



# North Head Sanctuary Foundation

## Custodians of North Head

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### Thank You

Jennifer Anson from Australian Wildlife Conservancy for her talk 'Possums, rodents, bandicoots and dasyurids: Fauna Restoration at North Head Sanctuary' at our AGM. We will shortly have a film clip playing in Bandicoot Heaven showing possums, bandicoots and antechinus.

### Native Plant Nursery



The Friday group of nursery volunteers spent a couple of weeks last month clearing up the pond and weeding. The pond is near St Barbaras Ave and North Head Scenic Drive. We have been working on the pond for over five years.



Taken on 18 September 2012

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](mailto: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 [twsombat@optusnet.com.au](mailto:twsombat@optusnet.com.au)

### Spring Wildflowers Walks

We have few spaces left on the following walks.

Monday 2 October, 10am-12.30pm  
Sunday 8 October, 10am-12.30pm  
Wednesday 11 October, 10am-12.30pm

Please call Geoff & Judy Lambert on 9949 3521, or email [twsombat@optusnet.com.au](mailto:twsombat@optusnet.com.au) to book your place.

### After the September 2012 Burn



One of the areas burnt was Bluefish Drive / Gunner Road area – south east of the metal boardwalk between Bluefish Drive & the School of Artillery (approx. 2 ha).

Taken 26 December 2012

Taken 14 Sept 2017, (below)



In this part of the track, there is a field of wildflowers, *Kunzea capitata*, *Baeckea imbricata* and *Boronia ledifolia*, to name a couple. It is well worth a walk through.



*Kunzea capitata* and *Baeckea imbricata*

## Third Cemetery

Jenny Wilson



The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust has paved the path at the entrance to the Cemetery. This is to stop the runoff from heavy rain that causes soil erosion in the Cemetery. The Cemetery is on a slope and the sand pools at the bottom. The view is fantastic from the entrance, one of my favourites and I love the untouched bush cemetery feel and the stories associated with the graves.

## *Atua* and Influenza, November 1918

*Atua*, a steamer trading between Suva (Fiji), Auckland and Sydney. It left Suva on 26 October 1918. She arrived at Auckland on 31 October and left on 2 November, arrived in Sydney on 8 November with 54 of the crew of 77 and 8 of 86 passengers suffering from influenza, some 18% of all on board. It was a most virulent type and the source of infection was Auckland. The ship was placed in quarantine at North Head and all the sick were taken to hospital at Quarantine Station and everyone except 11 anchor watch men were removed and isolated on shore.

The following newspaper article reveals some of the problems faced by those travelling on the *Atua* -

**Newcastle Sun (NSW: 1918 - 1954),  
Friday 15 November 1918, page 2**

“IN QUARANTINE

*Atua's* Passengers NARRATIVE OF TREATMENT”

“A number of passengers in quarantine from the S.S. *Atua* forward their narrative and their opinions as follows: —

Two extraordinary things are allowed by law —

(1) that a steamer, the *Atua*, should be allowed to do a 23 days' trip, Sydney to Fiji and back to Auckland, without a medical man;

(2) mismanagement of the quarantine at Manly. The *Atua* steamed from an infected port with a suspicious case on board, when at Auckland, with nothing to fall back upon but a medicine chest. Steward after steward fell ill, seaman after seaman, coal trimmer after coal trimmer, and passenger after passenger, culminating with the chief steward, purser and captain becoming infected. In that condition we steamed into quarantine, and remained on board for nearly 24 hours. Before landing on the quarantine ground all were free to intermingle and visit each other, the well, the fairly well, and the distinctly ill, and each grade stood in the same line for the daily medical inspection, even those who were marked for further inspection. It seemed, too, that one had only to object to the inhalation bath to be excused, and (though a throat spray was the substitute there is one case where even the throat spray was not used. The aim of quarantine is thus defeated by: —

1. Passengers infected or not infected entering unclean rooms.
2. Indiscriminate mixing.
3. Insufficient medical examinations.
4. Overworked doctors.
5. No laundry.
6. Total darkness, which makes it exceedingly difficult to obtain necessary aid.
7. Telephone rooms and receivers improperly disinfected, and not disinfected till the third day.
8. Hardly any ice.
9. Insufficient fresh milk.
10. Useless food for the sick or well.”

In all there were 88 cases of pneumonic influenza and of whom 16 died. To be continued next month

Reference - *Influenza and Maritime Quarantine in Australia* by J.H.L. Cumpston, M.D., D.P.H., Director of Quarantine 1919

**Articles wanted** - If have a story about North Head or you have a great photo, or you just to be put on our mailing list. please email [northhead@fastmail.com.au](mailto:northhead@fastmail.com.au) .