



1 March 2005

Cockatoo Island Festival Children Under 12 free

Kids are in for a treat this Easter long weekend with free access to the Cockatoo Island festival.

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust executive director Geoff Bailey said the program for the festival would appeal to anyone with an interest in contemporary music and culture and keen to explore Sydney Harbour's largest island.

'The festival is our way of opening up this landmark harbour site to the public. We want to encourage people with young kids to come along and enjoy the music, art, food and markets,' Mr Bailey said.

'Children under 12 in the company of their parents or guardians get into the festival free. There'll be plenty to keep children occupied. There's the music for a start. With over 120 acts on eight stages, in some amazing venues, young ears will get a great introduction to the world's music.

'The antics of Circusworks will delight children of all ages. Balloon sculpting, stilt walking, clowning, storytellers and jugglers will keep kids entertained for hours. Parents can keep an eye on things from a nearby café overlooking the harbour.

'A guided tour of the island for a look at those areas outside the festival precincts is not only an opportunity for exercise but a great way to learn about the convict and prison history of Cockatoo Island and get a close up view of the island's two wonderful dry docks.

'The Laughter Club is bound to appeal to children as will the markets and exhibitions.'

Mr Bailey said the Cockatoo Island Festival would be staged in some of the most original venues for music, galleries, cafes and all the other activities of a community festival one could imagine.

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

Information: Contact Patrick Fletcher (02) 8969 2114 or 0413 021 079
Festival website: www.cockatooisland.net