



North Head Sanctuary Foundation Inc

Custodians of North Head

ABN 97093480659 P.O. Box 896, Balgowlah, NSW 2093

northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au

email northhead@fastmail.com.au

Newsletter No 130 August 2019

General Meeting Sat 17 August at 2pm

Our speaker will be Carole Rollings a coordinator for the Manly Little Penguin Watch. Carole will share some of the good news and the not so good news regarding our little penguin colony and what the wardens are trying to do to protect them.

Everyone welcome

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

Native Plant Nursery

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 other areas to look after now.

For more details email northhead@fastmail.com.au

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

Acianthus fornicatus

A small terrestrial orchid found in sandstone bushland.



Photo Elizabeth Mills

These orchids are so tiny, the stems are only 50 to 100 mm tall. Elizabeth said she must have looked a sight down on her hands and knees as a couple of passers-by asked if she was OK!

Spring is coming – Join a guided wildflower walk



Spring wildflowers at North Head.

Photo: Geoff Lambert

Although rainfall at North Head has been very erratic this year, the June rains have seen our rich diversity of plants rejuvenated. Come and enjoy the splendour of the bushland on one of our guided walks. These easy, on-track walks will each be of 2 ½ to 3 hours duration.

This year's walks will be held on:

Sunday 8 Sept, commencing at 10am

Saturday 21 Sept, commencing at 2pm

Wednesday 25 Sept, commencing at 10am

Monday 7 Oct (public holiday), commencing at 2pm.

Our easy on-track walks are free, but bookings are necessary (limit 20 people on each walk).

You should wear comfortable shoes, bring a hat, insect repellent and a water bottle.

To register, please email twsombat@iinet.net.au or call in to Bandicoot Heaven (Building 20 at North Head's former School of Artillery) between 10am and 4pm on a Saturday or Sunday. When registering, please give us email address and a phone number where you can be contacted on the walk day.

15-month post-fire vegetation survey coming up

Geoff Lambert

On May 29th 2018, Fire and Rescue NSW conducted a Hazard Reduction Burn on what we call Area A3, to the south of the Crossfit Gym. It was a fire we had been waiting for since mid-2014. When the plan for that fire was announced, botanist Belinda Pellow conducted a vegetation survey on 32 five X five metre "quadrats" across the burn area for SHFT/AWC/NHSF. About half of Area A3 was enclosed by four runs of rabbit-proof fencing ("exclosures"). The greater part of the survey work consisted of on-ground plant counts and other measures such as ground cover.

But we also conducted photographic surveys of the quadrats, photographing each from all four corners.



Shown here are the northeast-looking photos of quadrat Q26 in 2014, in 2018 (just after the fire) and in July 2019. Q26 was, by our classification system, an ESBS-type of quadrat, dominated by Grass Trees, Wallum Banksia and *Guringalia dimorpha* (a sedge). The first two of these species are generally considered to be promoted by fire; the effects of fire on *Guringalia* have not been described previously.

It is fairly plain that the both the Banksias and Grass Tree are making a good comeback, but the *Guringalia* has yet to recover. From similar surveys on the 2012 burns, we are pessimistic about the re-appearance of *Guringalia* – it could be decades away—if it recovers at all. We will be able to put numbers to what we see in such photos after Belinda conducts her post-fire survey in spring this year.

NHSF has been invited to enter a “Showcase” competition run by the Ecological Society of Australia (ESA). In this competition, the authors of a number of previously-published papers have been invited to describe “follow-up work”, “further studies” and “lessons learned” from their earlier work. This paper is about to be sent to ESA and will summarise both the fire studies and what has happened in other areas under NHSF’s care.

Third Cemetery

Jenny Wilson

Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW: 1883 - 1930), Monday 16 April 1900, page 6
“TO THE EDITOR.

Sir-The Rev. W. C. Taylor is to be commended for his letter re the removal of patients to the Quarantine Station. My son, the late Sydney Cecil Pepper, was pronounced plague stricken—a light attack—by Dr. Barker in the afternoon of 20th March. He was very much better than on the previous day, the sickness having subsided, and the fever one point lower. It was raining, when we left our home, and blowing hard from the north-east. The journey to Woolloomooloo was a rough one, and my son complained of much pain in the abdomen when he was placed on the deck of the steamer Rose. Fortunately, we took the precaution to provide two blankets, otherwise he would have suffered severely from cold. We certainly expected him to recover but were shocked to learn about 2 p.m. on the 21st ult. that he had died that morning. Now, Sir. I contend that It is just probable that if the authorities had allowed me to have my son treated at home, instead of resorting to the barbarous practice of removal, especially on a wet night, he would have been well by now.

It's not a crime to be stricken with the plague, yet when this calamity overtakes a family the patient and all "contacts" are subjected to an experience which does not reflect credit on citizens of a free country. There are many irregularities at the Quarantine Station which I have pointed out to the Board of Health and will not refer to them here. Will you kindly allow me to refer to the great sympathy shown to patients and "contacts," regardless of creed, by Father Ignatius, who came to the station on 22nd ult. long before any other minister had taken up the important work. For over a week I had frequent opportunities of witnessing his kindness to those in sad trouble. I can the more gladly hear testimony to his noble work as I do not belong to the Church of which he is so distinguished a member.

—Yours, etc., JOHN PEPPER. "Mayolda," 132 Windsor-street, Paddington April 14.”

Sydney Cecil Pepper was quarantined on 20 March 1900 and died the next day, aged 20, of bubonic plague. His grave is to the left of the entrance.