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Calling All Gardeners to Cockatoo Island

Cockatoo Island could soon become the newest hot spot for the keen gardeners of Sydney.

Catherine Enright, Public Programs Coordinator at the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, said that the historic former convict prison and shipyard is in need of a volunteer gardening force that is willing to assist restore the heritage gardens that once were a feature of the island.

'Cockatoo Island will be opening to the public in early 2007, and moving into its next phase of life with a range of new businesses and tenants establishing themselves over the next few years,' Ms Enright said.

'While this process is important in ensuring the long-term security and viability of the island, we want visitors who come to the island to appreciate the history and beauty of this place,' she said.

'One means of communicating the history of the island is through restoring the flower, fruit and vegetable gardens that were once grown and tended to during the Victorian era, between the World Wars and the 1950s.'

'We're looking for volunteers with a range of skills and experience, from those skilled in restoring and maintaining heritage gardens to those with no experience but with enthusiasm to commit time to this important project.'

Anyone who would like to be part of the dedicated volunteer team can find out more through visiting the Harbour Trust's website: www.harbourtrust.gov.au or phoning (02) 8969 2100.'

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For more information, contact:

Craig Easdown
Ph: (02) 8969 2113
Mob: 0413 008 256
Em: craig.easdown@harbourtrust.gov.au