



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

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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.

Thank you to all our members who have renewed their membership. Only financial members can vote at the AGM. If not a member, please consider joining.

Julie Nettleton will be at this meeting and will be displaying her latest work in prints which are available for sale.

THANK YOU

No year is complete without a big Thank you to all our volunteers who help in so many ways. The Nursery volunteers alone have given about 3500 hours in the past year, with about 2400 plants grown and planted out. Staffing the Education Room has seen another 600 hours of volunteering, then there's committee work and special one off jobs.

It is all greatly appreciated.

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

Making global issues local is the theme for the Sydney International Conference for Environment Centres & Community Activists which is hosted by Manly Environment Centre. It will run from September 8 to 11 at Manly's unique North Head Sanctuary.

The four-day event aims to be a support hub for green groups, providing opportunities to network and share expertise in everything from biodiversity to running successful campaigns.

International environmental speakers include "planetary lawyer" Polly Higgins and Transition Towns Totnes advocate Professor Janet Richardson as well as environmentalists from Iran, Kenya, Nepal, and across Australia.

More information at www.mec.org.au.

Education Centre

Open every weekend, from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Please come in and visit us in Building 21. We will soon be moving to the building in front, Building 20, - Bandicoot Heaven - a larger area with more displays.

Managed by Fire

by Geoff Lambert

Of all the habitats around Sydney, Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS) is the most interesting, the newest and the one most emblematic of Aboriginal land management. Until about 7,000 years ago, there was no such a thing as ESBS. North Head was a mostly uninhabited isolated sand-dune covered mesa 20 km from the coast and 20 km from regular human visitation. Then the ice age ended and the people gradually migrated westward, forced by the encroaching sea. They created in the place white people now call "Sydney" something never seen before on the planet. On North Head, their land management skill led to a habitat we now call ESBS. When white folk arrived in 1788, they knew nothing of this. But, on 28th May 1788, on the highest part of North Head (where they were "taking the latitude") the newcomers, led by Bradley discovered how the land was managed by fire- although they drew the wrong conclusions at the time. George Worgan, who went on this "ramble", wrote the following in his journal:

" By 12 o'clock they had taken the necessary Observations, and returning, we made a Circuit over to a part of the Hill, where we observed a great Fire, we found it to be the burning of a Heathy brush-Wood, which we supposed the Natives had set on Fire for some Purpose, but what, we could not Conjecture, We observed likewise, Fires of this Nature, in several other Parts, of the Country, the Wind was blowing very fresh to Day and perhaps this might favour their Designs, if they had any at all, in burning this Stuff; indeed, we have remarked, that, whenever the Wind blows strong, there are a Number of these kinds of Fires about the Country, I have been induced to impute them to accident, from the Natives carrying lighted touch-wood about the Country with them; By the Bye, does not this Circumstance of their being so careful of preserving Fire as long as they can seem to imply, that the producing of it is a Work of great Labour to them? for they even carry the lighted Sticks in the Bottom of their Canoes."

In the next newsletter, we will examine something of the recent fire history of North Head, the influence it has had on ESBS and what NHSF, SHFT and AWC hope to be doing in the coming months.

Native Plant Nursery

July has been a month of cuttings that are keeping warm in plastic green houses. Some plants grown from cuttings are now flowering.

Conospermum longifolium



or Cone-seed is a slender erect shrub to one and half metres tall. Leaves are broad and tapering and the flowers are white. Also found on North Head is *Conospermum ericifolium* which has smaller leaves. It is in flower from July to November.

Thank you David



Both the Education and Nursery room were flooded due to all the heavy rain on 19 to 22 June 2011. David Williams was quick to assist and protect our Nursery supplies and displays.

Volunteer

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

Third Cemetery

Jenny Wilson



Edward James Edney who resided at Surry Hills was brought to Quarantine Station suffering from Bubonic Plague on 24 May and died the next day, 25 May 1900.

He left behind a loving wife, M.J. Edney, loving son and daughter-in-law, Nellie & Sidney Edney. He was employed by James Sandy & Co, Sydney glass merchants who had stores at 271 and 330 George Street. Notice the writing on the headstone.

Other deaths from Bubonic Plague in the month of May 1900 were: Etienne ANGELE aged 65, You BOW 28, Henry BULTER 59, Ah CHONG 38, William DOCKREY 27, James DOHEBTT 70, Roger DRUMMOND 23, Edmund EDLIUNDS 15, David FATZEUS 20, John HARWICK 53, Catherine HENDERSON 49, Ah HERN, Mrs HOGAN, Ah HON 26, Alice LAWLER 24, Margaret LAWRENCE 64, Gladys Caroline McALLOCN 5, Henry Milne McDONAGE 20, Donald McLEMON 15, Michael MOLONEY 25, James MUNN 31, John Isaac NUTT 28, Sarah Veronica O'CONNELL 13, Bernard O'SULLIVAN 19, Andrew O'YOUNG (Chinese) 26, Stella PATMORE 11, Lawrence George Chesney PLANT 4, Peter RAFFETY 16, Joseph Sudbury REDMAN 45, Arthur REID 25, Harris SARINA 17, Stanley SPRATT 19, Thomas STOCKDALE 35 and Margaret WHITEHEAD 40. We shall look at another name next month.

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.