



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

Custodians of North Head

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Thank you - David Jenkins - Whale Spotter



For a very interesting talk with lots of questions and answers. Whales are due now at North Head.

His website is www.whalespotter.com.au

Education Room – Bandicoot Heaven

Our community education room is open 10am to 4pm Saturdays and Sundays in Building 20. Call in to have a look at our displays and our botanical cards range with many new designs. Cards are \$5 each or five for \$20.

Recent Research Papers from NHSF

Judy Lambert

After the usual exchanges between journal editors, scientific reviewers and the authors, we've very recently had published two papers about conservation management of ESBS.

You can find them in the references below.

Lambert J, Lambert G & Pellow B (2015). An evaluation of two management options to restore species diversity of Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub at North Head, Sydney. *Cunninghamia* 15, pp. 69-78.

Lambert G & Lambert J (2015). Progress with restoration and management of Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub on North Head, Sydney. *Ecological Management & Restoration* 16(2), pp. 95-105.

We also presented a talk at the Ecological Society conference in Alice Springs last September, highlighting our research results on the impacts of rabbits on recently burned ESBS, and as a result of that we've responded to an invitation by the NSW Nature Conservation Council to present a poster on rabbit impacts after fire at their conference in Surry Hills on 26-27 May. Once the conference is over, this poster will be on display in Bandicoot Heaven.

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust New Visitor Centre at North Fort



The new Visitor Centre was opened on 21 May 2015 by The Hon. Bob Baldwin, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment, pictured here with Acting Chair & Mayor of Manly Jean Hay AM, Major General (Retired) Tim Ford AO, and Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Executive Director Geoff Bailey.

Call in and see the map showing North Head features, including Bandicoot Heaven and the Nursery buildings next time you are at North Fort.

Photo Ian Evans

Native Plant Nursery

There is always plenty to do.

If you would like to join us just turn up any Tuesday or Friday morning between 8am and 12 noon.

More details from Jenny at northhead@fastmail.com.au.

Third Cemetery

The seventh person to be buried in the Third Cemetery was Christian ROSLIN according to the burial records but name of the death certificate was Christian Rusenusson, aged 40 years and states he died at sea.

The newspaper account of his death from Evening News Saturday 16 December 1882

"Java Fever."

"The Illic, barque, from Java, arrived at midnight on Thursday, and at once sailed into quarantine, having Java fever on board. The disease has shown itself on the only two white men of the crew, one of whom, Christian Andersen, a Dane, died yesterday and was buried this morning at the quarantine station. The other man will be landed, and the vessel will probably be released tomorrow. Captain Brown has his wife and daughters on board; but they are quite well."

The Obelisk Mystery – Solved?

Geoff Lambert

It is said that the stone obelisk over the road from the 3rd Cemetery on North Head is the oldest European-built structure on North Head, being in existence by 1809. They say this because somebody once said that the obelisk was shown on an 1810 nautical chart. This bit of lore has been passed from publication to publication without any of the authors (including me) ever being able to produce this chart. There is no such a chart.

Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century surveys of Sydney Harbour are rather few, given the importance of the matter of navigation through the heads. Surveys were made or printed in 1791, 1822, 1853, 1859 and 1890. In addition, a number of explorers – de Freycinet for example— published slight amendments to earlier surveys (1825, 1828).

The 1822 navigation chart by Roe does not show the Obelisk, but it does show a navigation bearing to the “Summit” of Inner North Head – that which we now call Old Man’s Hat. The 1853 survey, which was compiled intermittently by Darling and Mitchell over 24 years does not show the Obelisk either.

The Obelisk first shows up on the 1859 chart (see map extract.) This map was the result of a survey in 1857 by Lt J.J.W.Hutchison under the command of Captain Henry Mangles Denham (pictured).

The survey took 8 months to December 1857, after which the results were sent to the Admiralty in London for printing 18 months later.

In the Sydney Morning Herald of 10th May 1858, the first of a series of “Sailing Directions for the Harbour of Port Jackson” appeared. This Notice begins as follows:

THE following is published for the general information of master mariners on entering Port Jackson, rendered necessary by the recent erection of a new Lighthouse,

and several additional Obelisks or beacons.

The notice makes mention of the North Head obelisk as a navigation marker for the Western Channel.

This is the first mention of this obelisk that I can find. I surmise that, before Denham sailed

away from Sydney, he made recommendations for the erection of these “additional Obelisks” and perhaps engraved them on his chart. The obelisk and the lightship feature in paintings made after the late 1850s.

My guess is that the Obelisk was constructed sometime between December 1857 and April 1858. An earlier date is not impossible, but it seems unlikely in the light of what appears above.

Hibbertia fasciculata



A low spreading scrub to 50cm high with slender leaves. One only notices it when it's in flower which is usually spring but can be seen at other times.

My North Head

Dr Ian Lavering

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In the 1880s a ship called the Mariposa was quarantined at the North Head Quarantine Station with cases of smallpox on board. The survivors had an ornate inscription carved upon a large boulder near the top of the ridge close to the (second) graveyard, I first read this inscription in 1963 when I moved to North Head as a staff resident - my father was the Resident Officer in Charge of the Quarantine Station from 1963-1975. The inscription read (from my unreliable memory of 50 years):

STOP

*Let weary travelers listen as we tell
the awful treatment that to us befell
upon the Mariposa many were our woes
'Tis a mercy we have not yet turned up our toes*

This inscription was lovingly tended until 1983 when it was omitted from a survey of heritage items and locations at the Quarantine Station. Hence it has not ever been mentioned in any strategic plan or management plan since. After 1984 the gravel bridle path leading past the second graveyard next to the carving was allowed to become overgrown with woody growth as part of a 'regeneration' program - possibly because there was no object of recognised heritage value nearby (carving wasn't listed in any plan).

Until 2014 when after several (repeated) representations I made to several station staff and consultants over several years, it was relocated, overgrown with weeds, trees and scrub. I have yet to see any evidence that it has been rehabilitated to the status it enjoyed from the 1880s to 1983?

Sadly there is at least one other major rock inscription which has been 'lost' since the 1980s - most of the Old Man's Hat location have also been seriously compromised by exposure and overgrowth by debris from periodic patch burning and regeneration.