



Update



INTRODUCTORY SEMINAR

The first meeting to introduce SHIMS to the public was held on the evening of Thursday 19th October at Chowder Bay. This was organised and hosted by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, with Leading Initiatives kindly providing the use of their function room. Frank Talbot, the Chair of the institutes Board of Directors, spoke on the origins and aims of SHIMS. Peter Steinberg, the Chair of the institutes Scientific Advisory Committee, then spoke about the research currently being undertaken around Sydney and likely to be done at SHIMS. About 40 people attended the talk, and it was a very successful evening. After the seminar a number of guests expressed interest in the activities being undertaken at SHIMS with an interest in volunteering their services. Guests were also invited to leave their contact details which will be added to our community mailing list. We are all very pleased with the response and enthusiasm that was shown by everybody that attended and look forward to many more similar events in the future.

NOVEMBER
2006

PLANNED OPEN DAY

With the assistance of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, SHIMS is planning to hold its first public Open Day early in the new year. It is proposed that the Open Day will coincide with the annual Harbour Week activities and is tentatively scheduled to take place on Sunday 4th of March. While the finer details are still to be worked out, we are planning a number of activities throughout the day. Activities will include tours of the facility, seminars on aspects of marine science in and around the Harbour, as well as interactive displays such as a touch tank. We will endeavor to keep everybody up to date on the planned activities, further information will be available from SHIMS or the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust closer to the event day. We are planning a fun and educational day for anybody with an interest in marine science.

GRANT PROPOSAL

A/Prof Rob Harcourt (MQU), A/Prof Iain Suthers (UNSW) and Paul Hallam (SHIMS) with assistance from members of all four of the member universities put in a great effort to develop a submission for the 2007 DEST Capital Development Pool (CDP) grant. If successful these funds, will be used to establish new, and improve the existing, SHIMS facilities. The upgrade to our facilities will focusing more on education and teaching requirements rather than research.

BUILDING UPGRADES

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

This building is fully fitted out with broadband internet, available through either fixed wiring or wireless connections and is currently being used by staff and students from Macquarie University and University of New South Wales. The Australian Museum has kindly provided some display cabinets in excellent condition which are being used for a public display in the foyer area. We currently have some amazing pieces on display in the foyer including whale bones, corals, shells and sharks jaws all on loan from the personal collection of Sylvia Adam. Also soon to be on display throughout our administration building will be three paintings of Chowder Bay by North Shore artist Jane Bennett



Some of the items on display in the foyer



Administration Building Entrance

which have been kindly donated to SHIMS by Mr John Reid OA.

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LECTURE THEATRE

An upgrade is currently underway within the lecture theatre and will increase the seating capacity to 50 people. This should be completed by mid December and will include the installation of fixed A/V equipment. To retain the historical significance of the site, the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust has requested that the original trundle floor map remain in place for display during organised tours of the historic site. The facility will be available for use by educational groups, universities and other groups for general interest and educational lectures and seminars. At times the room will be available for hire, by private businesses and organisations.



Lecture Theatre, soon to be expanded to seat 50

RESEARCH LABORATORY

Building approval has been given by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust for the first stage of work to be undertaken within this building, which commenced last week. Work includes the fit out of the ground floor for use as a Dry Laboratory with the first floor initially being converted to office/seminar space; it is proposed to upgrade this space to Teaching/General Use Laboratory space at a later date. The current work schedule has work on the first stage of this project completed by mid December.

AQUARIUM FACILITY

We are in the process of finalising approvals for the upgrade of Building 11. Initial work will involve raising the existing floor to accommodate drainage and services, building two culture rooms for the raising of larvae and algae and constructing a mezzanine floor that will house storage space and filters.

The heart of the aquaria will be our flow through seawater system, which when fully operational will deliver fresh seawater at a rate of 10 litres/second. Our seawater will be sourced directly from Chowder Bay with the use of intake pumps mounted on the end of the Chowder Bay wharf. Due to the high quality of seawater available, minimal filtration will be required. The only filtration currently being planned is for a sand separator to be mounted adjacent to the pumps which should remove the majority of inorganic matter and a mechanical filtration system will remove the larger organic material.

The first stage of upgrade works on the Harbourside Bay has been completed. To date work has included raising the height of the floor which includes laying vinyl that replicates the original floor markings, installing benches, sinks and scuba storage facilities.



Seawater Aquarium Facility

This area shall initially be used as a scuba storage and sample preparation area. As we continue to upgrade the equipment within this area, it shall be utilised more often as a wet laboratory rather than just a preparation area.

YOUR SAY

SHIMS is developing slowly but steadily. We do need your input, so comments, suggestions and criticisms are not only needed but encouraged. This facility is not only for the scientists and students who use it, but also for the public, to enhance awareness of coastal and marine issues; your input is considered extremely valuable and is always appreciated.

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