



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

Custodians of North Head

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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). Please come and hear about our activities for the year. Office bearers will be elected.

Our guest speaker will be Jennifer Anson from Australian Wildlife Conservancy. Her talk 'Possums, rodents, bandicoots and dasyurids: Fauna Restoration at North Head Sanctuary' will be very interesting. Everyone welcome

Thank you Aunty Fran

We have had the support of Frances Bodkin for many years. We have been selling her book - D'harawal : seasons and climatic cycles – in Bandicoot Heaven since it was published. We have now sold out. Aunty Fran has kindly donated money from the book sales to our group and given many talks over the years. We would just like to say THANK YOU for your support and the sharing of your knowledge.

Native Plant Nursery

We have a lot of 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 twswoombat@optusnet.com.au



Grevillea speciosa and *Philothea salsolifolia* are both out in flower now.

Spring wildflowers walks:

It's not too late to book

Our spring wildflower walks are drawing near and bookings are rolling in, but there are still places available on each of our walks.

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 already very limited on some walks so please call Geoff & Judy Lambert on 9949 3521, or email twswoombat@optusnet.com.au to book your place.

ESBS or not?

Geoff Lambert

Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS) dominates the mantle of sand atop North Head. Once prevalent across ... well ... across the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney, ESBS is now restricted to a few sites, the largest of which is on North Head.

The notion of ESBS arose from the research of Doug Benson, Stephanie Horton and Jocelyn Howell in the 1980s and 1990s. Some of this work was conducted at the Quarantine Station on North Head in 1986-88. By 1996, Doug had convinced the NSW Scientific Committee that this particular type of scrub deserved the classification of "Endangered". The Committee therefore listed it as such in that year. The classification included a list of 62 "defining species", 59 of which were found on North Head, making it the "richest" ESBS site. For its size, North Head is probably the "richest" floristic site outside of the Royal Botanic Gardens, with 496 identified species, plus 14 which I have not been able to identify yet.

Although Doug said to me that the Scientific Committee was always open to suggestions for changes in the defining species, nobody appears to have made many suggestions until 2016/2017. These suggestions were occasioned by the Committee's desire to move the the plant community onto the Critically Endangered listing because of the continuing pressure on the remaining patches of the community. NHSF supported this move.

Other organisation then suggested some re-jigging of the definitions.

Ultimately, the Committee removed 29 species from the listing and added 38 to it, bringing the list of “iconic” species to 71. This change, of course, had impacts on the ESBS list for North Head. North Head had a “nett gain” of two ESBS species, and the mix is now much more relevant to North Head than it used to be. A very important addition has been Camfield’s Stringybark – *Eucalyptus camfieldii* – a rare tree which the NHSF Nursery has been actively propagating.

North Head doesn’t LOOK any different since the change of course. However I, for one, will look AT it differently now. Already we are rejigging our databases to reflect the changes, so that we can decide whether our approach to ESBS ought to change as well.

NHSF’s computers in Bandicoot Heaven contain the ESBS databases and much more besides. NHSF members have access to these databases, when we are open.

Third Cemetery

Jenny Wilson

Not everyone who died at Quarantine Station after 1881 was buried in the Third Cemetery. See the newspaper article about Richard Perry who died on 26 June 1885 of Typhoid fever, aged 26 years old.

Illustrated Sydney News (NSW: 1881-1894), Sat 1 August 1885,

“The Late Richard Perry.

We are enabled to present our readers with an excellent portrait of the late Private Richard Perry, one of the famous New South Wales Contingent in the expedition to the Soudan. Richard Perry was a native of Woollahra, and was born on the 31st August 1859; he was consequently only 26 years of age at the time of his melancholy death. He seems to have come of a family of soldiers. He was the grandson of the late James Gatland, pay and colour-sergeant of the Coldstream Guards, and subsequently sergeant-major in the Hertfordshire Militia. He was also a nephew of the late Deputy Assistant Commissary-General Gallagher. He originally intended to follow the profession of an architect, as he had a natural taste for drawing and designing; but, on the death of his father, he was compelled to abandon his intention, and circumstances rendered it necessary that he should take work as a carpenter in his eighteenth year, a business that he subsequently followed. He joined the local volunteer force some six or seven years ago, and acquired a good knowledge of military training. He also became an

excellent rifle shot, and won several prizes. He was one of the first to offer himself as a volunteer for the Soudan, and was of course eagerly accepted, being a fine healthy young fellow, and possessing an excellent knowledge of military discipline, &c. He accompanied the Contingent to the Soudan, and went all through the campaign with his comrades. On the return voyage he was stricken down by fever, and eventually succumbed to the fearful disease on Tuesday, 23rd June, the day the official reception of the Contingent on their return to Sydney took place. He died at the quarantine ground hospital, after many days of suffering. Young Perry, though of a retiring nature, had a great many friends who held him in high esteem for his many estimable qualities. He was a member of the Order of Good Templars, and took an active part in the good work of the lodge to which he belonged. For an amateur, entirely selftaught, he exhibited a great deal of ability in painting and drawing. He also possessed considerable talent in music. He was fond of his home, of his mother and sisters, whose chief support he was, and who, with his brothers, deeply lament the sad loss of an affectionate son and brother, and for whom much sympathy is felt in their very sad bereavement. The young man was fond of cricket and boat sailing, and his numerous companions in those sports will, in common with many others, regret the loss of a pleasant and genial friend. The funeral of the deceased took place on Thursday, 25th June. The cortege was formed at the Victoria Barracks. It was headed by a firing party, a band from the Permanent Artillery, and the band of the Contingent. Following these came a gun-carriage bearing the coffin, which was draped with the Union Jack and surmounted with the khakee uniform and accoutrements of the deceased. In the rear marched about 60 members of the late Contingent, also in khakee uniform. A few members of the volunteer artillery, infantry regiments, and naval artillery were also present. These were followed as usual by the officers - Major M'Kenzie, Captain Parrott, Captain Bartlett, and Lieutenant Sparrow, of the Contingent; Major Murphy and Lieutenant Le Patoural, of the Permanent Artillery. The friends of the deceased drove in a carriage following the officers, and behind them came another carriage occupied by Mr. Dalley, Mr. Dibbs, and Mr. Wright. All along the route to the station the people collected in dense crowds, many of them being visibly affected by the scene, and by the solemn pathetic strains of the ‘Dead March’. Thousands of people collected at Redfern Station awaiting the arrival of the procession, and it is believed that there has never been a military funeral in the colony witnessed by such an immense concourse of spectators. The remains were then carried by rail to the Necropolis at Rookwood, where the interment took place.”