

Tuesday 6 December 2011



MEDIA RELEASE

First Aboriginal Bark Canoe on the Shoalhaven River in Living Memory

Saturday 10 December at Riversdale

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS NOT A PUBLIC EVENT; HOWEVER MEDIA ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

In September as part of *Siteworks* 2011, a group of local Aboriginal men, led by local expert Jim Walliss, made a traditional (Aboriginal) Jervis Bay canoe from the bark of a Stringybark tree sourced on the Bundanon property.

The launch of the bark canoe will be hosted at Bundanon's Riversdale property on Saturday 10 December. It will be the first traditional Aboriginal bark canoe to float on the Shoalhaven River in living memory.

Steve Russell and Noel Lonesborough from Boolarng Nangamai Aboriginal Corporation in Gerringong were in residence at Bundanon, with Jim Walliss and artist Diego Bonnetto, to tackle the challenge of making a canoe based on directions provided by Maritime Architect Davis Payne from the National Maritime Museum, and contemporary marine artist James Dodd.

The canoe was constructed in eight hours and was made from traditional materials (with a little help from a Bunning's vice), including string from the Stringybark tree and beeswax and resin from the grass tree.

Bundanon's *Siteworks* is an ongoing series of interactive projects focusing on the unique Bundanon Trust properties. *Siteworks* invites artists, scientists and scholars to meet and stay at Bundanon to respond to the site through the lens of their specific discipline. In partnership with the University of Wollongong and with support from Arts NSW and the Australia Council, Bundanon has hosts annual *Siteworks Conversations* between local residents and *Siteworks* participants.

For further information contact:

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Jervis Bay Canoe, Francois Edmond Paris 1841-45