



**Media Release**

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### **Sydney Harbour Provides Inspiration for Young People**

Imagine a learning environment in which more than one adult at a time interacts with a small group of students in a stunning outdoor environment. Where dirt - or sand – gets under nails during lesson time; where students sit quietly and reflect after sessions. Where young people and their teachers are inspired and remember the experience for years to come.

Sound like a tall order? Eight years ago, two teachers with a deep respect and passion for Australia's coastline and alpine areas dreamt of such a scenario. Antony Butcher and Fleur Harmelin set up an outdoor education business on the NSW South Coast and have been providing this sort of experience for school students ever since. Today their dream is an exciting reality which is about to expand.

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust has just handed them the keys to a 75-bed education facility at Chowder Bay on Sydney Harbour. The building is one of a number at the former Defence lands, now under the jurisdiction of the Trust. It is from this vantage point - from October - that the company will run its highly regarded outdoor education, recreation programs and curriculum-based field studies.

The Land's Edge programs will reflect the cultural, physical and historical spirit of Sydney Harbour and utilise the Harbour's waterways, foreshore and bushlands, including the Trust's lands at Middle Head, North Head and Cockatoo Island.

Activities that provide interaction with the natural environment include snorkelling, sea kayaking/rafting, swimming, coastal walks, bushwalking, initiative activities, marine tours, solo experiences, camping, Boolarng Nangamai Aboriginal Art & Culture sessions and tall ship sailing. All the activities have an umbrella philosophy of environmental sustainability.

“Increasingly schools are seeking out those companies that provide quality outdoor education programs with well-considered outcomes run by expert outdoor educators,” Butcher said.

“But the location in which the outdoor education programs are carried out is vital. Through Land’s Edge schools now have a choice of three of Australia’s most stunning locations – Sydney Harbour; the NSW South Coast and Kosciuszko National Park,” he added.

For further information about Land’s Edge programming and Sydney Harbour accommodation visit [www.landsedge.com.au](http://www.landsedge.com.au) or email [info@landsedge.com.au](mailto:info@landsedge.com.au).

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