



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

ABN 97093480659

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

Newsletter No 7 July 2011

Annual General Meeting Sat 13 August

Our Annual meeting will be held from 2-4pm Saturday 13 August 2011 in the Education Room in the North Head Sanctuary Gatehouse.

Membership is due for renewal this month. Notices and forms will be sent out in the second week of July. If not a member, please consider joining.

Long-nosed Bandicoots at North Head: An endangered population

Judy Lambert



"But surely there are Long-nosed bandicoots all over the place, even in my back lawn".

This is a comment heard quite often when people from the Northern Beaches visit us at North Head Sanctuary, and it is true but not as true as in the past.

Because North Head is almost an island, with its only connection to the 'mainland' being the narrow strip of land in the centre of Manly, the population of bandicoots on North Head has remained isolated for a very long time. This means that there is potential for this population to become genetically distinct, if it survives into the future.

Like any population of plants or animals at real risk of extinction, the North Head population is recognised as an Endangered Population.

Regular monitoring indicates that there are as few as 80 bandicoots on North Head. With growing pressure from road kills, kills by domestic dogs and cats as well as foxes, loss of their favoured habitat which includes both bushland shelter and open grassy feeding areas, and decreased breeding, North Head's population struggles to remain viable. By addressing the main threats to our Long-nosed Bandicoots, everyone can do their bit to help these rather cute little marsupials survive as an integral part of North Head's future. The Sanctuary Foundation and Australian Wildlife Conservancy are working with Sydney Harbour Federation Trust to restore habitat areas and to measure the success of the project over time.

International Conference for Environment Centres & Community Activists 8 to 11 September 2011 at North Head

Making global issues local is the theme for Sydney's International Conference for Environment Centres & Community Activists, which has been organised by the Manly Environment Centre. More information at www.mec.org.au.

Third Cemetery

Jenny Wilson

The burial records simply show that the second person to be buried here was Jimmy an Aboriginal man who was quarantined on 9 September and died 21 September 1881 of small pox. He is buried in this corner of the cemetery.



His name was J Maley (Jemmy) and he lived in an out-house in Cook Street, off Glebe Point Road. He had been ill for over a week and was seen by a doctor before he was taken to the Quarantine Station in a bad way. His clothing was destroyed and the value of it was estimated to be 26 pounds, so the Government would have to pay him £26 if he lived. Jemmy had been working in the smelting works in Sussex Street and passed infected houses on his way to work.

The Eternal Order in Nature: The Science of Botanical Illustration

This exhibition is being held from 18 July to 7 August, at the same time as XVIII International Botanical Congress in Melbourne. Our botanical artist, Julie Nettleton has completed three paintings and these will be on display.

More details at www.eternalorderinnature.net

Education Centre

Open every weekend, from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Please come in and visit us in Building 21, but soon moving to Building 20.

Native Plant Nursery



Planting out continues, the first planting in the water control berm was on 10 June 2011. We have now started planting the sides and some of the plants were Flannel Flowers.

Monotoca elliptica



or tree Broom Heath is a large shrub to three metres tall with prickly pointed leaves and tiny flowers. Note the size of the bee compared to the flowers. It is in flower from July to November.

Back Then

Sydney Morning Herald 19 November 1932

"BANDICOOTS WANTED

Preferably from North Shore.

The McMaster Animal Health Laboratory of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research needs bandicoots, live bandicoots, from the northern side of the harbour. If they are bandicoots which have patronised areas near the North Shore line so much the better.

Dr I Clunies Ross, director of the laboratory, explained yesterday that the animals were needed for researches to be carried out under the auspices of the Dog Tick Research Association. The reason for the preference for North Shore bandicoot is not that they are any better as bandicoots than any other bandicoot but they carry a supply of ticks which the laboratory staff is anxious to collect and rear."

Volunteer

Volunteers are always appreciated. If you would like to help in our Education room, talking to visitors or helping with a display, planting out, or weeding please email northhead@fastmail.fm

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.

NHSF Membership Application

I, _____
(full name of applicant - please print clearly)

address

Phone

Email

Hereby apply to become a member of the abovementioned incorporated association.

Single \$20 Family \$30 Unwaged \$10

Donation \$..... (tax deductible if in separate cheque from membership)

In accordance with Model Rules, membership is subject to acceptance by the committee.

I agree with the aims of NHSF and I agree to be bound by the rules of the association.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Cheques made payable to

North Head Sanctuary Foundation Inc

PO Box 896, Balgowlah NSW 2093

By Direct Deposit to

BSB 802-147 Ac No 40214

Account name North Head Sanctuary Foundation

OR

Bandicoots Enjoy Newly Planted Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub

Nelika Hughes and Cameron Radford

Long-nosed bandicoots are a strange species in many ways. Naturally living in native vegetation, bandicoots are surprisingly good at making use of semi-urban areas and are a common visitor to backyards where they leave their distinctive conical diggings in their search for food. Although these diggings do not always make them friends with the backyard's owner, they're actually a sign of approval, indicating that the soil is in good condition and harboring plenty of invertebrates and fungi. But while grassy lawns might be their preferred place to forage, bandicoots are still reliant on dense vegetation for nesting and protection from native (e.g. owls) and introduced (e.g. cats, dogs and foxes) predators and they don't tend to forage too far from cover. Ensuring bandicoots have ready access to patches of dense cover while foraging on open grassy lawns is therefore one of the ways we can help to protect the endangered population on North Head.

For this reason, the North Head Sanctuary Foundation (NHSF) has been working closely with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) to re-create habitat linkages for bandicoots using Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS) species. Funded by a Caring for our Country Community Action Grant to the NHSF, this work has several aims: to increase the area of ESBS, an important Endangered Ecological Community on North Head; to provide demonstration plantings of some of the spectacular plants found within the ESBS; and to provide nesting and cover habitat for bandicoots

within the open grassy lawns of the North Head Sanctuary.

The NHSF Nursery Group has planted hundreds of plants from locally collected seeds and cuttings – a phenomenal effort for the relatively short period of time they have been running. Meanwhile, the bandicoots' response to the plantings and other activities on the Sanctuary has been monitored by AWC using a combination of spotlighting, counting diggings and, most recently, radio-tracking. Six bandicoots were trapped and fitted with radio transmitters in early May, and these individuals were then tracked during the day and night (from sunset until midnight) to establish where they were nesting and foraging. As expected, the tracked bandicoots spent most of their waking hours foraging on the open grasslands of the North Head Sanctuary. Encouragingly, however, they also made extensive use of the mulched and planted ESBS, spending up to 37.5% of foraging time in this habitat. Bandicoots generally nested in dense vegetation close to grassy lawns, although one individual chose to nest under a building, highlighting the species' ability to adapt to an urbanized environment. While it is still too soon for bandicoots to nest in the regenerated areas, it is hoped that they will start using them once the vegetation is more mature.

Would you like to be involved with this study? AWC is looking for volunteers to help with spotlight surveys of bandicoots (and other animals) in the last week of every month (weather providing) and for week-long biannual radio-tracking surveys. Please email AWC's Nelika Hughes (nelika.hughes@australianwildlife.org) if you would like more information.



Night camera photo of bandicoot