



Media Release

October 2007

Deputy Principal Leaves School to Head up Outdoor Education on Sydney Harbour

Land's Edge, one of Australia's most respected outdoor education companies is delighted to announce that Ms Michele Naughton, Deputy Principal of Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College, North Sydney, has accepted the position of Outdoor Education Director, Sydney Harbour, effective October 15.

Land's Edge founders, Antony Butcher and Fleur Harmelin, said the appointment of Ms Naughton is an exciting development for the company which is expanding its operations to Chowder Bay on Sydney Harbour from next month.

"It's a coup that Sydney Harbour Federation Trust has accepted our application for tenancy in a 75-bed accommodation and education facility at the Chowder Bay site.

"But to have Michele – whose belief in whole-person interpretive education based on biophysical environments reflects our own – heading up the Sydney Harbour arm of the business is absolutely the icing on the cake," said Butcher.

Harmelin added, "Michele has garnered enormous respect from her education colleagues during her long career working across the public, independent and Catholic school sector and I'm sure they'll be very interested to hear about her position with Land's Edge – hardly a standard career move for someone of her standing!"

Naughton explains that her passion for the environment and experiential learning for young people led her to apply for the unique position.

"Having worked in secondary schools in NSW for over seventeen years, my commitment to working with young people and fostering their development is evident.

"But I have to say that my outdoor education excursions with students in that time have been the most successful and productive teaching experiences in my career," said Naughton.

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"I also believe schools have an inherent responsibility to provide opportunities whereby young people can experience the journey into adulthood engaging in the unique challenges that education outdoors provides, so they can gain the self-knowledge required to cope with the bumps and scrapes of life," she added.

Land's Edge Sydney Harbour outdoor education, recreation programs and curriculum-based field studies 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.

For further information about Land's Edge programming and/or Sydney Harbour accommodation for schools visit www.landsedge.com.au or email info@landsedge.com.au.

To arrange an interview with Ms Michele Naughton or the directors of Land's Edge or for any other media enquiries please contact Simone Bird on 0411 968 326 or via twobirds@bigpond.com

www.landsedge.com.au