



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

Custodians of North Head

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Next meeting Wednesday, 11 May 2016 at 7pm

at Bandicoot Heaven (Building 20).

Our speaker for this meeting will be Peter Macinnis.

Simple gifts for free.

Peter is a compulsive writer, with around 50 books to his credit, some for children, others written for adults. Six of his children's books have been given the accolade of "Notable" by the Children's Book Council of Australia, with one of those winning the runner-up "Honour Book" status, and another being "Book of the Year" in 2010.

In 2013, another of his books, Australian Backyard Naturalist, won the Children's Literature category in the WA Premier's Book Awards, and that book is the basis of his talk at North Head Sanctuary, 33 Scenic Drive Manly, Please join us, everyone welcome.

Native Plant Nursery

If you would like to join us any Tuesday or Friday morning between 8am and 12noon, planting, removing weeds and doing maintenance, just turn up or email:

northhead@fastmail.com.au.

Received from North Head WWTP

. "Sydney Water has developed an online tool for you to let us know about odours you are experiencing around North Head. The tool is on our Sydney Water Talk site.

To use this tool:

1. Please click this link

<https://www.sydneywatertalk.com.au/users/sign_up> to register.

2. You will receive an email which you need to respond to. This confirms your registration.

3. You can then view the page Let's Talk: Odour at North Head

3. Each log will be emailed to us

4. We will acknowledge each log, record it on our system and assess the plant operations, wind direction and note if any action is required"

Anthochaera chrysoptera (Little Wattlebird)



Photo by Ian Evans.

Can be found at North Head, they are nectar eaters.

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

We have blank Botanical cards by Julie Nettleton



Julie with the crystal vase for the best painting in the show.

Julie won a gold medal at Royal Horticultural Society Annual Botanical Art Exhibition for her six-painting series, a study of the *Xanthorrhoea resinosa*, Grass Trees. Her painting *Xanthorrhoea resinosa* with *Antechinus stuartii* (native marsupial mouse) was awarded Best Botanical Painting in the show.

Survey Mark

Steve Johnston



Survey mark on rock at Collins flat.

Survey mark reads F 28 and arrow. May have been made by James Meahan, as he surveyed to this point in 1809. He noted that "a stream forms of fall of water nearby". It was enclosed way back, together with a memorial and an Aboriginal carving. The enclosure is now long gone, the obelisk type memorial, made by James Booth, was vandalised back in the 60s & broken off, & what was left rendered over.

The thistle saga in four parts - Part 4

Peter Macinnis

The guilt of the Scots in this matter seems sealed, but in 1886, J. A. Froude described another way that weeds could spread, after a discussion with Captain (later Professor) Ellery at the Melbourne Observatory:

The Observatory was but a quarter of a mile distant, but in the forenoon, and under a Victorian sun, we had a mauvais quart d'heure in getting there. On the way, amidst some coarse grass, I beheld a scarlet pimpernel, the veritable 'poor man's weatherglass' of northern Europe, basking wide open in the rays. If I had been studying the language of the New Hebrides, and had found imbedded in it a Greek verb, perfect in all its inflexions, I could not have been more surprised. How in the wide world came a highly organised plant of this kind to be growing wild in Australia? Had the seed been brought by some ship's crew, or in a bird's stomach, or been wafted over in the chambers of the air? To what far-off connection did it point of Australia with the old world? I gathered my marvel, and carried it to Mr. Ellery to be explained. How idly we let our imagination wander! He laughed as he said, 'Many weeds and wild flowers from the old country make their first appearance in this garden. Our instruments are sent out packed in hay.'

J. A. Froude, *Oceana*, 1886, 107.

That's as may be: at the end of the 19th century, an Irish-Australian politician was sure he knew which race was responsible:

A Scot introduced their charming thistle, and we will have to put a sum on the estimates to extirpate it. Edward Wilson introduced the sparrow, and the sparrow is playing havoc with our vineyards. Some busybody introduced the rabbit, and the income of Ballarat would not save us from the consequences.

— Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, *My Life in Two Hemispheres*, 1898.

A word of warning: don't get me started on Bathurst burr, cane toads or prickly pear. I am, however, less than obsessive about the plant known as both Salvation Jane and Patterson's Curse, though this may change, as I am still pursuing the origins of the two names.



Kit for killing large thistles: take all the flowering heads and paint Roundup on the root.

Third Cemetery

Jenny Wilson

The Preussen – Smallpox – part four

Two widows and their children were left destitute by the deaths of their husbands from smallpox. They were on the Preussen and have no relatives here. Mrs Jenkins with four children 1, 3, 5 and 10 years old and Mrs David Williams, with two children, 2 and 9 years old.

The Board of Health referred both cases to The Mayor of Sydney and a subscription fund was opened for them, with the first donation of five pounds from the Mayor.

The largest donation came from Officers, crew and passengers of S.S.Preussen. 16 pounds 9 shillings and 6 pence.



Both these grave stones are hard to read, but look like they were done by the same stonemason. I believe they belong to Thomas Jenkins and David Williams.

Reporting on Legislative Assembly

(Sydney Morning Herald 25 March 1887)

"Mr Burns, in reply to Mr O'Sullivan, said that the total amount claimable for expenses incurred by the German steamer Preussen while detained in quarantine with smallpox on board was £2519 16s 7d for payment of which the Government held ample security."