



SYDNEY HARBOUR YHA - COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Edition 2, November 2008



Recognising the Past, Realising the Future.

LATEST NEWS

Since our first newsletter you will have seen major changes on the Cumberland Street Dig Site with the commencement of construction of Sydney Harbour YHA and The Big Dig Archaeology Education Centre.

The two blue cranes are prominent on the city skyline but do not represent the height of the finished building which will be three to four storeys high. Work is progressing smoothly with site establishment complete and the construction phase now commencing.

COMPLETED WORK

YHA appreciated the co-operation and understanding of local residents and businesses during the establishment of the site.

This phase is now complete with two cranes installed, site sheds established and remnant protection scaffolding erected over the site. Hoarding displays have also been installed, providing information about the site and the development. Concrete formwork for a suspended slab and rainwater tanks have been completed. Pre-cast footings have been installed in the location of the 37 pillars that will support the building structure. Structural steel installation has also commenced.



UPCOMING WORK

Over the next few months structural steel installation will continue. The building is envisaged to reach its completed height in early 2009.

External cladding work should commence in the New Year. Every precaution will be taken to minimise disturbance to local residents and businesses.

ARCHAEOLOGY UPDATE

Further archaeology investigations were conducted on the site in September for three additional footings to accommodate the large crane.

Indications of sandstone footings predating the 1830s were unearthed and recorded.

All intervention on the site has been conducted with the co-operation and agreement of the senior archaeologist for the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority and experienced heritage and conservation consultants.

ACCESS & CONTACT

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

While 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 and Public Holidays without prior notification.

All construction enquiries should be directed to Built NSW Pty Ltd (ph. 8332 4111, website www.built.com.au).

FEATURE - RE-ESTABLISHING HISTORIC LANEWAYS

One of the most delightful aspects of The Rocks is the network of historic laneways and alleys that one can wander aimlessly through, discovering historic buildings, secluded courtyards and connecting with times past.

The two historic laneways transecting the site will be re-established and made accessible to the public: Cribb's Lane, running east-west, and Caraher's Lane, running north-south through the site. On completion, these laneways will be open to the public from 7am until sunset.

From the laneways there will be visual access to the archaeology on the site, including sections located under the YHA hostel buildings. Interpretative displays will provide information about the remains and key archaeological features.

The re-established laneways will promote connectivity between the site and neighbouring laneways, such as Longs Lane and the existing section of Caraher's Lane to the south. It is hoped visitors to The Rocks will be inclined to investigate this area on their journey to and from the Harbour Bridge.

Whilst access to the laneways will be via steps at the ends of Cribb's Lane, wheelchair access will be available via the foyer of Sydney Harbour YHA. The entrance to The Big Dig Education Centre will be off Caraher's Lane, at the southern end of the site.



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 (see picture below).

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

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

To preserve and showcase the archaeological remains on the site, the YHA accommodation 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.



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.

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."

