



# North Head Sanctuary Foundation

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Newsletter No 4 April 2011

## **Bandicoots & Banksia scrub: You can play a role in conserving them**

As reported in our January newsletter, we have recently received a grant to assist us in re-creating habitat for the endangered population of Long-nosed bandicoots at North Head.

The project, funded by the Australian Government's Community Action Grants program, runs from January 2011 through to June 2012. During this time, we'll be working closely with Dr Nelika Hughes from Australian Wildlife Conservancy and with the Trust, to design bandicoot habitat patches in places where they provide safe connections between feeding and nesting areas. The plants we use will be local native species grown by our Nursery volunteers and will mostly be species that make up the endangered Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub ecological community. We'll be tracking how the bandicoots use different patches of planting, to help us better understand what makes a good bushland home for them.

The grant funding requires us to get members of the community involved.

There are several ways in which you can help. For example, we need people to:

- volunteer to help with night-time spotlight observation and counting of the 'coots using different patches
- get involved in our education program and help raise community awareness of the endangered species, populations and habitats on North Head and what we can all do to help conserve them
- be part of an Earthwatch 'Bandicoots on the Brink' one day or weekend event at North Head. Volunteers will be needed from time-to-time starting in late April or May.

If you'd like to help with this exciting project, contact Judy Lambert on 9949 3521 (ah) or 9948 7862(w) or email her at [twswombat@optusnet.com.au](mailto:twswombat@optusnet.com.au).

## **Q Station Lecture Series continues Sunday, 17 April 2011 - 2.00pm to 4.00pm.**

The session will comprise of two lectures

"Dying for home: clinical nostalgia in the nineteenth-century" by Lisa O'Sullivan

"Victor Coppleson – surgeon, educator and researcher of shark attacks" by Paul Lancaster who is the convener of the Q Station Lecture Series and one of our Committee Members. Lectures are free but reservations essential on 9466 1500

## **North Head Walk and Talk**

Sunday 17 April 10.30am to 12 noon

Peter McLaren, a specialist heritage architect, will lead a walk through the Former Artillery complex to the Third Cemetery.

Bookings Essential 9976 1590 (Weekdays)

## **Third Cemetery**



**A Brave Nurse** (from Queanbeyan Age and Queanbeyan Observer Friday 13 December 1918).

"Nursing Sister Elizabeth McGregor who died at the Quarantine Station of pneumonic influenza on Thursday, left for France with the first Australian Volunteer Hospital in August 1914. She was at Rouen when the hospital was forced to evacuate and retire to St. Nazarie. Thence Sister McGregor went to the first Hospital at Wimmereux, which she left, in 1916, and transferred to Corfu, where she undertook Red Cross nursing. Salonica was the next destination, where she developed malaria and dysentery. After her arrival in London Sister McGregor underwent a most serious operation, which necessitated her return to Australia. For the past three months Sister McGregor had been on duty at Randwick Military Hospital, where her name was one of the first to be put up for nursing at the Quarantine Station."

## **'Have your say' closing 30 April 2011**

On the Sydney Harbour National Park Draft Plan of management at

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parkmanagement/SydneyHarbourNPdraftPOM.htm>

## **Volunteer**

Help is always appreciated whether on a regular basis or just a one off. If you would like to help with a display in the Education room, article for our newsletter, planting out, weeding or other projects please email [northhead@fastmail.fm](mailto:northhead@fastmail.fm). Please also email to receive our monthly e-newsletter.

## Mysteries of North Head

By Geoff Lambert

### The skeleton at the typewriter

An enduring legend of North Head is that of the finding of a skeleton half way down the cliff face in 1978. The skeleton was said to have a bullet hole in its head and a typewriter with Japanese Kanji characters in the rock shelter supposedly accompanied it. Rumor had it that the skeleton was that of a Japanese Coast-watcher, who shot himself at some time during WWII. This story has many unbelievable aspects, not least of which was how he managed to eat. The Manly police believed that the skeleton was that of a local vagrant. The typewriter aspect was probably concocted. However, it seems that new facts are emerging and at some time in the "near future" all will be revealed. Stay tuned.

### Education Centre

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

### Native Plant Nursery



Planting out continues, one area that is being planted is under the paper barks beside North Head Scenic Drive. If you would help, just turn up any Friday between 8am and noon.

### Something in the Air

At our evening General Meeting on 24 February 2010, we endured a very unpleasant odour that continued the entire meeting; it was carried by wind gusts from the direction of Sewage Treatment Works.

The odour was reported to Department Environment, Climate Change and Water during the meeting and other complaints were made later by people who were at the meeting. Environment, Climate Change and Water investigated the matter and on 25 January 2011 advised that "The elusive nature of odours is such that it can be and has been difficult in this case, to establish the source and therefore the cause of the odour incident".

Please continue to report unpleasant odours at North Head to DECCW on 131 555 so that our voices will be heard.

## *Platysace linearifolia*



or Narrow-leaf Platysace is a small shrub to 1.5 metres high, with spreading branches with narrow linear leaves up to 25mm long. The flowers are small and clustered together. Now in flower.

### Next meeting

Our next general meeting will be on Monday 9 May 2011 at 7pm. More details next month.

### Looking back

Sydney Morning Herald, Friday 29 March 1935  
BATTERY OF GUNS for North Head

"An immediate commencement is to be made with the fortification of North Head for the defence of Sydney Harbour. Guns (9.2-inch) are to be erected in a battery which will occupy a commanding position on the headland, from which they can be used if necessary to attack enemy ships approaching the harbour or ships already within the port. A portion of the Parkhill Reserve at Manly, which was opened to the public some time ago, will be resumed and closed to the public after the battery has been constructed.

The guns to be installed at North Head are being made in England, and will, it is expected, arrive in Australia before the end of this year.

The Commonwealth Government has accepted a tender for the construction and completion of the battery and adjoining structures at North Head, at a cost of £43,718. The successful tenderers are the McConnell Building Company Ltd. of Sydney. The date for completion of the work is January 17 1938."

### 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.