



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

Custodians of North Head

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Guringai Festival Walk

North Head Sanctuary Foundation is pleased to again host a talk by Dharawal knowledge-holder and botanical author Aunty Fran Bodkin. Aunty Fran's 'Walk & Talk' will begin at Little Manly Beach at 8.45am on Saturday 25 June. A regular feature of the Guringai Festival's celebration of Aboriginal culture and heritage, the walk will end at North Head Sanctuary Foundation on North Head, where morning tea will be followed by one of Aunty Fran's informative and entertaining talks.

Numbers are limited and bookings are essential. Please contact Robynne Millward on 9976 1426 or by email at robynne.millward@manly.nsw.gov.au

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 tswombat@optusnet.com.au

We have blank Botanical cards by Julie Nettleton including the one featuring the *Xanthorrhoea resinosa* with *Antechinus stuartii* which was awarded Best Botanical Painting in the Royal Horticultural Society Annual Botanical Art Exhibition in the UK.

Frank Langham Burdett – his mark

Geoff Lambert



Photo by Steve Johnson

Steve's article and picture of a white fella's engraving at

Collins Beach is very interesting. I have never been able to find this thing – and still cannot! I believe that this mark was made by Frank Lanham Burdett, a Contract Licensed Surveyor with the Lands Department from 1879 to at least 1886. Burdett's marks were often described as a "Hole and Broad Arrow". This fits with Steve's photograph. Burdett carried out the lion's share of surveying in Sydney's North throughout his time with the Lands Department. One of his main tasks was surveying what we now know as the West Head Road. Burdett was able to retire in 1891 after inheriting his parents' estates. He died at Marrickville in 1933 at the age of eighty-six.

But then again the mark is also consistent with marks made by NPWS to delineate its boundaries as late as 1976

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.

The NSW Scientific Committee has made a Preliminary Determination to support a proposal to list Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub in the Sydney Basin Bioregion as a critically endangered ecological community listing. NHSF has made a submission in support.

On public exhibition Friday 22 April 2016 to 17 June 2016

Second Cemetery



Is situated at Q Station and only one grave stone is visible, Young Isaac, the rest of the area is overgrown.



Photos by Ian Evans

Third Cemetery

Jenny Wilson

On 12 June 1906, John Lindsay Christie died of Pneumonic Plague. His doctor was Dr Thomas of Manly. He was only 4 months and 21 days old. He is buried in grave number 162. I think he lived locally and was not from a ship. The following year a girl, Agnes was born to his parents.

There were no other burials in 1906.

Now you see it – Now you don't – Now you do A short history of the Miniature Range

Geoff Lambert

Near the crest of the North Fort Rd, outside the entrance to the underground Plotting Room, stood two small fibro shacks – part of the Miniature Range and officially known as Buildings A72 and A73. The Range was constructed to simulate operating procedures for the 9.2 inch gun crews. In building 73, a diorama of the sea provided a visual target and the crew in building 72 then interacted with the Plotting Room in a simulated war game. The range buildings were constructed following preparation of drawings for construction in September 1938. The buildings stood unaltered until 2015, their only known use being as the lunch-room for Ross Baker and his crew restoring the Plotting Room. Due to asbestos and other structural problems the restoration was suspended in about 2011, and the sheds were demolished in late 2015. Now one of them has been rebuilt in its previous style and with all new components. Opinions vary as to their projected use, but the builders of the new shed seem convinced that it will be used like a “miners change room” where future visitors to the Plotting Room will change into safety gear.



Miniature Range Building in the early 1990s



Demolished 2015 & Rebuilt 2016

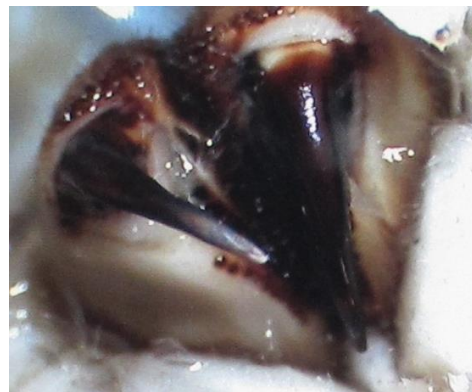


Venomous spiders part one of four

Peter Macinnis

Our nursery area is home to redback spiders a-plenty, in both bays, the igloo and the water points up at the oval. Some spiders are scary, but if you know what you are doing, there should be no problems. Thirty years ago, I found a funnelweb spider (*Atrax* sp.) in the Snowy Mountains. I lay down in front of it and poked it with a stick to get it to rear back while I snapped it, using a 35 mm (film!) Pentax SLR with close-up rings.

The problem was that I didn't get too close, because I was a long way from the nearest road and so a bit nervous — which explains why the shots were all a bit blurry. No



matter, here is a nice close-up of the fangs of a dead relative, an unnamed mygalomorph spider. One has every right to be scared of animals like this one!

Fangs of an unidentified mygalomorph spider, under the microscope



This redback, photographed in one of the nursery bays, was most sincerely dead. The bites are very painful, which is why this spider died.

Photo - a dead female redback removed from a nursery bay.

Was it unkind to kill it? Probably not, given that it inflicts a painful bite, as we will see, and I can

cite an eminent authority. In 1880, a correspondent asked the *Adelaide Evening News* about a curious spider, and the paper replied (15 November 1880, p. 2):

Having referred your question to Mr. Waterhouse, Curator of the Museum, South Australian Institute, we are now able to give the reply which that gentleman has kindly forwarded. He writes:—"The small black spider having a red stripe down the back, mentioned in the letter, is well known to me as a very poisonous species. The only effectual way of getting rid of them that I can suggest is to kill all that can be found."

I will return to that question at the end of the fourth part of this series. The redback is related to the American Black Widow and the New Zealand katipo — and our redback is good at stowing away. One made it to Tristan da Cunha some years ago, from memory it was in some NASA equipment that was shipped there from rural NSW. It also has a place in Australian folklore because it hangs around on toilet seats!