



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

Custodians of North Head

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Next General meeting

7pm Wednesday 21 May 2014

Education Centre – Bandicoot Heaven

Our community education room is open 10am to 4pm Saturdays and Sundays in Building 20. Call in to have a chat or gather information. If you'd like to help others get to know more about North Head, please contact Judy Lambert on 9949 3521(ah) or email twswoombat@optusnet.com.au

Thank you to Katie Meyer and Kathy Ridge for promoting us at Farmhouse Montessori School on 22 March. If you do not have one of our Aboriginal use of Plants brochure, you can pick one up at Bandicoot Heaven.



Katie Meyer with stall and Aboriginal Use of Plants poster.

Walk for Children - Free

Katie Meyer will be doing two short walks with children on Sunday 6 April and Sunday 4 May 2014. Each walk will start from Bandicoot Heaven (building 20) at 11am and last about an hour.

For more information or to book, please email Katie at katiem73@hotmail.com

Clean Up North Head

On Sunday 2 March, despite frequent rain showers, 10 volunteers turned up to help clean up North Head as part of Clean Up Australia day. Ten bags of rubbish (totalling an estimated 110kg) were collected from around the tracks and trails, along with another six bags of recyclables. Although we'd like visitors to treat every day as a 'clean up' day at North Head, thanks go to everyone who joined the effort.

Congratulations to Christabel Casimir and Brenda and Rory Lynsky received Manly Environment Centre Eco Award nominations this year for their work for the environment.

Help Wanted for Fauna Surveys

The Australian Wildlife Conservancy will be undertaking fauna surveys and monitoring over the next few months. Volunteers are very welcome. If you are interested please contact AWC's Wildlife Ecologist, Dr Jen Anson at jennifer.anson@australianwildlife.org.

Native Plant Nursery

Thank you to Stuarts Blinds for supplying us with venetian slats that we cut up and use as plant labels.



Thank you to Nick Vale for all his hard work in replacing the igloo's corflute doors and windows that had broken down in the hot sun.

Thank you to Kathy Ridge for the water pressure cleaner. Our igloo floor is now clean.

Volunteering at the Nursery is never boring. Help is always wanted as there is so much to do in maintaining our planted areas, planting out and growing the plants. If you would like to help us please email Jenny at northhead@fastmail.fm or turn up any Tuesday or Friday morning between 8am and 12 noon.

Amazing what you can see on North Head



Taken in the Third Cemetery by Gill Bass. Unfortunately it is a black rat, not a native one.

North Head Sanctuary Foundation

If you would like to support us by becoming a member, please download a form at www.northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au/join/membership.htm. If you would like to receive a copy of our newsletter, email northhead@fastmail.fm

Hibbertia empetrifolia



Or Trailing Guinea Flower. A small sprawling shrub with long branches found in open sandstone heath.

Notes of a hobbyist: Snapping Spiders.

Peter Macinnis



I took up spiders in 1958 when I saw Keith McKeown's Australian Spiders. The frontispiece was of a jumping spider like this one on the left, but the photo showed it face-on, and I fancied a resemblance to my Latin teacher. Any life form that could mimic Latin teachers had to be OK.

Then, with my distant Scots ancestry, the St Andrews Cross Spider was interesting. They insist on putting a saltire in their web, and then put two legs along each line. Why?



The best guess I have seen is that they do it to make themselves look larger to potential predators. They are a nice easy target, and usually found in the nursery.

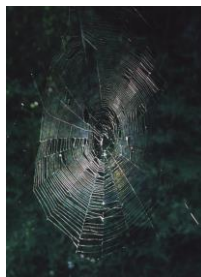


Over the years, I have come up with some wrinkles to make snapping easier. That jumping spider kept springing away, so I put it

in a glass salad bowl, with blue card in the bottom. Then I just had to wait until it got tired of leaping.

I used to wonder how orb-weavers avoided getting caught in their vertical webs, but as the side-shot on the right shows, the webs are NOT vertical. The web is just a blur

because most of it is out of the focal field, but you can see the angle.



I decided to try capturing the web better, and started working with card sheets, and as you can see, not all cards are equal.

Other tricks that are worth trying include catching webs with raindrops on them, or using flash in the dark. Note that (aside from a mild trauma from the flash {maybe}) for the spider, these do no harm to animals.



The other way is to find dead spiders and pose them.

Dead huntsmen occasionally show up in our garage, and if they are fairly fresh, they can be placed in a jar with a damp tissue, which softens them so they can be posed and supported in place with pins as they dry again.

Discretion being better than valour, I

freely confess that this redback, photographed in the Igloo, was most sincerely dead.



At night, you can spotlight spiders and examine them. Here is my ever-helpful wife posing with a strong light behind her ear: walk out in the garden, look for glowing eyes in the grass and then move in on them.

Third Cemetery

Jenny Wilson

"The Smallpox Outbreak. - DEATH OF A SEAMAN."

"The Board of Health yesterday received a communication from the Quarantine Station at North Head announcing the death of the seaman Blake. The official report states : 'Albert Blake, aged 38, an able-bodied seaman, who was transferred from the Orient Company's steamer Oroya on the 20th instant, suffering from smallpox, died on board the hospital ship Faraway, at 4 o'clock this morning.' Papers in possession of the health authorities show that Blake was suffering from the malady in a confluent form. His arm showed slight signs of vaccination, and it is therefore conjectured that he was vaccinated at an early age. He was attacked with the disease *on June 19, and on the following day was removed to the hospital ship Faraway. From the start Blake's position was a serious one, as the attack was in a severe form. Very little is known of the deceased seaman, who was 38 years of age. No time was lost in carrying out the burial, the body being interred in the cemetery attached to the Quarantine Station."

From Evening News, Sydney. 30 June 1892.

Albert was the only person buried in Third Cemetery Station in 1892 - I record shows note Quarter Master R.M.S. Oroya.