

# CENTENNIAL parklands

the magazine of the centennial park & moore park Trust

VOL 3

SUMMER 1998



something old...  
something new...



**W**elcome to the summer issue of Centennial Parklands.

I hope this issue conveys to you the joys of the summer months in the Parklands: the vibrant energy of the new cafe forecourt and fountain (pictured on the front cover), the balmy nights of Moonlight Cinema in the Amphitheatre, the blazing reds and yellows of the Cannas on Parkes Drive, and the cool shade of the Paperbark groves throughout Centennial Park. These Parklands are truly an oasis in the city!

As this is the third issue of Centennial Parklands, we're very keen to know what you think of the magazine. We have attached a reply paid reader survey in this issue and I'd ask you to take a few moments to fill it out and post it back to us (no stamp needed).

We're interested to know if we're hitting the mark with the magazine's content; we'd like to know if you find the articles informative and entertaining.

Remember to fill out all your details on the card and post it back to us by March 27 1998 and you will be entered in the draw to win lunch for two at the Centennial Parklands Restaurant.

Please join us in the Parklands at one of the end of summer events listed on the following page. Also in this issue: you'll see the new Centennial Parklands Equestrian Centre has opened its doors and Stage One of the development is complete; the visiting Chair of the World Conservation Union's Taskforce on Tourism and Protected Areas, Professor Paul Eagles, talks us through the difficult times of cost-cutting measures and fund-raising strategies in Canadian parks; Ranger Jonathan Cartmill guides us through the Parklands' wildlife; Olympic-training cyclists Charlotte White and Petra Rossner take us on a circuit around Grand Drive; and we walk you through the new Wetland Trail at the Duck Pond.

Don't forget to post those reader surveys back to us by 27 March – we look forward to your feedback.



Tina Broad  
Editor

## HOW TO GET TO CENTENNIAL PARKLANDS

**C**atch a 378 bus (destination Bronte) from Railway Square or the 380 (destination Bondi Beach) from Circular Quay. A number of buses – including 373, 393, 383 – run along Anzac Parade and will give you access via Moore Park.

Alternatively, take the train to Bondi Junction station. From there it's a ten minute walk down Oxford St, or you can catch the city bound 378 or 380.

Limited bicycle parking is available. Some car parking space exists on Grand Drive, within the Parklands, and there are usually plenty of taxis along Oxford Street.

**Opening Hours:** 6am – 8pm until March; 6am – 6pm April & May; 6.30am – 5.30pm June to August; 6am – 6pm September & October

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# what's on

## CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA – 1 March 1998

It's that time of the year again when people all over Australia don the gloves and collect the tonnes of rubbish which finds its way into parks, reserves, streets, beaches, and waterways. Centennial Parklands Rangers are coordinating a 'Clean Up' of the Parklands and ponds this year. Register your interest by calling 9339 6699.

**CAR FREE DAY** – don't forget that **1 March** is also the Autumn Car Free Day. It's the perfect opportunity for cyclists, rollerbladers, strollers and runners to reclaim Grand Drive!

## WHIT'S SUNDAY KILOMETRES FOR KIDS – 8 March 1998.

Mike Whitney, host of Ch7's *Who Dares Wins* and former Australian test cricketer, will run, cycle and walk 50 kilometres around Centennial Park to raise money for the Sydney Children's Hospital. Mike wants Sydneysiders to join him and the Wiggles and other entertainers will perform through the day. Contact 9339 6699 for information.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CYCLING CLASSIC – 14 March 1998

## WOMEN'S WORLD CUP CYCLING – 29 March 1998

See the colour and excitement of these two world-class cycling events around Grand Drive and Federation Valley.

## SENIORS WEEK IN THE PARKLANDS – 15-22 March 1998

Centennial Parklands Rangers will guide Heritage Walks during Seniors Week. Bookings essential. For further details and to book, call 9339 6699.

## INDIGENOUS ART AT CENTENNIAL SQUARE – 4-5 April 1998, 10am – 5pm

Don't miss this wonderful exhibition in the lakeside setting of Centennial Park's new function space, Centennial Square. The exhibition is presented by Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust and Walkabout Productions (a fundraising project of World Vision Australia). Admission is free. Information: 9339 6699.

# something old, something new, something borrowed...

50,000 individually-laid pebbles, over 19,000 pieces of slate, and a very old block of stone so dense it could only be worked with a diamond drill bit – Gillian Smart, a Landscape Architect at Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust, describes the making of the new Cafe Forecourt.



**T**he Centennial Parklands Restaurant and outdoor cafe have become even more of a focal point in the Parklands with the new forecourt redevelopment.

It's clearly a winner with children of all ages, who paddle in the fountain on hot summer days, but it's also an eye-catching piece of landscape design which is attracting a lot of comment and some debate.

The philosophy behind the forecourt design is to create a space which reflects an urban sophistication within a parkland setting. This was no mean feat, given that we had to reconcile design elements complementing the Parklands' Victorian heritage without resorting to imitation and at the same time creating a contemporary relevance.

The aim was to recreate a space which would not date and would be as appropriate, functional and beautiful in 100 years as it is now. This was achieved through the use of classic form, specialist craftsmen and quality materials.

The pebble mosaics are quite unique in a modern Australian setting although an age-old art. One of the first centres to develop the mosaic technique was the ancient Greek city of Pella.

The greatest challenge in designing and installing the pebble mosaics in the forecourt was the supply of even sized pebbles, not to mention the intensive process of laying each of the 50,000 pebbles one by one. The pebble mosaics fit with the simple circular form of the forecourt which gives the feel of an intimate seating area but also allows for pedestrian flow.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

CENTENNIAL  
square

the secret's out.  
Australia's grandest park  
awaits your event.

welcome to an extraordinary new  
function space, in the lakeside  
setting of centennial park.

tel: 02 9339 6615





Josephine Bonett (right) and her horse 'Felix' were the first through the gates when the Equestrian Centre re-opened to returning stables on the Australia Day weekend. They were accompanied by Josephine's sister, Mary-Anne, and friend, Mary (centre).

The Main Arena is still under construction and due for completion in April (Below).

## new world class equestrian centre

Sydney will be one of only three major cities in the world able to boast a community-accessible, world class equestrian centre so close to the CBD, following completion of the new Centennial Parklands Equestrian Centre.

"It is a major boost for the city and ensures Sydney retains its standing as one of only three parks in the world – including Hyde Park, London and Central Park, New York – to provide horse riding so close to the city centre," the NSW Environment Minister, Pam Allan said.

The refurbishment of the 90 year-old stables at the old Sydney Showgrounds has been underway since April 1997 when the Royal Agricultural Society relocated to Homebush.

Stage one of the Centennial Parklands Equestrian Centre opened on the Australia Day weekend in January 1998. The Centre will be fully completed by May.

Ms Allan said the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust

has been involved in continuous consultation with the equestrian community.

The redevelopment includes the restoration of historic stabling pavilions and the installation of a new undercover arena, open arenas, sand rolls, wash bays and a lunging yard.

Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Director, Robin Grimwade, said the Trust will offer a range of permits which provide horse owners with the flexibility to select the facilities which best meet their needs.

Most permit holders will have access to a standard or premium stable, arenas, wash bays, shared tack room and horse track and access to the Parklands equestrian grounds.

Mr Grimwade said the Trust would maintain a range of on-site services such as a veterinarian and farrier but, he added, the new centre would operate with greater safety and quality guidelines. ☐



### New Manager Has Winning Streak



Peter Taylor, Manager of the new Centennial Parklands Equestrian Centre

Peter Taylor is the recently appointed Manager of the Centennial Parklands Equestrian Centre. His 20 years of experience in horse management, equestrian events, marketing, and business management made him the favourite in a highly competitive field for the job.

"This position is my dream job," said Peter. "I know the skills I have built on over the past two decades will help me meet the challenge of running this new Centre."

While Peter is loathe to draw such

parallels, a non-industry person would be forgiven for thinking that his career reads almost like 'National Velvet'. He

has worked with horses in New Zealand, Canada, UK and Australia and has competed in various disciplines all over Europe, undertaking dressage and event training in Germany. Peter initially moved to Canada to manage and coach the country's top three-day event rider. He later went on to become the road manager, assistant coach, and assistant team manager for the Canadian Three Day Event Olympic Team at various times, including at the Barcelona Olympics and the 1994 World Championships in The Hague. He coached the individual riders at the 1991 Pan-American Games where they gained both individual and team gold.

He managed the National Equestrian Centre in New Zealand and has spent periods of buying and selling international champions. He was the Executive Director of the first international 3-star three day event in New Zealand, as well as director of the Markan Show Jumping Festival which offers the richest prize money in NZ.

"I've worked with horses in a lot of countries and I can truly say that this new facility supersedes anything I've seen anywhere else. It's incredibly exciting to be a part of these developments in Sydney in the lead-up to the Olympics. This Centre is going to set new standards world-wide," he said.



# funding squeezed AS canadian parks grow

Canadian Parks are expanding but their funding is shrinking. Park managers are now looking to visitor fees, business sponsorships and other commercial arrangements to sustain services. *Henry Pepper* reports.

Since 1980, the area of Canada designated as national park has increased by 69 percent, yet during the past five years three quarters of Canada's park agencies had their budgets reduced, some by more than 50 percent.

"Clearly the management capabilities of Canadian parks were reduced by this process," explains Professor Paul Eagles.

Lecturer in Recreation and Leisure Studies at the University of Waterloo in the state of Ontario, Professor Eagles is also the Chair of the Taskforce on Tourism and Protected Areas for the World Conservation Union's Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas.

"The cuts have had very serious effects," he said. "For Canada's parks it has meant more lands and visitors to manage on reduced budgets. They are unable to keep up the level of service they provided 15 years ago. Almost everything that supports park functions has been cut back."

Professor Eagles recently discussed these issues with parks and recreation professionals at the final Centennial Parklands Breakfast Forum for 1997.

Paul Eagles estimates total government funding for parks had fallen by \$C112 million over the decade to 1995 – when the Canadian government announced further cuts of 24 percent over three years.

"All Canadian parks are feeling political pressures to increase their income from sources other than tax," according to Professor Eagles. "As a result, considerable experimentation is occurring. The use of volunteers and volunteer groups is increasing, often in the fundraising area. Entrance fees are being introduced and increased. Differential fees, based upon such factors as the season of the year, the type of program, the level of service and the home locality of the user are being introduced."

As governments decrease their budget allocations, parks adopt one or both of the two possible responses. They can terminate their programs and services, or they can attempt to earn income from other sources.

"Two major income-earning management models are developing. One, used in British Columbia which has the largest state park system, sees

*All Canadian park administrators are feeling intense political pressure to increase their income from sources other than taxpayers, according to Canadian expert, Professor Paul Eagles*

parks withdrawing from recreational service delivery and turning this function over to the private sector which charges fees for those services. The other model, adopted by Ontario which manages the second largest state park system, sees the parks operating similarly to private companies."

He believes the change in the funding mix will see Canadian parks become more client focused. Public opposition to fees can, he says, be minimised when people understand the only alternative is reduced services.

While Professor Eagles doesn't believe that government holds all the answers, he has no blind faith in the "market knows best" philosophy either. He believes that adding private sponsorships and the user-pays principle to government funding streams, for example, offers better resourced park facilities without disadvantaging anyone.

"A reasonable goal would be for parks to earn around one half of their expenditure through recreation-based income. The other half is the responsibility of society for the environmental protection element inherent in parks."

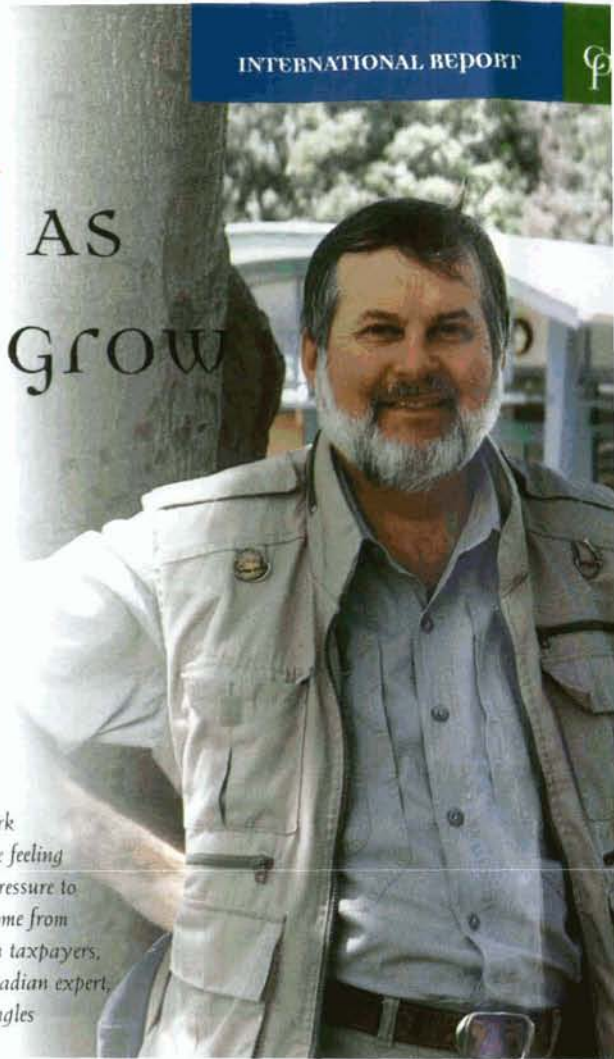
"There used to be a lot of opposition to user-fees in

Canada. But now, people are much more willing to accept fees if the income is used to provide a service, or it's explained that the fee will be used for a specific purpose in the park.

"There will always be a role for government subsidy for some sectors of society as far as I'm concerned, just as there is a role for user-pays. If a school is using parklands for a day of team sports, they're using a lot of space and should pay for it.

"However, a poor kid who wants to go for a walk should continue to have free access," Professor Eagles said. <sup>1</sup>

**While Professor Eagles doesn't believe that government holds all the answers, he has no blind faith in the 'market knows best' philosophy either.**





# wildlife OASIS

*Controlling Ibis numbers is one of the more demanding aspects of Jonathan Cartmill's role as Wildlife Ranger.*

The wide green expanse of Centennial Park is a great place for outings in a natural environment. Ranger Jonathan Cartmill tells Henry Pepper it's going to get even better as wildlife numbers grow.

Centennial Parklands is a very popular recreational area for the people of Sydney and a particularly important habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Now, thanks to a systematic program to upgrade the wetland habitats around the ponds system, even more wildlife is taking up residence in the park, according to Wildlife Ranger Jonathan Cartmill.

"It's going to be an exciting period for bird watching. We're really looking to plant the kinds of vegetation which will encourage more rare birds into the Park. There's extensive tree plantings underway around the Parklands and we're also planting tree corridors to connect the different plots of vegetation. These corridors will encourage not just the birds but other animals, such as possums, which will move around the Parklands with greater ease.

"In the first half of this year we're putting an environmental education trail through Lachlan Swamp and revegetating the area which will make it even easier for visitors to view the wildlife in the

area," Jonathan said.

"As a result of the ongoing restoration of the ponds, water quality has really improved, so we're starting to see more uncommon water birds ... we've recently had Pink-Eared Ducks visiting the Parklands along with an Egret which has taken up residence in the Model Yacht Pond."

It's not surprising to learn that the Parklands are an officially designated bird sanctuary.

Jonathan says there are about 20 species of uncommon birds which visit the Parklands on a regular basis. These include the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo and the Pink-eared Duck. Other less common birds in the Parklands include the Long-billed Corella, the Red-browed Firetail, the Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, the Spoonbill and the New Holland Honeyeater.

Migratory birds also visit the area each year.

The Parklands offer the best bird-watching in the metropolitan area. In

1981 a group of enthusiasts recorded 59 native birds in the Park during a single day. Possums are the only marsupials known to be in the Parklands, although there is speculation that there may be some resident native rodents.

Micro bats, small bats that live off insects, can be found on some evenings around Busby's Pond, and large numbers of Flying Foxes, or fruit bats, can be found eating the fruit of the Park's many fig trees.

Three frog species live in the wetland areas and their numbers are on the increase due to pond restoration works. In the past, large numbers of carp and eel have kept frog numbers down.

An applied science graduate who majored in environmental science, Jonathan Cartmill, 26, has been responsible for fauna management in the Parklands for the past 15 months. However, before you get the idea that Jonathan has one of the best jobs in Sydney, consider his role managing the Ibis population. To control rapidly increasing numbers of this stork-like bird, he spends one day a week crawling around on his stomach through mosquito-infested mud and bamboo shoots thick with Ibis droppings and old nests to monitor their numbers. "20 years ago Ibis were rare in Sydney," he explains. "You'd reach for your camera if you saw one. Today their numbers cause problems all over Sydney, from the zoo to

**The Parklands offer the best bird-watching in the metropolitan area.**

**In 1981 a group of enthusiasts recorded 59 native birds in the Park during a single day.**

*A flock of Long-billed Corellas lives happily in the Parklands, although the nearest wild population is located far-away in the south-west corner of NSW*

the airport. There are as many as 2,500 resident in the Park and they've stripped some of the pond islands of their vegetation. So we're looking at revegetating the islands to reduce Ibis numbers and make the islands a lot more attractive to other bird species. The Ibis like bamboo and Phoenix palms so, over time, we're looking to replant the islands with native grasses and Paperbark trees which the Ibis will find a lot harder to roost in." Jonathan nominates the following spots as best for seeing the Parklands' urban wildlife: **Lachlan Swamp.** An environmental education trail through this tranquil Paperbark forest is expected to be

completed mid-year, making the Park's most popular bird viewing area even more accessible.

The south-west corner, behind the children's cycleway, has extensive plantings of swamp mahogany, banksias and bottle brush which produce a lot of blossoms and attract many birds including the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo.

The best viewing times, he says, are early in the morning and during twilight. ♀

*Peron's tree frogs are becoming more common in the Parklands*



## Parklands Firefighter At The Frontline

Jonathan Cartmill, a Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Ranger, is also a volunteer bushfire fighter, a skill he learned when he worked as a Ranger for the Jenolan Caves Trust in Oberon, just over the Blue Mountains in central west NSW.

Jonathan's crew, the Oberon Bushfire Brigade, was recently called to Lithgow to assist with fighting the pre-Christmas fires of December 1997.

The crews, comprising eight intensively trained people and a captain, work eighteen hour shifts and if they're not fighting the fires face-on, they are clearing, back-burning, and protecting properties.

"The fires in Lithgow last year were very dramatic and the fact that even experienced fire-fighters lost their lives is testament to the essential need for fully-trained crews," Jonathan, pictured right, said.

"It's very hard to stand by as an onlooker without feeling like you have to pick up a hose or do something when fires



are burning, especially near property, but it's imperative that you know what you're doing and that you're adequately clothed and equipped for that sort of work. The training we went through in Oberon has taught me a real respect for the elements and the way to deal with them," he said.

Jonathan's role as a Ranger at the Trust is to manage the wildlife in the Parklands. While visitors are often surprised by the numbers and variety of species in these urban parklands, Jonathan says that Australia's native fauna and flora are exceptionally hardy and adapt to their surroundings, whether in urban or remote areas.

"You can't believe that anything could survive those fires when all you can see is smouldering black tree skeletons for miles around, but even though fires do untold damage to native flora and fauna, it's only a matter of weeks after a fire when animals return to feed on new buds and shoots which have broken through the ash. When people talk about the miracle of life, this is a great example!"



Trust staff and rangers regularly take bird-watching tours around the Parklands. All ages welcome. Please phone the Trust, 9339 6699, to book.

No stamp  
required

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## Tell us what you think of Centennial Parklands...

We'd like to know what you think of *Centennial Parklands Magazine*. We appreciate the time you take to complete and post this short survey. Please send it to the address overleaf – no stamp required.

All surveys returned before 5pm on 27 March 1998 will go into a draw to win lunch for two at the Centennial Parklands Restaurant. Don't forget, we need your contact details if you wish to be included in the draw.

The information collected below is confidential and for use by Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust only.

1. How did you receive a copy of this magazine?  
(Please tick the appropriate box)

- direct mail ☐ 1      tourism outlet ☐ 3  
passed on by friend/family/colleague ☐ 2  
other (please specify) ☐ 4

2. When you received this copy of the magazine, did you read...  
all of it ☐ 1      a couple of articles ☐ 3  
most of it ☐ 2      none of it ☐ 4

3. Which of the articles did you find most interesting?

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4. How could the magazine be improved?

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5. How many times have you visited Centennial Parklands in the last 6 months?

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6. Has the magazine influenced the way you use the Parklands?

Yes ☐ 1      No ☐ 2

If yes, in what way?

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7. What is your post code?    \_ \_ \_ \_

8. What is your age?

19 years or less ☐ 1    30 – 39 ☐ 3    50 – 59 ☐ 5    70 – 79 ☐ 7  
20 – 29 ☐ 2    40 – 49 ☐ 4    60 – 69 ☐ 6    80 years or over ☐ 8

9. Are you...    Female ☐ 1    Male ☐ 2

10. What is your name and postal address? [We need this information if you want to be included in the draw for the prize or you would like your name added to our mailing list]

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Thank you for completing this survey. Don't forget to fill in your name and address to enter the draw to win lunch at the Centennial Parklands Restaurant.





# pedalling for gold

Australian cycling star  
prepares for sydney 2000

Charlotte White is one of Australia's cycling medal hopes at the Sydney Olympics. She first became involved with the sport at Centennial Park.

Charlotte White's first competitive bicycle ride was at 25 years of age as a member of the Parklands-based Sydney Cycling Club's women's time trial team – winning a bronze medal at the 1994 State Time Trial Championship.

"Women endurance riders seem to go longer than men," the 30 year old explains. "At 17 or 18 I just would not have had the discipline necessary to succeed."

1995 was the year that Charlotte arrived as a world-class cyclist. She beat the entire Australian team by more than three minutes in the Cowpastures Bicentennial Road Race; qualified Australia for the Los Angeles Olympics by finishing second in the Oceania Road Championship and won the three major NSW Road Championship races. The following year, she was invited to join the Australian team at the Institute of Sport and finished tenth in her European circuit debut.

In 1997 she was part of the world championship team which finished second in Spain.

"Riding for your country is such a big buzz. Once you've had a taste of winning, you get hungry for it. Just the thought of the Sydney Olympics gets me striving to achieve the best I can."

"This year I'm focused on the Commonwealth Games but obviously the Sydney 2000 Olympics is the ultimate goal. If I can fit a world championship in between, that would be pretty good too. To

*Australian 2000 Olympics cycling hope Charlotte White, right, with her German coach Petra Rossner during training in Centennial Park*



win a medal in Sydney would be the ultimate," she said.

Charlotte's German coach, Petra Rossner, has already achieved the ultimate in competitive cycling, winning a gold medal at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics in the individual 3000 metre pursuit.

Together, the pair regularly train in Centennial Park, which in the year 2000 will be part of the road course for Olympic cycling events.

Training involves a lot of long distance riding, alternating with short sprint work. On average she pedals around 700 kilometres a week. Then there's gymnasium work, swimming and running.

"You're looking at something like five or six hours a day on average," Charlotte said with a mock groan.

"Humour helps me get through the training. If things to get too serious, it gets too stressful. So being humourous is just something I do, either badly or well, I don't care," Charlotte said.

Petra and Charlotte met on the European cycling circuit, became friends and the experienced German became Charlotte's coach.

"As long as you trust and believe what that person is telling you, you develop with that person. Petra knows the business, she's been dominating it for 12 years. She's very positive and has international experience."

"There's a pretty good chance we'll race each other during the Olympics," Charlotte said. "But we're different styles of racers – she's a sprinter and I'm a climber." ☺



## Centennial Cycling Events

Women of all ages are invited to participate in the Tour de Femme at Centennial Park on March 14th, with two divisions – competitive and charity – open to riders. Later in the day, elite Australian women cyclists will compete in the International Women's Cycling Classic.

A Women's World Cup Cycling race - featuring Charlotte White and Petra Rossner – is being staged in Centennial Park on a section of the Sydney 2000 Olympics road cycling circuit on Sunday March 29th. For more information on either of these events, call 9339 6699.

For more information on group cycling events in the Parklands, please contact the Sydney Cycling Club on 9665 0218.





Left: NSW Environment Minister Pam Allan met students from Clovelly Public School amongst the reed sculptures when she launched the Wetlands Trail.



Above: Students from Holy Cross School, Woollahra, take a closer look at the fish trap sculpture at the launch of the Wetlands Trail.



# NEW wetlands Trail A RESOURCE FOR SYDNEY

**T**he innovative new Wetlands Trail is the first of a number of interpretive trails planned for the Parklands in the lead up to the millennium.

The trail, which runs alongside the Duck Pond, features engaging signs which describe the history of the wetlands and their evolution into the Centennial Park pond system. The Parklands' Trust invited artists and crafts people to interpret the story of the ponds, using a range of art forms.

The pond system is home to many land and water birds, native and introduced plant and animal species, and a regular influx of stormwater pollution.

Opening the trail late last year, NSW Environment Minister Pam Allan said young people hold the key to solving many of the community's water pollution problems.

"We know that children can be powerful

agents for change in a home environment – having a very real influence on everything from what goes into the shopping

trolley to what gets thrown in the bin or down the sink. So we've got to start as early as possible to instill in our children a sense of ownership and responsibility for the environment," Ms Allan said.

"We need to be aware that what goes down the drain doesn't just evaporate, it has a huge impact on the Parkland ponds."

These sentiments are incorporated into the Trail design, with tiled mosaics interpreting how indigenous communities once relied on the wetlands for food and water. The mosaics also depict European settlement and its polluting affect on the wetlands.

Park visitors can wind their way through sculptures of reeds and rushes to find out how these water plants filter the rubbish which flows into the waterways from gutters and drains around the Parklands.

Sandstone sculptures, carved by masons from old stone found in the Park, allow visitors to trace the shape of the water birds they can see feeding in the ponds.

The launch of the Wetlands Trail coincided with the recent release of an Environment Protection Authority report which identifies water quality as the community's number one environmental concern.

While the trail is self-guided and accessible to all park visitors, rangers will start guided walks for school and community groups from March 1998. For more information, please contact the Trust on 9339 6699. ♪

**"We need to be aware that what goes down the drain doesn't just evaporate, it has a huge impact on the Parkland ponds"**





# A visitors guide TO The parklands

There's so much to do in Sydney's favourite parklands, it's difficult for an occasional visitor to keep up. So, in the interests of maximising your quality time, here is a guide to the Parkland's facilities and regular activities.

**P**ark maps are located at all entry gates, displaying the location of features and facilities.

■ **PLAYGROUNDS:** Full playground facilities are available on Grand Drive, at the Kensington end of the Park. The area includes a dedicated children's cycle track and BBQ facilities.

Another playground is located next to the Ranger's residence at the Paddington Gate (on Oxford Street).



■ **EVENT FACILITIES:** The recently opened Centennial Square is a beautiful spot available for memorable marquee-style weddings, corporate functions, community and sporting events.

Featuring a formal entrance and a paved walkway that meanders its way down to the ponds, the Centennial Square site has been developed in response to numerous requests from members of the local community and event organisers for a dedicated

Recently opened, Centennial Square is a beautiful spot available for memorable weddings, corporate functions, community and sporting events.

marquee area. Telephone (02) 9339 6615 for more information on Centennial Square.

■ **ROLLER BLADING:** The Parklands are one of the most

■ **HORSE RIDES:** are available on Grand Drive, at the Kensington end of the Park. Catering for everyone from beginners to seasoned equestrians, you can ride the Park circuit as well as undertake track work.

Priced at around \$30 an hour, bookings are essential. Contact 0417 250 025

■ **WETLANDS TRAIL:** This recently-opened landscaped trail at the Duck Pond provides an educational insight into water quality issues.

■ **SPOTLIGHT PROWLs:** Regular Ranger-guided spotlight tours of the Parklands by night, allow visitors to see bats, possums and other native animals at their most active. Rangers host these tours and provide information on the creatures in the spotlight.

■ **BIRD WATCHING:** Regular morning bird-watching tours of the Parklands, one of the best bird watching sites in the metropolitan area, are conducted by Rangers and experienced Friends of the Park. All ages groups are welcome.

popular places to roller blade in the metropolitan area. You can hire blades and accessories from: Bondi Boards & Blades, 230 Oxford Street, Bondi Junction. Telephone 9369 2212 or Total Skate, 36 Oxford Street, Woollahra. Telephone 9380 6356.

■ **BICYCLING:** A dedicated 3.6 kilometre bicycle track follows the perimeter of Grand Drive right around the Parklands. From this central circuit, it's easy to access all the Parklands has to offer.

Hire bikes from: Centennial Park Cycles, 50 Clovelly Road, Randwick. Telephone 9398 5027.

■ **BASKETBALL & NETBALL:** Moore Park is home to popular basketball and netball competition. Courts are available for casual or regular use. Contact 9662 7033

■ **MOORE PARK GOLF COURSE:** This central 18 hole course also includes a pro golf shop and driving range. Advance bookings are a good idea. 9663 1064.

■ **TENNIS:** The Parklands tennis centre has 11 flood-lit courts available for hire – and offers a Monday & Wednesday night roller-hockey competition. Eight netball and basketball courts are also available for hire. 'Social' tennis is popular on Monday and Tuesday nights. For more information, phone 9662 7033

■ **TEAM SPORTS:** Facilities are available in Centennial Park, Moore Park and Queens Park. Cricket, touch-football, soccer, hockey and lawn bowls are the most popular parklands sports. Please note that the sports fields are popular and bookings are essential. For more information call 9339 6621.

■ **CENTENNIAL PARKLANDS RESTAURANT:** Located on Grand Drive, the restaurant is open for lunch everyday. Full wine list available. It's also available for weddings and function hire. Contact 9360 3355. Open 8.30 to 3pm, Monday to Friday; 8.30 to 3.30 Saturday & Sunday.



■ **CAFE FORECOURT:** If you're looking for a tasty snack, or a great summer spot to meet friends, try the Cafe forecourt's landscaped outdoor eating area. Snacks and light meals are available, along with

coffee, tea and ice-creams. Open 8am to 5pm, seven days.

■ **RANGERS:** If you need assistance, hail a Ranger in the Park, contact the Trust office (just behind the Café) or call 018 298 537 / 018 298 508 – 24 hours a day.

■ **FIRST AID:** Is available from the Trust office or, outside office hours, by contacting the Rangers on 018 298 537 / 018 298 508.

For more information on facilities and activities, please call 9339 6699. ☺



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The fountain has a sense of the past through the use of old blocks of sandstone found in the Parklands. The main blocks are both trachyte and may have been part of an old drinking fountain or sculpture base. Trachyte is now quite rare in Sydney, almost unobtainable, but was commonly used as kerbstone throughout the city. It is thought that much of Sydney's trachyte came from England as ballast on the ships at the end of last century. It is very strong and dense material and very difficult to work with, requiring a diamond drill bit.

The trachyte block has a central looking-hole through which water pours onto the stone below.

A U-shaped hole in the base stone has been moulded with glass which was cast from the stone itself and has given it the rough hewn texture of the rock. Fibre optics

have been installed behind the glass so that it comes alive, glowing in different colours in the darker twilight.

A smaller sandstone piece was installed lower to the ground so that children could sit on it and the top was carved out to make an



abstract rockpool. The central metal sculpture (which covers the drain) is cast as an abstract water lily, a link to Centennial Park's extensive pond system. The water in the fountain was too shallow to grow real lilies but the metal sculpture and the imprints of lotus leaves and fish patterns in the fountain floor give the feel of a living aqua habitat.

The large sandstone slabs in the seating area are recycled from the Parklands and were pieced together like a jigsaw puzzle. The uneven edges and random cracks in the paving stones relate a sense of the Parklands' history.

The seats surrounding the fountain are a modern adaptation of the classic bench seat. The seats have cast legs which match the handrail stanchions, designs unique to the forecourt, and the bench slats are made of jarrah, a hard-wearing and rich-coloured Australian timber. The seats were designed for sitting either way – looking in at the fountain or outward to the Park beyond.

The garden beds which form the forecourt's outer circle are planted with broad leaf foliage plants and vibrant colours typical of more tropical climates but they hark back to the efforts of Joseph Maiden, one of Centennial Park's early Directors, to introduce a sub-tropical lushness to the Park in the early 1900's.

The new forecourt, with its unique design, materials and setting, gives Park visitors and regular Park users a sense of agelessness, history and modern urbanity all at once. ♪

*Gillian Smart would like to acknowledge collaboration with Daryl and Leanne Cowie of DCG Design P/L for the metalwork, Sergio Redegalli of Cydonia for the fountain glass and Dirk & Matt Slotboom of Sydney Fountains.*

# A Day In The Life



John, Julie, Carmel, Narelle and Nathan had gathered under one of the many fig trees in the Park for a summer family get together. "We often do this at Christmas time, it's a special time. We've just come back to visit Sydney from Brisbane," John said, "so it's a good time for a get together. "There are a lot of younger members of the family who are with us today but they are off roller-blading and biking," he said.

Narelle, pictured centre, lives in the emerald city's southern suburbs and is a regular visitor to Sydney's favourite Park.

"One reason we chose to come here is it gives the kids a lot of room to move, they can skate and ride, or have a game of cricket," John said. "We are staying at Parramatta and Narelle is in the southern suburbs, so Centennial Park is nice and central."

The Parklands playgrounds are always popular with children and family groups – but they're never quite as busy as during the Christmas school holidays period.

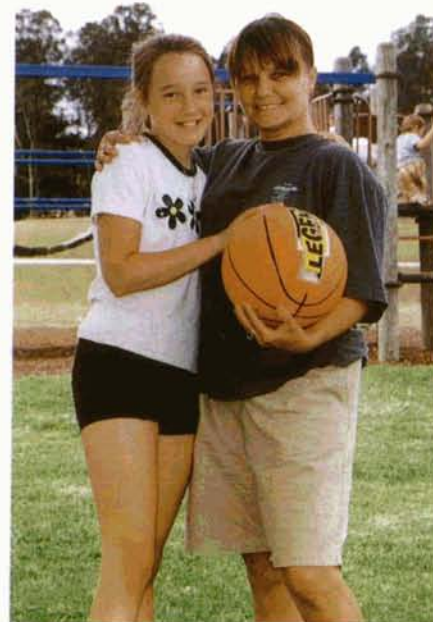
"We come to the park quite often, although we live in the city. I used to come here with my old school," explains Asha, who, together with family and friends, was enjoying the swings and slides when she spoke with Centennial Parklands.

"I like horse riding, the play ground, and picnics," she said.

"Most of your birthdays we celebrate in the Park, don't we?", asked Evelyn, Asha's mum.

"Yeah. I especially remember my ninth birthday. Also my friends have birthday parties here," she said.

"My favourite spots are by the ponds, feeding the ducks and fish, and here at the playground."



PICTURES: HENRY PEPPER



## NEW MEMBERS FOR COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

The Trust late last year announced three new appointments to its Community Consultative Committee (CCC): Mr Phillip Black, Ms Georgina Legoe and Ms Mary Watt.

The new members replace Mr Robert Bressan, Professor Gavan McDonnell and Mr Terry McGuinness whose terms expired in November 1997.

Phillip Black is a former high school teacher and trained geologist who operates a successful Sydney guesthouse and is President of the South Sydney Heritage Society;

Georgina Legoe, an environmental law consultant with a masters degree in town and country planning, has been involved in the

EIS processes for the M2 and M5 motorways; and Mary Watt, a member of the North Randwick Precinct Committee and the Gordons Bay Bush Regeneration Committee, is also a volunteer on Waverley Council's Earthworks waste reduction initiative.

The Community Consultative Committee meets at the Trust every two months, as a kind of 'customer council'. Members take part in planning and evaluating new and current visitor services provided by the Trust.

In addition to the three new appointees, the CCC membership includes Linda Goodman, Jenni Mack, Sally Murray, Colin Ridley, John Ryan and John Trevillian.

## WORK TO START ON MOORE PARK BUS STATION

Work is expected to start on the Moore Park bus station facility during April. The facility will improve public transport access and visitor safety in the precinct. The existing Driver Avenue bus roadway, Gregory and Macarthur Avenues will be reclaimed for additional parkland and pedestrian walkways.

The station is part of the plan to upgrade Moore Park's public transport infrastructure and permanently remove car parking from Moore Park.

The work will be carried out during construction of the Eastern Distributor roadway to ensure that all works in the Moore Park area are completed at the same time.

## A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Friends Avril Samuels and Mary Watt have been volunteering their time and experience at the Trust over the past year on the Friends program and Ranger Interpretive program respectively.

The Trust will pilot a formal Volunteers program during 1998. Most public recreation and cultural organisations have found that volunteers play a very important role and their skills and experience are of enormous benefit to an organisation. Whilst the pilot program will only accommodate a small number of volunteers in the initial stages, the Trust plans to have an expanded program up and running by 1999 in the lead up to preparations for the Centenary of Federation in 2001.



Lady Martin, Patron of the Friends, paid tribute to Parklands's volunteers Mary Watt (left) and Avril Samuels (right) at the Friends of the Parklands Christmas function.

## LAST CALL FOR FOUNDATIONS FRIENDS

The Trust will celebrate the second anniversary of its Friends program in April with the launch of a new range of member benefits and additional membership categories.

The anniversary will be the last opportunity to become a Foundation Friend of the Trust as this membership category will be closed at the April birthday celebrations.

Foundation Friend membership is available at a once only payment of \$250 (annual renewal at the family or individual rate thereafter) and your support is recognised by the dedication and planting of a significant tree in the Parklands and acknowledgment in the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Tree Register.

To take advantage of this final Foundation Friends offer, please call the Trust's community relations branch on 9339 6652, before April 1st 1998.

## Centennial Parklands Facilities:

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
Centennial Park Rangers (24 Hour): .....	018 298 537
	or 018 298 508