



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

Custodians of North Head

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Next Meeting 20 February 2013

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 20 February 2013 at 7.00pm in our education room – Bandicoot Heaven and the speaker will be Scott Pentland. His talk “Things I find in the North Head Bushland” will be very interesting.

Native Plant Nursery

We are still working in this hot weather and the planting out on the Oval continues. Our much appreciated volunteers plant but the space is so big more hands would be great.

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

Please contact Sue Halmagyi at sue.halmagyi@gmail.com or phone 0407 461 820.

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. You can pick up a Echidna Survey form or download from our website <http://www.northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au>



Bandicoot Heaven volunteering

Working in Bandicoot Heaven, our visitor Education room is sometimes busy, sometimes quiet, but never boring. It's an information exchange place where we often learn as much from our visitors as they learn from us. Even in the quiet moments, our resources are there for your browsing- we have thousands of North Head documents, videos, soundtracks and photographs on the computers and shelves. Bandicoot Heaven is run by a too-small team of volunteers- we need more of you- why not volunteer to join us? Training and the Bandicoot Heaven Guidebook will ease your entry into this fascinating pastime. Contact our volunteer coordinator Judy Lambert at twswombat@optusnet.com.au or by phone on 9949 3521 (ah).

My North Head...

I don't live near North Head, but it's very easy for me to experience it any time I wish. Just around the corner from my home at Camp Cove there is a walking track to the Hornby Light at South Head, and I can see and admire our northern neighbour from there. Depending on the lighting and sea conditions and my mood on the day, the scene may be austere, romantic, intriguing, secretive... it is never, ever boring! Even though it is way-over-there-across-the-water, North Head is part of my daily life and so it is somehow mine.

All the east-side Harbour headlands have a special synergy in their landforms and geology and incomparable marine setting. The winds and the tides ceaselessly carry messages between them. They all have gentle connections through ancient rock art depicting ideas and aspirations of coastal people wholly in tune with nature. With patiently circling sea eagles, and astonishing fish frolics and gannet tactics, dynamics rule!

But North Head has a specific local character too. When I cross the sea and go there for a close-up view, the ground and ground cover always command attention and admiration first. The remnant banksia scrub sheltering and supporting a range of plant and creature life amazes and delights me with its survival and ongoing recovery after (too many) years of unwary neglect. While tales of species re-discovery and unexpected sightings are mixed with occasional setbacks, together they fuel an optimistic sense for the future of this unique natural area.

Knowing personally some of the people who are helping that recovery to happen, and the work that has been done, I am enormously grateful.

Oh yes, I happily claim North Head as my heritage, just as it is the heritage of us all. So I see it as I see Sydney Harbour: ours to care for, ours to enjoy, and ours to discover and treasure its stories. But we must care for it all ... and we must all care for it.

Michael Rolfe
President, Sydney Harbour Association
13 January 2013

Thank you

Sydney Metropolitan CMA for the grant to purchase our new Bandicoot Heaven sign as seen in the photo.

Third Cemetery

Steve Johnston



Edmund Thurlow, 33, was quarantined with his wife and their three children on 1st May 1898. They were third class passengers on the SS Orizaba from England to Queensland. The ship was quarantined for smallpox and Edmund and his wife had been vaccinated as children and refused to be vaccinated again. The children were vaccinated at the Quarantine Station. On Saturday 14 May, Edmund was isolated as he had the smallpox rash. He died on 26 May 1898.

Before he was isolated he would have had time to engrave his name at Old Man Hats rock and maybe hide some gold coins. Once isolated he never had contact again with his family.

Sydney Morning Herald 31 January 1946

“Old Hoard Of Sovereigns Under Quarantine Hut Police and an inspector from the Department of the Interior yesterday discovered a hoard of English sovereigns bearing mint dates from 1876 to 1894 buried in rabbit burrows and rat holes under one of the old huts in the boarding section of the Quarantine Station at North Head.

The number of sovereigns found was not disclosed, but the total is under 100, and each is worth £2/14/. Police believe that they were hidden under the floor of the hut probably more than 50 years ago by someone from England while he was held in quarantine. The hut was last occupied in 1919.

Mr. Walter Patinson, of the Dept of the Interior, was examining the foundations of the hut on Tuesday when he tripped over the lead of his electric light, causing the glare to be reflected from a sovereign on a ledge under the hardwood floor. He then noticed other sovereigns, and reported his discovery to Manly police.

Yesterday, Detective-sergeant Gray and Detective Connors, of Manly, climbed under the floor of the hut, and among the skeletons of rabbits and rats that had burrowed into the sand they found more sovereigns. Those that were not partly buried in the sand were covered in cobwebs and dust that had accumulated over the years.”

Detective-sergeant Gray took possession of the 60 sovereigns, and submitted them to the City Coroner who ruled on 16 March 1946 that as no claim had

been made for the coins, they were treasure trove and belong to the Treasury. The Coroner also recommended a reward to the finder, W. L. Patinson, for his honesty in immediately reporting his find.

When I used to work up there as an apprentice we had heard of the gold sovereign story so we were always on the look out under buildings etc for our share!

Xanthorrhoea



Taken on the start of the Memorial Walk at North Fort, on 7 Sept 2012 after the controlled burn. Notice the *Xanthorrhoea* stump in the middle of the photo.



Taken on 25 January 2013, the *Xanthorrhoea* has leaves and a flower stalk that is going to seed. Flowers could be seen on 24 December 2012.



This Grass tree is different to the one in last month's newsletter. Other *Xanthorrhoea* stalks can be seen together with regrowth on *Lambertia formosa* and *Hakea dactyloides*. *Lepidosperma* is also coming up where it was burned flat to the ground. Other plants are also re-sprouting. Well worth having a look, and then having coffee and cake at the Bella Vista café.