

Sculpture is blowing in the wind

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The City of Sydney and Scouts Australia have commissioned a major new work funded by entrepreneur Dick Smith and his wife Pip that aims to harness the power of the wind while encouraging locals to appreciate Sydney's noteworthy natural sites.

Windlines: The Scout Compass of Discovery will commemorate 100 years of Scouts in Australia in the style of a giant weather vane that moves with the breeze.

Artists Jennifer Turpin and Michaelie Crawford have created the five metres tall work, which will be embedded in the ground at Scout Place, Circular Quay.

The work is the result of hours of rigorous testing in a wind tunnel to ensure it would function as well as it looked.

Lord Mayor Clover Moore MP said the sculpture is an important addition to Sydney's growing collection of major public artworks.

"We are committed to working with Australia's most innovative artists, curators and other creative people to develop work that stimulates and inspires residents, workers and visitors," the Lord Mayor said.

Engineers have worked with the artists to create a high quality work of stainless steel, granite and bronze that will function as a 10 metre long weather vane, representing the needle of a giant compass.

The sculpture will also feature a 'wind line' of text along each of the compass points, which will point visitors towards Sydney's natural landmarks.

'Be resolute like flint and steel' will refer to Resolute Beach and Flint and Steel Bay in Ku-Ring-Gai Chase National Park, to the north-north east of Scout Place.

"As we go about our busy lives it will also encourage us to think about the abundant natural beauty within the greater Sydney region – and in the Scout tradition, inspire us to explore these fascinating places for ourselves," said the Lord Mayor.

"I'm delighted the City has worked with Scouts Australia, one of Australia's leading entrepreneurs Dick Smith and his wife Pip and a team of talented artists to bring this project to life."

Dick Smith AO said he thinks the sculpture is a fitting monument to the Scouts' spirit of responsible risk-taking and discovery.

"*Windlines: The Scout Compass of Discovery* is a fantastic work of art and I hope it will become famous as a meeting place for the people of Sydney," Mr Smith said.

"Pip and I are very pleased to be involved in this project and we hope it will stand proudly in Scout Place at Circular Quay for the next 50 or 100 years."

Windlines: The Scout Compass of Discovery makes up part of an assortment of public artworks that will start to dot the streets of Sydney in the coming months.

Other projects include the Laneway Art program as part of the 10th annual Art & About Sydney, the Earth vs. Sky installation in Jubilee Park, Glebe, and major upgrades to Albion Place and Angel Place in the city centre.