

Park news

July 2009 Volume 19



Sydney Olympic Park on West Metro

Park projects recognised at national and state awards

New CEO for ANZ Stadium

Kids in the Park turns five

Welcome



Welcome to the July issue of Park News.

This is an exciting time for Sydney Olympic Park.

The NSW Government's recent announcement that Sydney Olympic Park will be on the new West Metro is a significant milestone in the Park's development.

The West Metro will support Sydney Olympic Park's role as a major event precinct and provide the critical access and capacity required for the continued growth and development of the Park as a commercial and

residential centre in the years ahead under the draft Master Plan 2030.

The announcement comes as the draft Master Plan 2030 progresses and we understand that its final consideration by the Government is imminent.

Adoption of the Master Plan would signal another crucial milestone in the continued development of Sydney Olympic Park.

The strong growth of Sydney Olympic Park into a vibrant, mixed-use community is well underway and is reflected in Sydney Olympic Park Authority's submission to the Geographical Names Board of NSW (**GNBNSW**) for Sydney Olympic Park to be recognised as an official suburb name.

This submission has received strong support from Sydney Olympic Park venues and organisations, and we understand that the GNBNSW will make a determination shortly.

Sydney Olympic Park has also been in the news for its contribution to excellence in design, with the Armory Wharf Precinct and Cafe, and Jacaranda Square winning awards at

the prestigious Australian Institute of Architects NSW Chapter Architecture Awards.

It was also pleasing to note that the GPT Group's Quad Business Park has been recognised as one of Australia's leading business parks at the 2009 Property Council of Australia Awards.

I congratulate all of the winners on their awards and their important contribution to Sydney Olympic Park.

I wish also to congratulate Ken Edwards, the former head of ANZ Stadium, on his immense contribution to the Park. Ken stepped down at the start of July after 13 years at ANZ Stadium. I wish him the best in his future endeavours and I look forward to working with new ANZ Stadium head Daryl Kerry to support Sydney Olympic Park into the future.

Alan Marsh
Chief Executive Officer
Sydney Olympic Park Authority



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Cover Jacaranda Square, which has been recognised as a leading example of urban design at the Australian Institute of Architects NSW Chapter Architecture Awards.

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News in brief

Suburb name update

The Geographical Names Board of NSW is expected to make a determination shortly on Sydney Olympic Park Authority's proposal to recognise Sydney Olympic Park as a suburb. The proposal reflects the strong development of Sydney Olympic Park over recent years and the continued growth expected under the Master Plan 2030. A full update will be provided in the next edition.

New diving blocks



State-of-the-art diving blocks have been installed at the Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre's competition pool. The Omega starting blocks, approved by swimming's international body FINA, feature the latest in swimming technology including acoustic start devices on each block to ensure all competitors hear the start signal at the exact same moment. The Aquatic Centre schedule of swimming

carnivals for schools, swim clubs, national and international events will allow swimmers of all ages and abilities to experience this new technology.

Sydney 500 preparations

Civil works in preparation for the Sydney 500 will commence in July. The organisers of the race, V8 SuperCars Australia, have awarded the \$10 million contract to western Sydney company Abergeldie Complex Infrastructure. V8 SuperCars Australia has indicated the works will create 100 full-time equivalent jobs over the next six months.

Acer Arena calendar strong

Acer Arena continues to pack in great events, with upcoming shows including Dr Phil, David Copperfield, Pink, Beyonce, Black Eyed Peas, Andre Rieu, Il Divo, Nickelback, Britney Spears and Greenday. For more information, go to www.acerarena.com.au

New menu at Aquatic, Athletic and Archery centres

There is a fresh new menu at the Aquatic, Athletic and Archery centres. Recently appointed catering manager Eddie Cofie has revitalised the centres' menus to include a new range of healthy food options including fresh sandwiches and juices, as well as the traditional favourites, such as pies and chips. Cafe Aqua at the Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre is open seven days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

New Monster website launched

A new website has been launched to showcase Sydney Olympic Park's Monster Skatepark and BMX and Mountain X tracks. The website, www.monsterpark.com.au, includes a members' photo gallery and a live webcam that shows people trying out their moves at the skatepark.

Stockroute Park improvements

A pocket park on Herb Elliot Avenue near the Commonwealth Bank of Australia buildings is being revitalised to meet the growing needs of Sydney Olympic Park workers and visitors. The Stockroute Park works include the creation of new relaxation areas and the installation of new seating and improved fencing.

Interpretive signage will also showcase the 'Discobolus' artwork at the centre of the park. The works are scheduled for completion in August.



An artist's impression of the revitalised Stockroute Park

News

Athletic Centre celebrates 15th birthday

The Sydney Olympic Park Athletic Centre recently celebrated its 15th anniversary. Since opening its doors in March 1994, the Athletic Centre has welcomed over three million visitors, an average of 200,000 a year.

The centre regularly hosts international, national and state athletics competitions including the recent Sydney Track Classic, which attracted around 7,500 people. It is used as a training facility for athletes from the NSW Institute of Sport and by the Bulldogs NRL team.

Importantly, the Athletic Centre also provides schools and amateur sporting groups with the opportunity to use the same state-of-the-art facilities as elite athletes.

Earlier this year, Sydney Olympic Park Authority installed a new international standard track at the Athletic Centre to ensure that the facility maintains its position as Australia's premier track and field venue.



Aquatic Centre supports NSWIS diving program

The Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre has entered into a partnership with the NSW Institute of Sport (NSWIS) to support the NSWIS diving program.

The NSWIS diving program is designed to support elite and emerging divers competing in international and national competition.

The NSWIS Diving Team includes Matthew Mitcham, who won the gold medal in the Men's 10m Platform at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, and dual sport Olympian Alexandra Croak, both of whom train at the Aquatic Centre under NSWIS Head Diving Coach Chava Sobrino.

Aquatic Centre safety recognised

An independent audit of the Aquatic Centre has recognised its strong commitment to safety.

The Royal Life Saving Society Australia (RLSSA) audit measured the Aquatic Centre's safety systems and processes against the RLSSA Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations – the national benchmark for pool safety, said Aquatic Centre General Manager Ross Coggan.

'The Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre received a score of 97.3 per cent against the national average of 80.4 per cent,' Mr Coggan said.

'I congratulate our staff on this great result and their commitment to continually improving our standards of safety,' Mr Coggan said.

Sydney Olympic Park on West Metro

The NSW Government has announced that Sydney Olympic Park would be included in the 11 proposed stations on the West Metro between Westmead, Parramatta and the Sydney CBD.

Sydney Olympic Park Authority CEO Alan Marsh said the announcement was an important milestone in the continued development of Sydney Olympic Park.

'The NSW Government's announcement that the West Metro will include Sydney Olympic Park is an important milestone in the continued transformation of Sydney Olympic Park into a centre of jobs and homes,' Mr Marsh said.

'The West Metro will support Sydney Olympic Park's role as a major event precinct and provide the critical access and capacity required for the continued growth and development of the Park as a commercial and residential centre in the years ahead under the draft Master Plan 2030,' Mr Marsh said.

The draft Sydney Olympic Park Master Plan 2030, released last year, is a long-term blueprint for the sustainable development of Sydney Olympic Park over the next 21 years.

'Today, Sydney Olympic Park hosts around 5,000 events a year including some of Australia's most celebrated sports and entertainment events such as the NRL Grand Final series, the Bledisloe Cup and the Sydney Royal Easter Show,' Mr Marsh said.

'Sydney Olympic Park is home to around 100 organisations and 8,500 workers, and over the past two years alone more than \$276 million of developments have been approved at Sydney Olympic Park.

'The draft Master Plan 2030 will see Sydney Olympic Park maintain its position as Australia's premier major events precinct and grow to accommodate 28,500 workers, 14,000 residents, 5,000 students and more than 15,000 daily visitors.

'The decision by the NSW Government to include Sydney Olympic Park on the proposed West Metro line will help secure the future of Sydney Olympic Park as an important events precinct and a centre for jobs and homes,' Mr Marsh said.

Paris stadium spectaculars set for ANZ Stadium

Spectacular theatrical and entertainment events from the world's most innovative stadium scaled producer are set for ANZ Stadium under a five-year agreement with StadeFrance Live Events.

StadeFrance Live Events is a wholly owned subsidiary of the iconic Stade de France in Paris, which hosted the 1998 FIFA World Cup final and has become one of Europe's premier sports and entertainment venues.

Under the agreement, ANZ Stadium will be granted the exclusive first right to conduct events produced by StadeFrance Live Events.

The new partnership places Sydney Olympic Park at the forefront of the emerging global entertainment genre of stadium scale presentations of

classic theatre and opera, as well as contemporary entertainment.

With this strategic partnership, ANZ Stadium plans to deliver world class stadium shows produced in Europe first to Sydney audiences with the ability to take them to the broader Australian and New Zealand markets.

ANZ Stadium CEO Daryl Kerry said: 'We are delighted that as future shows are developed ANZ Stadium will have the ability to deliver those shows first to Sydney audiences and later in the broader Australian and New Zealand markets. The prospect of regular artistic performances on a grand scale complements our current schedule of major sporting events making ANZ Stadium one of the world's most versatile stadiums.'

New CEO for ANZ Stadium

Daryl Kerry is the newly-appointed CEO of ANZ Stadium following the departure of Ken Edwards on 1 July.

'I thought it was time to pass the baton to the next generation to lead the Stadium through its second decade and for me to move onto my next challenge,' said Mr Edwards, who has served in the role for 13 years.

For most of that tenure Mr Kerry was deputy CEO, making for a smooth transition in the Stadium's leadership.

'Ken Edwards has put his heart and soul into the Stadium, from the moment the first sod was turned until achieving today's status as Sydney and Australia's premier international venue,' Mr Kerry said.

'But there are plenty of exciting challenges ahead for ANZ Stadium and I'm honoured to lead such a great team of people.'

Parklands news

Creature Feature – Red-rumped Parrot



Red-rumped parrots seen recently near the Newington Armory

Sydney Olympic Park supports a population of the Red-rumped Parrots. A medium sized parrot, the male bird is a brightly coloured green with a yellow belly and a red patch on its lower back. The female is a dull green colour with no red patch. When in flight the male's red rump and yellow belly can be clearly seen. These parrots mate for life and are usually seen in pairs or small groups in which the pairs can be clearly identified.

Red-rumped Parrots are generally observed on the ground feeding on grass seeds and leaves. At Sydney Olympic Park they are often seen foraging on turf near the Birds Australia building in the Newington Armory or at Bicentennial Park. They also forage among tree foliage on blossoms, fruits and seeds. In the Park they breed between August and January in the forest of Newington Nature Reserve, which provides important habitat for nesting and foraging.

Red-rumped Parrots primarily occur in south-eastern Australia between southern Queensland and eastern South Australia. Typically associated with more inland areas, clearing of woodland areas has led to a coastward expansion of this parrot. As a ground foraging parrot in suburbia, they are sometimes sadly hit by cars when feeding (or bathing) next to the road.

Sydney Olympic Park Authority staff recently photographed these four birds (two males and two females) taking a bath in a rainwater puddle on Jamieson Street outside the Newington Armory.

Community courses in the parklands

A range of community education courses are now available in the Parklands of Sydney Olympic Park. Sydney Olympic Park Authority encourages people consider the interesting and fun courses offered by the Sydney Community College and supported by Parklands Foundation.

Courses include

- botanical illustration – combine science, art and beautiful plants with drawing or water colours
- fitness – have fun and learn the skills and tactics of the game of soccer
- bird watching – enjoy life with colour and song by spending a leisurely morning discovering our feathered friends in some of the unique areas of the Park
- photography essentials – learn how to take better photographs while capturing the flora and fauna of Sydney Olympic Park
- drawing for beginners – relax in our parklands and learn drawing fundamentals.

For more information, call 8752 7555.

CBA employees join tree planting day

Commonwealth Bank of Australia staff recently joined with the Parklands Foundation for Sydney Olympic Park's first corporate tree planting day.

CBA staff started the day with a relaxed bike ride through the Park before arriving at the Badu Mangroves and getting their gardening gloves on.

The Badu Mangroves are located between Bicentennial Park and Homebush Bay, and include Powells Creek, saltmarsh areas and the Waterbird Refuge.

Staff cleared the area of weeds and planted a range of vegetation and trees under the guidance of experts from Sydney Olympic Park Authority.

CBA Community and Sustainability Manager Sara Crowe said: 'The tree planting was a really positive experience. I can't believe that on my doorstep is this amazing opportunity. It was really rewarding and enjoyable.'

Parklands news

Partnership brings environmental programs to local students



Students at the Energy Australia Education Centre

Around 60 students from Eagle Vale High School recently participated in an excursion to Sydney Olympic Park on renewable energy as the final group of students in the innovative *Roads to Sustainability* program.

Roads to Sustainability is a partnership between Transurban, the NSW Department of Education & Training

and Sydney Olympic Park Authority to provide students from socio-economically disadvantaged areas to participate in hands-on environmental education excursions at Sydney Olympic Park.

'The *Roads to Sustainability* program was established in 2007 and provided almost 3,000 students from socio-economically disadvantaged areas with the opportunity to participate in environmental education programs at Sydney Olympic Park,' Sydney Olympic Park Authority Chief Executive Officer Alan Marsh said.

Transurban General Manager NSW Assets Darren Moy said Transurban was proud to have supported *Roads to Sustainability* by providing funding for the students excursion costs and transport.

'Transurban has been proud to support *Roads to Sustainability* and to put Sydney Olympic Park Authority's

environmental education programs within reach of students from priority schools,' Mr Moy said.

'By investing in educating our children about the environment, we hope to have made a contribution to a more sustainable future,' Mr Moy said

Sydney Olympic Park Authority is committed to delivering education programs to excite and inspire students of all ages.

'Last year almost 22,000 students participated in our curriculum-based environmental education programs,' Mr Marsh said.

Mr Marsh commended Transurban on its support of the *Roads to Sustainability* program.

'I thank Transurban for their role in the *Roads to Sustainability* program and their commitment to students from western Sydney,' Mr Marsh said.

Go For Green Gala Day

More than 120 local primary and high school students recently came to Sydney Olympic Park to learn about renewable energy and sustainable living practices.

The *Go For Green Gala Day* was an initiative of Strathfield Council and was hosted by Sydney Olympic Park Authority and supported by EnergyAustralia.

The innovative program, now in its second year, is curriculum based and has been developed in consultation with primary and high school teachers from participating schools to ensure it is relevant to the needs of the attending children.

The *Go For Green Gala Day* was delivered by Sydney Olympic Park Authority's Education Unit and will include a range of activities to improve students' understanding of renewable energy and the natural environment,' said Sydney Olympic Park Authority CEO Alan Marsh.

'Students learned about how to create a bush tucker garden, how to make art from natural and recycled materials, ways to reduce waste at home and at school, and take a bike discovery tour of Sydney Olympic Park's wetlands to learn about the interconnectivity of our urban and natural environments,' Mr Marsh said.

EnergyAustralia energy efficiency expert Paul Myors delivered a program on how to reduce energy at home and at school at the EnergyAustralia Education Centre in the Newington Armory.

'Eliminating energy waste is often simply about developing good habits at home,' Mr Myors said.

'By teaching kids about the importance of energy efficiency, we can hopefully stop the bad habits from forming in the first place.

'We may even find that the kids will be passing on some of these tips to mums and dads.'

Development news

Sydney Olympic Park projects recognised at architecture awards



The Armory Wharf Cafe and precinct

New projects at Sydney Olympic Park have been recognised at the prestigious Australian Institute of Architects NSW Chapter Architecture Awards.

The Armory Wharf Precinct on the Parramatta River won the Architecture Award in the Urban Design category and the Armory Wharf Cafe building took out the top award in the Commercial Architecture category.

Sydney Olympic Park's new town centre, Jacaranda Square, received a Commendation in the Urban Design category.

Sydney Olympic Park Authority Chief Executive Officer Alan Marsh congratulated the winning architects and noted the contribution that their recently completed projects had made to Sydney Olympic Park.

'I congratulate the winners on their success,' Mr Marsh said.



Sydney Olympic Park's town centre - Jacaranda Square

'These projects were commissioned by Sydney Olympic Park Authority to support the continued growth of Sydney Olympic Park into a new, modern township and enhance the experience of people working in and visiting the precinct.

'They demonstrate the commitment of Sydney Olympic Park Authority to creating a high quality sustainable urban domain at Sydney Olympic Park for visitors, workers and residents of the future,' Mr Marsh said.

The Armory Wharf Precinct and Cafe, and Jacaranda Square will now be judged against other state winners at the Australian Institute of Architects National Awards on 29 October 2009.

'I wish our architects success at the national awards in October,' Mr Marsh said.

Quad Business Park wins national award



GPT Group's Victor Georos (centre) and Robert Hitchcock (left) receiving the Property Council of Australia's National Award for Business or Industrial Parks

The GPT Group's Quad Business Park has been recognised as one of Australia's leading business parks at the 2009 Property Council of Australia Awards.

Quad Business Park was the Overall Winner in the 2009 Property Council of Australia Innovation and Excellence Awards in the category of Business or Industrial Parks.

The award was presented to Victor Georos, Head of the GPT Industrial and Business Parks, and Robert Hitchcock, GPT's Development Manager for the Quad Business Park.

The Quad Business Park includes almost 23,000m² of A-grade office space across four buildings. Quad 1 opened before the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games and the final stage of the development, Quad 4, was completed in December 2007.

Quad 4 was the first speculative office in NSW to achieve a 5 Star Green Star Design for the base building and its strong environmental and design credentials were also recognised last year when the development won the 2008 Urban Taskforce Development Excellence Award for Commercial Development.

Development news

Master Plan update

Consideration of the draft Sydney Olympic Park Master Plan 2030 is progressing.

At the time of publication, the Department of Planning was finalising its report for the review of the Planning Minister, the Honourable Kristina Keneally MP.

Master Plan 2030 and the associated SEPP (Major Projects) Amendment No 20



and Infrastructure Contributions Framework sets out a blueprint for the continued sustainable development of Sydney Olympic Park over the next 21 years into an important urban centre of 28,500 workers, 14,000 residents, 5,000

students and around 20,000 daily visitors.

More information on the draft Master Plan is available at www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au

Strong demand for first residential development at the Park



There has been strong demand for apartments at Australia Towers, the first residential development at Sydney Olympic Park, according to Sue Ballesty from developer Billbergia.

'The demand for Australia Towers has been very strong with more than half of the apartments already sold,' Ms Ballesty said.

'This strong demand reflects the unique opportunity that Australia Towers offers people to live close to the magnificent parklands and sports and entertainment facilities of Sydney Olympic Park,' Ms Ballesty said.

Situated on Australia Avenue, the first stage of the development will include 216 apartments with a selection of one, two and three bedroom configurations. The ground floor will offer retail and cafe areas as well as a childcare centre.

Construction is scheduled to commence later this year, with a showroom opening at 2 Dawn Fraser Avenue in September.

For more information, visit www.australiatowers.com

New Executive Manager of Commonwealth Bank's campus

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia's Sydney Olympic Park campus has a 'new person' in charge of Precinct Operations, with the recent appointment of Cathy Johnston to the position of Executive Manager, Precinct Operations, Sydney Olympic Park.

Ms Johnston has been with the Commonwealth Bank for many years, and most recently has served in the role of Engagement & Events Manager in the Nova project team that supported 3,800 people for moves to Sydney Olympic Park.

Ms Johnston takes the reins from Matthew Turner, who has taken up the role of Executive Manager, Sustainability, for the CBA's property portfolio.



The CBA's Cathy Johnston and Matthew Turner

Event News

Taste of Origin a great success

A recent promotion introduced thousands of people to the new food options now available at Sydney Olympic Park.

Taste of Origin was an initiative of the NRL, Sydney Olympic Park Authority and Sydney Olympic Park Business Association under which restaurants, cafes and bars in Sydney Olympic Park offered discount vouchers and opened before and after the State of Origin II.

'The *Taste of Origin* was a great success that introduced thousands of people to the wide range of food choices now at Sydney Olympic Park,' said Sydney Olympic Park Authority CEO Alan Marsh.

'A wide range of restaurants, cafes and bars participated in *Taste of Origin* including HITHAI, Raw Cafe, Ribs and Rumps, Food Alert, Sushi & Rice, eateries at ANZ Stadium and Acer Arena and The Brewery hotel.

'The feedback was very positive and we are looking at opportunities to work with the Sydney Olympic Park Business Association and our food outlets on other similar initiatives,' Mr Marsh said.

Armory Exhibition 2009



Minister Perry, Minister Keneally, Minister Ferguson, Mayor Simms and Alan Marsh at the exhibition opening

An exhibition showcasing the works of Sydney Olympic Park artists was opened recently by the Minister for Planning Kristina Keneally.

The *Armory Exhibition 2009* includes more than 20 works by local, national and internationally renowned artists who have participated in Sydney Olympic Park Authority's residential arts program, *Artists at the Armory*.

'The *Armory Exhibition 2009* is a large-scale survey exhibition showcasing more than 20 works of emerging, mid-career and established artists, including some of Australia's most nationally and internationally respected practitioners,' said Ms Keneally.

'The common thread linking the artists is that they have participated in Sydney Olympic Park Authority's *Artists at the Armory* program at the historic Newington Armory.

'The historic Armory Precinct is the former site of a Royal Australian Navy Armament Depot and has been transformed into an arts precinct including gallery, theatre, outdoor amphitheatre and artist studios,' Ms Keneally said.

The *Artists at the Armory* program was established by Sydney Olympic Park Authority in 2006 to offer local, interstate and international artists the opportunity to live and work at the Armory for up to three months.

'More than 90 artists from over 15 countries have participated in *Artists at the Armory* program, which has ensured that there is a very strong arts and cultural dimension to the daily life of Sydney Olympic Park, complementing the precinct's sports and entertainment, education and parklands programs,' Ms Keneally said.

'The *Armory Exhibition 2009* celebrates Sydney Olympic Park's commitment to the visual arts, both in terms of quality public exhibitions and programs and the provision of affordable facilities for use by artists.

'Spanning site-specific sculpture, photo media and video installation through to painting, drawing and ceramics, the exhibition reflects the diverse and highly engaging contemporary practice of the Armory artists,' Ms Keneally said.

The *Armory Exhibition 2009* is open every weekend until 27 September.

For more information about the exhibition, visit www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au

Event News

Don't let the Games begin without you

The Sydney 2009 World Masters Games are the biggest event on Sydney's calendar this year.

The Games are the world's biggest multi-sport event, with 25,000 people from all over the world coming to Sydney to compete in 28 different sports.

All you need to do to enter the Games is meet your sport's age requirement, which ranges from between 25 and 35.

Registrations close at the end of July, so to make sure you don't miss out on the opportunity to be a part of history!

The last few months have seen some high profile sportspeople come on board to compete in the Games.

In October, Olympic gold medallists Daniel Kowalski (swimming), Simon Fairweather (archery) and Russell Mark (shooting) will all have the opportunity to relive their glory from the 2000 Games.

Kowalski, who keeps a blog on the Games website, is letting the world follow his progress as he aspires to come out of retirement and make a mark as a Masters swimmer.

Recently ANZ Stadium was announced as the venue for the Opening Ceremony of the Games. Competitors will have the chance to march into the stadium and will be entertained into the night by famous Australian performers. Attending the Opening Ceremony will be free, as are all Games events and information about obtaining tickets will be made available shortly.

For more information on the Games, visit www.2009worldmasters.com

Festival of Cycling 2009



Sydney Olympic Park is Sydney's premier recreational cycling destination and is again ready to set the wheels in motion for all things cycling with the Festival of Cycling 2009.

Now in its fifth year, the Festival of Cycling offers a weekend full of events and activities for all ages and fitness levels.

The 2009 Ramsay Health Care Triathlon Pink national triathlon series comes to Sydney on Saturday 26 September, and only at Sydney Olympic Park. This all-female event offers women and girls of all ages the chance to participate in the classic triple-sport combo of swimming, cycling and running, all in a safe, friendly and fun atmosphere.

The Festival of Cycling concludes on Sunday 27 September with Sydney's largest community bike ride, the City of Sydney Spring Cycle, which has start points at North Sydney, Blacktown, Liverpool or the new Blaxland Riverside Park within Sydney Olympic Park.

And whether you're an eager participant or cheering spectator, you can enjoy a great choice of food and beverages over the weekend and there's plenty of live entertainment on Sunday 27 September.

So get on your bike and gear up for two exciting days of pedal-power at Sydney Olympic Park!

ANZ Stadium to host third AC/DC concert due to strong demand

Before 9am on Monday 25 May, ANZ Stadium was scheduled to host one AC/DC performance in February 2010.

Within 15 minutes and 60,000 tickets sold, a second and third show were announced. Within 30 minutes the second was sold out and the third is well and truly on its way.

More than 130,000 tickets were sold by 2pm smashing Australian box office and Ticketek records, with hundreds and hundreds of fans queuing for overnight outside ticket outlets across Sydney to get their hands on the hottest ticket in town.

Promoter Garry Van Egmond said: 'We are overwhelmed at the ticket sales this morning as fans wrote AC/DC into the record books by smashing all Australian Box Office records! I can't think of a better way to welcome the boys back home.'

It will be the first time AC/DC, the greatest rock and roll band on the planet, has toured Australia since January 2001.

The band, which has sold over 200 million records worldwide, will be joined by Grammy and ARIA Award winning band Wolfmother.

Event News

Sydney's favourite school holidays program turns five



Kids in The Park turns five in July and new park users and regular customers are being invited to join us for our birthday celebrations, with over 40 activities to choose from.

Park venues will be getting into the party spirit with special touches to their usual programs, aimed to keep our visitors active, challenged and entertained with Sydney's biggest and best holiday fun program.

Visitors during July can choose from our usual great range of sports clinics, creative workshops and fun events, and there are some new and exciting additions for holiday fun.

Learn to play floorball, a fast-paced, low-contact team sport played indoors using lightweight plastic sticks and balls.

At Monster Academy, kids can develop essential skateboarding skills according to their proficiency levels, or they can rub shoulders with some of Australia's elite hockey players, who'll

be sharing hockey tips to aspiring players in the Hook in2 Hockey clinic.

For some real inspiration, kids can meet some of Australia's gold medal winning 'Rollers' paralympic team at a wheelchair basketball demonstration, trying out their wheeling and turning talents.

And there's almost endless other options, from digital film-making, circus skills, indoor soccer, swimming lessons and creative writing just to name a few.

Tashani Symons, aged 11, won a place in the Write Your Own Book workshop with this poem:

Kids in the park, laughing and playing
sprinklers swishing and spraying
Dogs barking, cars parking
birds tweeting, cats creeping.

Children running and having fun
Parents joining in with their young
Kids in the park spin around
while spreading happiness in a crowd.

Samsung Hockey Championships Trophy Women 2009

The Hockeyroos have re-established themselves as one of the top teams in the world after taking out the Silver Medal at the Samsung Hockey Championships Trophy Women 2009.

Argentina won the tournament after winning a nail biting penalty shoot out against the Hockeyroos 4-3 in the final.

Gracious in defeat, Australia captain and player of the tournament Madonna Blyth knew her team had done all they could in the tournament they never expected to win.

'I think there is initial disappointment, to be right up there and then lose in penalty strokes, but we will recognise that we have done really well and we achieved our goal coming into the tournament of playing good hockey and improving,' Ms Blyth said.

Blyth said the tournament had been huge experience for the young team.

'The experience of a tournament like this is invaluable,' Ms Blyth said. 'To have good competition everyday, you have to perform consistently... and if you want to be recognised as the best team in the world you have to do that.'

The Samsung Hockey Championships Trophy Women 2009 is the highlight of the 2009 world hockey women's calendar and featured the world's top six ranked hockey teams: Argentina, China, England, Germany, the Netherlands and Australia.

The tournament was held at the Sydney Olympic Park Hockey Centre between 11 and 19 July.

Events calendar

Sydney Olympic Park hosts almost 5,000 events each year. For the latest information on upcoming events, call 02 9714 7888 or visit www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au