

## All aboard Sub Base Platypus!

**May 2018**

On May 19, Sub Base Platypus opened its gates and welcomed a new generation of visitors, with the first stage of the site permanently opened to the public. Along with the submarine pocket playground and picnic areas, crowds enjoyed the new overwater link which now allows access to North Sydney Ferry Wharf and the new playground and exercise area at Kesterton Park.

The free community event supported by the Harbour Trust, included complimentary coffee, kid's activities and a traditional Smoking Ceremony, marking the beginning of a new chapter for Sub Base Platypus. The community day encouraged locals to explore the renewed urban parklands whilst discovering the layered history of the site.

As well as celebrating the upgrades made to the recreational areas at Sub Base Platypus, the site is now connected to North Sydney Council's Kesterton Park playground which has also undergone its own makeover. In mid-May, rejuvenation works were completed on the park, allowing the public to enjoy the two spaces together.

North Sydney Mayor, Jilly Gibson congratulated the efforts of the Harbour Trust stating the remediation would be welcomed by the community.

"The opening of our new Kesterton Park playground, Sub Base Platypus and the connecting over-water walkway has created a fantastic new foreshore open space. I hope many members of the community will go down and enjoy the new playgrounds and BBQ area," said Mayor Gibson.

Mary Darwell, CEO of the Harbour Trust, echoed the sentiments of the Mayor, highlighting Sub Base Platypus and Kesterton Park as a vital community asset strongly supported by the surrounding transport and infrastructure already in place.

"The Harbour Trust is privileged to be able to remediate such a unique site like Sub Base Platypus. Working together with council and the community has enabled the evolution of Sub Base Platypus and Kesterton Park, transforming the areas into thriving community precincts," said Mary Darwell, CEO of the Harbour Trust

"The community day demonstrated the importance of Sub Base Platypus. The proximity to public transport is second to none, with access to the ferry, bus and train networks," said Ms Darwell.

The Platypus Renewal Project, is being completed in stages to allow further public access to the site. The next stage of the project involves the creation of additional public domains including a plaza and courtyard area as well as base refurbishments to enable adaptive re-use.

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From gas works operations facility to integral WWII submarine base and torpedo factory, Sub Base Platypus is now a space for the community. As the new area continues its remediation and adaptive re-use works, the Harbour Trust invites the public to explore the site any day of the week, between 7am and 5pm.

### About Sub Base Platypus

The site is Cammeraygal Country and was once a gasworks providing gas for street lights, homes and businesses on the North Shore of Sydney. As part of the war effort, the site was resumed by the Commonwealth Government in 1942 and became a torpedo manufacturing and maintenance factory as well as a service facility for the naval vessels of the Pacific Fleet. In 1967 the site was commissioned as the base for the Royal Australian Navy's Oberon-class submarines and was named HMAS Platypus. The submarine base was closed in 1998 and the asset was transferred to the Harbour Trust in 2005.

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