



# North Head Sanctuary Foundation

ABN 97093480659

P.O. Box 896, Balgowlah, NSW 2093  
northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au

Newsletter No 9 October 2010

Our next General Meeting will be held on Saturday 20 November 2010 at 2 – 4 pm in the Education room at the Gatehouse.

## Education Centre

We are open every weekend, from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Please come in and visit us 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.

Have a look at our new Christmas card designed by Julie Nettleton - *Astroloma humifusum*, Native Cranberry- \$20 for a pack of 10 at the Education centre.

Julie's cards are now available by mail order. See <http://www.northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au/nursery/cards.htm>

## Native Plant Nursery

Since 1<sup>st</sup> July we have planted out over 300 plants, all from our Nursery. Most of the plants that have been planted are doing well. The areas to be planted out continue to increase, last week we planted out on the semi circle near our gate. Now that Spring is here we will be doing lots of cuttings.

If you would like to help with the planting out, please email [northhead@fastmail.fm](mailto:northhead@fastmail.fm)

## *Leucopogon microphyllus*



Is a small spreading shrub less than 60cm tall. The flowers are small, white and are hairy inside. Leaves are tiny and egg shaped. It's in flower now and is a species characteristic of Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub.

The flowers are great this year, better than last year. If you have not been for a walk now is the time to go and enjoy the beauty...

**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.

## Climate Watch

### Australia's National Phenological Network

Andy Donnelly, Earthwatch Australia

The IPCC 4th Assessment Report in 2007 noted that of 29,000 data sets on the response of biological systems to climate change, only six were Australian. Of these six none were of national coverage. The problem with this is that in order to understand, predict and mitigate the effects of climate change on biodiversity, the models used are only as good as the data underpinning them. This is particularly pressing in Australia, where the combination of unique flora and fauna occupying a low lying, fragmented landscape is likely to dramatically elevate extinction rates.

ClimateWatch was developed by Earthwatch Australia with the Bureau of Meteorology and University of Melbourne to help understand the effects climate change is having on natural processes in Australia. Essentially, ClimateWatch is based on phenology, the study of periodic plant and animal life cycle events and how these are influenced by seasonal and inter-annual variations in climate.

Indicator species have been targeted by climate change scientists and include eleven plants and six animal species that are found on North Head. There are plans for phenology trails and a data entry station in the visitor centre. Animals to look out for include the Magpie, Willy Wagtail, Cabbage White Butterfly, Honey Bee, Striped Marsh Frog and Pobblebonk frog. All the information to help record what these species are doing is available at [climatewatch.org.au](http://climatewatch.org.au) – register as a ClimateWatcher and get started.

Plant species will be online in October. With your help North Head will become a permanent ClimateWatch monitoring station.

## OBSERVE. RECORD. DISCOVER.



Honey Bee

Photo by Peter Houghton.

## Thank you

A special thanks to everyone who helped us with our display at the at Australian Museum - Sue Halmagyi, Nelika Hughes, Judith Halnan, Mary Johnsen, Nick Vale, Judith Bennett, Judy Lambert. We had lots of school children visit our display and overseas visitors.

## Q Station Lecture Series

Sat 9 October 2pm to 4.30pm  
at the Old Laundry Theatre, Wharf Precinct

The program includes talks by Yvonne Cossart on Maritime Quarantine: the Yellow Jack on Sydney Harbour: Jean Foley on Burial ground at the Quarantine Station and the people buried there: Cate Storey –A 'virtual walk' of the Quarantine Station and its environs.

Bookings 9466 150101 free

## Mysteries of North Head

By Geoff Lambert

### The Pistol Range

Graeme Sligo an army officer seconded to AIPM alerted me to this structure. Like many of our mysteries, this one appears to have been built on the sly and therefore is not shown on maps, nor are there any official records of it. The range consists of a 3-walled brick shelter shed with seats. On the open side is a cyclone wire fence and, facing this about 20 metres away are a series of wooden and metal frames which must once have held "pop-up people"- silhouettes of people whom the police were supposed to shoot with their pistols.

## Third Cemetery



Buried next to Private Hector Fraser HICKS is Annie Egan. On 26 November 1918, two nursing sisters, Annie Egan and Minnie Wray were admitted to the hospital at Quarantine Station. They had been nursing the soldiers from HMAT A7 Medic and contracted the disease- influenza

(epidemic pneumonia). By 3 December, Annie Egan was dangerously ill and Minnie Wray was recovering. Sister Annie Egan died later that day. Annie had repeatedly requested a Roman Catholic priest to be at her side. But the Commonwealth authorities refused to allow a Catholic priest to attend her and administer the last rites in the quarantine area. Nurse Annie Egan was a member of the Gunnedah parish. There was a public

inoculating depot at Manly at this time, but the Health Department said the inoculation offered a certain amount of immunity but it was not as effective as vaccination against smallpox.

## QUARANTINE STATION (QS) CONCERNS

Mary Johnson

Our Sanctuary Foundation works towards integrated management of the whole of North Head, which is Nationally Heritage Listed. Thus it is of concern that Mawland the commercial lessee of the Quarantine Station proposes considerable new work at QS that that will require changes to their Conditions of Consent. The changes include:

- Adding extra hotel accommodation with ensuite bathrooms in two new buildings, P21 and P23, instead of offering affordable student dormitory style rooms as part of an educational study centre.
- Building new ensuite bathrooms in buildings P1 and P2 that were to be kept specifically as samples of the original heritage character.
- Adding a new reception building at the main entry gate, which may necessitate additional cleared areas for parking.
- Creation of new footpaths in bushland around 3<sup>rd</sup> class precinct.

Some of the new works will require removal of endangered Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub. The changes will require approval from Dept. of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) and from NSW Heritage Council. The new NPWS Manager of Visitor Facilities and Services, Penny Spoelder, wants to streamline the process of implementing the changes. The new managers were not around when the public first opposed the development of QS and may not be aware of the extent of public interest in conserving the site as an item of National Heritage.

### VOICE YOUR CONCERNS and SEEK INPUT TO THE PROCESS.

Write to: Penny Spoelder, Manager, Visitor Facilities and Services, Parks and Wildlife, Quarantine Station, North Head, PO Box 703 Manly NSW 2095.

[Penny.Spoelder@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Penny.Spoelder@environment.nsw.gov.au)

Send a copy to: Nick Skelton, Chairperson Quarantine Station Community Committee  
[nick.skelton@ecology.net.au](mailto:nick.skelton@ecology.net.au)

### 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

TO JOIN GO TO

<http://www.northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au/join/membership.htm>