



Dr. Sylvia Earle at the inaugural SIMS Emerald Dinner

Dr. Sylvia Earle, Time Magazine's first "Hero for the Planet", recognised as a "Living Legend" by the US Library of Congress, and winner of the TED Prize¹ in 2009, was in Australia to spread the word on just how important it is that we look after our oceans.

SIMS was delighted to welcome Dr. Earle as Guest of Honour at our inaugural Emerald Dinner, so named for the extraordinary colour of the shallow water along the shoreline of Sydney Harbour.

Over her 50 plus years of professional life Sylvia Earle has observed firsthand the catastrophic degradation of our oceans. "On our watch" she says, we have vastly expanded our technical ability to dredge harbours, change waterways, and catch fish. Ocean systems that were intact, healthy and robust in the middle of last century have now been lost. Industrial scale fishing is stripping the ocean bare, with populations of some species down by 90%.

As Earle says: "With every breath we take, every drop of water we drink, we're connected to the ocean. It is our life support system, giving us more than half of the oxygen we breathe, regulating climate, and providing valuable resources."

But Earle is optimistic: "Never before did we know that we could harm the oceans and never before did we know that we have a chance to save the oceans through actions that we can take." Her "TED" wish was to establish a network of protected areas large enough to really secure protection for the blue heart of the planet.

Here is a link to a video of her recent talk in Melbourne:

<http://www.themonthly.com.au/future-oceans-sylvia-earle-4338>

¹ *The TED Prize is awarded annually to an exceptional individual who receives US \$100,000 and much more important: "one wish to change the world." See <http://www.tedprize.org> for full details of the TED Prize.*



Dr. Sylvia Earle, known around the world as "Her Deepness", addressing guests at the 2011 Emerald Dinner, hosted by our Founding Partner, Sergeants Mess.

Harbour Hike - a Father's Day to remember

The inaugural SIMS Harbour Hike on Sunday 4 September 2011 was a great success with more than 1,800 people travelling from as far afield as the ACT, Orange, Taree and Coffs Harbour, as well as from across Sydney's greater metropolitan area, to participate and celebrate Father's Day. The 11km walk around Sydney Harbour's northern foreshore aimed to engage the public with Sydney Harbour and raised almost \$50,000 for SIMS' important research work.



Left:
It was wonderful to see large groups of family and friends participating in the Harbour Hike.

Below:
Marine Festival at Clifton Gardens.

Left:
Professor Frank Talbot, founding Chair of SIMS, and his wife Suzette, at the starting line in Kirribilli.



Exploring Sydney Harbour

SIMS scientists and officers of the National Parks & Wildlife Service asked questions about the harbour and its environment at ten checkpoints along the walk – the best answers won prizes including ASICS walking shoes, accommodation at Sydney Harbour Federation Trust’s harbourside properties, BridgeClimb Sydney passes and family passes to Taronga Zoo.



SIMS’ infrastructure upgrade - finished!!

We are delighted to report that the multi-million upgrade of SIMS’ infrastructure at Chowder Bay has been finished. SIMS now has completely refurbished aquarium facilities, including one of only two protected (PC2) marine aquaria in Australia, new cell and molecular, microbiological, field biology and geological laboratories, refurbished teaching laboratories, new lecture theatres, a completely refurbished administration building including a conference centre, and new vessels.

Top right:
PhD candidate, Daisy Taylor, working on the impacts of heavy metals on oysters, in SIMS’ new laboratories. Demand is such that the laboratories will be fully utilised early in 2012.

Bottom right:
This is one of the three light and temperature controlled rooms in the new aquarium. In addition to the flow-through seawater, the users can vary the water temperature, the light (to simulate daylight) and the acidity of the water. All of this capability is built into the room so the user only needs to turn on the correct taps to achieve the desired result.



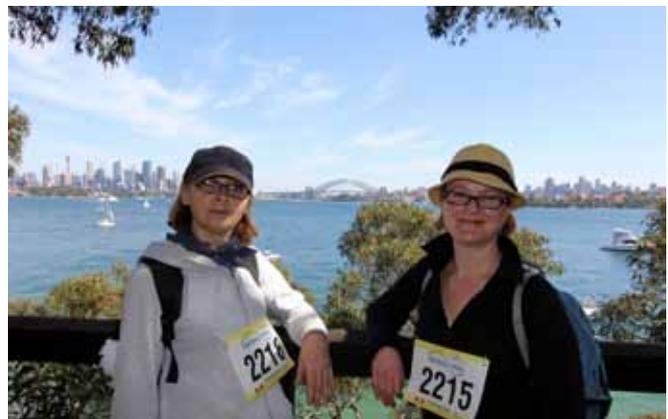
Enjoying Sydney Harbour



Harbour Hike gave participants the opportunity to enjoy views of Sydney Harbour that they would not normally see.

Here is the Harbour Bridge and the city, early on the morning of Harbour Hike - sparkling and fresh and awaiting the new day.

Walkers were treated to wonderful views across the Harbour to the city as they wound their way through the bushland on the northern shore of the Harbour.



What better place to stop for a photo? Even better to have Harbour Hike drink bottles on display for our own photographer!

Almost there! This is the walkway as it approaches Clifton Gardens. It is quite elevated and gives superb views towards Sydney Heads.

The Navy jetty, adjacent to which SIMS has the seawater intakes for the aquarium, is visible in the middle of the photo.



SIMS marine festival

Harbour Hikers, their friends and families, enjoyed the Marine Festival at the finish line at Clifton Gardens Reserve. The festival featured displays by SIMS' scientists, a sumptuous sustainable seafood BBQ by Annandale restaurant Fish & Co, live entertainment, sea kayaking by Land's Edge and indigenous tours conducted by the National Parks & Wildlife Service.



Thank you to the sponsors & supporters of Harbour Hike

The SIMS Foundation would like to thank all participants, volunteers and the SIMS Harbour Hike sponsors and supporters: The Sydney Morning Herald, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Destination NSW, North Sydney Council, Mosman Council, Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, The Shepherd Centre, ASICS, Lands Edge, Taronga Zoo, Woodslane, Over Forty Fitness, Green Tomato Cars, Fish & Co., Veolia, Southern Cross Austereo, After Dark Nature Tours, Coast Cruises, Nemo Charters, Bass and Flinders Cruises, Hayden Quinn, Surf Life Saving Australia, BridgeClimb Sydney, Aqua Dining, Public Dining Room, Sydney Whale Watching, Plunge Dive, Sydney Ferries, Sanyo, Pacific Magazines and Climate Friendly.

The SIMS Foundation looks forward to an even bigger and better event next year.

You can view a video about the SIMS Harbour Hike at <http://www.harbourhike.com> or <http://www.facebook.com/simsharbourhike>

Harbour Hike 2012

Planning is under way for Harbour Hike 2012. If you would like to be a naming rights sponsor, please call Kim McKay on 9331-3577.



The Emerald Award has been initiated by SIMS Foundation to recognise persons who have made outstanding contributions to our understanding and preservation of the marine world.

Professor Peter Steinberg presented the inaugural Emerald Award to Dr. Sylvia Earle at the Emerald Dinner held on 21 November 2011.

Dr. Sylvia Earle receiving the 2011 Emerald Award



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