



# Toughbooks in Action

## Toughbooks help sustain the future of Centennial Parklands

Centennial Parklands, Sydney, has invested in Panasonic CF-18 Toughbooks as part of their ongoing asset maintenance program. The Toughbooks are playing a vital role in helping to sustain one of Sydney's favourite parks for future generations.

It is estimated that the Parklands – made up of Centennial, Queen and Moore Parks in Sydney city – will need to replace around 60 per cent of its tree population over the next 50 to 60 years, the equivalent of about 250 to 300 trees a year. The Toughbooks, which are being used to assess and monitor the parklands' tree growth, health and

safety level over time, were chosen for their compact size, durability, water-resistant keyboard and LCD screen, as well as their ability to house and run vital GPS asset tracking systems.

According to Centennial Parklands' Director of Park Assets, Ian Innes, the tree replacement program is a vital strategy to ensure the Parklands maintains and protects its flora assets into the future, in the face of ever increasing stresses caused by the harsh effects of the growing urban environment.



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In an effort to get the community involved in the tree replacement program, the Parklands has recently introduced a fund raising campaign called The Parklands Tree Transplant Appeal that gives the public an opportunity to sponsor their own tree and monitor its progress. Sponsors are given a certificate and GPS mark on their tree location, and receive a Toughbook-generated report on their tree every three to six months to follow its progress throughout its life.

Centennial Parklands regularly undertakes diverse location-based tracking of their entire tree population, which comprises around 15,000 across 19 species. They also implement ongoing monitoring and health assessments across a broad range of Parklands flora and fauna, all of which are recorded and monitored on the Panasonic Toughbooks and fed back into the database at the administration centre at the park for evaluation.

“We cover around 340 hectares of Sydney parkland and therefore rely on the Toughbook GPS system to locate most

of our natural flora and fauna we are monitoring. This is particularly effective for new staff or contractors who aren't as familiar with the area,” Innes said.

Centennial Parklands maintenance staff use the Panasonic Toughbook when undertaking ongoing outdoor monitoring work such as water quality analysis, habitat assessment and park infrastructure reports. To do this, the Toughbooks need to withstand a variety of diverse outdoor working environments that are regularly affected by weather patterns.

“Depending on where the trees are, our arborists and horticulturalists are constantly moving through different

terrain. Open spaces, wetlands, sandstone hills - even busy urban environments like the Entertainment Quarter – our working demands are always quite varied. We chose the Toughbook because it can withstand any kind of location, in any kind of weather.

“The moisture and dust-resistant LCD and daylight-readable display panel are vital in an environment like ours. The notebooks, which are often thrown on the back of the arborists' work vehicles, get a good workout, and are used for long hours at a time, so it helps that they are as reliable as they are durable,” he said.

The Toughbook CF-18's ruggedised features also include a full magnesium-alloy case, sealed port and connector covers and ruggedised case hinge. Both the screen and hard drive are impact-isolated and the entire unit has been tested for compliance with MIL STD 810F requirements (US Military standards) for drop shock and vibration absorption, and liquid, dust and dirt ingress in extreme operating environments.



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