

MEDIA RELEASE

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## ANTaR's iconic 'Sea of Hands' coming to Barangaroo for National Reconciliation Week

ANTaR, the national organisation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reconciliation and rights, is partnering with the Barangaroo Delivery Authority to bring its interactive symbol of reconciliation, the [Sea of Hands](#), to Barangaroo Reserve for National Reconciliation Week 2016.

The Sea of Hands event begins with a free Opening Night Concert on Friday, 27 May (5:00pm-8:30pm) featuring live performances by **Christine Anu** and **Casey Donovan** on Barangaroo Reserve's Walumil Lawns, where the first part of the installation will be illuminated.

Thousands of visitors are expected to take part in the evolving installation at Sydney's spectacular new headland park between Friday, 27 May and Sunday, 5 June to reflect on Australia's national identity and the place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in our nation's story.

Visitors can participate by planting a hand between 10am and 4pm each day until Saturday, 4 June.

ANTaR, National Director, **Andrew Meehan** said Barangaroo Reserve, named after a powerful Cammeraygal woman and key figure in local Aboriginal culture and community in the late 1700s, was an obvious choice for the 16,000-hand Sea of Hands installation.

"Not only does the site's name serve as an important public reminder of the Aboriginal history and traditional custodianship of the area, it lies in sight of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, where more than 350,000 Australians walked in solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as part of the Harbour Bridge Walk in 2000.

"We want to draw attention to the Aboriginal history of the area, and capture the spirit of the Harbour Bridge Walk again by holding the largest Sea of Hands installation this century," Meehan said.

The vibrant installation has been designed by Gurindji/Malngin/Mudpurra artist and researcher **Brenda L Croft**. It is inspired by historical portraits depicting a number of Eora men adorned in customary ochre body markings. One of the portraits is of Bennelong, who was one of Barangaroo's husbands. Customary markings on the body reference the integral relationship that Indigenous people have to, and with, Country.

Barangaroo Delivery Authority, CEO, **Craig van der Laan** said: “We are delighted to be hosting ANTaR’s Sea of Hands at Barangaroo Reserve this year. It is a wonderful way to highlight the rich cultural history of the site and also to reunite in a symbolic way two key figures from our shared past, Barangaroo and her husband, Bennelong.

“We invite Sydneysiders to visit Barangaroo Reserve to participate in this terrific community demonstration of the commitment to a more inclusive future for all Australians,” said van der Laan.

Visitors to Barangaroo Reserve can learn more about reconciliation at the ANTaR information hub and book an Aboriginal cultural tour with Barangaroo’s Visitor Services Guides.

“We look forward to making this an iconic National Reconciliation Week event, and to providing an opportunity for people to participate and learn something during the week,” said Meehan.

**ANTaR** is a national, non-Indigenous organisation dedicated solely to supporting the aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and working to educate the wider community, shape public opinion and speak up for justice, rights and respect for First Peoples of Australia.

For more information, please visit [www.antar.org.au/seaofhands](http://www.antar.org.au/seaofhands) and [www.barangaroo.sydney](http://www.barangaroo.sydney)