



# North Head Sanctuary Foundation

## Custodians of North Head

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### General Meeting - 25 May 2019 2pm

Please join us in Bandicoot Heaven, Room 20, for our meeting at 2pm on Saturday 25 May 2019. The speaker will be Rob Strauch from Fire and Rescue has been lined up to speak on the "ESBS Fire Project" Everyone welcome.

### Education Room - Bandicoot Heaven

Staffed on a roster basis, our community education room opens from 10am to 4pm on Saturdays and Sundays. In addition to the displays and brochures we have, there is a range of resources open to all. These include:

- A number of flora, fauna & bird identification books
- Videos and slide shows on a range of subjects
- Thousands of electronic publications on many features of North Head
- Historical newspaper clippings
- Indexes and catalogues to a wide range of North Head material held by other organisations
- Thousands of photographs of the flora and fauna of North Head by NHSF photographers
- Maps- historical and modern

The material is added to and updated constantly.

If you are interested in helping, or want more information, please contact Judy Lambert at [twswombat@iinet.net.au](mailto:twswombat@iinet.net.au)

### 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](mailto:northhead@fastmail.com.au)

Or just turn up and ask for Jenny.

Some of our volunteers. Photo by Peter Macinnis



### My North Head

Kath Pearce

I am a member of North Head Sanctuary Foundation and volunteer in the Education Room, affectionately called "Bandicoot Heaven".

I love staffing the room once a month. I meet people from all over the world, who share their love of nature, and remind me how lucky we are to have North Head as our playground.

I also get to catch up with like-minded individuals who want to give back to the community by helping preserve this significant patch of bushland in the vast Sydney Harbour foreshores.

Fellow volunteers are knowledgeable in their specialties (horticulture, meteorology, reintroduction biology, and conservation to name a few), and they are generous in sharing that knowledge.

The seasons bring amazing variety in the landscape, the wildflowers, and animal activities. Not a day goes by without something new happening!

### Turkey Pecks Echidna

Geoff Lambert

"Dog bites Man" is NOT news; "Man bites dog" IS news. The latter phrase was coined by a British newspaper magnate, Alfred Hamsworth, the 1st Viscount Northcliffe. If that be so, then do I have news for you!

A few weeks ago, a group of rubber-neckers were



admiring NHSF's Echidna #6, famous for having sauntered into the middle of a University of Sydney drone-based video shoot last year. Our attention was suddenly diverted by the intrusion of a Brush turkey which scuttled between our legs and began to peck at the echidna. #6 did not seem to be particularly fazed

by this and stood its ground. Eventually, the Turkey retreated. The echidna, presumably deciding that discretion was the better part of valour, also retreated—to the shelter of a nearby Coastal Rosemary shrub.

## Making a Bee Motel

Peter Macinnis

Blame Jenny: she recommended that I try this workshop; no, blame Gardening Australia; OK, it's my fault.

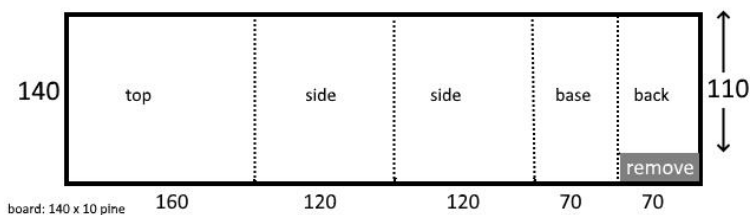
All over the world, bees are essential as pollinators for many crops. Wasps help, and so do beetles, flies, birds, moths and more, but bees do the heavy lifting, and many flowers need specialised pollinators.



The bees are in trouble. There are between 200 and 300 native bee species around Sydney, but they need somewhere to nest, and most of them are solitary or semi-social. I have hung several experimental 'bee motels' on trees around the oval, but they are mainly

favoured by spiders and skinks.

Thanks to the workshop, I now have a simple tested model, and I know some handy wrinkles. You need five pieces of wood, and about a dozen small flathead nails, about 3cm long, and a drill with a 1cm bit. Cut the wood from a length of 140 x 10mm dressed pine using this plan: note that the back has to be trimmed.



The holes were pre-drilled and I'm a passable handyman, and I had seen a finished one, so I finished, then latched onto a 9-year-old boy whose mother was helping. He found it a bit fiddly but got there. Essentially, the motel is an open box, crammed with lengths of bamboo and the odd small log with drilled holes.



The 9-year-old at work. Adding the second side (fourth piece).



Hammering in the last bamboo to get everything right

### Comments and notes

- Many bees are short range, as short as 20 – 60 metres, so we need lots of motels;
- The best time to place the motels is in spring;
- They should be 1 – 2 metres above the ground;
- The ones I do will be on 2 metre posts, sunk 600 mm into the ground. I plan to drill holes at the back (near the top) to run a wire through to attach them (I will need to add the wire before I add the bamboos!). I plan to put two motels on each post.
- The drilled holes should be between 2 – 9 mm;
- We hammered in the last bamboo to get a tight fit;
- Bamboo can be replaced by lengths of *Lantana* stem;
- When a tube is used to lay an egg, the end is sealed;
- A good guide: <https://www.agrifutures.com.au/wp-content/uploads/publications/12-014.pdf>

### Can you help? – Ute or Trailer Required

Recently, Indigigrow, a group based in the grounds of La Perouse Primary School, has been in touch with Geoff Lambert and some of the Nursery volunteers. From the web site ([indigigrow.com.au](http://indigigrow.com.au)) you will be able to see their aims and objectives.

The Nursery has offered them a couple of tables/benches which have been retired. We are looking at ways to deliver them to La Perouse and need either a trailer or small ute. The metal table tops are 2.6m long and about 1.5m wide. If you can help, please contact Toni Stevenson on [toni\\_stevenson@bigpond.com](mailto:toni_stevenson@bigpond.com)

### North Head Sanctuary Foundation Newsletter

If you would like to receive an email copy of our membership application form and/or newsletter, please email [northhead@fastmail.com.au](mailto:northhead@fastmail.com.au)