

FEATURES OF CENTENNIAL PARK - COOMA

Centennial Park in the heart of Cooma was dedicated in 1888 and extensively renovated in 1959 when the current Bandshell was built.

1. **Avenue of Flags** (East to West) comprises flags from 28 nations representing workmen of the Snowy Mountains Scheme. The countries represented there are:

Australia	Ireland	Portugal
Belgium	Italy	South Africa
Canada	Latvia	Spain
Czechoslovakia	Lebanon	Sweden
Denmark	Malta	Switzerland
Finland	Netherlands	United Kingdom
France	New Zealand	USA
Germany	Norway	Yugoslavia
Greece	Pakistan	Portugal
Hungary	Poland	South Africa

The plaque commemorated the first ten years of the Snowy Mountains Authority and there is an excellent relief map showing the Snowy Mountains Area.

There is another plaque commemorating the 50th Anniversary and Reunion which took place in 1999. As part of the Anniversary celebrations a second Avenue of Flags was placed on the Bombala Street side of the Park (North-South). These flags were donated by their respective countries and represent the current political boundaries as they have evolved since the years of the Snowy Scheme construction. The countries represented in this avenue are:

Austria	Croatia	Estonia	Lithuania	Russia	Slovenia	Sri Lanka	Ukraine
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2. **The Man from Snowy River Statue** was erected in 1961 for the 5th 'Festival of the Snow'. It was executed by Ian McKay. Funds were provided by various citizens and companies commemorating Banjo Paterson's immortal character.
3. **The Shearer** was created c.1950 by grazier and sculptor Rix Wright at a time when it is said Australia "rode on the sheep's back". Nowhere was this more evident than the Monaro. This iconic sculpture pays tribute to that testament.
4. Some of the trees growing in the park are:

Atlantica	English Elms	Pussy Willow
Broad Leafed Privet	European Nettle	Silver Birch
Cotoneaster	Oak	Silver Poplar
Cottonwood (Poplar)	Plane	

5. There is a plaque in the grass in the South Western quadrant of the Park. This was donated by the Cooma Peace Group on 6/8/1986 to commemorate the International Year of Peace.
6. The water pump on the Eastern side of the park has a plaque stating Cooma's first water supply pump. This pump was installed on the footpath adjacent to this site in 1886, the water being free to the public. It was re-erected by Cooma Monaro Historical Society and funded by the Australian Bicentenary Authority and the Cooma Monaro SC."