound management of the Trust's former Director, Mr Robin Grimwade. Robin's contribution to the Parklands has provided a significant legacy of improvements and positioned the Parklands exceptionally well to greet the challenges of the next century.

Since joining the Trust I have been impressed by the enormous range of complex issues facing the organisation. These include:

- the construction of the Eastern Distributor and the subsequent restoration of Moore Park
- planning for the impacts of the opening of the Fox Family Entertainment Complex
- effective traffic management and increasing public transport
- expanding opportunities for cultural expression
- planning for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games and the Centenary of Federation in 2001
- managing our natural assets and providing appropriate levels of maintenance
- involving the community in decision-making
- protecting the integrity of the Parklands including a major regulation review
- sound financial management and expanding our revenue streams
- delivering an ambitious capital works program on time and to budget.

Parks provide excellent leisure opportunities and allow people to learn about the environment while having fun. We will continue to develop leisure programs that meet our users' needs and acknowledge the important heritage of the Parklands.

The Centennial Parklands' founders showed great foresight. Their vision for a region of tranquillity and beauty in the centre of Sydney is as relevant today as it was when the parks were created.

Finally I would like to thank Trust staff for their continued commitment and energy. Exciting times are ahead, and I am looking forward to working closely with the Trustees, staff and the community. The Parklands are a feature of Sydney that add to the city's fame, and to the enjoyment of everyone who visits them.

Peter Duncan

Director

During 1998-99 the Trust continued its involvement in the Premier's Working Party on Moore Park; investigated options to satisfy the needs of the Sydney Cricket Ground and Football Stadium spectators; and Trustees have been meeting with their counterparts on the Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust. The Trust has assisted public transport access to Moore Park through its new Events Bus Station. Efficient integrated ticketing and consistent promotion of improved public transport are essential to its success.

As well as concentrating resources and attention upon the quality of the natural assets and completing the upgrading of the ponds, the emphasis in the coming year will be on the landscaping of Moore Park after completion of the Eastern Distributor; preparing for the celebration of the Centenary of Federation in the Parklands on 1 January 2001, while anticipating their use for Olympic marathon and road cycling events.

The performance of the Trust depends on its workers. The Trustees are grateful for the talented and committed staff who serve the Centennial Parklands. In July 1999 the Trust's longstanding and energetic Director, Mr Robin Grimwade, left the Trust for a new position. On behalf of the Trust I would like to thank Robin for his unfailing enthusiasm, his vision and his achievements. I am very pleased to welcome the new Director, Mr Peter Duncan.

Annette O'Neill

Chairman



About the Trust



The Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust was established by the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Act 1983.

Under the provisions of the Act, seven Trustees are appointed by the Governor upon recommendation of the Minister for a period of up to four years, and one is appointed for a one year term on the recommendation of the Trust's Community Consultative Committee.

The Trustees oversee the management and policy direction of the organisation and meet monthly to consider major procedural and policy matters on advice from management.

Following the transfer of the Trust from the Minister for the Environment's portfolio to the Premier's portfolio in April 1999, Trustees are now responsible to the NSW Premier, the Hon. Bob Carr MP.

Over the past year the Trustees were: Ms Annette O'Neill (Chairman); Mr Richard Cobden; Ms Jill Hickson; Ms Jenni Mack (Community Consultative Committee representative); Mr Michael Marx; Mr John Walker; Mr Bob Wilson; and Ms Jill Hager, who resigned in December 1998.

Information on the Trustees, including the number of meetings attended, appears in Appendix 1.

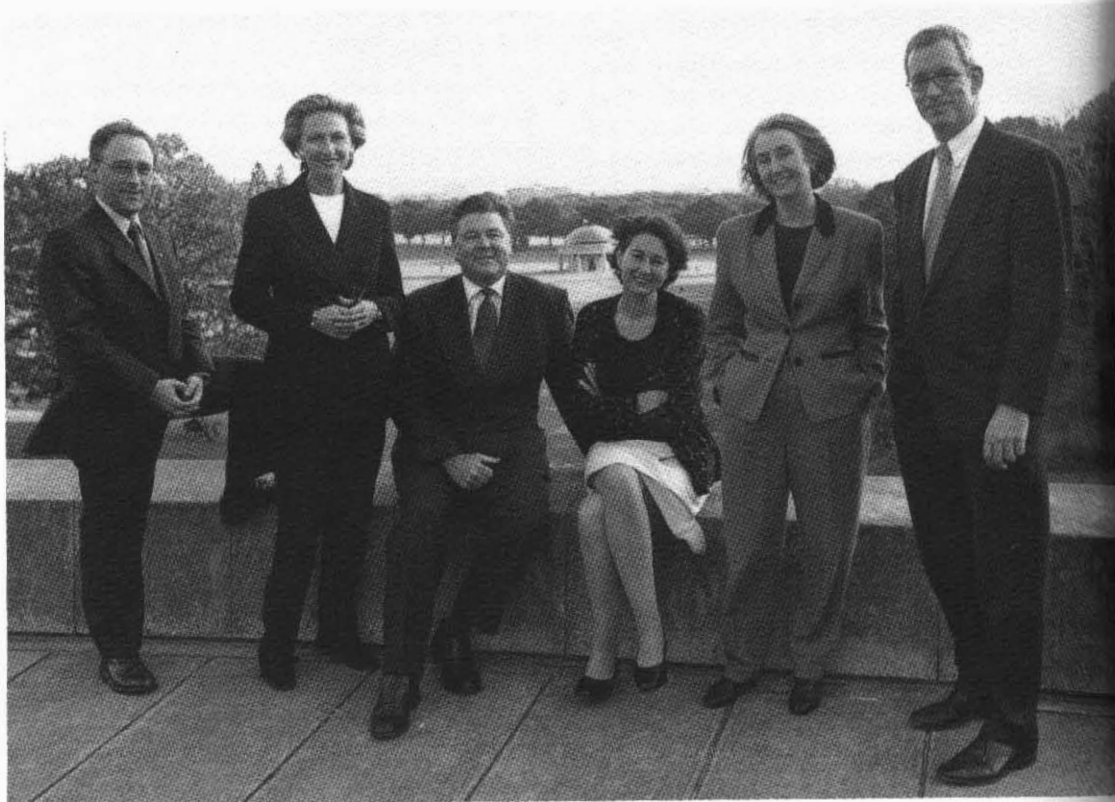
The Director of the Trust is responsible for the administration and management of the Trust's lands and services, subject to the control and direction of the Trust, and reports to the Director-General of the Premier's Department for administrative issues and certain approvals.

The Director is assisted in the management of the Trust by four Divisional Managers who are responsible for: Corporate Strategy and Policy; Operations; Marketing and Community Relations; and Business Services. At the time of reporting the Trust's Director was Mr Peter Duncan. Mr Robin Grimwade served as Director during the 1998-99 reporting year, and departed the Trust in July 1999 to take up the position of Managing Director, Waste Service NSW.

Objectives

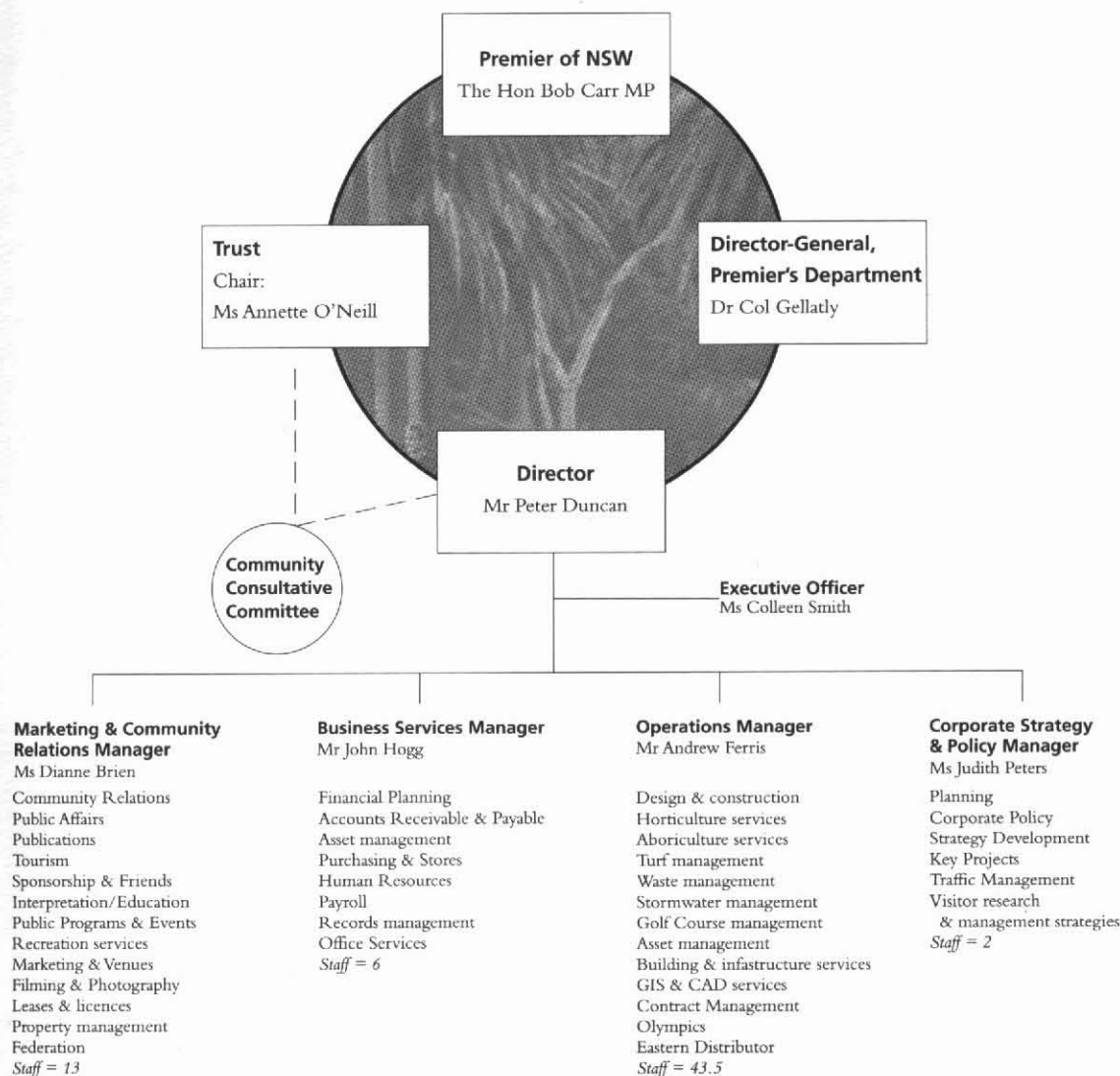
The objectives of the Trust are:

- to maintain and improve the Trust lands;
- to encourage the use and enjoyment of the Trust lands by the public by promoting and increasing the recreational, historical, scientific, educational, cultural and environmental value of those lands;
- to maintain the right of the public to the use of the Trust lands;
- to ensure the protection of the environment within Trust lands; and
- such other objects, consistent with the functions of the Trust in relation to the Trust lands, as the Trust considers appropriate.



Trustees (l to r):
Mr Michael Marx,
Ms Jill Hickson, Mr John
Walker, Ms Jenni Mack,
Ms Annette O'Neill and
Mr Richard Cobden.
Not pictured: Mr Bob
Wilson.

The organisation



Plan of Management

The Trust is required under its legislation to develop a Plan of Management that provides a framework for day-to-day and long term decision making. The Plan establishes directions for planning, resource management, maintenance, public access and use of the Parklands.

In March 1998 the Trust published its Plan of Management – *Into the 21st Century* – the first integrated plan for Centennial, Moore and Queens Parks. The Plan identified five key result areas:

- protecting the integrity of the Parklands
- co-operative positioning
- living heritage
- right of access
- cultural expression

These areas, together with the additional key result area of business viability, form the basis for performance reporting in this Report. A breakdown of achievements against the key result areas can be found on pages 18 to 34.

The Plan also establishes five principles that guide the Trust's approach:

- *Integration* – Centennial Parklands will be integrated into a framework that recognises the vital cultural and historic values of all the parks
- *Continuity* – the heritage of Centennial Parklands will be improved and maintained
- *Advocacy* – the Trust, as guardian, will actively advocate for Centennial Parklands
- *Sustainability* – survival of Centennial Parklands will be ensured through management of conflicting demands
- *Equity* – visitors will enjoy equitable access to Centennial Parklands.

Community Consultative Committee

The Community Consultative Committee, whose role is enshrined in legislation, is one of the key mechanisms for involving the community in the Trust's decision making processes. Drawn from a broad range of public interests, it plays a valuable role in contributing expertise to the management of the Parklands.

The Committee meets every six weeks and has a dynamic role in bringing matters of community concern to the attention of the Trust.

The Committee has 10 members and includes the Director or his representative. At the time of reporting it comprised: Ms Jenni Mack (Chair); Ms Dianne Brien (Director's representative); Mr Phillip Black; Ms Patricia Meagher; Ms Sally Murray; Mr John Newbery; Mr Colin Ridley; Mr John Ryan; Mr John Trevillian; and Ms Mary Watt. Ms Linda Goodman resigned from the Committee in January 1999 and was replaced in May 1999 by Mr John Newbery. All other members served for the entire year.

Each year the Committee proposes one of its members to be appointed as a Trustee. The current serving member is Ms Jenni Mack.

Over the past year the Committee has been actively involved in a wide range of issues including: service standards; maintenance of core assets as distinct from capital works; volunteers; bindii eradication; maintenance and development of children's playgrounds; monitoring the impact of Fox Studios and the Olympic Games; return of Moore Park to the community; protection and restoration of heritage monuments; impact of commercial events on the Parklands and neighbouring communities; and interpretation policy. The Committee also conducted a comprehensive study of toilet facilities.

About our visitors

During the year, the Trust commissioned ACNielsen to conduct a major survey of visitors to Centennial, Moore and Queens Park. The research was conducted in two phases from September 1998 to July 1999.

The first phase of the research was a telephone survey of the Greater Sydney area including visitors and non-visitors by random selection. The second phase of the research was a visitor survey in the Parklands themselves.

The following table shows a comparison of the major findings to demonstrate some of the shifts in Parklands usage over the last 14 years. Differences in methodologies between the 1985, 1995 and 1998-99 survey may contribute to changes in some results.

In line with the survey findings, the Trust has made core business activities, including maintenance and essential services, a priority in funding allocations for the coming year.

Comparison of key visitor survey results

	1985 User Survey	1995 Exit Poll	1998-99 Survey
Car used as method of transport	79%	37%	57%
Male to female ratio	60:40	57:43	50:50
Visiting Park alone	57%	57%	42%
Length of stay one hour	74%	70%	74%
Top 5 uses of Park	driving through walking relax/sitting jogging cycling	walking other activities cycling walking the dog jogging	walking parked car relaxing/reading/sunbathing supervising children picnics
Used other parks in last month	36%	48%	—
Top 3 likes about Park	natural setting size/space quiet	beauty and size peace and quiet wildlife	size, open space, fresh air flora, trees, greenery and flower displays proximity to the city and accessibility
Top 3 dislikes about Park	litter in pond too many cars speeding cars	traffic problems pollution: lakes, litter footpaths, fountains, horsetrack, toilets etc	speeding cars, traffic and too many cars litter pond litter, toilets

About the Parklands

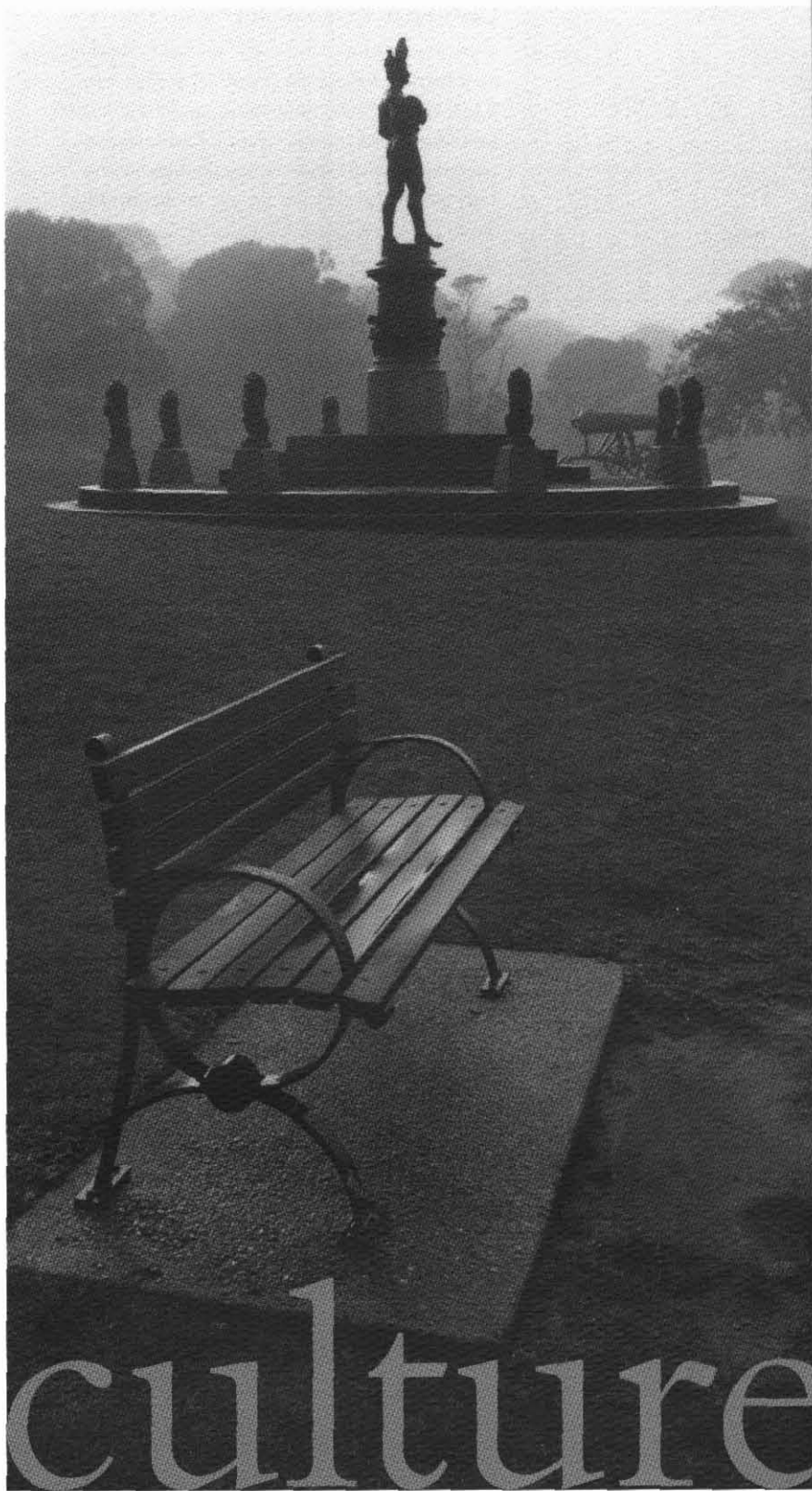
The Centennial Parklands are a cherished piece of the national estate. They were originally part of the Second Sydney Common, set aside as a water reserve and grazing land by Governor Macquarie in 1811. The Common centred on the 3.6 kilometre Lachlan Swamp – which served as Sydney's main water supply from 1837 to 1859 via a convict-built tunnel known as 'Busby's Bore'.

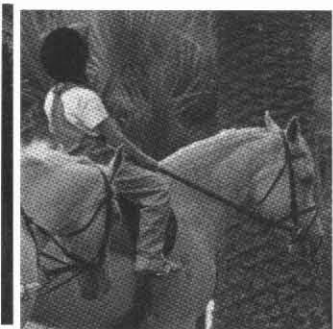
In the late 19th century, large areas of the Common were turned into parkland. The western part of the Common was transferred to Sydney City Council, and Moore Park was established following the *Sydney Common Improvement Act 1866*. The Park was named after its champion, Charles Moore, Mayor of Sydney City Council from 1867 to 1869.

As the colony outgrew the Busby's Bore water supply, support gathered for a public park in the eastern section of the Common. On 27 June 1887 Sir Henry Parkes presented the Centenary Bill to Parliament, proposing the notion of a park that would be accessible to all people, regardless of wealth. It would also transform what had become an unsightly area into a region of loveliness and beauty.

Centennial Park and Queens Park were created under the *Centennial Celebrations Act 1887* to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the colony of Sydney. When Centennial Park was opened on 26 January 1888, Sir Henry Parkes declared that it was "emphatically the people's park".

It was not until 1991 that these two parts of the Common were formally reunited under the management of the Trust. Integrated management of the Parklands is now one of our key objectives and is driving efforts to link the parks by avenues, landscaped corridors, paths and vistas.





Centennial Park

Since its opening in 1888, Centennial Park has played an important role in the history of Sydney. On 1 January 1901, the Park was the site for the proclamation of the Federation of Australia and swearing in of the nation's first Governor-General, Lord Hopetoun. This site is now marked by a pavilion, built to celebrate these events as well as Australia's Bicentenary in 1988.

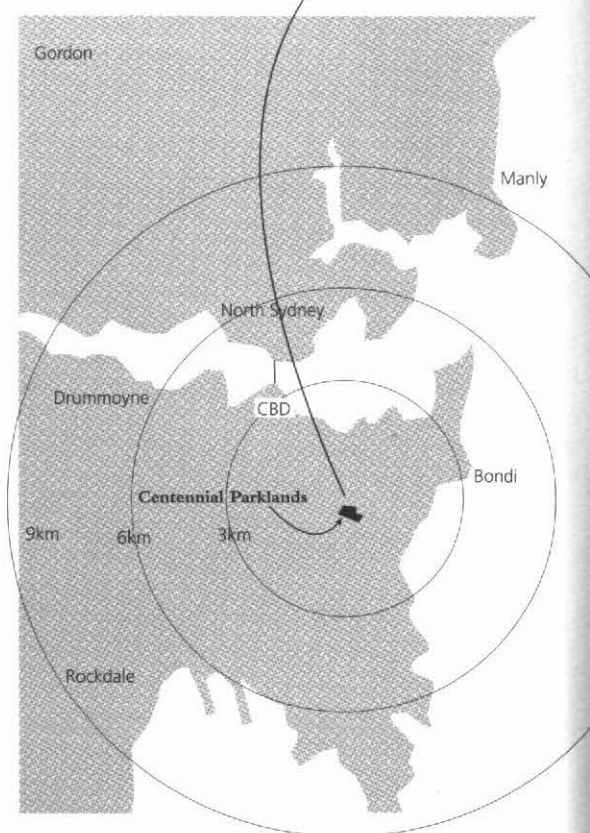
Today Centennial Park covers 220 hectares and draws more than 3.6 million visits annually, mostly for informal recreation. A grand park in the European tradition, its features include formal gardens, ponds, grand avenues, statues, heritage buildings, picnic and play areas and a wide range of sporting fields. The Park's main circular road – Grand Drive – was one of the Park's first developments and Sydney's first public suburban drive. The Drive has a distinctive planting pattern, incorporating Port Jackson Figs, Holm Oaks and Norfolk Island Pines. It also incorporates tracks for walking, cycling, roller-blading and horse riding. Interpretive walking trails have been recently established in the Park at Lachlan Swamp and the Duck Pond. The Park also boasts a restaurant and a marquee site. The Trust's offices are located in the centre of the Park and are the main visitor information point.

Queens Park

Since the 1930s Queens Park's main use has been as a sporting field. Between 1895–1899 it contained an 11 hole golf course, established by the Australian Golf Club.

Queens Park occupies 25 hectares and draws more than 250,000 visits a year. It contains a number of playing fields, a large children's playground, and grassy hillsides with expansive views of the Sydney city skyline.

Queens Park is mainly used for organised sport, such as soccer, rugby, touch football and cricket.



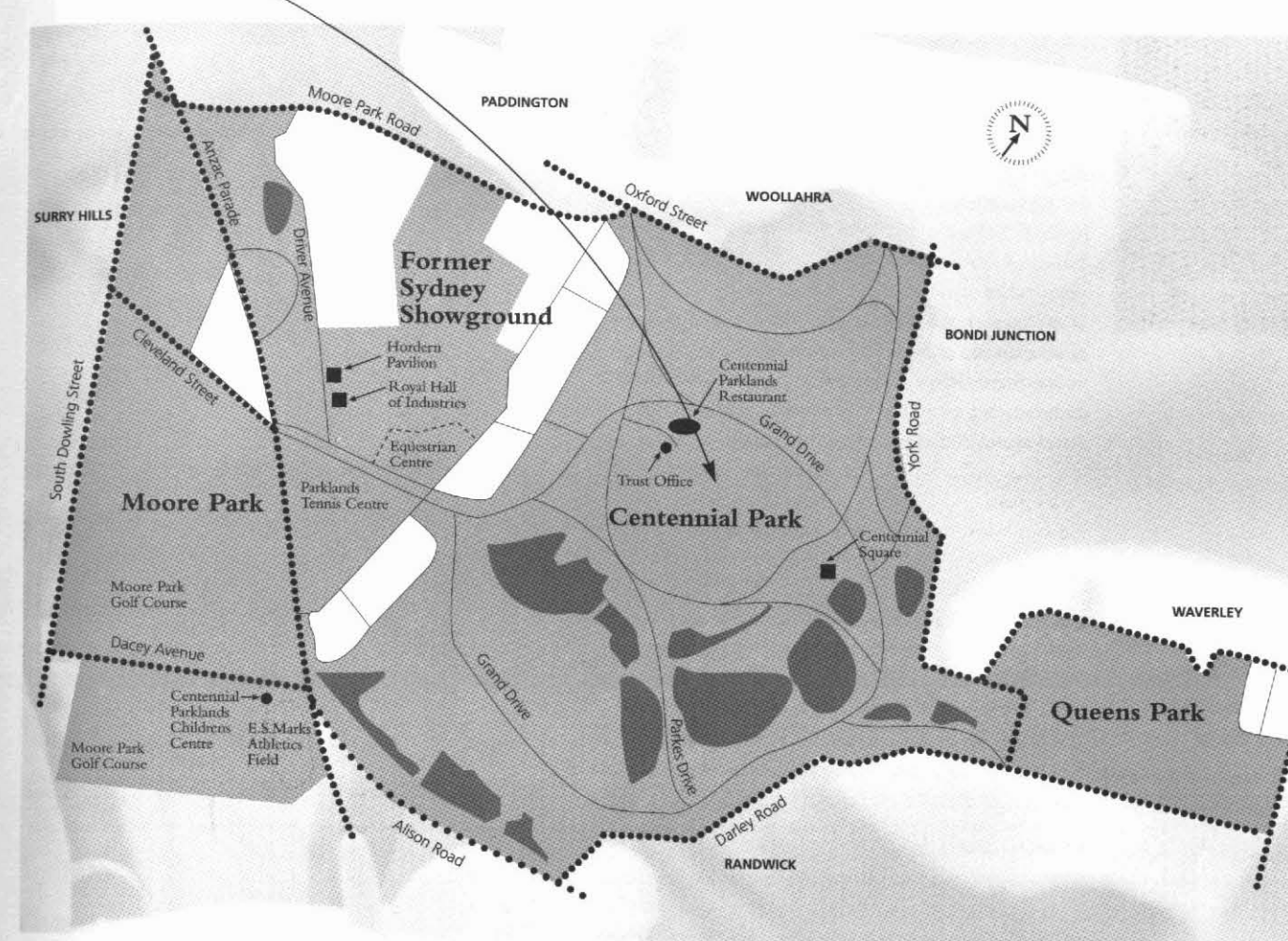
Moore Park

In 1866 Sydney Council dedicated 153 hectares of the north west section of the Second Sydney Common as a public recreation ground to help alleviate growing pressures for outdoor sporting activities. Moore Park was laid out and planted with grass and trees between 1867 and 1869.

Currently undergoing its first major refurbishment in 130 years, Moore Park now measures 118 hectares and attracts 1.2 million people a year. Approximately 2.2 hectares of Moore Park were transferred to the Roads and Traffic Authority in 1997 as part of the Eastern Distributor roadworks. In return the Trust was able to secure a significant compensation package that is funding many of the improvements to the Park. The compensation package also funded the construction of the Centennial Parklands Children's Centre (formerly Frank Saywell Kindergarten) at the southern end of the Park.

Use of Moore Park is expected to increase significantly as a result of local population growth (due to housing developments in South Sydney) and better recreation facilities.

Moore Park offers a range of recreation choices, with both passive recreation areas and formal sporting venues, including E.S. Marks Athletics Field, Moore Park Golf Course and the Parklands Tennis Centre. Moore Park is also used for circuses and other outdoor events.



Former Sydney Showground

The Royal Agricultural Society first established its grounds in Moore Park in 1882. From 1902 to 1937 the Showground grew significantly and during this time many of the key buildings were established, including the Royal Hall of Industries (built in 1912 as an exhibition hall) and the Hordern Pavilion (built in 1924 as a machinery display pavilion).

Following the relocation of the Royal Agricultural Society to Homebush, the former Showground was vested in the Trust in 1998. Most of the old Showground has been leased to Fox Studios Australia for a film studio and family entertainment complex. This major change in use is being carefully managed to control impacts on the Parklands, and is expected to bring important new usage patterns to the precinct.

Management of the Showground's heritage equestrian centre and stables has been retained by the Trust. Following a \$10 million redevelopment, the Centennial Parklands Equestrian Centre opened in June 1998. The world-class facility has 270 stables, a lunging yard, arenas and the historic 'C' Pavilion – a function and event space.

The Trust also administers the management agreement for the Royal Hall of Industries and Hordern Pavilion. These venues are undergoing a \$27 million restoration to preserve their historic character and upgrade their facilities. Both buildings serve as entertainment venues, available for concerts, exhibitions, dance parties and other events.

Improving the Parklands

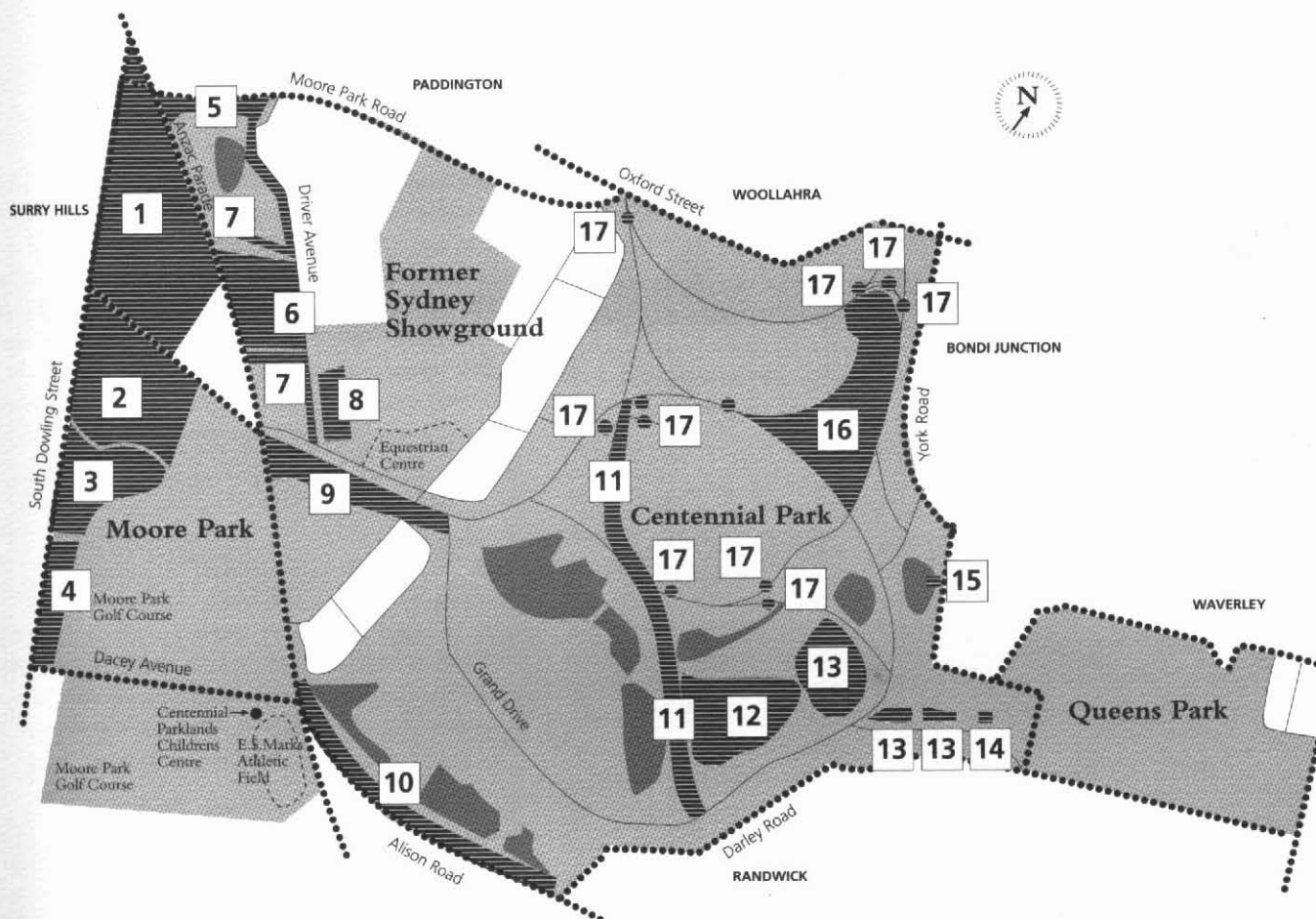


The Trust is carrying out a major capital works program to upgrade the Parklands and provide better recreation opportunities for our users.

During the year, we spent \$18.7 million on this program. Considerable funds have been sourced for capital works from the Roads and Traffic Authority, national Federation Fund, and NSW Environment Protection Authority Stormwater Trust. The most noteworthy projects this year were the ongoing Ponds Restoration works, upgrading of Moore Park and refurbishment of the Hordern Pavilion and Royal Hall of Industries. Major projects for next year include commencing work on the Federation projects and ongoing refurbishment of Moore Park.

Key Capital Works 1998-2000

Project	Description	Total Budget (\$000)	Spending 1998-99 (\$000)	Allocation 1999-2000 (\$000)	Completion date
1. High School Playing Fields*	Restoration of fields, new cycleway, irrigation, toilet block, planting, bollards	2,540	—	1,700	August 2000
2. Bat and Ball Playing Fields*	Restoration of fields, new cycleway, irrigation, toilet block	736	—	500	June 2000
3. Mount Steele*	Native woodland planting, new cycleway	447	—	300	June 2000
4. Golf Course	Restoration, cycleway and planting	35	—	20	March 2000
5. Kippax Field*	Restoration of Comrie Fountain, cycleway, paving works, bollards	736	—	500	March 2000
6. Moore Park East Stage 1*	Event Bus Station and Forecourt, Bus Loop	3,337	1,050	—	Completed January 1999
7. Moore Park East Stage 2	New roundabouts, conversion of Macarthur and Gregory Avenues to pedestrian paths, planting, lighting, playing fields, irrigation	2,870	2,137	736	October 1999
8. Hordern Pavilion and Royal Hall of Industries	Restoration and upgrade	19,400	13,080	1,200	August 1999
9. Old Grand Drive*	Reinstatement of formal drive into Centennial Park	9,500	295	4,800	December 2000
10. Maidens Avenue Planting	Planting of 70 <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> at Alison Road	40	40	—	Completed April 1999



Key Capital Works 1998-2000

Project	Description	Total Budget (\$000)	Spending 1998-99 (\$000)	Allocation 1999-2000 (\$000)	Completion date
11. Avenue of Nations [■]	Replanting of Parkes Drive	500	—	500	March 2000
12. Stage 3 Pond Restoration Program	Improvement of Duck Pond	650	—	650	December 1999
13. Stage 2 Pond Restoration Program	Improvement of Willow Pond, One More Shot and Musgrave Ponds	1,223	1,223	—	Completed February 1999
14. Musgrave Avenue Gross Pollutant Trap ⁺	Installation of trap to improve pond water quality	350	350	—	Completed June 1999
15. Model Yacht Pond Gross Pollutant Trap ⁺	Installation of trap to improve pond water quality	150	—	150	December 1999
16. Federation Valley [■]	Restoration of Federation Pavilion, landscaping, irrigation, interpretive works	1,600	—	900	August 2000
17. Traffic bollards	Improved traffic control	50	45	5	December 1999

* Includes funds from the Roads and Traffic Authority

■ Includes funds from the national Federation Fund

+ Includes funds from the NSW Environment Protection Authority Stormwater Trust

National Projects



Sydney 2000 Olympic Games

The Centennial Parklands will be an open air venue for the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games road cycling and marathon events.

Visitors and Sydneysiders alike will get the chance to see some of the most beautiful parts of the Parklands during the competition, which will be telecast to a peak viewing audience of up to 4 billion people.

Our role in the Games came into focus in November 1998 when the Australian Olympic Committee held its Olympic Countdown Dinner in Centennial Park. The event brought together Olympic sporting stars and supporters to celebrate the two year countdown to the Games.

As participants in the biggest sporting event in the world, we have entered a period of detailed planning and negotiation to prepare for the Games. The Trust is currently finalising venue agreements with the Olympic Coordination Authority. In reaching these agreements our foremost goals have been protecting the integrity of Parklands and minimising costs to the Trust. The staging of the Games means temporary spectator seating, broadcasting areas, camera scaffolding, sport infrastructure and other athlete and spectator facilities will be erected in the Parklands. The speedy restoration of areas affected by the Games is a key Trust priority and is essential for preparations for the Centenary of Federation.

Our recently completed Event Bus Station will be the main point of access for the public to nearby events, including the Olympic football at the Sydney Football Stadium.

On 9 and 10 September 2000 the Trust will co-present the *Hemispheres* World Music Festival – one of the highlights of the Cultural Olympiad. The event will take place in Centennial Park on a number of different stages, capturing a village atmosphere, and will feature international music, food and crafts.

Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games events in Centennial Parklands*

Road cycling

Olympic Training	25 September
Olympic events	26, 27, 30 September
Paralympic Training	12 October
Paralympic events	25–27 October

Marathon

Test event	30 April
Olympic events	24 September, 1 October
Paralympic event	29 October

* correct at time of publication, dates subject to change.

Centenary Of Federation

The Trust's vision for the continued celebration of Australian history continues apace with three grand projects to celebrate the Centenary of Federation in 2001. In September 1998 the Trust was granted \$10 million from the national Federation Fund towards this work, which will add beauty, grace and a sense of history to the Parklands.

The first of the Federation projects is an ambitious \$9.5 million principal western entrance into Centennial Park. When Centennial Park was originally conceived, a western gateway, or 'Grand Drive' was envisaged but lack of funds halted construction. The vision is to create a ceremonial and symbolic entrance, that will also serve as a functional link between Moore Park and Centennial Park. In April 1999 Alexander Tzannes and Associates was chosen to design this ceremonial entrance, following a competition involving selected leading Australian urban and landscape design firms.

The second Federation project is the 'Avenue of Nations' – a \$500,000 restoration of Parkes Drive, which will be dedicated to the many nationalities that make up Australia's multicultural society. Parkes Drive was originally planted with Canary Island Date Palms, and more recently with *Washingtonia* or cotton palms. Sadly, both plant species have succumbed to a destructive fungus, *fusarium wilt*. The re-planting of Parkes Drive will use the stately conifer *Agathis australis*, or Kauri pine, whose tall, strong trunks will recreate an elegant colonnade effect through the middle of Centennial Park. So far, 180 Kauri pines have been ordered and will be planted by March 2000.

The Trust will use \$1.6 million of the grant for a third project to ensure that Federation Valley – the original site where Federation was declared – is enhanced in time for the Federation Day in Centennial Park on 1 January 2001. A substantial part of this budget will be used to repair and refurbish the Federation Pavilion, built to commemorate Australia's Bicentenary in 1988. We will also plant more trees, irrigate and improve the turf conditions and add interpretive elements telling the Federation story. In April 1999 the Trust held workshops with experts from a broad range of areas, including local indigenous groups, the disabled, historians, multi-cultural interests and landscape architects, to develop themes for this interpretive work.

During the year a committee of eminent landscape architects and others adjudicated a national design competition for a fourth project – a Federation Garden

in the South West Corner of Centennial Park. This project has been deferred as a result of budgetary considerations.

The Centenary of Federation celebrations will be defining moments for the Parklands, and we are working closely with the NSW Centenary of Federation Committee on the staging of these events. The new millennium will start with champion runner Pat Farmer running into Centennial Park on 1 January 2000, completing his Federation run around Australia. A year later, the Park will be the focal point for festivities for celebrating Australia's coming together as a nation, as we host the official Federation Day ceremony. The ceremony will follow a parade through the streets of Sydney recalling when thousands of people flocked to Centennial Park on 1 January 1901 carrying banners which read "One People, One Destiny".

