



Harbour Hike - Father's Day 2nd September

Thousands of hikers of all ages – from across Sydney and NSW will take to the spectacular Harbour foreshore paths of the lower north shore this Father's Day, Sunday 2 September to help discover the secrets of Sydney Harbour and raise vital funds for marine research.

The 11km SIMS Harbour Hike starts under the Sydney Harbour Bridge and concludes with a marine-themed festival at the Clifton Gardens/Chowder Bay finish line, home of the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS). Registration also includes a free ferry ride for all hikers from the finish line back to the start line.

Harbour Hike follows a route through Kirribilli, Neutral Bay, Shell Cove, Cremorne Point, Mosman Bay, Sirius Cove, Taronga Zoo, and the Sydney Harbour National Park at Bradley's Head around to Clifton Gardens Reserve/Chowder Bay, Mosman. Throughout the Hike, SIMS' scientists can be found at checkpoints where questions about Sydney Harbour's marine life and natural environment are asked - the most correct answers win hikers great prizes.

After taking to the spectacular foreshore paths of the lower north shore, hikers and anyone who would like to join them can relax and enjoy the remainder of the day at a free marine festival at Clifton Gardens Reserve, the event finish line.

Due to the success of Harbour Hike last year, and the popularity of the festival, we've made the festival bigger and better, and arranged more free ferries to transport hikers back to the start line after the festival. This year's festival, with free access for hikers and the general public, takes place from 10.00am - 4.00pm at Clifton Gardens Reserve, Mosman and includes:

- Sustainable seafood barbeque by Tom Kime's Fish & Co
- Food stalls by Pony Dining, The Fine Food Store and Veggie Patch Van
- Gourmet picnic hampers by The Fine Food Store (pre-order online at www.harbourhike.com)
- Live music by Nick Saxon, Monks of Mellonwah, Breakaway, Philharmonix and SNUGs
- Marine displays by the Sydney Institute of Marine Science - meet some of Australia's top marine scientists and get to know our most intriguing Sydney Harbour sea creatures up-close and personal
- Free sea kayaking and sea rafting by Lands Edge
- Free indigenous tours by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
- Face Painting by Artrageous
- Free Taronga ZooMobile

Harbour Hike is open to people of all ages and fitness levels - it's not too late to register for Sydney's favourite community event. Register online at www.harbourhike.com now.



Emerald Dinner 2012

9th October

Guest speaker Brian Skerry, award winning National Geographic underwater photographer, will share his adventures documenting the wonder and resilience of the underwater world.

Another wonderful evening of entertainment hosted by Sergeants Mess, Chowder Bay.

Deep Oceans at the Australian Museum



Deep Oceans until October 14

From the Vampire Squid and Dragonfish to the Sea Mouse and Squat Lobster – this hands-on exhibition will showcase all the weird and wonderful animals that make their homes 4000 metres below the sea.

The exhibition takes visitors on an expedition from what we know to the great unknown and shows how new technologies are enabling scientists to discover more.

Celebrate Fathers Day!

Dads and grandads – receive a child's (5-15 years) free entry to the Deep Oceans exhibition on Sunday 2 September 2012 with each accompanying paid adult. Please note this offer is not valid in conjunction with any other special discount or redeemable for cash.

Australian Museum, 6 College Street, Sydney.

Telephone 9320-6000

www.australianmuseum.net.au

<http://www.deepoceans.com.au>

The Australian Museum is an associate of SIMS and collaborates extensively with SIMS on research and community engagement.

Emerald Dinner 2012

Following the success of the inaugural SIMS Foundation Emerald Dinner in 2011, we are looking forward to celebrating Sydney Harbour and our unique coastal and marine environment at the 2012 Emerald Dinner on Tuesday 9th October 2012.

Each year the Emerald Dinner honours an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to our understanding of the marine environment. At this year's Emerald Dinner we will pay tribute to the work of Brian Skerry, award winning National Geographic Underwater Explorer and Photographer, who has kindly taken time out of his Australian speaking tour to address our guests.

As one of National Geographic's most seasoned photographers, Brian has spent more than 10,000 hours underwater, and his stories and images are captivating. He dives eight months of the year, often in extreme conditions beneath Arctic ice or in predator-infested waters. He has even lived at the bottom of the sea to get close to his subjects, and is a passionate spokesman for

the oceans he loves to photograph. His riveting presentations to audiences at TED, Harvard, and London's Royal Geographic Society inspire reverence for the marine realm and offer hope for protecting the vitality of the world's oceans.

Once again the dinner will be held at the beautiful Sergeants Mess at Chowder Bay, adjacent to SIMS, and SIMS' patron Dr. Robyn Williams AM has kindly donated his services as MC for the evening. Thanks to the generosity of SIMS Foundation partners and dinner supporters, we have some wonderful auction and raffle prizes available for our dinner guests.

Funds raised at the event will provide long term support for research, research training and community engagement at SIMS and invitations will be sent in the coming weeks. Tickets are \$195 or \$1900 for a table of ten - please mark your diary for what is sure to be a night to remember.

If you have any questions about the dinner please contact Rachel Booth - rachel.booth@sims.org.au.

Some examples of Brian's exquisite photography - in far flung places!



An adult southern right whale at a depth of 22 metres off the Auckland Islands, NZ. To quote Brian "swimming along the ocean bottom with a 14 metre long, 70 ton whale was the single most incredible animal encounter I have ever had".



Oceanic whitetip shark and diver in the Bahamas.



Blue cod amongst soft corals (called sea pens) in Long Sound Reserve, New Zealand where tannin-stained surface water blocks sunlight. This photo was taken at a depth of 23 metres where no ambient light exists and deepwater animals such as sea pens are tricked into emerging into shallower waters.



A harp seal pup, about 15 days old, swims in icy waters off Canada's Gulf of St. Lawrence. The pups are born with white coats but shed these within two weeks for this mottled colouration.

Great prizes at the Emerald Dinner

Orion Expedition Cruises



Orion Expedition Cruises, has offered an unforgettable 14 night Macquarie Island & NZ sub-Antarctic Wildlife Adventure expedition cruise for two aboard the magnificent MV Orion. Valued at \$32,540, this prize is for a Junior Suite and may be taken on either 8 December 2012 or 28 February 2013. This adventure of a lifetime takes us from New Zealand's South Island through to the remote sub-Antarctic Islands. Isolated, windswept and beautiful, New Zealand's sub-Antarctic Islands are unique and irreplaceable. The UNESCO rates these 'the most diverse and extensive of all sub-Antarctic archipelagos', and awarded them World Heritage status in 1998. This expedition is for a fortunate few as only 500 visitors a year are permitted to visit New Zealand's sub-Antarctic Islands and 1,000 to Australia's Macquarie Island.

Lizard Island Resort

Delaware North has offered a luxury three night holiday at their stunning Lizard Island Resort in the far north section of the Great Barrier Reef.

Lizard Island is a National Park covering 1,013 hectares with 24 sandy beaches and a lagoon. The only developments on the island are the Resort and the Lizard Island Research Station, widely acknowledged as one of the best tropical marine research stations in the world.

Lizard Island Resort is consistently ranked as one of the world's best resorts. It was ranked by Forbes in 2012 as one of the 10 Top Beach Resorts Around the World.

Enjoy secluded picnics on private beaches, five star cuisine and indulging spa treatments. Sail a catamaran, dive the outer barrier reef, go fishing. The choice is yours at Lizard Island Resort!



Wonderful art and other prizes

SIMS Foundation is fortunate to have the support of some wonderful artists, including internationally renowned environmental artist John Dahlsen and industrial heritage artist Jane Bennett. Their works will be available at the dinner, along with a host of other scientific, sporting and cultural experiences.

The Chase Gallery, specialising in works on paper by 20th Century Masters, has donated a beautiful work to be auctioned and will have other works available for the silent auction.



John Dahlsen's "5 Star Byron Bay"
1.24m x 1.24m

Sydney Harbour Research Program

Sydney Harbour is unarguably Australia's most iconic estuarine system, it is renowned for its natural beauty and this beauty emanates from the complexity of inlets formed by the drowning of a river valley. Sydney Harbour hosts a diversity of marine habitats and associated biodiversity. More than twice the number of fish species have been recorded from Sydney Harbour (550) than for the entire coast of the United Kingdom (200). This estuary is also one of the most modified estuaries in the world. It is home to a growing urban centre of 4 million people, > 50% of the foreshore has been armoured, 90% of the catchment is urbanized or industrialized and it is infamous with regards to the extent of metal contaminants in benthic sediments and macroalgae. The estuary, which has a complex shoreline and topography, is approximately 30 km long, with a surface area of about 50 km² and a total catchment of 500 km².

The Sydney Harbour Research Program is a flagship initiative from the Sydney Institute of Marine Science. The aim is to expand our understanding of the diversity and dynamics of Sydney Harbour and how human actions influence our underwater world. The Sydney Harbour Research Program will deliver credible, scientific data and expertise to help policy makers, managers, stakeholders and the public understand Sydney Harbour's unique natural systems. By blending innovative techniques with a collaborative work structure, we are able to provide the best scientific information to successfully manage our unique waterway now, and into the future.

Research in the coming years will focus on three main themes:

- Pressures and threats to the Harbour.
- Biodiversity and resilience of the Harbour.
- Future proofing of the Harbour.

Engaging all members of the community is another major objective of the Sydney Harbour Research Program. We have very recently launched a web site devoted to this research program and a field guide to all of the things that live in Sydney Harbour. It is early days yet but these web based facilities will continually expand to become a comprehensive information source on the research and life within Sydney Harbour. Check them out now:

<http://harbourprogram.sims.org.au> Research Program
<http://fieldguide.sims.org.au> Field Guide

Earlier this year, scientists from academia and industry gathered at SIMS to collate and discuss the results of a systematic literature review and an exhaustive questionnaire activity with the objective of synthesising information on the physical structure, the biological diversity and human threats. This process identified critical gaps in our understanding of the harbour's ecosystems so that research efforts can be directed to where they are most needed.

The results of this review are planned to be published in a peer reviewed journal before the end of 2012.



Associate Professor Emma Johnston is Director of the Sydney Harbour Research Program. Emma was awarded an Australian Research Fellowship in 2010 and is also Deputy Director of the Evolution and Ecology Research Centre at the University of NSW.

Her research encompasses the ecology and ecotoxicology of estuarine and near shore coastal areas. Understanding the basic processes and their interactions in near-shore and coastal areas will allow us to develop more targeted and effective management strategies to conserve biodiversity in these systems.



Dr. Paul Gribben (L) and Dr. Will Figueira (R) are Deputy Directors of the Sydney Harbour Research Program.

Paul Gribben's research is conducted across a wide range of coastal ecosystems including intertidal and subtidal rocky shores, mangrove forests, seagrasses and estuaries. Will Figueira's research spans a diverse range of topics within the area of fish ecology and fishery dynamics and management.

The scientific advisory committee for the Harbour Program includes:

- Professor Peter Steinberg, CEO & Director of SIMS
- Professor David Booth, Chair SIMS' Scientific Advisory Committee
- Professor Gavin Birch, Sydney University
- Associate Professor David Raftos, Macquarie University
- Dr. Moninya Roughan, UNSW coastal oceanographer
- Dr. Pat Hutchings, Senior Principal Research Scientist Aust Museum
- Dr. Bob Creese, NSW Dept Primary Industries Science & Research
- Dr. Martina Doblin, UTS plant functional biology & climate change
- Mr. Tim Pritchard, NSW Office of Environment & Heritage
- Ms. Caroline Hoisington, Natural resources economist

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TO MAKE A DONATION:

**Go to www.simS.org.au
and follow the prompts.**

SIMS and the community



Dr. Inke Falkner and Catherine Maher on the SIMS stand at the 2012 Sydney Boat Show.

SIMS was invited recently to participate in two major community events.

The organisers of the Sydney Boat Show offered a stand for SIMS to communicate its work to the 70,000 visitors who attend the Boat Show each year.

SIMS participated with the Australian Museum in the *Science Unleashed* program for primary and secondary schools. This program aims to stimulate the participants in contributing to a more innovative, skilled and scientifically literate community.