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Kid's to rule Macquarie Lighthouse

Kid's have taken over Australia's first lighthouse this week, as part of a lively and unique school holiday activity.

Public Programs Officer with the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, Katrina Fellas, said she believed this was the first time in the history of the lighthouse that a special program had been put together for kids.

"The Harbour Trust is holding Kid's Day at Macquarie Lighthouse to encourage people to visit and enjoy this remarkable site, while learning a bit about its history and possibilities for its future," Ms Fellas said.

"The character of Robert Watson, first lighthouse keeper at Macquarie, will be brought to life by an actor.

"The kids will make miniature lighthouses, indulge their artistic talents and hear fascinating stories about the famous Dunbar shipwreck.

"Of course the highlight of the day will be a tour to the top of the lighthouse – climbing the 100 stairs to see a magnificent view of Sydney, up the harbour and out to sea.

On Tuesday and Thursday from 10.30am – 2.00pm, a giant marquee, erected on the front lawn of this spectacular harbour landmark, will be a hub of activity for 5 to 12 year-olds.

Macquarie Lighthouse is one of seven unique lands that managed by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust. The Harbour Trust is preparing a plan for the future of Macquarie Lighthouse that will return the site to public ownership for the future enjoyment

Macquarie Lighthouse is the site of both the first lighthouse and the longest continuously operating beacon in Australia. It is still used for its initially intended purpose – as a guiding light for sailors showing the way to the Harbour entrance.

Built in 1883, it closely resembles the original Greenway-designed lighthouse, which stood only a few metres away. The original lighthouse started to erode only 50 years after it was built and for a short time, the old and new lighthouses stood side-by-side on South Head.

Macquarie Lighthouse is located at Old South Head Road, Vaucluse.

Ms Fellas said the free Kid's Day had booked out very quickly.

"If this week is a success, the Harbour Trust will be looking into future activities at the lighthouse as well as some of our other sites around Sydney Harbour."

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