



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

Custodians of North Head

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Invitation to Tour North Head Wastewater Treatment Plant

Saturday 14 November 2015 at 9am
Always wanted to have a look at what happens to our sewerage. Here is your chance.
The tour should take about 1.5 hours to complete.
Please contact Jenny (northhead@fastmail.com.au) to book a place or for further information.. .

Education Room – Bandicoot Heaven

Our community education room is open 10am to 4pm Saturdays and Sundays in Building 20. We've recently made some changes to our displays, including adding a poster showing where you've seen and photographed echidnas on North Head. Call in to see our displays and our botanical card range.

Native Plant Nursery



Here we are planting and weeding in all weathers

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

Manly's annual Ocean Care Day

It is on again on Sunday 6 December. This year's theme is *Support a Sydney Marine Park*. As usual, NHSF will have an information stall at Ocean Care Day – **volunteers needed**. If you are able to help out for an hour or two sometime between 10am and 4.30pm, please contact Judy Lambert (9949 3521 or email: tswombat@optusnet.com.au) before 25 November.

Another great year for spring wildflowers



Photo: Nick Hollo

Since 20 September, 37 people have participated in one of our four spring wildflower walks, some in really pleasant conditions, some in showery weather and others on a very hot day. All seem happy to have been part of our 'walk & talk' sessions in which regulars, newcomers and the walk leaders learned from each other, with lots taking photos along the way. Thanks to all who gave generous donations.

These walks were complemented by a mini-version of our usual 2.5 hour walk - an hour long walk requested by the Trust as part of its North Head Open Day for Trust Volunteers. Fifty-two people, in two groups, did a less detailed 'walk & talk' around the Gunners walk loop. At the end of the walk, several commented that even though they were long-term Trust volunteers, they had no idea that the bush at North Head had so much to see.

Eeny, Meeny, Miney, Moe

Geoff Lambert



At long last, the plover eggs at North Fort hatched on or about the 1 October. These were about a month behind their brethren at St Barbaras Avenue. Eeny, Meeny, Miney and Moe have been very active, especially around the Belle Vista Cafe, where they feast on a diet of Espresso and the crumbs of Italian cake. After a hard day putting on weight they are shepherded back to North Fort (where they were hatched) by Mother and Father. Unfortunately Moe was blown away in a gust of wind when about 10 days old and has not been seen since.

More on fire as a tool to restore Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub

Judy Lambert

It is now three years since we began studying the effects of hazard reduction burns on Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS) at North Fort and next to the Third Cemetery. During the first week in September, Australian Museum botanist Dr Belinda Pellow spent an intensive three days surveying all the plants in the 104 research plots at these two sites.



Judy Lambert recording plants identified by Belinda Pellow during 3-year survey.

While we are still analysing the large amount of data

collected from the survey, we can already say that:

- Plant cover has increased substantially since we last did a major survey one year after the burns. This is true for both fenced and unfenced plots, the latter mainly because of a few less palatable species, such as Variable Sword Sedge (*Lepidosperma laterale*) which is not usually eaten by the rabbits.
- Plots that were burnt have a richer mix of plant species than those that were thinned of dominant Coastal Tea-tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*), but the differences are less dramatic than when surveyed one year after the burn. A few species have been found that were not seen one year after fire.
- In old (senescent) plots dominated by Coastal Tea-tree before the burn the increase in species diversity was much greater than in vigorously growing ESBS – confirming that fire is an important tool in restoring ESBS, so long as the burnt areas are protected from rabbits.

Cockroaches

Peter Macinnis

Australians react curiously to these animals:

... Cockroaches in thousands, were marching and countermarching on the rushy sides of the dwelling, and our persons in a few minutes were, literally covered with them. Fleas, bugs, and mosquitoes were only less annoying because they were less numerous...

That was from an anonymous journalist who camped near Barrenjoey in December 1826, on his way to Brisbane Water. Cockroaches were something of a problem, even then.

Phillip Parker King's cutter *Mermaid* was overrun with them in 1820 — and rats as well. He had the vessel submerged to kill them, but sadly:

"...before we left Port Jackson, she was again infested by rats, and we had not been long at sea before the cockroaches also made their appearance in great numbers. In sinking the cutter it seemed, in respect to the insects, that we had only succeeded in destroying the living stock, and that the eggs, which were plentifully deposited in the recesses and cracks of the timbers and sides, proved so impervious to the sea-water, that no sooner had we reached the warmer climate, than they were hatched, and the vessel was quickly repossessed by them..."

In the 19th century, cockies were rarely mentioned. It was socially unacceptable, going on what Anthony Trollope learned in Queensland in 1871:

I once unfortunately stated to a Queensland gentleman that my coat had been bitten by cockroaches at his brother's house, which I had just left. 'You must have brought them with you then,' was the fraternal defence immediately set up. I was compelled at once to antedate the cockroaches to my previous resting-place, owned by a friend, not by a brother. "It is possible," said the squatter, "but I think you must have had them with you longer than that."

The novelist said no more.

We all fear cockroaches, for some reason, yet I have worked with the public, showing them *Macropanesthia rhinoceros*, a big cockie that eats gum leaves, and because it isn't flattened, people handle it quite happily. *M. rhinoceros* can be bought as a pet!

There are more than 400 native species in Australia, happily recycling leaf litter. They live in the bush and they are never pests in the house, and you can keep them in a lunch box with a flywire lid held on by a set of rubber bands as shown.

Use TWO sets of rubber bands, just to keep the family happy!



an approved household cockroach cage.

a cute cockroach — honest!

