

### **Barangaroo dig unearths archaeological relics**

Barangaroo will offer a rare opportunity for Sydneysiders to view archaeological finds from Sydney's maritime past, recently unearthed during excavations for the Headland Park.

Barangaroo is hosting an archaeological Open Day on Saturday 15 June 2013.

"Members of the public can get a peek at what lies beneath an area that was key to Sydney's maritime history," said Project Director for the Barangaroo Delivery Authority, Brian ten Brinke.

"Early infrastructure such as wharves and seawalls was critical to the very existence, as well as the future success, of the colony.

"Seeing up close structures built by workers in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, as well as the materials they used and even the items they discarded, helps increase our knowledge and understanding of this fascinating and iconic part of Sydney.

"The Open Day is a rare opportunity to connect with those whose endeavours laid the foundations of modern Sydney.

"The remnants of the sandstone retaining wall confirm that the design of the Headland Park reflects the original shoreline."

Mr ten Brinke said that a detailed report by the archaeological team will be prepared after the excavations are completed.

Justin McCarthy, the Archaeological Excavation Director and Principal of Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd, said that extensive historical research had indicated that the site had a high degree of archaeological potential to contain early relics of European settlement.

"The creation of the two new coves at Barangaroo has presented a unique opportunity to investigate and record some of the areas of earliest development in Sydney," Mr McCarthy said.

"But the discovery of Munn's original slipway and its state of preservation as well as the size and extent of the Cuthbert's seawall has surprised all of the archaeological team.

"Artefacts uncovered include copper nails and spikes, Chinese and English export ceramic wares, glass bottles and clay smoking pipes. Some artefacts will be on display during the Open Day."

"Everything we see shows that our forebears were great at adapting and reusing materials and structures."

“These structural remains and the artefacts buried in and around them represent so many facets of Sydney’s history. The structures relate to very early colonial industry, commerce and trade while the artefacts reflect the use of the site and the people who lived around it.”

Further excavation is currently underway near Gate 4 on Hickson Road where James Munn developed a shipyard in the late 1820s. It was taken over and expanded by John Cuthbert in 1856 and then later by TA Dibbs in 1874 who further redeveloped the land for wharfage. So far the excavations have revealed part of Munn’s original stone slipway which was laid down upon the original narrow beach and is shown on an 1831 plan, a massive sandstone wharf and seawall built by Cuthbert in 1861, timber jetty piles and an extension of Munn Street built between 1900 and 1910 that connected to the newly-constructed Hickson Road.

“The sandstone blocks were all handcut and you can even see the pick marks,” said Mr ten Brinke.

“The sand fills may have been dredged from the harbour and are providing new insights into how the land was reclaimed.”

Barangaroo Delivery Authority’s Chief Executive Officer John Tabart said the Open Day was an exciting dividend from the project, as the site’s important history is recovered and recorded.

Leading construction and engineering firm Baulderstone is building the Headland Park which was designed by world-renowned landscape architect, Peter Walker.

The six hectare waterfront Barangaroo Headland Park at Millers Point will be a stunning addition for residents and visitors to Sydney. Once complete, the Park and foreshore will feature expansive views as well as bush walks, picnic areas, walking paths and tidal pools. Opportunities to reinterpret the remnants of the sandstone retaining wall into the landscape of the Headland Park are currently being explored.

The Open Day runs from 10am to 4pm on site at the Headland Park. Guided tours will be held every hour for groups of up to 20, with a limit of three per hour. Visitors will be able to speak to the archaeological team about the artefacts found. As places are limited, tour bookings are essential and can be made at [www.barangaroo.com](http://www.barangaroo.com)

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