

Media Release

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World renowned landscape architect Peter Walker and landscape gardener Don Burke to check on thousands of native blooms being grown for Barangaroo



"...the finest terras.....the tallest and most stately trees I ever saw in any nobleman's grounds in England cannot excel in beauty those [which] nature now presented to our view." Surgeon Arthur Bowes Smyth of the First Fleet upon arrival at Sydney Cove.

World-renowned landscape architect Peter Walker, lead designer of Barangaroo's Headland Park, returns to Sydney to discuss native flora and soil tactics with celebrity landscape gardener Don Burke OAM.

The landscape and flora experts will together visit Andreasen's Green Wholesale Nursery on the Central Coast on Wednesday 19 September, where more than 75,000 native plants and trees are currently being grown to complete the transformation of one of Sydney's oldest industrial sites into Barangaroo's sprawling five-hectare harbour foreshore park.

Joined by members of Barangaroo's expert landscaping team, Mr Walker will check on the progress of more than 84 species native to Sydney's Port Jackson area pre-European settlement, including large and small trees, shrubs, grasses, groundcovers and climbers.

"Barangaroo's Headland Park will be a newly made bush headland following very strictly on the vocabulary of the natural bush when the Aboriginal Gadigal people were living there", Mr Walker said.

"One of the elements of the harbour headlands is that in their natural form they were examples of the bush. They still play a strong part of this symbolic meaning of the Sydney Cove area so we were determined to recreate that rich, complicated and more interesting plant composition for the forum of the headland, while adding a dimension of naturalness to the overall park", he said.

According to Mr Burke, Barangaroo will give Sydneysiders and visitors a breath-taking look at how rich Sydney's biodiversity is.

"Sydney is unique in the world in that as a city, it still features lots of its precious native plants surviving almost exactly as they were when Captain Cook arrived in 1770. In the Sydney Harbour area alone there are far more species of native plants than in the entire British Isles", said Mr Burke.

"For an indigenous plant lover like myself the opportunity to work with a dream team of Australia's experts in all aspects of indigenous landscaping is a rare privilege that I am honoured to be part of", he said.

The native vegetation will feature throughout Barangaroo's entire 22-hectare site, forming Sydney's newest and most brilliant place. It will be Headland Park however, that will offer the sweetest smelling nostalgia for Sydney's most significant headland—the hunting and fishing ground of the Eora Nation's Gadigal people, known as Warrane (later Sydney Cove), and one of the earliest port calls of the First Fleet.

Currently ranging in size from 200mm to 2,000 litre tree saplings, and tubestock to 45 litre plants, the native flora has been selected to juxtapose a rugged sandstone topography inspired by the naturalistic, pre-1836 shoreline of the historic Miller's Point. It will transform a disused shipping container yard and former gasworks site, into one of Sydney's most stunning green headlands, visually linking the headland archipelagos of Balls Head, Goat Island and Ballast Point. Some of the trees are expected to grow up to nine metres and shrubs up to three metres by the park's completion in 2015.

Scheduled for completion by construction contractor Boulderstone in 2015, Barangaroo's Headland Park will provide space for recreation, expression, celebration, and community. In addition to the pre-1800 flora, Sydney's newest park will feature bush walks, grassed areas, lookouts, walking and cycle paths, a new harbour cove and a cultural venue. The symbolic bush-like headland will also feature unique tidal rock pools created from sandstone excavated from the Barangaroo site, offering the closest connection to Sydney Harbour that any foreshore park ever has.

Barangaroo's landscape expert team attending the nursery with Mr Walker include landscape architect, horticulturalist and arborist, Stuart Pittendrigh, who provided valuable and significant input to Mr Walker's landscape planning, soil scientist and SESL Principal, Simon Leake whose expertise in soil design and Australian native plants was crucial in establishing a native bush planting palette, and JPW Landscape Architect, Adam Robilliard, who led production on the landscape tender documentation for Headland Park.

Media Backgrounders attached.

For an opportunity to attend the nursery visit to Andreasen's Green Wholesale Nursery at Mangrove Mountain, Central Coast on Wednesday 19 September, for interviews and photo opportunities with Peter Walker and the expert landscape team, and Don Burke, or for follow up interview times and photos please contact:

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