



# RAIPR NEWS

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## FROM THE TOP

In the March Newsletter I reported on the confidence and stability that has been developed in the Institute over the past two years. The Federal Council meeting held in Launceston on 14 and 15 April last, was further evidence of the growth of this feeling by the fact that there was in excess of 20 members present representing all Regions. The contributions and involvement in debate by all members made this a most worthwhile and productive meeting. A very full agenda was dealt with despite having to keep an eye on time, but all present contributed equally without having to stifle any debate. The enthusiasm and optimism of Federal Council should ensure that the Institute is really up and running.

I believe that we are at the threshold of another era in the Parks & Recreation movement. The National Leisure Seminar, held in Melbourne last month, will provide some of the guidelines for the future, but equally our Institute must take hold of the opportunity being presented by the Federal Department of Sport, Recreation & Tourism, in particular to play a major part in the formulation of national recreation policies. We must prove that we are equal to this challenge and produce the goods. This will involve serious consideration of the needs of the Australian community in the broad field of services provided under our membership umbrella of Parks & Recreation. In fact the Convenor of our Recreation Development Committee, Peter Nicholls, has posed the thought that a ROYAL AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF LEISURE SERVICES, might present a more appropriate description of our broad membership coverage than the ,theoretical at least, suggestion that 'Parks' and 'Recreation' are two identifiable and separate concepts and divisions of interest.

As a member of the Institute, your involvement and input is the most valuable resource we have to determine the way we meet the challenges of the future and create the most desirable leisure environment for Australia. Collectively, we can be the most influential group in Federal, State and Local Government, private enterprise and community development in our field.

The Federal Council meeting in April gave its' full support to several regions who submitted projects to meet some of the needs of their members, and this process of support, including special funding, will ensure that the Institute is visible to its members and the community in a practical manner.

Your continued support and encouragement in the regions, federally and through your professional contacts, will ensure that the Institute is seen as a major national organisation fulfilling a significant role in the community and in turn will reward you with a sense of satisfaction and achievement for many years to come.

*Ted Gleeson*

**TED GLEESON.**  
Federal President.

Notes from the Federal Council Meeting held in Launceston 14-15 April 1984

The Executive reported to the Council that they had requested George Brown to advise the Executive, South Australia and Queensland Regions as to whether there was still the continuing desire for the Northern Territory to become a region in its own right.

The Reclassification Board submitted that Tom Woods be recommended for re-classification to Hon. Life Fellow, that Peter Evans, Graham Ross, Philip Milner and Tully Telenta from Member to Associate and George Brown from Associate to Fellow.

The Awards Committee submitted to Federal Council that it recommend to the AGM the Award of Merit to Norm Neck, printer of the Australian Parks & Recreation for 22 years.

Membership Certificates are currently being redesigned and in future will be forwarded direct from the Federal Office to Regional Secretaries for presentation by the Region.

Support in principle has been given for the transfer of responsibility for the production of AUSTRALIAN PARKS AND RECREATION from the Editorial Committee to a professional officer employed at the Federal Office.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA:** \$1000 in assistance was granted to enable the acceptance of the State Government's offer of leased office accommodation in the new Recreation and Sport Administration Centre in Adelaide. The amount will be used for furniture and rental in the initial two years.

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA:** \$2600 was provided to develop a program for an annually recurring short-term course for persons employed in park and recreation management.

**VICTORIA:** A future submission for funds was foreshadowed concerning the Home for Horticulture.

**QUEENSLAND:** \$500 was provided to conduct a symposium in Northern Queensland with the view of possibly establishing a northern chapter. A float totalling \$2500 was approved for a seminar on the construction and maintenance of sports turfs in the tropics and subtropics, as well as the 1985 National Conference.

The Accommodation Sub-committee is presently considering the possibility of permanent accommodation of the Federal Office at the National Exhibition Centre.

Allocations: Federal Council approved the following modifications to approved expenditure:  
Federal Council \$6000 to \$10000  
Salaries \$28000 to \$32000

A Special Account was established for regional projects and that the Executive was empowered to approve expenditure from it. The current approved limit is \$11000.

# FEATURES

## In your park

### CENTENNIAL PARK

Centennial Park, 220 ha in area, is located five km south-east of the centre of Sydney. It embraces Queens Park which is predominantly playing fields with hilly parkland and a high cliff backdrop.

The Park was originally low lying swampy ground with surrounding sandhills covered by coastal scrub. The sandy soil is of poor fertility and early descriptions of the Park tell of its ruggedness and low growing vegetation. Sandstone outcrops form a distinctive along the northern edge of the Park dropping sharply to the lower parkland with its many reed-fringed ponds forming part of the Botany Basin.

The area from which Centennial Park was developed remained unused until 1811 when the land was set aside by Governor Macquarie as a grazing reserve. Failure of the Tank Stream to provide reliable unpolluted water for the colony of Sydney caused Governor Brisbane to seek another source of water. The Lachlan Swamps, a portion of Macquarie's reserve, seemed suitable. Numerous ponds throughout the reserve contained good quality water, and the area was with close proximity to the colony.

The suggestion to turn the Government Reserve into a park was first made by the then recently-appointed Governor of New South Wales, Lord Carrington, shortly after his arrival in the Colony in 1885. He expressed his surprise to find Sydney with all its natural advantages without a park in which citizens could ride horses or drive their carriages.

The Premier, Sir Henry Parkes, adopted the idea of converting the Lachlan Swamps section of the reserve into a park. He proposed that the opportunity be taken to develop a substantial park which would be a permanent monument to the progress that had been made in the first hundred years since the landing of the first settlers in Sydney Cove. On 28 January 1887 he recommended to Parliament that the park be established and that it be called Centennial Park.

The Centenary Celebration Act 1887 provided for the acquisition of land required for Centennial Park with the cost of development and construction to be raised from the sale of building blocks on the perimeter of the Park.

The conversion of the swamps, ponds and low scrubby sandhills to a public park proceeded over a number of years under the direction of Charles Moore, Director, Botanic Gardens.

On the dedication day, 26 January 1888, the Premier Sir Henry Parkes, addressed 40,000 people (the majority of Sydney's population) with the following address:

THE MOST DISTINGUISHING FEATURE OF MODERN CIVILISATION IS THE BENEFICIAL PROVISIONS MADE FOR THE ENJOYMENT AND THE HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE AND THIS GREAT PARK WHICH HAS BEEN CREATED AS BY THE TOUCH OF A FAIRY'S HAND, IN THE COURSE OF THE NEXT TWO OR THREE YEARS WILL BE CONVERTED INTO A PLACE OF BEAUTY AND A JOY FOREVER. IT WILL BE YOURS AND SO LONG AS THE LAND SHALL LAST IT WILL BE FOR YOU, AND IT IS A GREAT OBLIGATION THAT RESTS ON YOU AS A FREE PEOPLE TO SEE THAT NO POWER, NO COMBINATION, INVADES YOUR RIGHTS IN THE ENJOYMENT OF THIS GREAT BOON. IT IS EMPHATICALLY THE PEOPLE'S PARK AND YOU MUST ALWAYS TAKE AS MUCH INTEREST IN IT AS IF BY YOUR OWN HANDS YOU HAD PLANTED THE FLOWERS; AND IF YOU TAKE THIS INTEREST IN IT, AND IF YOU THUS RISE TO THE FULL APPRECIATION OF THIS GREAT BEAUTY AND YOUR GREAT PRIVILEGES, THE PARK WILL BE ONE OF THE GRANDEST ADORNMENTS OF THIS BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY.

Development of Centennial Park continued slowly in the early part of this century during which time it was frequently used for military reviews, parades, outdoor concerts and performances. During the First World War the Park was used for troop training.

The provision of facilities for sport has always been a feature of the Park and early reports mention regular cricket and football matches, polo and cycling. No significant changes or improvements were made during the 1920's and 1930's due to the lack of funds and resources following the War and the Great Depression. It was not until the 1960's that significant development recommenced.

Today the Park provides a diversity of recreation opportunities. Picnickers can relax around the ponds, enjoying the wide stretches of grass, shady trees and barbecue facilities. There are tracks for horse riding, cycling and jogging, walks and paths, a children's cycle track and playgrounds.

Heavy demands are placed on the playing fields in both summer and winter with cricket, soccer, rugby league, touch football and hockey being the main team sports played.

The Regulations governing Park use are designed to permit a wide range of activities while avoiding areas of possible user conflict. Consequently, there are areas specifically designed for vehicles, horses, cyclists, joggers, pedestrians, and organised sport.

Dogs are permitted in the Park, except around the ponds, children's playgrounds and food serving areas. Horses are limited to the horse track and the special equestrian area only. The Park is open to vehicles during daylight hours only, however pedestrian access is unlimited.

A record of birds in Centennial Park has been kept since 1929 when 44 species were listed. The number of different species sighted in the Park now stands at 124 native species and 18 introduced, with a total of 44 species known to nest in the area. Many animals frequent Centennial Park, but most are either nocturnal or are seen only at dawn and dusk. Rabbits are common, possums are numerous and bats can be seen silhouetted against the night sky, particularly when the Port Jackson Figs are fruiting in February and March.

Further information on Centennial Park can be obtained from that notable television celebrity John Mortimer, Director, Centennial Park, on (02) 3315056.

## "Canberra: the city in a forest"

A seminar is being organised by the Institute of Forester of Australia and RAIPR in Canberra on the 14-15 October, 1984. This seminar should be of particular interest to members in the ACT and Hume Regions. Further details can be obtained from the National Office on (062) 514745.





### Easy potting for nurserymen

#### 'ALL AUSTRALIAN' MADE POTTING MACHINE

The slow and labour-intensive task of planting large numbers of seedlings, shrubs and trees into pots has been revolutionised by an Australian nurseryman.

Ian Tolley, of Renmark, SA, has recently released the 'Plant Master' potting machine - a versatile, compact unit with big output which has been carefully designed to handle all the potting needs of the professional nurseryman.

Since the first prototype was built in 1981, there has been very strong interest from other nurserymen who had seen it in operation and a decision was made recently to manufacture the machine commercially.

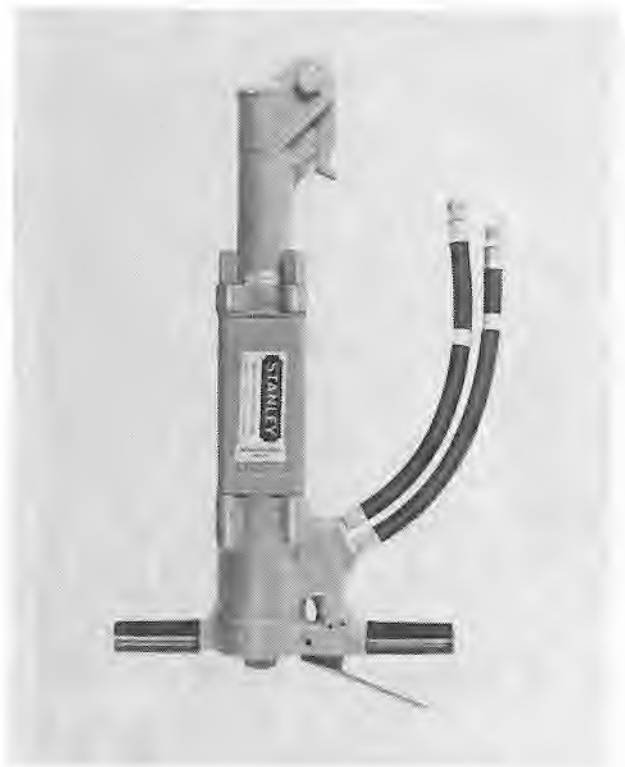
The Plant Master can handle almost any type of plant, and all common potting containers including hard pots, polybags and roottrainers. The machine feeds potting mix from a vertical elevator through to the container. The revolving work table has three work stations to cover container placement, planting and filling, and planted pot removal. The machine's versatility is an appealing feature - it can handle small and large pots, root trainers, polybags and nursery trays; with about five minutes to change from one type of container to another.

Another big advantage is that the pots are vibrated as potting mix is fed around the plant, thus minimising plant setback. Speed of operation can be adjusted to suit up to 1440 small or 720 larger containers per hour.

Other features include easy mobility, simple maintenance, single spanner servicing and single phase power requirements. A wide range of ancillary equipment is available, including holders for all commonly-used potting containers, potting mix hoppers and conveyors, and a vacuum-operated polybag cassette.

For further information:  
Tolleys Nursery's Pty Ltd.  
PO Box 2,  
RENMARK SA 5341

Telephone (085) 851383



### Hydraulic breakers

In response to technical feedback from users throughout the world The Stanley Works have released a new breaker range with a shock absorbing foot assembly.

The Stanley Shock Absorbing Foot adds to the list of advantages over air powered breakers as it reduces already low operator discomfort. Most vibration - rather than travel up the tool - is absorbed right at ground level, making them easier to control and less tiring to use. The bit stays put on start up, drives deeper, faster and sticks less.

The foot feature is standard on all new Stanley BR45, BR67, and BR87 breaker models. Stanley's breakers, as well as its full line of hydraulic tools operate from on-site vehicle hydraulic systems or from portable hydraulic power units.

#### Further Information:

Mr G. Deviney,  
Sales Engineer-Hydraulics,  
The Stanley Works,  
8 Moncrief Road,  
NUNAWADING VIC 3131

Telephone (03) 8789244



### Professional brushcutters

McCulloch Power Products have introduced a new range of professional brushcutters - the Pro Mac 230, 270 and 290. With added features, such as a two-cycle air cooled gas engine, electronic ignition, durable solid drive shaft and sealed gearbox, the versatile brushcutters should prove popular for rural and professional use.

Ideal for cutting grass or weeds, slashing down thistles, blackberries or light undergrowth the McCulloch Pro Mac brushcutters have a powerful 21.2 cc engine and are easily manoeuvrable weighing between only 5.3 and 6.8 kg.

The Pro Mac 230 features a multi-purpose delta handle, semi-automatic bump feed cutting head, debris guard, and a 42 cm cutting swathe. The Pro Mac 270 is tough but lightweight with a hard chrome bore, safety guard, 235 cm 4-tooth steel blade and an adjustable handle.

The heavy duty Pro Mac 290 is ideal for constant farm and professional use. Finger-tip throttle controls, U handle bars with anti-vibration grips and a safety harness provide easy control. It comes with eight and 80 tooth steel blades, dual feed cutting head and a safety guard.

Available now from stock and station agents and hardware stores nationally, the new Pro Macs retail from between \$174 and \$299. A complete line of accessories and replacement parts are available. All products carry a one year warranty.

The new brushcutters will compliment McCulloch's existing range of consumer and professional products, which include line trimmers, chainsaws, and power generators.



### New pavers for the Boral range

Three new clay pavers have been added to the attractive and eye-catching range from Boral Bricks. The new pavers, Corroboree Brown, Honeycomb and Oatmeal supplement the Red Ochre collection. They give tremendous versatility to the builder, landscape gardener or home handyman as the pavers offer a choice of three surfaces.

The double-sided paver has one face which is smooth and with a muted bar mark to give a rustic effect. The reverse is lightly textured and with a bluish halo around the edge for a softer look. The Satin range offers a smooth face without bar marks.

Mr Percy Borg, Marketing Manager for Boral Bricks, said the textured face was popular with people landscaping around their pool or laying a driveway because it gave a better grip. The reverse smooth face is more commonly used for patios and porches although it is often used for the centre of driveways as it makes it easier to remove oil stains.

The pavers measure 233 by 113 by 66 mm and all edges are gently rounded to avoid chipping and to soften the contours of the paver. Clay pavers offer a number of advantages. They are not as porous as concrete or concrete products and therefore are much easier to maintain in an as-new condition.

Local Councils and Government Authorities are increasingly choosing clay pavers for areas such as shopping malls and car parks.