



# North Head Sanctuary Foundation

## Custodians of North Head

ABN 97093480659 P.O. Box 896, Balgowlah, NSW 2093  
northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au email [northhead@fastmail.fm](mailto:northhead@fastmail.fm)

Newsletter No 5 June 2014

### Walk & Talk to North Head Sanctuary

9.45am for 10am - 12pm walk,  
Saturday 7 June FREE Guringai Festival event  
Meet at Little Manly Beach (beside cafe)

Learn about your local Aboriginal heritage on a guided walk with Karen Smith, Aboriginal Heritage Office. On arrival at North Head Sanctuary Foundation, there'll be morning tea with bush teas, jams and wattleseed scones from Jess Relton. This will be followed by conversations with Francis Bodkin, Dharawal knowledge-holder and botanical author, as she talks about her latest project.

Bookings essential: Limited numbers.

Robynne Millward on 9976 2842 or  
[robynne.millward@manly.nsw.gov.au](mailto:robynne.millward@manly.nsw.gov.au)

### Education Centre – Bandicoot Heaven

Our community education room is open 10am to 4pm  
Saturdays and Sundays in Building 20. Call in to have a  
chat or gather information. If you'd like to help others get  
to know more about North Head, please contact Judy  
Lambert on 9949 3521(ah) or email

[twsombat@optusnet.com.au](mailto:twsombat@optusnet.com.au)

The metal track from North Head Scenic Drive, opposite Q  
Station into North Head Sanctuary Is now finished.

### Native Plant Nursery

There is always something to do whether it is maintaining  
our planted areas. Planting out and growing on the plants  
as well as keeping our Nursery clean and tidy.

If you would like to help us please email Jenny at  
[northhead@fastmail.fm](mailto:northhead@fastmail.fm) or turn up any Tuesday or Friday  
morning between 8am and 12 noon.

### *Acetosa sagittata* WEED



or Turkey Rhubarb. A vigorous perennial creeper with  
arrowhead-shaped, rather fleshy leaves and ribbed stems  
more than 1 m long. Its flowers are clustered in branched  
inflorescences to 30 cm long. Its roots are horizontal and  
grow to 5 m and produce numerous, turnip-shaped tubers  
that become woody.

### The Hanging Swamp 60 years ago

Geoff Lambert



Photo courtesy of North Fort library and Ken Higgs.

These gentlemen are perched on what is known as the  
Battery Observation Post, which is now hidden in the bush  
near the old hockey field. Spread out below them is the  
area we now call the "Hanging Swamp" It was not  
swampy when this photo was taken, probably in the late  
1950s. The road behind the men is the Avenue of Honour.  
Beyond that, note the maze of tracks and parking lots on  
which the artillery and radar trucks are standing. One can  
also see in this photo the effects of fire which must have  
passed through a few years previously. The area is  
covered with the burned flower spikes of Grass Trees.  
There is scarcely a tree or a shrub to be seen. Nowadays  
the area has scrub and trees up to 10 metres high. And,  
of course, there is now a "Hanging Swamp" which is really a  
small dam whose waters are held back by the  
embankment on which the road on the very right of the  
photograph was perched.



Battery Observation Post 24 March 2014

### Thank you

Dr Jen Anson from the Australian Wildlife Conservancy  
who gave an interesting talk at our meeting on 21 May  
2014.

## Third Cemetery

Jenny Wilson

### World War One

The Third Cemetery at North Head is the burial place of 13 soldiers and one naval man from World War One, two nurses Annie Egan and Elizabeth McGregor who looked after the soldiers, and a returned soldier - James Shaw, who died on 11 April 1919 of influenza. He was on the staff at Quarantine and had served staff in 7th Field Company Engineers – service number 2793 - aged 35.



The Third Cemetery has a rock with the inscription noting that the graves of the 14 casualties of the 1914-1918 war are no longer able to be identified and lists the men that died.

Died 1918. These men were all on HMAT Medic

Died 23.11.1918 - Private Walter Helensworth MACCROANAN, aged 34.

Died 25.11.18 - Private George Wilson RIDLEY, aged 19.  
- Private John Henry PETHERICK, aged 25.  
- Private Frederick Thomas MORGAN, aged 19.

Died 26.11.18 - Private Harry MCKAY, aged 26.

Died 27.11.18 - Private Robert FAIRLEY, aged 19.  
- Corporal Thomas John TREACY, aged 29.  
- Private James Michael CAHILL, aged 28.

Died 30.11.18 - Private Hector Fraser HICKS, aged 18.

Died 1.12.18 - S/Sergeant Percy George EDWARDS, aged 29.

Died 6.12.18 - S/Sergeant Joseph STOCK, aged 32.

Died 14.12.18 - Private Alfred Ernest BROWN, (Broadly) aged 18.

Died 1919

Died 16.4.1919 - Private Peter CHERVIN, aged 26

Died 21.6.1919 - Petty Officer Arthur DAVIS, aged 30.

This rock is near one of the War graves – that of Hector Hicks, who has the largest monument in the Cemetery. His grave is next to Annie Egan, a nurse who died 3.12.1918.

Therefore only 13 graves are unidentified.

According to a letter from Department of Veterans' Affairs dated 30 March 1987, the original headstones were 2 feet 8 inches high of white marble but due to the difficulty in maintaining the site, the headstones were removed and the graves were then sealed with a concrete slab.

There are 13 cement slabs in the Third Cemetery.

The grave of Elizabeth McGregor, who was a nurse, is marked. She died 5.12.1918 and her burial number was 210. One of the cement slabs near her must belong to S/Sergeant Joseph Stock who died 6.12.18, burial number 211. However there are seven concrete slabs near her grave. Notice the different cement at the top where the markers would have been.



Although Elizabeth Mc Gregor was referred to as a military nurse in the newspaper articles of the time, she is not listed on the Roll of Honour at Australian War Memorial. She was in England when war was declared and went to France.

#### “A Colonial Hospital”

“The scheme for the Australian Voluntary Hospital, the staff of which has already gone to the front, was initiated by the Countess of Dudley and provides for a field hospital of 200 beds with doctors, nurses and all equipment. Lady Dudley's great interest in nurses and her experience in nursing organisation are well known, and in her capacity of lady superintendent of the hospital this will stand her in good stead. She has taken out a staff of 17 fully trained nurses, practically all of whom are Australians and were trained in the hospitals in the Commonwealth. Miss Ida Greaves is acting as matron Miss M. Burns as sister and dentist; Misses Wyllie, W. Dow, N. Reay, Walter, Trebilcock, and Gabriel as sisters Misses M. Miles, Baxter, Dalzell, Armit, Mackenzie, McGregor, Joan Daw, Buckham, Anderson, and Bowie as staff nurses. The hospital is under the direction of Colonel Eames, appointed by the War Office, and has its London headquarters at 7 Carl ton Gardens, S.W. Nursing Times.”  
**Kai Tiaki : the journal of the nurses of New Zealand, Volume VII, Issue 4, October 1914, Page 168**

### 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). If you would like to receive a copy of our e-

newsletter, or if you have a photo, taken at North Head that you would like to share, please email [northhead@fastmail.fm](mailto:northhead@fastmail.fm)