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Woolwich attracts Scouts in Cumberland Gang Show

The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust and the Scout Association of NSW have joined forces for the preparation of the annual Cumberland Gang Show.

Harbour Trust Executive Director, Geoff Bailey, said the Trust was delighted to make available a large sawtooth shed at Woolwich Dock for the use of the scouts.

'The scouts have been constructing sets and painting backdrops in the shed. It's an ideal location for what is a very big theatrical production,' Mr Bailey said. 'The community use of the site is in keeping with Harbour Trust plans to weave this and our other lands back into the life of the city.'

Woolwich Dock has a maritime and industrial history dating back to the nineteenth century and more recent use by the Army for water based operations. It is one of seven former Defence and other special Commonwealth lands on Sydney Harbour managed by the Harbour Trust that have been closed off to the community for many years.

'The Harbour Trust is preparing a plan for the management and future uses of these lands. We are charged with conserving their cultural heritage, protecting the environment and maximising public access,' Mr Bailey said.

In addition to Woolwich Dock, the lands include the former North Head Artillery School, Middle Head and Georges Heights, Cockatoo Island, Snapper Island, the Marine Biological Station at Camp Cove and the Macquarie Lightstation at South Head.

The Cumberland Gang Show has a cast of 144 enthusiastic young people, drawn from both the Scout and Guide Associations. They are supported by a 20-piece orchestra and 250 people behind the scenes, along with 2,000 costumes, 25 complete scene changes, 5,000 person hours of cast rehearsals and 8,000 hours of set costume and technical preparation – making this the largest Gang Show in NSW.

The Woolwich Dock location will enable organisers of the Gang Show to stage costume try-ons and dress rehearsals.

The 2002 production includes a look at Hollywood with songs from movies such as Shrek and Blues Brothers, and a walk through the Moulin Rouge.

The season opens on Friday, 12th July at the Parramatta Riverside Theatre and runs until Saturday 20th July. Tickets cost \$17.50 for adults and \$11.00 for children and pensioners. For further ticket information, contact Lyall Wood on 9636 2731.

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