



MEDIA ALERT

Subject: INAUGURAL AILA STEWARDSHIP AWARD PRAISE SIGNIFICANT AUSTRALIAN PROPERTIES

Date: TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER 2006

Two significant Australian properties have received awards for their upkeep in the inaugural **Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) Stewardship Awards**. **Australian National University, Gardens & Grounds Section** for their Landscape Maintenance Program and **The Centennial and Moore Park Trust**, Sydney for the 'Park Improvement Program'.

The **AILA Stewardship Award** may be awarded to any agency responsible for the management and stewardship of public lands. The Award acknowledges the integrity of the design while recognising that landscapes should be allowed to evolve and may go through processes of change.

The **Australian National University (ANU)**, Gardens & Grounds Section have been recognised for the maintenance and management of Canberra's oldest and largest university, which was formerly established in 1947.

In 1993, Sydney based firm Knox and Partners prepared a Strategic Landscape Plan for the site which acknowledges the powerful presence of Black Mountain into the campus landscape character as well as the heritage of exotic plant material and intimate green courtyards. This is well maintained by ANU Horticultural staff.

The last decade has seen an increased use of drought hardy accent plants in shrub beds associated with new buildings and building renovations and major entry ways into the university, this has assisted in achieving a significant reduction in water usage.

The gardens and grounds section staff, led by George Abraham, are congratulated for becoming proficient at developing and maintaining the landscapes at ANU.

Also receiving the Stewardship Award is the **Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust**, a NSW State Government organisation, who manages Centennial Parklands in Sydney -otherwise know as the "people's park" and drawing over five million visits per year.

To arrange interviews or request images, please contact: Tammy Papalia, Publicity & Event Management - 0412 828 368

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The Ponds Restoration is the most extensive project undertaken as part of the 'Park Improvement Plan' by the Trust and has resulted in environmental benefits, improved water quality, increased habitat for fauna and an increased awareness of the ponds.

The Trust were commended for developing the overall 'Park Improvement Plan' with incredible rigour and consultation. The 'Park Improvement Plan' ensures a park system that is sustainable, attractive, cost effective, safe and of high quality.

AILA is a non-profit professional institute which serves the mutual interests of its members and the wider profession of landscape architecture throughout Australia. AILA provides the primary leadership, structure and network to effectively harness and focus the intellectual energy of Australian landscape architects in the creation of more meaningful, enjoyable, equitable and sustainable environments.

Photo's available on request.

For more comments, please contact the AILA National President, Mark Fuller, via contacts below.

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