

CHRISTMAS SPARKLES IN DARLING HARBOUR

Featuring dazzling light shows, a giant bauble, and a forest of Christmas trees

Get down to **Darling Harbour** for a nonstop schedule of festive fun for everyone. The waterfront precinct is set to sparkle with Christmas cheer this year, offering a range of activities, as well as a host of great venues to hold that annual Chrissy 'do'.

The celebrations kick-off from Friday 17 November with the **Village Green** in Darling Quarter being transformed into a forest of sparkling live Christmas trees. Wander through the forest and order your very own tree from Oxfam volunteers who will be on site from 11.30am to 2pm on Thursday 23, Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 November, or you can also purchase your tree online until Monday 27 November. Proceeds from the tree sales will go to Oxfam helping to empower people and communities to tackle poverty. The Oxfam Christmas tree program has been running for more than 30 years, delivering trees, which are sustainably grown, to families across Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. The Darling Quarter installation will see some 60 Christmas trees clustered together to form a charming, Christmas pathway in a partnership aimed to make a difference.

Visitors to the precinct on the two weekends leading up to Christmas can kick back and enjoy **free screenings** of popular Christmas movies at **Tumbalong Park**. Rival Santa's belly laugh courtesy of Buddy the Elf in Will Ferrell's Christmas hit, **Elf**, or follow the thrills and spills that inevitably ensue when an eight-year-old is accidentally left **Home Alone** at Christmas – just don't forget to bring the kids! And what about presents? From Monday 11 December, Civic Connector in Darling Quarter will be abuzz with **Christmas markets** selling a wide range of local, handmade goodies for all your seasonal shopping needs.

Darling Harbour will also be home to a **giant bauble installation** from Thursday 23 November, which is sure to enthral visitors as it springs to life each night with a light display. There will be signs around the area highlighting the best spots for visitors to take a Christmas selfie with the bauble. From Friday 15 to Sunday 24 December, families can have a ball creating their own Christmas decorations at the free **Baublelicious** Christmas workshops. Kids, along with their parents, can design and decorate their own mini baubles and write a special Christmas wish to place inside their creation. It's a perfect memento to hang on the tree at home with the hopes Santa will make their wish come true.

Throughout December the precinct will sparkle with dazzling light displays helping Christmas spirits soar higher than Santa in his sleigh on Christmas Eve. The light shows can be seen at **Luminous** at Darling Quarter, the **Australian National Maritime Museum**, the **fig tree at Tumbalong Park**, and the pylons at the southern end of **Cockle Bay**. The International Convention Centre and Sofitel Darling Harbour will both be joining in the celebrations with displays of their own.

Darling Harbour venues will be offering festive food and beverage packages for those looking to hold a memorable Christmas event. **Kobe Jobe** is giving away \$200 dining vouchers for any set menu Christmas party bookings of 10 or more people before November 30. Tuck into a Christmas buffet at the **Holiday Inn Darling Harbour** for just \$69.95, with kids staying at the hotel eating for free. **PARKROYAL** is hosting a sumptuous Christmas Day lunch with cocktails on arrival, a gourmet seafood buffet, live music and a three-hour drink package (from \$140). **Novotel Darling Harbour** has a range of tailored Christmas packages to suit your celebration style, from a traditional Christmas buffet to a four-hour cocktail party. Whilst the promenade at **Cockle Bay Wharf** is also lined with venues offering their own unique flavours of Christmas cheer.

-ENDS-

For further information and imagery requests, please contact:

Tessa Conboy | tessa@poemgroup.com.au | 0414 343 801

Darling Harbour Christmas events

Festive Forest

Friday 17 November – Monday 25 December, Village Green, Darling Quarter, free

Christmas markets

Monday 11 – Sunday 17 December, Civic Connector, Darling Quarter

Opening hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9am-3pm

Friday and Saturday: 10am-6.30pm

Sunday: 10am-3pm

Christmas movies and entertainment

Friday 15 and Saturday 16 December;

Friday 22 and Saturday 23 December,

Tumbalong Park

Show times:

6pm and 8.30pm, with entertainment from 5pm, free

Giant bauble installation

Thursday 23 November – Monday 25 December, Convention Centre Forecourt, free

Baublelicious Christmas Kids Workshops

Friday 15 – Sunday 24 December, 10.30am-3.30pm, Convention Centre Lawn, free

Light displays

Luminous at Darling Quarter, 6pm-11pm daily

Australian National Maritime Museum, 8pm-11pm Thursday – Sunday in December

Fig Tree, Tumbalong Park, 7.30pm-11.30pm daily

Pylons, Southern end of Cockle Bay, 7.30pm-11.30pm daily