



# North Head Sanctuary Foundation

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[northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au](http://northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au)

Newsletter No 11 November 2011

## Next Meeting 12 November at 1.30pm



Our next general meeting will be on Saturday 12 November in our Education room – Bandicoot Heaven or Building 20. Geoff Lambert will talk about “Orchids of North Head”

Julie Nettleton will have her four new card designs, for sale and will also have her prints. We are not printing Christmas cards this year, but still have plenty of *Epacris longiflora* and *Astroloma* cards for sale, a packet of ten for \$20.

## NHSF and the Scouts

There were nearly 300 scouts camped near the water tanks in North Head Sanctuary for a weekend in October. Geoff Lambert took six groups of 10-15 Cub Scouts for short educational walks on the Saturday. We heard later that many of the Cub Scouts voted the walks the best activity of the weekend. Thank you Geoff.



Cubs discussing 'Big, bad banksia men'

On the Sunday about 17 scouts helped move some mulch and spread it on and around our plantings on North Head Scenic drive. Thank you.

## North Head Sanctuary Foundation

If you would like to support us by becoming a member, please download a form at [www.northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au/join/membership.htm](http://www.northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au/join/membership.htm) or email [northhead@fastmail.fm](mailto:northhead@fastmail.fm). Please also email if you would like to receive our monthly email newsletter.

## Native Plant Nursery

Planting out continues. One of the areas, we are planting is outside the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust's Visitors Centre. The Trust planted the *Dianella* and we are adding flannel flowers and other plants to complete it.

We are now collecting seed and are planning what plants we will be growing for next year.

We had two willing workers who helped us by planting out on the oval edge and moving mulch as their paid Volunteer day in the Community.



Thank you Keristi and Scott

Help is always welcomed, we have one off jobs that can be done, for example moving mulch. For more info please email [shalmagy@bigpond.net.au](mailto:shalmagy@bigpond.net.au)

## 18th Ocean Care Day Festival

**Sunday 4 December 10.30am to 4.30pm**

Theme for this year is 'International Year of the Forests' – From the forests to the foreshores.

We will have our stall as usual on Manly Beach promenade, please visit and say hello. We will have cards and prints for sale.

If you would like to help on our stall, please contact Jenny on [northhead@fastmail.fm](mailto:northhead@fastmail.fm) or 0414 735350.

## Education Centre – Bandicoot Heaven

Call in and see us, we are open every weekend, from 10am to 4pm in Building 20, for a chat or some information. Our range of botanical cards are available for purchase.

Geoff Lambert's wildflower walks proved very popular, especially his last walk which featured in the Manly Daily and we had 23 people. Thank you Geoff, your walks were appreciated.

## Third Cemetery

Judy Lambert

One of the people buried in the Third Cemetery had become famous even before the plague saw him quarantined at North Head.

Thomas Dudley is a person recognised by law students whose training is based on English law. We can thank University of NSW Law Professor Prue Vines for bringing this to our attention when she visited our education room at North Head on a recent rainy afternoon.

The Queen v. Dudley and Stephens was a trial heard before the criminal courts of Devon and Cornwall in November 1884. The case is famous because it defined the place of “necessity” in the killing of another person.

Thomas Dudley, his fellow seaman Edward Stephens, another man named Brooks and a teenage cabin boy Richard Parker were sailing an English yacht to Australia when they were shipwrecked in a storm 1600 miles off the Cape of Good Hope. They took to a small open boat, but had few supplies. After 7 days without food and 5 days without water Dudley and Stephens decided that the boy, who was by then the weakest among them, should be killed and eaten.

Four days later their open boat was picked up by a passing vessel and taken to the port of Falmouth, and then to trial in Exeter. During the trial it was argued that at the time of the killing they had no prospect of rescue and that had they not killed and fed upon the body of Parker they would have died of famine.

The case was adjourned on two occasions, but finally a hearing by a High Court of five Judges ruled that they were guilty of murder. The Judges determined that where a private person acting upon his own judgment takes the life of another, his act can only be justified on the grounds of self-defence. A case was put by their defence that they had acted out of necessity and should not be found guilty of murder.

After considering a number of case precedents, Chief Justice Lord Coleridge and his fellow Judges ruled unanimously that “the prisoners’ act in this case was wilful murder, that the facts as stated in the verdict are no legal justification of the homicide” and that the prisoners were guilty of murder.

Dudley and Stephens were sentenced to death, but their sentence was later commuted on compassionate grounds, to six months imprisonment.

Not only is this a case famous for the legal precedent set. It is also the basis upon which the

Monty Python Shipwreck cannibalism sketch is based.

More details about this fascinating case can be found at <http://www.justis.com/data-coverage/iclr-bqb14040.aspx>

In our next newsletter you’ll learn more about how Dudley later came to be interred in the Third Cemetery at North Head.

## *Erythrorchis cassythoidess*



Or climbing orchid can sometimes be found on North Head. Unusually, it contains no chlorophyll and instead feeds on bark and dead matter through its stiff climbing roots.

## Earthwatch

Help protect North Head’s bandicoots and catch introduced predators on camera. You can join a one day team for \$49, call 03 9682 6828 or email [earth@earthwatch.org.au](mailto:earth@earthwatch.org.au) for further information

## Sanctuary Foundation aims:

‘The Sanctuary for biodiversity will honour the natural and cultural significance of North Head. It will be a safe place for flora, fauna and people, a living laboratory promoting the spiritual and biological value of Sydney Harbour.’

It will:

- \* Respect and honour the Indigenous significance of North Head;
- \* Build understanding of the natural and cultural values of North Head; and
- \* Promote integrated planning and management for the whole area, to ensure the highest level of protection for the natural and cultural attributes of North Head.