

MEDIA RELEASE

Volunteers Invited to Join the Team on World-Heritage listed Cockatoo Island

The Harbour Trust is inviting new volunteers to join the team who help restore, enrich and enhance the visitor experience at Cockatoo Island – one of Sydney’s most intriguing and historic Islands – and is currently recruiting restoration, gardening and visitor centre volunteers.

Off-limits to the public for more than 100 years, Cockatoo Island has an incredible history from decades of human endeavour by convicts and shipbuilders. It is inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List as one of the best surviving examples of convict transportation and colonial expansion through convict labour.

“Cockatoo Island is an incredibly special and unique place to visit attracting more than 300,000 visitors each year,” said Harbour Trust CEO, Mary Darwell. “We have an incredible team of over 130 volunteers on Cockatoo Island who help bring the Island to life and create sensational experiences for our visitors that would not otherwise be possible,” she said.

“Volunteering at the Harbour Trust is a rewarding experience, providing the opportunity to work at extraordinary sites, such as Cockatoo Island,” said Ms Darwell.

The Harbour Trust invites new volunteers to join at any time across all of its sites, and is currently seeking volunteers for the following roles at Cockatoo Island:

Cockatoo Island Visitor Centre Volunteer: Based at the entry to Cockatoo Island, volunteers meet and greet visitors and help them to maximise their visit by assisting with historic information, directions, tours and attractions as well as selling merchandise. The role particularly suits a people-person with an interest in the historic aspects of the Island and helping people enjoy their visit. The Visitor Centre is open daily with a fortnightly commitment from each volunteer. Volunteers are needed for Monday, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Cockatoo Island Restoration Volunteer: Restoration volunteers are currently restoring the shipbuilding heritage of the Island including steam and electric cranes, a wooden boat and the Island’s heritage ship building equipment. Restored cranes are also used in public demonstrations during the year. Engineering and trade skills including carpentry, fitting, turning and boiler making are highly regarded but those with general maintenance skills are also welcome. The team meets Monday to Thursday, with volunteers typically attending once per week. Volunteers must provide their own steel capped boots. Workshop facilities, tools and equipment are all provided. A Site Induction Certificate (white card) is essential and this training is provided.

Cockatoo Island Gardening Volunteer: Gardening volunteers are responsible for the Island’s residential precinct gardens which include both ornamental and native plants. Duties including weeding, pruning, watering and planting. The team is involved in decision making with Harbour Trust’s plans for the gardens and meets on Thursdays on a fortnightly basis. Those with gardening knowledge or simply a green thumb are welcome.

Harbour Trust Volunteers all work within their own teams and are trained in their role, and also become part of the 250 strong Harbour Trust volunteer team, are given a uniform and enjoy social opportunities, information sessions and other benefits. The role would particularly suit a local to the area.

To apply visit <http://www.harbourtrust.gov.au/webform/apply> or for more information contact the Harbour Trust Volunteer Manager on 8969 2112.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES: Please contact Rebecca Hill at the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust on (02) 8969 2113 or 0409 266 248 or Rebecca.Hill@harbourtrust.gov.au.

The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust is an operationally self-funding agency created by the Australian Government to be responsible for the vision planning and management of former defence and Commonwealth sites around Sydney Harbour. Our sites are Cockatoo Island and Snapper Island in Sydney Harbour, Woolwich Dock and Parklands, Sub Base Platypus in North Sydney, Headland Park in Mosman, North Head Sanctuary in Manly, the Marine Biological Station in Watsons Bay and Macquarie Lightstation in Vaucluse. These public spaces and parklands offer major events, exhibitions, venue hire, accommodation, tours and business tenancy.
www.harbourtrust.gov.au