



# SYDNEY HARBOUR YHA - COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Edition 4, May 2009



## Recognising the Past, Realising the Future.

### LATEST NEWS

The NSW Minister for Planning, Kristina Keneally, visited the site on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2009 and announced the launch of a \$5 million heritage grant scheme for NSW.

Sydney Harbour YHA was presented as an example of the successful adaptive re-use of a heritage site. She was led on a tour of the site by Ross Lardner, Manager of Sydney Harbour YHA. Several TV and radio media crews attended.



Ross Lardner (Manager Sydney Harbour YHA), Robert Domm (CEO SHFA), Kristina Keneally (Minister for Planning), Helen Harms (Chair, YHA NSW Board)

### COMPLETED WORK

YHA appreciates the co-operation and understanding of local residents and businesses during the construction of Sydney Harbour YHA.

Completed works include the structure of the two hostel buildings and The Big Dig Archaeology Education Centre, main roof elements, flooring and internal partitions, service connections to over half the hostel, sheeting of the external walls and installation of fire stairs.



### UPCOMING WORK

In coming weeks installation of the roof and windows will be complete making the buildings watertight. Focus will shift to internal finishes and service installation. Work will continue on external cladding of the buildings.

Every precaution will be taken to minimise disturbance to local residents and businesses.

### ARCHAEOLOGY UPDATE

There have been minor archaeological excavations in the past months.

Regular inspections have revealed that the remnants are being well protected by the decking installed over the site and there are no weed growth or mould problems.

Development of interpretation for the archaeology and history of the site is in full swing – more details to follow in the next newsletter.

### ACCESS & CONTACT

YHA has appointed Built NSW Pty Ltd to manage the construction process. Built has established a site office at 130 Cumberland Street, The Rocks.

Whilst workers access the site through Gloucester Street, most truck movements and deliveries occur in the construction zone on Cumberland Street.

Site works occur between:

- 7am to 5.30pm Monday to Fridays
- 7.30am to 3.30pm on Saturdays.

No work will occur on Sundays or on Public Holidays without prior notification.

**All construction enquiries should be directed to Built NSW Pty Ltd (ph. 9251 1689).**

## FEATURE - THE BIG DIG ARCHAEOLOGY EDUCATION CENTRE

The Big Dig Archaeology Education Centre will provide two purpose built classrooms, a simulated archaeological dig and display cases containing artefacts discovered on the site.

The education centre will be complemented by three "interpretation spaces" within the archaeology designed to give visitors an understanding of what life was like on the site in the early days of Sydney. For example, the area that was once Berry's Bakery will be used for orientation talks about the site and will include display maps, photographs, artefacts and group seating.



Two exciting education programs are being developed for primary and secondary students, both focusing on the archaeology and history of the site, and these will be delivered by Sydney Learning Adventures. Other organisations, such as the Historic Houses Trust, will also present a range of programs in the centre. Educational groups will be encouraged to stay overnight and take more time to explore the many attractions of The Rocks.

For more information please contact our Education Officer Alison Frappell on 9261 1111, email [sydneyharbourgroups@yhansw.org.au](mailto:sydneyharbourgroups@yhansw.org.au)



## ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT

Opening in late 2009, Sydney Harbour YHA will have 106 rooms providing accommodation for 354 guests. The completed building will be three to four storeys high.

All rooms will have an en-suite bathroom and will range from private double, twin and family rooms to 4 and 6 multi-share rooms.

Sydney Harbour YHA will provide environmentally sustainable accommodation amongst the archaeological remnants of early Sydney. It will have state of the art facilities and an archaeological education centre.

To preserve and showcase the archaeological remnants on the site, the YHA accommodation wings will be raised off the ground on columns.

Historical interpretation will be provided through multi-media displays and other resources offering visitors a fascinating insight into The Rocks and the history of Australia's first European settlers.

For more information visit [sydneyharbouryha.com.au](http://sydneyharbouryha.com.au).



YHA is a membership based, not for profit organisation providing budget accommodation for backpackers and travellers throughout Australia at over 120 locations. It is an affiliate of the world's largest budget accommodation network, Hostelling International. For more information about YHA, visit [www.yha.com.au](http://www.yha.com.au).

YHA Mission Statement:

*"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."*

