

14 November 2001

Lighthouse visits Woolwich

The lighthouse ship, *Carpentaria*, usually moored at the Australian National Maritime Museum was temporarily moved into Woolwich Dock this morning.

Executive Director of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, Mr Geoff Bailey said the *Carpentaria* had to be moved to make space for yachts associated with the Volvo Around the World Race.

“The Maritime Museum was looking for somewhere to temporarily store the *Carpentaria* and we offered them Woolwich Dock,” Mr Bailey said.

“It is particularly fitting for the Harbour Trust to be hosting the *Carpentaria*, given that it was originally built on Cockatoo Island, another of the Harbour Trust’s sites.

“Next month, the Harbour Trust will celebrate the 100th birthday of Woolwich Dock and it will be terrific to have the *Carpentaria* moored there for this event.”

The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust has the task of preparing a plan for the Woolwich Dock site which is currently vacant.

Mr Bailey said the Harbour Trust was hoping to open Woolwich Dock to the public for ongoing access as early as February next year.

“In the meantime, people will have the opportunity to see both the magnificent dock and the *Carpentaria* on Sunday 2 December as part of a breakfast to celebrate 100 years since the official opening of Woolwich Dock, Mr Bailey said.

“The breakfast, including an oyster and prawn market, entertainment and displays, will bring the dock back to life and mark the start of the process of returning this site to the people.”

The *Carpentaria* will be familiar to many Sydney-siders as the bright red lighthouse mounted on a 22 metre long vessel that is usually moored in front of the Maritime Museum near the Pymont Bridge.

Carpentaria, the Commonwealth Lightship 4, was one of four unmanned light floats built at Cockatoo Island Dockyard, Sydney, in 1917. It was used to warn ships of hazards in the Gulf of Carpentaria, Breaksea Spit near Sandy Cape, Queensland, and in Bass Strait.

The lightship was last used in 1983 and came to the National Maritime Museum in 1987.

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