

BARANGAROO RESERVE





A NEW DESTINATION

Barangaroo Reserve marks the transformation of an old industrial site into a spectacular, six-hectare harbourside headland.

Through the use of innovative construction techniques, a concrete container terminal has been reborn as a naturalistic rocky outcrop, sensitively landscaped with 100% native trees and shrubs.

Opened in August 2015 and visited by more than 3 million people in its first two years, the Reserve gives visitors never-before-seen views of the city's iconic harbour, as well as walking and cycling trails, idyllic coves, picnic spots and places for quiet contemplation.

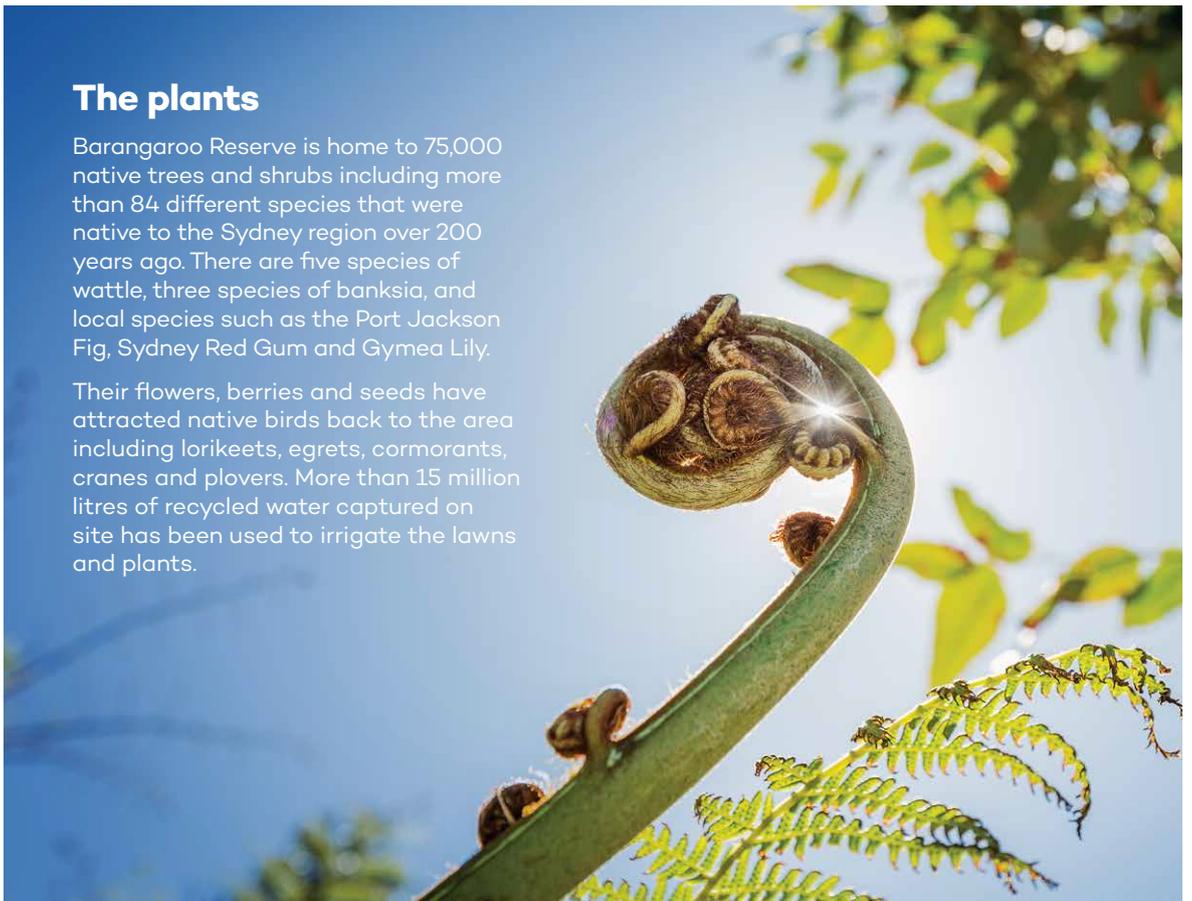
Barangaroo Reserve was designed by leading Australian landscape architects Johnson Pilton Walker in association with US-based Peter Walker & Partners, and has won 12 international and Australian awards for design, architecture, landscaping, engineering and lighting.

The new Sydney Metro line, scheduled to open in 2024, will deliver people right to the Reserve's doorstep.

The plants

Barangaroo Reserve is home to 75,000 native trees and shrubs including more than 84 different species that were native to the Sydney region over 200 years ago. There are five species of wattle, three species of banksia, and local species such as the Port Jackson Fig, Sydney Red Gum and Gymea Lily.

Their flowers, berries and seeds have attracted native birds back to the area including lorikeets, egrets, cormorants, cranes and plovers. More than 15 million litres of recycled water captured on site has been used to irrigate the lawns and plants.



The sandstone

More than 10,000 sandstone blocks were used to create the extraordinary Barangaroo Reserve, with 93 per cent of the blocks coming from Barangaroo itself.

The blocks were painstakingly extracted from beneath what is now the Cutaway and the underground car park.

Inspired by the shoreline of 1836, Barangaroo Reserve's construction is a tale of traditional craftsmanship, industrial know-how, ground-breaking initiative, and teamwork at its finest.

The angle of the sandstone blocks largely follows Sydney's natural fault line (roughly 20 degrees north west), mirroring other headlands around the harbour.

Every grain of sandstone extracted from Barangaroo Reserve was used. Offcuts were ground up and mixed to become the sandy top soil required by the 75,000 trees, plants and shrubs of the headland.



Celebrating our heritage

Barangaroo is named after a powerful Cammeraygal woman who lived in the area at the time of early colonial settlement. She was a key figure in local Aboriginal culture and community, and remains so today.

Barangaroo's second husband was Bennelong, after whom Bennelong Point is named - the site of the Sydney Opera House.

The site was home of the Gadigal of the Eora Nation, the traditional owners of the Sydney city region, and was used for fishing and hunting. Large shell middens and numerous nearby rock engravings indicate Aboriginal occupation dating back 6000 years.

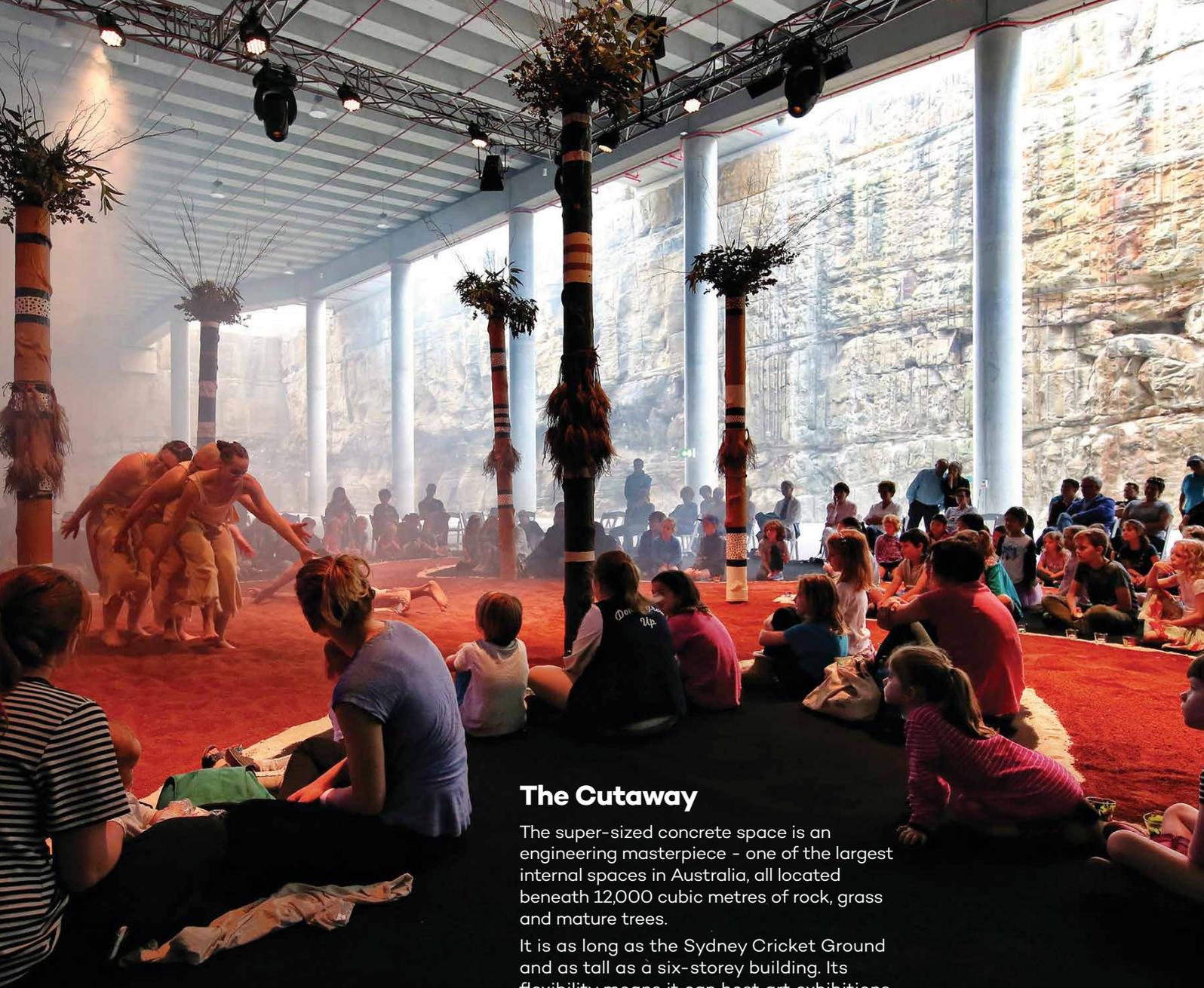
Today, Aboriginal contemporary culture is celebrated at Barangaroo through artworks, cultural events and markets, as well as events during NAIDOC Week.

Visitors to Barangaroo Reserve can connect with the world's oldest living culture and the site's rich cultural history through a hands-on educational tour with one of Barangaroo's Aboriginal Visitor Services Guides.

The construction of the Reserve also preserved key historic sites, including:

- The discovery, retention and incorporation of the 1820's Munn's Slipway and the 1865 Cuthbert Sandstone seawall
- The preservation of the early 1900's sewage pumping station #14 which was relocated to the Towns Place entrance and converted to public toilets.
- The retention of the 1903 sandstone seawall along the north western edge of the Headland Park foreshore.
- The adoption of maritime, Indigenous and natural themes in the naming of places within Barangaroo.





The Cutaway

The super-sized concrete space is an engineering masterpiece - one of the largest internal spaces in Australia, all located beneath 12,000 cubic metres of rock, grass and mature trees.

It is as long as the Sydney Cricket Ground and as tall as a six-storey building. Its flexibility means it can host art exhibitions, music and cultural performances, food events and dinners, major television shoots and other commercial activities.

It also incorporates the large Merriman Street sandstone wall. Open to the sky, it is a graphic reminder of the area's maritime heritage and provides a beautiful backdrop to the cultural activities inside.

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