



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.

Native Plant Nursery



This photo was taken by Peter Macinnis on 2 March 2015, It is the area outside the old gym, on North Fort Road.



The area on 26 July 2017, the edges have been cleared to give sight lines to the traffic and the Xanthorrhoeas are flowering.

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.

Education Room - Bandicoot Heaven

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

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

Spring is coming:

Time to enjoy the wildflowers

As spring is fast approaching, we are once again offering you an opportunity to come on an easy guided walk to enjoy the wonderful wildflowers at North Head. Each walk, led by NHSF founding member Geoff Lambert, will be of 2½ - 3 hours duration.

This year the walks will be on:

Saturday 23 September, 2-4.30pm

Monday 2 October, 10am-12.30pm

Sunday 8 October, 10am-12.30pm

Wednesday 11 October, 10am-12.30pm

Spaces are limited so please call Geoff & Judy Lambert on 9949 3521, or email tswombat@optusnet.com.au to book your place.

Hazard Reduction burning planned for North Head

Judy Lambert

As the weather patterns suggest decreased rainfall in the months ahead and the bushland dries out, Fire & Rescue NSW, the Rural Fire Service and National Parks & Wildlife Service are moving towards another round of Hazard Reduction burning across Sydney and NSW.

While these fires are primarily about reducing fuel loads to protect people and property from wildfires, we can also make use of them to do some more studies of the benefits of fire to our North Head bushland.

Fire is a natural part of the Australian landscape and like much of the bush, Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub has evolved with fire and it needs fire at appropriate intervals to maintain it in a diverse and healthy condition. From an ecological perspective, fires are best when they occur in a mosaic pattern, leaving places for animals and plants to live undisturbed while other patches are burnt. New burns are being planned for the area north of the Sydney Wastewater Treatment Plant, near Fairfax Lookout and on two areas of Sydney Harbour Federation Trust land. There are several factors influencing just when these burns can happen, not least because we need the right temperature, wind and moisture conditions to get the most effective burns.

Since before the 2012 Hazard Reduction burns, NHSF and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy have been working with the Trust to plan and conduct ecological studies of bushland recovery and the impacts of these burns on the native animals on North Head. We'll keep you updated as this ecological research continues.

Third Cemetery

Jenny Wilson

Ellie George was admitted to Quarantine on 26 April and died on 28 July 1900 aged 17 years old.

The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888-1950) Wed 1 August 1900

“DEATH OF MISS ELLIE GEORGE

After a most trying period of suspense to all concerned — at one time hearing good news of the patient, at another time being depressed by the telegram announcing a change for the worse — the end has come. - From the 26th April the young lady, who was nearly 18 years of age, has been hovering between life and death. The reports during the past week were to the effect that she was slowly sinking, and on Saturday morning her suffering ended, and she passed away. She was buried a few hours after her decease in the Quarantine cemetery. She was one of the earliest of the patients taken to quarantine. Her case puzzled everyone. Dr. Salter had taken the deepest interest in it from the first, and as each development appeared he sought to bring the patient safely through. He describes the disease as terrible, and could liken it- in Miss George's case-, to nothing except a cyclone. The disease had prostrated every organ of the body until the patient had no rallying power left. Perhaps it would be as well to correct a statement which appeared in the "S.M. Herald," to the effect that the patient "was not in the enjoyment of robust health before her seizure....."

This statement is incorrect, and her father affirms that Ellie had never had a day's sickness in all her life, and that she was a picture of good health and spirits. The deceased young lady was a member of the Christian Endeavour Society, in which she took an active part., She was also connected with the Guildford Branch I.O.G.T.; the Granville Musical Union; the Guildford Presbyterian choir, and the Bible Class. She was one of the brightest of Guildford's young people, conspicuous in all good works. Trained by Christian parents in a wholesome atmosphere, she early developed a tendency to follow in the footsteps of her mother, who for many years has been one of the best workers in connection with the Presbyterian cause. At the meeting of the Christian Endeavour Society on Sunday, reference was made in a very feeling manner by Mr. McRae to the severe loss which they had all sustained. It seemed hard to realise that one so young and promising should be plucked from amongst them. Yet it was the Maker's will. The memorial service on Sunday in the Presbyterian Church, at Guildford, was very solemn and impressive. The pulpit and organ were draped, and there were many pretty wreaths in evidence. The Rev. R. Jackson, on the completion of his sermon, made special reference to the sad event which had come to the community. He had got word on the previous day that the patient, half-unwilling to part from her people, was yet thoroughly prepared for the worst. The Word which had been inculcated into her young heart, had taken root, and

had been the means of saving her a great deal of unrest— it was a cooling balm to her in her long-continued sufferings.”

Big Brother is counting you

Geoff Lambert



You can't see these guys, but they can see you.

This is a “people counter”, more specifically a “pedestrian counter”, marketed by a Tasmanian company and used by land managers to count pedestrians (mostly) on bush tracks. There are said to be 11 on North Head, although I have only been able to find eight. They have been in use by NPWS for perhaps 10 years or more – nobody seems to know. The Harbour Trust has recently installed a number of them. They work by sensing body heat infrared emissions and run unattended and on one set of batteries for 20 years. Nearly half a million people have passed by the counter at our busiest site since installation (or perhaps since the last time this counter was re-set). Counting people on North Head is “big business” for NHSF and SHFT because people numbers provide a measure of the success of our respective “public outreach” efforts. SHFT and NHSF already exchange information gained from the visitor log-books which each keeps. We now have some eight years of data and can compare notes. SHFT visitor numbers over these years have decreased slightly, (-4% per year) but NHSF's have increased markedly (+20% per year). The Traker counters give both organisations some idea of how many visitors at North Head are enticed into our Visitor Centres to seek further information. It is dismayingly low for both organisations - but is probably just a “social phenomenon”, rather than a measure of success. At the moment, SHFT is assessing countries of origin of its overseas visitors, with a view to producing brochures in languages other than English. NHSF has been doing this since Day 1 and has a large database.

