



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

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northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au

Newsletter No 6 – July 2010

Its time to renew your Membership

Membership fees fall due on 1 July 2010
It costs only \$30 for a family, \$20 single or \$10 for retirees, students or unwaged.

If there is no Renewal Membership form attached that means you joined after 1 January 2010 or you have already paid up to 30 June 2011.
Please consider joining if you are not a member, we appreciate your support and your membership fees help to pay for the Newsletter and running costs. A membership application form is attached.

Next Meeting – AGM 1 September 2010

Our Annual General Meeting will be in the Education room in the Gatehouse at 6.30pm. Proxies will be sent out next month.

Sunday at the Sanctuary, North Head Sanctuary - A Living Lab' - Sunday 22nd August

Please keep this date free, Manly Environment Centre is running the event which is included in the National Science Week program

Native Plant Nursery

Check out the area opposite our Education centre on North Fort Road and notice the change.
We had a planting out on Sunday 27 June 2010 and planted out over 150 plants. We have planted a row of *Callistemon citrinus* and *Kunzea ambigua* with behind the houses to help soak up all the water run off in the area.

Remember help is always needed. For planting out or helping in the Nursery please contact Jenny at northhead@fastmail.fm.

Education Centre

We are open every weekend, from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Please call in and see our displays in Building 21. Walk past the Parade Ground, continue along the road till you see our banner and then follow the footprints from our gate.

We have two new walk guides for you to collect
Walk 2 The Shelly Beach track
Walk 3 The Hanging Swamp walk

Remember to stay on track, especially on the Shelly Beach walk where signs warn you to
“Please be careful,
Unfenced cliffs and rock ledges,
Unstable surfaces
Take care with Children”.

The swamp is a peaceful place to visit and is now full of water thanks to all the rain that we have been having lately. (see photo)



Weeds: A threat to North Head bushland

By Judy Lambert

Across Australia weeds are one of the most significant and costly threats to the environment, and like other places, our bushland at North Head is at risk of invasion by plants that do not belong there. Of the more than 2700 plant species that have been introduced to and established in Australia more than one in every six has become a weed. One of the better known weeds, Lantana, alone threatens more than 1300 native plant and animal species.

Where do weeds come from?

More than two-thirds of all weeds in Australia were brought into the country as garden ornamentals. Others have arrived as fodder plants, food species or medicinal plants. A few have been introduced accidentally in other imported material.

Once in Australia, weeds are spread in many different ways – birds spread their seeds, as do wind, water and fire. Many more are spread with the help of people. In bushland areas like North Head dumping of waste, inadequately composted mulch, seeds on clothing and vehicle tyres all bring in weeds.

Weeds at North Head

Four of Australia's top 20 weeds (those known as Weeds of National Significance) are found at North Head – Alligator Weed, Bitou Bush, Blackberry, Lantana. At least another 25 plants of sufficient concern that they have been declared Noxious Weeds are also found on North Head, together with many more that are much less invasive.

Fortunately, because weeds are generally fond of nutrients and our endangered Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub grows best on the ancient nutrient-poor sands on the ridge-tops at North Head, weeds have not impacted badly on this special community of plants. However the Recovery Plan for Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub identifies both Lantana, see photo and African Lovegrass as major threats this important bushland community.



You can help reduce the risk of spreading these invaders by being alert to their presence, staying on tracks when walking or cycling and checking your shoes, trouser cuffs (amazing what can be found there after a walk in the bush) and ensuring that others do not dump garden waste in the area.

Zieria laevigata



Is a small erect to spreading shrub under 1 m tall. The flowers are white to pinkish and have four petals and four stamens. The leaves are linear with edges that curl under. It can be seen now on the Shelly Beach track on National Park land. It is a species characteristic of Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub.

Sale of Native Plants

Stony Range Botanic Garden Spring Sale Day is being held on 22 August 2010 between 9am and 3pm.

Address 613 Pittwater Road DEE WHY.

Mysteries of North Head

By Geoff Lambert

The Cliff Ladders

Those subject to vertigo should not stand at the top of the cliff on Old Man's Hat and look down this steel and wooden ladder, for it hangs in space for a drop of some 20 metres. Half-way down is a shelter (possibly the one with the Japanese typewriter). This ladder was one of many wooden and rope ladders which festoon this area of North Head. Some are or were clearly for fishermen, but this one may have been for the northern end of the underwater submarine detection cable which briefly came ashore here before returning to South Head. Also in this area are modern stainless steel ringbolts currently used by climbers as a training aid. The climbers practice sleeping in slings suspended from the bolts, hanging half-way down the cliff face, True



Something in the Air

If there is an unpleasant smell in the air at North Head, please report it to Sydney Water's 24 hour Number 9934 4423 and also to DECCW on 131 555.