

February 2019

Cockatoo Island welcomes NSW Seniors Festival

The Harbour Trust invites one and all to celebrate positive aging as the NSW Seniors Festival hits Cockatoo Island shores from 15 to 20 February. Hosting immersive historical tours throughout Seniors Week, Cockatoo Island will become accessible to those who have rarely had the opportunity to explore the island due to mobility restrictions.

Known for its colonial convict beginnings and late shipyard industry, Cockatoo Island has been home to many transformations. Cockatoo Island's layered history has created its patchwork charm making it one of the most renowned islands on Sydney Harbour.

Now, for the first time since being opened to the public in 2001, Cockatoo Island joins the NSW Seniors Week festival to produce a tour that will allow the elderly to explore all parts of the island.

Programming three tours per day during the festival, Cockatoo Island will run a series of accessible expeditions across the upper precincts of the island. Tours will include a talk in the Mess Hall and a short scenic drive throughout the Convict Precinct. Once the exploration is complete, ticketholders are beckoned to Societe Overboard café for a \$5 coffee/tea and muffin special located opposite our Visitor Centre.

For those looking to add a bit of adventure to the Seniors Week experience, Cockatoo Island also provides a variety of accommodation options; camping packages are available throughout the Seniors Week period.

Harbour Trust CEO, Mary Darwell, said the tours once again showcase the versatility of Cockatoo Island.

"The Seniors Week festival on Cockatoo Island allows visitors to gain insight into Sydney's layered history, from First Nations importance, colonial convict Sydney to industrial and maritime Sydney," said Ms Darwell

"We're excited to welcome all those who haven't had the opportunity to explore the complex history of Cockatoo Island," she said.

NSW Seniors Festival is an annual festival and the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere.

Seniors Week at Cockatoo Island

Location: Cockatoo Island

Dates: Friday 15 February – Wednesday 20 February 2019

Tour Times: 10.30am – 1.30pm (Three tours per day 10.30am / 11.30am / 12.30pm)

Transport: Buggy available for low mobility patrons

Accessibility level: must be able to walk a short distance from Mess Hall to buggy

Harbour Trust

About the Harbour Trust

The Harbour Trust protects and manages some of the most historically significant foreshore sites on Sydney Harbour, including Cockatoo Island, North Head Sanctuary, Sub Base Platypus in North Sydney, and Headland Park in Mosman.

Our sites are rich in history and connect Sydney to our complex past; from First Nations countries to convict incarceration, and from nineteenth and twentieth century military and defence roles to the enterprise and industry of Sydney's working harbour.

Our role is to create new life on these historical sites, making vibrant new places with a mix of uses that Sydney-siders and visitors want to experience. We bring new life to our sites in a commercially sensitive and innovative manner, reinvest back into our sites to allow the public to access and enjoy these once inaccessible sites.

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