The history of Moore Park, Sydney

John W. Ross

Cover photographs:

Clockwise from top**:**

- Sunday cricket and Rotunda
- Moore Park Zoological Gardens (image from Sydney Living Museums)
- Kippax Lake

THE SYDNEY COMMON.—The improvement and ornamentation of this extensive reserve—which is now popularly known as Moore Park—are rapidly proceeding, and the aspect of nature has there been most wonderfully changed for the better in a very short space of time. The barren sand hills have been levelled, and a green sward now covers what a few months back was a dreary waste, encumbered with all kinds of unsightly rubbish. Much

Sydney Morning Herald, 30 August, 1869

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Foreword

In 1811, Governor Lachlan Macquarie set aside 1,000 acres of sandhills and scrubland to the east of Sydney town as a place for the public to graze animals, based on the model used in English towns and villages. But as time went on, the Common became degraded by rubbish dumping and erosion from illegal timber-getting. In the early 1860s, the increasing popularity of organised sports prompted Sydney Council Alderman Charles Moore to persuade the Government to dedicate part of the Common as a park for sport and recreation. In recognition of his efforts, it was named Moore Park in his honour in 1867.

After Sydney's first water supply became unusable in the 1820s, the Lachlan Swamps of Sydney Common were connected to Hyde Park by Busby's Bore in the early 1830s, a remarkable feat of engineering at the time. In the 1840s, the British Army was accommodated in large barracks in the northern part of the Common, incorporating Busby's Bore as their water supply. The *General Cemetery Bill* of 1847 aimed to establish ecumenical burial places in the colony, and a site was set aside in the south-west part of the Common, but government inaction, religious sectarianism and local complaints caused it to be abandoned before it was used. A cemetery for all denominations was a laudable idea that was ahead of its time in the 1840s.

The country's first public zoo was opened in Moore Park in the early 1880s. It became such a popular weekend attraction that by 1915 it had outgrown the site and was moved across Sydney Harbour to a larger and more suitable location at Taronga Park. The area vacated by the zoo then became the new home for two academically selective high schools, after moving from the inner city in the 1920s. The schools were an early example of the trend in the early 1880s towards public funding of education.

In 1882, the Agricultural Society moved the Royal Easter Show to Moore Park, beginning a long association that lasted more than a century. Gradually, sports such as cricket, cycling, motor racing, rugby union (and league), tennis, athletics and golf established themselves in the wide open spaces of the park, which was progressively levelled and grassed to transform the former sandy wasteland into attractive parkland. By 1894, the British Army's cricket ground next to the barracks had developed into the Sydney Cricket Ground, mainly due to the dedicated efforts of the solicitor and Alderman Richard Driver. The Sydney Sports Ground opened nearby in 1907, and played an important part in the evolution of rugby league as a professional sport.

A large and polluting Council incinerator was opened in the south-west corner of the park in 1902, followed by an adjoining home for stray dogs in 1908. The Moore Park Municipal Golf Links opened in 1913 as a public golf course accessible to everybody, at a time when golf was principally a sport for the wealthy. After enduring the dumping of Council waste on its fairways for decades, the golf club eventually took over the incinerator site when it was demolished in the late 1930s. The club's existence and long-term survival was largely due to the untiring energy of its founder and long-time secretary Duncan McMillan.

While the Royal Easter Show has moved to Homebush, important venues still operate in the former Showground site. The Royal Hall of Industries was opened in 1913 as an exhibition space known as the Showbag Pavilion during the Easter Show, and a roller skating rink at other times. It eventually became a dance hall and then an ice skating venue until the 1950s. The Hordern Pavilion was

constructed next door in 1924, and hosted exhibitions of large machinery and vehicles during the Show. When the Sydney Stadium at Rushcutters Bay closed in 1970, the Hordern became the major venue for touring music groups until the 1980s, after which it specialised in emerging bands and dance parties.

While Moore Park is managed by the Centennial Parklands Trust, it continues to maintain a separate identity from Centennial Park as an area with a great variety of sporting and recreational activities. It has been saved from encroachment by commercial interests following resident activism in the past, and will require continuing vigilance in the future to maintain its unique status as the green heart of this part of Sydney.

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General Notes:

- The features of Sydney Common and Moore Park are arranged in chronological order.
- The Council that administers Moore Park has been known by different names since 1842, such as the Municipal Council of Sydney, and is currently called the Council of the City of Sydney. I have generally called it the Sydney City Council or similar.
- Some of the people mentioned have acquired titles during their involvement with Moore Park, such as knighthoods or the Mayoralty, but I have not attempted to use the title that was current at each time of mention.
- All unattributed photographs were taken by the author.

Timeline

1811: Governor Lachlan Macquarie dedicates Sydney Common

1827: Busby's Bore is commenced

1847: The Moore Park General Cemetery is proposed

1848: Victoria Barracks opens on Sydney Common

1849: Randwick Toll House opens, Moore Park Toll House opens in 1860

1851: Moore Park rifle range is established

1852: The Garrison Ground opens, becoming the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1894

1866: Moore Park is dedicated

1874: Sydney Polo Club plays the first polo match in Moore Park

1880: The Zoological Gardens is established

1881: The Randwick tram line is extended into Moore Park

1882: The Royal Agricultural Society Showgrounds are opened

1888: Centennial Park is dedicated

1882: The Australian Golf Club opens its first course

1902: The Perfectus Refuse Destructor and Disinfector commences operation

1907: The Sydney Sports Ground opens, becoming the Sydney Football Stadium in 1988

1909: The Moore Park Rotunda is constructed

1912: The King Edward VII Dogs' Home commences operation

1913: The Municipal Golf Links opens, becoming the Moore Park Golf Club in the 1920s

1913: Royal Hall of Industries opens

1917: Moore Park Kindergarten opens, replaced in 1930 by the Frank H Saywell Kindergarten

1920: Sydney Girls' High School opens, followed by the Boys' High School in 1928

1924: The Horden Pavilion opens

1948: The E. S. Marks Athletic Field opens

2007: The Korean War Memorial opens

2015: The Albert (Tibby) Cotter Walkway opens

Sydney Common

Acknowledgement of country

The author acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora nation upon whose ancestral lands Sydney Common is now located. He would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past, present and emerging, acknowledging them as the traditional custodians of knowledge for these lands.

Common land for grazing cattle

Until the arrival of Governor Lachlan Macquarie in 1810, cattle had been grazed in Hyde Park or in the owners' paddocks, often causing a nuisance by wandering into other people's property or onto the roads. As the fledgling settlement expanded, more grazing land was needed for the cattle that were kept near the town. English towns and villages always had common areas which were open spaces used by the whole community. The large area to the east of the settlement now covered by the Centennial Parklands (Moore Park, Centennial Park and Queens Park) consisted of poor sandy soil, swamps and sandstone ridges. It was not suitable for cultivation, but was ideal for common land.

On 5 October 1811, The *Sydney Gazette* published a Public Notice from the Colonial Secretary, John Thomas Campbell, announcing that Governor Lachlan Macquarie had "assigned, and caused to be marked out and measured, a large Common in the Immediate Vicinity of Sydney, containing One Thousand Acres, for the Common Pasturage of Cattle belonging to the Inhabitants of Sydney". The Common was described by the Acting Surveyor in the following terms:

> Bounded on the west by twenty-eight chains of Surry Hills Farm, and a south line of ninety-six chains.
> On the south side by an east line of 97 chains.
> On the east side by a north line to the road leading from Sydney to the South Head.
> On the north side by that road.

Significantly, the Governor's Public Notice concluded: "His Excellency thus…will make a regular grant of said Common Lands…in Trust for the Benefit of the present and of all succeeding Inhabitants of Sydney"[1]. On a map of modern Sydney, the boundary of the area described in the Governor's notice runs southwards along South Dowling Street (from the intersection with Oxford Street) for about 2,500 metres to O'Dea Avenue. It then runs eastwards for about 1,950 metres, then northwards (through the middle of the Lachlan Swamps) for about 1,700 metres to Oxford Street near the intersection with Moncur Street. Finally, the boundary runs westwards to the starting point. This defines an area of approximately 1,000 acres.

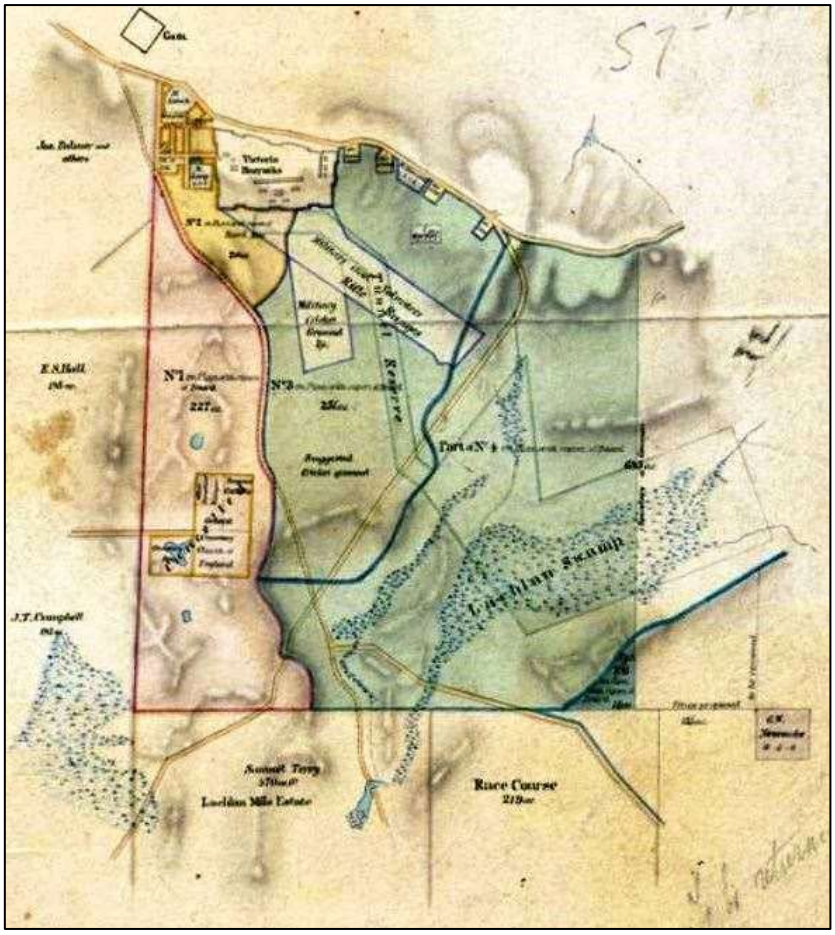


Figure 1 Proposed Sydney Common (Archives NSW)

Four labelled posts marked the boundaries and roads were built around the boundary of the Common, and the whole area was fenced. Roads were also built across the Common to establish links with the surrounding areas, mainly Randwick to the south-east and Botany Bay to the south. They were mostly constructed along the lines of Aboriginal paths. These roads would define the outer edges of the Common and in the future the subdivisions within the Parklands. It was based on the English administrative model and would be managed by a Board of Trustees[2].

But as the nineteenth century progressed, the Common became degraded and barren as Sydneysiders gradually cut down the trees and individuals and the Sydney City Council dumped rubbish in the low-lying parts. By the early 1860s, two men named Charles Moore (one a Sydney City Council Alderman, the other the Director of Sydney Botanic Gardens) collaborated to restore Sydney Common to life. They planted indigenous shrubs and couch grass. The shrubs failed, but the couch grass was a success.

Busby's Bore

The Tank Stream

The first fresh water supply for the new colony of Sydney was the Tank Stream, which flowed between present-day George and Pitt Streets into Sydney Cove. Its name derives from three storage tanks constructed in the sandstone beside the stream in order to store water. During the drought of 1792, one of the British Officers who had spent time in India had the idea of utilising the Indian method of cutting tanks into streams in a climate which alternated between times of heavy rain and drought, much like Sydney.

But the Tank Stream could not meet the needs of the growing colony for long and became increasingly polluted by runoff from the settlement, despite the best efforts of successive Governors to limit this. It was finally abandoned in 1826, leaving the inhabitants to rely on nearby springs and creeks for fresh water. A drought in 1820 forced water carters to sell water carried in barrels from the ponds in Centennial Park to supplement the town water supply. These lakes, known as the Lachlan Swamps, cover about 26 hectares and form the upper catchment of the Botany Wetlands. They form the largest fresh water wetland system in inner Sydney. Today the Tank Stream is an underground stormwater drain carrying water from the city to the harbour[12].

Pipes uphill or a tunnel downhill?

In 1823, the Scottish civil engineer and mineral surveyor John Busby (1765-1857) was appointed "in the management of the Coal Mines, in supplying the Town of Sydney with water, and in objects of a similar nature". He arrived in Sydney in June 1825. He found that the water in the Lachlan Swamps was of excellent quality and sufficiency for the expected increase in Sydney's population.

His first report outlined a scheme to pump water through iron pipes up to South Head Road (Oxford Street) to a reservoir in Hyde Park. But after conducting a survey of the route, he found that Hyde Park was about 570 mm lower that the nearest of the ponds, so pumping might be avoided. Based on this new information, in January 1826 he submitted a second report which proposed an underground bore for the whole distance of more than 3.2 km. Although a tunnel would cost much more than pipes and pumps to construct (£20,000 versus £12,000), he argued that being gravity-fed it would be much cheaper to run. The Surveyor-General John Oxley recommended the underground scheme, and tunneling began in September 1827. Busby engaged his son Alexander as his assistant, and then in 1831 his younger son William as his other assistant (whose salary was paid by his father after public complaints about cronyism).

Busby's Bore takes erratic shape

The work proceeded very slowly, arousing much public criticism. This was because it was carried out by (largely unskilled and unwilling) convict labour, and mostly through solid rock. Tunnelling started at the Hyde Park end and followed a fairly erratic course, initially along South Head Road, then making several turns on its way via Moore Park to the Lachlan Swamps, including many dead-end spurs. This was probably due to Busby's reluctance to go down into the tunnel and his inability to properly direct the mainly unskilled workers, who tended to follow the path of least resistance, changing direction to follow soft sand whenever a tough section of sandstone was encountered. His two sons were also unwilling to go into the tunnel and remained above ground[3].

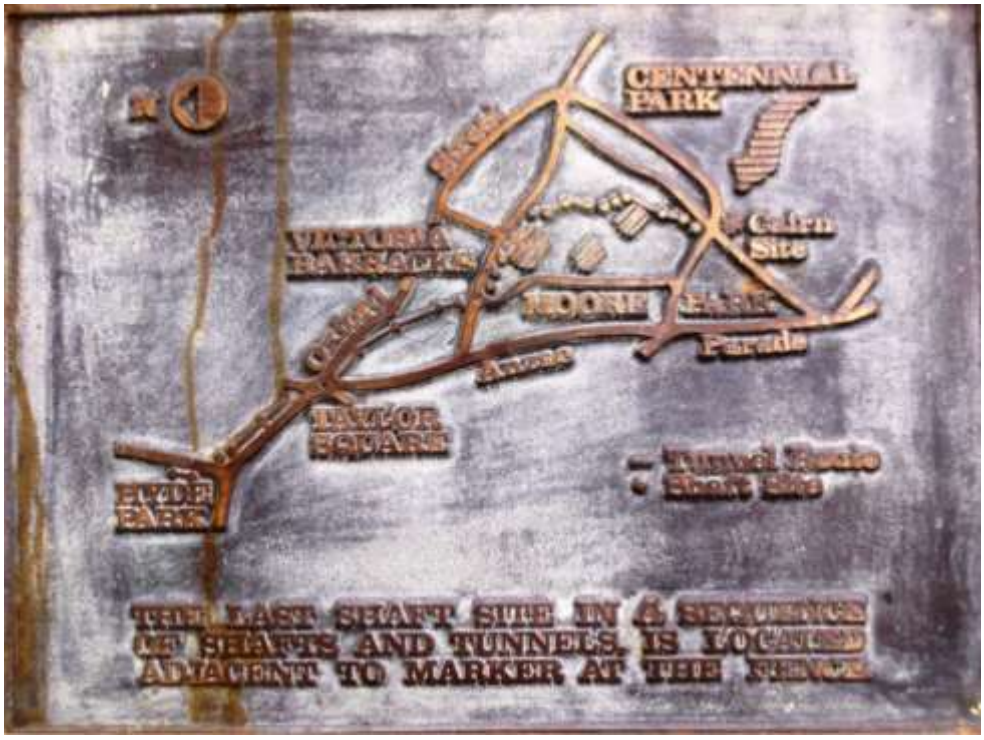


Figure 2 The route of Busby's Bore

Although well short of the Lachlan Swamps, by 1830 pure water started to flow through the tunnel, thanks to several springs that were crossed on the way. Busby also took advantage of other sources of ground water by drilling offcuts to the main tunnel[4]. When fully operating in 1837, the Bore could supply Sydney's population of 20,000 people with up to 1.5 million litres of water per day[5]. Busby intended to construct a 65 million litre reservoir in Hyde Park to collect the water but this idea was abandoned. Instead, the water was piped across Hyde Park on trestles with a final distribution point near the corner of Elizabeth and Park Streets, From here it was distributed throughout the rapidly-expanding city on horse-drawn carts. In the 1840s, work began on the city's first water reticulating pipes, laid from the bore to various parts of the township[6].

Figure 3 Busby's Bore in Hyde Park (SLNSW)

In view of the very limited workforce and technology available at the time, and the challenging terrain, Busby's achievement in successfully supplying Sydney city for several decades with fresh water was certainly outstanding. But a drought in 1837 reduced the water flow to a trickle, highlighting the need for an administration to control its use. This was one of the main motivations for the formation of the Sydney City Council, which took control of water management in 1842. This was the first time an essential service had been placed under public management and was an important step in the development of Sydney from a penal colony to a trading port.

The Bore remains useful

The tunnel varied in size from 4 to 10 feet in height and from 2 to 3' 6" in width, and contained numerous wells tapped into the bore (28 have been located so far, including two inside Victoria Barracks). In 1881, some pipes were laid inside the tunnel in Oxford Street to reduce tainting from coal tar laid on the road surface. In 1934 it was partly filled in when the weight of tram traffic caused the stone slabs under Oxford Street to collapse[7].

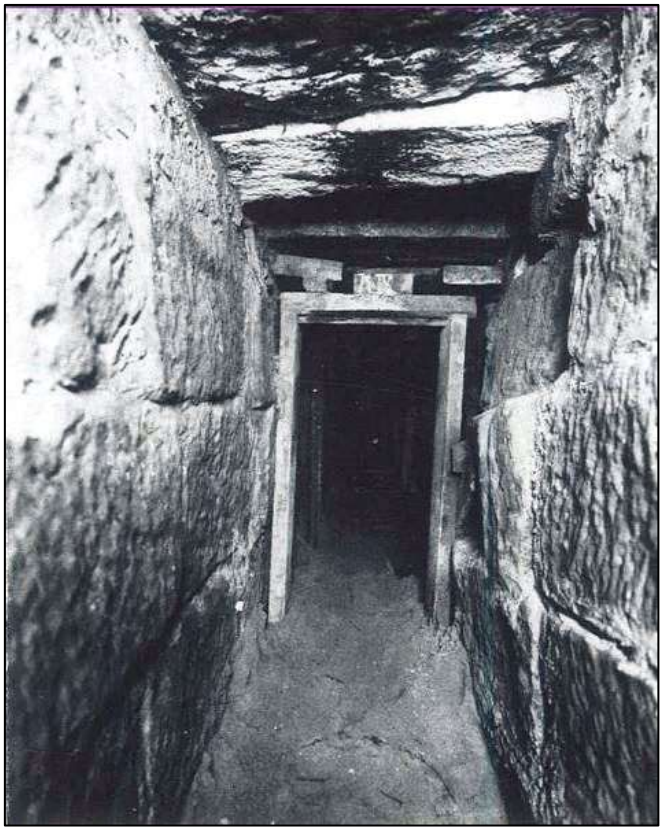


Figure 4 The tunnel (Sydney Water)

Despite official concern about dependence on one source of water, the Lachlan Swamps remained Sydney's only water supply until the Botany Bay Swamp Scheme became operational in 1859. From this time, water was pumped from Botany to the Crown Street Reservoir in Surry Hills and later to Paddington[8]. This took over as the primary source of supply, although Busby's Bore continued to serve parts of the city and Woolloomooloo. But pollution slowly began to infiltrate the system from nearby industries and eventually the Bore was only used to flush creeks and ponds in the Botanic Gardens until the 1890s[9].

In 2004, Ian Kiernan, founder and chairman of Clean Up Australia, announced that a project had been initiated to use the stormwater, seepage and runoff from several tunnels, including Busby's Bore, to replace the 300-odd megalitres of drinking water annually used to water the Botanic Gardens, the Domain and Hyde Park. He held talks with several stakeholders, including the City of Sydney, Sydney Water, RailCorp and the Botanic Gardens. The project envisaged the water being upgraded to grey water at a modern plant, and then stored in an old railway tunnel which will be converted into an underground dam, conveniently located beneath the Botanic Gardens' main pumping station[10]. In 2007, the New South Wales Government announced that it had pledged $430,000 to fund the first stage of the project[11].

Moore Park General Cemetery

Sectarianism after death

As Sydney grew, the government provided land for burial grounds but handed over the management of burials and the actual sites to the clergy. This set a precedent that was part of a move to establish a distinction between Church and State. A small cemetery existed from June 1790 to September 1792 next to the corner of present-day Clarence Street and York Place. The first cemetery officially set apart for the town of Sydney was the Old Sydney Burial Ground in George Street, established in September 1792 on the then-outskirts of the settlement. The cemetery was extended in 1812 and finally closed in 1820 when it was full.

The Church of England was by far the largest denomination in the colony. But t*he Church Act 1836* ensured that all religious denominations could administer their own burial grounds, ending the Church of England's monopoly over the burial of colonists. The Devonshire Street Cemetery (on the site of the present Central Station) was opened in 1819, initially for Church of England burials only. Later, other denominations were allotted nearby land for burials upon application to the government. By 1836 there were seven burial grounds on the site, covering a total of 11 acres.

The layout of the Devonshire Street Cemetery was ad hoc, in response to the needs of different religious communities, and in this sense was not a general cemetery, but seven denominational cemeteries. Each denomination managed its own section, which was fenced in with an exclusive entrance and charged its own fees[13].

A general cemetery is attempted

In 1845, the Government decided to create a new burial ground because the Devonshire Street Cemetery was overflowing. The *General Cemetery Act 1847* was intended to create a general interdenominational cemetery, to be known as the Necropolis. It would be run by a central board of trustees, which aimed to avoid the sectarianism of the burial grounds established to date. However, sectarianism was still strong in the colony, and the churches raised widespread objections. The concept was watered down so that the different denominations would have their separate areas within the cemetery.

The government finally set aside 23 acres in Sydney Common, between Cleveland Street, Dacey Avenue, South Dowling Street and Anzac Parade (then called Randwick Road). Access to the site was by a new road that was an eastward extension of present-day Crescent Street, and called Cemetery Road[14]. But objections to the site stalled the project, and it filled up with sand, nearly covering the fence that enclosed most of it. It was claimed, although denied by the City Engineer of the Council, that the water from the cemetery would drain into Sydney's water reservoir at Botany.

The Church of England was the denomination most inconvenienced by the delays, as their existing burial grounds were already full, while the others still had ample space[15]. Frustrated by the government inaction, Anglican parishioners founded the Church of England Cemetery Company, a private company formed to finance the Camperdown Cemetery. The cemetery was consecrated in 1849, and remained the main burial ground for that denomination from 1849 until 1867[16]. In the end, no-one was ever buried at the Moore Park Necropolis.

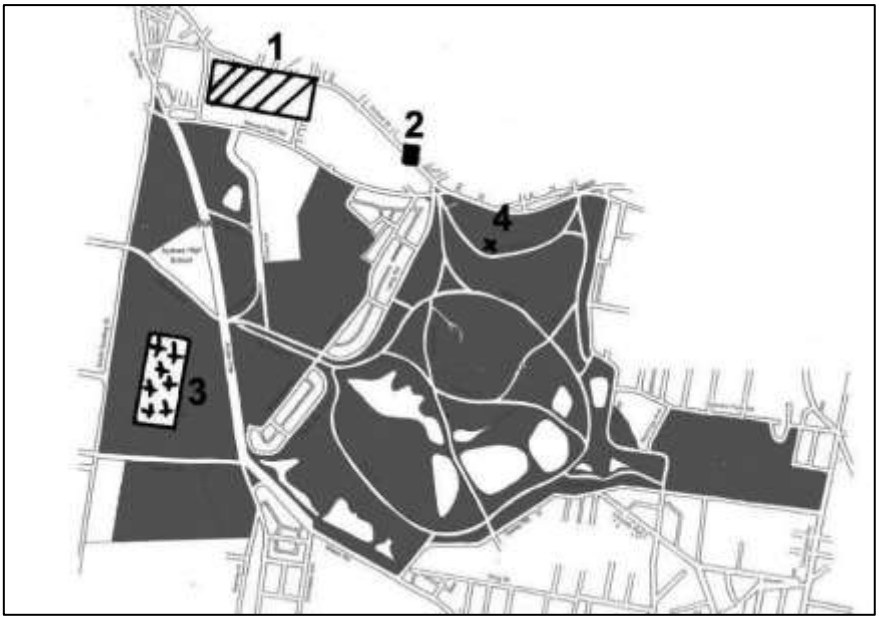


Figure 5 Proposed cemetery - item 3 (Centennial Parklands website)

By 1855, the enclosing wall, which was never finished, was nearly buried in drifting sand[17], thus drawing a symbolic veil over the failed attempt at an ecumenical approach to burial. Despite numerous official denials[18], the fear that the Necropolis would contaminate the water supply continued to exercise the minds of letter writers to the Sydney press for years. By 1859, the Sydney City Council was inclined to agree with resident protest groups that a site further away from the populated areas and the water catchment would be a better solution[19].

Finally a general cemetery at Haslam's Creek

By 1859, the New South Wales Surveyor General's office had standardised the design of general cemeteries, dividing the cemetery into six areas for the main denominations (Church of England, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Wesleyan, Independent and Jewish) in proportion to their representation in the 1856 census, along with a seventh generic area for all other denominations[20]. The Moore Park General Cemetery project languished until 1867 when a large 150-acre general cemetery, called The Rookwood Necropolis, was opened at Haslam's Creek in a much more suitable site, near the railway line with access to both Parramatta and Sydney. The Old Cemetery Reserve in Moore Park was still unused in 1886 when it was suggested as a possible site for a new ride and drive park[21].

The Government's radical attempt to establish a general cemetery for all denominations in Moore Park in 1847 was a worthy idea, but one that was ahead of its time. While the separation of Church and State was established early in the colony, New South Wales was not a secular society. It was to be another twenty years before the idea of burying the different denominations in the same cemetery (albeit in their own sections) was acceptable enough for the Government to successfully establish a general cemetery.

Victoria Barracks

> "From the days of the Redcoats, through the difficulties of raising Colonial Forces, their amalgamation at federation, two World Wars, and to the present day, the barracks has been the physically elegant and functional headquarters in New South Wales", Lieutenant Colonel Lenthal Burnam Swifte[22].

Accommodating the troops

After the arrival of 212 members of the Marine Corps in the First Fleet in 1788, convicts built barracks to accommodate them. The buildings were subsequently occupied by the New South Wales Corps who replaced the Marines when the Second Fleet arrived in 1790. In 1792, new barracks were built on a 16-acre site on the western side of George Street, between Barrack and Margaret Streets, extending west to Clarence Street. But by Lachlan Macquarie's arrival in 1810, the barracks were dilapidated and he ordered additional buildings to be constructed.

As Sydney expanded, it became clear that the barracks, covering such a large area in the centre of town, was impeding the commercial growth of the colony and the planning of streets. In 1836, Governor Sir Richard Bourke decided to move the military to some suitable location just outside the town, and asked for a recommendation from his officers. Initially the Cleveland Paddocks was favoured (present-day Prince Alfred Park), and plans were drawn up. However, work had still not started by 1840, by which time the site was considered more useful as a commercial and residential area[23].

Victoria Barracks – a sandstone wonder

The land finally selected for the new barracks was on the sandy scrubland-covered northern slopes of Sydney Common, in the future suburb of Paddington. Apart from its remoteness from the town centre and its unsuitability for agricultural purposes, the site had the additional advantages of proximity to good drinking water, and the availability of sandstone for the construction of the barracks.

The barracks was planned and initially supervised by Lieutenant Colonel George Barney of the Royal Engineers. He had been sent to Sydney in 1835 at the request of Governor Bourke to construct and maintain various fortifications and convict buildings in Sydney. In his role as Colonial Engineer, Barney was familiar with the line of Busby's Bore from Lachlan Swamps to Hyde Park, and he located the boundaries of the barracks so that the Bore ran under the south-west corner of the land, and included two shafts to the tunnel to ensure an independent and reliable water supply.

Quarrying the local sandstone allowed Barney to save on the cost of manufacturing or buying bricks, although the iron columns, girders and railings were probably imported from England. When the proposal for the barracks was first presented in 1836, convicts were to be the main labour force. But when convict transportation to New South Wales ceased in 1840, the supply of free government labour was greatly reduced. Work began on the barracks in February 1841. Site preparation was time-consuming, as it took upward of 300 convicts several months to establish a stone quarry and to clear ground for the foundations[24].

In 1843, Barney was succeeded by Major (later Lieutenant Colonel) James Gordon who continued the supervisory work involved in building the barracks. Barney went back to England, but returned to Australia in 1846 as Lieutenant-Governor of North Australia. He was appointed Surveyor-General in 1856, and was eventually responsible for building Darlinghurst Gaol, Fort Denison and Circular Quay[25].

Figure 6 Victoria Barracks, 1871 (Mitchell Library)

British and colonial regiments in the barracks

The first full-time garrison troops to occupy Victoria Barracks were members of the 11th (North Devonshire) Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel H. K. Bloomfield, who arrived from Hobart in August 1848. The land area of the barracks was increased in 1850 and now covers about 30 acres, surrounded by a high sandstone wall. The main building, called the Barrack Block, is reputed to be the longest stone building in the southern hemisphere[26]. Victoria Barracks remains one of the finest examples of military architecture in Australia.

The start of the gold rush in 1851 stimulated much activity in the colonies. In 1854, the British Government authorised the raising of volunteer forces. Subsequently, New South Wales raised the 1st Sydney Battalion of Rifle Volunteers of about 300, a battery of artillery and some mounted troops. By 1863, more than 2,000 officers and men were enrolled in New South Wales.

By 1870, the British Government considered that the security of the Australian colonies could be adequately left to the Royal Navy, and because there was no apparent threat, Imperial garrisons were withdrawn. In 1871, a small Permanent Military Force was raised from among the colonists, comprising a battery of artillery and two companies of infantry. The infantry was based in Victoria Barracks and the artillery at Dawes Point, now the southern end of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The infantry was disbanded in 1872, but volunteer units remained. Eventually all field artillery moved to Victoria Barracks[27].

The barracks has been used continuously since then by Australian armed forces, including the first Australian Army units after Federation. It is currently home to both Headquarters Land Command and Headquarters Training Command[28].

The armed forces in Moore Park

The British and colonial armies made extensive use of the expanses of Sydney Common, even after the area was formally declared a place of public sporting and recreational activity as Moore Park in 1866. Apart from a rifle range, a cricket ground and garden, marching, drilling and parades were organised while the engineers used the ponds for exercises in bridge-building[29]. In 1873, it was reported that a military Field Day and Sham Fight in Moore Park was witnessed by a large number of people standing on top of Mount Steel, Mount Renny, Constitution Hill and other high vantage points[30].

Eventually, competition for space between sporting and military activities became more serious with the Military and Volunteer Rifle Range operating at the same time as the cricket clubs. In 1875, a military spokesman complained that “we are driven from Moore Park by football players in winter and cricketers in summer”[31].

Randwick and Moore Park Toll Houses

Improving the roads with tolls

The collection of road tolls was a British concept adopted in New South Wales by Governor Lachlan Macquarie in 1810. The system required road users to pay a fee which was then used for road maintenance, a critical revenue-raising enterprise as the settlement expanded its population and infrastructure. This was a great boon to early settlers, as the poorly-formed early roads were gradually improved as a result of the money collected[32].

Toll bars were typically installed across the junctions of key thoroughfares, and a toll house was built nearby to provide a home for the toll collector and his family. The houses were usually simple structures, often featuring bay windows to allow the collector a clear view of any approaching traffic, and were normally designed by the government architect of the day. But the introduction of the rail system in the 1870s led to the decline of road tolls[33], and the system largely came to an end soon afterwards[34].

Randwick Toll House

A toll house was built in 1849 of local limestone at present-day Tay Reserve on the corner of Alison Road and Anzac Parade. It was a key source of revenue on race days at Randwick Racecourse. There was a charge of tuppence per horse, sixpence for a horse and cart, a farthing for rural traffic that included lambs, pigs and goats, and a halfpenny for oxen. From 1850, the toll bar was staffed by the Aboriginal gatekeeper Billy "King Billy" Timbery. He was born in the Braidwood district in about 1827 as William John Wentworth. His Aboriginal name was Dooich. He lived at La Perouse and died there in July 1906[35].

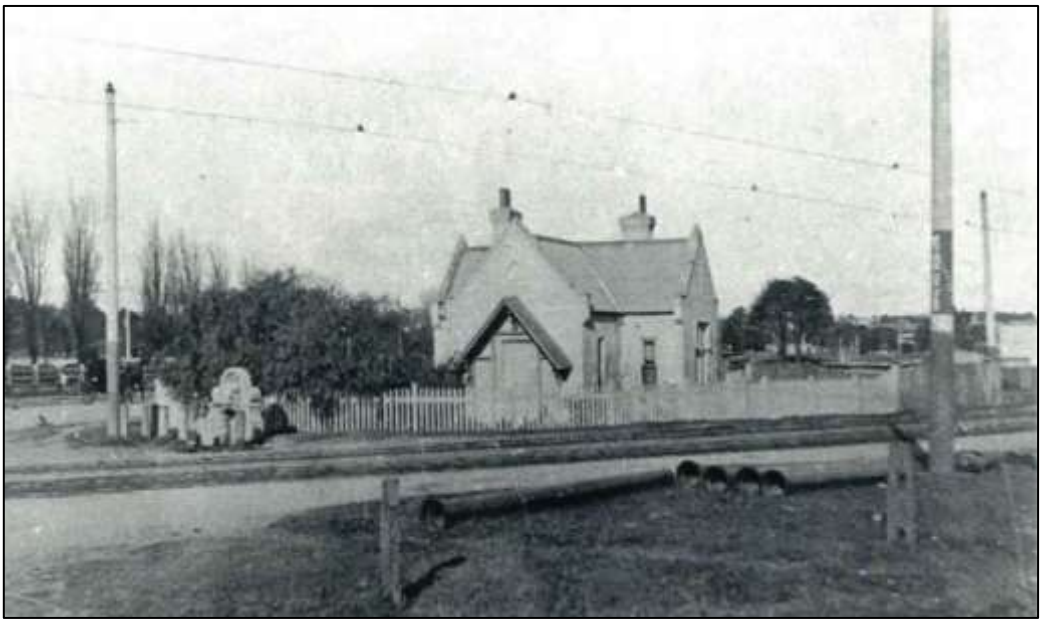


Figure 7 Randwick Toll House, 1890 (*Randwick: a Social History*)

Despite the general winding down of the toll system in the 1870s, the Randwick toll bar continued collecting tolls until 1894. Collection ceased with the enactment of the *Randwick Toll-Gate Removal Act 1894*[36]. The house was finally demolished in 1909 and the materials sold by public auction. It was expected that the stone would be used as foundations for brick houses. The *Evening News* lamented

the loss of such a notable landmark on the old Randwick Road, noting that the “quaint old drinking fountain” still stood on the corner, bearing the name of Walter Renny and the year 1869[37]

Figure 8 King Billy Timbery (Eora People website)

Moore Park Toll House

The second toll bar and house in the area was built in 1860 at the intersection of Anzac Parade and Cleveland Street, adjacent to the Moore Park Golf Club. Constructed of sandstone, it is the only surviving metropolitan toll house and the only two-storey one among at least five survivors in New South Wales. It is typical of the Victorian Gothic architectural style, featuring a T-shaped configuration with a central bay to allow a line of sight to the oncoming traffic.

Figure 9 Moore Park Toll House

The *Government Gazette* of 13 December 1861 published a statement from Governor Sir John Young to say that the intersection of Randwick Road and Old Botany Road at the continuation of Cleveland Street was appointed as the place at which toll shall be demanded, levied and taken. Initially, a toll of one farthing was charged for the transportation of sheep, lambs, pigs and goats. Cattle, horses, carts, drays, wagons and coaches attracted a fee of up to one shilling.

Toll collection ceased at the Moore Park toll bar in 1890, after which the toll house was transformed into a club house for golfers at the Moore Park Golf course, which opened in 1913. Additions to the building in the 1920s included the installation of dressing rooms and toilet facilities, and were typical of Inter-War bungalow-style architecture. A new golf house was built on top of nearby Mount Renny in 1925, relegating the toll house to a new use as a depot[38].

Paddington Rifle Range

Keeping the troops on target

In 1851, a grant of land was given to the British Army within Sydney Common for use as a Military Cricket Ground and a kitchen garden. A Rifle Range was constructed adjacent to the cricket ground in 1852. It took advantage of the sandstone formations to the east as a place to safely place targets. Both the British Army and the Sydney Volunteers used the range for target practice. A second rifle range opened in 1862, running parallel and south of the military range, allowing recreational shooters to practise and to hold competitions[39]. The range was known as the Paddington Rifle Range, and locally as the Paddington Butts.

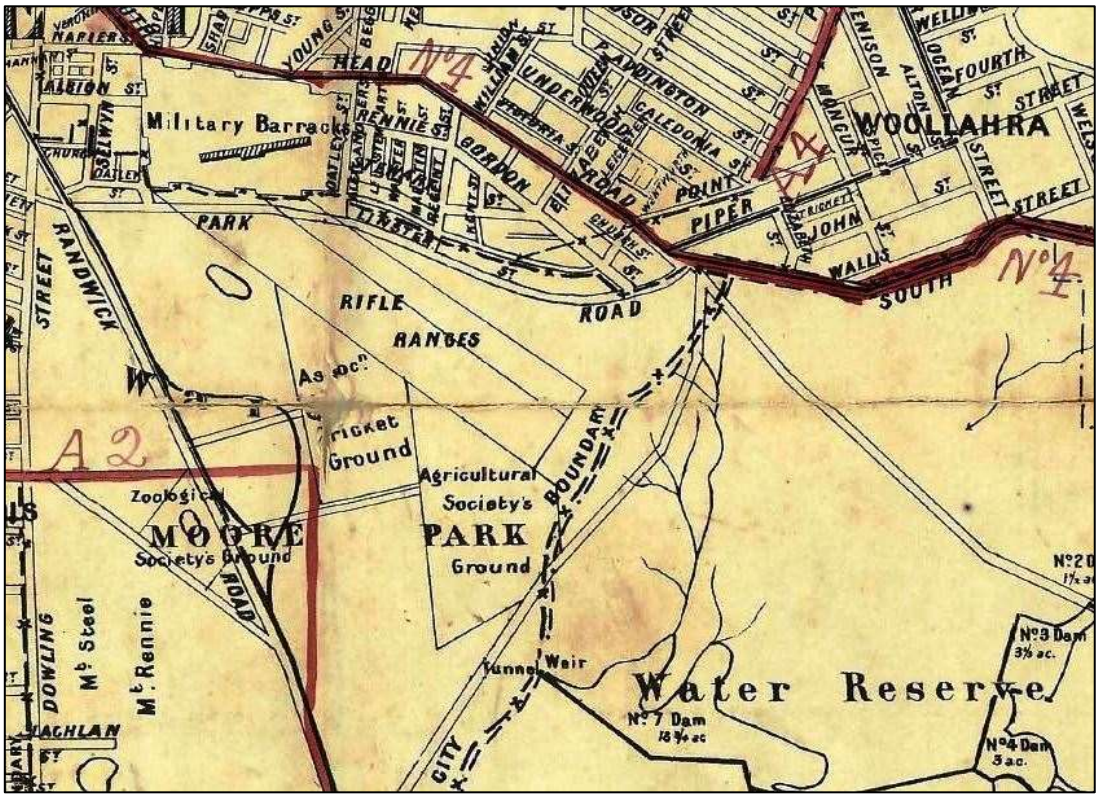


Figure 10 Paddington Rifle Ranges (*Sands' Directory* 1887)

The New South Wales Rifle Association was formed in October 1860 at the Chamber of Commerce. The first prize meeting of members was held on firing ranges set up at the Australian Jockey Club at Randwick. Then in 1866, the annual prize meeting was held at the Paddington Rifle Range for the first time. The Association continued to hold its prize meeting at Paddington until 1889, when the range was threatened with closure[40]. The local competitions were generally conducted over distances of 200, 300, 500 and 600 yards[41], although from 1862, the Intercolonial Challenge Shield between the Volunteer corps of New South Wales and Victoria was held over ranges of 800 and 900 yards. This competition alternated year by year between the Paddington Butts and the Sandridge Butts in Melbourne[42].

Two hotels in Surry Hills catered directly to thirsty shooters after a hard day blazing away on the range. The Rifleman's Arms in Fitzroy Street was opened in 1872 by John Dimond. The pub operated until 1922 when its licence was withdrawn by the feared Licences Reduction Board (along with many

other pubs deemed to be substandard). The building never again operated as a pub, but has housed a variety of businesses since that time. The Flinders Hotel in Flinders Street was originally known as the Rifle Butts Hotel from 1870 until acquiring its current name in December 1900[43].

Stray bullets close the rifle range

By 1887, the armed forces had grown to such a size that the range was inadequate to give sufficient training to all the companies of riflemen, and in any case did not give any practice with moving targets. Captain Cuthell, the musketry instructor, had prepared for the future by laying out a site near Randwick, which was approved by the rifle range committee of the Rifle Association. If granted by the Government, it would herald a new era in rifle training for the soldiers[44].

Figure 11 Paddington Rifle Range in action (Centennial Parklands website)

Before Centennial Park was opened in 1888, the area just beyond the target area was uninhabited scrubland, and any stray bullets would only have startled a furry marsupial or two. But from 1888, it became part of Centennial Park, and was increasingly used by workmen and park visitors. Then in March 1890, a quarryman named John Grice, who was helping to build a wall around Centennial Park, was wounded in the leg by a stray bullet from the range. The workers reported that it was quite common for bullets to be flying around overhead, and on one occasion a foreman's hat was struck by a bullet. Fortunately he had just taken the hat off to scratch his head (presumably while pondering some tricky wall construction problem) and he was unhurt[45].

Two months after this incident, Major-General Richardson abruptly closed the rifle range without any notice[46]. Soon afterwards, the Colonial Treasurer, William McMillan, declared that the Paddington Rifle Range would not be reopened, but assured the shooters of Sydney that a new rifle range would be provided as soon as possible. The annual prize meeting was not held by the Rifle Association that year. *The Australian Star* helpfully suggested that if the riflemen went without practice for much longer, they might need larger targets when they resumed[47].

In the end, it was over two years before a new venue opened at Randwick. The annual intercolonial meeting of the New South Wales Rifle Association was held at the new Randwick Rifle Range in October 1892[48]. The range operated until the 1920s, and was located in the present Randwick Barracks School of Musketry and Officers' Mess in Bundock Street[49].

Carving up the range

From the closure of the Paddington Rifle Range and the move to Randwick, the 30-odd acres of military land in a prime part of Sydney soon attracted the interest of sporting groups and developers. But the military authorities were in no hurry to give it up, and they continued to use it for their purposes. In 1893, the New South Wales Corps of Engineers opened a new depot at the eastern end of the rifle range[50]. The military was to retain much of this area until the construction of the Sydney Football Stadium in 1988. In 1895, New South Wales Rugby Union began to lobby the Government for an area they could dedicate to football, as they felt their best interests weren't being served at the Sydney Cricket Ground[51].

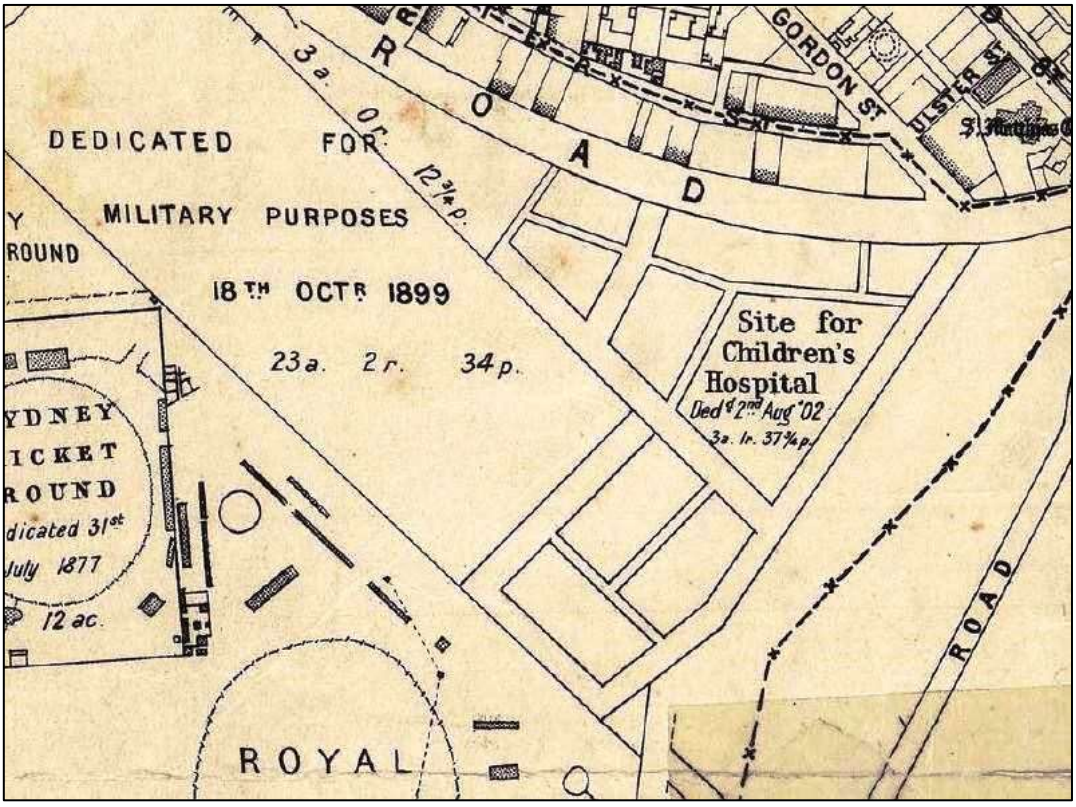


Figure 12 Proposed Children's Hospital, 1903 (City of Sydney map)

In 1896, representatives from the Hospital for Sick Children asked the Government for a grant of part of the old rifle range to replace their cramped and inadequate site at Glebe Point. In August 1902, the Government dedicated a site of more than three acres in the subdivision at the target end of the range[52]. But the hospital was not happy with the site chosen, and in the December 1903 the Premier, Sir John See, announced that part of the estate of the Honorable John Lucas in Pyrmont Bridge Road Camperdown had been purchased, and this site would become the new children's hospital[53].

Poate Road was formed along the northern boundary of the target area, and by 1907 the land bounded by this road, Cook Road and Moore Park Road was being sold as residential blocks[54]. But these encroachments into the park were controversial. The Lord Mayor of Sydney complained that the whole of Moore Park had once been granted to the council to hold in trust as a common, but bit by bit a large portion had been taken away by the State Government: the Royal Agricultural Ground, the Sydney Cricket Ground, the Sports Ground and the recent offering for sale of ten acres for housing. He warned that at this rate there would nothing left for the public to have free access to[55].

Sydney Cricket Ground

The British Army keeps fit with cricket

In 1851, part of Sydney Common to the south of Victoria Barracks was granted to the British Army for use as a garden and cricket ground for the soldiers. The incumbent troops from 11th North Devonshire Regiment established a rifle range adjacent to the barracks, and then flattened and graded the area to the south of the range to develop a cricket field. Over the next couple of years, the teams from Victoria Barracks combined into a more permanent organisation and called themselves the Garrison Club. When the ground was opened for the first recorded match in 1854 against the Royal Victoria Club, it was known as the Garrison Ground[56].

Originally, Hyde Park had been the main sporting and racing ground in the colony, but when it was dedicated as public gardens in 1856, the city's cricketers and footballers had to find somewhere else to hit or kick a ball around. Cricket was played in the Domain, next to the city, and in the Albert Ground in Redfern from 1864 to 1877. When the British Army withdrew from Victoria Barracks in 1870, the Garrison Ground became known as the Military and Civil Ground. Club rugby union was first played at the ground in that year.

The New South Wales Cricket Association

With the departure of the British troops, the future of the cricket ground became uncertain. But following the closure of the Albert Ground in the 1870s, The New South Wales Cricket Association began regular use of the Military and Civil Ground. In 1875, the Association began to upgrade the ground, and its president, the solicitor and politician Richard Driver, persuaded the Government to let the Association take over the ground's administration. The Association had some influential supporters around town. Apart from Driver himself, Thomas Garrett, the Minister for Lands, was also a supporter with a son who was about to break into the colonial cricket side. In 1876, the ground was extensively redeveloped and renamed the Association Cricket Ground[57]. Since 1877, the ground has been managed by a public trust, currently called the Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust.

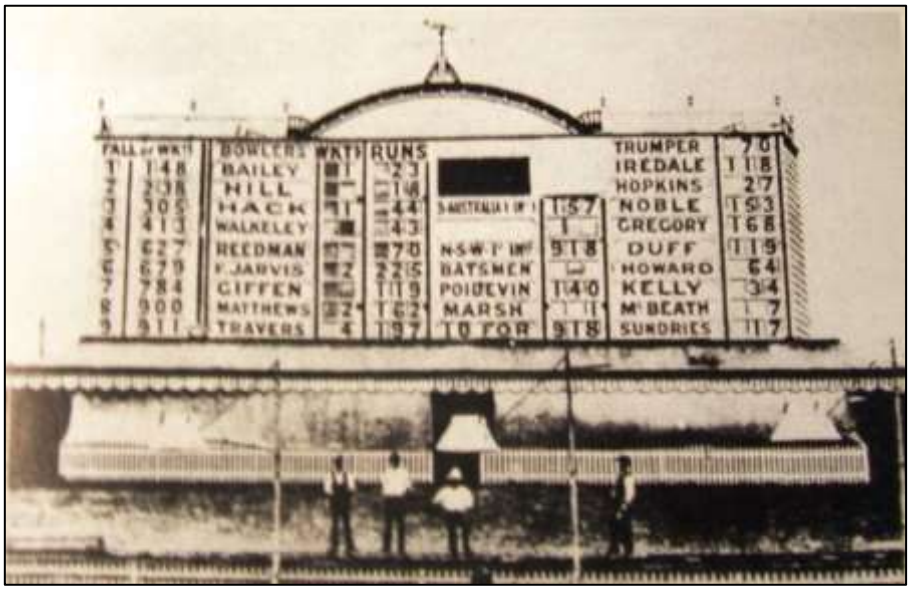


Figure 13 Sydney Cricket Ground scoreboard, 1900 (Wikimedia)

The first Sydney cricket Test match was played in February 1882 against England (Australia won the match by five wickets, and the four-test series 2-0)[58]. At this time there were two grandstands, the Brewongle Stand at the southern end, and the original Members' Stand, built in 1878 in the north-west corner. Two spectator mounds were built on opposite sides of the ground, known as The Hill and the Paddington Hill. The Members' Stand was rebuilt in 1886. After the ground was renamed to the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) in 1894, the Hill Stand was built between the two hills. During the Depression years it became known as the Bob Stand because it cost a bob (one shilling) to enter. In 1983, the Bob Stand was replaced by the Bill O'Reilly Stand and moved to North Sydney Oval, where it remains today.

Figure 14 Sydney Cricket Ground

The first scoreboard was built before the 1895-1896 intercolonial match between New South Wales and Victoria. The design was by Ned Gregory, who believed that English scoreboards were inadequate (with only numbers representing players, to be matched to names on a printed card handed out at each game). It required two men to operate it, and was hailed as one of the wonders of the cricket world. Under the scoreboard was a refreshment stall which sold, among other things, oysters. A concrete cycling track was installed in 1896, and used until its removal in 1920.

Rugby league was first played at the Ground in 1911, between New South Wales and New Zealand (the Kiwis were defeated 35-10 in front of 46,000 people). The British Empire Games (now called the Commonwealth Games) was held there in 1938. In 1982, the struggling and heavily indebted Victorian Football League club the South Melbourne Swans made the Sydney Cricket Ground its home and became the Sydney Swans, heralding a national Australian Rules football competition[59].

Creation of Moore Park

Improving the Common

By the middle of the nineteenth century, the land of the Sydney Common was barren and degraded. For some time, Sydney City Council had used parts of it for dumping night soil and other refuse, and there had been illegal timber-getting by residents. Lack of trees led to so much erosion that in the early 1860s, two men named Charles Moore (one a Sydney Council Alderman and the other the Director of Sydney Botanic Gardens) collaborated to stabilise the soils with plantings of indigenous shrubs and couch grass. The shrubs failed, but the couch grass was a success, and in a few years the Common was much greener[60].

In 1866, Alderman Moore managed to locate documents proving that in 1811 Sydney Common had been vested in the inhabitants of Sydney, and therefore was not Crown Land for the colonial Government to dispose of as it wished, as was generally thought. He planned to improve and sell part of it to provide the funds for improving half of the Common, leaving the other half to be gazetted as a water reserve that included the Lachlan Swamps. The scheme was supported in Parliament by the Henry Parkes (Colonial Secretary from 1866 to 1868)[61]. The *Sydney Common Improvement Act* was signed into law by Governor Sir John Young in February 1866[62].

A park dedicated to recreation and sport

At the time of its dedication in 1866, Moore Park was split off from Sydney Common, and was bounded on the west by Dowling Street, on the north by South Head Road, on the east by the Lachlan Swamps Water Reserve, and on the south by the Lachlan Mills Estate and Randwick racecourse. A road lined with stone pines (also called umbrella pines) was formed to mark the boundary between the park and the Lachlan Swamps water reserve.

Two other roads crossed Moore Park at the time. One was known as Old Botany Road and was used by hunters and fishermen initially, and later by pleasure seekers travelling to Coogee and Botany (it was later called Randwick Road, and is now called Flinders Street leading to Anzac Parade, then Alison Road heading east and Anzac Parade continuing south). The other provided a western entrance to a proposed cemetery that was located off South Dowling Street and north of Dacey Street (the cemetery road does not exist now). The dedicated land also encompassed the Tunnel Reserve (part of Busby's Bore), Victoria Barracks and the Military and Civil Cricket Ground[63].

Early in 1867, work began on levelling the sandhills and planting grass and trees[64], and the Council stopped its workers from the "intolerable nuisance" of dumping night soil in the park[65]. Alderman Charles Moore, by then the Lord Mayor of Sydney, had earlier proposed that the new park be named Olympic Park. But the Sydney Council decided to recognise his efforts over several years to bring about its creation by naming it Moore Park.

Figure 15 Military parade, Moore Park c1900 (City of Sydney Archives)

The Council was happy to have the public (as properly constituted clubs) use a large portion of Moore Park for sport and organised recreation, with virtually no cost to Council. The clubs paid a small fee to defray the cost of preparation and upkeep of the cricket and football grounds. But by the end of the nineteenth century, a sizable portion of the large park was still largely unused due to its hilly nature[66].

Polo in Moore Park

Training the cavalry

In 1858, two British Army officers stationed in India, Captain Robert Stewart and Lieutenant (later Major General) Joseph Ford Sherer, witnessed a game of Sagol Kangjei, an early version of polo played by locals in the north-eastern state of Manipur. They were so impressed with the sport as a cavalry training exercise that they quickly introduced it to their peers. The Calcutta Polo Club was established in 1861-2, and the club developed a form of the sport with less players and a slower format and wrote the first rule book for modern polo. Cavalry officers soon spread the game to Britain, where it became known as the sport of kings, or the royal sport[67].

The sport of kings comes to Sydney

The first recorded polo match in New South Wales was played in July 1874 on the cricket fields at Moore Park, by the newly-organised Sydney Polo Club. Representing colonial royalty was the Governor, Sir Hercules Robinson, who competed regularly for the club[68]. By the next month, polo was being practised in the park three afternoons a week[69]. But Moore Park was only a temporary ground, and the club advised that it would be fully established once a permanent ground was found[70].

Figure 16 Polo match in Moore Park, 1874 (*Australian Town & Country*, 15 August 1874)

Polo caused controversy in Moore Park, and before long the secretary of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals wrote to the Sydney Polo Club complaining about ill treatment of the horses, mainly by the excessive use of spurs[71]. Then the cricketers complained that the horses' hooves were cutting up their ovals. Despite the prestige of the Vice Regal patronage, the Sydney City Council banned the sport from Moore Park[72], and the club moved to Randwick Racecourse[73].

But some years later, polo was again being played on a cricket field in Moore Park until 1887, when the cricket association complained anew at having to fill in the holes created by the horses' hooves[74]. The game seems to have faded after this. Then in 1891, the Sydney Polo Club reformed and started using the Moore Park Showground to practise, with a view to using the newly rebuilt Randwick Racecourse as their headquarters[75]. The Vice Regal connection with colonial polo continued, as the Governor Lord Jersey attended practice sessions at the Agricultural Showground as a spectator in the 1890s[76], when his Aide-de-camp Captain Henry Cholmondeley was in action. With a name like that, the good Captain was surely born to play the sport of kings[77].

No lefties, if you please

One of the unusual rules of polo is that players are not allowed to play left-handed. It is banned because if a left-handed and a right-handed player ride towards the ball from opposite directions, they will have to ride straight at each other to hit the ball, and probably cause a collision. But if two right-handed players arrive at the ball together, the horses will be on different sides of the ball and will not collide. Prince William the Duke of Cambridge, a natural left-hander, has learned to play it with his right hand. It is thought that this could be a case of sibling rivalry, as the right-handed Harry should be the better player, but William was probably determined not to be outdone by his younger brother, and now they both play off the same low-goal handicap, which is mostly in events supporting their charities[78].

Moore Park Zoological Gardens

Billy Goat Swamp becomes a public zoo

The first private zoo in Australia was set up in Hyde Park in 1848, displaying animals acquired by Captain William Charlesworth and operated by the Australian Museum. In the early 1850s the collection of animals was handed over to the timber merchant William Beaumont and business partner James Waller, owners of the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel at Botany, who had developed landscaped pleasure gardens next to the hotel[79]. After this, the Government made a failed attempt to set up a zoo at Watson's Bay. Then in March 1879, the Zoological Society of New South Wales was formed, with the aim of establishing a public zoo in Sydney. The Sydney City Council granted permission to occupy an area of Moore Park known as Billy Goat Swamp for the establishment of a zoo. The land granted was originally 7.5 acres, but grew greatly over the years[80].

Progress on the construction of the zoo was first reported in April 1881, when the City Council was forming two terraces around the grounds. The swamp had dried up because of drought, and was to be reduced in size and deepened to make a permanent home for the water fowl. The rest of the site was being levelled and a three-roomed caretaker's cottage and two large aviaries had been built. The Zoological Society purchased a number of birds, and was inviting further donations from the public[81].

Figure 17 Moore Park Zoo, 1885 (Centennial Parklands website)

In July 1883, the zoo received an elephant from the King of Siam, in return for some "choice plants, kangaroos and curiosities from Australia". By this time visitors were being admitted, and children were taken for rides on Jumbo the elephant[82]. The *Sydney Morning Herald* predicted that, despite having only a few animals so far, walking in the zoo would become a fashionable exercise. A newly-installed fountain sprayed water in attractive patterns and a 35-piece band played a musical program on Saturday afternoons[83].

The opening of the new bear pit was advertised in November 1883 when visitors were invited to see Ben and Sally, the two Californian bears, climb the pole for the first time[84]. A second elephant, named Jessie, was acquired from the Calcutta Zoo, as a companion to Jumbo[85]. From this time until the end of 1884, more cages and animals were added, including a lion, a boa constrictor and a large alligator from North Queensland[86].

Sydneysiders became very attached to the zoo's inhabitants, to the extent that in December 1884 the *Freeman's Journal* published a formal obituary notice for two monkeys who had died from swallowing "sweets, cigar ends, tobacco, Lucifer matches and other injurious substances"[87]. A difficult time occurred in April 1902 when the zoo was closed for four months following an outbreak of bubonic plague among the staff and animals, including several wallabies.

Figure 18 The bear pit (jezilly - flickr)

A curious Supreme Court case was brought in April 1906 by Edward Ballard against the committee of the zoo for charging him an entry fee for admission on a Sunday, under an old British Act of Parliament, *The Sunday Observance Act*[88]. The newspaper coverage of the case showed that the judge could not really see the point of the court action, as Mr. Ballard had nothing to gain, and in any case the zoo's committee members easily convinced the Bench that they weren't personally responsible for taking the plaintiff's money. In September the case was thrown out of court after the belated revelation that the Act was "out of date, obsolete and to no effect"[89].

The move to Taronga Park

In 1908, the Secretary of the zoo, Albert Sherbourne Le Souef visited Germany and returned with a vision for a new Sydney zoo, based on the bar-less exhibits he had seen at Hamburg Zoo[90]. The Moore Park Zoo had become a popular recreational venue and brought an increased number of visitors to the park, but by 1910 it was deemed to be too small and not suitable for the new vision. Ashton Park on Bradley's Head in Mosman was chosen as the new location[91].

In 1912, the Zoological Gardens committee announced the reasons for the proposed move to the Mosman. By then, there were over 244,000 visitors a year, and on holidays the grounds were so crowded that visitors had difficulty sitting down or viewing the animals. The zoo had grown to fifteen acres, an increase from the original seven acres. But by comparison the Melbourne zoo was fifty acres, and the Perth zoo was forty acres. After examining many sites for more than a year, the committee finally resolved to request the use of forty acres at Ashton Park, with a water frontage. This site was within easy reach of the city by ferry and tram and the animals would be isolated from traffic and residential areas. It had a dry, warm and sheltered location, unlike the reclaimed swamp at Moore Park. The Government approved the move[92].

In 1913, management of the zoo passed to a Trust which became known as the Taronga Zoological Park Trust[93]. The transfer of animals and birds to the new site took place in 1916, and by September it was complete[94]. The Taronga Zoo website says that 228 mammals, 52 birds and 64 reptiles were moved from Moore Park across Sydney Harbour to the new site, which was renamed Taronga, an indigenous word meaning "beautiful view". Many of the larger animals, including the elephants, crossed the harbour on a flat-top vehicular barge. Taronga Zoo was officially opened in October 1916[95].

There followed a tug of war between the two levels of government over the next use of the fifteen acres of Moore Park previously occupied by the zoo. In 1919, the Minister for Education, Augustus James, declared in a speech that he intended to erect a new High School for Girls on the site. On the other hand, Alderman Richard Richards, the Lord Mayor of Sydney, said that the City Council had decided to use the site for additional cricket pitches, with a kiosk to be erected and run by a returned soldier. However, the prescient Town Clerk, Mr. T. H. Nesbitt, declared fatalistically that it was a matter of might versus right and that the Government could not be stopped[96].

The tram comes to Moore Park

Trams in Sydney

Sydney's first trams in 1861 were horse-drawn, and provided a link between the ferries and ships at Circular Quay with the main railway terminus, then located at Redfern. But the early trams were criticised for being dangerous and causing many road accidents, and the line closed in 1866. However, the 1879 International Exhibition heralded the return of trams to Sydney. By this time they were steam-powered, the very embodiment of the modern technology being promoted at the Exhibition. The new line ran from Redfern station to the Garden Palace in the Domain. Although the tramline was built as a temporary measure, its popularity kept steam trams running in the city until 1905.

Electric trams began operating in 1899, and by 1906 all the steam trams within the city area had been replaced by 750 electric tramcars, carrying more than 130 million passengers in that year. By 1922, the tramway network had reached its maximum size, with nearly 300 kilometres of track extending to the edges of Sydney: to La Perouse, Narrabeen, Parramatta and Sutherland. As the network expanded, leisure destinations became more accessible, such as the harbour and ocean beaches. Special events such as the Royal Easter Show attracted thousands of patrons[97].

The balloon loop to Moore Park

In 1880, the New South Wales *Tramways Extension Act* was passed, leading to construction of additional lines along the major transport routes to the city. In September 1880, the first tram line into the suburbs opened between Alison Road at Randwick Racecourse and Bridge Street in the city. This line was extended into Randwick shopping centre in March 1881 and finally to La Perouse by 1902[98]. In 1881, a balloon loop from the La Perouse line which ran alongside present-day Anzac Parade was laid in Moore Park to service the Sydney Sports Ground, the Sydney Cricket Ground and the Agricultural Showground.

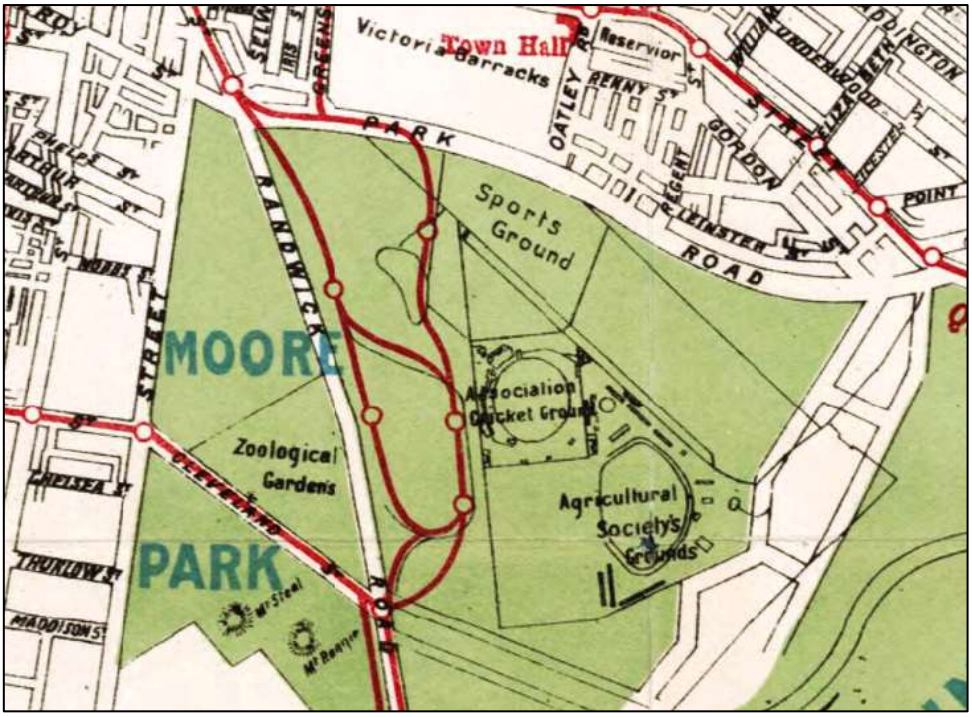


Figure 19 Tramway network, 1907-1920 (National Library of Australia)

Figure 20 Steam tram in Moore Park, 1908 (Dictionary of Sydney)

The new era of buses

Sydney's tramway system was the largest in the British Empire after London's, and was a central part of the city's life for 100 years. The extensive network created many suburbs and helped it become a modern city. However, by the middle of the twentieth century, the tram system symbolised a bygone era, and its demise was inevitable. Accidents involving workers, commuters and pedestrians were frequent as trams fought for space on Sydney's narrow and congested streets, and shared the road with an increasing number of cars. Soon, a high-speed city organised around freeways and cars, not trams, had become the symbol of modernity and progress. The New South Wales Government was persuaded that cars and buses were the transport of the future, and in 1953 the Minister for

Transport, Mr. W. E. Wetherell, announced that no more trams would be built, and buses would replace all existing tram services.

Figure 21 Tram shed, erected 1908, Driver Avenue

The tracks and overhead wires were quickly dismantled after each tram route finished. The final line to close was to La Perouse in 1961. By contrast, while Sydney was pulling up its tracks, Melbourne was laying new ones in preparation for the 1956 Olympics, and now has the largest tramway network in the world, which remains a successful system[99]. A new tram network (the CBD and South East Light Rail) is currently being built to the Randwick area, and will again deliver patrons to the sports grounds in Moore Park as the first trams did over 130 years ago. The original tram network has not been completely forgotten, as the AFL training ground, located inside the old balloon loop, is named Tramway Oval. The new light rail will run along the western side of the this oval.

Royal Agricultural Society Showgrounds

The Royal Easter Show

The Agricultural Society of New South Wales was formed in 1822 and included many of Sydney's most influential citizens. The Society announced that an Annual Show of Livestock would be held to encourage competition and the sharing of knowledge. The first Show took place at Parramatta, then the centre of agricultural activity in the colony. Awards were given to the best sheep, cattle, horses and servants. Sheep had to be merino, cattle and horses had to be bred in the colony, and servants were judged on good conduct, faithful service and ability in animal husbandry. The Society lapsed in 1834 after declining membership and rising debts, but regrouped in 1857 as the Cumberland Agricultural Society, which was then renamed to the Agricultural Society of New South Wales in 1859. In 1860, the Show moved to an 8.8 acre site acquired in the Parramatta Domain.

Then in 1869, in an effort to increase attendance and exhibitions by moving closer to the city, the Show moved to new grounds at Prince Alfred Park in the former Government Paddocks. In 1879, the Agricultural Society became involved in the organisation of the large International Exhibition, but in the lead-up the event grew in size so much that funding was inadequate. As a result, the New South Wales Government took over the funding and organisation of the event[100].

The move to Moore Park

Due to rising costs, the Society moved the Show to new grounds at Moore Park in 1882. The site was described as an unpromising desert of rocks and swamp with some holes five metres deep. But after major rehabilitation of the site, the first Moore Park Show was held in April that year. In 1891, Queen Victoria granted permission to affix "Royal" to the Society's name. When bubonic plague struck Sydney in 1900, the Society hesitated, but decided to continue with the Show that year. Vendors of patent medicines and disinfectants made the most of the opportunity, selling gallons of infusions and thousands of pills.

Figure 22 Royal Easter Show, 1930s (Dictionary of Sydney)

In 1907, the first Grand Parade was held as a combined parade of stock walking around the Main Arena, mainly horses and cattle. The idea was well received and became an annual event with new animals joining the parade each year. The Show continued to open during World War I, with troops billeted on the Showground throughout the War. But the 1919 Show was cancelled after returning soldiers brought Spanish Influenza to Sydney and the Government banned public gatherings to try and halt its spread. The larger buildings in the Showground became emergency hospitals and a morgue. 848 people died of the virus in Sydney by 1919.

Note that because of their long and varied histories, the Hordern Pavilion and the Royal Hall of Industries are described separately in this history. No Shows were held from 1942 to 1946 during World War II, and this was followed by a record total attendance of 1,232,413 in 1947, at a time when the population of Sydney was just over 1.5 million. In 1948, a brewery strike resulted in a Show with no beer, but many patrons consoled themselves by "discovering" wine for the first time. In 1957, the Show was televised for the first time, using weekly advertisements to get its message out[101].

Life after the Show

By the late 1980s, the Show had outgrown its Moore Park site, and in 1994 the New South Wales Government approved the relocation to Homebush. The last Show was held in 1997 before moving to new grounds at Sydney Olympic Park for the 1998 Show, where it continues to be held every Easter. Since the departure of the Royal Easter Show, the Moore Park Showground was redeveloped in 1998 as Fox Studios Australia, a commercial venture for making films. A Farmers' Market is held twice a week in the former Show ring. Located beside Fox Studios is the Entertainment Quarter, a precinct featuring specialty shops, bars, cafes, two Hoyts cinemas and sporting entertainment facilities such as ten-pin bowling and an indoor ski simulator. The Australian Film Television and Radio School relocated from Ryde in 2008 to the area.

Figure 23 Bent Street, Entertainment Quarter (j bar)

The Showground was also important in the history of rugby league, as some of the new code's games were played there from 1907. The Royal Agricultural Society Shield was designated the main premiership trophy in 1908. The Showground became the venue for the New South Wales Rugby League's grand finals until the late 1920s, eventually hosting 183 first grade games. The final rugby league game was played in April 1987. The Main Arena was also used as one of Sydney's two harness racing venues (the other being the Harold Park Paceway at Glebe), and from 1926 to 1996 it also doubled as a dirt track speedway, known as Speedway Royale. In 1937 it was claimed to be the fastest speedway in the world.

Centennial Parklands Equestrian Centre

The Centennial Parklands Equestrian Centre between the Entertainment Quarter and Lang Road was previously run by the Royal Agricultural Society as part of the Royal Easter Show. When the Show moved to Homebush Bay in 1997, the centre remained in Moore Park and ownership was transferred to the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust. The close proximity of Centennial Park with its horse riding track makes this an ideal location for equestrian activities.

The Centre was opened to the public in June 1998 after more than $10 million had been invested in upgrades, new stables and heritage restoration. This included construction of the large 75m x 40m Covered Arena. The Equestrian Centre offers a range of services to horse owners and riders, such as stabling for privately-owned horses, guided park rides and riding lessons[102.].

Figure 24 Riding lesson in the Equestrian Centre (Centennial Parklands website)

Creating Centennial Park

Celebrating the Centenary

During the late 1870s, Sydney residents began to lobby Woollahra and Paddington Councils to use the Lachlan Swamp water reserve as a public park when its function as a water supply ended in 1886. It was ideally situated, as 65% of the metropolitan population lived within 8 km of the area[103].

The *Centennial Celebration Act* was presented to Parliament in June 1887 and introduced the notion of a park that would be accessible to the whole of the population, down to the poorest in the community. It would also transform what was regarded as an unsightly area into a region of beauty. Centennial Park was created around the former Lachlan Swamps of the Sydney Common in 1888 to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the colony. The layout and landscape design is attributed to Charles Moore, Director of the Botanic Gardens from 1848 to 1896. He had the task of transforming 640 acres of sandy native scrub and swamps into a grand Victorian park in just seven months. The park was opened on 26 January 1888 by the Premier Sir Henry Parkes.

Figure 25 Duck Pond, Centennial Park

Part of the original concept for the park was a grand idea by Parkes of erecting a State House on the highest ground, as a memorial to the upcoming centenary. This ambitious plan was budgeted to cost £150,000, and would be Sydney's Westminster Abbey. A design competition was held and a winner declared, but the scheme faced fierce criticism in Parliament and among the population, and was eventually dropped. The site set aside for the State House was used for the Centennial Park Reservoir, opened in 1899. The funds to create the park were raised by the sale of 100 acres of land on the western border of the water reserve, resulting in the elegant suburb of Centennial Park.

On 1 January 1901, Centennial Park was the site of the official ceremony to mark the federation of the Australian colonies and the inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia. The ceremony was

accompanied by much pomp and was attended by a vast crowd of 60,000 onlookers. At a special pavilion erected in the park, Lord Hopetoun was sworn in as the first Governor-General, and Edmund Barton as the first Prime Minister of Australia[104].

Despite its egalitarian aims, the grand drive reflected the contemporary social hierarchy, where the lower orders on foot politely observed the wealthier classes riding around in carriages. Also, the bylaws rigidly enforced proper behaviour, as the authorities were determined that the new park would not become another Domain, by then a notorious haunt for ratbags, radicals and criminals. But the sandy windswept nature of the area made it difficult to plant, and with funding problems, the park took shape slowly. When Charles Moore retired in 1896, his successor, Joseph Maiden, inherited only a skeleton. But Maiden embellished the park significantly, improving the amenities and liberalising park usage.

The 1930s saw several encroachments on the park area. The Eastern Suburbs Hospital (now the site of Moriah College) was constructed, and a second reservoir was added. Much of the maintenance at this time depended on the availability of Depression relief workers. Public protests reached fever pitch in 1972 when the Australian Olympic Committee proposed taking over a large chunk of the park for an international sporting complex. Aided by the industrial muscle of the Builders' Labourers Federation, the park was saved from the acres of bitumen and concrete that was taking over much of Sydney at that time. It continues today to be the people's park with free entry and parking and a wide variety of recreational and educational activities[105].

Golf Clubs in Moore Park

There have been two golf clubs in Moore Park. The Australian Golf Club started in 1884 near the Showgrounds, but moved briefly to Queens Park in 1895 before moving permanently to Botany by 1901. The Moore Park Golf Club began as Council-run Municipal links at the southern end of the park in 1913, and still operates there today.

Australian Golf Club

A meeting of gentlemen interested in forming the Australian Golf Club was held in Sydney in June 1884. A committee was selected to draw up rules and select a suitable ground[106]. The next month, the Sydney City Council gave permission to the Australian Golf Club to use a portion of Moore Park[107]. In 1897, the *Sydney Daily Mail* reported that the club was established between the Zoological Gardens and the Agricultural Ground and extending over Lang Road (which did not exist in 1884). But when Centennial Park was formed in 1887, the golf course was severely disrupted by the extension of Cleveland Street (as Lang Road) through the course to Centennial Park, and was forced to close[108].

The Australian Golf Club was resuscitated in 1895 and moved to Queen's Park, on the east of Centennial Park[109]. At the time there were only two other golf links in Sydney: the Bondi links of the Sydney Golf Club and the links of Eadith Walker's Yaralla estate at Concord[110]. At the end of its lease in 1898, the club moved to Botany, where it hosted the 1901 Australian Amateur Championship and the first Australian Open in 1904.

A Municipal Golf Links for the public

The Moore Park golf course was founded by two young Scottish immigrant brothers, Duncan and Charlie McMillan, who examined the unused sandhills in the southern part of the park and thought it was an ideal location for a golf course. But the local constabulary continually confiscated the brothers' clubs for practising on the site. So the McMillans began a campaign to request the Sydney City Council for a piece of city land where they and their fellow citizens could play golf. In the early 1900s, golf was mainly a game played by society's elite, and most of the general public could not afford the membership or the green fees[111].

Figure 26 Chipping to the green in Moore Park (www.sydney.com)

The Town Clerk's Report of 1910 assessed the feasibility of establishing a Council-run public golf course in Moore Park. It was pointed out that until then golf clubs in New South Wales had been expensive, exclusive, and had a monopoly on the game, but that this was not the case in other countries. For example, in Glasgow, the Municipal Golf Links were accessible by the general public, much as cricket and football grounds were in Sydney.

In the opinion of Carnegie Clark, the Australian Golf Champion, the hilly portion of the park, which was unsuitable for other games, could easily be transformed at a comparatively small cost into a fine links. Finally the Chief Clerk (who became the Town Clerk in 1924), William Layton, recommended the laying out of a nine-hole course. The dreams of the brothers became reality when the Moore Park Municipal Golf Links was officially opened in May 1913 with a set charge of sixpence to play the nine holes, or one shilling for 18 holes. In 1914, the club took over the old Moore Park Toll House which was transformed into the first club house[112].

Moore Park Golf Club

In 1922, the course doubled in size to 18 holes with the acquisition of land on the southern side of Dacey Avenue, and Duncan McMillan and his fellow golfers decided to formally constitute themselves as the Moore Park Golf Club. In the 1920s, the problem of the theft of golf balls from the course was addressed by the appointment of a mounted ranger and course detectives[113]. The ever-increasing number of players prompted the City Council to build a new Golf House on Mount Renny, which opened in 1926.

Figure 27 Clubhouse on Mount Renny (*Australian Golf Digest* website)

During the 1930s, the management of the course was under the direction of the Controller of Parks and his band of workers. But Council staff did not always have the best interests of golf uppermost in their minds. In 1939, the City Council announced to the (presumably horrified) golf club committee a scheme to dump one million tons of incombustible rubbish on the grounds of the Moore Park golf course over the next 25 years. The refuse was to come from the fruit, vegetable and fish markets. By May 1940, the Golf Club complained of the terrible smell of rotting fruit, vegetables, fish and offal,

canvassed every household in the area and the secretary wrote outraged letters to newspapers. An injunction was even taken out against the Council.

Eventually, Duncan McMillan and a deputation of members met the Minister for Lands, Mr C. A. Sinclair, who agreed to come out and personally inspect the dumping area. As luck would have it, his visit coincided with the arrival of two large Council trucks which dumped old fruit, cabbages, onions, fish and offal onto the course, resulting in an overpowering stench. The Minister was so appalled that he immediately ordered the City Council to cease the dumping of refuse as it was a health hazard and public nuisance. After this, the area was once again used only for golf and became a far healthier place[114].

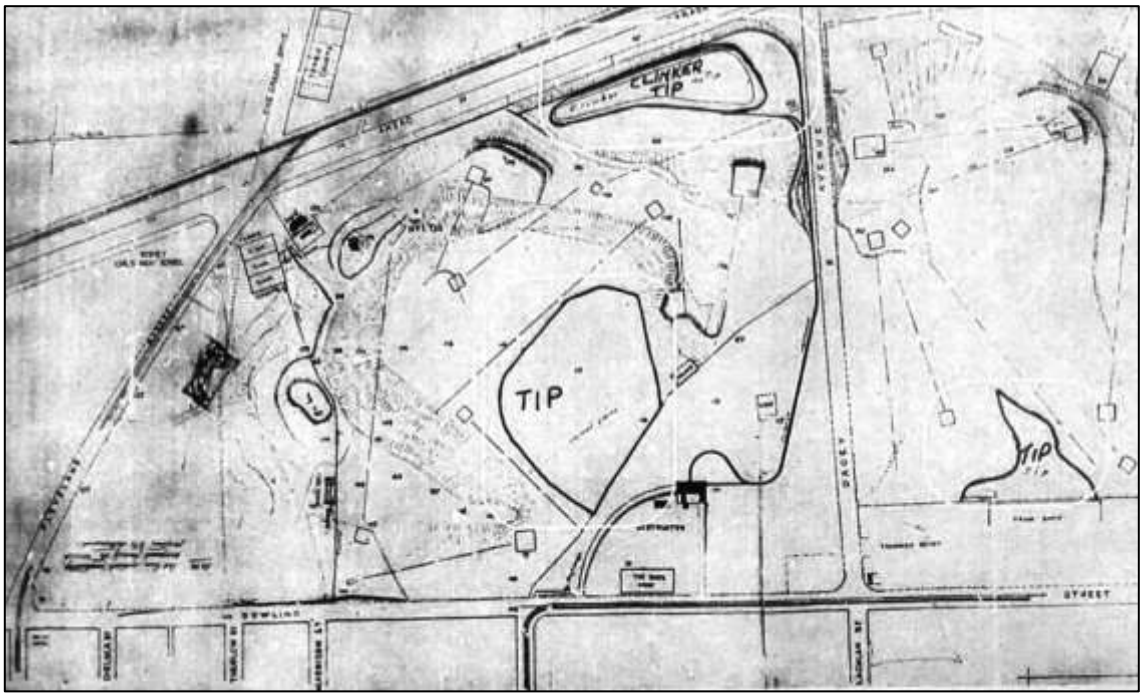


Figure 28 Golf Course with Council garbage tips, 1922 (Huber)

In 1937, the City Council's construction of a new stadium and cinder track at the Sydney Athletics Field encroached directly on the south-eastern part of the course, necessitating the re-routing of some holes south of Dacey Avenue. The course architect Eric Apperly was called upon, and he proposed a revolutionary design by completely reconstructing the course from a fairly barren sandy links to an attractive parkland course, with the planting of hundreds of strategically-placed trees. The Club took advantage of the long-awaited and widely-applauded removal of the Refuse Destructor and the buildings associated with it to incorporate the site into the new course[115]. The project commenced in 1938 and was finally completed in 1950.

During World War II, part of the golf course was used by the military in the national defence effort. The Moore Park Searchlight Battery was installed on top of Mount Steel, and the 355 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Gun Station was located nearby[116]. In 1991 the Golf Club decided to build extra facilities, including the 60-bay, three-tiered driving practice range. The new layout, designed by course architect Ken McKay, was completed in 1996.

As a public golf course located on land managed by a local government authority, Moore Park demonstrates very well the pros and cons of such an arrangement. On the one hand, golf is easily available at a reasonable cost to members and non-members alike, unlike at private courses. But over the years, the players have been obliged to share their portion of Moore Park with cattle, horses, defence forces, a dogs' home, rubbish tips, a garbage incinerator, and other encroachments. Despite this challenging history, Moore Park Golf continues to hold onto its roots and to prosper as the "people's golf course"[117].

Figure 29 Moore Park Golf driving range

Perfectus Refuse Destructor and Disinfector

Early rubbish disposal

In colonial Sydney in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century, residents had to dispose of their own rubbish. The population was small and waste was mostly organic, and for many the solution was to dig a pit in the back yard. Lime or carbolic acid was used to break down the material and reduce the smell. In those days there was extensive recycling due to the short supply of many materials – for example, bottles were refilled and newspapers were reused as packaging. As the cities and towns grew, waste disposal was taken over by the municipal authorities, but it became a major problem due to heath concerns when open tips were established on unused ground.

Later the waste was used in land reclamation projects such as the filling in of estuaries and the construction of the rail network at Darling Harbour. In an effort to remove the waste from the city altogether, the practice of ocean dumping became common in the latter part of the nineteenth century and into the next century. The waste was taken in barges some five miles out to sea, but spring tides sometimes brought it back to the beaches, and subsequent complaints led to the cessation of this form of dumping by the 1920s[118]. But the bubonic plague, carried by rats with infected fleas from January 1900, alerted the Council to the health hazards of accumulating rubbish throughout the city[119]. Incineration of rubbish had been used in England since 1847, and this was seen as the most effective solution for Sydney[120].

Sending it up in smoke

In April 1901, the Sydney City Council accepted a tender from Goddard, Massey and Warner of Nottingham, England, to construct an incinerator with the impressive name of the Perfectus Garbage Destructor and Disinfector, at a cost of £12,000. It consisted of six cells and an imposing 50 metre chimney which could process up to 60 tons of destructible garbage per day, about a quarter of the total amount in the Council's area. The building complex included a disinfecting chamber for articles of clothing and furniture removed from houses where infectious diseases have occurred. In addition, there was a lethal chamber for the painless euthanising of dogs, initially using chloroform and later coal gas (carbon monoxide)[121].

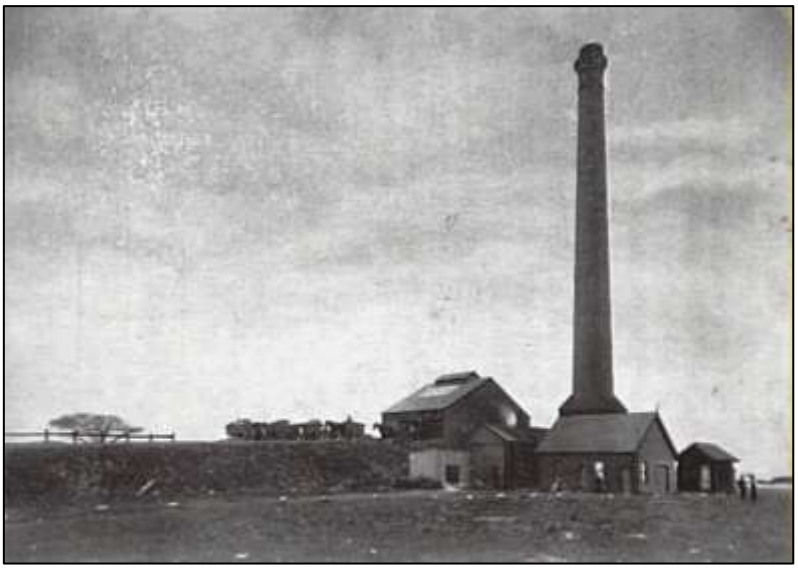


Figure 30 Perfectus Destructor, 1906 (City of Sydney Archives)

The incinerator was operating by February 1902 on the north-east corner of Dowling and Dacey Streets (the latter was only a tram route at the time and not a formed road until 1938). At the end of the incineration process, trucks carried the resultant ash and cinders away to be dumped nearby, often to fill in the gullies of the Moore Park golf course[122]. A certain amount of waste material was deemed to be incombustible, such as fruit, vegetables, fish and offal, and this was simply dumped into pits around the incinerator or in the golf course.

In 1904, the City Council proposed doubling the capacity of the incinerator by adding another six cells[123]. But this sparked rumblings of discontent among nearby residents, who lodged a complaint with Redfern Council about the offensive amount of smoke and smell already belching from the smokestack, arguing that more cells would double their discomfort[124]. But the Sydney City Council was determined to deal with the ever-increasing rubbish, and in September 1909 a second incineration unit began operation next to the original one. The new unit could process 80 to 100 tons per day, making a total of around 150 tons of combustible waste per day blowing acrid smoke over the disgruntled residents of either Surry Hills, Redfern or Waterloo, depending on the wind direction on the day[125].

The Disinfector and lethal chamber at work

Soon after the opening of the garbage destructor in 1902, a Government Medical Officer of Health tested both the steam disinfecting apparatus and the lethal chamber for dogs. Washington Lyon's British patent steam disinfecting apparatus was 7' long, 6' high and 3' 6" wide. It was built to work with superheated steam at a temperature of 261° F (127° C), generated by the boilers of the incinerator. The test successfully destroyed spores of bacillus subtilis, a type of hay bacteria found in soil that is resistant to high temperatures[126].

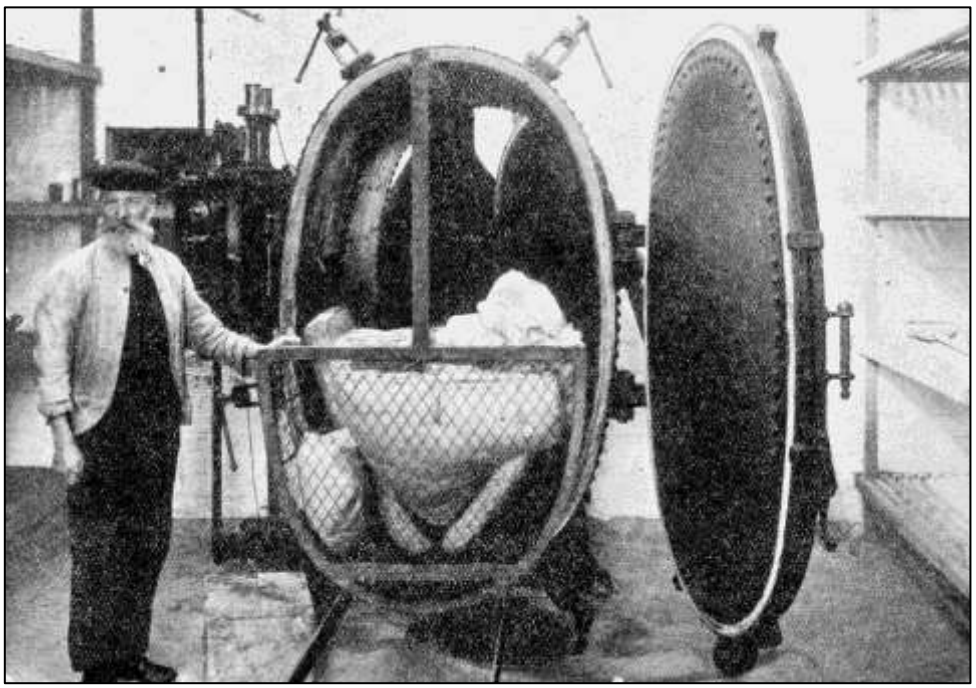


Figure 31 Washington Lyon disinfector (London's Pulse website)

The Disinfector would have been in demand in the early years of the twentieth century. As an example, in 1910 the Sydney City Council received notification of several cases of infectious diseases:

Scarlet Fever	63
Typhoid Fever	155
Diphtheria	302
Phthisis (Tuberculosis)	196

Notification of an infected dwelling was usually followed by a visit from a health officer, who would order the disinfection of the persons affected. Infected bedding, mattresses and clothing were taken to the Moore Park destructor for cleansing of all bacteria, and then returned to their owners, certified "free from disease"[127].

The lethal chamber for dogs was an iron chamber with inside measurements of 4' by 3' 6" by 2' 4". A wire cage was wheeled into the chamber on a small tramway. Above this chamber was a much smaller one a few inches square with a spirit lamp and apparatus for boiling chloroform. Five dogs of various sizes were provided for the test, and they were all quickly euthanised[128].

For an historical perspective, by the early 1900s the preferred method of controlling the large numbers of stray dogs was drowning, a method now considered inhumane, as death is neither rapid nor painless. The Melbourne City Council, like many others in Australia before 1917, destroyed stray dogs by placing them by the dozen in a perforated iron cage which was let down into a well, drowning them in about 70 seconds. A large lethal chamber with a capacity for 50 dogs was installed in the Melbourne Lost Dogs' Home in 1915, using carbon monoxide[129].

No more smoke over my backyard

By 1932, the incinerator was regarded as a dilapidated eyesore that could not cope with the large amount of garbage being generated. The council proposed the erection of another incinerator in Moore Park, some 400 metres from the existing one[130]. A contract was signed with the Reverbatory Incinerator and Engineering Co Pty Ltd for a second incinerator, at a cost of £40,000. The new plant would process 110 tons of refuse per day[131]. A design was completed by Walter Burley Griffin and his wife Marion Mahoney Griffin as a cubist-inspired building with richly decorated details based on Aztec motifs[132].

However, in response to many objections to the expected doubling of the pollution already coming from Moore Park, the Metropolitan Land Board conducted an inquiry, which recommended not only against a second incinerator, but that the existing one should be pulled down and the land restored to the public as parkland. The Board members thought that a new incinerator was a good idea, but located somewhere else, for example the relatively isolated industrial suburb of Pyrmont, where there was already an incinerator on Council land[133]. The Parks and Playgrounds Movement even weighed into the debate, writing to the *Sydney Morning Herald* to protest the Council's proposal and saying that playing space in Moore Park was already badly overcrowded[134].

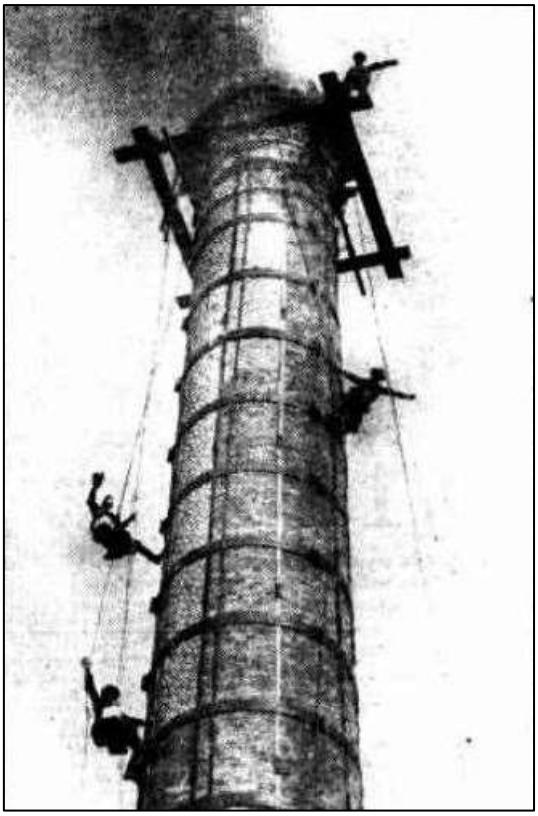


Figure 32 Moore Park chimney repair crew (*The Sun*, 3 August 1922)

By 1935, the Council admitted defeat and erected Burley Griffin's Aztec incinerator at Pyrmont, to be in operation before the end of the year. The Moore Park incinerator would then be demolished, and the municipal golf links could use the land to expand their course[135]. The chimney was finally demolished in November 1937[136] and the other buildings a few years later.

In his book *For the Common Good – Moore Park Golf Club 1920-2000*, Edwin Huber provides a scathing modern perspective on the Moore Park incinerator:

> "By today's standards, this industrial plant would be regarded as a gross polluter of the highest order. The dumping of incombustible waste in this way would be classified as soil contamination at best, while the smoke pouring out of the smokestack was of the dirtiest kind of atmospheric pollution imaginable. In addition, the Destructor was coal-fired"[137].

Sydney Football Stadium

A new ground for rugby

In May 1895, a deputation of officials from the New South Wales Rugby Union met with Joseph Carruthers, the Minister for Lands, to request a grant of land to establish a new football ground. Rugby had become very popular, but local games were played at the Sydney Cricket Ground and the Agricultural Showground, which were large ovals that were not ideal for rugby, a game that is played on a smaller rectangular field. They suggested a portion of the old Paddington Rifle Range be set aside for their use. The Minister was sympathetic to the idea, and he agreed that as football was the national winter pastime, it should be given the same consideration as cricket[138].

The next year, the Government decided to set aside about six acres of the old rifle range as a recreation ground for public and high schools during the week, and for rugby union and other sports on weekends and holidays[139]. Subsequently, an area of about seven acres at the western end of the range was dedicated in October 1899 as the Athletic Sports Ground, while the military retained the remaining 23 acres, bounded on the eastern side by present Cook Road[140].

In 1901, the trustees of the proposed Sydney Sports Ground were appointed by the Government, representing the New South Wales Amateur Athletic Association, the New South Wales Cyclists' Union, the New South Wales League of Wheelmen, and the two school athletic associations[141].

Cycling, rugby and athletics get under way

The *Daily Telegraph* reported in May 1902 that an unsealed cycling track, 25 feet wide, was being formed[142]. Bicycle racing commenced in August with impromptu races, although the main playing field itself was still unfinished[143]. By December, the trustees were selling annual memberships at a guinea (£1 1/-) each, and life memberships at five guineas each. A cricket pitch had been laid in the centre of the ground, and there were plans for an asphalt track for high-speed motor racing[144].

Figure 33 Sydney Sports Ground, 1937 (Wikipedia)

By April 1903, rugby union matches were being played[145], and in May it was announced that the Metropolitan Rugby Football Union had secured the use of the new sports ground for the winter season[146]. Cricket matches commenced in September, heralding the forthcoming summer season[147].

The Sydney Sports Ground was officially opened by the Governor, Sir Harry Rawson, on 3 October 1903. Seating was available for 6,000 patrons in the grandstand, and the lawns and hills could accommodate some 20,000 people. For the opening, the New South Wales League of Wheelmen arranged a carnival of bicycle racing on the new asphalt track (some sources referred to this track as concrete). In addition, a motor race of twenty laps was conducted[148].

In April 1904, the New South Wales Athletic League advertised its first sports carnival for professional athletes in May, to be held at the ground. A prize of £100 was on offer for the League Handicap event, the largest prize ever offered for a foot race in Sydney[149]. The first round of fifteen heats, run over 110 yards, was held in one evening and was illuminated by acetylene gas[150]. The second round and the final were held a week later. The winner was N. Quirk, running off a handicap of 7 yards[151].

Discontent spawns a professional rugby league

In New Zealand, a groundswell of discontent in the world of rugby union led to the formation of a professional football team. Players in New South Wales were similarly unhappy with the Metropolitan Rugby Union, which had amassed large bank balances while the players were often out of pocket, especially after travelling to matches or off work due to playing injuries. When the New Zealand professional team offered to play matches in New South Wales, several first-class players risked disqualification and volunteered to represent the State. This move made the formation of a professional league almost a certainty (especially when the breakaway players were thrown out of the Rugby Union soon afterwards). Many professional players in England earned their living from the game, but the New South Wales players only asked for their expenses to be met, including insurance for injury time lost from work[152].

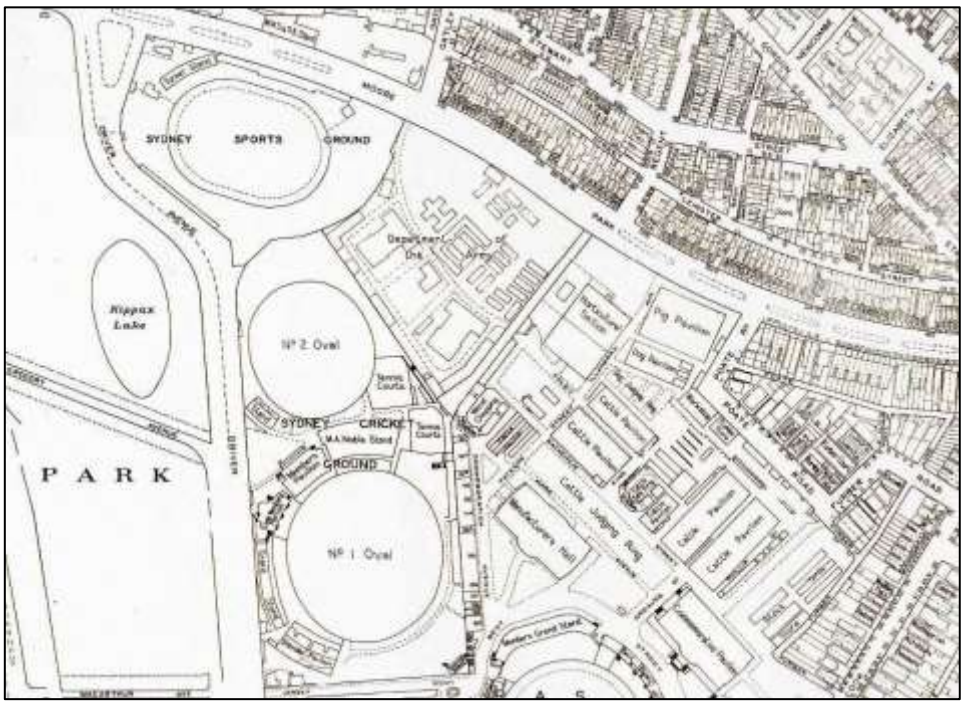


Figure 34 Sports grounds, 1949 (City Building Surveyor)

In August 1907, the New Zealand professional rugby team visited Sydney on their way to a tour of Great Britain, and played three matches at the Agricultural Ground over five days against a New

South Wales team featuring the great Herbert "Dally" Messenger (the Kiwis were so impressed with Messenger's ability that they recruited him on the spot for their British tour!)[153]. The secretary of the New South Wales Rugby Football League, Mr. J. J. Giltinan, announced during the program of matches that local district clubs would be formed, to begin a competition the next season. He conceded that as the league was in its infancy, many details of player payments and conditions were yet to be worked out, but the professional rugby movement would not be allowed to end with the last match against the New Zealanders[154].

The following year, the New Zealand rugby league team, returning from another tour of England, played a New South Wales team, this time at the Sydney Sports Ground[155]. This began the long history of rugby league at the ground, which continues to this day. In the 1911 season, the Eastern Suburbs District Rugby League Club (generally known by the much simpler name The Sydney Roosters) adopted the Sports Ground as their home ground, and played there for the first time on 6 May against Northern Suburbs[156]. The Sports Ground was known as the No. 1 ground, and the smaller ground next door, which was used for athletics and as a training ground, was known as the No. 2 ground.

Picking up the pace

From 1907, the Sydney Sports Ground was used as a motorcycle racing track, initially using the asphalt track installed for cycling events. But after the wooden velodrome at Canterbury was opened in 1928[157], the Sports Ground track was used much less by cyclists[158], and in 1930 it was removed[159]. In October 1937 a dirt track was opened, operated by Empire Speedways Ltd as the Sydney Sports Ground Speedway[160]. The last speedway meeting was held in March 1955[161].

Figure 35 Midget cars, 1938 (Vintage Speedway website)

By 1927, the Sports Ground had been running at a loss for the last two years, and the trustees hoped to generate more income by adding a greyhound racing track. A local syndicate headed by the bookmaker Rupert (Rufus) Naylor proposed installing a mechanical hare and applying to the Government for a licence to conduct races. But the cycling and athletics organisations raised objections to this, due to expected damage to the playing field[162]. The licence was refused by the Government[163], which may have been a blessing for the trustees, as Mr. Naylor would be known as a "colourful racing identity" today: by 1933 he had been warned off all Australian Jockey Club racecourses, was caught transmitting coded betting information over his radio program and was prosecuted for other dodgy gambling activities[164].

The Sports Ground trustees remained hopeful of adding greyhound racing to the activities at the Sports Ground, and in 1937 they approached the National Coursing Association with a proposal to hold races at the ground, if it could secure the second metropolitan licence being considered by the Government[165]. But the extra licence was awarded to the Wentworth Park Oval[166]. In February 1938, Sydney hosted the British Empire Games, the first time they were held in the southern hemisphere. The main venue was the Sydney Cricket Ground, but some events were held at the Sydney Sports Ground.

An acclaimed stadium for the modern era

In 1986, the Government decided to replace the aging Sydney Sports Ground with a modern stadium designed by the architect Philip Cox especially for the two rugby codes and soccer, as well as concerts. The smaller Ground No. 2 was demolished, and the Engineers' Depot of the Army was acquired by the State Government. The old Sports Ground was demolished, becoming the car park of the new stadium.

Figure 36 Sydney Football Stadium (Wikipedia)

The new ground, whose wave-like structure has been widely acclaimed, was opened in January 1988 as part of Australia's Bicentenary celebrations. Now known as the Sydney Football Stadium, it has a capacity of 45,500, of which 44,000 is seated. It became the home of the rugby league

administration, but grand finals were transferred to the much larger Olympic Stadium at Homebush after it was opened in 1999[167].

The Sydney Football Stadium was the main venue for soccer matches during the Sydney Olympics in 2000. The National Trust describes the ground as having State heritage significance as an excellent example of a late twentieth-century Structuralist style public building. The State Government has announced that it intends to demolish the stadium and replace it with a new structure, but the National Trust is strongly opposed to this proposal[168].

Moore Park Rotunda

Music in the parks

Rotundas, bandstands and kiosks were types of garden pavilions that were popular in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The form of these structures is generally based on oriental traditions – the word kiosk is Turkish, and the characteristic hexagonal roof derives from the pagoda, a type of temple that spread with Buddhism through India, China and Japan. Increased leisure during Victorian times prompted a greater use of public parks for recreation, and the popularity of brass band music led to the advent of bandstands as the entertainment centre of many parks.

Figure 37 Moore Park Rotunda, 1930s (City of Sydney Archives)

Several bandstands were constructed in central Sydney in the nineteenth century. The Coronation Bandstand in Hyde Park was replaced in 1912 when the old building was moved to Camperdown Park[169]. The Domain bandstand was intended for military bands only, and civilian bands were initially refused permission to hold concerts there, but from 1898 the State Government bowed to public pressure and allowed all bands to play on Sundays[170]. The City of Sydney Archives records the other bandstands in the city area:

Wynyard Park (erected 1888)
Prince Alfred Park (erected 1904)
Argyle Park (proposed 1908)
Moore Park (erected 1909)
Belmore Park (erected 1910)
Dawes Point Reserve (erected 1910)
Observatory Hill (erected 1912)
Green Park, Darlinghurst (erected 1925)

Moore Park Rotunda

In 1907, the Sydney City Council recommended that a bandstand be erected in Moore Park[171], and in September 1908 the building contract was awarded to William J. Henley[172]. The building was completed by September 1909[173]. The City Council used the Moore Park bandstand for the May 1910 Empire Day celebrations[174]. From this time, the bandstand was used regularly for weekend band concerts until the 1920s. The last concert advertised was in February 1925[175]. By 1929, the building had fallen into disrepair. In 1936 it was enclosed with brickwork and expanded with sandstone changing rooms to cater for the adjacent sports field recently added to Moore Park West[176].

The building fell into disuse and was closed to the public for a considerable time. In 2004, the City of Sydney Council decided to restore the building to its original form as an open air bandstand, keeping as much of the original form and character as possible. The sandstone base and lined timber ceiling were retained. The toilet block attached in the 1930s was removed, as it was not part of the original structure and was in poor condition. The lower level has been developed for future use as a café, possibly along the lines of Café Bones in a park at Leichhardt which caters for both dogs and their owners. The Council invited expressions of interest by café owners, but nothing has eventuated so far. The building has only occasionally been used since then, such as at the opening of the adjacent Korean War Memorial in 2007.

Figure 38 Rotunda opening ceremony, 2004 (Centennial Parklands website)

King Edward VII Dogs' Home

A dog's life for strays on Sydney's streets

By the late nineteenth century, there were large numbers of homeless dogs wandering the streets of Sydney and its suburbs. It was the unpleasant duty of the police to collect strays off the streets and destroy them, for which they were paid 2/6 a head. The police department had no facilities for keeping lost dogs until they were claimed by their owners, and their role was simply to rid the streets of the public health menace of stray or diseased dogs. At the time, this was achieved either by strangulation, drowning or sometimes by shooting, all of these methods involving considerable cruelty.

In November 1894, a deputation of members of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), the Poultry and Dog Society and the Kennel Club met the Premier, George Reid, to petition for the establishment of a home for healthy stray dogs and to amend the current practice of dispatching diseased dogs. The representatives asked for a grant of £500 and two acres of land near Centennial Park or Moore Park to establish a home where diseased or incurable animals could be painlessly put to death in a lethal chamber. Financial support would be required from the Government for its establishment and a few years of operation, but public subscriptions and fees from owners of dogs being accommodated while they were on holiday would make the home self-sufficient in time. It was pointed out that the Government collected over £14,000 in dog registration fees per year, so their request was quite reasonable. Healthy dogs would be kept for three days so the owners had a chance to recover them[177].

Figure 39 Dogs' home, on the right of the incinerator (City of Sydney Archives)

The King Edward VII Dogs' Home

The animal welfare groups continued to lobby the Government, and a deputation in 1900 pointed out that stray dogs were simply bundled together in Belmore Police Barracks and if not quickly claimed by their owners were strangled by the police. The deputation asked for a more humane method to be adopted, as in the Battersea Dog's Home in London[178]. Finally, in February 1910, a large meeting in Sydney Town Hall convened by Montagu Rothery, the secretary of the Animals' Protection Society, agreed to form the Dogs' Home Society of New South Wales to establish and run a home for stray dogs in Sydney. The Society would adopt the rules of the Battersea Dogs' Home.

The staff of the proposed dogs' home would try and nurse diseased dogs back to health, but any that were incurable would be destroyed in a lethal chamber, the most painless way known. Those that were worth saving would be kept until sold or claimed. It was mentioned that in 1909 the police destroyed 2,356 dogs in the metropolitan area. A lethal chamber had been provided when the Moore Park incinerator was built in 1902, but it had never been used[179]. Later the same year, it was reported that land had been allotted by the Sydney City Council next to the lethal chamber at the incinerator and that building plans were ready for approval[180].

Figure 40 SPCA dog ambulance (*The Sun*, 17 March 1922)

The home, named the King Edward VII Dogs' Home (named after the British monarch and animal lover who died in 1910), was opened in May 1912 by the Lord Mayor of Sydney. He pointed out that the home fulfilled a long-held need and will eliminate much of the suffering of the lost or deserted dogs of Sydney, where 16,419 dogs were destroyed the previous year[181]. In 1921, the collection of stray dogs was performed by a cycle ambulance, which was continually patrolling the streets[182].

Every month the caretaker, Peter Hamilton, carried a bag containing the tails of the previous month's euthanised dogs to the Redfern Police Court to claim a reward of 2/6 per tail, in accordance with Section 14 of the *Dog and Goat Act of 1898*. The newspapers seemed to be intrigued by the spectacle of Mr. Hamilton grimly hauling his monthly stash of canine posterior appendages into court and dumping the (presumably odoriferous) contents in front of the Clerk of Court to be

counted and paid for, as the event was frequently reported. In February 1921, for example, his haul was 85 tails. He informed the court that the dogs were destroyed in a lethal chamber with coal gas (carbon monoxide), which took 2.5 to 3 minutes. Only diseased dogs were put down, and the amount he collected each month helped to keep the dog's home operating[183]. The 2/6 reward coincided with the fee for registering each dog[184].

In November 1921, the Dogs' Home Society handed the operation of the home over to the RSPCA. This organisation, with assistance of the Government, purchased an Indian motorcycle ambulance, capable of carrying four dogs and two cats, in order to collect stray animals[185]. By 1923, the RSPCA had erected on the premises a lethal chamber, kennels, a hospital and a caretaker's cottage[186]. The dogs' home operated at Moore Park until 1971, when it was relocated to Yagoona[187].

Royal Hall of Industries

Showbags and the Royal Roller Rink

In 1912, construction began on a very large hall in Driver Avenue, near Lang Road. The Royal Hall of Industries was completed in just nine months at a cost of £23,000, and was officially opened by Sir Francis Suttor, President of the Royal Agricultural Society, in February 1913. Designed in the Federation Style of the day, it displays Greco-Roman architectural features on the outside, while the inside is a huge, bright space of 5,400 square metres, with a striking vaulted ceiling and natural light flooding in through cathedral windows[188].

Figure 41 Royal Hall of Industries

The Hall was intended as an exhibition space during the annual Royal Easter Show, then a roller skating venue at other times of the year. When the 1913 Show was held, the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported on a treasure trove of then-futuristic exhibits in the new hall, including the very latest motor cycles, insecticides, photographic equipment, jewellery, novelties and musical instruments[189]. A tradition of handing out bags of exhibitors' samples began in the Hall of Industries, and the venue became known as the Showbag Pavilion. After the 1913 Show, the Royal Roller Rink opened for roller skating in May, advertising that 4,000 new pairs of the latest Brampton ball-bearing skates would be available, and an orchestra of ten musicians would perform every afternoon and evening during the season[190].

A hospital for Spanish flu victims

An extremely virulent strain of influenza appeared in Europe early in 1918 and rapidly spread around almost the whole world, including remote Pacific islands and the Arctic. Eventually some 500 million people were infected, of which between 50 and 100 million died (3 to 5 per cent of the world's population). It became known as Spanish Flu, not because it arose in Spain, but because Spain was a neutral country during World War 1 and had uncensored newspapers (which meant that only the

Spanish press would report bad news like a flu pandemic). The 1918 strain of the H1N1 virus was unusual in that it had a high rate of conversion to deadly pneumonia, and because it largely affected young fit people and pregnant women.

The virus arrived in Australia early in 1919, most probably carried by troops returning from the Western Front. Public health measures were instigated to minimise the spread of the contagion: many indoor entertainments such as concerts and film screenings were banned, and masks were made compulsory in trains, trams, the cabins of ferries and lifts[191]. Due to the strained resources of the Coast Hospital for infectious diseases, in March 1919 the State Government decided to cancel the Easter Show for the year and convert the Hall of Industries into the Moore Park Emergency Hospital.

A *Daily Telegraph* reporter was struck by the contrast with the previous year's Easter Saturday, when 70,000 people attended the Show, whereas in 1919 there were only 350 people in the Showgrounds, 200 of them influenza patients. A large staff of doctors, nurses and orderlies worked day and night to fight the fearsome epidemic. The reporter observed that inside the Hall of Industries the rows of convalescents in deck chairs indicated where the fight was being won, but those swathed in white in the temporary morgue showed where the fight had been lost. Because proximity to other sufferers was the principal means of spreading the virus, as much space as possible was given over to staff accommodation, and every building in the Showgrounds was used so that staff could be assigned their own building or cubicle[192].

By May 1919, the initial epidemic began to wane, and the Royal Agricultural Society announced that a sheep, horse, dog and poultry show would be held at the Showground in July[193]. The last death at the temporary hospital was reported in September 1919[194].

Palais Royal dance hall

From September 1920, the Royal Hall of Industries was transformed into a popular summer dance hall known as the Palais Royal, directed by George C. Irving, a business partner of the Canadian skater and entrepreneur James Bendrodt. It was advertised as being "specially ventilated to ensure coolness", and that an orchestra of eighteen performers would supply the music under the baton of Billy Romaine, the founder of Australia's first known jazz group[195].

Figure 42 Palais Royal opening, 1920 (*The Sun*, 4 October 1920)

During the 1920s, some of the best white American jazz bands toured Australia and performed at the venue, including Frank Ellis and his Californians in 1923[196]. The new craze of jazz music combined happily with the boom in social dancing at this time. The Palais Royal continued to operate through the 1920s and early 1930s until 1935 when it closed for renovations and reopened as the New Palais Royal, directed by the Australian Cabaret and Amusement Corporation Ltd[197]. The venue continued as a dance hall until it closed in 1937.

Figure 43 Grace Bros. Ball, Palais Royal 1933 (Powerhouse Museum website)

Royal Ice Palais ice skating rink

In June 1938, James Bendrodt reopened the Hall of Industries as the Royal Ice Palais ice skating rink, managed by Mr. Dunbar Poole, formerly the manager of the Sydney Glaciarium from 1907 to 1931. The venue had been completely transformed with murals decorated with mountain scenery and a star-studded blue ceiling[198]. After arriving in 1910, Bendrodt prospered as a trick skater in Sydney and on country tours with his business partner George Irving. Appointed manager of the new Imperial Roller Rink in Hyde Park, he soon fostered an exclusive and decorous image that was to characterise all of his enterprises[199].

The ambitious James Bendrodt had big plans for the new ice rink, as he had invited the Ice Hockey Association of New South Wales to prepare plans for a season of ice hockey matches once a week. As well as public skating, the Ice Palais Figure Skating Club would entertain and amaze the visitors with demonstrations of trick and formation skating[200]. Overseas ice skating champions would be brought out to give exhibitions of new skating techniques to entertain local ice skating enthusiasts[201].

Figure 44 Jim Bendrodt & Peggy Dawes (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 January 2013)

At the end of the ice skating season in October 1941, the Hall of Industries was given over to the wartime military authorities, and the 2nd Military District Finance Office commenced operation in March 1942[202]. The Army used the hall until October 1946, when it was handed back to the Royal Agricultural Society to resume peacetime use. The Army made use of a large part of the Showgrounds during the war to accommodate thousands of recruits, and until its departure in 1946, the Hall of Industries had hundreds of desks and clerical workers in the building. It was reputedly the world's biggest single-floor office at the time[203].

The Show goes on

The Royal Easter Show resumed in 1947 after a six-year wartime hiatus. Sydneysiders were clearly hungry for some excitement after the gloom of the war period, as the opening day attendance of 93,460 shattered the existing record[204]. This was followed by another record crowd of 259,829 on Easter Saturday, when scores of women and children collapsed after crowds rushed the Show gates at the 12 o'clock opening[205]. The Ice Palais also resumed operation after the war, and by August 1948 was again advertising the attraction of Billy Romaine's music[206]. However, the venture only lasted until 1952, when the hall was closed and the plant and equipment sold[207]. The Ice Palais Pty Ltd was listed for bankruptcy in 1954[208].

When the Royal Easter Show moved to Homebush after Easter 1997, the Centennial Park Trust contracted the Nebenzahl family's Playbill Venue Management company to take over the operation of the Royal Hall of Industries in 1999. Today, the building plays host to many spectacular events such as award nights, the Mardi Gras Party and several festivals.

Frank H Saywell Kindergarten

The Moore Park Kindergarten

In 1916, the Kindergarten Union applied to the Health Committee of the Sydney City Council for the use of a small area on the corner of Fitzroy and Dowling Streets as a playground for children[209]. The request was approved, and in July 1917, the Lord Mayor Alderman Richard Meagher, opened the new kindergarten. The wooden building and playground equipment cost approximately £500, and the enclosed area was about a quarter of an acre. Shade was provided by large Moreton Bay fig trees[210]. The Kindergarten Union benefited financially from the association with Moore Park, as the Council also granted it the right to serve teas to golfers using the nearby golf course to help support the kindergarten[211]. Substantial additions were designed by the City Architect's Department in 1924 and opened in June 1925[212].

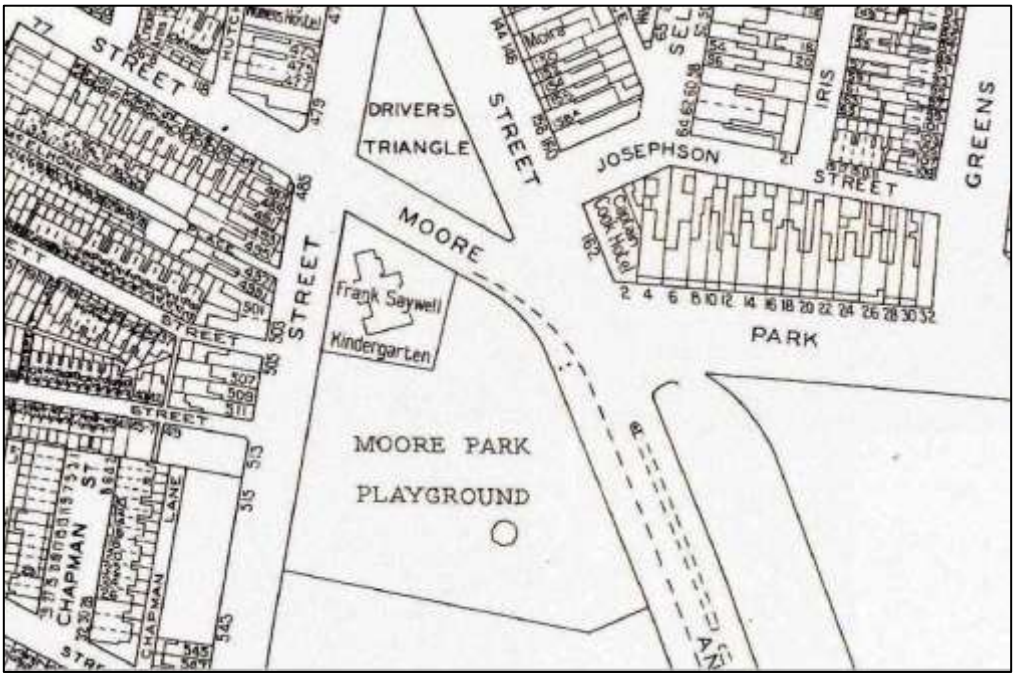


Figure 45 Kindergarten site, 1949 (City Building Surveyor)

Frank H. Saywell Kindergarten

But in a few years the wooden building was too small, and in 1929 the Sydney dentist Frank Horace Saywell offered to fund the building of a larger kindergarten with more comfort and facilities, up to a cost of £1,000. He would keep the building in repair during his lifetime and make arrangements for the work to continue after his death. The conditions were that the Civic Commissioners would grant permission for the erection of the building and grant the lease of land at a nominal rate, and that the name chosen shall be the Frank H. Saywell Kindergarten[213]. The old wooden building was demolished and the brick replacement was erected in nine months. Lady de Chair, wife of Governor Sir Dudley de Chair, opened the new kindergarten in September 1929[214].

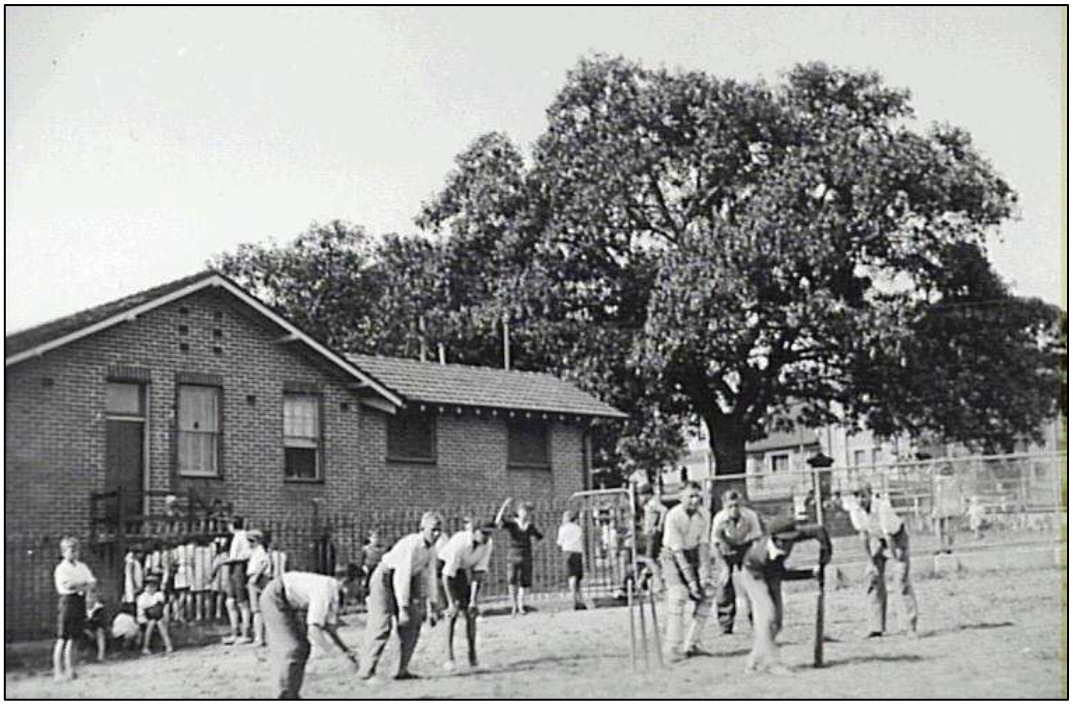


Figure 46 Frank Saywell kindergarten, 1936 (City of Sydney Archives)

In the early 1980s, kindergartens began to extend their operating hours and provision for children under three years old. In 1983, the Frank H. Saywell Kindergarten became the first kindergarten in New South Wales to convert to a long day care centre, catering from children from birth to five years old[215].

The move to Dacey Avenue

In the 1990s, the western side of Moore Park was severely disrupted by the construction of the Eastern Distributor along South Dowling Street. As a result, the Frank H. Saywell Kindergarten was forced to close and was demolished in about 1995. A new kindergarten was built next to the E. S. Marks Athletic Field on Dacey Avenue, becoming the KU Centennial Parklands Children's Centre in July 1998[216].

Sydney Girls' and Boys' High Schools

Public high schools in the city

Premier Henry Parkes' *Public Instruction Act 1880* established a system of eight public high schools in New South Wales – four for boys and four for girls, in recognition of the need to prepare more students for the University of Sydney. Previously, boys required private secondary education to qualify for University, and there was no provision for girls at all. Sydney Grammar School had been established in 1854 as a private feeder school for University entry, and by the 1880s, women were being admitted to some tertiary courses. The new high school system reflected a trend away from sectarian schools and towards public funding of education.

The former St James Church of England School on the present site of the David Jones Elizabeth Street store, commissioned by Governor Lachlan Macquarie in 1820 and designed by Francis Greenway, was renovated early in 1883 to cater for a boys' school on the ground floor (entered via Castlereagh Street) and a girls' school on the first floor (entered via Elizabeth Street). Admission to the Sydney High Schools was academically selective, and was based on an entrance examination (and remains so today). In September 1883, boys and girls were invited to attend the first examination[217]. Following this, 46 boys and 39 girls reported to the school as pupils in October. Some were awarded scholarships to cover the school fees, some would pay fees, and the rest paid no fees because their parents were unable to pay them.

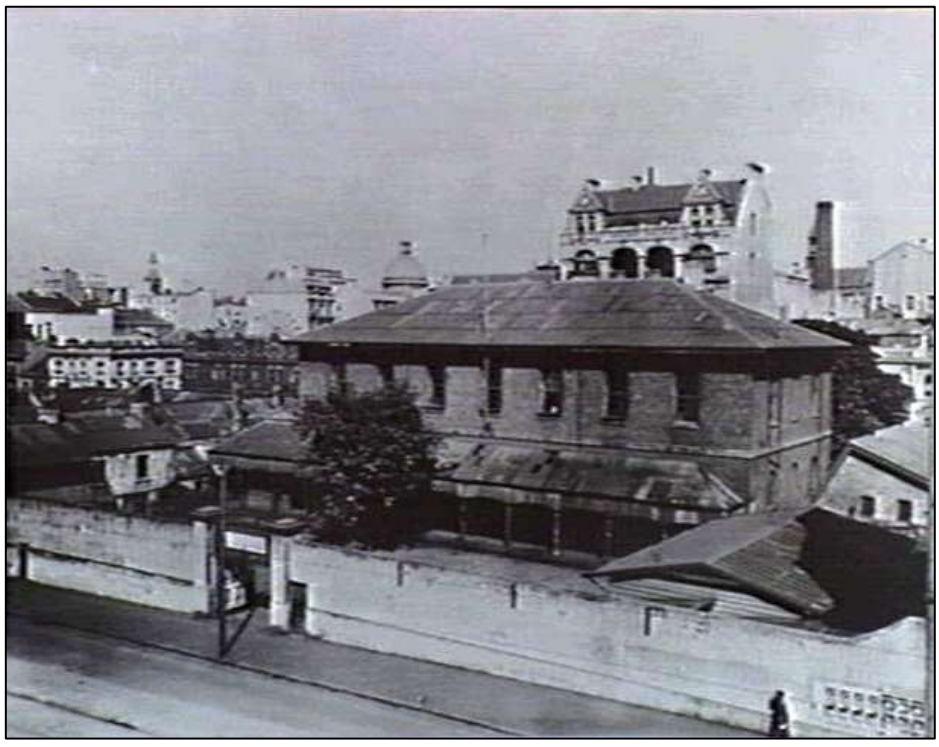


Figure 47 Sydney High Schools, Elizabeth Street (Austpostalhistory website)

In 1892, the boys moved to a new school in Mary Ann Street, Ultimo, and the girls then used the whole building. But trams rumbling past on both sides of the school created a very dirty and noisy environment, making a move inevitable when the opportunity arose. Then in 1916, the Moore Park Zoological Gardens moved from its Cleveland Street site to Taronga Park, leaving behind a possible site for a new school[218]. In 1918, the Minister for Education, Augustus James, told the staff and

pupils that he intended to give them the old zoo site for a new school. There was plenty of room for tennis, hockey and other sports on the six acres of land, and plans were being prepared. There was room for both the boys' and girls' high schools, but the girls' school would be built first[219].

Figure 48 Sydney Girls High School, Elizabeth St (Austpostalhistory website)

A new Girls' High School in Moore Park

The construction of the new Sydney Girls' High School at Moore Park commenced in 1920 when the Minister laid the foundation stone. At the ceremony, he said that the accommodation of secondary students was woefully inadequate – in the previous year, 4,000 students had qualified for high school admission, but there were vacancies for only 1,700. The new school at Moore Park would help this situation by accommodating 500 pupils in 24 classrooms. A very modern feature of the school would be a room with a cinematograph machine to project pictures onto a screen behind the assembly room platform[220].

The move to Moore Park was made in 1921, and the girls were quite overwhelmed by the acres of grass and trees and the quietness, as previously they were plagued by constant city noise and had no greenery or view at all, only bitumen and a high surrounding wall. The sole remnant of the former zoo is the concrete bear pit just inside the Anzac Parade fence in a flat area called the "lowers". A new wing was opened in 1996, celebrating 75 years at Moore Park, and the remainder of the school was reorganised and refurbished. Unfortunately, a very severe hailstorm in April 1999 destroyed all the classrooms and computer equipment in the top floor. Fourteen demountable classrooms were erected on the lowers, and this temporary village became known as "the Pit we had to Bear"[221].

One of the school's former pupils, Ada Emily Evans (1872-1947), was the first female law graduate in Australia who, after completing a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Sydney in 1895, arranged to enroll in the Law School in 1899 while the Dean of Law, Professor Pitt Cobbett, was on leave (knowing he would not allow it if he were there). On his return, he was furious to find a woman in his classes, and tried to persuade her to take up "some less arduous study, such as medicine". She was not deterred, and in 1902 graduated with a Bachelor of Law. But her fight for acceptance was

far from over, and it was not until 1918 that the *Women's Legal Status Act (NSW)* allowed her to formally register as a student-at-law, and she was finally admitted as a barrister in 1921[222].

Other notable Old Girls of the school are: Patricia Amphlett (Singer – Little Pattie), Dame Marie Bashir (psychiatrist, Governor of New South Wales), Justine Clarke (actor), Eva Cox (sociologist and author), Sascha Horler (actor), Gwen Meredith (author of *Blue Hills*), Christina Stead (author), Ethel Turner (author of *Seven Little Australians*)[223].

Sydney Boys' High School

The boys' high school moved from the noisy and cramped Elizabeth Street building in 1892 to a new location in Mary Ann Street, Ultimo, the first building designed as a high school in any of the Australian colonies. But eventually even more room was required, and when the site of the former zoo in Moore Park was selected for the girls' high school in 1918, it was intended that the boys' high school would eventually join them. The Sydney Boys High School duly opened next to the girls' school in June 1928[224]. The site was designed by George McRae, who also designed the Queen Victoria Building.

Figure 49 Sydney Boys' High School (Jirrupin)

The school ranks highly in academic achievement, ranking fourth in the New South Wales Higher School Certificate in 2011 and fifth in 2015 and 2017. Some notable Old Boys are: Russell Crowe (actor), George Miller (film director), Jack Thompson (actor), Scott Morrison (Federal Treasurer), Sir Roden Cutler (diplomat, Governor of New South Wales) and Jim Spigelman (judge).

Hordern Pavilion

The need for more exhibition space

The increasing popularity of the Royal Easter Show and the demand for more exhibition space in the early 1920s led to the Royal Agricultural Society's decision to remove the existing Vehicle Pavilion, Carriage Pavilion and Lecture Hall and the Women's Industries Building and replace them with the Hordern Pavilion. It was designed in the Interwar Academic Classical Style by architects Trenchard Smith & Maisey and constructed in 1924. A concrete floor, large door entrances and a spacious interior were included to easily accommodate vehicles and large machinery. The building also served as the formal entrance façade to the Showground[225].

Figure 50 Hordern Pavilion

It was named after the prominent retail Hordern family, which included Sir Samuel Hordern (1876-1956), President of the Royal Agricultural Society from 1915 to 1941. He was largely responsible for the huge growth of the Easter Show from a small fair to one of the world's largest agricultural events. Despite yearly protests by Anglican Archbishop John Wright, he kept the Show open on Good Friday[226]. The first exhibition held at the Hordern was a celebration of the progress of industry, technology and enterprise. Electric lights, wireless broadcasting and the latest motor cars were among the exhibits[227]. Aside from the Royal Easter Show, the Hordern was utilised for a variety of events, some of them a little unusual. In 1925, the first covered tennis courts in Australia were constructed, and in 1932, the venue hosted the Australian model aeroplane contest.

During World War II, the Eastern Command Records Office of the Australian Army moved from Army House (45 Reservoir Street, Sydney) to the Hordern Pavilion in February 1942. The unit name was changed to the New South Wales Line of Communication Area Records Office (Eastern Command) in July 1942. Then in November 1943, the Records Office moved to the third floor of the Grace

Brothers Store, Broadway, Sydney[228]. The Hordern Pavilion resumed peacetime activities with the 1947 Royal Easter Show[229].

A multi-purpose venue

By the 1960s, the explosion of interest in rock and roll resulted in a growing wave of music groups touring Australia. The Sydney Stadium at Rushcutters Bay became the venue of choice for major international acts such as Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, the Beach Boys, Cliff Richard and the Beatles. Then when the Stadium was demolished in 1970 to make way for the Eastern Suburbs railway line, the Royal Agricultural Society filled the void by converting the Hordern Pavilion from an exhibition hall to a multi-purpose venue capable of hosting music and sporting events. As a result, virtually every major musical act that came to Sydney from 1972 until the Sydney Entertainment Centre opened in May 1983 performed at the Hordern. The rock scene, which had been fading by the late 1960s, came surging back, and the Hordern was the epicentre. Apart from the many concerts, the venue was the home of many large meetings and congresses, children's shows, ice shows, religious events, and sporting events, both serious (boxing, tennis and gymnastics) and not so serious (the Harlem Globetrotters, wrestling and roller derby)[230].

Dance music in the modern era

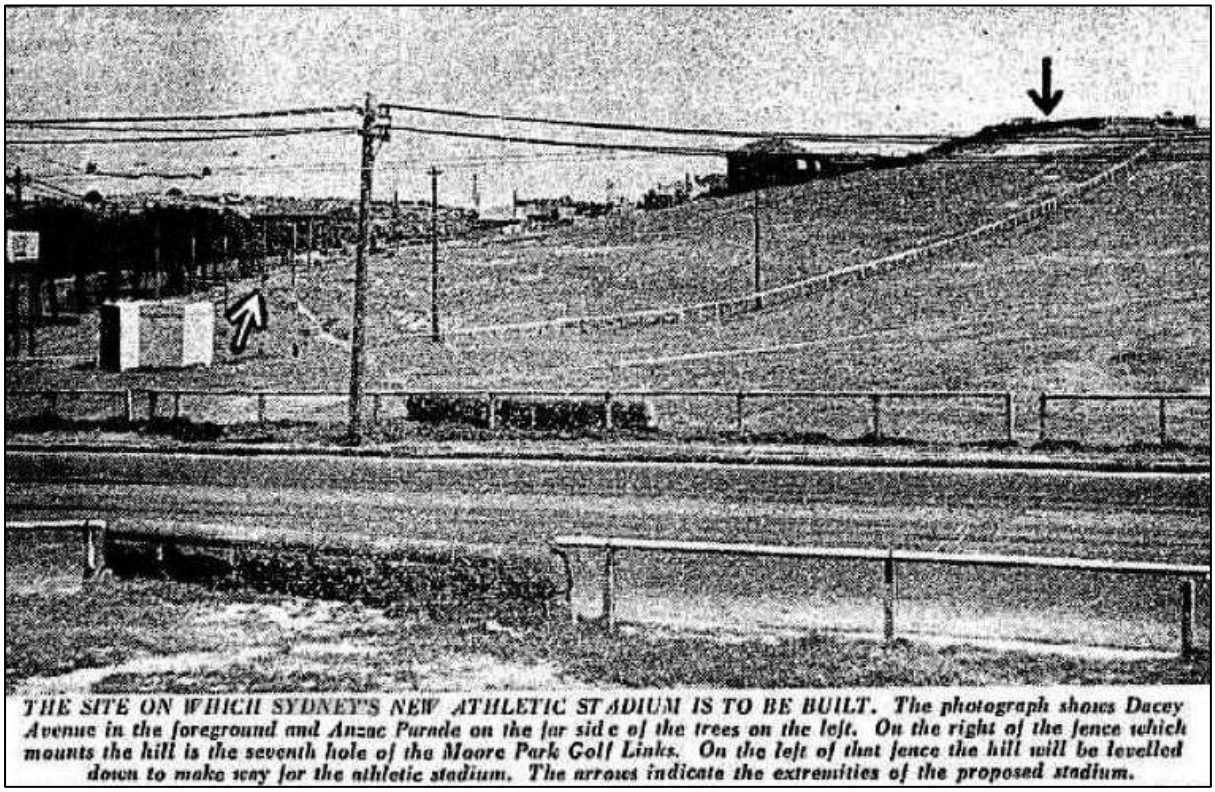
From its opening in 1983, the Sydney Entertainment Centre generally hosted the major music tours while the Hordern Pavilion attracted more local and emerging acts. In the mid- to late-1980s, dance parties began at the Hordern. The first of these was the Mardi Gras Party in October 1984, followed by the Sleaze Ball in 1985. Mardi Gras used the venue intermittently for a few years until their events became fixtures at the Hordern Pavilion and the Royal Hall of Industries from 1991 to the present day. The Recreational Arts Team's first Hordern dance party was on New Year's Eve 1987 and was the start of an extraordinary period for both the venue and Sydney's dance music scene. With the emergence of acid and house music from Manchester and Chicago, the Hordern became synonymous with the dance music movement.

In 1997, after the Royal Easter Show moved to Homebush Bay, the Hordern Pavilion and the Royal Hall of Industries became independent venues. They were renovated and refurbished in 1999 and were reopened by new operators Playbill Venue Management as flexible multi-purpose venues capable of hosting a wide range of events. Today, the Hordern remains a concert venue for upcoming music groups before they move to larger arenas. Major corporations and charities regularly hire the building for exhibitions and functions[231].

E. S. Marks Athletic Field

Moore Park Athletic Stadium

By 1935, there was growing interest in attracting the 1938 British Empire Games to Sydney. It was thought that the city needed a modern cinder running track as part of the bid for the Games, and that the Sydney Sports Ground could possibly have one installed[232]. But in the end, the Sydney City Council decided to create a new stadium dedicated to athletics, which would include a cinder track. Alderman Ernest S. Marks had a major influence on the decision to build the stadium. In April 1937, the Council estimated that the stadium and track would be finished before the Empire Games commenced the following February[233]. But delays in the project and a World War made this estimate impossibly optimistic.



THE SITE ON WHICH SYDNEY'S NEW ATHLETIC STADIUM IS TO BE BUILT. The photograph shows Dacey Avenue in the foreground and Anzac Parade on the far side of the trees on the left. On the right of the fence which mounts the hill is the seventh hole of the Moore Park Golf Links. On the left of that fence the hill will be levelled down to make way for the athletic stadium. The arrows indicate the extremities of the proposed stadium.

Figure 51 Site of the Moore Park athletic stadium, 1937 (*Referee*, 28 January 1937)

The history of this ground (first known as the Sydney Athletic Field) provided by the Centennial Parklands website states that it was built in 1906[234], but there is no evidence of this in the newspapers of the time or any other source, and a news photograph of the proposed site in January 1937 shows clearly that there was nothing there but a large sandhill running up to the 7th hole of the Moore Park Golf Course, divided by a fence through the area[235]. Also, Edwin Huber's history of the Moore Park Golf Club says that "the commission of the E. S. Marks Athletic field by the City Council in 1937 encroached directly on the eastern side of the course necessitating the re-routing of some holes south of Dacey Avenue", suggesting that there was no athletic field there at the time[236].

By July 1937, the City Council admitted that the new Moore Park cinder track would not be ready for the 1938 Empire Games, and Alderman Ernest Marks (who was also the Chairman of the British Empire Games) announced that races at the Games would be held on grass at the Sydney Cricket

Ground[237]. By October, the Council was having problems with financing the project, which was estimated to cost £40,320, and asked the State Government for financial help, proposing that as a compromise a training ground for athletes could be provided for £16,900[238].

World War II brought a halt to non-essential projects such as new sports facilities, and the Town Clerk announced a temporary suspension of work on the stadium[239]. Delays and post-war shortages of materials dragged on, so that work did not restart until 1947. Alderman Marks' efforts to finish the project were applauded by *The Sun* newspaper, who hoped it would be ready for training early in 1948 (ahead of the 1948 London Olympic Games)[240]. Unfortunately, he died in December 1947 before the stadium and cinder track were finished[241]. In recognition of his contribution to the project and to athletics in general, it was decided to name the new ground the E. S. Marks Athletic Field[242].

Figure 52 E. S. Marks Athletic Field

E. S. Marks Athletic Field

The first reported athletics meeting in the new stadium was the State track championships held in March 1949. Cinder tracks had been used previously in New South Wales (for example at Willich's Hotel Track at Tempe in 1907), but not for a championship[243]. The Moore Park Athletic Club had the use of the only cinder track in the Commonwealth at the time[244]. From this time, the E. S. Marks Field was the major athletics competition venue in New South Wales until the early 1970s, but as the cinder track aged and other venues installed newer synthetic tracks, it fell out of favour. The track was resurfaced and electronic timing installed in the 1970, and the Australian Athletics National Titles returned in 1980[245].

When the Sydney Olympics facilities were completed at Homebush in the 1990s, the E. S. Marks Field ceased to be Sydney's major athletics venue. But in recent years it has been resurfaced again for the many school and club athletics carnivals it continues to host. It has also been used as a training base for the New South Wales Waratahs Super Rugby team and the Sydney Roosters rugby league team[246].

Figure 53 Spike rules for track athletes

Sydney Hakoah Football Club

Sydney Hakoah is a semi-professional soccer club that was formed by members of Sydney's Jewish community who used to meet in Rushcutters Bay Oval to kick a ball around, and in 1939 decided to establish a club. The club worked its way up through the local leagues, and eventually competed as a foundation member of the National Soccer League (NSL) from 1977 to 1986, firstly as Eastern Suburbs (1977-78) then as Sydney City (1979-1986). Sydney City was the NSL's most successful side in the first decade, winning four titles, including three in a row (1981-1983).

Figure 54 Sydney Hakoah club banner (Hakoah Football Club website)

The club moved its home ground from Wentworth Park to the E. S. Marks Athletic Field for the 1979 season. However, despite its success in the competition, crowds were always low, and the club withdrew from the NSL after the first round of the 1987 season. In 2011, it moved to the Hensley Field, playing as the Hakoah Sydney City East Football Club[247].

Korean War Memorial

A Cold War spawns a regional war

At the end of the Pacific war in 1945, the Soviet Union occupied the northern part of the Korean peninsula to liberate it from Japan, and the United States subsequently occupied the southern part. By 1948, because of the Cold War between the two large powers, Korea was split into two regions at the 38th parallel, with separate governments. In June 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea following a series of border clashes, thus starting a war between the North (supported by China and the Soviet Union) and the South (supported by a United Nations Force of 21 countries, principally the United States). After several reversals of fortune for a year, the last two years the war became one of attrition, with the front line close to the 38th parallel. Fighting officially ended in July 1953 when an armistice was signed. This created a Korean Demilitarised Zone and allowed the return of prisoners. However, further negotiations never resulted in a peace treaty being signed, so technically the two countries are still at war.

17,000 Australian servicemen were deployed during the war and 340 died. Sporadic fighting continued for some years after the armistice, and 18 more Australians died in the post-armistice period until the last military observers departed in 1957[248]. The war was notable for the first large-scale deployment of helicopters for medical evacuation, as rough terrain reduced the effectiveness of the Jeep.

Figure 55 Korean War Memorial, Moore Park

One political and security benefit of the war was the signing of the Australia, New Zealand, United States Security Treaty (ANZUS) in 1951, which binds the three countries (at least Australia and New Zealand, and separately Australia and the US) to cooperate on military matters in the Pacific Ocean region. New Zealand was suspended from, and then readmitted to, ANZUS after initiating a non-nuclear zone in its territorial waters in 1986. Currently only Australia and the United States hold bilateral meetings of ANZUS.

While the Australian public was generally in favour of our armed forces' involvement in the Korean War to prevent the possible spread of communism southwards, the returning troops did not receive the heroes' welcome that greeted the veterans of the two World Wars. In the post-armistice period, repatriated servicemen found that their efforts and achievements in the Korean peninsula were treated with indifference. It was to be a glimpse of the future, as the many of the 60,000 returning veterans from the Vietnam War in the early 1970s were often greeted with open hostility as public attitudes hardened towards that war.

The Korean War Memorial

A design competition was held in 2007 for a Korean War Memorial for Moore Park. It was won by Jane Cavanough (Artlandish Art and Design) and Pod Landscape Architecture, and was officially dedicated in July 2009. It is located in the north-west corner of Moore Park, next to the Rotunda. It was funded jointly by the New South Wales Government, the Korean Government, Veterans' groups and the Korean community[249].

The overall shape of the memorial, which is circular with a curving path running through it, is inspired by the Taoist concept of Yin and Yang, a balancing of opposed principles that are part of a greater whole, as displayed in the centre of the South Korean flag. Bronze and steel hibiscus flowers, the national flower of Korea, represent the 136 troops from New South Wales who died during the war. Eleven granite stones contain the names of the significant battles in which Australians won honours.

Kippax Lake

Nanny Goat Swamp and model boats

The lake in front of the Sydney Cricket Ground and Mount Steel are the only remnants of the original Moore Park from 1866. The lake was known as Nanny Goat Swamp until 1888 when it was named Kippax Lake in honour of Alderman William Kippax. The nearby sandstone water fountain was also installed that year[250].

For a long time the lake was dirty and smelly, mainly due to frequent drying out in summer. Then in 1907, the Sydney City Council covered the bottom of the lake with flagstones to make it healthier and easier to clean[251]. After that, Kippax Lake became a popular place of recreation, mainly for the sailing of model boats. From about 1919, model boat regattas were held regularly[252], and in September 1931 a model seaplane competition was held[253]. From its establishment in 1965, the lake was the home of the Model Boat Club of New South Wales until the early 1980s when the club moved to Chipping Norton[254].

Figure 56 Sailing boats on Kippax Lake, c1977 (City of Sydney Archives)

The Lady of the Lake

In November 1964, the Sydney City Council approved a public competition, with conditions laid down by the Sydney Fountains Committee, to design a figure to recognise the achievements of Australian sportswomen over the years. The competition was judged by five (male) sculptors and architects, who selected a design by Stephen Walker. However, the winning design proved to be controversial: it was claimed that it had simply been cut off an existing larger sculpture, and a public poll conducted by the Council found that it rated poorly and that a design by Diana Hunt was much more popular[255]. The Council decided to overturn the committee's decision and erected Diana

Hunt's work instead. The sculpture, now affectionately known as the "Lady of the Lake", is made of metal on a concrete base, and was installed in 1967[256].

A number of the fig trees to the north of the lake date back to the 1880s, while the trees on the south side were planted in the 1930s[257]. The Parklife festival of indie-electro music originated in 2000 in Centennial Park, but from 2004 to 2011 was held at Kippax Lake before returning to Centennial Park in 2012 for the last time. The Kippax Lake venue was notoriously muddy if the heavens opened during the event, while Centennial Park was much greener.

Figure 57 Kippax Lake and fountain

Drinking fountains

Keeping the people hydrated

> "Every street in Sydney should have its drinking fountain. It should be as least as easy to obtain a drink of pure water as a glass of milk or beer. Sydney is a sub-tropical city, and sometimes it is warm and sometimes it is dusty…Sydney should be a city of fountains". (Joseph Maiden, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens to the 1909 Royal Commission on Improving Sydney).

Public drinking fountains were installed in Sydney from the early nineteenth century. At the time, most houses were not connected to the town water system, so public fountains provided the residents with a fresh water supply. Most fountains had a metal tap or pipe, and the user drank straight from the tap or pipe, or by using a shared cup on a chain. But by the early twentieth century, several epidemics of infectious diseases had swept through the city, some of them known to be spread by contact with infected people. So there were fears that the shared cups were spreading disease[258]. There were news reports that some cities in the USA had recently banned the use of common drinking cups for public health reasons[259].

In response to these concerns, bubblers were introduced in Sydney's parks and streets in the early twentieth century. Bubblers were different in that water bubbled upwards when pressure was applied, so the user did not have to touch a cup or water pipe. The first free-standing bubbler was installed in Sydney in June 1914, although by then a few old stone fountains had been modified to incorporate bubblers. In 1916, the Sydney Council resolved to abolish all drinking cup fountains in the city, and the remaining 46 fountains were gradually replaced with bubbler fountains. John Danks and Co. of Pitt Street was one of the companies producing bubblers that were installed around the city[260].

Figure 58 Danks bubbler, Centennial Park

Walter Renny fountain - Corner of Dacey Ave and Anzac Parade

Built in 1869, this is one of a small group of stone fountains of almost the same design erected at this time that were dedicated to the former Lord Mayor Walter Renny, who was instrumental in bringing canopy fountains to the city in the 1870s. It was originally located in Tay Reserve, in front of the former Randwick Toll House. After the toll house was demolished in 1909, the fountain was moved across Anzac Parade to the corner of Dacey Avenue, where it stands today.

Figure 59 Walter Renny fountain, 1869

Walter Renny fountain - Corner of Cleveland Street and Anzac Parade

Built in 1870, this stone fountain is located on the corner of Sydney Girls High School, and is also dedicated to former Lord Mayor Walter Renny.

Figure 60 Walter Renny fountain, 1870

On the left front corner is the survey benchmark BM535, once used to calculate the levels above mean sea level (127.76 feet at this location). The third Sydney fountain dedicated to Walter Renny is in Argyle Place in The Rocks, dated 1869. The three Renny fountains are almost identical, and differ only in the details of the carved leaves under the central urn.

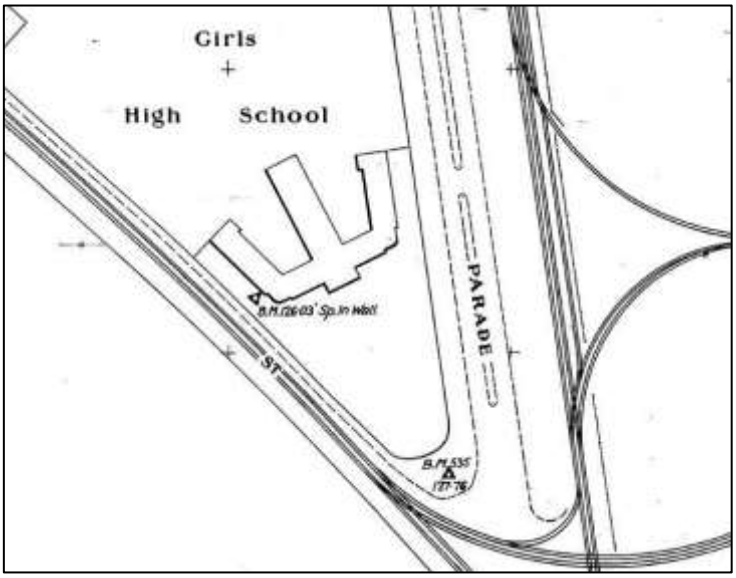


Figure 61 Benchmark BM535 location (City of Sydney Civic Survey, 1938-50)

Kippax Lake Memorial Drinking Fountain

This drinking fountain was constructed in 1888 and designed in the Free Classical Style. It is located south of Kippax Lake, close to the former tramline. The fountain is a rectangular sandstone structure on an octagonal concrete base. The inscriptions on each face commemorate John Harris, Lord Mayor in 1881-1883 and 1888-89, and William H Kippax, Alderman 1863-1889. A small metal ring is attached to each side, possibly to secure a horse[261].

Figure 62 Kippax Lake fountain

Dunmore Lang Memorial Fountain

This sandstone fountain, designed by the City Architect George McRae, was constructed in 1888 on top of the former Mount Lang, overlooking the Sydney Cricket Ground. The hill and fountain are dedicated to the memory of the Presbyterian clergyman and politician Dr. John Dunmore Lang. The inscriptions are "Mount Lang", "John Harris, Mayor 1888-9" on the other side "Revd John Dunmore Lang, born 1799, died 1878"[262]. Mount Lang was demolished to make way for car parking by the early 1950s. The fate of the fountain is unknown, but in June 1947 the City Council recorded the "destruction of the Memorial Fountain by vandals"[263], so it was probably demolished along with the hill a few years later.

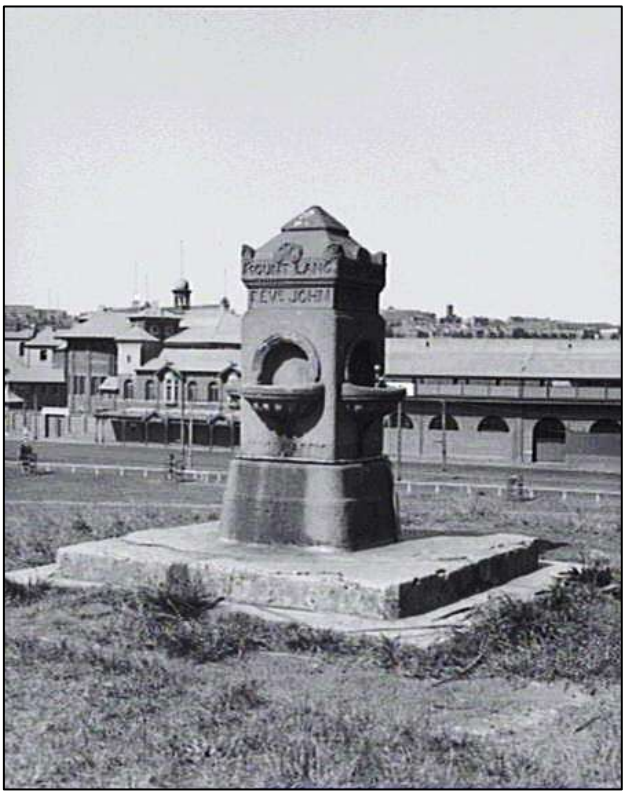


Figure 63 Dunmore Lang fountain, 1930s (City of Sydney Archives)

Comrie Memorial Fountain

This handsome and versatile fountain was erected from funds bequeathed by Sophia Louisa Comrie of Kurrajong Heights in March 1903. Constructed from Bowral trachyte and Gabo Island granite, it has fountains and water troughs that cater for pedestrians, dogs and horses. It was first located on the western side of St James Road at Queen's Square, opposite Hyde Park. It was installed partly on the footpath and partly on the road so that both man and beast could access the fountains and troughs, and was opened by the Lord Mayor, Alderman Samuel E. Lees in July 1904.

However, in 1928 the police department raised concerns about the fountain's roadway protrusion in view of the increased traffic in the vicinity. A number of alternative sites were canvassed and in 1934 the fountain was relocated to Driver Avenue, Moore Park, near Moore Park Road. The water flow to the fountain was stopped, but a Danks bubbler was installed next to it. The Comrie Fountain remained on this site until the 1995, when it was dismantled as part of the Eastern Distributor works and stored in the Centennial Parklands depot for some years.

Figure 64 Comrie fountain in Queen's Square (City of Sydney Archives)

A subsequent inventory of the pieces revealed that some of them were missing, including the eight granite columns, the bronze bowl and bronze fountain pipe. Contractors from the Department of Public Works restored the fountain in 2011, and a new location was found at the eastern end of Federation Way, Moore Park, near the Robertson Road entrance to Centennial Park. This site was thought to be appropriate because of its heritage value, its proximity to the Equestrian Centre and its use as a busy pathway for pedestrians, horses and dog walkers[264].

Figure 65 Comrie fountain in Moore Park

Moore Park Cricket Association Memorial Drinking Fountain

This fountain was erected in 1921 by members of the Moore Park Cricket Association in memory of their comrades who died in World War I. It is located on the corner of Cleveland and South Dowling Streets, diagonally opposite the Bat and Ball Hotel[265]. The memorial is constructed in sandstone on a trachyte foundation with a bronze panel containing the names of the 32 players who died. Altogether 375 players from the Association enlisted in the War[266]. The memorial was restored in 2004 to repair the effects of weather and pollution.

Figure 66 Cricketers' memorial fountain, Moore Park

Jessie Stuart Broomfield Memorial Dog Trough and Fountain

In 1941, the Municipal Council of Sydney erected the Jessie Stuart Broomfield Memorial Dog Trough and Fountain, located near the northern corner of Driver Avenue and Macarthur Avenue (near the 1908 tram shed). Dog lover Mrs. Broomfield died in 1935 and in her will left a substantial portion of her £3,714 estate to be set aside for erecting drinking fountains and dog troughs through Sydney and suburbs[267].

Figure 67 Broomfield memorial fountain, c1953 (City of Sydney Archives)

The Public Trustee wrote to the town clerks of city and suburban councils offering funds for a fountain and dog trough[268], but some were surprisingly ungrateful for this free offer, fearing that it would attract even more stray dogs to their area[269]. After some delay in deciding whether it was a valid charitable bequest and how it would be managed, the Public Trustee finally made the funds available in 1940. The Baulkham Hills Shire Council became the first beneficiary of Mrs. Broomfield's largesse in 1941[270], followed by the Sydney City Council later the same year.

The Moore Park fountain was a simple symmetrical design, small in scale and made of brick. It was removed in 1999 when the new bus loop was constructed. Then in 2001, a new Jessie Stuart Broomfield Memorial Fountain was constructed in front of the toilet block in Macarthur Avenue, not far from the original fountain. The original 1941 plaque has been erected next to a new plaque.

Figure 68 Broomfield memorial fountain, 2018

Other former fountains

In 1869, the Sydney City Council decided to equip the city with several durable water fountains. Lord Mayor Walter Renny chose the design of the Macfarlane Ornamental Canopy Fountain from an illustrated catalogue of the firm Walter Macfarlane & Co of Glasgow, and ordered eight fountains. They arrived in July 1870. Another two fountains were purchased some time later[271].

The Macfarlane fountains are highly decorated, about 2.4 metres high with a pagoda-shaped structure consisting of four columns capped with arches of decorated mouldings encircling ornamental shields bearing the City of Sydney Arms[272]. One side displays the admonition to "Keep the pavement dry", and is accompanied by the aquatic Biblical quotation "Whosever drinketh of this water shall thirst again, but whosoever drinketh of the water I shall give him shall never thirst", John, Chapter 4, Verses 13-14.

Figure 69 McFarlane fountain, Anzac Parade, 1930 (City of Sydney Archives)

Four of these canopy fountains were installed in Moore Park, and while none remains today, they were at one time located:

At the pillar entrance to the park (this can be seen in a photo from the 1870s)
At the corner of Cleveland and South Dowling Streets
On the summit of Mount Renny
On the summit of Mount Steel[273]

The nearest Macfarlane canopy fountain to Moore Park stands in Green Park, Darlinghurst. Another is located in Macquarie Place in the city.

Monuments in Moore Park

Milestone or Town Boundary Marker

Major General Sir Richard Bourke arrived in Sydney in 1831 to become Governor, and in 1832 he commenced the process of having Sydney declared a town. At the time, the northern boundary was the shoreline of Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour), extending between Blackwattle Bay and Rushcutters Bay. Bourke's western, southern and eastern boundaries are marked on maps by Baker and Wells and were essentially straight lines, with the southern boundary being the present day Cleveland Street. Bourke had eight stones installed at the corners of these town boundaries.

By 1930, the author and historian W. A. Macdonald showed them more clearly on a map, but he was only able to find three of them still existing. The Moore Park boundary stone was originally installed on the south-west corner of Cleveland and Dowling Streets, Redfern (a site now occupied by the Bat and Ball Hotel). It has been moved many times, but is now near its original location, across Dowling Street on the south-east corner of the same intersection. It is in poor condition and the carved inscription is virtually unreadable[274].

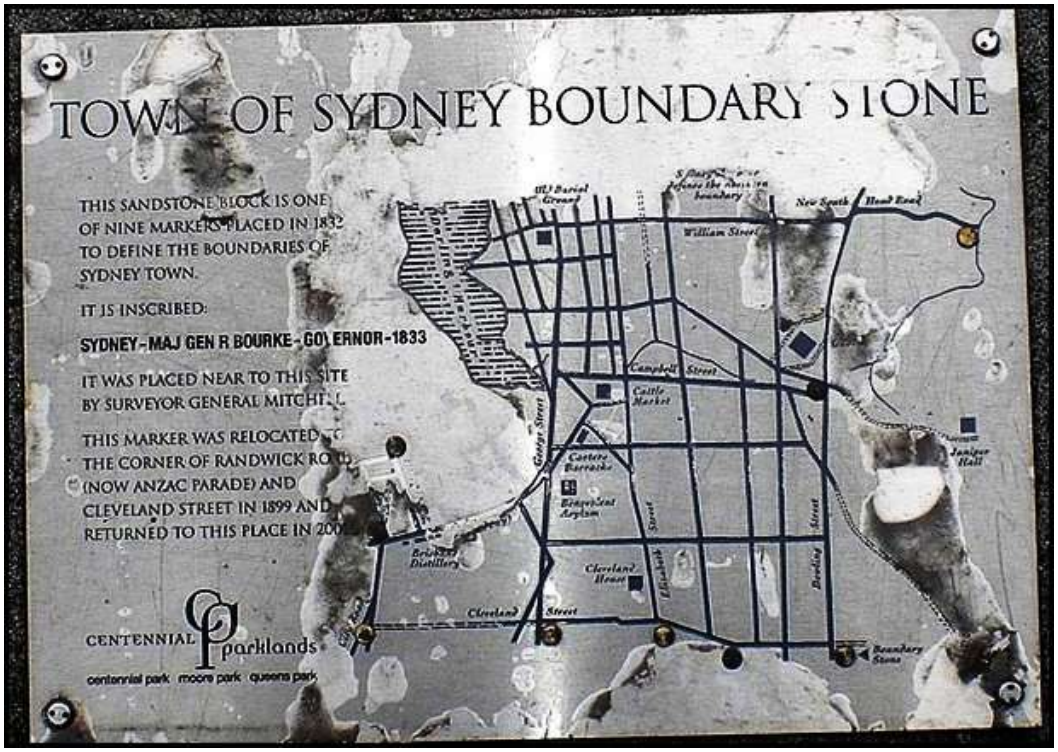


Figure 70 Sydney Town boundary map (Centennial Parklands website)

Anzac Obelisk

Almost one in five of the Australians who served overseas in World War I were killed, and nearly half of those who returned were either wounded, gassed or had been taken prisoner. An unknown number were traumatised by their experience. Hardly a family or community did not lose a relative or acquaintance. This bereavement was different because, by the early twentieth century, improved life expectancy meant that death was usually through old age. But from April 1915, the older generation was unexpectedly mourning the younger generation.

The other unusual aspect was that the dead lay on foreign soil half a world away, because Australian government policy (as in Britain) prevented the return of soldiers who had died overseas. As a result, families were deprived of the traditional burial rituals and a physical grave as a focus of mourning. Consequently, communities began to erect monuments and memorials. Some memorials were utilitarian, usually in the form of halls such as town halls or returned services' association meeting rooms.

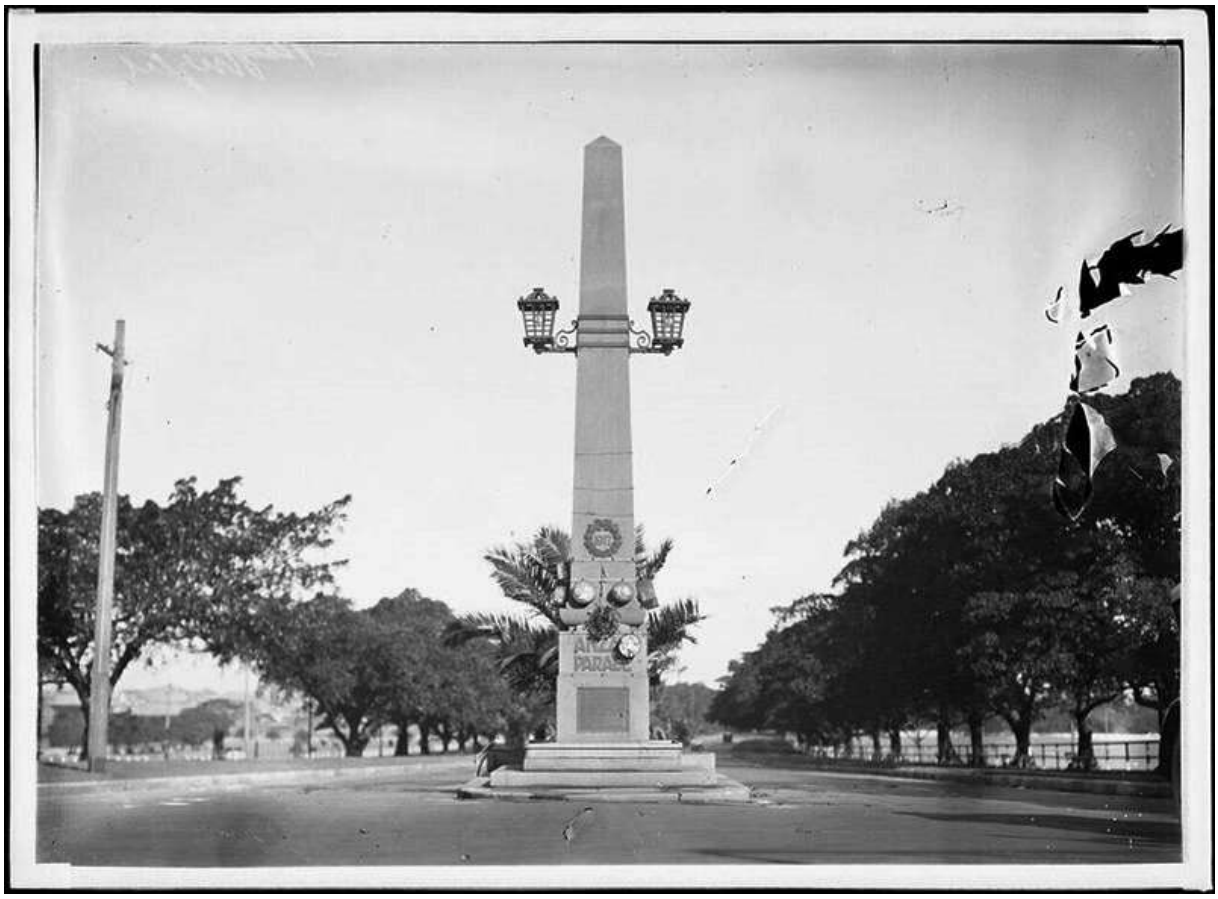


Figure 71 Anzac Obelisk in Anzac Parade, 1917 (City of Sydney Archives)

But more commonly, monuments were erected. No single design dominated, but the obelisk was the most popular. It was easy to make and supply, it was non-sectarian (as opposed to a cross), recognisable as a symbol of death and glory, and provided several surfaces to inscribe names and messages. Memorials began to spring up well before the War ended, and the first anniversary of Anzac Day was a catalyst for building many memorials[275].

The Anzac Obelisk was constructed in 1917 in memory of those from New South Wales who served in the War, and to mark the widening and renaming of Randwick Road to Anzac Parade. It was originally located on the median strip at the northern end of Anzac Parade near Moore Park Road. It was moved some hundred metres south in 1998 when the works commenced for the Eastern Distributor. The obelisk was removed in 2014 because of its proximity to the new Albert (Tibby) Cotter Walkway over Anzac Parade. It was relocated in March 2017 in Moore Park East, close to its original location. Electric lanterns have replaced the original gas lanterns in the same style[276].

Figure 72 Anzac Obelisk, Moore Park, 2017 (Roads & Maritime Services)

The hills of Moore Park

While much of the early Moore Park was covered by sandhills, four of them were high enough to be dignified with names: Mount Steel, Mount Renny, Mount Lang and Constitution Hill. But over time, all were modified or removed altogether as the demand increased for more space[277].

Mount Steel

The least altered of the hills in Moore Park, the summit of Mount Steel is located just north of the golf course driving range. In 1869, it was named after Alexander Steel, a Sydney Council Alderman who served during the periods 1860-1870 and 1872-1874. During World War II, the Moore Park Searchlight Battery was situated on the top, to illuminate enemy aircraft for the Bofors guns of the Moore Park 355 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Gun Station located in the park below[278]. An iron Macfarlane canopy fountain was located on the summit for some time[279]. By 1869, both Mount Steel and adjacent Mount Renny were terraced with grass and adorned with a flagstaff[280]. A newspaper illustration of a polo match in 1874 shows both the terracing and the flagstaffs[281]. A cement plinth on the summit still displays the name of the hill, probably a remnant of the old flagstaff.

Figure 73 View of Moore Park from Mount Steel

From the 1970s to 1981, the Grass Ski Club of Sydney operated a ski centre at Mount Steel. In 1981, the operation was taken over by Rollka Australia Pty Ltd, managed by the brothers Cyril and Lars Pearl. From 1987 to 1990, W. Collett and S. Howard were the licensees for Rollka[282]. A portable tow-rope pulled skiers up the hill, and then they skied down to the oval below on special grass skis or snowboards. The slope was reported to be ideal for both beginners and experienced skiers. It was 110 metres long, had a smooth beginners' area and bumpy spots for the more adventurous[283]. In 1989, the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that for even more enterprising skiers there was grass-

boarding, using a skateboard specially adapted for a grass hill[284]. Rollka Australia Pty Ltd was deregistered by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) in 1993[285], and this seemed to be the end of grass skiing in Moore Park.

Today, Mount Steel is the highest peak in Moore Park, with a sweeping panorama towards the central city. It is probably the best place to appreciate the unique contribution that Moore Park has made to the sporting and recreational life of the city.

Mount Renny

This hill was named in 1869 after the former Lord Mayor Walter Renny. By then it was grassed and terraced with a flagstaff on the summit[286]. In the late nineteenth century, a Macfarlane canopy drinking fountain was also installed on the hill[287]. In 1926, Mount Renny was greatly modified to become a platform for the Moore Park Golf Club House.

Mount Lang

In 1888, the Sydney City Council reshaped the sandhill just behind the Association Cricket Ground into a terraced mount with a plateau on top and then planted it with grass. It was named Mount Lang after the Presbyterian clergyman Reverend Dr. John Dunmore Lang[288]. It was then about 25 feet high with a plateau about 40 yards wide. The next year, a sandstone drinking fountain was erected on the summit, along with four seats, roughly facing the cardinal points[289].

Plate 21. 1930s Aerial view of terraced Mt. Lang and the palm avenues of MacArthur Avenue and Gregory Avenue with Lake Kippax and Fig tree plantings and tram loop and vehicular parking evident.

Figure 74 Mount Lang, 1930s (Centennial Parklands website)

In 1926, Mount Lang was reported to be an exciting toboggan slide for small boys, with toboggans made of wood or galvanised iron. But this activity came to an end following protests by the fun police in the form of the park keeper[290]. In 1947, the City Council began to demolish Mount Lang to make room for the parking of 500 cars for the sports venues and two cricket fields. The sand was used for council projects[291]. This was continuing in April 1951[292] - it was a slow process because the council could only remove sand at the rate they could use it elsewhere on roadworks and construction projects.

Mount Lang was often referred to as Scotsman's Hill. In earlier days, cricket enthusiasts got a free glimpse of the game in the Sydney Cricket Ground from the top, but the erection of new stands eventually blotted out their view[293].

Constitution Hill

This is the most mysterious of the four hills in Moore Park, as it is not identified in any maps of the area. However, it was mentioned several times in newspapers and other sources up to the early twentieth century, allowing its approximate location to be deduced. It was presumably named after the 1855 New South Wales Constitution, and was located on the south of Alison Road, to the east of Anzac Parade and extending into the western part of Randwick Racecourse.

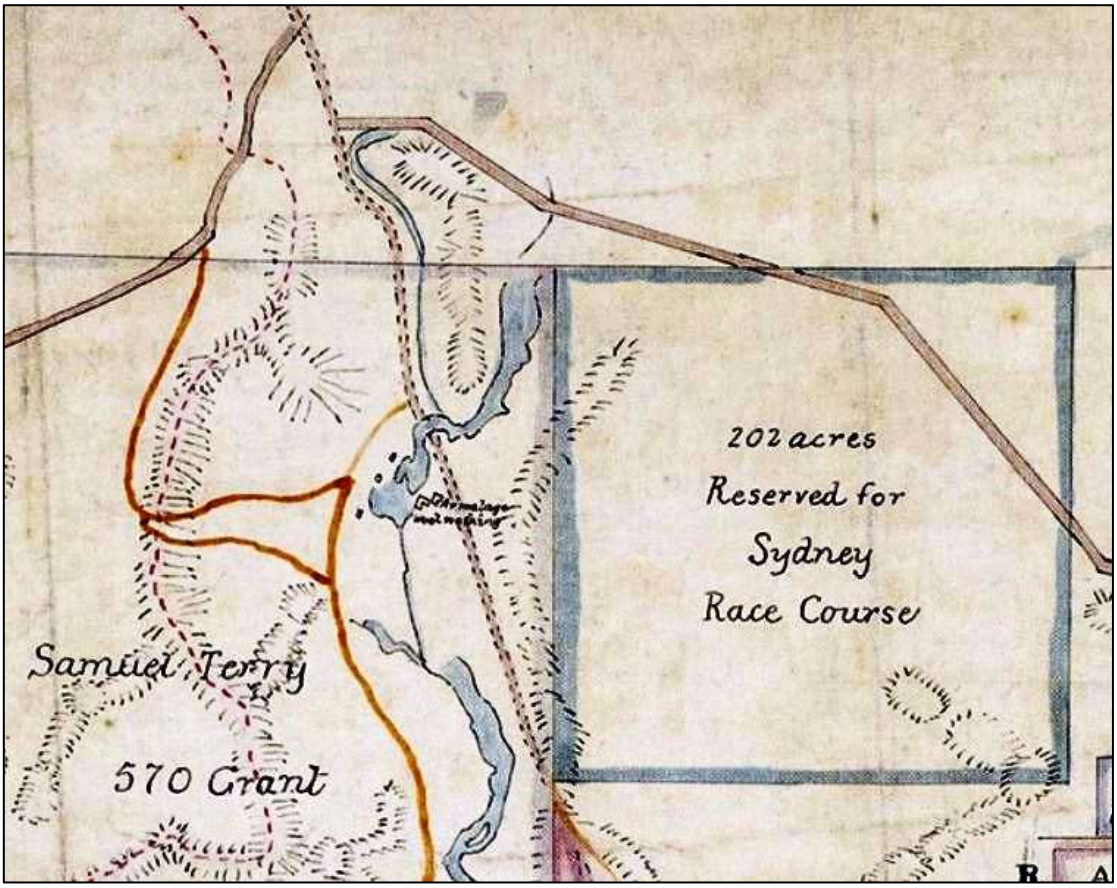


Figure 75 Botany parish map, 1853 (SLNSW)

The earliest reference to the hill was in an 1860 newspaper article describing the new Randwick Metropolitan Racecourse. A gentle rise on the course between the 45th and 53rd chain marks was called Constitution Hill, and was expected to be a test of strength and condition for the horses[294]. In

1873, the City Engineer, Francis Bell, proposed tapping into the underground water supply running between the Lachlan and Botany Swamps, and mentioned a stream that crossed Bunnerong Road (now Anzac Parade to the south of Alison Road) under Constitution Hill[295].

There were several reports of spectators observing military exercises in Moore Park such as the "Field Day and Sham Fight" from Constitution Hill[296]. Another such event in 1893 mentioned that Constitution Hill was "a prominent elevation situated near the Kensington Estate, which commanded an extensive view of the whole of that district"[297]. However, by 1909, the hill, which was "a short distance from the Randwick toll-bar", had been levelled, and the gullies and thick scrub had disappeared[298]. The Kensington Estate was subdivided into housing lots to create the residential suburb of Kensington.

Constitution Hill is long gone, but not entirely forgotten: it was one of the names being considered by Randwick City Council for a new light rail stop on Alison Road, being a name that was found on the 1860 and 1930s Royal Randwick Racecourse site plans[299].

Albert (Tibby) Cotter Walkway

The shared pedestrian and cycle pathway over Anzac Parade was built in time for the Cricket World Cup in February 2015, at a final cost of $38 million. As it is located some hundred metres away from the two most common walking routes from the city to the sports grounds (Moore Park Road and Cleveland Street), it is greatly underused[300]. The New South Wales Government rushed the project through to finish it in time for the World Cup, resulting in a cost blowout of $13 million from the original $25 million, according to the acting Auditor-General in a report[301].

Because the walkway's construction coincided with the centenary of the Gallipoli landing by Australian troops in April 1915, the State Government chose to link the walkway with this event by naming it after Albert (Tibby) Cotter, a relatively unknown Australian Test cricketer who also served at Gallipoli, rather than a more famous cricketer with a connection to the area, such as Victor Trumper, who grew up in Surry Hills and Paddington.

Figure 76 Albert (Tibby) Cotter Walkway

Other sports in Moore Park

Cricket

Taking advantage of Sydney's good weather, weekend cricket is played all year on several fields in Moore Park. One of the organisations involved is Last Man Stands, which runs Twenty20 competitions in both summer and winter. There are four intersecting cricket fields on Robertson Road that are in use almost every Saturday and Sunday[302]. Local rules are sometimes adopted, such as in the northernmost field, where the dark background created by the tall fig trees along Lang Road forms a natural sightscreen for the pink ball, and every over of the match is bowled from that end.

Figure 77 Cricket fields in Moore Park (Last Man Stands)

Tennis

In 1878, the Sydney Lawn Tennis Club (formerly the Association Ground Tennis Club) was formed, basing itself at the Sydney Cricket Ground[303].

Opening in 2014, an indoor tennis coaching centre for children is operated by Tennis Quest in the Entertainment Quarter[304]. Moore Park Tennis manages four synthetic grass tennis courts in Cleveland Street opposite Sydney Girls' High School. These can be hired for practice or coaching[305].

Centennial Parklands Sports Centre

Tennis, netball and soccer facilities are available at the Centennial Parklands Sports Centre, on the south-east corner of Lang Road and Anzac Parade. Nine synthetic grass courts and two hard courts can be hired for competitive or social games or for tennis lessons. Netball courts are available for senior and junior competitions. A synthetic grass soccer field can be used for seasonal competitions of five to eight players per team (called 5v5 Soccer)[306].

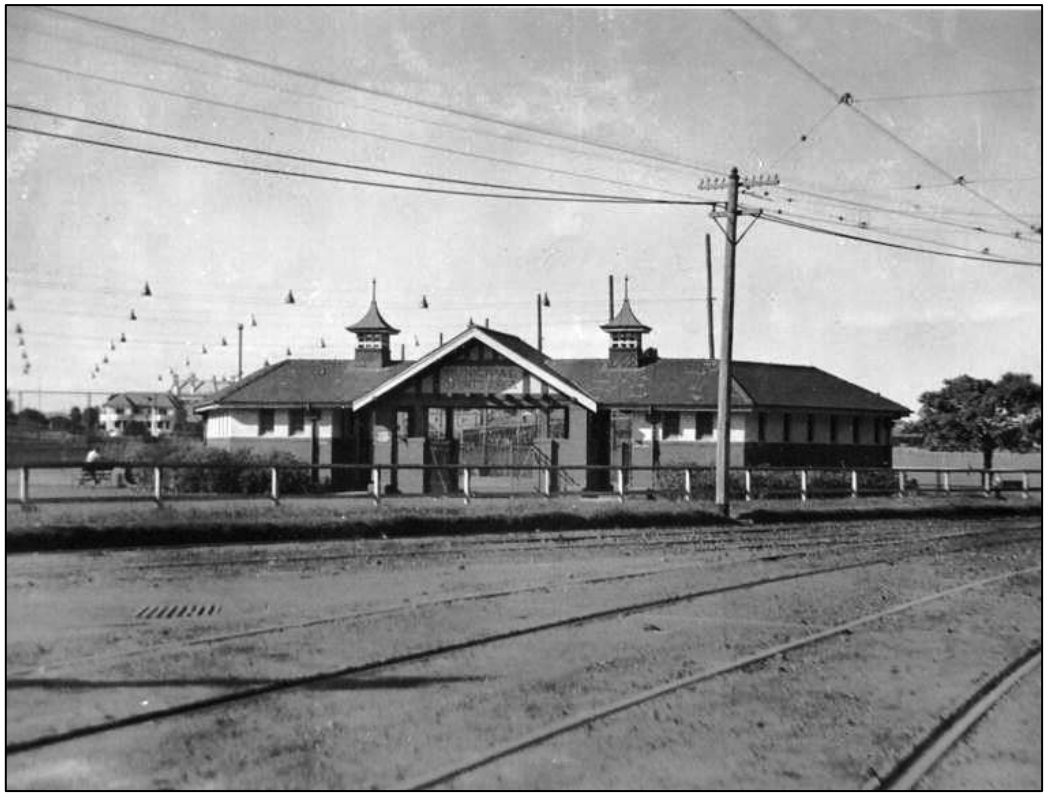


Figure 78 Moore Park Sports Pavilion, 1934 (City of Sydney Archives)

A kiosk called the Colonial Diner operated at the entrance of the sports centre from 1917. During the day it catered for sportsmen and women at the nearby courts, and at night it was used by patrons and musicians attending Hordern Pavilion concerts. The kiosk is no longer there[307].

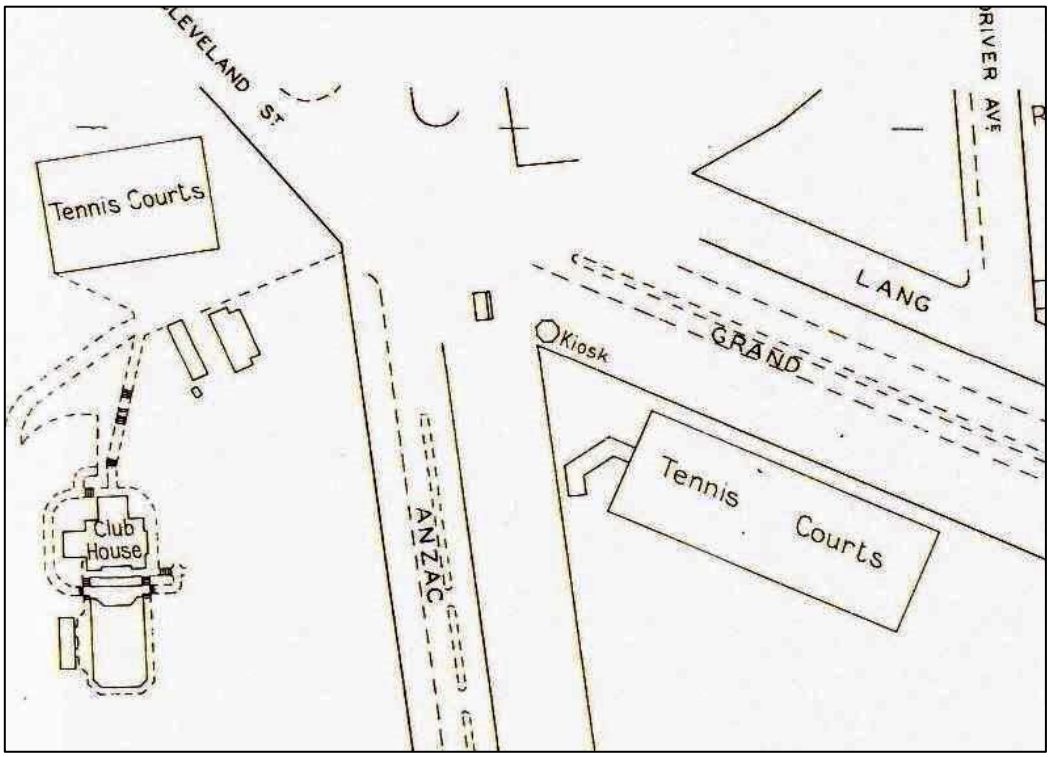


Figure 79 Tennis courts and former Colonial Diner (City Building Surveyor)

Lawn bowling

In 1944 a Lawn Bowling Club was established next to the former Moore Park Toll House and operated until 1998. The site then operated as tennis courts until 2001[308].

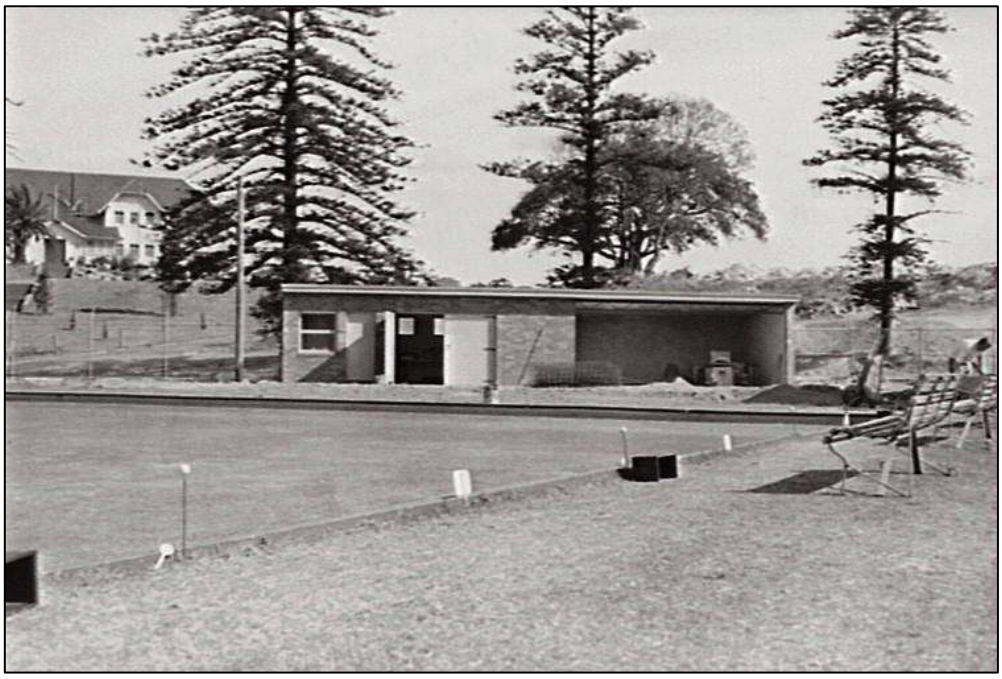


Figure 80 Bowling Club near the golf clubhouse, 1958 (City of Sydney Archives)

There was also a bowling green operated by the Returned Sailors, Soldiers' and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia (RSS & AILA), as shown on the 1949-1972 City Building Surveyor's Detail Sheets (Map 20 – Waterloo). It was located next to the King Edward VII Dogs' Home on the north-east corner of Dacey Avenue and South Dowling Street[309].

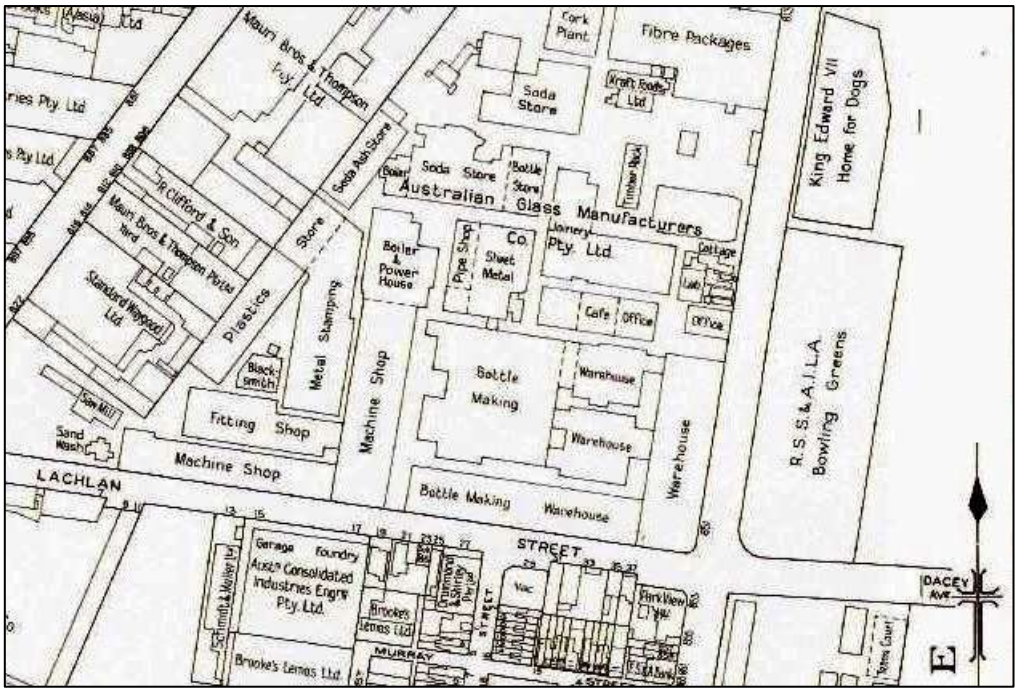


Figure 81 Bowling Green on South Dowling Street (City Building Surveyor)

People associated with Moore Park

John Busby

Figure 82 John Busby (SLNSW)

He was born in 1765 in Northumberland, England. At 19 he was the manager of a coal mine, and for several years was employed as a mineral surveyor and engineer in England, Scotland and Ireland. He arrived in Sydney in 1824, where his most important work was the construction of Sydney's first regular water supply, commenced in 1827 but not fully completed until 1837. He was widely criticised for the slowness of the project, but was supported by the military engineer Major George Barney. He died at his Hunter Valley estate in 1857[310].

Lieutenant Colonel George Barney

Figure 83 George Barney (National Library of Australia)

George Barney was born in 1792 at Wolverhampton, England. He was commissioned an officer in the Royal Engineers in 1808, and gained several years of experience in civil engineering in the West Indies. He arrived in Sydney in 1835 with a detachment of the Royal Engineers. Governor Sir Richard Bourke added to his military duties with various civil works, including the formation of Circular Quay. He was asked to report on the defences of Sydney, and recommended several new installations, including at Bradley's Head, Fort Denison and new military barracks at Paddington, which became the Victoria Barracks. In 1855, he was appointed Surveyor-General in succession to Sir Thomas Mitchell. He died at St Leonards in 1862[311].

Charles Moore (Alderman)

Figure 84 Alderman Charles Moore (City of Sydney Archives)

Charles Moore was born in 1820 in Ballymacarne, County Cavan, Ireland. He migrated to Sydney in 1850 and opened a drapery, which prospered during the gold rushes. Later he bought Charles Newton's auctioneering business. In 1860, he built a large house at Coogee and was elected to the Randwick Municipal Council, becoming Mayor in 1863. In December 1865, he was elected to the Sydney City Council and served as Mayor in 1867-69.

With Richard Driver, Charles Moore won a reputation as a city improver. During his time as Mayor, the site for the Town Hall was acquired, plans drawn up and the foundation stone laid. He had the Tank Stream covered and extended Macquarie Street to Circular Quay. He died in 1895[312].

Charles Moore (botanist)

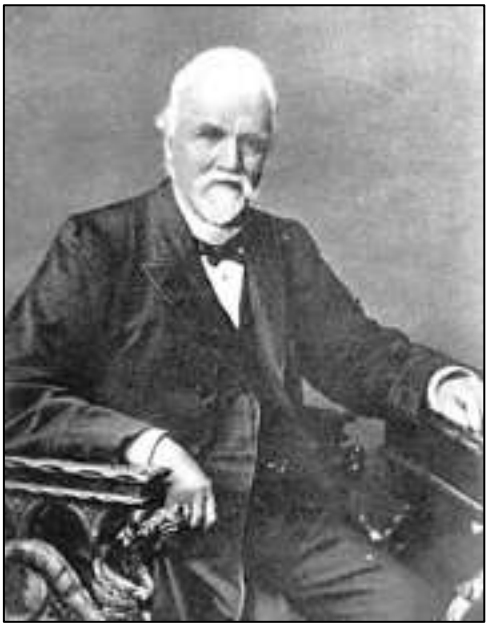


Figure 85 Charles Moore, botanist (SLNSW)

He was born in 1820 at Dundee Scotland. He trained as a botanist at Kew Gardens and Regent's Park in London, and in 1848 was appointed government botanist and Director of the Sydney Botanic Gardens. He rejuvenated the badly-neglected gardens and initiated a system of labelling that is still used today. He was very actively involved in the botanical life of Sydney until being succeeded by Joseph Maiden after retiring in 1895. He died at Paddington in 1905[313].

Walter Renny

Figure 86 Walter Renny (City of Sydney Archives)

It is not known when he was born, but from 1863 he was a painter and paperhanger in Pitt Street. He was a Sydney City Council Alderman 1863-1870 and Lord Mayor 1869-1870. His name is spelt

Rennie in many references, and he was probably the son of Edward Rennie of Balmain. He was a flamboyant painter who advertised his business by painting blocks of blue and white on his city premises, which became famous as the Blue House and gained him the nickname Royal Blue Renny. He died in London in 1878[314].

Alexander Steel

Figure 87 Alexander Steel (City of Sydney Archives)

He was born in 1819 in Edinburgh Scotland, and arrived in Sydney as a youth with his family. He became a publican, holding the licence of the Royal Arms, Riley and Devonshire Street, Surry Hills 1859-1871. He was Sydney City Council Alderman 1860-1870 and 1872-1874, and died in 1882[315].

John Dunmore Lang

Figure 88 John Dunmore Lang (National Library of Australia)

He was born in 1799 at Greenock, Scotland, and was educated for the Presbyterian ministry at the Largs parish school and the University of Glasgow, winning many scholarships and prizes. He migrated to Sydney, arriving in 1823 as the colony's first Presbyterian minister. He was always eager to promote education, and helped establish a number of schools. Visiting England in 1830, he was struck by the country's poverty, and began to promote the emigration of free settlers to Australia, beginning with a shipload of 140 Scottish tradesmen and their families.

Back in New South Wales, he was perpetually outraged by the dissipation of convicts and former convicts, and attacked the decadence of fancy dress balls, Sunday picnics and alcoholic intemperance. He also busied himself by writing many attacks on the colonial press. Elected to the Legislative Council in 1850, Lang published libelous articles on its activities that resulted in fines and numerous stints behind bars. A highly passionate believer in greater education and emigration, he was unable to resist condemning those who opposed his schemes. Politically he achieved almost all of his aims: the end of convict transportation, the introduction of democratic government, National education and the abolition of state aid to religion. In Moore Park, he is unique in having three landmarks named in his honour: a mount, a drinking fountain and a street. He died after a stroke in 1878[316].

Sir Henry Parkes

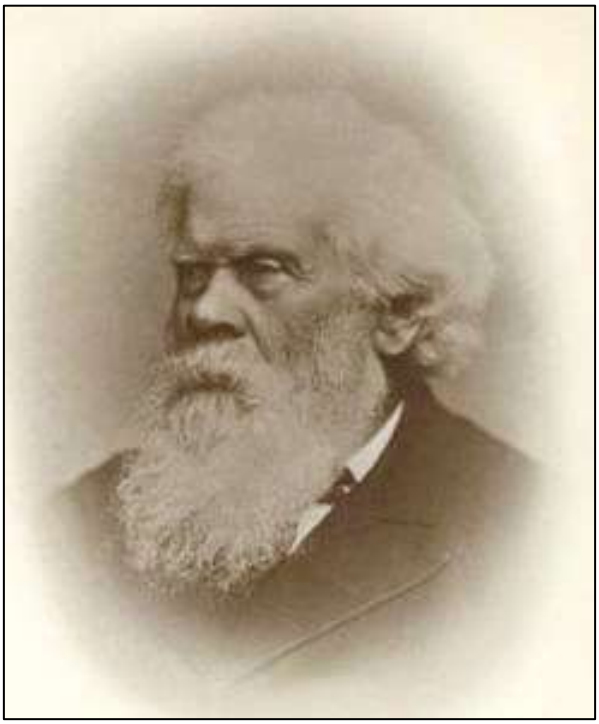


Figure 89 Sir Henry Parkes (National Library of Australia)

He was born in 1815 in Warwickshire, England. After receiving little formal education, he joined the Political Union at 17 where he began to develop his political views. He and his wife came to New South Wales in 1839 as bounty migrants, where he worked his way up from labouring jobs to open a mercantile business. He became deeply involved in the literary and political activities in the colony, where his talents as a writer developed in the 1840s to an extraordinary level for one so lacking in education. In 1850, with John Dunmore Lang he helped establish the Australian League which

advocated universal suffrage and a Great Federal Republic. He set up and edited the *Empire*, which became the chief organ of mid-century liberalism.

He entered the Legislative Council in 1854, and then the first Legislative Assembly after the 1856 election, but had to resign due to insolvency when the *Empire* collapsed in 1858. He was back in Parliament the next year, and was in and out of politics until the election of 1872 when he was again returned and became Premier for the first time. He was a strong supporter of federalism, and in 1889 he made the famous Tenterfield speech calling for a convention to devise a Federal Government. He died in 1896 without seeing his dream of a Federation come about. An enigmatic man with numerous failings, his personality was nonetheless massive, durable and imposing, and he was the largest figure in nineteenth century Australian politics, with a remarkable instinct for political guile that allowed him to reach the top[317].

William Kippax

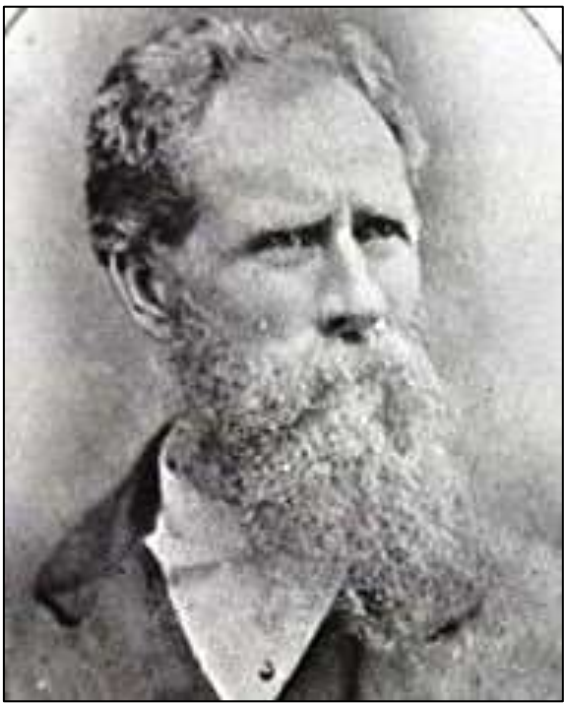


Figure 90 William Kippax (City of Sydney Archives)

He was born in 1827 at Windsor, New South Wales. By 1858, he and his brother Samuel operated a poultry stall at the George Street Markets. He later became the Director of the Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children, and a member of the Temperance Alliance Committee. He was a City of Sydney Alderman 1863 to 1898, and died at Chatswood in 1910[318].

James and Sophia Louisa Comrie

Figure 91 Sophia and James Comrie (Northfields Philanthropy website)

James Comrie was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1816 and arrived in Sydney in 1843 to work as a general merchant. He was appointed to the Legislative Council in 1856 and served until 1861. Sophia Louisa Jennings was born in 1813 and arrived in Van Diemen's Land in 1832. In 1836, she married Phillip Russell, a successful pastoralist who died in 1844, leaving her a wealthy woman. In 1847, Sophia travelled to Sydney where she met James Comrie, and six months later they were married. James had a great interest in literature, and developed the habit of buying books and giving them away. Sophia died in 1895, and James in 1902. On his death Sophia's estate was finalised, and one of her bequests was for £500 to be given to the City of Sydney for a drinking fountain to be constructed "for the use of man and beast". After their deaths, James in particular was lauded as a philanthropist, but it was largely Sophia's money from her first marriage that allowed him to indulge his philanthropic interests in later life[319].

Sir Samuel Hordern

Samuel Hordern was born in 1876 in Sydney and started work in 1895 in the family's department store Anthony Hordern & Sons. On his father's death in 1909, he took over the Italianate-styled Palace Emporium, universal providers since 1906, which dealt in "everything from a needle to an anchor". He retired from the company in 1926 when it was sold to investors. He was president, chairman or director of a wide range of Sydney businesses and organisations, including president of the Royal Agricultural Society from 1915 to 1941, during a period of massive growth of the Royal

Easter Show for which he was largely responsible. He was regarded as a spectacular and versatile man about town, described as the "last of the elegant Edwardians", who could discuss silks and satins with one person and butter-fat with another, all with a connoisseur's knowledge. He was knighted in 1919 and appointed K.B.E. in 1938. He died 1956 at Darling Point, leaving an estate valued at almost £280,000[325].

Duncan McMillan

Figure 92 Duncan McMillan (*The Sun*, 19 December 1928)

Brothers Duncan and Charlie McMillan emigrated from Scotland to Sydney in the late nineteenth century. In 1908, Duncan opened a sporting goods shop called the Sydney Sports Depot as a partner of McMillan, Deery & Co., in George Street[320]. Avid golfers, they thought that the southern part of Moore Park would be an ideal location for playing golf, and campaigned to the Sydney City Council for an area of city land to establish a golf course. This was granted in 1913 and the Moore Park Municipal Course was established. Duncan was elected the first honorary secretary[321] and remained in this position into the 1950s[322]. In 1929, he was made a life member of the Moore Park Golf Club in recognition of his contribution to the club as a player and administrator[323]. In 1933, Duncan was appointed full-time secretary, at which time it was acknowledged that his untiring hard work had made the club a success, especially in the difficult first couple of years, when it would not have survived without his efforts[324].

Frank Horace Saywell

Figure 93 Frank H. Saywell (Truth, 6 April 1941)

He was born in Sydney in 1876[326], and graduated in dentistry from Sydney University in 1901. He worked for many years as a dentist in Sydney[327]. He died at Petersham in 1958[328].

Ernest Samuel Marks

Figure 94 Ernest S. Marks (City of Sydney Library)

He was born at West Maitland, New South Wales, in 1871 and after moving to Sydney in 1881, became active in the Jewish community of Sydney. Between 1888 and 1890, he won over forty trophies as an athlete. He was a founder and executive member of the New South Wales Amateur Athletic Association and chairman of the Australian division of the British Empire Games.

He managed the Australian teams at the Olympic Games of 1909, 1912 and 1932, and was involved with sporting clubs in athletics, swimming, surfing, billiards, harness racing and rugby union. He was an Alderman on the Sydney Municipal Council 1920-27, and 1930-1947, (including Lord Mayor in 1930) and a Member of the Legislative Assembly 1927-1930. He died at Darlinghurst in 1947[329].

Jessie Stuart Broomfield

Jessie Broomfield was a widow living in Northmead at the time of her death in 1935. Perpetuating her love of dogs, she directed in her will that a substantial portion of her estate of £3,714 was to be set aside to erect drinking fountains and water troughs throughout Sydney and suburbs for the benefit of stray dogs. Her name would be inscribed on each fountain and trough. After bequests of certain jewellery and personal items to relatives, Mrs. Broomfield directed that the rest of her estate be divided into two parts, one for the erection of drinking fountains and the other for distribution among various homes and institutions for dogs in the city of Sydney[330].

James Bendrodt

James Charles Bendrodt was born in 1891 at Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. He worked his passage to Sydney as a stoker in 1910. With his business partner George Irving, he leased the new Imperial Roller Rink in Hyde Park, reopening it in 1914 as the Imperial Salon de Luxe. He played bit parts with J. C. Williamson, which convinced him that he was a much better showman than he was an actor, and this set the direction for his career during which he imported foreign entertainers to adorn his spectacular and fashionable enterprises, such as the Ice Palais at Moore Park. A larger than life figure, he also ran Prince's Restaurant in Martin Place, where lavish entertainments during the wartime austerity period and a cavalier attitude to the State liquor regulations kept him in the public eye for years. He died in Sydney in 1973[331].

Dunbar Poole

Figure 95 Dunbar Poole (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 11 September 1954)

He was born near Glasgow, Scotland in about 1880 and learned to skate on frozen country ponds by sharing a pair of borrowed skates with a school friend, each using one skate. But when the other boy was ill, Poole could use both skates at once, and developed a life-long passion for skating. His first ambition was to be an artist, and he painted landscapes in oils for the Royal Glasgow Institute of Fine Arts. But he was too adventurous to stay at home, and in 1901 sailed for Australia. He disembarked in Adelaide, and helped to open the Adelaide Glaciarium, Australia's first ice rink. In 1907 he arrived in Sydney, where he opened the Sydney Glaciarium, and then managed it for 25 years. Using his artistic ability, he designed and painted the scenery for the galas and ice carnivals at the Glaciarium, creating events of tremendous colour and gaiety. The annual winter season only lasted three of four months, and during the rest of the year he travelled unceasingly in Europe, America or Canada, returning to Sydney for the next southern winter. During this period, he had the distinction of living through 18 consecutive winters by following the skating seasons from continent to continent.

In 1932, he ended his long association with the Sydney Glaciarium and went back to Britain to manage ice rinks in England and Scotland. In 1938, he made a rush trip to Australia to open the Ice Palais for James Bendrodt, then in 1948 came out of retirement briefly to reopen this rink after its wartime closure. He died in June 1954 at Merimbula on the NSW South Coast. On his death, he was remembered as a man who had a tremendous impact on the ice skating community in Australia. While he trained many talented skaters to achieve world recognition, he also had the time and patience to encourage slow beginners to persevere[332].

Richard Driver

Figure 96 Richard Driver (City of Sydney Archives)

Born in 1829 in Cabramatta, he was admitted as a solicitor in 1856, and in 1859 became solicitor to the Corporation of Sydney. Determined to follow a political career, he became a Member of the

Legislative Assembly 1860-1880, during which time he emerged as one of the chief law reformers in parliament and a most effective improver in the development of Sydney.

In 1866 he introduced the *Sydney Common Improvement Act*, which led to the creation of Moore Park. His love of cricket drove him to improve the Sydney Cricket Ground and set up the system of trustees, becoming one himself. He became a chief organiser of the visits of English cricket teams and of intercolonial matches. He was also a founder and for many years chairman of Tattersall's Club, a councillor of the Royal Agricultural Society and was active in the administration of rowing, sailing and horse racing. At the time of his death in July 1880, he was one of the most popular men in Sydney. He is remembered in Moore Park by Driver's Triangle and Driver Avenue[333].

Albert (Tibby) Cotter

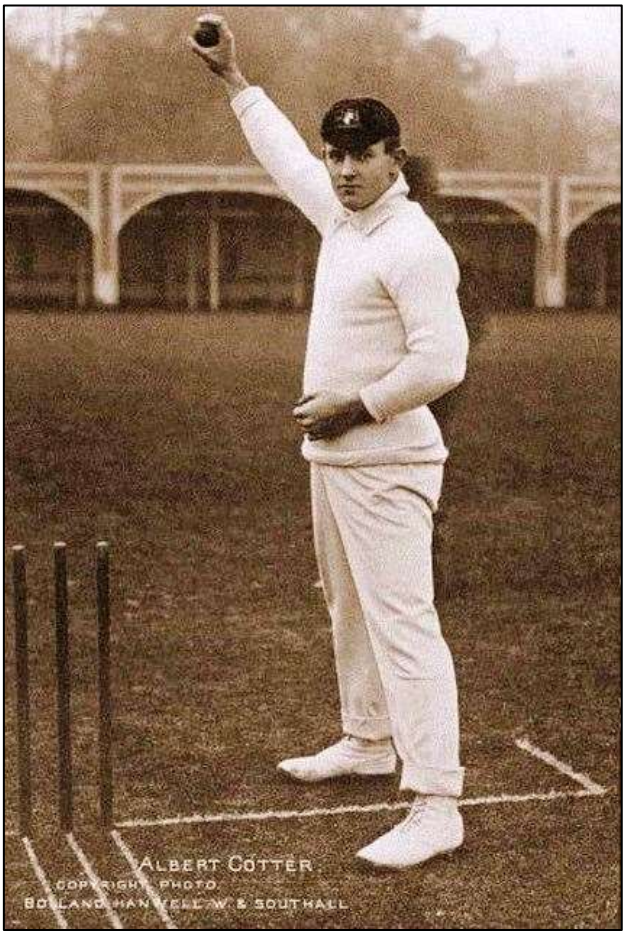


Figure 97 Albert (Tibby) Cotter (*The Australian*)

He was born in 1883 in the city of Sydney. He joined the Glebe District Cricket Club and became a fine pace bowler and hard-hitting lower order batsman. He played Test cricket against England from 1903 to 1911. In 21 Tests he took 89 wickets and in all first-class matches took 440 wickets and scored 2,450 runs.

His test career ended in 1911 when he, Victor Trumper, M. A. Noble and others split with the Board of Control. As a bowler he was very fast but often erratic, with a slinging action, and was a good fieldsman. He was always cheerful and modest, and his happy nature and bearing on the field endeared him to all cricket lovers.

He was working as a bookkeeper in Sydney when in April 1915 he enlisted in the Army and served at Gallipoli with the 1st Light Horse Brigade. He was killed in October 1917 while acting as a mounted stretcher-bearer at the third Battle of Gaza[334].

Diana Hunt

Diana Hunt (1905-2004) was a long-standing member of the Sculptors' Society, and created some important public works, including in the Macquarie University grounds and Wahroonga Park. She served on the Society's committee in the 1990s[335]. Her abstract sculpture of Don Quixote in Wahroonga Park was opened by Sir Robert Menzies in 1970[336].

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