



# North Head Sanctuary Foundation

## Custodians of North Head

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Newsletter No 1 January 2013

### HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 20 February 2013 at 7.00pm in our education room – Bandicoot Heaven.

### Welcome to our new neighbours

The School of Sculpture is opening in February next to the Nursery and Bandicoot Heaven. Headland Montessori building is finished and the centre will open this month. Behind it is Cross Fit gymnasium which is open.

### Native Plant Nursery

We have planted out 1,226 plants in the last six months. We were helped by six year 10 students from St Augustine's for four days in November. They planted plume grass on the Oval, watered, weeded, sowed seed and moved lots of mulch. Thank you to the students and all our Nursery volunteers for your work over the last six months.

On 12 December 2012, Sue Halmagyi made a presentation to the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust which highlighted the work by the Nursery in the last four years.

This year promises to be even busier than last year. We plan to plant thousands of native grasses on the Oval as well as other plants grown in our Nursery.

Would you like to help us?

Please think about joining our group, we all work well together as a team. You can help with planting or weeding on a regular or one off basis.

Please contact Sue Halmagyi at [sue.halmagyi@gmail.com](mailto:sue.halmagyi@gmail.com) or phone 0407 461 820.

### A Brief Tribute to Peter Caldwell

Judy Lambert

It is with sadness that we report the passing on 11 December 2012 of one of our North Head Sanctuary 'Champions'. A keen bushwalker and a committed Buddhist, Peter Caldwell made a very considerable contribution to conservation of the natural environment in New South Wales. Peter was a long-serving member of both the National Parks Association and the Defenders of Sydney Harbour and it was in those two capacities that he attended the North Head Sanctuary conference, co-hosted by Sydney Harbour Federation Trust and the NPWS in July 2002. Peter was one of 25 'sanctuary champions' that presented a community statement to the final session of that conference. From there, he became an active member of the Foundation throughout its formative years. He will be sadly missed.

### Echidna Survey

Geoff Lambert

Nearly every day at both the SHFT and NHSF Visitor Centres, people come in with reports and photographs of echidnas on North Head. The echidnas are either becoming more bold or more common- I can't decide which. In order to "get a handle" on this problem, your Committee has authorised us to conduct a survey of our echidnas. This will be a citizen-participation survey conducted primarily by way of photographs taken by walkers and NHSF members. People are encouraged to fill out a report form in Bandicoot Heaven or the SHFT Visitor Centre and to send the report to us. We will place the reporting form on the NHSF web-site very soon. People are also encouraged to send their echidna photographs to NHSF at [twswombat@optusnet.com.au](mailto:twswombat@optusnet.com.au) - on the spot if possible. All photographs are welcome but those taken with a smart-phone are preferred because they will often contain the exact location data (GPS). The location data will be mapped onto Google Earth (see image on this page) and the photographs will be used to identify each echidna. We already have nearly a dozen such photographs and it is becoming clear that there are at least 6 different echidnas involved.



### Education Centre – Bandicoot Heaven

Our Education room is open every weekend, from 10am to 4pm in Building 20. Call in and see us. Have a look at our range of botanical cards that are available for purchase. Volunteer to help out.

## Third Cemetery

Jenny Wilson



Mrs de Sturler

25 September 1911

The Sydney Morning Herald 26 September 1911  
"DEATH AT QUARANTINE STATION.  
The Smallpox Case – Wife of Java Tea Grower

The lady passenger by the steamer Van Linschoten, who was found on arrival in Sydney to be suffering from smallpox, died at the Quarantine Station yesterday morning. She was Madam de Sturler. The health authorities state that the smallpox was not the cause of death, other disease of a tropical character being present.

The lady was, with her sister and husband, the last of the Van Linschoten's passengers to remain at the Quarantine Station. She will be buried there. The usual disinfecting of the station premises will then proceed.

Madam de Sturler was formerly Miss Daisy Cleary, of Melbourne. She was married only two years ago to Jonkher de Sturler, one of the best-known Java tea growers, whose plantations have been established near Britanzoig, Java, for a number of years.

Early this year Madam de Sturler's sister accompanied her to Java for an extended holiday, and they were returning to Melbourne together." Kathleen de Sturler was 28 years old and her burial at Third Cemetery was witnessed by her husband and sister.

## *Leptospermum juniperinum*



Or Prickly Tea-tree is a shrub to 1.5 m tall with many erect branches and arrow pointed leaves. Flowers are white and in flower now and can be found in damp areas.

## .Ocean Care Day

Thank you, Judy, Geoff, Pamela, Brenda, Diana, Mary, Michael, Kathy P, Julie and Kathy R for your work on our stall on 2 December 2012.

## *Xanthorrhoea*

Or Grass Tree are very slow growing unless there is a fire. On 4 September the area near the metal track from Blue Fish into North Head Sanctuary had a controlled burn. The tightly packed leaf bases were burnt, see the blacken trunk and the new crown already showing new growth.



1 Oct 2012

More growth after 12 weeks.



26.12.12

## North Head 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