

## Venues

Widely acknowledged as “the best Games ever”, the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games were the catalyst for the creation of Sydney Olympic Park. Although the Games have moved on, the legacy of the Park, with its extraordinary state-of-the-art sporting and event venues are now integral to the lifestyle of Sydney.

### Allphones Arena

- Allphones Arena (formely Acer Arena) is the largest indoor live entertainment and sporting arena in Australia and was opened in November 1999 after a construction period of 18 months. The venue has been acknowledged as equal to the finest indoor arenas in the world today.
- Allphones Arena consistently rates in the world’s top 10 most successful concert arenas and at the end of June 2011 was number two in the world after The O2 in London and ahead of Madison Square Garden (Venues Today, July 2011)
- The innovative and functional design of the main arena allows it the flexibility to adapt to a multitude of uses and the capability to quickly change between sporting and entertainment events. The venue has hosted a variety of events including rock concerts, arena musicals, tennis, basketball, supercross/dirt bikes, religious services, school spectaculars and banquets.
- Allphones Arena’s roof is insulated with old Yellow Pages™ telephone books and the building consists of:
  - 25,696m<sup>3</sup> of concrete, enough to fill eight and a half Olympic swimming pools
  - 1,884 tonnes of reinforcing steel, the weight of 339 adult African elephants
  - 25 kilometres of roof purlins (steel roofing beams) the distance from Parramatta to Sydney CBD; and
  - 1,235 tonnes of roof, the weight of three Boeing 747’s.
- One of the major venues to the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Allphones Arena hosted artistic gymnastics, trampoline, the basketball finals and wheelchair basketball.
- During the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, the athletes waited in Allphones Arena before entering the Stadium and were able to watch the proceedings on the big screens in the centre of the arena.
- Largest selling concert tour for Allphones Arena to date has been Metallica.

### ANZ Stadium

- ANZ Stadium hosts around 40 sporting events every year, attracting on average 1 million patrons; making it one of Australia’s busiest sports venues. Since commencing operation in 1999, more than 15 million people have attended events at the Stadium.
- Initially the Stadium had a seating capacity of more than 110,000, which made it the largest Olympic stadium in history and at that time the largest stadium in Australia.

- In 2002, an \$80 million reconfiguration reduced the Stadium's capacity from 110,000 to 83,500. The open tiered upper stands at the north and south ends of the Stadium were demolished and the lower stands were moved closer to the centre of the ground by 15 metres. Roofs over the north and south ends were completed by 2003.
- Over the years, the Stadium has hosted events such as cricket, NRL club games, State of Origin, NRL Grand Finals, 2010 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers, AFL club games, Rugby Union Super 14, Bledisloe Cup, the 2003 Rugby World Cup, World Masters Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Run4Fun, Football NSW Women's Grand Final and V8 Supercar Concerts – Cold Chisel and Guns n Roses. The Stadium has also hosted a number of global entertainment acts with great success including U2, The Rolling Stones, Andre Rieu, and AC/DC.
- ANZ Stadium can be reconfigured from oval to rectangular mode in just 12 hours making it the only stadium in the world which is designed to host five professional sporting codes - rugby league, rugby union, Australian rules, football and cricket.
- ANZ Stadium holds many records for the crowds attracted to sporting events including the largest Olympic crowd for a single session (110,000 people), world record crowds for rugby union and rugby league and Australian record crowds in soccer and State of Origin (NRL).
- ANZ Stadium's roof is equal in size to 115 tennis courts and it collects rain run off which is used to irrigate the playing field and flush toilets. Each roof arch is longer than the combined wingspan of four jumbo jets.
- Over 90,000 cubic metres of concrete and 10,000 tonnes of reinforcing steel were used to build the Stadium. If the 20,000 cement trucks used to deliver all the concrete were parked in a line, the queue would stretch from Sydney Olympic Park to Newcastle (158 kilometres).
- ANZ Stadium hosted the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Opening and Closing Ceremonies, and a wide range of events including the track and field program, the closing stages of the Marathon and the Olympic Games Gold Medal Soccer Final.

### **Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre**

- Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre has the largest visitation of any aquatic venue in New South Wales. Since opening in October 1994, the Centre has welcomed over 17 million visitors, participating in school sports carnivals and activities or for recreational purposes.
- The Aquatic Centre includes two Olympic-sized pools, a world-class health club, spas and a sauna and steam room. A water wonderland offers hours of enjoyment for children and adults including Splasher's water playground, five spas, sauna, steam room, rapid river ride, spray jets, spurting volcanoes and giant water slide. There is a leisure garden and a circus arts trapeze school.
- The training pool has the world's largest moveable floor and can be varied from 0 metres to 2.5 metres in depth.
- The Aquatic Centre was originally built to seat 4,000 people, however during the Olympic Games the seating capacity was temporarily increased to 17,500. Given the popularity of swimming in Australia, the seating capacity is now 8,000.
- The Aquatic Centre has the largest swim school in New South Wales with more than 4,000 students per term and more than 1,200 people members of its Health Club.

Between January and April each year, the competition pool hosts in excess of 90 school swimming carnivals.

- The Aquatic Centre is home to a number of NSW Institute of Sport coaching programs including diving, water polo and swimming, and each year hosts numerous state, national and international events.
- The Aquatic Centre offers unique event facilities including pool side gala dinners, cocktail parties, conferences, exhibitions, meetings and teambuilding.
- The Aquatic Centre hosted the swimming, diving, synchronised swimming and water polo events at the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

### **Sydney Olympic Park Archery Centre**

- Sydney Olympic Park Archery Centre runs a variety of programs aimed at school students, corporate groups, beginners and casual archers as well as higher performance advanced coaching.
- The Archery Centre features a new sporting field for general sporting activities.
- The Archery Centre is an example of ecologically sustainable development where the buildings were constructed from recycled and recyclable materials, including all the steel work, and are naturally ventilated and lit. The roof is the longest piece of Colourbond steel and the walls are made up of recycled timber. The poles holding the roof up are in the design of arrows.
- The 6.5 hectare Archery Centre site is surrounded by natural mangrove wetlands and two sculptural 'pole forests' made from 185 recycled timber electricity poles. The idea of the pole forest grew from the desire to place trees in the landscape, and to evoke a sense of the forest, with the sport of archery. However, the soil and site conditions did not allow this, and so the idea of recycling dead trees i.e. the telegraph poles, into a sculptural forest element to embrace the site was born.
- The Archery Centre was the venue of archery competition during the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and today continues to host community, state and national competitions.

### **Sydney Olympic Park Athletic Centre**

- Built to Olympic and International Accredited Athletic Federation standards, Sydney Olympic Park Athletic Centre has hosted the Grand Prix, the Sydney Marathon, the National Championships, World Masters Games and the World Junior Championships.
- The two-arena complex is used almost daily for school carnivals through to training and competition for elite track and field events.
- As a flexible multi-purpose facility, the venue hosts various sporting programs including soccer clinics and elite soccer matches.
- Able to cater for large crowds, the Sydney Olympic Park Athletic Centre also hosts a number of community events, such as Bengali Fair and the India Australia Friendship Fair.
- The Athletic Centre was opened in 1994 by Betty Cuthbert, known as Australia's Golden Girl. The main stand, which seats 5,000, is named after her.

- During the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, the Athletic Centre was used as the warm up track for the athletic events that took place in the Olympic Stadium. There is a tunnel that joins the Athletic Centre to the Stadium, which allowed athletes to move freely between the two venues.

### **Sydney Olympic Park Golf Centre**

- The Sydney Olympic Park Golf Centre includes 60 undercover golf driving bays, a short game area (for putting and chipping), a sand bunker, an 18-hole Mini-Golf course, golf academy and fitting centre, an on-site golf shop, and function room.
- The Golf Centre caters for all levels of golf expertise and conducts golf clinics with professional (PGA) instructors. The Golf Centre offers junior golf clinics for children aged between 3 and 14 years, and runs tuition programs for local school children.
- The driving range sits on a large area of remediated land and has been identified as an area for future playing fields for the community.
- During the Games, this area was used by spectators and sponsors to watch the Games on the big screens, it was reconfigured and reopened as the Golf Centre in November 2002.

### **Sydney Olympic Park Hockey Centre**

- Upgraded in 1998, the Sydney Olympic Park Hockey Centre is now one of the world's top hockey venues.
- The Hockey Centre is a training and competition venue for players of all levels ranging from school teams to world-class athletes. There are two water based synthetic pitches, seating for up to 4,000 spectators and all of the facilities needed for major international tournaments.
- In 2008, both pitches were upgraded to the new POLIGRAS Olympia 2008 (FIH Approved) surface, which is the same surface used at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Green Hockey Centre.
- The Hockey Centre houses the offices of Hockey NSW and the NSW Institute of Sport's hockey program.
- The curved roof, which looks like a sail, sits 25 metres above the ground and is suspended from a 41 metre high mast. This innovative design means there are no columns above the seating platform, so all spectators get an uninterrupted view of the action on the field.
- The Hockey Centre hosted the men's and women's hockey and Paralympic football during the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

### **Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre**

- The Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre is designed to meet the needs of a multitude number of different indoor sports and is ideally suited for concerts, conferences, exhibitions, dinners and cocktail parties.
- The Sports Centre incorporates two interconnected event spaces: the Main Arena and the Hall of Legends, both of which are fitted with timber floors and flexible draping. The 2,166 m<sup>2</sup> Main Arena has fixed and retractable tiered seating and can cater for a wide variety of events and audiences, from 500 to 5,000 people.

- The Hall of Champions is a museum and sporting hall of fame and gives visitors a glimpse into Australia's rich sporting history. Established in 1979, medals, plaques, trophies, sashes and Olympic memorabilia highlighting achievements of more than 336 athletes in 50 sports are displayed.
- Since its opening in 1984, the Sports Centre has hosted virtually every type of indoor event imaginable, from Sydney's first big-league basketball matches to conferences, dinners, rock concerts and even a State election tally-room.
- During the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, table tennis and taekwondo were held at the Sports Centre. Taekwondo achieved Olympic status for the first time in 2000 and Australia's Lauren Burns won a gold medal in the sport.

### **Sydney Olympic Park Sports Halls**

- The Sydney Olympic Park Sports Halls comprise of two large halls of over 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> each and a smaller martial arts hall.
- The Sports Halls are the state training venue for Volleyball NSW, Badminton NSW, Handball NSW, Table Tennis NSW and Judo NSW. The multi-purpose halls are also suitable for indoor soccer, netball and various martial arts.
- The East Hall has a sprung timber floor and accommodates volleyball, handball, indoor soccer and netball. The smaller North Hall has two Olympic competition judo mats on a raised podium for judo and other martial arts. The West Hall has a sprung plastic 'Pulastic' floor throughout and is suitable for badminton, table tennis and volleyball.
- Boccia was played at the Sports Halls during the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games. During the Olympic Games, it was the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games Superstore.

### **Sydney Olympic Park Tennis Centre**

- The Sydney Olympic Park Tennis Centre hosts the world-renowned annual Sydney International tennis tournament and is home to Tennis NSW, the Australian Tennis Museum, the NSW State Academy, as well as Tennis Australia's National Academy Sydney.
- The Tennis Centre offers 16 plexicushion championship courts and two clay courts, which are available for hire to the general public and for programs to meet the needs of all tennis enthusiasts regardless of their age and ability. The Centre has room to increase the number of courts to 20 if required.
- The Tennis Centre runs healthy active kids programs including Phizz Kids for 2.5 to 7 year olds and Aussie Mozzie for kids 5-7 years.
- The Centre Court main arena was built so as not to create shadows; 70 per cent of seating is covered; there are unimpeded views from every seat; and court lighting has been integrated into the roof, removing the need for separate lighting pylons. There is a natural air-conditioning system, the first of its kind in a structure so large. It is one of the steepest international stadium in the world with a rise of 30 degrees. Height creates intimacy so even people in the back row are never more than 45 metres away from the action on the court. Centre Court itself is underground, with special air vents that push cool air from around the stadium onto the court. The capacity of the main arena is 10,500. The design is based on courts at Wimbledon which prevent wind blow.
- Visitors approach the Tennis Centre down the tree-lined Olympic Boulevard and enter by bridges through a Casuarina grove on the banks of Boundary Creek. The public art project

by Janet Laurence “In the shadows” is located in boundary creek and celebrates the remediation of Sydney Olympic Park.

- The Tennis Centre was built on the site of Homebush Bay’s former softball facility. A racecourse existed on the site prior to 1825 and it was the home of the Australian Jockey Club between 1841 and 1869

## **Sydney Showground**

- Sydney Showground consists of over 30 hectares, 20 pavilions and 100,000 m<sup>2</sup> of space for hire.
- Sydney Showground includes the Main Arena, which is oval shaped and currently being refurbished to increase its seating from 13,000 to 25,000 by 2012. The Main Arena is ideal for concerts and festivals, sporting events and entertainment.
- In 2012 Sydney Showground will play host to the new Australian Football League (AFL) team, Greater Western Sydney Giants, home ground matches.
- The Dome and Exhibition complex, within the Sydney Showground is 22,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The four exhibition halls can be configured as one uninterrupted 312 metre long space, which is equivalent to more than three football fields. The timber-framed Dome is 97 metres in diameter and was built on the ground before being gradually lifted to a height of 42 metres. The use of plantation softwood timber beams in the roof structure was a key element in creating the building’s character, as well as being consistent with Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) principles. The complex’s 42 metre-high domed main hall proved to be the most practical design to meet the Olympic requirement for a single area which seats 10,000 people around a performance space. A ‘displacement’ or ‘chilled beam’ air-conditioning system operates in the Dome meaning better air quality and lower energy requirements.
- Sydney Showground is home to the Sydney Royal Easter Show, a hallmark event where ‘the country comes to the city’ to celebrate the finest livestock, produce and talent. It attracts close to 1 million people over a two week period every year. The Sydney Royal Easter Show is the biggest annual event in the southern hemisphere and the fifth largest agricultural show in the world.
- Sydney Showground hosted baseball, basketball, handball, modern pentathlon, badminton, rhythmic gymnastics and volleyball as well as media and corporate hospitality during the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

## **Monster Skatepark**

- Monster Skatepark is the only international standard indoor/outdoor ramp set up in Australia. It has an indoor street course and outdoor vert and mini ramps as well as a shop and cafe.
- Designed and built by riders for riders, Monster Skatepark caters for the needs of riders of all skill levels and riding tastes. The Skatepark offers Ride with a Pro clinics, school PDHPE and school holiday programs and is also home to a range of regional, national and international action sports events.

## **Monster BMX**

- Monster BMX offers 306 metres of dirt jumps and bends designed for both the freestyler and racer, from beginners through to professionals alike. Monster BMX is the perfect place to learn and practice.

- The Monster BMX facility was built in consultation with national, state and local club associations of BMX and some of Australia's top BMX riders helped shape the final design.

### **Monster MountainX**

- The Monster MountainX facility is a world-class mountain cross facility comprising 250 metres of meandering downhill dirt jumps and turns.
- The facility was built in consultation with the national, state and local club associations of Mountain Bike and involved some of Australia's top mountain cross riders in shaping the final facility.

### **WatervieW in Bicentennial Park**

- Located in beautiful Bicentennial Park, WatervieW in Bicentennial Park consists of five function rooms catering to over 800 guests for a banquet and 1,500 guests for cocktail events. The venue offers a 1,228 m<sup>2</sup> pillarless convention centre with natural light and full black out facilities.
- An undercover surrounding balcony over looking Lake Belvedere and peaceful parklands is ideal for conference registration or breakout sessions.
- The venue also is complimented by 220-seater café, Lilies on the Park.
- The venue is used for all types of special events including business events, weddings, school formals, birthdays and christenings.