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ROCKING GOOD TIME FOR AUSTRALIA DAY 2015

This year's **The Rocks Australia Day** celebrations were a unique blend of culture and community, with music fans and families turning out in their thousands despite the weather to experience the best Sydney has to offer.

The Rocks precinct was transformed into a hub of celebration for Australia Day 2015, while the free musical performances featured some of Australia's best bands and entertainers.

The two live music stages featured an array of musical acts – showing off the diversity of Australia's musical landscape.

Brisbane's **Thelma Plum** impressed with a stunning set, bringing her expansive soundscape to the stage. The stirring live set from her debut EP included the lead single "How Much does Your Love Cost?" and comes off the back of sold-out nationwide shows. Electronic beat makers, **Fishing** featured special guest, Al Wright, from last year's headline act **Cloud Control** and had crowds raising their hands in the air.

Other musical highlights included **Saskwatch** with their mix of classic soul and R&B, the funky beats of **The Bombay Royale**, the harmonies of female folk trio **Little May** and Central Coast Folk Duo, **Winterbourne** – all of which kept feet shuffling throughout the day on stages at First Fleet Park and The Laneway at Atherden Street.

Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority Chief Executive Officer, Catherine Gallagher said, "We are thrilled to develop an event that energises our precinct in such a positive way. It is a wonderful way to celebrate Australia Day in The Rocks, promoting local talent, superb musicians, dynamic entertainment and activities."

"The day went wonderfully and we look forward to rolling out more special events in The Rocks throughout the year."

In addition to the stellar live music performances, George Street played host to the exciting annual GIO Oz Day 10K wheelchair race supported by Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority. Then from midday George Street South was transformed into 'The Common' – a relaxation zone, complete with Astroturf, greenery, performances and street party games.

Visitors were encouraged to join in playing a game of croquet as they listened to the count-down of Triple J's Hottest 100 – proving to be a major event as people came together to celebrate another year of great music.

The returning 'Sound Garden' proved popular, with festival-goers creating their own distinct style of music with instruments constructed from recycled materials. George Street was transformed into a living instrument by this hands-on, interactive experience.

Framed by the majestic views of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Sydney Opera House, and nestled on the edge of the world-famous Sydney Harbour, The Rocks offers an unrivalled blend of the old and the new. From heritage architecture and cobblestone laneways, to stylish modern bars and world-class restaurants it once again provided the perfect setting for Australia Day celebrations.

Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (SHFA) is proud to manage The Rocks: traditional land of the Gadigal people and the birthplace of European settlement in Australia. Whilst preserving The Rocks' unique heritage, the Authority produce large scale and intimate quality events, outdoor markets, and educational tours.

EDITORS NOTES

The Rocks Australia Day

The Rocks Australia Day is an annual music, community and cultural festival on Australia Day held in Sydney's historic The Rocks. Each year the festival celebrates a diverse range of the Australia's best musical talents. The free event attracts large crowds to the sun-bathed waterfront with a full day of music, market stalls, activities and other entertainment. Within easy reach of the city centre and transport facilities, there's no reason why you shouldn't visit the free festival this coming Australia Day.

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