

YHA NEW SOUTH WALES

To provide opportunity for all, but especially young people, for education by personal development, fostering friendship and bringing about a better understanding of others and the world around them.

MEDIA RELEASE

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New Cranes on Sydney's Skyline

There is a new look on the skyline in Sydney's Rocks district where two cranes have been assembled this week, marking the start of work on a new premier YHA hostel. Due to open in late 2009, Sydney Harbour YHA will be the city's finest budget traveller accommodation and will set a new benchmark for this style of tourist property in design, facilities and environmental features.

"Sydney attracts more than 75 percent of young international visitors to Australia, so YHA has long sought a suitable site to expand its facilities close to the Harbour", says Julian Ledger, YHA NSW CEO. "This location is a unique opportunity to provide much needed additional tourist accommodation in the heart of Australia's gateway city and represents an investment by YHA NSW of \$25 million".

In 2006, YHA was chosen as the preferred tenderer for the site by Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority. Situated beside the Australian Hotel on Cumberland Street, the Sydney Harbour YHA is being built on an historic site of early colonial life in Sydney which has had extensive archaeological investigation. The YHA design which is built on pillars above the remnants will preserve and interpret the archaeology for future generations, and enable this part of Australian history to become a resource for Australian schools as well as being shared with international and Australian visitors.

The Sydney Harbour YHA will be constructed by Built NSW Pty Ltd from a design by architects, Tzannes Associates. The property will include a range of rooms from multishare to double/twins, all with ensuites and many with harbour views. There will also be an on site Archaeology Education Centre, to be known as the Big Dig, providing group learning facilities. More information can be found at www.sydneyharbouryha.com.au

Nationally, YHA is undergoing a major investment and expansion phase in two other key locations. The new Melbourne Central YHA is due to open early 2009. Located on Flinders Street near Spencer Street, the completely refurbished property is part of a major revitalisation of this part of Melbourne. Then in mid 2009, the new purpose built Brisbane City YHA, with 378 beds, will open on Upper Roma Street, close to the Transit Centre. Each of the three properties aims to become the highest quality budget accommodation of that city.

"Together with the Sydney Harbour YHA, these projects will position the organisation to continue as Australia's leading network of budget tourist accommodation well into the future" comments Julian Ledger.

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About YHA

YHA is part of the world's largest backpacker accommodation network, Hostelling International, providing more than 4,000 YHA hostels in more than 60 countries. Renowned for its unique and distinct properties all over the world, YHA hostels offer everything from heritage castles to log cabins and beach houses. With a focus on providing travellers with quality accommodation and a true backpacking experience, YHA provides opportunity through personal development, fostering friendship and bringing about a better understanding of others and the world around them. YHA is a not for profit association, with all profits going back in the hostels and the experience they provide.

