



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

Custodians of North Head

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Happy New Year

Boxing Day at North Head

Judy Lambert

Not since our early days, when we coordinated shuttle buses to ferry Sydney-to-Hobart race spectators from Manly to North Head (and made a handy little income to support our activities at North Head) have we had a real presence there on Boxing Day.

However, this year, being a Saturday and with no spectator vehicles allowed on the headland, and walkers being encouraged to walk through the Trust's site, we decided to try opening Bandicoot Heaven.



The first hour was very quiet and even as spectator numbers built up steadily from about 11.30am, few wanted to be 'side-tracked' into Bandicoot Heaven.

The media helicopters that were using Gunners Car Park as their base provided more interest than anything else during the early part of the day.



Once race time got close the visitor numbers again dropped off. With only a few people passing by, and encouraged by Trust Rangers Amanda and Tony, we closed the doors at 12.50, put up a sign saying we'd be back by 1.30pm and headed off to North Fort to see the first yachts leave in grey, misty conditions.



Although many more people walked back down North Head Scenic Drive, from

1.30 to about 4pm when the rain started, it was 'all go' at Bandicoot Heaven.

Final assessment... After 87 visitors for the day, many of them from overseas and really interested in our displays, it was a worthwhile opening.

(photos taken by Geoff Lambert)

My North Head

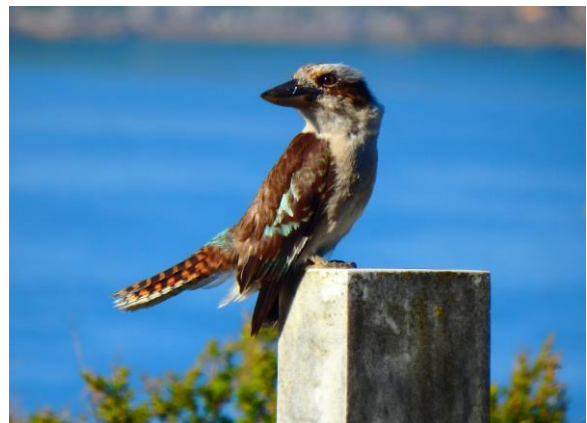
Alan Ventress



Although I had visited North Head many times over the last 35 years the advent of diabetes in 2000 was a life changing event and has led to a daily bike ride to North Head and back to Manly Vale ever since.

In a successful effort to control my Type 2 diabetes I have cycled between 15 and 30kms every day and the beauty of North Head and more recently North Head Sanctuary has always been a strong draw card. Not much traffic, fresh air and magnificent surroundings have all conspired to keep me coming back again and again, rain, hail or shine.

Initially I rode there on a road bike but more recently have switched to a mountain bike which has allowed me to explore the bike trails and improve my riding skills. I always take my trusty Olympus camera with me and often stop to take photos of wildlife, insects and flowers which is a great pleasure with the changing seasons. The 3rd Quarantine Station Cemetery is a favourite spot and I have captured a few bird photos in the vicinity. Including a glorious black and yellow cockatoo. I hope I can continue to ride to the North Head Sanctuary for many years to come.



Education Room – Bandicoot Heaven

Our community education room is open 10am to 4pm Saturdays and Sundays in Building 20. We'd welcome some new volunteers to help staff Bandicoot Heaven. If interested, please contact Judy Lambert at twsombat@optusnet.com.au. Call in to see our displays and our botanical card range. We also have activities for children.

The day the Christmas Bells chimed on North Head

Geoff Lambert



It was Christmas Eve on North Head and practically the only thing stirring were these Christmas Bell, *Blandfordia nobilis*, a member of the lily family. The type specimen was collected from Port Jackson circa. 1800. Although reported as being on North Head in Doug Benson's 1986 survey, few if any people had seen them again until Christmas 2014. They were there again in 2015, providentially opening exactly on time. Known as *Gadigalbudyari* in the Cadigal language of the local Indigenous Australians, it grows as a tufted perennial herb. The strappy green leaves are up to 75cm long and 0.3 to 0.5cm wide. The leafless flower stalks growing directly from the ground are up to 80cm (32 in) long. Flowering occurs in late spring and summer. The flowers are yellow and red, around 4cm long. In groups of 3 to 20 flowers.

Our solitary Christmas Eve specimen is clearly on its way to producing many more flowers than are visible here. A three-sided green seed pod forms later in summer, usually around 6cm long.

Native Plant Nursery

Work is ongoing on the old oval with planting and weed removal. The recent rains have encouraged the spread of weeds. If you would like to join us just turn up any Tuesday or Friday morning between 8am and 12noon, we only close for Public holidays. For more details - northhead@fastmail.com.au.

Third Cemetery

Jenny Wilson

When Annie Egan, a Roman Catholic died on 3 December 1918, she was denied the last rites. However, due to the public outcry about this, the policy changed.

From Sunday Times dated 15 December 1918

"IN QUARANTINE

DEATH OF PRIVATE A. E. BROWN

Three Clergymen Report for Duty"

"No. 69236, Pte. Alfred Eric Brown, died in Quarantine at 1.45 p.m. yesterday. Pte. Brown was one of the soldiers on the Medic, and had been dangerously ill for a couple of weeks. His next-of-kin reside at Balaclava. Victoria. He was buried yesterday with full military honors. The deceased soldier's religion was not mentioned in the official reports, and a representative of the Sunday Times inquired whether there had been a request for a minister to attend him in his last moments. . It was stated that there were two military chaplains in quarantine— one Church of England and the other Presbyterian, and there did not seem to be any doubt that Pte. Brown received full religious attention prior to his death. Three clergymen have reported for duty at Quarantine if their services are required at any time. They are Father Peoples, Colonel - Chaplain Colwell (Methodist), and a priest of the Church of England, whose name Archbishop Wright would not disclose".

Alfred was born on 27 December 1899, in Richmond and his religious denomination was Church of England. He enlisted on 30 August 1918 in Melbourne. His name appears on the Roll of Honour as Alfred Ernest Broadly as that was the name registered at birth but he was born out of wedlock. He was almost 19 when he died.

Answer to question in last month's newsletter is



The unopened pollen presenters of *Banksia robur*
Thanks Geoff.