

A CRUISEY WAY TO LEARN ABOUT PITTWATER'S ENVIRONMENT

Pittwater Council's Coastal Environment Centre (CEC) is offering visitors and residents a series of 'Eco Ferry Tours' during the summer months starting on Saturday 12 December 2009.

Event Manager Tina Demetriou from the Coastal Environment Centre said the cruises were an opportunity to learn more about the local environment with experts in a relaxed and sociable setting.

"The concept of eco-cruises has been incredibly popular so we're now increasing to four eco tours this summer between December and March 2010." Ms Demetriou added.

Executive Management Consultant at the CEC, Mr Gary Jackson, said this is a great opportunity to stay at the Sydney Lakeside Holiday Park adjacent to the CEC, while learning and having fun with our experienced Community Educators."

Participants will cruise by ferry from Palm Beach, taking in the sights of Mackerel Beach and then The Basin before returning to the Palm Beach wharf. The eco-cruises are all family-friendly events, with activities for children and families. A gourmet lunch at The Basin is also included in the ticket price.

Activities on the first eco-cruise on Saturday 12 December include a tour of Pittwater estuary, including viewing of seagrass-friendly moorings, with a walk and talk on saltmarsh and seagrasses. Other activities include bird-watching, snorkeling, bushcraft for children and learning about the Indigenous heritage of Pittwater.

Attendees need to be at Palm Beach Ferry Wharf for a 9am departure, returning at approximately 4pm.

Bookings are now open, with limited spaces available on the first summer eco-cruise on Saturday 12 December, 2009 at a cost of \$55 per adult, with children under 10 free. The fee includes the return ferry trip, gourmet lunch and all activities. All children under 16 years must be accompanied by an adult.

Other cruises are planned for Sunday 17 January, Sunday 14 February, Sunday 14 March at a cost of \$75 per adult, with children under 10 free.

Bookings are essential and can be made online at www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/cec For more information contact the CEC on 9970 1675 or cec@pittwater.nsw.gov.au

Other exciting developments scheduled in the near future include the CEC Eco Tours & Accommodation 2010 launch with a new CEC website.

"Our CEC is committed to developing new local job opportunities supporting our community and eco tourism demand" said Mr Jackson

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Media contact: Tina Demetriou Coastal Environment Centre Ph: 9970 1675

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