

5 June 2002

COCKATOO ISLAND – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE
Film presentation night about Cockatoo Island 10th and 11th of July 2002
Balmain High, Bayville St, Balmain

The history and future uses of Cockatoo Island will be the subject of a film and presentation night being held by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.

Executive Director of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, Mr Geoff Bailey, said this would be an opportunity for the local community to gain a greater appreciation of Cockatoo Island's history and its future.

'Cockatoo Island is the largest island in Sydney Harbour, with a remarkable history from convict prison to dockyard for shipbuilding and repair,' Mr Bailey said.

'The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust is preparing a draft plan for the future uses of Cockatoo Island and its other sites around Sydney Harbour which is scheduled for completion by the end of 2002.

'It's now more than ten years since Cockatoo Island was used. It contains a vast array of facilities and spaces: industrial workshops, clusters of courtyards, a prison barracks, underground grain silos, houses, a powerhouse, cranes, water towers, rail tracks, tunnels and two magnificent docks.

'We have been undertaking extensive consultations with the community on the future uses of all our sites and also opening the sites to the public.

'Guided tours of Cockatoo Island have been operating since August last year and are proving to be very popular. Community interest in the island reflects its harbour location and its place in the history of Sydney.'

Mr Bailey said the Harbour Trust was keen to involve the Balmain community in the planning processes for Cockatoo Island, given its proximity and the strong affiliation of many of its residents with the island's maritime industry.

The film and presentation night will be held at Balmain High School, Bayview Street, on Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 July, 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

Bookings are essential: call the Harbour Trust on 8969 2131 from Monday to Friday 9am-5pm.

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For further information please contact Sarah Martin on tel: 89692112