



SYDNEY HARBOUR YHA - COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Edition 1, August 2008



Revitalising the Past, recognising the Present, realising the Future.

LATEST NEWS

YHA NSW wishes to announce that construction of Sydney Harbour YHA and the Big Dig Archaeological Education Centre will commence from 6th August 2008. Built NSW Pty Ltd has been appointed as the construction contractor for this exciting development. Construction is expected to take 14 months, with the YHA scheduled to open in late 2009.

YHA will circulate this newsletter every three months. Information about upcoming construction activity will be distributed by the builder and will be available on the Sydney Harbour YHA website.

ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT

Opening in late 2009, Sydney Harbour YHA will have 106 rooms providing accommodation for 354 guests. All rooms will have an ensuite bathroom and will range from private double and twin rooms, family rooms and 4 to 6 multishare rooms.

This will be an environmentally sustainable YHA built amongst the archaeological remnants of early Sydney, with state of the art facilities and an archaeological education centre.

To preserve and showcase the archaeological remains on the site, the YHA accommodation will be raised off the ground on columns. Historical interpretation will be provided through multi-media displays and other resources offering visitors a fascinating insight into The Rocks and the history of Australia's first settlers.

For more information visit sydneyharbouryha.com.au.

WHY WE CHOSE BUILT?

YHA interviewed numerous building contractors for this landmark project. Built NSW Pty Ltd stood out for their approach to protecting the sensitive archaeology on the site, their commitment to minimise the impact upon local residents and businesses, and their enthusiasm for their project.

Built is among Australia's most progressive construction, refurbishment, and fitout companies. Established in 1998, the privately owned company has grown to become a key participant in the major commercial property markets.

With numerous awards at the 2007 Master Builders Association Excellence in Construction Awards, YHA is confident it has made the right decision with Built.

ACCESS & CONTACT

The construction zone will be on Cumberland Street while site offices and sheds will be established on site nearer Gloucester Street.

Workers may enter through Gloucester Street but all deliveries and most truck movements will occur on Cumberland Street.



Site hours will be:

- Monday to Friday 7.00am to 5.30pm.
- Saturday 7.30am to 3.30pm.

No work on Sundays or Public Holidays without prior notification.

Any issues regarding construction should be directed to Built NSW Pty Ltd (ph. 02 8332 4111, website www.built.com.au).



UPCOMING WORK	
<p>In the first period of construction, hoardings will be erected around the site, site sheds will be established, the footings will be further excavated (involving some jack-hammering) and protection scaffolding will be erected over the remnants.</p> <p>Two cranes will be erected on the site. The concrete footings and steel pillars which will support the structure will be established.</p>	
COMPLETED WORK	ARCHAEOLOGY UPDATE
<p>Preliminary archaeological excavations occurred on the site from February until June 2008, uncovering a further 250,000 artefacts and exposing the remnants of the former houses along the northern Cumberland Street section of the site as well as some houses on Gloucester Street.</p> <p>This work was partly conducted by volunteer students from the University of Sydney with supervision from University staff and the heritage consultants, Godden Mackay Logan.</p> <p>During this period, the footings for the new buildings were excavated by hand under archaeological supervision.</p> <p>YHA has redesigned the Cumberland Street façade to preserve physical and visual access to the remnant of the house of Richard Byrne, dating from the early 1800s.</p>	<p>The current excavations have confirmed what a rich site this is for artefacts with thousands of bones, fragments of china and glass, nails and pins being unearthed.</p> <p>One of the most exciting finds is a small bronze figure of Napoleon which is at least 150 years old and was featured in an article in the Sunday Telegraph in February 2008. This was probably a keepsake or ornament from one of the houses.</p> <p>The numerous artefacts uncovered throughout the recent excavations are currently being washed, sorted, bagged and stored and will be catalogued in the near future.</p>
	

YHA is a membership based, not for profit organisation providing budget accommodation for backpackers and travellers throughout Australia at over 120 locations. It is an affiliate of the world's largest budget accommodation network, Hostelling International. For more information about YHA, visit www.yha.com.au.

YHA Mission Statement:
"To provide opportunity for all, but especially young people, for education by personal development, fostering friendship and bringing about a better understanding of others and the world around them."

