



21 February 2005

## Cockatoo Island Facelift for Festival

Cockatoo Island, the largest island in Sydney Harbour, has been cleaned up for a major festival over the Easter long weekend.

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust executive director Geoff Bailey said the former shipbuilding yard had scrubbed up a treat in preparation for a three day music and cultural festival to open up a landmark harbour site to the public.

'We've been tackling the accumulated contamination, dust and grime of 165 years of occupation by convicts, common felons and thousands of maritime workers, sailors and sundry others,' Mr Bailey said.

'What we haven't done, however, is remove the great industrial atmosphere of Cockatoo Island. We've created some of the most original venues for music, galleries, cafes and all the other activities of a community festival you could imagine.

'The festival's main stage will be housed in the turbine hall. This is a giant steel framed structure over 100 metres long and six storeys high. It's one of eight stages on the island. Other venues include the factory ambience of the 1912 Joiner's Shop, the colonial prison environs of the convict courtyard and the stark forms of the Electrical Workshop.

'A marquee at the base of the eastern cliff face will host music and a mini film festival presented by the Australian Film Commission and film critic Peter Castaldi. And on the sheep paddock, singer/songwriters will entertain festival goers sitting outside the Frangipani Café.'

Mr Bailey said Cockatoo Island 2005 was an authentic community festival: music for all tastes – 120 acts on 8 stages – 2 cinemas – writers and poets – art galleries – photographic exhibitions – record and collectables fair – markets and stalls – yoga and massage – bars, restaurants, cafes - camping.

'We want this festival to appeal to a wide cross section of the Sydney community. The location is unique and the festival program has something for everyone at one of Sydney's most historic sites.'

**Information:** Contact Patrick Fletcher (02) 8969 2114 or 0413 021 079

**Festival website:** [www.cockatooisland.net](http://www.cockatooisland.net)