



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

Custodians of North Head

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See North Head Sanctuary at its best

The bushland on North Head has come to life after the cold winter weather. Come on a guided spring wildflower walk which will begin at the North Head Sanctuary Foundation's 'Bandicoot Heaven' (Building 20 at the old School of Artillery).

Monday 5 October, 10am (Labour Day holiday)
Sunday 18 October, 2pm

Each will be an easy walk on good tracks and will last about 2½ hours.

Walks are free, but bookings are essential. Please contact Judy & Geoff Lambert
Email: twswombat@optusnet.com.au or call 0427 217 580

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.

Native Plant Nursery

Here is a Nearmap view of the old oval, taken on 1 September 2015 and supplied by Geoff Lambert.



On this map you can see our planted finger areas, providing cover for the bandicoots. Planting here is ongoing.

Did you miss some of our volunteers on ABC's Gardening Australia? If so, you can visit the ABC website and look in archives for a Special Spot dated 19 September, or just visit our Education room to see the video

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.

It is great to see the results of the work by our Nursery volunteers. The first photo shows us starting planting on the bank outside the old gym on 8 February 2013.



The second photo was taken on 15 September 2015. Have a look when you walk up North Fort Road, before the wire hand sculpture. We are using wire cages around some plants to prevent the rabbits from enjoying them.



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 enewsletter, please email northhead@fastmail.com.au

Round the twist, part 4 Helical oddities

Peter Macinnis

Just to finish off the theme of twists, coils and helices, here are some snippets.

There is a television sequence showing an 'alien' being dissected, supposedly back in the 1950s. You can tell that the dissection is a fake, because there is a phone in one shot which has a coiled lead—phones did not have coiled leads in the 1950s!

When I first got interested in this question, computer keyboards and telephones all had helical cords, and I found that you could usually deduce the country of origin by looking to see if the twist went to the left or the right. Helical cords are now less common, but look out for them, and see which way they go.

My hypothesis: this may correlate with the side of the road cars drive on, but I have never tested this. (Indonesians, Japanese and Malaysians all drive on the left.)

"Clockwise" is a term derived from the direction the shadow of the gnomon takes on a sundial in the northern hemisphere, where sundials were first developed. If the southern hemisphere made corrected clocks, with the hands going in the correct direction for southern sundials, then highs would be "clockwise" in both hemispheres. The correct pre-clock term for "counter-clockwise", incidentally, is "widdershins", while the pre-clock term for "clockwise" is "deasil".

Elephants' trunks, like human tongues, hold their shape because they are hydrostats. The pressure of the fluid inside the organ is balanced against the tension of fibres in a surrounding sheath, and manipulating these fibres allows the organ to move around. The sheath of fibre has to be strong, and it is made up of helically wound fibres which run in a helix, diagonally around the organ.

Right-handed snails go counter-clockwise when mating, and left-handed snails go clockwise, so the two types cannot mate. If snail species vary in numbers over time, this might explain why a species becomes entirely of one form or the other, just by chance. How could it work across species? Could some predators find left-handed shells easier to attack? Why?

Or could there be another explanation? Maybe the right-handed form has a real advantage, but they used to be eaten by an animal which is now extinct, or the shells dissolved more easily, or the shells of dead animals rolled away into deeper water. You can't leave it there, of course, but I can. You see, I'm twisted!

The second bush rat reintroduction.



Dr Jennifer Anson
with bush rat

The Australian
Wildlife
Conservancy
reintroduced a
number of Bush
Rats to North
Head in 2014.

Bush Rats are native rodents that are widespread along the east coast of Australia but were locally extinct at North Head. Weighing around 100 grams, these shy mammals prefer dense understorey vegetation and are restricted to bushland. They can be an important component of a healthy ecosystem, assisting with the pollination of native plant species.

The Australian Wildlife Conservancy reintroduced a number of Bush Rats to North Head in 2014 and have been monitoring them since their release. While the population is still quite restricted it is going strong, with new generations of Bush Rats born on the headland in the last year. In August Dr Jennifer Anson trapped additional Bush Rats at Muogamarra Nature Reserve. Dr Anson and a group of volunteers released them on the headland to supplement the new North Head population and assist the species in spreading across the headland. AWC is working towards a healthy, sustainable population on the headland that will benefit the whole ecosystem and boost native mammal diversity.

Caesia parviflora



or Pale Grass-lily is a herb that looks like grass until you see the flower. Out now It can be found in damp areas.