



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

Custodians of North Head

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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

Native Plant Nursery

We have a lot of planting, weeding and maintenance to do looking after all our areas. We would love some help. If you would like to join us on any Tuesday or Friday morning between 8am and 12noon, just turn up or email: northhead@fastmail.com.au.

A deadly enemy,

Peter Macinnis

Several weeks ago, I found a large dead weed on North Fort Road. It was covered in seed pods that were spilling black seeds out of the dried spiky pods.

Somebody had uprooted it and left it there, and this was, I could see, a Bad Thing. Not knowing what it was, I took all the seed capsules away for disposal. I assumed it was a lone specimen, but this was wrong.



The ground zero plant?



Careful: the seeds fall out as you cut the plant.

Two or three weeks later, I found another plant, still alive, but also spilling seed all over the place, so I cropped that, but this time, we tried for an ID over morning tea, because it was spilling a lot of seed.

To get to the point, it is *Datura stramonium*, and I was right to judge this particular book by its ugly cover. One of the Deadly Nightshade tribe, it is not good to add to your

salad plate, even though the only place in the state where it is a declared noxious weed seems to be Lord Howe Island.



The fruit looks evil!



The flower looks like this, about 10 cm long.

The source is somewhere near North Fort: Jenny says she and Ian McCawley have been getting them out of the area for quite a while. It seems to like open sunny areas, so it is easy to spot.

One thing is certain: you can't just pull them up and leave them to die: my first find shows that the dying plants can still drop seed.

More to the point, as my last habit shot shows, this plant manages to either send down a new root, or it maintained a tenuous contact, and it was thriving. I have now taken out three dozen, and bagged the lot.



Uprooted or not, this plant wouldn't DIE. Note the 50 cent coin for scale: I wasn't using it as a silver bullet...

Congratulations

Geoff Lambert, Judy Lambert, Ian McCawley, Peter Macinnis and David Pack received Manly Environment Centre Eco Award nominations this year for their work for the environment.

Austracantha minax



Interesting spider which was indentified by Peter Macinnis." It used to be called *Gasteracantha*, and I would probably say *G. minax*, but it has been moved to a new genus, *Austracantha*, so *Austracantha minax*."

Third Cemetery

Jenny Wilson



From Lachlander and Condobolin and Western Districts Recorder (NSW), Friday 4 May 1900

"OBITUARY, -- DEATH OF MRS. WHITEHEAD."

"Early on Thursday morning Mr. T. Watson, of this town, received a brief wire from Mr. Whitehead to the effect that Mrs. Whitehead had succumbed that morning to bubonic plague. The terribly sad news came as a bolt from the blue amongst the deceased lady's large circle of friends and acquaintances in town and drew forth expressions of deepest regret as well as profound sympathy for her bereaved husband.

The facts leading up to and surrounding the fatal culmination are few. On Monday morning, a telegram reached town announcing that seven new cases of plague had occurred in Sydney the previous night. This unwelcome news was supplemented later in the day by word that Mr. Whitehead, the highly respected squire of

Borambil, had received word - that his wife was one of the victims. On receiving the unwelcome news Mr. Whitehead at once set out for Forbes, catching Monday's out train there for the city. A telegram received from him on Tuesday morning announced the still more distressing fact that he himself had been, quarantined as a "contact." It appears that Mrs Whitehead was staying at the Grosvenor hotel in Clarence street, and on Friday took suddenly ill. The illness continued to increase until Sunday, when she began to develop the characteristic symptoms of plague. As another person in the same hotel showed similar symptoms it was at once quarantined and 40 " contacts " sent from, it to the quarantine station. On Tuesday, the medical officer reported that on Monday, Mrs. Whitehead had painful bubo but was not delirious, while on Wednesday a most reassuring message was received. But on Thursday, when everyone seemed to have set their minds on hearing the best possible news, the terrible intimation just referred to was imparted to them.

Mrs. Whitehead's maiden name was Miss Margaret Cameron, third eldest, daughter of the late Mr. Cameron, owner of Sattimore station, Victoria a well known squatter of his day and was born about 1860. She was married in Melbourne, and afterwards resided with her husband on Mr. Lamb's valuable Willura station, near Hay, over which he was manager. Several years later and about 13 years ago Mr. Whitehead, accompanied by his wife and two children arrived in Condobolin to take charge of Borambil. Both children were subsequently fatally stricken with diphtheria. The deceased left Condobolin about three months ago intending to take a trip to the Old World with the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Keith, after Easter, and was to have sailed on the very day of her demise. She was a kindhearted, Christian lady and will be much missed from her post in life".

Interestingly Margaret had been staying at the hotel for three months.

Note A *bubo* (plural form: *buboes*) is the swelling of the lymph nodes.



John Baptist Adonis' grave marker is now upright, see April 2017 newsletter. (photo 22 April 2017)