

# LUNA PARK JUST FOR FUN



SAM MARSHALL

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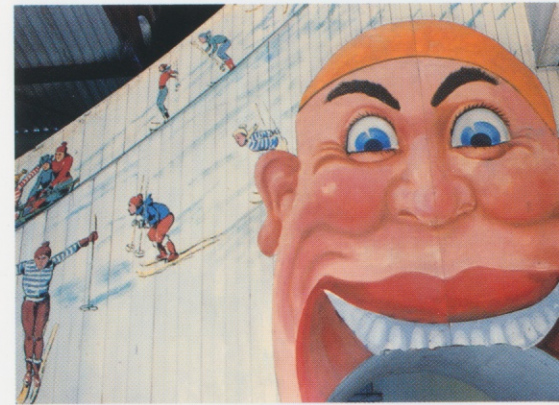


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LUNA PARK RESERVE TRUST

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Arthur Barton ski scene and face on slides in Coney Island.

## PREFACE



Tumble Bug.

This book celebrates sixty years of fun provided by Luna Park. There were various sources of inspiration for this book – the many people who had been to Luna Park and who had unusually fond memories; the very special breed of devoted people who worked at this amusement park which had been allowed to all but disappear and which few people remembered in its entirety; the existence of Ted Hopkins' superb photographic record; and the salvation of Luna Park by the group of determined citizens from all backgrounds, ages and professions who came together to fight a battle for the children of the future.

I wanted this book to be told by the people who worked at Luna Park, the general public who had fun at Luna Park and the people who fought to save Luna Park. They all get their opportunity to speak in this book.

Popular culture is not often seen as worthy of historical research. Documented information on Luna Park is very limited. The Local Studies Section of North Sydney's Stanton Library holds the most extensive collection of records on Luna Park including news clippings, photographs and original artefacts. I cast a wide net for information, conducting oral history interviews with as many past staff members as possible. I contacted the general public through all forms of news media to ask for their personal reminiscences. I welcome further information, photographs and especially personal reminiscences.

The text, photographs and anecdotes of this book are intended to be read together. Facts are presented in the text; the photographs animate and legitimate the text; the anecdotes bring all this to life. People who have

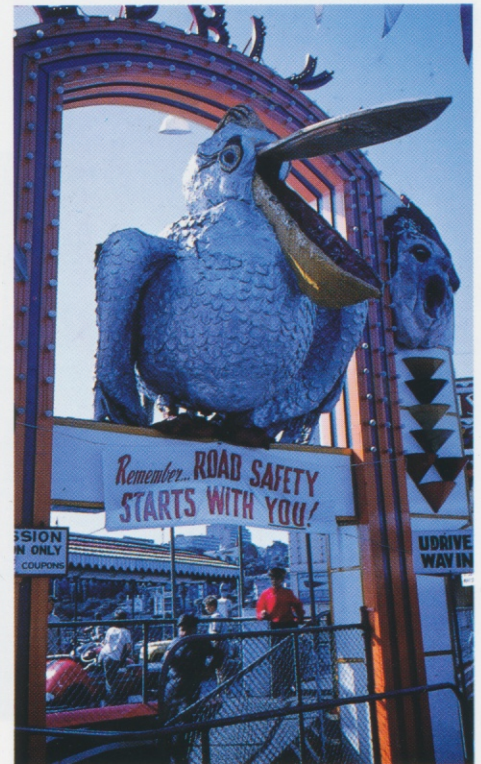
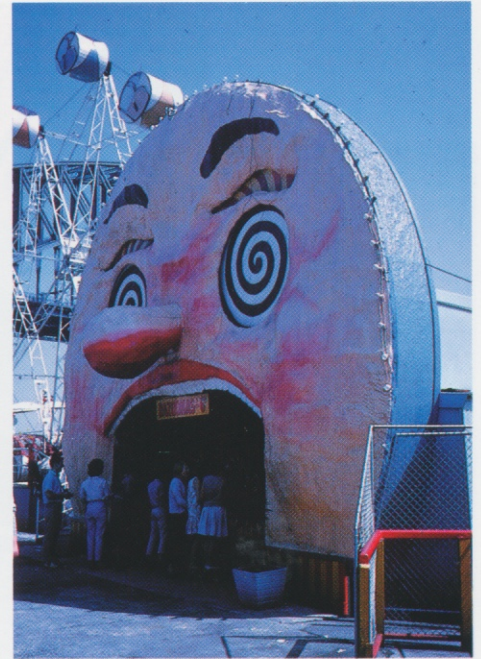


either spent most of their working lives at Luna Park or are publicly known and are fully described. Anecdotes from the general public are attributed by christian names and suburb.

I am indebted to many peoples' generous provision of both time and material: in particular Ted Hopkins whose face would often become animated while discussing some technicality as he recalled some special amusing incident. Most of the photographs in this book were taken by Ted, a highly skilled amateur photographer. I thank his daughter, Margaret House, for kindly allowing the use of these images.

My final debt of thanks is to Martin Sharp. Without Martin there would be no photographs nor memorabilia and certainly no Luna Park. His foresight, wisdom and artistic skills have been a guiding light to me and those who fought to see Luna Park retained and put it all back together again.

Sam Marshall  
Sydney  
November 1994



Top: Entrance to Davy Jones Locker; above right: Bazooka face; right: U Drive.



In many years as a heritage writer, I can pick out the saving of Luna Park as a milestone. Here a group of supporters which was highly organised, very astute, with a range of skills among them, and who were utterly dogged, obstinate, bloody-minded and persistent, kept that park alive for many years. Despite extraordinary opposition, they didn't let go of their goal...I often think of Luna Park as an object lesson in how to define a conservation corps.

*Geraldine O'Brien*

*National Trust Quarterly, July 1994*

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