



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

ABN 97093480659

P.O. Box 896, Balgowlah, NSW 2093

Newsletter - April 2008

Welcome to our second 2008 newsletter.

Saturday 21st June meeting

We are on our way to establishing our plant nursery. Our next members' meeting will be held at 2.00pm on Saturday, 21st June 2008 so that every one can see the location of the proposed Nursery in the former North Head School of Artillery.

New Secretary

We are delighted to welcome our new secretary, Kathy Ridge. Kathy's background is in environmental law and she was previously a director of NSW Nature Conservation Council.

Thank you

Judith Bennett retired as our Hon Secretary last year, after five years of valued service. She continues to be an active Committee member.

Interesting information

Nick Skelton, Director of GIS Environmental Consultants, gave a fascinating talk at last meeting about North Head flora and fauna: North Head has a large Aeolian sand deposit – this is pure white sand that has low phosphorous and nitrogen levels. It does not suit many weeds but it supports the Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub Community.

A big problem for the vegetation of the area is caused when rats, which are not native to the area, eat seed before it can germinate. Controlling rat numbers is difficult.

Natural environment management

The Australian Wildlife Conservancy Operational Plan for North Head Sanctuary has been accepted and the successful tender for the wildlife management will be announced soon.

Reconstruction of the Arch

Work is still continuing on the arch. It is costing over \$440,000 to restore. Work should be finished by the end of May 2008.



The Arch in April 2008. Photo by Jenny Wilson

Plant Nursery/Plant Database

Good news, we have approval to submit a business plan for the nursery. If this is satisfactory we will be given permission to start our Community Native Plant Nursery. Please consider volunteering to work in the nursery. Training will begin as soon as we have permission to proceed. There will be a range of related activities for which we need volunteers so how much time do you think you can spare?

The following people have volunteered to assist Sue Halmagyi with the North Head plant database:

Toni Stevenson, Judith Halnan, Janet Fish, Geoff and Judy Lambert, Kathy Ridge.

More information regarding the plant nursery will be in our June 2008 newsletter.

Grant application

NHSF is submitting an Expression of Interest to the Environmental Trust to conduct workshops, training and support for people who want to propagate native plants. The proposal also proposes producing educational materials about propagating and growing North Head plants.

Car-rang-gel Sanctuary - a flagship for Australia's environmental resolve and a celebration of our natural and cultural heritage.

Educational Materials

Are you skilled at preparing educational materials concerning North Head flora? If we are successful in gaining the grant, we hope you could help with this next year.

Banksia ericifolia



Banksia ericifolia (Photo by Jenny Wilson) is in flower now on North Head. It naturally occurs on North Head and has large striking spikes of reddish-yellow flowers that contrast well with its small linear leaves. Did you know that *Banksia* was named in honour of Sir Joseph Banks? Propagation is by seed or by cuttings.

Did you know that *Banksia ericifolia* is relatively resistant to *Phytophthora cinnamomi*? *Phytophthora cinnamomi* causes dieback in mixed native plant communities.

North Head Sanctuary Foundation aims:

'The Sanctuary for biodiversity will honour the natural and cultural significance of North Head. It will be a safe place for flora, fauna and people, a living laboratory promoting the spiritual and biological value of Sydney Harbour.'

It will:

- * Respect and honour the Indigenous significance of North Head;
- * Build understanding of the natural and cultural values of North Head; and
- * Promote integrated planning and management for the whole area, to ensure the highest level of protection for the natural and cultural attributes of North Head.

NHSF Membership Application

I, _____
(full name of applicant - please print clearly)

Address _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

hereby apply to become a member of the abovementioned incorporated association.

Single \$20 Family \$30 Unwaged \$10

Donation \$..... (tax deductible if in separate cheque from membership)

In accordance with Model Rules, membership is subject to acceptance by the committee.

I agree with the aims of NHSF and I agree to be bound by the rules of the association.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Cheques made payable to
North Head Sanctuary Foundation
PO Box 896, Balgowlah NSW 2093

Proposed and seconded by:-

I, _____,
a member of the association, nominate this person, who is personally known by me, for membership of the Association.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

I, _____,
a member of the association, second the nomination this person, who is personally known by me, for membership of the Association.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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