



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

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Avenue of Honour

Geoff Lambert

A map dated 1934 shows that the Avenue of Honour was in fact a looped road. The reason that the Avenue of Honour changed so much was that in 1934 the Reserve for Defence purposes was declared and it took in most of the Avenue of Honour road. The loop road came out through the existing North Fort gate, ran down to "Fairfax" and then dodged back through the wall via another gate (still visible).



Last lonely pine

Photo by Geoff Lambert

For years, legend has had it that there is only a single survivor of the Norfolk Island Pines of North Head's Avenue of Honour.

There are a total of 6 pines in the vicinity of the northern end of the Avenue, where it formed an elongated loop much bigger than the current loop. None of these pines really fits the bill, but this picture is of the most believable candidate, behind the recently-abandoned Long Tom gun shed.

Q Station Lecture Series continues

Sunday, 13 March, 2011 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

'Isolating Spanish Influenza, 1918-1919': Anthea Hyslop

'Infectious diseases, the Quarantine Station and the Coast Hospital': Clem Boughton

At Old Laundry Lecture Theatre, Wharf Precinct, Q Station, 1 North Head Scenic Drive, Manly.
Free but reservations are essential- 9466 1500.

Education Centre

Open every weekend, from 10.00am to 4.00pm.
Please come in and visit us in Building 21.

Platysace lanceolata



or Native Parsnip is an erect shrub to 1.5 metres high, with leaves mostly lance-shaped. The flowers are small and grow in clusters. Now in flower.

Mysteries of North Head

By Geoff Lambert

The Rock Shelter



The location and history of this interesting site will not be revealed because it may well be a sensitive Aboriginal site. Present in the cave are both shellfish middens and "white-fella's middens" (bottles, campfire ashes and old telephone batteries!). The overhang is usually dripping with water and hosts a number of interesting fungi and plant species. It is very hard to find.

Third Cemetery

The number of graves at the Third Cemetery is 241. The first one was 12 September 1881 and the last was 17 August 1925. From the 10 November 1918 to 7 July 1919, 63 people had recorded as the cause of their death Pneumonia, Pneumonia B, Influenza and Influenza B.

Have your say

By 30 April 2011 on the Sydney Harbour National Park Draft Plan of management at
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parkmanagement/SydneyHarbourNPdraftPOM.htm>

Notes from our 2011 planning meeting - Saturday 12th February

Matthew Taylor (Facilitator / Committee member)

With much achieved last year, new grants and a busy year ahead in 2011, a planning meeting was considered to be in order. On a damp and overcast day, 15 of the best minds in NHSF came together to spend some time reviewing progress so far, prioritising activities for 2011 and identifying challenges we may need to meet in the future. We kicked off with acknowledging the huge contributions from many individuals in getting us where we are today since the early battles to protect North Head - a sanctuary on North Head is real (there is a sign saying so!), we have a thriving nursery, an education centre and we continue to be an influential partner with other stakeholders on North Head. However the battle is not won - only parts of North Head have protection and there are constant challenges, particularly from development. The original mission, vision and objectives were reviewed and agreed to be still valid. Our second area of discussion focused on opportunities for the future which included getting more experts in to document the flora/fauna /indigenous/cultural/other so our knowledge base is expanded; liaising more strongly with other external groups such as universities, local schools, other NGOs and environmental groups; creating kids / high schoolers programs at North Head (including other stakeholders/interests) to build local support for and interest in North head (eg regular program of planting, walks, bandicoot surveys, whale watching, tunnel visits etc); creating a film about North Head to promote it; running a national conference at North Head on Environment and NRM partnerships for collaborative environmental management showcasing our work; more signage and greater fundraising efforts. We recognised that some of the skills needed to achieve these things were not necessarily present within current membership and other challenges included declining visitors to both the NHSF education room and the SHFT visitor centre which trends are currently not well understood.



Finally we listed action items for all the above ideas.

An added bonus to the planning meeting was the unplanned arrival of David Williams (Director Cockatoo Island & North Head for the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust) who provided us with an update on their thinking for North Head which included: confirming that at North Fort, most outstanding issues had been equitably resolved with the library staying and becoming part of the Army History Unit, the volunteers restoring army equipment staying and coming under the auspices of the Trust; tours of the tunnels etc restarting very soon. A Masterplan of North Head is being worked on by the SHFT which will include a Defence of Sydney trail with interpretation boards; the old artillery school will become more of a business park by letting out more of the buildings and finally the Trust is starting to expand its thinking from the formal Trust site and move towards creating a whole of headland experience for visitors. Notes from the meeting are available if anyone would like them, remembering that they are in summary form.

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.

Volunteer

Help is always appreciated whether on a regular basis or just a one off. If you would like to help with the planting out, weeding or other projects please email northhead@fastmail.fm.

Native Plant Nursery

The photo on the left shows the site outside the Education room on our first planting day 7 February 2010, the photo below is dated 20 February 2011. All plants were grown in our Nursery.

