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***Sitelines* – Sydney Harbour Essays**

Sitelines, a book of essays on Sydney Harbour, is a celebration of Australia's most famous waterway and a reflection of the diversity of views about this iconic place.

Executive Director of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, Geoff Bailey, said the essays ranged from the long view to the personal, from historical perspectives to childhood memories.

'The attraction of Sydney Harbour is difficult to define beyond its obvious beauty. Its ecology is complex, its uses diverse and its history rich. All these qualities combine to make it a place the people of Sydney love and cherish,' Mr Bailey said.

'We wanted to bring a range of different minds to the task of fleshing out these qualities. To capture the layers of meaning, history and memory that underscore the harbour as a place of work, a playground, a source of repose for visitors to its foreshores and headlands.

'The harbour's suburbs and industrial sites, bays and beaches are markers of its timeless beauty and the changes it continues to experience.

'From painters to poets, from mariners to historians, Sydney Harbour is the subject of inspiration, stories and controversy. It continues to influence the history of the city and the lives of its inhabitants.'

The essays in *Sitelines* are a sample of contemporary thinking about the harbour: **Tim Flannery** tells the story of Sydney's sandstone, its flora and fauna; **David Marr** casts an eye over our obsession with the harbour and its foreshores; **Tom Uren** recalls his lifelong love of Sydney Harbour and the battles to protect it; **Geoffrey Blainey** provides an historical overview of the harbour from the First Fleet to the present day; **Elizabeth Farrelly** reviews the various ways we have thought about the harbour and questions some long held assumptions.

Sitelines is published in quality paperback format and includes reproductions of pastel oil illustrations by Sydney artist Nick Hollo.

Tony Abbott, Member for Warringah and Minister for Health and Ageing, will launch the book of essays at the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust's offices, Chowder Bay, 11am Wednesday 3 August 2005.

Sitelines is available from the Harbour Trust for \$15 plus \$2 postage and from selected bookstores. For information or to order a copy phone (02) 8969 2131 or visit www.harbourtrust.gov.au

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