Year in review
With 640 hectares of parks, gardens, playgrounds, car parks, public space, and with nearly $2 billion worth of infrastructure, the Park is a big place. The ever increasing number of annual events and visitors means that maintaining the Park is a massive task.

The Authority's maintenance team oversees more than 100 contractors to ensure that the Park meets the needs of the many millions of people who pass through each year.

Key areas of work include keeping the Park clean, ensuring that the paving, sidewalks and seating are well maintained and that the Park’s signage is effectively meeting the needs of visitors. In the Park’s green spaces, the maintenance of the Park’s landscaping, irrigation infrastructure, the Park’s trees and shrubs and playground equipment is a year round job.

At a practical level, the typical weekly maintenance routine across the precinct includes: mowing grass in parks and sports areas; collecting litter and recycling waste after events; sweeping paths and roadways; keeping building systems (lighting, air-conditioning, fire alarms, toilets, etc) working; repairing potholes in roads and cycle ways; trimming trees and shrubs; watering and mulching gardens; replacing street lights; repairing way finding signage; removing weeds and pests; keeping recycled water supplies flowing and much more.

Another growing issue is dealing with the larger numbers of people using the Park. This brings more wear and tear, partly from daily use, partly from urban issues such as vandalism and graffiti and partly from incidents such as vehicle accidents where Park infrastructure is damaged.

Despite these varied challenges, the Authority's maintenance teams work hard to ensure that the Park’s presentation more than meets the standards the public has come to expect from Sydney Olympic Park.
A-League team match-up is Sydney Showground first

A-League soccer clubs Central Coast Mariners and Sydney FC met in a Pre-season Trial on Saturday 17 July, making another first for the Park.

This was the first time that Sydney Showground’s Main Arena had played host to a major soccer match.

Originally built as the site of the Baseball competition during the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, the Main Arena is more usually known as the home of the annual Royal Easter Show’s Grand Parade, where animals are the stars, not footballers.

The versatile stadium, which can hold up to 13,000 fans, is also the site of major music festivals such as the Big Day Out, and also plays host to events as diverse as bull riding and equestrian events.

The game, which provided valuable pre-season match practice for both teams in the lead-up to the A-League’s 2010–11 season, was a hard fought affair that ended in a 2-all draw.

The game was deemed a success by both clubs and the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW, who manages the Showground precinct, highlighting the versatility of the Main Arena as a sporting and entertainment venue.

Kids in the Park number one and growing

Sydney Olympic Park’s outstanding school holiday activity program, Kids in the Park, turned six in 2010 and continues to grow.

Now comprising more than 50 activities for children of ages 3 to 17, Kids in the Park is Australia’s largest and most diverse school holiday activity program and continues to provide a range of programs to suit every kid, every interest and every budget.

The program sprawls across the vast 640-hectare Sydney Olympic Park site, utilising the majority of the venues and outdoor spaces and about 30 Park stakeholders from the Tennis Centre to the Armory, Cathy Freeman Park to the Archery Centre and from Bicentennial Park to the Aquatic Centre.

Kids in the Park isn’t just about keeping children occupied in the school holidays, more recent programs have been implemented to teach life skills such as the writing workshops, helping kids express themselves through their writing.

More physical challenges are also catered for, with action sports aplenty at Monster Skatepark and BMX / MountainX track. Here budding skateboard and BMX stars can get tuition from professional instructors in a safe and structured environment, in the best such facility in Australia.

The Kids in the Park program provides kids of all ages with the opportunity to stretch and grow, to develop their confidence, their life skills and their social skills in a fun and safe environment; one that thousands of parents look forward to every school holidays.
Much goes into ensuring that any event at the Park is a safe and enjoyable one.

In addition to ensuring, in conjunction with the venue, that all events meet applicable safety and security concerns, the Authority works closely with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure that an event to remember is remembered for the right reasons.

Some of the biggest events revolve around ANZ Stadium, as the Park’s largest venue and home to NRL Grand Finals, Bledisloe Cup matches, AFL games and major concert events.

In the weeks leading up to a major event, Sydney Olympic Park Authority event specialists meet with key stakeholders, including the venue management, the event organiser (eg NRL, concert promoter), State emergency services, traffic and transport authorities to ensure that the event will run smoothly.

Key tasks involve scheduling additional bus and train services to and from the Park, alerting the media to get the traffic and transport messages out to the public, ensuring that all car parks are available and managed throughout the night, arranging temporary additional food and entertainment options for patrons on the night, ensuring adequate security is on-site and that the event is as smooth, unobtrusive and seamless as possible.

For a major event the Authority can have over 100 staff in attendance, a mix of full time and contract staff, to manage traffic, the flow of cars through the Park’s seven car parks, the food and entertainment outside ANZ Stadium and managing the numerous issues involved when more than 80,000 patrons gather in the Park.

The entire event, support is coordinated and directed from a purpose-built Operations Centre which also is linked to the RTA’s Traffic Management Centre and police headquarters. Reports from staff are backed up by coverage from over 100 closed circuit TV cameras located throughout the town centre, allowing for an immediate response to any problems that may arise.

Security is paramount, with the Park’s Rangers joined by event security staff, State rail transit officers and NSW Police Service personnel to ensure that the event is a safe and successful one, something the Sydney Olympic Park Authority events team undertakes thousands of times every year, for events large and small.
33 Year in review

The NSW Hall of Champions, located at the Sports Centre, sees four sporting legends inducted into the Hall, including six times Olympian Andrew Hoy (Equestrian), Dean Mercer (Surf Lifesaving), Catriona Wagg (Netball) and Kerry Junna-Saxby (Athletics).

Billboard magazine announces that Acer Arena is one of the world’s most profitable venues, ranking third just behind London’s O2 and New York’s Madison Square Garden in ticket sales.

The 16th India-Australia Friendship Fair, one of the largest gatherings of Indians outside the sub-continent, with more than 11,000 participants, is held at the Athletics Centre, featuring concerts, dancing, food and cultural displays.

Rangers in the front line of Park safety

Sydney Olympic Park sprawls over 640 hectares, covering public parks, urban areas and environmentally sensitive areas. Ensuring that these diverse areas are safe and secure for the Park’s many millions of annual visitors is the role of the Authority’s Rangers.

In their familiar small four-wheel drive vehicles, they patrol the Park, ensuring that public safety is preserved, that the environment is protected and visitors enjoy their time in the Park. For many Park visitors, the Rangers are their first contact with the Authority, providing directions, information, assistance and a sense of security.

Key aspects of their role include patrolling and monitoring public spaces, flagging natural hazards and maintenance issues for the Authority’s repair and maintenance teams and securing these areas to ensure that issues don’t become incidents.

For major event days, they manage traffic through the Park and direct the crowds of event patrons to and from the venues. The Rangers are often the first on the scene of traffic and other incidents in the Park, working with emergency services to ensure that incident scenes are safely managed to avoid further incident and minimise impacts on Park patrons.

They also work to ensure that vehicles are parked safely, where they should be, and that all of the Park’s patrons have equitable access to the Park’s limited on-street parking areas.

In their roles as Park ambassadors, the Rangers provide one of the key public faces of the Authority, making sure the Park remains safe and secure, a job they carry out 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Park’s Sea-Eagles star in reality TV show

A pair of Sea-Eagles nesting in the Newington Nature Reserve delivered the Park’s latest temporary residents, two chicks which have grown up starring in their own reality TV show, dubbed ‘EagleCam’.

For the second year in a row, the breeding pair of White-bellied Sea-Eagles took up residence in the Park.

In 2009, a single hatchling was successfully raised to the point where it could leave the nest and set out to establish its own territory. Returning in 2010, the pair laid two eggs in late June, with the chicks emerging in the first week of August, departing the nest in early October and finally setting off to establish their own territories early in February.

The Sea-Eagles anxiously brought up their offspring, 15 metres above the ground, unaware that other eyes were also watching. Sydney Olympic Park Authority and Birds Australia had set up video cameras to study the Sea-Eagles close up without disturbing them.

The use of cameras allowed the Park’s Rangers to watch the Sea-Eagles as they went about incubating the eggs and raising both chicks to the point they can leave the nest, with images and video streamed to thousands of visitors who watched the action live from the Birds Australia Discovery Centre in Newington Armory.

The Athletics Centre hosts a series of School and Zone Athletics carnivals starting with the Redlands Junior School Carnival, which brought more than 30,000 students to compete in the Park in August alone.

Over seven days of competition, Australia’s best waterpolo players battle out the 2010 Australian Waterpolo Tournament at the Aquatic Centre.

The 16th India-Australia Friendship Fair, one of the largest gatherings of Indians outside the sub-continent, with more than 11,000 participants, is held at the Athletics Centre, featuring concerts, dancing, food and cultural displays.
September 2010

Olympic commemoration harks back to ‘best Games ever’

Sydney Olympic Park was once again the focus for Olympic ceremonies a decade on from the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Games on 15 September, the Australian Olympic and Paralympic Committees, the NSW Government and Sydney Olympic Park Authority combined to present a series of events highlighting the Games.

A key component was a schools event connecting students today with the ethos of the Games, with a ceremonial entry into ANZ Stadium followed by an event at the Athletics Centre where students were teamed with Olympic and Paralympic athletes in a number of Olympic sports.

A series of plaques celebrating Olympic achievement were ceremonially unveiled throughout the day, including three in the Overflow, to athletes Cathy Freeman, Louise Sauvage and former International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch, who uttered the immortal words “I am proud and happy to proclaim that you have presented to the world the best Olympic Games ever”.

A fourth plaque, located on Olympic Boulevard, honouring the upcoming London 2012 Games, was unveiled by London Organising Committee chairman Lord Sebastian Coe live on English breakfast television.

The world-renowned Sydney 2000 volunteers were also honoured at a reunion ‘sausage sizzle’ at the Showground Main Arena followed by a concert in The Overflow, which was formally renamed Cathy Freeman Park during the evening.

Almost 15,000 people participated in the day’s events, which were brought to a close with the formal relighting of the Cauldron by Louise Sauvage and Cathy Freeman, reprising their respective roles during the Olympic and Paralympic Games, followed by a formal dinner at ANZ Stadium for Olympians and officials.

Ten years on, the spirit and legacy of the Games lives on in Sydney Olympic Park.
Olympic art in keeping with Park’s artistic endeavours

A key component of the Park’s Olympic heritage is the public art commissioned to coincide with the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The most prominent works include The Attractor in Cathy Freeman Park, Discobolus in Stockroute Park and the numerous water features that grace the town centre.

In keeping with the Park’s artistic heritage, two new artworks were commissioned to coincide with the 10th anniversary celebrations: Arc de Triomphe Individuel and Thunderbolt.

Arc de Triomphe Individuel, by artist Gary Deirmendjian, located in the Yulang at the western end of Olympic Park Railway Station, is inspired by the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. Rather than celebrating war, however, it exalts individual triumph and human effort, and honours the Olympic ethos.

The other artwork, Thunderbolt, by Bonita Ely, is located in Jacaranda Square. Made from a recycled windmill, the sculpture’s nocturnal lighting changes colour, reflecting energy use in the surrounding suburbs, providing a visual reminder of the importance of sustainable energy, a key value of the ‘Green Games’.

Both pieces were installed for the 10th anniversary and will remain in place for some time after the celebrations.

School students experience the Olympic dream

As part of the wider 10th anniversary celebrations across the Park, 1,200 students from 22 schools from all over Sydney helped commemorate the anniversary of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

On the morning of 15 September, ANZ Stadium played host to a ceremonial entrance by each participating school, evoking the memory of the Olympic opening ceremony, held on the same spot a decade previously.

Upon arrival, the schools were greeted by a number of dignitaries, including the Premier, Olympic representatives and other VIPs.

Following the arrival ceremony it was off to the Athletics Centre for several hours of sports activities with an Olympic-related theme. These activities covered a range of sports, under the guidance and supervision of Australian Olympians and Paralympians.

Students learned the stories behind individual athletes’ commitments to excellence and sporting success while overcoming adversity.

The schools participation was an initiative of the Authority’s education and events teams, who liaised with the participating schools, the Australian Olympic Committee and the Australian Paralympic Committee, to deliver a successful event worthy of the 10th anniversary’s significance.

Based on the enthusiastic responses from students, teachers and the athletes themselves, it quickly became apparent that the event had been a success beyond the expectations of even the organisers, a fitting tribute to the spirit of competition and friendliness that marked the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Sydney Olympic Park is confirmed as the host for one of 2011’s largest business events, the Amway China incentive event, which will bring almost 10,000 Amway China delegates to the Park for a round of conferences and banquets in January.

More than 6,000 people attend an Athletics All Stars event at the Athletics Centre, featuring Olympic sprint champion Usain Bolt and a number of high profile participants from across sporting codes.

Metallica set a new Acer Arena ticket record for tickets sold for an act performing over consecutive nights, selling out 70,000 tickets for four concerts, eclipsing the previous record set by Britney Spears in November 2009.

The NRL Preliminary Final at ANZ Stadium sees the St George Illawarra Dragons overcome West Tigers 13–12 in a hard fought contest in front of 71,000 fans.
October 2010

Pedal power in the Park

The Festival of Cycling 2010 hosted two of Sydney’s most popular cycling events, the Spring Cycle and the Triathlon Pink, in the Park’s town centre.

The City of Sydney’s Spring Cycle is Sydney’s most popular annual recreational cycling event, attracting over 9,000 people of all ages and abilities onto two wheels to take part. Riders from across Sydney converge on the Park, following two routes that culminate on Olympic Boulevard at Cathy Freeman Park.

The longer route from North Sydney takes a 50km route over the Sydney Harbour Bridge, while the shorter 30km route follows the Cooks River before turning north towards the Park.

Not a race, the event is a community participation event, where all participants receive a medal for finishing. Upon arrival in the Park, riders were able to sample a wide variety of cuisines available throughout the area while enjoying a free concert in Cathy Freeman Park.

The Park’s association with the Spring Cycle goes back for many years, with attendances generally rising over the years since the first Festival of Cycling in 2005.

The Triathlon Pink adds to the Festival of Cycling with an all female triathlon for all ages and abilities. The run, swim and cycle event utilises the Aquatic Centre and surrounding roads of the Park. This signature event has also seen increasing attendance levels with additional elements planned for 2011.
NRL Grand Final tests Park’s capabilities

If you drop 90,000 people into almost anywhere in Australia it would struggle to cope, the only places that wouldn’t struggle would be those few designed to handle massive crowd numbers.

The Melbourne Cricket Ground for one, Sydney’s Darling Harbour would be another; however, the best place to deal with crowd numbers like that is Sydney Olympic Park, which handles massive crowd numbers repeatedly and successfully many times every year.

Designed from the start to handle massive crowds safely and to allow rapid entry and exit via public transport and private cars, the Park is Australia’s pre-eminent venue for massive public events. Several times a year the Park hosts more than 100,000 people in the precinct, safely and securely.

In total, almost 85,000 fans crowded into ANZ Stadium to watch the Roosters defeated by the Dragons, with visitor numbers bolstered by visitors to the Park’s other venues and Parklands, plus the many Authority and venue staff working to ensure the day went smoothly.

Thus it was that while the 3 October NRL Grand Final was a major day for the NRL and the fans of both the Dragons and the Roosters, it was just another major event day for the Park and the Authority.

Operation Art targets sick kids from The Children’s Hospital at Westmead

More than 700 artworks created by school students for the sick kids of The Children’s Hospital at Westmead went on show during October’s Operation Art at the Armory Gallery.

Operation Art featured artworks created by school children, a selection of which were chosen to grace the walls of The Children’s Hospital at Westmead, helping to bring light into the life of a lot of seriously ill children.

The Armory Gallery played host to over 700 artworks, the largest single exhibition ever held at the Gallery, covering a vast array of styles and mediums. The artworks, which are characterised by their bright colour palette and cheerful subject matter, were on show over three weeks from 9 to 31 October and attracted more than 5,000 visitors.

Fifty individual artworks were selected from the 700 on show to hang on the walls of the Art Gallery of NSW and The Children’s Hospital at Westmead.

2010 marked the 16th year of Operation Art and the first year that it has been presented at Sydney Olympic Park.

7

The Australian Event Awards, the pinnacle awards program for the events industry in Australia, are held at the Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre, in the first year of a three year deal that will see the Awards held at Acer Arena in 2011 and Sydney Showground in 2012.

15

Acer Arena is awarded the coveted Caterer of the Year and Venue Caterer at the Catering NSW Metropolitan Awards for Excellence. This is the second consecutive time Acer Arena has been honoured with the prestigious Venue Caterer award and the third time in the last six years. Similarly, this is the second time Acer Arena has been awarded Caterer of the Year, the first time was in 2004.

21

NSW Institute of Sport and the Authority open new facilities within a heritage building on Newington Wharf to support the NSWIS High Performance Rowing Team. The facilities include a storage shed for the Centre’s rowing skiffs, plus a dedicated rowing pontoon to allow crew to enter and exit their low-lying craft safely.

23

Ben Hur, the Stadium Spectacular transforms ANZ Stadium into the Roman Coliseum complete with chariot race to retell the story of Ben Hur, the slave who defied the might of the Roman Empire, in front of more than 44,000 patrons.
On Saturday, 22 November, the Government formally announced that Blaxland Riverside Park would be the site for a $7.7 million ‘mega’ regional play space facility. The new play space is to be located on an elevated site affording views over the Parramatta River and historic Newington Armory and set across three hectares in Blaxland Riverside Park.

The playground will be progressively opened to the public from late April 2011 and be fully completed by early 2012. The play environment has been designed for all ages and abilities and will provide opportunities for parental participation in mixed age and abilities play and will further position the Park’s role as a family favourite destination.

Key features of the new playground will include 12 different play environments such as:

- mega-swing, viking swing, spinning disc, scramble wall and double flying fox;
- 250m² ‘Water Plaza’ play area with interactive splash and spray pads;
- riverview Tree House with elevated bridges and rope tunnels;
- junior play area and sand pit;
- mound and tunnel slides; and
- vortex net play climbing structure suitable for group play.

The upgrade will also incorporate an additional 120 car parking spaces, amenities blocks, shade structures and extensive new picnic facilities.

The upgrade will triple Blaxland Riverside Park’s capacity from 1,600 people to being able to accommodate up to 4,800 visitors per day.
Giants reveal their true colours

On 16 November, the AFL’s newest team announced the name that thousands of fans will be screaming in the Sydney Showground Main Arena, from the start of season 2012.

The home game match venue of the Greater Western Sydney Giants, Sydney Showground played host to more than 900 guests, supporters and the who’s who of AFL as the long awaited team name, colours and logo were made public.

The Giants will play their Sydney home games at the Showground Main Arena, to be renamed Skoda Stadium on game days. The Main Arena is being upgraded to increase capacity from 13,000 to 25,000, together with a range of other improvements, as part of a $65 million upgrade project to accommodate the Giants.

The Giants unveiled their name, their logo, a stylised ‘G’ and their team colours, orange, charcoal and white, with NSW Blue to feature in the away jumpers.

As the first AFL team to be born in Sydney, following the Swans’ relocation from Melbourne to Sydney in 1982, the Giants will carry the hopes and aspirations of the more than 2 million people of the Greater Western Sydney area into the 2012 AFL competition.

And they will do so at a home ground located at the gateway to Western Sydney, Sydney Olympic Park.

Thousands pound the Park’s pavement in the Run4Fun

The second annual Run4Fun was held in the Park on Sunday, 7 November, attracting almost 10,000 participants.

The Park’s events team was closely involved, designing the course route and managing the event’s impact on the day.

Preliminary work included designing and implementing the traffic management plan to ensure a safe event for runners with as little disruption to motorists as possible and liaising with police and transport agencies.

Another key area involved the Authority’s community relations team working with the Park’s retailers and other stakeholders to ensure the message got out and the impact of street closures and event logistics was minimised.

The event ran smoothly, with event organisers very pleased with the turnout and looking to an even bigger event in 2011.

Almost 4,000 nurses attend a major event at the Sports Centre, to discuss future campaigns on patient/staff ratios and other matters of concern to nurses.
December brought a very big school year to a close for the Authority’s education team, with the last school group, 157 students from Haberfield Public School, visiting the Education Centre at Bicentennial Park on 13 December.

The Park’s already stellar reputation within the education sphere for high quality, curriculum-based education programs continues to build, as demonstrated by the growth in the numbers of schools and students making their way to the Park.

In 2010, the Park played host to 333 primary and secondary schools from both government and non-government systems, in total some 1,100 classes comprising almost 25,000 students.

Drawn to the Park’s hands-on environmental education courses, students undertake excursion programs centred on the Newington Armory and the Badu Mangrove wetlands, a unique resource for understanding the interplay of species in their natural environment.

Amongst the diverse range of programs on offer for students of all levels, the most popular were the Year 2 program covering ‘Human Society in its Environment’ and the Year 8 Geography Program, both of which make full use of the Park’s diverse ecosystems and natural assets.

The Authority’s education team comprises 17 teaching staff, with expertise across science and environmental fields, who teach over 30 different programs throughout the year. This is in addition to supporting the delivery of significant education events such as Science in the Suburbs and ARTEXPRESS, the Higher School Certificate students’ art exhibition at Newington Armory.

The Sydney Olympic Park Education Centre at Bicentennial Park and the Ausgrid Education Centre, in the Armory precinct, serve as launching pads into the outdoors and in particular the fascinating 175 hectares of wetlands that can be discovered onsite. The Authority’s environmental education programs provide access to the ‘living classroom’ that these carefully managed wetlands represent.

Education is a key tool in understanding and tackling climate change, with the Authority’s education team in the front line, delivering high quality programs to thousands of students every year. Based on their successes achieved so far, the number of classes and students passing through the Park can only continue to grow.
Artists in residence program continues to grow

The Authority actively supports the arts community through the provision of facilities for artists at Newington Armory.

The Artists at the Armory program provides recognised artists with the opportunity to create innovative new artwork while living at the Newington Armory precinct. Local artists can also hire studio space to pursue their arts practices.

More than 40 artists have taken advantage of the Artists at the Armory program in 2010–11, utilising a wide variety of workshops and facilities within the Armory including painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, metalworking and woodworking.

Some of the artworks produced have featured at exhibitions held within the Park including Memory Flows, while others, such as Sitting Hen, by South Korean artist Tae-Geun Yang, found wider recognition at acclaimed exhibitions such as Sculpture by the Sea.

U2 360° tour brings Park’s massive event year to a close

Irish rockers U2 celebrated 30 years since the release of their first album by bringing their acclaimed 360° tour to Sydney Olympic Park, performing over two nights before massive crowds at ANZ Stadium.

The 360° stages, nicknamed ‘The Claw’, are the largest and most complex concert sets to ever tour Australia, requiring ships, a fleet of trucks and six 747 freighter aircraft to transport across the nation. U2 provided a sensational finale to a big year for major events at the Park, heralded by AC/DC’s Black Ice Tour in February. Other major events included the NRL Final series, Bledisloe Cup, the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games 10th anniversary celebrations and a huge array of some of the world's top entertainment acts.

The success of the U2 concerts was also in part due to the hard work of the ANZ Stadium and Authority events teams, who were busy handling the massive crowds, plus the logistics of getting the mammoth stage into the Park and out again afterwards.

Once again, the Park has proven to be the place to be for Australia’s biggest concert events.

Equitana, the largest equine event in the Southern Hemisphere, is confirmed as coming to the Park over four days in November 2011. The event, to be held in the Sydney Showground, will combine dressage, jumping and a range of other events.

The best of the State’s Taekwondo practitioners take part in the NSW State Championships – Sparring at the Sports Centre.

Fan favourites The Wiggles deliver an early Christmas present to their legions of young followers, with three days of sell-out concerts at Acer Arena.

More than 450 Jewish athletes from around the world compete in a variety of sports at the 2nd Maccabi Australia International Games, held at the Aquatic, Athletics and Sports Centres between 26 December and 2 January.
Thousands of Amway China members descended on Sydney Olympic Park for a fortnight-long round of conferences, banquets and activities, worth more than $42 million to the New South Wales economy, from 16 to 18 January.

In total, over 8,000 delegates in four waves visited Sydney Olympic Park, in particular centred on Acer Arena for business sessions and Sydney Showground, which hosted delegate gala event dinners.

The event’s economic contribution to the State’s economy is calculated at more than $42 million, a small part of the overall economic contribution to NSW made by events within Sydney Olympic Park. This contribution comes in many forms, including some that might surprise.

This included serving meals for thousands of people daily, including a buffet banquet at Acer Arena. Acer Arena used a vast amount of food across the four waves of guests, including 1.2 tons of beef, 1.3 tons of pork and 1.3 tons of chicken, plus served over 10,000 cups of coffee and tea.

Many of the ingredients were locally sourced, highlighting the best of Australian cuisine. For example, Sydney Showground’s 540 kitchen staff used more than one tonne of potatoes as part of the first banquet held in the Dome, in addition to 17,000 Queensland Crystal Bay Prawns and hundreds of kilos of fresh crab. In total, the Showground catered for four gala dinners for 3,000 people each, with a four course banquet served in an hour.

Similar quantities of fresh Australian produce were used at each meal enjoyed by the Amway delegates, delivering a bonanza for Australian farmers at a time of natural disaster-caused hardship.

For Acer Arena, more usually thought of as a venue for outstanding concerts, the Amway China event highlights the venue’s flexibility to host major business events.

“We host a wide range of conferences and business events each year, so the Amway China delegates get to experience the benefits of a very well-proven conference venue,” said Acer Arena General Manager Paul Sergeant.

The Amway China event was one of the largest conferences Acer Arena has hosted, with the conference organisers quite particular with their requirements. Fortunately, the venue’s business events team was able to go the extra mile to deliver an outstanding event for Amway.

Key areas throughout the Park’s town centre were dressed in welcoming banners, adding to the festival atmosphere of the event and helping ensure a warm introduction to the Park for Amway China delegates.
Big Day Out is a big day in the Park

The heat was on at Sydney Olympic Park, as the Big Day Out music festival moved to Sydney for two sell-out shows held amidst the sweltering summer heat.

Driven by growing demand, the Big Day Out was held over two days, Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 January, across the Sydney Showground site and featured a huge line-up of 80 local and international music acts.

Headlining the international line-up were German metal band Rammstein while fan favourite Nick Cave’s band Grinderman took top billing amongst local acts, much to the delight of the almost 100,000 patrons across the two day event.

The local and international acts weren’t the only things hitting highs, with temperatures on both days well in excess of 35 degrees, with some patrons being treated for dehydration and heat exhaustion.

To support getting patrons to and from the event, special Big Day Out train services from Central Station, Newcastle and the Central Coast ran direct to the Park while additional bus services also supported the day.

Newington Armory heritage value formally recognised

On 14 January 2011, Newington Armory was listed by the NSW Heritage Office on the State Heritage Register.

Newington Armory is part of the former Royal Australian Naval Armament Depot (RANAD) Newington. Built in 1897, ammunition used by Australian, British and US navy ships was received, maintained, stored and issued by the depot.

Up through the mid-1990s, the depot covered more than 250 hectares and featured 185 buildings. Consolidated to the north to allow for the development of the Athletes’ Village for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games and the suburb of Newington, the residual 100 hectares of RANAD now forms part of the parklands and includes the Newington Nature Reserve.

The Heritage listing will ensure that the site’s significant heritage and environmental values are protected while continuing the public’s use and enjoyment of the place.
February 2011

Training pool incident tests
Aquatic Centre disaster planning

A quiet day at the Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre hardly seems like the place for a potential disaster; however, that is exactly what happened on Wednesday, 16 February when part of the mechanism controlling the variable-depth floor of the training pool failed, resulting in the buckling of the floor, taking the pool out of action for six weeks.

Aquatic Centre staff responded immediately, getting everyone in the pool out of the water in less than 30 seconds, ensuring that no one had been injured and then starting an immediate investigation into the cause of the failure.

Divers working under the buckled flooring determined that one of the cables which controls the floor’s depth had failed. The parted cable, which had been replaced less than four months previously, allowed part of the buoyant flooring to twist and buckle as it rose to the surface. Initial estimates placed the pool out of action for several months, promising to throw the Centre’s forward calendar into chaos, particularly with a major swimming meet scheduled to take place in less than five weeks.

The Aquatic Centre immediately began contacting all forward bookings, making alternative arrangements to minimise disruption to patrons, including using the competition and diving pools wherever possible.

Excess Aquatic Centre staff, many of whom are casually employed while they undertake tertiary studies, were redeployed to other venues such as the Athletic and Sports Centres, where the additional manpower allowed for clearing of administrative and maintenance backlogs across the Authority’s sports venues. In particular, catering staff assisted at athletic events while events staff were redeployed to the Sports Centre.

Together with representatives of the pool floor manufacturer, Aquatic Centre staff worked tirelessly to achieve the swiftest possible return to service of the training pool, while taking the opportunity to undertake regular maintenance during the pool’s unscheduled downtime.

Despite initial estimates that the training pool would be out of service for months, the team working to complete repairs returned the pool to operation in six weeks, on Monday, 28 March, just in time for a major event, the 2011 Telstra Australian Swimming Championships 1 to 8 April.

While the exact reason for the cable’s failure was never determined with certainty, Aquatic Centre staff had responded swiftly and surely to the immediate incident and had beaten all estimates to return the pool to operation, while minimising disruption to patrons during the repairs.
Women’s Sports Festival

The third annual Women’s Sports Festival, held over the period 27 February to 8 March, celebrated the achievements of women across a range of sporting endeavours.

The festival, which is sponsored by the Authority, kicked off with a launch breakfast at the Novotel where a range of successful sports women passed on their experiences and philosophies to an appreciative audience, with all funds raised on the day supporting the Northcott Disability Services charity.

The week that followed was a veritable smorgasbord of women’s sports, featuring tennis, hockey, AFL, netball, cycling, diving and more.

A highlight was an ‘ultimate tug-of-war’ charity challenge where Australia’s elite athletes took on local amateur sports teams.

Another major event was the ‘Gear Up Girl’ Challenge, offering either a 55km ride from Cronulla to the Park or a 15km scenic route around Sydney Olympic Park. For the first time, a special charity Father and Daughter 5km fun ride was also held with all funds raised going to support the McGrath Foundation.

Over the space of three years, the Women’s Sports Festival has grown to be a large part of the Authority’s events calendar, one that will grow even larger in years to come.

Outdoor movies a big hit with families

The Authority’s free outdoor movie season, Movies by the Boulevard, now in its 10th year, continues to go from strength to strength, setting new attendance records each year.

Formerly known as Movies in The Overflow, following the renaming of The Overflow to Cathy Freeman Park, the season was renamed to Movies by the Boulevard in time for the 2011 season, which featured 11 movies covering a wide variety of genres and which wrapped up with a night of short movies from around the world.

More than 35,000 people attended across the 12 movie nights, drawn by a combination of kid-friendly fare such as Toy Story 3 and Despicable Me, while adults were catered for with more adult-oriented movies such as Robin Hood and Sherlock Holmes.

The Park’s free movies season is Australia’s most popular outdoor cinema series in terms of nightly audience attendance and is renowned for its family atmosphere, with face painting and balloon sculpting on the menu to keep the kids amused until the movies started at around 8.30 each night.

It gives family and friends the opportunity to spend quality time together, enjoy the summer evenings and not break the bank.

The majority of the audience is made up of residents from the areas surrounding the Park, helping foster a strong sense of community and highlighting Sydney Olympic Park’s role as the ‘local park’ for many Sydney residents.

So successful are the Movies by the Boulevard screenings that the season is now a much-loved fixture on the Sydney events calendar.
March 2011

Park to host 2015 World Netball Championships

On 20 March 2011, the International Federation of Netball Associations (IFNA) announced that Sydney Olympic Park will host the 14th World Netball Championships in 2015, beating a rival bid by Manchester in England.

The IFNA Evaluation Committee found that while the standard of both bids was extremely high, Sydney had a number of features which were exceptional, in particular the capabilities of Acer Arena and Sydney Olympic Park.

“The Sydney Olympic Park precinct will provide an extraordinary environment for the athletes, with world-class accommodation, training and competition venues all within walking distance. This, in combination with a commitment to deliver ‘the most commercially successful World Netball Championships ever’, was central to the decision appointing Sydney as the successful host city for 2015.”

The event submission, site inspection tour and bid presentation was truly a great combined effort through Events NSW, Netball Australia, Netball NSW, Sydney Olympic Park Authority, Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre, Accor Hotels and Acer Arena.

A key aspect of the bid was the seamless overnight transformation of Acer Arena from a conference venue supporting the Amway China event, to an international standard netball court, for the IFNA inspection in January 2011.

The 2015 Championships will see the world’s top 16 teams converge on Sydney for the tournament, with Australia’s Diamonds and the New Zealand Silver Ferns expected to place highly.

The announcement that a Netball Centre of Excellence would be built within the Park in time for the World Championships will further enhance the Diamonds’ chances of wearing the Gold Medal as World Champions in 2015.
ARTEXPRESS showcases the best of the State’s young artists

The best of the State’s new young artists were on display at Sydney Olympic Park in March and April when the annual ARTEXPRESS exhibition took up residence at Newington Armory.

The artworks of 75 emerging young artists were chosen to be displayed in the Armory Gallery during March and April, taking advantage of the Gallery’s outstanding exhibition space, including the longest hanging wall in New South Wales.

Each year, the best works from students studying visual arts for the HSC are selected for the ARTEXPRESS exhibition, producing a dynamic and extremely popular exhibition.

This is the sixth year that Sydney Olympic Park has hosted the western Sydney exhibition for ARTEXPRESS, reinforcing its commitment to providing quality art and cultural exhibitions and activities for the people of Sydney.

The exhibition at the Armory includes a variety of expressive forms including painting, photography, sculpture, video and new media and is the largest metropolitan exhibition of ARTEXPRESS.

Park workers lend a hand to Clean Up Australia Day

Sydney Olympic Park covers 640 hectares and attracts more than 12.5 million people each year, generating tons of litter annually.

Ordinary litter is collected from the Park’s numerous litter bins for recycling; however, some areas are likely to catch litter washed in from outside the Park’s boundaries, such as the extensive mangroves along Haslams Creek or the Badu Mangroves.

As part of the Business Clean Up Australia Day activities on Tuesday, 1 March, more than 30 staff from the Sydney Olympic Park Authority Park and business tenant BSA spent the morning working amongst the tidal waters of Haslams Creek’s mangroves, collecting more than 380 kilograms of litter and waste materials.

Much of the litter consisted of plastic bottles and Styrofoam which had washed down the creek from the upstream Auburn / Lidcombe area. The collected litter, which filled 138 bags, was delivered to the Park’s waste transfer facility for recycling or disposal.

In addition to the morning’s Business Clean Up Australia Day activities, community and schools events were also organised by the Authority, contributing to the overall goals of Clean Up Australia Day and to a cleaner Park.

Musical superstar Rihanna plays two sold-out shows at Acer Arena, confirming the Park’s status as the place to play for the world’s largest entertainment acts.

Round 1 of the 2011 NRL Premiership kicks off with a match between the Bulldogs and West Tigers in front of more than 26,000 fans at ANZ Stadium.

Members of the public take the chance to meet the Artists in the Armory, getting a behind-the-scenes tour of the visual arts studios at Newington Armory.

Cinewest hosts a retrospective of the works of German director Rainer Werner Fassbinder at the Newington Armory Theatre.

The Sydney Olympic Park Sustainability Advantage program is nominated for a Bronze Award for its success in driving reductions in energy usage and waste generation, by the NSW Government’s Office of Environment and Heritage.
Sydneysiders have once again taken the Sydney Royal Easter Show to their hearts, with hundreds of thousands of visitors travelling to the Park to be a part of the unique atmosphere of the Southern Hemisphere’s largest annual event.

Whether it is the exhibits, the events in the Main Arena, the arts and crafts or the world-famous show bags, this year’s Show attracted over 900,000 visitors over the full two weeks from 14 to 27 April.

The Show is big in every measure, be it the footprint of the Show, spilling out over Olympic Boulevard, Australia Avenue and P6 car park, the 13,000 animals taking part, the 29,000 entries in the various judging competitions or the hundreds of thousands of participants.

In addition to being the biggest and busiest time of the year for the Show’s organisers, the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS), it’s also a very busy time for the Authority. The rest of the Park doesn’t shut down just because the Show is in town, with the entire Park’s venues continuing to support events of all sizes across the two week event.

In fact, the Show helps the Park to achieve its busiest days of the year, when major football games at ANZ Stadium combine with the Show crowds to push precinct visitor numbers well past 100,000 people. For example, over 126,000 people attended on Good Friday alone, one of the biggest days on record at Sydney Olympic Park since the 2000 Olympic Games.

On days like this, it is essential that transport in and out of the Park runs smoothly, with special events buses and direct train services running throughout the day, as well as ensuring that traffic into and through the Park runs as smoothly as possible.

Not only must the Park’s operations team deal with the vast influx of daily visitors by train, bus, ferry and car throughout the Show fortnight, but they must also ensure that impacts on the 130 businesses and more than 10,000 employees, who work within the Park daily, are minimised wherever possible.

Planning for the Show begins months in advance and involves the Authority, the RAS, the Park’s venues and businesses plus key transport and emergency services, all combining to ensure that the people who flock to the Park for two weeks in April remember the visit, not the trip.
Park plays host to massive Bengali fair

On Saturday, 17 April, the Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre played host to Boishaki Mela, the Bengali New Year Celebrations, the fifth year that the Park has hosted this major community festival.

The event, which corresponds to the beginning of the year 1418 in the Bengali calendar, saw some 15,000 patrons sample the more than 70 food, arts and crafts stalls, children’s rides, traditional Bengali music and dance acts and live traditional Bengali stage performances which filled the Athletics Centre’s Competition Arena.

An annual event, Boishaki Mela has grown to become the largest and most exciting event for the Bengali Community of Sydney and is organised by the community group Bangabandhu Council Australia.

Sydney Olympic Park Authority has worked closely with the organisers of this event since 2006, lending events expertise to assist in the long-term success of the festival.

Boishaki Mela is not the only festival from the Indian sub-continent held at Sydney Olympic Park, with August’s India-Australia Friendship Fair another in the wide range of community events supported by the Authority each year.

Other events include the Islamic Community’s Eid Prayers, the Pakistani Basant Kite Festival, the Movies by the Boulevard free outdoor film festival, the River Rhythms series of free concerts in Blaxland Riverside Park and numerous art exhibitions in the Armory Gallery.

Easter Show drives massive crowds through the Park

April presents a particular challenge to the Authority, combining the largest event in the Southern Hemisphere, the Sydney Royal Easter Show, with a range of other major events. In 2011, for example, the 14 days of the Show coincided with three major NRL games, which collectively brought over 76,000 people flocking to ANZ Stadium, in addition to other events in the Park.

This added to the Show’s 900,000 person attendance to push combined Park numbers during April to more than 1 million people. Several times during the period, the Park hosted more than 100,000 daily on site.

This is a major challenge for the Park’s events team, given that the Show closes several of the Park’s major thoroughfares to traffic, including Australia Avenue and Olympic Boulevard, while reducing available parking spaces, with P6 car park used for the Easter Show’s major carnival rides and parts of P5 car park used to house the carnival support vehicles.

In addition to accommodating the large numbers of supporters’ coaches, limousines, taxis and other vehicles that bring fans to major NRL games within the precinct, the team must also accommodate the large number of special events buses that are servicing the Show’s crowds.

This calls for a major effort involving the events team, Dept of Transport, RTA, City Rail, NSW Police and other state government agencies to ensure that traffic flows as smoothly as possible.
Australia Towers rising high above the Park

The Park’s first residential development, Australia Towers, achieved a major milestone, with the ‘topping out’ of construction works on the 16th floor of Tower B on 20 May, to be followed by the 24-floor Tower A in August.

With the completion of these milestones, work can turn to installing core building services and fitting out the 216 apartments that make up Stage 1.

Strong demand for the luxury one, two and three bedroom apartments has seen the development exceed expectations, with the majority of apartments in Stage 1 sold before construction commenced in September 2009.

In addition to the Towers’ central location in the heart of the Park’s town centre, potential buyers have been attracted by the design’s green credentials. In line with the Park’s environmental ethos, Australia Towers exceeds the Government’s Building Sustainability Index rating (BASIX), through design, appropriate building materials and the use of cross-ventilation for cooling and high levels of natural lighting.

In addition, Australia Towers is being connected to the Park’s Water Reclamation and Management System (WRAMS), allowing the use of recycled water for laundry, toilet flushing, irrigation and car washing.

Following a design competition which was required by the Authority as part of the approval process, the developer will submit the winning design for Stages 2 and 3 of the project to the Department of Planning in June 2011.

Construction of Stages 2 and 3 is scheduled to commence in early 2012, while the first residents of Stage 1 are expected to move into Stage 1 in January or February 2012.
Sydney Pregnancy, Babies & Children’s Expo is a hit with mums and mums-to-be

The Sydney Olympic Park business events team is ever active in seeking new events for the Park’s diverse venues.

With the Park already playing host to everything from mining exhibitions to school speaking nights, motivation conferences to motor shows, the team successfully bid for the rights to the Sydney Pregnancy, Babies & Children’s Expo, held over the period of 20–22 May.

The Expo was a sleeper hit, with no one predicting the amazing response from the public, with more than 20,000 mothers and would-be mothers making a beeline for Exhibition Halls 3 and 4 at the Sydney Showground.

The Expo brings the public into contact with a vast array of service providers, support groups, health care professionals, government agencies and manufacturers of maternity and baby-related items, providing a one-stop shop for parents and prospective parents alike. While the Expo has almost 20 years of history behind it, 2011 was the first time that the Expo was held at the Park.

Such was the success of the event that organisers have already booked the same site for 2012, citing the size of the venue and the convenience of the exhibition halls to parking and public transport.

The Sydney Pregnancy, Babies & Children’s Expo’s success is one more testament to the capabilities of the Park’s varied venues and spaces, which allow it to support events of every kind and size, no matter how varied or unusual.

Park is focus for Science in the Suburbs

As part of a major thrust to increase the numbers of students choosing science as a career, Science in the Suburbs plays a key role, bringing practical examples of science in action to primary and secondary students.

2011 marked the sixth year that Science in the Suburbs has been held at the Park’s Newington Armory precinct, with interactive workshops, shows, talks and a science expo over two days, all of which showcase the many different and exciting aspects of science.

In total, more than 1,300 students participated over two days, with secondary students taking part on 17 May and primary students attending on 18 May, taking advantage of the diverse facilities within the Armory precinct.

Science in the Suburbs is a major event for the Authority’s education team, as they work closely with the Australian Museum, the various participants in the event and participating schools to deliver an outstanding science-based experience for students.
Acer Arena tops Madison Square Garden in venue rankings

The latest venue rankings by industry magazine Venues Today places Acer Arena ahead of New York City’s Madison Square Garden and second only to London’s O2 Arena in ticket sales.

In fact, Acer Arena is the only venue in the Southern Hemisphere to make Venues Today’s top 20 ranking.

The result is a tribute to the hard work put in by the management and staff at Acer Arena, who have built the venue into Australia’s preferred entertainment venue.

While best known for the many top-line music acts who perform there, Acer Arena also plays host to conferences, exhibitions and a wide variety of sporting events, ranging from court-based sports to the spectacular world of extreme motorbike action featuring the Crusty Demons, a regular crowd favourite, and the adrenalin-charged sport of professional bull riding.

A new sport which has experienced sensational growth is the Unlimited Fighting Championships, which consistently sells out every appearance at the Arena and which is televised to a worldwide international audience.

This is in addition to the amazingly diverse array of concerts held at the Arena in the previous 12 months, including Justin Bieber, Andre Rieu, Powderfinger, Muse, The Eagles, Linkin Park, Michael Buble, Lionel Ritchie and Metallica.

When you add the spectacular ‘Walking with Dinosaurs’ show, children’s favourite ‘Disney on Ice’ and the amazing Cirque du Soleil Saltimbanco show season to the year’s calendar of events, it’s clear that Acer Arena is Australia’s home for outstanding entertainment events and has truly earned its ranking as the world’s second most popular entertainment venue.
State of Origin tests Park’s resources

The annual NRL State of Origin match at ANZ Stadium is one of the Park’s biggest days, featuring more than 81,000 fans who have to be welcomed to the precinct, fed, entertained, directed into the Stadium and then assisted to flow smoothly out of the Park after the game.

This is complicated by the fact that there are often other events taking place within the Park at the same time, in this case a major athletics carnival at the Athletics Centre.

The Park’s events management team liaise well in advance of the date with the police, transport authorities, the NRL and Stadium management to ensure a coordinated ‘whole of Government’ approach which leads to a smooth event for patrons.

Within the Park, the events team is responsible for managing traffic flows into and out of the Park’s 10,000 car parking spaces, plus coordinating the movements of the many special events and charter buses and hire cars which service the game’s crowd.

This is in addition to managing onsite security, entertainment, the various food options available and first aid for those patrons who may unfortunately need it.

The State of Origin is considered the NRL’s toughest contest; it also tests the Park’s ability to support major events, fortunately just like the Blues and Maroons, the Park fields its best team on the night, ensuring that the 81,000 fans attending the game concentrate on the event inside, not all the work that goes into making it a great event outside.

Sydney Showground Arena upgrade announced

The Government announced a major upgrade of the Sydney Showground Main Arena to provide a home ground for the Greater Western Sydney Giants AFL team in time for the commencement of the 2012 competition.

The upgrade, to be funded by the NSW Government ($45 million), AFL ($11 million) and the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW ($6 million), will increase the ground’s capacity from 13,000 to 25,000 people, add covered north-east and south-east grandstands, reconfigure the ground to support AFL matches, improve lighting and provide improved spectator and player facilities.

In addition to providing a home ground for the Giants in time for their inaugural season in the national AFL competition, the upgrade will support the growth of the Royal Easter Show’s iconic Main Arena events and will provide a major arena for outdoor entertainment events such as concerts and festivals.

The upgrade of the Showground Main Arena for the Giants takes advantage of existing Sydney Olympic Park infrastructure and transport links, providing an outstanding facility at far lower cost than a newly-built facility.

9
The Environmental Assessment Application for Stages 2 and 3 of the Australia Towers development is submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, ensuring that the development complies with key legislative requirements.

9
Site works commence on the 77-room Quest serviced apartment complex on Edwin Flack Avenue, scheduled for completion in 2012.

24
The world’s best female fencers cross swords at the Sydney Showground, which is hosting the Women’s World Cup Individual and Teams Championships.

25
A 24 hour charity swimathon is held at the Aquatic Centre, raising money for MS support and research.

25
38,053 fans travel to ANZ Stadium to watch the Swans play Collingwood, with only one goal separating the teams at full time after a hard fought match, the Swans going down 99–93.
10th anniversary celebrations
In September 2000, the eyes of the world were fixed on Sydney, where the world’s finest athletes competed at what were billed as ‘the friendly Games’, and friendly they were.

The world’s media reported wonderingly on the outstanding atmosphere of the Games, the welcome the Australian crowds extended to every competition and competitor, the superb Games organisation and the magnificent Olympic volunteers who gave so unstintingly of their time over 14 days of competition.

Ten years on, Sydney Olympic Park played host to a major tribute for what were described as ‘the best Games ever’.

Thousands of athletes, officials, volunteers and school children came together on 15 September 2010 to take part in a, at times emotional, tribute to the spirit that infused the nation a decade earlier.

The day celebrated the athletes, officials and the volunteers who took part in the Olympic and Paralympic Games, as they drew the attention of the world to bear on Sydney, and our visitors who went away entranced with our organisation, our atmosphere and our friendliness.

The day included the participation of thousands of school children, who experienced the thrill of a mini-opening ceremony as they marched into ANZ Stadium, the scene of so many Olympic triumphs. The children then participated in a range of Olympic and Paralympic sports, under the tutelage of Olympians and Paralympians.

Other major events included the unveiling of commemorative plaques to outstanding Olympic and Paralympic athletes Catherine Freeman and Louise Sauvage within The Overflow which was officially renamed Cathy Freeman Park during the day’s activities. Both Catherine and Louise were guests of honour at the unveilings.

A moving tribute was paid to Juan Antonio Samaranch, past president of the International Olympic Committee, who announced the awarding of the Olympic Games to Sydney in 1993 and who, seven years later, proclaimed the Sydney 2000 Olympics as ‘the best Olympic Games ever’.

A commemorative plaque was unveiled in Cathy Freeman Park in the presence of Mr Samaranch’s daughter, Maria Teresa Samaranch Salisachs. Mr Samaranch died in April 2010.

Lord Sebastian Coe, head of the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games, unveiled a large London 2012 plaque on Olympic Boulevard, in a live television broadcast to Europe. The plaque joins official logos for the other cities that have hosted the Games since 2000, Athens and Beijing.

The day included a thank you barbeque for the volunteers who contributed so much to the success of both the Olympic and Paralympic Games, before closing with a major concert and relighting of the Olympic Cauldron, in front of thousands of spectators.

The Cauldron lighting harked back to both the 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games, with the torch bearers, Cathy Freeman and Louise Sauvage, reprising their starring roles at their respective Games.

Such was the interest in the anniversary that major news organisations broadcast directly from the Park and extended television news bulletins were put on to cover the entire celebration.

The day’s celebrations provided a fitting tribute to the 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the athletes, volunteers and the people who came together to build the magic that infused Sydney and Sydney Olympic Park 10 years ago.