

Business of the year and Cafe



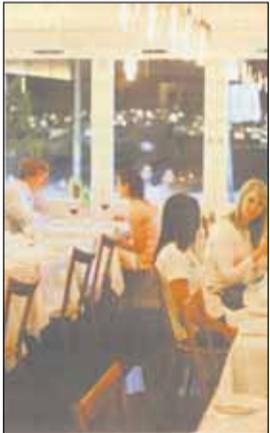
cafe - restaurant - dessert bar

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**From the management a sincere thank you to all our loyal customers and staff. We look forward to seeing you soon.
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Sobo, Mk II

Bondi Beach's Sobo restaurant (left) which shut in June, has been snapped up by **Adam Gerondis**, the founder of Square catering for about \$150,000. He will keep the name, reopening in September with a slightly less upmarket brief. Former owners Steve Wales and Paul Wilson bought the then Hugo's site for \$250,000 in 2006 transforming it into Sobo with a smart fitout. Wales has now joined the Sofitel Wentworth as director of food and beverage. With a strong bar background he expects to oversee the hotel's attempt to



rekindle its sprawling terrace garden as a fashionable city drinks venue. Plans include a sweeping staircase at the hotel entrance bringing customers straight up to the terrace rather than having to reach it via the hotel's lifts.

\$30m boat ramp plan

By Murray Trembath

A \$30 million redevelopment of Foreshore Beach, on the northern side of Botany Bay, will be carried out as part of the billion-dollar port expansion.

While anglers may lose access to another portion of the bay, they will get one of the State's biggest boat ramps.

It will have four lanes and two pontoons, with an enormous car park and viewing platform.

There will be enclosed facilities for cleaning fish, and provision for washing boat engines using recycled water.

The area will be planted with native vegetation and will include a one-kilometre pedestrian and cycle path and a new amenities building, including toilets, shower, water bubbler, dog



Fishing facility: An artist's impression of the new boat ramp.

bowl and bicycle racks. Fifty spaces for cars and 130 for trailers will be provided.

A pedestrian bridge will be built to link Sir Joseph Banks Park and Foreshore Beach, and a bird-watching platform constructed.

Ports Minister Joe Tripodi said contractor, Baulderstone-Hornibrook,

would start work on the boat ramp in September, and it was expected to be open by August next year.

"The full facilities at the boat ramp will progressively be made available to the community, with completion by March 2011", he added.

Mangroves from the northern side of Botany

Bay have been given a new home in St George and Sutherland Shire waters.

Ports Minister Joe Tripodi said the mangroves had to be removed from Penrhyn Estuary, which adjoins the port expansion area, to help create a salt marsh habitat and estuary lookout.

Mangrove seedlings and plants, less than one-metre high, were removed manually and transplanted to the banks of Port Hacking River and Alford's Point on the Georges River.

Sydney Ports had organised this in partnership with Sutherland Shire Council, National Parks & Wildlife Service, NSW Maritime and Abigroup.

Mr Tripodi said Penrhyn Estuary and Foreshore Beach, which at present were degraded, would be extensively improved.

"Penrhyn Estuary is a locally - significant site for migratory shorebirds and contains salt marsh and seagrass habitat," he said. "We are committed to protecting and enhancing the habitats, as well as making the area accessible to the local community."

"Key environmental plans include expanding the salt marsh and seagrass habitats to attract migratory birds, additional fish and marine life."

"Other initiatives will be the re-use of stormwater run-off from the amenities building and boat ramp and solar lighting along the cycleway".

School rings in Olympic spirit

OLYMPIC spirits were high at Kingsgrove Public School last week. The school set aside an afternoon to hold a "Beijing Olympic Games Day". Teacher Mary Tatara said events included a torch relay, an opening ceremony and a Chinese martial arts demonstration. Year 6 students performed an ancient Greek Dance (pictured).

