



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

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northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au

Newsletter No 10 November 2010

Our next General Meeting for members and supporters will be held in the Education Room, Gatehouse Building at North Head Sanctuary from 2pm on Saturday 20 November 2010.

After the meeting Geoff Lambert will lead a mystery walk called "Byways of North Head". Come along and find the places you never knew existed.

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.

Pick up a pack of our *Astroloma humifusum* or Native Cranberry Seasons Greetings cards designed by Julie Nettleton - \$20 for a pack of 10. Cards will be on sale at our General meeting and on our stall at Ocean Care day on Sunday 5 December 2010. For mail order, see <http://www.northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au/nursery/cards.htm>

Native Plant Nursery

It's amazing the difference a spring makes. All our planted out areas are doing well and you can notice the difference.



Remember in June 2009 we planted out our first grasses, here is the area now. It's great to see plants that we have raised from seed surviving.

If you would like to help with the planting out, please email northhead@fastmail.fm

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.

What's news at North Head

Judy Lambert

Since appointing its North Head Sanctuary Manager, David Williams, the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust has stepped up its planning for the North Head Sanctuary. Within 12-18 months quite a few changes will be made. North Fort will become the entry focus for the whole site and the current Gatehouse entry will provide access to supporting services – including our Nursery. More buildings are gradually being leased out for uses compatible with the "sanctuary" qualities of the area, with a masseuse already in residence in the former medical precinct. The plan is also to make the whole area more walker-friendly. From our perspective, one of the main changes is an expansion of the area to be replanted with North Head species. Sue Halmagyi and her team have been working with Peter Jensen and others to confirm the planting areas, preferred species etc.

Along with Australian Wildlife Conservancy's Nelika Hughes, we continue to work closely with the Trust and National Parks to ensure that an approved hazard reduction burn planned for North Fort is done in ways that achieve the best outcome for the very senescent Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub there. We now need the right weather conditions to get a burn of moderate intensity which will be best for bushland regeneration. With all the rain we've had in recent weeks that may mean the burn has to wait until autumn. Once the burn is completed we'll work with Nelika to monitor the bushland response. The AWC is also discussing a range of other science-based management experiments for North Head and there will be opportunities for us to be involved in several of those.

Those who have visited North Head recently will have noticed that much of the white picket fence so characteristic of the School of Artillery has been removed. The Trust is hopeful that this will make the site more welcoming. When linked with improved directional signage, this should increase visitation. National Parks Ranger Rachel Miller has worked hard at getting an agreed signage plan for the whole of North Head. The first of the major car-based signage will be in place before Rachel goes on family leave at the end of October and others will follow soon after under the supervision of replacement North Head Ranger Lee DeGail.

As our initial 2-year Community Partnership Agreement draws near to its end, we are negotiating a 3-year renewal with the Trust – hopefully the continuation of a happy and

mutually beneficial relationship in which North Head and its bushland are the main beneficiaries.

Mysteries of North Head

By Geoff Lambert

The Radar Station



This little radar has almost no history and no identification. In my uncertain memory, when I first saw it on a grey and stormy day about 20 years ago, the turret was in action. I surmised then that it was operated by what is now known as Sydney Ports, but I have had no confirmation of this. You can easily find this... just follow the fence around the STO until you find the ominous sign "Death This Way" and turn right to the cliff top. From here a steep path descends to an old searchlight emplacement... but that is another story- though not a mystery.

Calytrix tetragona



Or Fringed-myrtle is bushy shrub to 2 metres tall. The flowers are star like with five white to pink petals and have numerous stamens. The petals fall off leaving behind five red sepals which have long awns. The sepals become redder with age and give the plant its noticeable red colour. The leaves are tiny and crowded. This plant is on show now.

Q Station Lecture Series

Sunday 7 November 2pm to 4.00pm at the Old Laundry Lecture Theatre, Wharf Precinct

Talks by Peter Curzon – "The return of an old pestilence: smallpox in NSW 1913-17: and Robert Clancy - Epidemics in Sydney and their relationship with health services and knowledge".
Bookings 9466 150101 free

Third Cemetery



On Friday, 12 September 1884, George Hammond, a drayman was found to be suffering from smallpox. George Hammond and the inmates of his boarding house were removed to the Quarantine Station. His house and the other houses in Princes Street were disinfected. George became dangerously ill and died on 22 September 1884, ten days after been taken to quarantine. He was 28 years old and left behind a loving wife and three young infants. One of his boarders, Henry Saunders developed smallpox but recovered.

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>