



11 September 2006

National Art School for Cockatoo Island

The National Art School and the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust have agreed to allow 200 art students to descend upon Cockatoo Island next year.

The agreement will be officially endorsed tomorrow on Cockatoo Island when Bernard Ollis, Director of the National Art School, presents a drawing of Cockatoo Island to the Harbour Trust.

Several of the School's students were able to visit Cockatoo Island this year and a framed drawing of one of the island's immense workshops will be donated to the Harbour Trust.

A short formal presentation will be held on Cockatoo Island at 2.30pm, Tuesday 12 September.

Geoff Bailey, Executive Director of the Harbour Trust, said the partnership will be mutually beneficial to both organisations and provide a boost for the development of the next generation of Sydney artists.

'Sydney Harbour has been the source of artistic inspiration for many artists over the years, including Tom Roberts, Arthur Streeton, Grace Cossington Smith and John Olsen,' Mr Bailey said.

'Cockatoo Island's rich variety of industrial and convict-era heritage buildings and structures offer the students a unique opportunity to capture some of the reminders of our working harbour history,' he said.

Mr Ollis stated he was looking forward to the 2007 academic year and believes the use of Cockatoo Island will provide a flying start to the year.

'The National Art School year begins with 'Drawing Week', a five-day marathon for all second and third year students. This will be the first year we have been able to bring all students together on one site.' Mr Ollis said.

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For more information and to confirm travel arrangements to the island, contact:

Craig Easdown

Ph: (02) 8969 2113

Mob: 0413 008 256

Em: craig.easdown@harbourtrust.gov.au