



MEDIA RELEASE

Take a Hike for marine research and discover the secrets of Sydney Harbour

To be held on **Sunday 30 August 2015**, Fantasea Harbour Hike is a major fundraising and community engagement activity for the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS), one of Australia's leading research facilities, working to protect and preserve Sydney Harbour for future generations.

Set along the picturesque northern foreshores of Sydney Harbour, Fantasea Harbour Hike is a great day out for the whole family and this year SIMS is excited to welcome Hikers to the opening of their highly anticipated **Discovery Centre** at their research headquarters in Chowder Bay.

SIMS CEO Professor Peter Steinberg is thrilled the public will finally get to see this state-of-the-art interpretive centre that showcases what SIMS is all about – research of the marine, coastal and estuarine environment.

“Fantasea Harbour Hike has developed over the years to become our key community outreach activity, with thousands of people meeting our scientists, learning about our research and with the opening of the Discovery Centre there are now even more ways we can show people our work, and share with them what we all need to do to keep our Harbour and coastal waters in the best possible condition for everyone to continue to use and enjoy.

“So this year Hikers will have an opportunity to see “Research in Action”, a behind the scenes peak at SIMS laboratories, we’ll have lots of activities, it will be a great day out for the whole family,” said the Professor.

The 12km Hike starts in Kirribilli and winds its way through the leafy streets of the lower North Shore and then along the bush tracks of the Sydney Harbour National Park, around Bradley’s head and onto the finish line at Chowder Bay where food stalls and plenty of activities awaits the Hikers.

SIMS scientists will be at ten checkpoints along the path to answer questions about Sydney Harbour’s marine life and natural environment and Hikers will get their event passports stamped at each location to go into the draw to win some great prizes.

With thanks to major event partner Fantasea Cruising Sydney, each Hiker can catch a **FREE ferry** from Chowder Bay back to the start line at Kirribilli.

SIMS scientists continue to work on the **Sydney Harbour Research Project (SHRP)**, a five-year undertaking to benchmark and help future-proof Sydney Harbour. It aims to find out ‘what lies beneath’ Australia’s most famous waterway, from the fish and other animal and plant species to levels of pollutants and threats to the Harbour.

Another exciting SIMS initiative has taken the SHRP to a global level with the launch last year of the World Harbour Project. A collaboration with 20 major cities from around the world facing similar issues that is experienced in Sydney, working together to find solutions to help ‘future-proof’ their own iconic harbour waterways.

- To be held on **Sunday 30 August**, registrations for the 2015 Fantasea Harbour Hike are now open.
- Visit www.harbourhike.com and sign up the whole family for a great day out for a great cause.
- Cost is \$35 for adults and \$25 for children 7-12 years.
- Funds raised by Harbour Hike will directly benefit the Sydney Harbour Research Project <http://harbourprogram.sims.org.au/>
- **For further information, please contact: Janet Glover on 9929 3770 / 0412 601 816 / janet@janetgloverpr.com.au**