

MEDIA RELEASE

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Conserving heritage, inspiring renewal: the Harbour Trust is shortlisted for two categories in the 2024 National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards

Now in its 30th year, the National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards celebrates and recognises individuals, organisations and communities that have made a significant contribution to the conservation and promotion of heritage in New South Wales, Australia. Awarding excellence in conservation of Aboriginal, built, natural and cultural heritage.

At the Harbour Trust, heritage isn't just about conserving and protecting heritage-listed structures and other remnants from Australia's maritime, military and colonial history; it's about nurturing an understanding of the land's history and First Nations stories, to enhance the environment and welcome everyone to care and connect to Country. We can proudly reveal that the Harbour Trust has been shortlisted for two awards in two separate categories.

The two nominations are for the restoration of Building 10, the former Estimating and Drawing Office at Cockatoo Island / Wareamah in the Built Conservation category; and in the Education and Interpretation category recognising the Sub Base Platypus Torpedo Factory in North Sydney. The winners will be announced at the 2024 National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards ceremony on Friday 17 May, on this day all eyes will turn to the shortlisted candidates, whose stories of innovation and community spirit will leave an indelible mark on the tapestry of the nation's history.

The Harbour Trust Executive Director Janet Carding said, 'History shapes our present and inspires our future. Through the restoration of Building 10 (Estimating and Drawing Office) at Cockatoo Island / Wareamah we've proudly restored the exterior of one of the most significant buildings on the island plateau. As well as creating a new sense of place through interpreting the layered history of Sub Base Platypus inside the former Torpedo Factory, we're attracting new visitors with immersive stories about this extraordinary place. For these reasons, both projects have importance on a national scale'.

Located at the upper central workshops' precinct on the Cockatoo Island plateau, Building 10, has not been used for 30 years but will have a new role through the delivery of the Cockatoo Island / Wareamah Master Plan. Directed by the Harbour Trust and guided by the conservation management plan prepared by award-winning Robertson Hindmarsh Architects, Building 10 has been made safe, watertight and proudly restored, respecting the history of one of the most important buildings in the upper central workshops' precinct on the Island's plateau. The Harbour Trust's dedicated project team engaged with A J Bristow and Sons, OHM Consultants, Harbour Trust restoration volunteers and Polaris Marine Group.

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Formerly a torpedo factory, submarine base and gas works, Sub Base Platypus is a community recreation and work hub in North Sydney, homeland of the Cammeraygal people. The Sub Base Platypus Torpedo Factory Renewal Project has created a new multifunctional public space within the former 1943 Torpedo Factory which opened in September 2023. Elements interpreting the site's rich and layered history include an outdoor exhibition that traces the site's history with recovered objects, original torpedo bath and a decommissioned Mark VIII torpedo. Dennis Golding, a Kamilaroi / Gamilaraay artist, with his mother Vicki Golding was commissioned to create an original 3-piece artwork (Around the Curve) to honour Country. The Harbour Trust's dedicated Project team engaged with Turf, Trigger, Iguana Creative, Taylor, Yerrabingin, Dennis Golding and Vicki Golding, and The Gujaga Foundation.

ABOUT THE HARBOUR TRUST

Located in First Nations Countries at the entrance to Sydney Harbour, the Harbour Trust's visitor destinations are places of natural beauty. They also feature heritage structures and other significant remnants from the nation's colonial, maritime and military narratives.

The Harbour Trust's destinations include Cockatoo Island / Wareamah, North Head Sanctuary in Manly, Sub Base Platypus in North Sydney, and Headland Park in Mosman. They also protect Woolwich Dock and Parklands, Macquarie Lightstation in Vaucluse, and the Former Marine Biological Station at Camp Cove.

Through its management of these places, the Harbour Trust provides residents of – and visitors to – Australia's largest city with access to precious bushland, parks, and open spaces. The Harbour Trust aims to deliver enhanced appreciation and understanding of the natural and cultural values of Sydney Harbour and its contribution to the national story, and world's heritage for all visitors, through the remediation, conservation and adaptive reuse of, and access to, Harbour Trust lands on Sydney Harbour.

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