



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

Custodians of North Head

ABN 97093480659 P.O. Box 896, Balgowlah, NSW 2093
northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au email northhead@fastmail.com.au

Newsletter No 11 December 2014

Season's Greetings

Education Room – 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 tswombat@optusnet.com.au

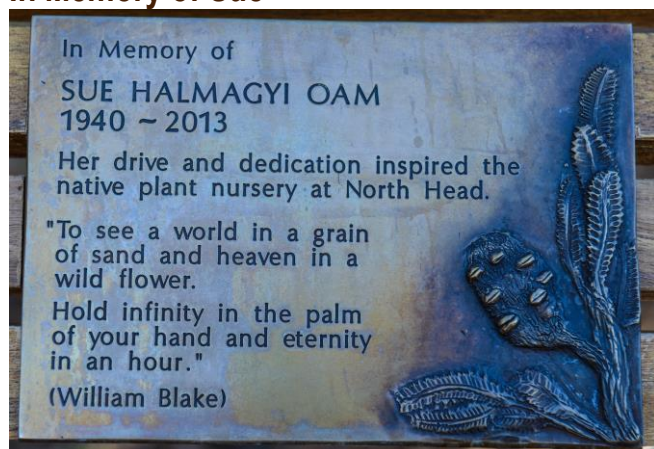
Ocean Care Day – Sunday 7 Dec - 10am to 4pm Healthy Oceans Need Sharks

That's the theme of this year's Ocean Care Day Festival, hosted by Manly Environment Centre. The free community event will be held on Manly's spectacular surf beach and include a program of environmental talks, music, eco-exhibitions, stalls and local art.

Please visit us at our stall along the surf beach front. This event is always worth a visit.

We need help on our stall and if you would like to volunteer, please contact Judy Lambert, details above.

In Memory of Sue



When next you visit the Third Cemetery have a look at the plaque on the seat outside. This was one of Sue's favorite spots on North Head and view is fantastic.

On 17 November, Sue's family, friends and others gathered to remember her and unveil this plaque. Thank you to Philip Jones for his work on the plaque and North Head Nursery group for hosting and catering for the group. (Photo Ian Evans)

Native Plant Nursery

The Nursery is run by volunteers and we can always use another pair of hands to help with the planting and weeding of our areas. It is relaxing working with plants and removing weeds. Please email Jenny at northhead@fastmail.com.au or turn up any Tuesday or Friday morning between 8am and 12 noon. We are behind Building 20.

Bleached and Unbleached Sand on North Head

Geoff Lambert



This picture shows two ant hills on North Head that one could see in September after the ants did their spring cleaning. The holes are only 4 centimetres apart, but the sand the ants have excavated is totally different colours. The right-hand sand dune has come from a deeper layer of sand which has been undisturbed since the sand was deposited during the last Ice Age at least 11,000 years ago. In all probability, the origin of this aeolian sand is the Blue Mountains. The sand dune on the left is sand from a shallower ant hill. It was deposited at the same time and from the same place as the other sand, but has lain close to the surface since it was deposited and has been subject to continuous bleaching by rain and sunlight. One can see much larger versions of this phenomenon all over North Head- the most notable is at the northern end of the Avenue of Honour, where a loading stage was excavated to transfer the two anti-battleship guns from road to rail.

Melaleuca armillaris



Or Bracelet Honey-myrtle is a tall rounded shrub to 5 metres with narrow linear leaves. Flowers are in a dense flower spike and are white. In flower now.

New Signage



The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust is installing new signage around the site. This sign is outside the Trust Visitor Centre. Next year the Trust will have a new visitor centre at North Fort.

Plover Update

Geoff Lambert

Despite the best efforts of several humans, who rescued two plover chicks from the stormwater drains, none survived. The parents were distraught, but tried again. Mother is currently sitting on 3 more eggs, which we hope are fertile. A second batch seems to be most unusual. NHSF has covered the drain with fine mesh to prevent another recurrence of the Mother's Lament . or ... "My Baby has gone down the Plughole" (Eric Clapton, 1968). Mother and Father Plover have never forgiven me for handling their lost chick- even though I was returning it to their custody. They attack me by swooping when I approach the nest – but ONLY if I am wearing the same high-visibility bush-shirt which I wore during the rescue! At other times, with another shirt, they seem quite unperturbed. This must say something about bird brains, but I am unsure what.

Thank you Katie



The children had a great time up at North Head on 23 November - exploring and discovering all sorts of hidden 'gems' in the wonderful bushland!

Thank you Katie Meyer, director of EcoXplore, (www.ecoxplore.com.au) for giving these two free, short nature walks for children

Third Cemetery

Jenny Wilson

There were no deaths at Quarantine Station during 1920 to 1924. The last person to be buried in the Third Cemetery was a seaman from S.S. Tasman. He was quarantined on 2 August 1925 and died on 17 August, from Tuberculosis, at the Seaman's Isolation Hospital at Collins Beach. He was buried on 18 August 1925. His name is only recorded as SAMAIN, and his age given as 29 years.

Quarantine Station 1921



Terry Metherell found this 3 penny coin (threepenny) dated 1921, near the Quarantine station along North Head Scenic Drive.

Here are some news items from that time

Evening News 15 February 1921 – "The quarantine authorities today stated that the two smallpox patients at North Head, from the A.M.S. Ventura are progressing favourably. The passenger who occupied the same cabin with the two on the steamer, and who has been detained as a contact, is well. It will probably be some weeks before they will leave North Head."

Singleton Argus 14 April 1921 - "The B.L.S.N.

Company's steamer Gracchus was placed in quarantine on arrival at Sydney on Tuesday morning owing to a case of smallpox on board.

The vessel came from Calcutta via Melbourne. The case developed on the run from Melbourne, and the patient and three contacts—all members of the ship's crew—have been landed and isolated at the Quarantine Station. The remainder of the crew mostly natives, were taken ashore at North Head yesterday, and the vessel will be fumigated and disinfected before being handed over to the agents, Messrs Burns, Philp, and Co., about the end of the week for the discharge of her cargo. The Gracchus has seven passengers, and these, with the crew, will remain in quarantine for a period of 18 days."

SMH 20 June 21 - "More than 200 passengers and 100 members of the crew of the Niagara, who had been held in quarantine since June 1, were released on Saturday morning. Their feelings were mixed as they came ashore at No. 5 Darling Harbour."

"The popular belief was that the strange case of sickness from the Niagara was not mild smallpox."

"At least one passenger stated that the period spent in quarantine had been the happiest in his life. All sorts of games were indulged in, he said; there was an entire freedom from worldly troubles, and one always had uppermost in his mind the fact that the expenses of the holiday were being borne 'by the other fellow'."

SMH 17 August 21 - "A fire broke out last night in a weather-board building at the Quarantine Station, North Head. The building contained 16 bedrooms and a pantry, where the outbreak commenced. The staff of the quarantine department had extinguished the flames before the Manly Brigade arrived, but damage to the extent of about £300 was done."