

Rediscover Sydney's heart and soul in The Rocks

An intimate creative village filled with laneway entertainment, stalls of curious object d'art and fashion and global flavours will awaken the city's senses to everything The Rocks has to offer this summer.

For the first time, the popular Markets by Moonlight event in The Rocks has been extended throughout the warmer months to give Sydneysiders and visitors a vibrant new way to experience the precinct's historic surroundings.

Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority will present the evening event every Friday from 6 November 2009 to 26 March 2010 (excluding Christmas and New Year's days), with an eclectic mix of live music, markets and street food.

Emerging unsigned musicians will provide the soundtrack with folk, soul, blues, funk, reggae, country, jazz and rock shows in The Rocks Square, plus free live music in surrounding pubs and street performers scattered among the cobblestone laneways.

At The Rocks Discovery Museum, which will stay open until 9 pm each Friday night with free entry, students from the Conservatorium of Music will play classical and jazz music.

This chance to hear some of Sydney's finest classically trained musicians in the restored 1850s sandstone warehouse will provide a special ambience for browsing displays on Australia's Aboriginal history and first European settlement.

Nearby at Jack Munday Place, Playfair Street and Kendall Lane, around 60 market stalls featuring fashion, gifts, design and food will offer a captivating night market experience.

Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority's CEO, Robert Domm, says that in this tenth year of Markets by Moonlight the event focuses on creating a more inviting village experience in The Rocks.

"The historic setting will become alive with local musicians and an array of contemporary and intriguing market stalls that Sydneysiders and visitors can enjoy after work or on a trip into town on a Friday," Mr Domm said.

"This is a chance to rediscover everything that is unique about Sydney's heritage buildings and streets, along with the best of the city's creative talents.

"In the past few years The Rocks has offered a growing diversity of dining, shopping and entertainment choices, which has been appealing to more and more Sydneysiders.

"Now Markets by Moonlight gives everyone a fresh reason to explore our city's colourful history, drop into The Rocks Discovery Museum, and experience the heritage quarter's exciting future."

Lunchtime talks at The Rocks Discovery Museum

The Rocks Discovery Museum is also launching a series of Friday lunchtime talks from Friday 6 November 2009, to coincide with the beginning of Markets by Moonlight. An inspiring mix of speakers will deliver free presentations on history, heritage and culture.

First up is Grace Karskens, an Australian history teacher at the University of New South Wales who will talk about her book *The Colony*. Her book tells the story of the energetic early years of Sydney and her talk will provide an insight into the transformation of a campsite in a beautiful cove to the town that later became Australia's largest and best-known city.



On Friday 13 November 2009, Uncle Max Dulumunmun Harrison, will take the floor to talk about his book *My People's Dreaming*. Uncle Max is an initiated Yuin man who grew up on the South Coast of NSW as part of a close community where some boys and young men were still selected for initiation into ancient ways. He works to help others understand Aboriginal culture and will discuss Aboriginal spirituality and the significance of relationship to land.

So much to love at the markets

The Rocks Market by Moonlight will be held every Friday evening from 6 November 2009 to 26 March 2010 (excluding Christmas and New Year's days) from 5.30 pm to 10 pm.

The Rocks Markets are also open every Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm, where you can find everything from original home wares and striking designer fashion to indulgent beauty products and distinct artworks and photography.

The Rocks Farmers' Market is open on Fridays and Saturdays, from 10 am to 5 pm, offering fresh produce, gourmet delights and wine from all parts of regional NSW.

For more information about the markets and The Rocks Discovery Museum lunchtime talks program visit www.therocks.com.

The Rocks
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MUSEUM**

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