



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

ABN 97093480659

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

Newsletter No 5 May 2011

Next meeting

Our next general meeting will be on Monday 9 May 2011 at 7pm. It will be held in the Education Room, Gatehouse Visitors' Centre at North Head Sanctuary and visitors are welcome.

Guest speaker will be David Williams, North Head Manager, Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.

Third Cemetery

Is now open to the public and the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust has received a grant to employ stone masons to repair some of the graves.



William Campbell Menzies died on 11 November 1918 of pneumonia at Quarantine Station. He was darling and devoted husband of Florrie Menzies of Artarmon and beloved eldest son of Charles and Jessie Menzies and had been working as a purser on the steamer Atua.

There is no mention of a child in the death notice or on the headstone but DADDY is engraved in the sandstone at the bottom of the grave.

He was one of over 80 cases, in quarantine hospital from the steamer Atua which came from Fiji, via Auckland, in all 15 died from those quarantined on 8 November 1918, the last one being Arthur William Bliss, aged 10 months, only child of Trooper Arthur Bliss on active service in Egypt and Mrs Bliss.

Something in the Air

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

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, but there are setbacks. Here you can see a rabbit hole inside a wire mesh circle that is giving the plants inside a chance to grow without been eaten. When grown, the plants will form a nesting area for the long nose bandicoots. The burrow was about 1 metre in but was empty when discovered. It has since been filled in.



We have to put wire guards around the *Actinotus helianthi* (Flannel Flowers) as they were getting eaten and dug up. Notice the fungi that have appeared after the wet weather.

Bandicoots spotlighting

We have a grant from Australian Government Community Action Grants program to assist us in re-creating habitat for the endangered population of Long-nosed bandicoots at North Head.

One of the ways you can help in May and June is to volunteer to help with night-time spotlight observation and counting of the bandicoots using different patches

If you'd like to help with this exciting project, please contact Nelika Hughes on 99776695 or 0415 847 420 or email her at nelika.hughes@australianwildlife.org.

.Looking back in Time

Sydney Morning Herald, Friday 27 January 1939

“NEW ARTILLERY BARRACKS, North Head Station

Lord Gowrie's Inspection.

The Governor-General Lord Gowrie who is Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Military Forces yesterday inspected the new Royal Australian Artillery barracks at North Head which are claimed to be among the most modern in the world, and cost £150 000.

Begun nearly two years ago the barracks which will become the artillery headquarters will be completed within the next three weeks.

A ceremonial parade preceded the inspection After giving the Royal salute 230 men of the Royal Australian Artillery marched past, Lord Gowrie taking the salute The Governor-General was accompanied by the Assistant Adjutant of the Second District Base Colonel F M de F Lorenzo, and Captain J Windsor Lewis A.D.C. He was met on his arrival by the Base Commandant Major General J L Hardie who presented him to Lieutenant Colonel S P W Meredith, officer in command of NSW coastal defences

Spaciously laid out, the barracks are built on four sides, of a square and the work has been carried out in cream bricks on one side of the parade ground is the large building which will house the men. On the opposite side are the officers' quarters forming the other two sides are administrative offices and the sergeants mess and gymnasium. The barracks will have accommodation for 288 men 16 sergeants and 11 single officers. In addition there will be cottages for married officers

GOOD LIVING CONDITIONS

An indication of the modernity of the building and its advanced ideas in military accommodation is given by the men's rooms. Large well ventilated and naturally lit each houses six men. Next to the beds are personal lockers, writing tables, and loughboys. Liberally scattered through the barracks are cream tiled bathrooms, shower rooms and wash rooms with hot and cold water laid on.

There are three bars one for men, one for sergeants and one for officers. The large men's mess loom is well lit and airy and cooking is carried out on large ranges fired by crude oil.

The grounds of the barracks have been laid out excellently for horticultural purposes and already 222 trees presented by the Canberra

Forestry Commission have been planted. The barracks have been designed to allow for further extensions as they become necessary to be made without throwing out the general design in any way The barracks which were designed by the Commonwealth Department of Works have been built In the McConnell Building Co Pty Ltd.”

Xanthorrhoea



or grass-tree. There are lots of stalks growing in North Head Sanctuary and the white flowers will be seen shortly. The flowering period is short and does not happen every year.

It's a good time to go for a walk to see the *Banksia ericifolia* which are like orange lanterns, *Banksia marginata* – yellow lanterns and *Bossiaea heterophylla* is a lovely yellow and red pea. *Acacia terminalis* (Sunshine Wattle) is still on display.

Volunteer

Help is always appreciated. If you would like to help with a display in the Education room, article for our newsletter, planting out, or weeding please email northhead@fastmail.fm. Please also email to receive our monthly e-newsletter

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.