



# North Head Sanctuary Foundation Inc

## Custodians of North Head

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### Education Room - Bandicoot Heaven

Our community education room is open 10am to 4pm Saturdays and Sundays in Building 20. Call in and say hello and have a look at our displays.

Maybe you would like to learn about volunteering in our education room. Ask one of volunteers or contact Judy Lambert at [twsombat@iinet.net.au](mailto:twsombat@iinet.net.au)

### Native Plant Nursery

On 28 May, we had 20 Mosman High senior geography students and their teacher visit. As well as spending time in Bandicoot Heaven learning about North Head in general they explored the nursery sheds and focused particularly on the attributes of banksias thriving in the Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub. After lunch they undertook field studies, sampling soil and comparing two sites, first next to the demonstration plots and then beside of the Hanging Swamp track.

Thank you to Toni Stevenson, Jan Ritchie, Lynette Jones and Judy Lambert as well as the other Nursery volunteers.

You are welcome to join us on any Tuesday or Friday morning between 8am and 12noon to help with the planting, weed removal or maintenance. We always need help as we have another area to look after now.

For more details email [northhead@fastmail.com.au](mailto:northhead@fastmail.com.au)

Or just turn up and ask for Jenny, phone 0414735350.

### Xanthorrhoeas



The first and third photos show the regrowth in the burn area behind the plots on North Fort Road. The second one shows a bee enjoying the nectar from the flowers. It is worth while to have a

walk at North Head to enjoy the flowering Xanthorrhoeas.



Photos by Ian Evans

There is water in the Hanging Swamp and ducks (as at 25 June 2019).

Whales have been seen from the Fairfax Lookout.

### Back in Time

#### The 135 Stuarts Bus - Manly 'Hospital' Bus

Ian Lavering (Q-station resident 1963-1975)

Many people in the Manly area in the 1970s and before may recollect the rattling old Cream and Blue coloured 'Stuarts Bus', the only privately-operated bus service in the area. My experience with the 135 Stuarts bus started in January 1963 when our family took up residency at the Quarantine Station. My now fading recollection of the 135 Stuarts Bus from those days is as follows.

Old Mr Stuart, the owner-driver, was even in 1963, a diminutive man of advanced years who apparently was rather deaf, but he was always on time. On any weekday afternoon the bus could safely follow the same route up the eastern hill of Manly; along East Esplanade, Stuart Street, Addison Road, Osborne Road and Marshall Street and on to the Manly Hospital where most of the adult passengers would disembark. Beyond this point primary (and some secondary) school kids from the Artillery or Quarantine Station staff families would begin to disembark.

Needless to say, the level of noise from the children reached a crescendo by the time the old bus rattled its way through the Parkhill sandstone archway and proceeded to deposit each group at their designated stops. Unlike today, the roadway thereafter was rather narrow and to ensure a safe turn around, the bus would enter the School of Artillery to make use of the separate entry and exit roads.

Of particular note at the Army gate, each afternoon, would be a single army private on sentry duty at the entrance of the parade ground, who at the approach of the rattling old bus, with Mr Stuart slowly grinding his way down through the gears to slow the bus; the sentry, spick and span with weapon in the proper military pose, would 'present arms' and salute the busload of screaming school kids who delighted at his discomfort while waiting their turn to get off the lurching old bus as it stopped by the exit gate and disgorged its load of noisy adolescents and juveniles back to the relative bliss of the road back up to the Quarantine Station.

Mr Stuart and 'young John' (other driver) continued their valiant service up and down the eastern hill well into the 1970s. They were still serving the eastern hill until my father retired from duties as OIC at the Quarantine in late 1975 when I moved to Seaforth.

These days no visit to Manly Wharf, or a slow walk up the eastern hill, is the same as I recollect that one could start walking from the wharf at the same time the 135 bus departed the wharf and reach one's destination almost simultaneously with the bus at the Army gates. By walking up the hill after school one might save the bus fare, keep healthy and preserve one's own hearing but one would not have seen the sights and sounds, noise and chat of the old 135 Bus, with Mr Stuart bent over the wheel, squinting into the afternoon sun through the faded and chipped windscreen.

Those were the days when we were much younger and, at the time everything in the 'grown up' world seemed either unfathomable, or very archaic. Now one can reflect, enjoy and reminisce about what we saw such a while ago.....

### **Third Cemetery**

Jenny Wilson

On 13 December 1902 Ahmed Said, an Arab, aged 27 years old died at Quarantine Station and was buried in the Third Cemetery. He was the only death from the Ville de la Ciotat.

**Sydney Morning Herald (NSW:1842 - 1954), 8 Dec 1902**  
SMALLPOX ON A FRENCH MAIL STEAMER, THE VILLE DE LA CIOTAT.

In view of the information telegraphed on the arrival of the Messageries Maritimes mail steamer Ville de la Ciotat at Fremantle, that a lascar member of the crew had been put ashore at Colombo, the medical authorities were on the alert when the vessel entered Port Jackson Heads on Saturday morning.

It was hoped that as 15 days had elapsed since the lascar was put ashore at Colombo and the arrival of the vessel in Hobson's Bay all danger of the infection spreading had passed away, but such proved not to be the case.

Directly the medical officer went aboard it was reported to him by the ship's doctor that on the voyage round from Melbourne an eruption had broken out on two other members of the crew. The ship was at once ordered into

quarantine, and the passengers and crew were informed that they would have to be landed at the quarantine station.

A "Herald" representative interviewed Dr. Ashburton Thompson on Saturday, when he said: "The Ville de la Ciotat left Marseilles for Australia, and on November 7 a lascar member of the crew was found to be suffering from smallpox. He was isolated next day and landed at Colombo on November 17. The steamer sailed for Fremantle on November 18. The passengers for Western Australia were landed in quarantine, and the steamer then left for Melbourne. On reaching there the Victorian passengers were also placed in quarantine.

"No vaccination was done until Melbourne was reached; a supply of vaccine being obtained there. It was reported from Melbourne that all the passengers and crew who left for Sydney appeared to be in good health.

"On the arrival of the steamer this morning she was boarded by the health officer of the Board of Health. It was reported to him that two of the crew had developed smallpox. The rash was first observed on the afternoon of the day the vessel left Melbourne. The result is that the ship and everyone on board goes into quarantine."

"Those passengers and crew who were vaccinated by the ship's doctor between Melbourne and here will if the vaccination is successful, be released in 15 days' time. All those who were not vaccinated, or whose vaccination proves not to be successful, will have to remain in quarantine 21 days from to-day."

"The vessel will be fumigated as speedily as possible, and then handed back to the agents. It will take between 40 and 60 hours to complete this work, so that the vessel will probably be released about Tuesday."

There are 64 passengers on board, namely, 16 first-class, 6 second-class, 32 third-class, 10 fourth-class. The crew numbered 201, consisting of 69 Arabs, 19 kanakas, and the rest Europeans. On communicating with the quarantine station yesterday evening it was learned that there were no fresh cases, and that all was going on well."

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia "A lascar was a sailor or militiaman from the Indian Subcontinent, Southeast Asia, the Arab world, and other territories located to the east of the Cape of Good Hope, who were employed on European ships from the 16th century until the middle of the 20th century."

### **Membership renewals**

Membership are now due for renewal if you have not taken out a five year membership. Remember you can now get five years membership for the price of four years, or just renew for one year. We valued your continued support.

If you are not a member, why not join our group and show us your support, please download a form at <http://www.northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au/join/membership.htm>

Thank you