



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

Custodians of North Head

ABN 97093480659 P.O. Box 896, Balgowlah, NSW 2093
northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au email northhead@fastmail.com.au

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Annual General Meeting 16 September 2017

Our AGM will be held on Saturday 16 September, 2pm at Building 20 (Bandicoot Heaven) Our guest speaker will be Jennifer Anson from Australian Wildlife Conservancy.

Her latest news is the release of *antechinus*, see link <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-06-21/brown-antechinus-mammal-released-at-north-head-after-extinction/8637666>

Education Room - Bandicoot Heaven

Our community education room is open 10am to 4pm Saturdays and Sundays in Building 20.

One of Julie Nettleton's botanical cards features a *Xanthorrhoea* and *Antechinus*.

We always welcome new volunteers to help staff Bandicoot Heaven. If interested, please contact Judy Lambert at twswombat@optusnet.com.au

The Art of Finding a Tawny Frogmouth

Peter Macinnis

I am neither a twitcher, nor a birder, but I like looking at birds, and I listen to the birders, so I cringe a bit when people call frogmouths owls. I don't care one way or the other, but I know there are people who *do* care. Still, according to Field Guide authors Simpson and Day, the nightjars and the frogmouths are the *closest relatives to the owls*.



Photo - North American horned owl.

So we can say frogmouths are *like* owls. Family Podargidae, and our tawnies are *Podargus strigoides*. (The owls are Family Strigidae and Tytonidae, case closed!).

Frogmouths are expert at hiding in plain view. When I worked at the Australian Museum, I often walked through Hyde Park with two excellent birders, who set about educating me in the art of finding birds who look like a stump.

In one tree, close to a main path, there were usually two frogmouths sitting on a bare branch. They stayed there in full view, all day, every day, in the CBD. I calculated that they would be in full sunlight at 9:30 am, and went across with camera, tripod and 500 mm telephoto lens, to get some good shots.

The gardeners knew me, and one of them walked over, sighted along the artillery barrel that was my lens and

asked "How'd you get them birds up there, without a ladder?"

I told him to watch, and eventually, the birds moved: they weren't stuffed at all, but my friends found it hard to believe the birds were always there. Once they knew where to look, they saw them every day.

Most of us know there are usually tawny frogmouths in one of the WA peppermints opposite Bandicoot Heaven. If you haven't seen them yet, you need to know what to look for:



- (1) See the indistinct dark lump? That's a possible, so move around.
- (2) See the tail below the branch? Bingo! Now move around for a better angle.
- (3) See the chest feathers? Settle in to wait for a proper view...
- (4) With luck, you may get this: I found this one in SHFT territory on Middle Head.

Once you have found one, you'll never miss them. Now here's a shot from Ian Evans of one of the North Head birds.



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.

PURSUIT OF THE MISSING HEADSTONES

Kaye Lee

Recently, Jenny Wilson and I visited Rookwood cemetery, in a bid to find out what had happened to the thirteen military headstones that had been removed from the Third Quarantine Cemetery. Additionally, we wanted to see how the soldiers and lone sailor were memorialised now.

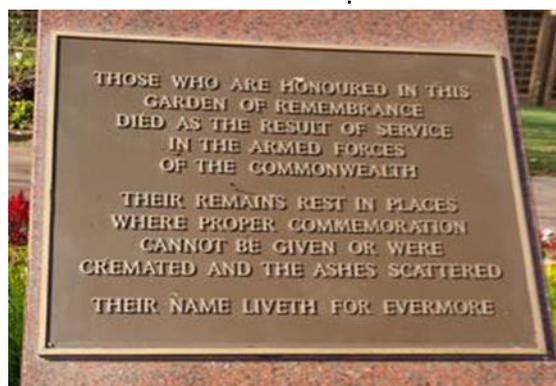
As covered by Jenny in the Sanctuary newsletter of 5 June 2014, these particular graves are the last resting places of twelve soldiers and one naval man, eleven of whom left Australia on the HMAT Medic on 2 November 1918 (1) to join the fighting of World War 1. Hostilities ceased however whilst they were en route, so the ship was recalled. Relieved from the horrors of war, these men and many others on board the Medic became ill resulting in the ship being quarantined at North Head. The men were cared for at the Quarantine Station hospital, but sadly succumbed to the pneumonic influenza pandemic of the day, as did RAN Petty Officer Arthur Davies from the RAN training ship Tingira moored at Rose Bay (2,3). The remaining soldier, Private Peter Michaelovitch Chirvin MM (also spelt Chervin by the AMF) was found hanged aboard the HMAT Anchises whilst at sea (4).

The graves of all these men were deemed too difficult to maintain adequately at North Head, so the marble headstones which once stood at the head of each grave were removed by the Office of Australian War Graves. The graves were sealed with concrete, and a metal disc attached to identify each one. Individual bronze plaques were then placed on commemorative walls at the New South Wales Garden of Remembrance at Rookwood to memorialise each man (5). (Unfortunately the metal discs on the graves at the Third Cemetery are now long gone, leaving it impossible to precisely identify who lies where).

On visiting the Garden of Remembrance, we were fortunate to speak to a representative of the Office of Australian War Graves about the headstones. He explained that in cases of this nature, the original headstones are destroyed. Disappointing to hear, but this information would suggest that if due process was followed, our particular headstones no longer exist in that form, but were broken up and possibly adorn graves and surrounds at Rookwood.



We were successful in finding the bronze plaques of all the men in the Garden of Remembrance, with that of Private Chirvin - stretcher bearer and recipient of the Military Medal - shown above.



This is a shot of the large memorial plaque which explains the role of the Garden.

We were also able to see examples of military graves of the World War 1 period in the wider Rookwood Necropolis that gave us an understanding of what the graves in the Third Cemetery would have looked like originally



1. **Australian War Memorial Embarkation roll**
page=1&preferred_name=&name_aliases=1&service_number=&roll_title=&embarkation_date%5Bday%5D=2&embarkation_date%5Bmonth%5D=11&embarkation_date%5Byear%5D=1918&embarkation_place=Sydney&embarkation_ship=HMAT%20Medic%20A7&Search_Mode=advanced&op=Search Viewed 23 June 2017
2. **1919 'Family Notices'**, *The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954)*, 23 June, p. 6. , viewed 23 Jun 2017, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15860839>
3. **Australian National Maritime Museum**
<https://anmm.wordpress.com/2016/10/17/finding-tingira-the-search-for-the-royal-australian-navys-first-training-ship/> viewed 23 June 2017
4. **Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour**
<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1675751?search> viewed 23 June 2017
5. Copy of letter dated 30 March 1987 from Dept. Veterans Affairs Office of Australian War Graves held in folder Servicemen Buried in Quarantine Station Cemetery at Manly Library Library.