



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

Custodians of North Head

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The Society for Insect Studies Inc.

will be visiting us on Saturday 9 March.
Meet at 10.30am in the lean too behind Bandicoot Heaven (Building 20) for morning tea followed by a walk looking at insects. Everyone welcome.

Education Room - Bandicoot Heaven

We welcome recent new volunteers now helping staff our community education room in Building 20, but others will still be welcomed.

Staffed on a roster basis, our community education room opens from 10am to 4pm on Saturdays and Sundays. If you are interested in helping out, or want more information, please contact Judy Lambert at tswombat@optusnet.com.au.

Brush Turkey Chick outside Bandicoot Heaven

Geoff Lambert



There are at least eight Brush Turkey mounds around the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust property; the Turkeys themselves are everywhere. However, chicks are somewhat harder to find. This one is in the planting area

across the road from Bandicoot Heaven. It appears to be gnawing on a Pittosporum flower or similar flower. Spread of pittosporum often occurs this way, also by seeds sticking to the feet of birds – especially Currawongs.

Native Plant Nursery

Help us maintain and plant out plants grown in our Native Plant Nursery. The best way to see what we do is to join us on a Tuesday or Friday morning between 8am and 12 noon. Morning tea is usually at 10.30am.

For more details email northhead@fastmail.com.au
Or just turn up and ask for Jenny.

Fire & ESBS: Getting international input

Judy Lambert

The responses of Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS) to burning will receive international fire management and scientific attention at the 6th International Fire Behavior & Fuels Conference, being held at Darling Harbour from 29 April to 3 May 2019. Fire & Rescue NSW Bushfire Officer Rob Strauch invited us to join with him in presenting a research paper to the conference. Rather than a talk in

one of the sessions, the conference organisers have asked us to present a scientific poster display and to prepare a 5-6 page paper to support the poster. Once the conference is over the poster will be available for display in Bandicoot Heaven.

Rob is the project officer who plans and oversees hazard reduction burns across parts of Sydney, including burns on the Trust land at North Head and he has developed a strong interest in managing the burns in ways that help to restore ecological communities, particularly ESBS.

“My North Head”

Penny Polkinghorne

As I grew up in the vicinity of North Head it was always a place of awe and grandeur with its magnificent sandstone cliffs and dark green waves crashing below. Adding to the sense of mystery was the prohibition of entering it with the sandstone walls being patrolled by armed soldiers. Nowadays I find it a source of comfort and curiosity with involvement in the Sanctuary and the friendly band of Bush Reclaimers. The pleasure of seeing the results of planting the indigenous plants, discovering plants I have not known about and the new landscapes created for habitats of the little marsupials and birds are a weekly Friday delight as a Volunteer.



The place that gives me most pleasure is the Frog Pond down on Scenic Drive. It was developed under the guidance of the Australian Museum in a natural landfall near a water outlet. This pond survives many tribulations with a delicate balance of encouraging water health and combatting climate dryness whilst battling the invasion of weeds. At times the dried out Pond seemed destined with extinction then wonderful rain fills it again and the croaks of frogs, sightings of tadpoles and leaves sprouting gives us new hope. Discussions on removing the black plastic liners and trying other materials luckily did not carry through. A landscape expert said leave it to time, water will come back, and it did.

Learning about weed control, especially the greatest

enemies of Pigeon and Couch Grasses, has been testing. One disaster was tearing everything out on the Pond's edges leaving the soil fallow and open to more invasion of weeds. Our ongoing plan of attack has been digging the Pigeon Grass clumps out then laying felt weed mats down, thick planting of water plants through the mats and mulching over to maintain damp and prevent future weed invasions. Vigilance is a pressing matter as complacency leaves not going there for a time if there is water about, then the furry sheaths of Pigeon Grass and Couch rear their ugly heads again.

Christmas Bells, *Blandfordia nobilis*, have come up in one of the fenced burn area. They had not been previously seen in this area. Taken 11 Feb 2019.



Back in Time

Jenny Wilson

Sydney Morning Herald (NSW :1842 -1954), 10 Mar 1932

“CHRISTMAS BELLS. Unique Area at North Head.

The probable fate of what was described as an "absolutely unique" belt of Christmas bells at North Head, formed the subject of lengthy discussion at a meeting of the Town Planning Association yesterday.

Mr. B. W. Ford urged that something should be done to protect these flowers which, he said, grew on the North Head reserve, now vested in the Manly Council. This was especially necessary, he added, since there was a chance of the council making a golf course on the reserve and building huts there.

The president (Mr. A. J. Small) suggested the erection of a wire, dog-proof fence round the spot, which, he added, was some 300 by 100 yards in area. This unique belt was, in blooming time, one mass of scarlet. The erection of such a fence would cost only about £50, and would enable people to see the remarkable blooms, and prevent them from being picked. It was decided to ask the Manly Council to erect such a fence.”

Third Quarantine Cemetery

Sister ELIZABETH McGREGOR

by John Norton as supplied to Jenny Wilson (part 2)

The following information was obtained from the archives of the University of Sydney:-

In the early 1920s the University decided to erect a War

Memorial to honour those who served in WW1. The Memorial was to be a Carillon, to be installed in the great tower and to honour not only the ex-students but to enable any person or group of persons to give a bell and suggest an inscription for it in memory of anyone who fell in the war, or in celebration of any event of the war.

Someone obviously nominated Elizabeth and in due course bell No.23 was allocated. The bell cost 40 pounds (\$80), her name followed by “may her contribution finally resonate throughout the pages of history” is inscribed thereon and funds for its purchase came from donations and a Mr.H.A.Russell (no relation that I am aware of) who was a member of the Executive Committee of the War Memorial Committee and who donated 50 pounds (\$100) for a bell without apparently specifying which bell. Elizabeth's name is also inscribed on a roll in the Great Tower.

On Anzac day in 1928 the Carillon was officially opened and amongst the invited guests was a Miss. C. McGregor whom it would be reasonable to assume was Catherine (older sister) and who was probably the instigator to have a bell named in honour of Elizabeth.

In November 2005 I wrote to the Roll of Honour Curator at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra to establish if Elizabeth qualified for inclusion on the Roll. From time to time the Research Centre at the War Memorial kept me informed of their progress.

However, Elizabeth did not meet the criteria for inclusion and the following is an extract from the Research Centre letter of May, 2007. “Eligibility criteria for Army Nurses for the First World War states that they must have been a Member of the Army Medical Corps Nursing Service who was accepted or appointed by the Director-General of Medical Services for service outside Australia.” The letter also stated they had searched all possible sources and I have no doubt they would have done this. However, I now hold a copy of a certificate showing Elizabeth was appointed a member of the Australian Army Nursing Service on the 23rd August 1918. The certificate was dated 30th December 1919???

Another little bit more information on the McGregor saga came to light from the photocopied material the Research Centre sent with their letter; this concerns the headstone on Elizabeth's grave. Helen (Elizabeth's younger sister) was responsible for having this done, for in November 1921 she wrote to the Chief Quarantine Office for permission to erect a memorial. The matter was taken up by James Cunningham & Son, monumental masons, in October 1922 (12 months after Helen wrote – from copies of other correspondence received from the Research Centre it looks like red tape caused the delay), approval was received on 6th October 1922 and the work carried out on Wednesday, 11th October, 1922.