



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

ABN 97093480659

P.O. Box 896, Balgowlah, NSW 2093

northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au email northhead@fastmail.fm

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Education Centre – Bandicoot Heaven

Do you like meeting and talking to people about North Head? Would you like to learn? We are looking for volunteers to staff our Education room each weekend. For more info please contact Judy Lambert on twsombat@optusnet.com.au. Or call in and see Judy on Sunday 8 April or Sunday 29 April 10am to 4pm.

Our Education room is open every weekend, from 10am to 4pm in Building 20. Call in and see us. Have a look at our Xanthorrhoea print by Julie Nettleton which is for sale. Julie's work can be seen at Botanica 2012: the Masters and Moore exhibition in the Maiden Theatre and the Moore Room in the Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney, from 31 March to 22 April, 10 am - 4 pm. Free entry. For more info 9231 8182

Native Plant Nursery



Thank you to everyone who helped on Sunday 11 March. It's great to see what you can achieve in a couple of hours.

If you have a spare two hours on **Wednesday 18 April , 4 to 6pm**, to help with planting or weeding, please come and join us.

Please wear a hat, insect repellent and closed in shoes. For more information, please email Sue at shalmagy@bigpond.net.au.

Café at North Fort

Have coffee and cake at the café outside North Fort and enjoy the views. Now open. Parking is available inside North Fort and for a quick walk, the Memorial walk has history, views and the beauty of the bush.

Congratulations

Mary Johnsen and Peter Nash received Manly Environment Centre Eco Award nominations this year for their work for the environment.

ClimateWatch-ing on North Head

The first ClimateWatch walk on North Head, led by the Sanctuary Foundation's Geoff Lambert, was held on Sunday 4 March. After a wet week participant numbers were low, but the weather cleared for the walk and participants enjoyed learning about North Head and its ClimateWatch species, while collecting scientific data for ClimateWatch. The small group enabled us to trial the led walks and follow-up data entry.

During the walk, 14 ClimateWatch observations were made on a range of species including *Actinotus helianthi*, *Banksia marginata*, *Grevillea speciosa* and *Acacia suaveolens*. A couple of observations were made on ClimateWatch fauna species, including the Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*). For more information on ClimateWatch species to look out for and record on North Head, see <http://www.climatewatch.org.au/community/activities/north-head-sanctuary-sydney>.

ClimateWatch walks on North Head are also planned for 1 April, 6 May and 3 June, and start at 10am from the Harbour Trust's Visitor Centre. Please wear enclosed shoes, a hat, insect repellent and sunscreen and bring water.

The walks are free but bookings are essential (numbers limited to 20 per walk). Contact Rachel Maitland at Earthwatch for more information and to register. Email: rmaitland@earthwatch.org.au or phone 02 8966 9800 or 0403 167 556.

ClimateWatch enables every Australian to be involved in collecting and recording data that will help shape the country's scientific response to climate change. North Head is a key ClimateWatch monitoring site and the Foundation is assisting the program here with promotion and guided walks.

Echidna



This echidna was spotted near St Barbaras Ave on Sun 11 March having a walk and a feed. An echidna was also seen closer to the Parade Ground on Sun 18 March.

Aseroe rubra



Or Starfish Stinkhorn can be found mainly in the mulched areas of North Head after rain. It is a short lived fungus and the brown sticky substance attracts flies that help to spread the fungi. It also has a smell.

Back in Time

The Sydney Morning Herald 1 January 1931
"NORTH HEAD. Sandhills Forming.
NEED FOR TREE-PLANTING.

Nothing, that has happened around Port Jackson during 1930 will occasion so much regret as the rapid change which has taken place on the highlands on North Head, within the Federal quarantine area, where much of the scrublands have been changed into sand hills, which before the present summer is over will be almost snow white.

Already four large sandy patches are visible. Anyone who gets a glimpse of nature's magnificent breakwater from the heights of Mosman will see great areas of the white waste that has already altered the grandeur which for over a century has made North Head the main feature of Sydney's wonderful waterfront.

One fire after another has burned away the timber and the scrub until little greenery now remains on the highlands. Only recently several big burnings took place. With every fire the sand waste widened. Now the high winds will complete the devastation. Unless something in the way of tree-planting and grass-planting is soon done the white patches will spread down the hillside to where the last of the Norfolk Island pines stands alone.

A few days ago another fire stripped the Old Man's Hat hinterland of almost all its beauty. Today that well known area is black and ugly.

Before the sand starts moving, something should be done to restore some of the vanished beauty to the headland. There are problems on North Head today which the Commonwealth tree experts can handle effectively. Mount Stromlo was converted into a pine forest in 15 years. North Head could be reclaimed in less time if the battle with the sand to be begun immediately."

Comment by Geoff Lambert: This is a really intriguing story. Although North Head was the first place in Australia where Europeans learned about "regeneration burns", this lesson had not reached the SMH. It is lucky for North Head that the foolish men in the story, contemplating 'building their houses on the sand', did not get their way. Otherwise North Head would now be covered with a pine forest. As it happens, fires continued on and off in this area of North Head for decades. You can see this area today if you look southwest from the NHSF building- it is covered with Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub- thriving **because** of the fires, rather than in spite of them

Third Cemetery

Jenny Wilson



Richard W. Smith, aged 48, was taken to the Quarantine station on Monday 2 April from Canterbury and died at 1.00pm on Thursday 5 April 1900 of bubonic plague. The Rev Allan McDougall officiated at the burial.

This grave site is interesting due to the wood replacing the usual concrete surrounds.

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.