



# Media Release

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## **OPEN DAY AT FORMER ARTILLERY SCHOOL ON NORTH HEAD**

An open day at the former School of Artillery on North Head will give Sydney residents an opportunity to explore the past, present and possible future for this remarkable site.

The Interim Sydney Harbour Federation Trust is holding this free open day from 12-4pm on Saturday 28 April so that people can discover the Art Deco buildings, the bushland and other special features that the site contains.

Executive Director of the Harbour Trust, Mr Geoff Bailey said the site is to be returned to public ownership yet few people have ever been there.

“At the open day, many of the buildings surrounding the spectacular parade ground will be open for people to explore. There are also incredible views of the city and harbour to admire,” Mr Bailey said.

“There will be an opportunity to find out more about the whole of North Head, particularly the precious natural environment, through displays by Manly Council, Manly Environment Centre, Friends of Quarantine and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The Harbour Trust will also have a display showing some of their early planning for the site. Mr Bailey explained that this would be a preview of part of the Harbour Trust’s upcoming exhibition, *Sites Unseen* to be held at City Exhibition Space, Customs House from 26 May.

Mr Bailey encouraged people to come and spend an afternoon exploring North Head.

“The Lions Club of Balgowlah will be holding a sausage sizzle at the Artillery School and the North Fort Artillery Museum will also be open from 11-4pm. There are also some great walks through the National Park on North Head that open up to magnificent views out to sea and back towards the city.”

Public transport to the open day is available on the Route 135 bus from Manly Wharf.

Most of the buildings on the site date back to 1936-37 when they were built as the North Head Fort Barracks Group to accommodate soldiers operating guns that were placed on North Head to defend the city.

After the Second World War, the School of Artillery occupied the barracks and the guns on North Head were removed in the late 1950s. Several buildings, workshops and sheds have been added to the site over the years.

Mr Bailey said that over the next year, the Harbour Trust will be drawing up plans for how the School of Artillery will be used in the future.

“We are investigating future uses that are compatible with the heritage of the site. Our plans will conserve cultural heritage, protect the environment and provide maximum public access,” Mr Bailey said.

“We are holding this open day so that the Sydney community can discover the school’s special qualities and be involved in helping to plan its future.

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For more information, contact:

Kate Langford, Public Information Officer on ph (02) 8969 2100

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