



North Head Sanctuary Foundation Inc

Custodians of North Head

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Thank you.

Tom Hazell for an interesting talk on 25 November 2023.

Education Room - Bandicoot Heaven

New volunteers needed

We are open on **Saturdays and Sundays between 10am and 4pm**. Please call in and have a chat.

We're sad to have lost two of our regular volunteers and need to recruit new volunteers to help provide visitors with information about the bushland. Anyone interested should contact Judy Lambert (email: twsombat@iinet.net.au or phone 0427 217 580).

Native Plant Nursery

The Nursery grows mainly Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub plants for planting by our volunteers into degraded areas of North Head.

You are welcome to join us. There is always planting, weeding and maintenance to be done in one of our areas. Please call in any Tuesday or Friday morning between 8am and noon when we are open, or email northhead@fastmail.com.au if you would like to join us. We are closed between Christmas and New Year.

My North Head – Volunteering

Katie Meyer
Nestled on the picturesque coast of New South Wales, Manly is renowned for its stunning beaches, vibrant community, and rich natural beauty. A hidden gem that often goes unnoticed by tourists and even some locals is the North Head Sanctuary, a haven for wildlife and a paradise for nature enthusiasts.



North Head Sanctuary is a place where history, culture, and natural beauty converge. The sanctuary spans over 250 hectares of pristine coastal bushland and is home to a rich tapestry of flora and fauna. Its mission is to conserve and protect this unique ecosystem while providing a space for visitors to connect with nature, explore walking trails, and learn about the area's rich indigenous and colonial history.

My experience as a volunteer at North Head Sanctuary in Manly has been a remarkable experience, offering me a unique opportunity to connect with nature, make a meaningful impact on the environment, and forge lasting connections with like-minded individuals.

I was drawn to North Head over 15 years ago and started exploring it on runs and bushwalks. It didn't take long to meet the enthusiastic North Head Sanctuary Team, who dedicate their time and energy to preserving this vital ecosystem. My journey as a volunteer began with a desire to give back to the environment and to experience a deeper connection with the natural world. Over time, I've had the privilege of participating in various projects, each offering unique insights into conservation and restoration efforts.

1. Bush Regeneration/Native Plant Nursery: I began in the native plant nursery and am so grateful for the knowledge shared with me about this unique ecological community. The volunteers were always so welcoming and helpful. We propagated many plants and found new homes for them throughout North Head. Witnessing the gradual transformation of a once-degraded landscape into a thriving native habitat, particularly for the Long-nosed Bandicoots, was a gratifying experience.

2. Education and Outreach: I also became involved in the education centre, Bandicoot Heaven, expanding my knowledge and appreciation of the area. As a volunteer, I had the privilege of engaging with the community and educating visitors about the importance of conserving this area. Sharing my knowledge and passion for this area and the remarkable plants and animals has been an immensely rewarding experience.

3. Environmental Education: I loved the education aspect so much that I decided to start my own business to share this beautiful place with kids! EcoXplore was born and kids could be seen galloping around North Head, exploring the awe-inspiring landscape. For over eight years, over 10,000 kids had the opportunity to learn about, appreciate, and value North Head and nature in general. I feel so incredibly

fortunate to have had this opportunity to help inspire a new generation of conservationists!

The sanctuary is a testament to the importance of preserving and protecting our natural heritage, and I feel privileged to have played a small part in this ongoing mission.

As time marches on, so must I. I'm passing on the baton to anyone keen to volunteer. I encourage everyone to explore their local conservation opportunities and discover the transformative power of volunteering for a cause they believe in. The North Head Sanctuary and the people I've worked with over the years will always hold a special place in my heart.

Who eats the *Grevillea buxifolia* seed?



Here is a great photo from Robyn Missen showing a yellow-tailed black cockatoo enjoying an immature *Grevillea buxifolia* seed. Each pod has two seeds, and it turns brown when its ready. Then the pod splits and releases the two seeds.

Surveying & sampling North Head plants - NSW Herbarium

Judy Lambert

In September 2023, Harbour Trust Director Janet Carding contacted me to ask if 2 or 3 NHSF volunteers could assist a team from the NSW Herbarium with their planned survey of plants on the Trust's North Head site.



Map of collection points at North Head

Although there are around 500 plant species (the vast majority native species) recorded across North Head over time, the Herbarium had only about 30 specimens on file. Working with the Herbarium's Chief Scientist, Dr Brett Summerell, Janet arranged to expand this reference collection. The large team, one-day effort being proposed

was special – a similar collection from a whole plant community would usually be done over weeks, or even months.

The team leader for the survey, Dr Herve Sauquet made contact, seeking 2 or 3 volunteers with good knowledge of the site and able to spend a full day in the field with his core team, to guide them on the different vegetation types on the Trust's land and to use their local knowledge to help maximise the efficiency of a day's surveying and collecting of Herbarium specimens (small samples of plants with flower and seed present wherever possible). One of the team of botanists commented on the relative lack of weeds seen during the initial walk-around, compared with what is found in other urban parks and reserves.

After a preparatory walk-around early in September, Herve and his core team mapped out a collecting plan, in which they focused on 8 or 9 different habitat areas, from which they might maximise the diversity of sampling.

Intense planning and detailed preparation saw about 30 Herbarium and Botanic Gardens staff allocated to teams (each with an experienced botanist as team leader) ready to go, with database links to iNaturalist entered in mobile phones and ready to connect to field photos, field presses and collecting tools. An extreme fire danger rating postponed the initial scheduled survey day, but things were soon restructured and ready to go by 8am on Thursday 28 September.

Some of the team members have an amazing 'eye' for tiny plants that many of us might walk by without noticing. At times, 8 or 9 different species were collected almost without moving from one stopping point, with some species causing great enthusiasm from specialist team members. As each species was collected, field preparation and recording was done and conveyed back to 'base camp' in Building 205.

There, Herve and/or Herbarium Collections Manager Dr Hannah McPherson, supported by our own Jan Ritchie, coordinated data inputs to ensure there was not too much duplication of effort.

With all collecting teams sticking to existing tracks to avoid undue impact on the bushland, by the end of collecting time at 3.30pm, at least 143 specimens of different species had been collected, with the last of the data to be entered and a small number still to have their identity confirmed.

All samples were checked for labelling and transferred to a press ready for transporting back to the Herbarium at Mt Annan.

While it was a fairly full-on, non-stop day, working with these experts and learning from them was a rewarding experience.

Being part of this intensive effort was a great opportunity for NHSF to contribute in a small way.

We're keen to hear more from the Herbarium/ Botanic Gardens team as they work through analysis of all of the data, which will increase the Herbarium's North Head reference specimen collection several-fold. The Herbarium hopes that, in the future, a repeat of this survey might be conducted across the NPWS area on North Head, so that reference data for the whole headland is expanded.



Collecting team at the end of the day

“COMMUNITY RECOGNITION STATEMENT 58TH PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

NORTH HEAD SANCTUARY FOUNDATION - VOLUNTEERS

I notify the House that the North Head Sanctuary Foundation's Nursery volunteers form the background of this busy and committed community group who work out of a site on North Head in Manly as part of the Sydney Harbour Trust.

The Nursery volunteers in the first six months of 2023 have performed some 3,600 volunteer hours. These volunteers have propagated nearly 1700 plants which are native to North Head and will soon become part of the landscaping in the Fairfax lookouts area. Volunteers also provide education to the community for visitors on the weekend who attend Building 20 in the former Barracks Precinct. They also assist with 'citizen science' projects such as the recent photo survey of echidnas on North Head. The most recent newsletter of the Foundation states that till June this year these volunteers had discussions with nearly 5,000 visitors.

Finally, thanks must also go to Jenny Wilson who faithfully produces the Foundation's monthly e-newsletter which is distributed to almost 1,000 members and supporters. Well

done to the volunteers of the North Head Sanctuary Foundation.

JAMES GRIFFIN MP

MEMBER FOR MANLY”

Back in Time

Jenny Wilson
Australian Star (Sydney, NSW:1887-1909), 19 March 1901
“ESCAPED FROM QUARANTINE.

Some little excitement prevails in the city owing to the fact that one of the "contacts" in connection with the plague case disappeared from quarantine on Saturday morning, and up to the present no news of the patient has been heard. The escapee was within the area on Friday evening, - but was missing on Saturday, and upon search being made it was found that - he had gone. The authorities imagine he gained freedom by climbing the fence; and making his way to a Manly steamer for Sydney. The case was reported to the water police, and the Board of Health, and a search was at once started, but so far without success. The penalty incurred by anyone breaking away from the quarantine station is a fine of £300, or six-months' imprisonment. “

Interestingly it turns out he was on the troopship Antillian which was in last month's newsletter.

THIRD CEMETERY

Jenny Wilson
Sydney Morning Herald (NSW:1842-1954) 12 December 1901

“BUBONIC PLAGUE.
A FATAL CASE.

Another case of plague has occurred in Sydney. It seems that James Ernest Derrington, 36 years, residing at Waverley, and employed at a warehouse in Sydney, fell ill on Sunday, December 8. The case was reported to the Board of Health at 10 p m on Tuesday, and on examination by the officers of the Health Department proved to be plague. The patient was too ill to be moved, and consequently a nurse was sent from the Coast Hospital to take charge of him. The house was placed under guard pending disinfection. The patient became worse during the night and died early yesterday morning. The body was removed to the Quarantine Station for burial.

The Board of Health met at noon yesterday, and in accordance with its directions all necessary measures of disinfection and cleansing were being taken. The deceased arrived in Sydney three months ago from Rockhampton, and he had a wife and four children, who have no relatives in this State.”

He was buried in the Third Cemetery on 11 December 1901 in grave number 157.

Bandicoot Heaven & Native Plant Nursery:

To become a volunteer, you must be a member of North Head Sanctuary Foundation and be COVID vaccinated.
<https://www.northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au/join/20190629%20NHSF%20membership%20form.pdf>