



# North Head Sanctuary Foundation

## Custodians of North Head

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

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### Season's Greetings

#### Manly's Annual Ocean Care Day

It is on again on Sunday 6 December. This year's theme is *Support a Sydney Marine Park*. Come and see us at our stall on the Ocean Beachfront, any time between 10am and 4pm. This event is always worth a visit.

#### Education Room – Bandicoot Heaven

Our community education room is open 10am to 4pm Saturdays and Sundays in Building 20. We've recently made some changes to our displays, including adding a poster showing where you've seen and photographed echidnas on North Head. Call in to see our displays and our botanical card range.

#### Native Plant Nursery



Planting out the Oval 13 November 2015



Taken 23 September 2012

Work is ongoing on the old oval with planting and weed removal. The recent rains have encouraged the spread of weeds. If you would like to join us just turn up any Tuesday or Friday morning between 8am and 12noon. For more details - [northhead@fastmail.com.au](mailto:northhead@fastmail.com.au)

#### Cryptostylis subulata



Or Large Tongue Orchid is a common orchid found in sandy soils in heath. Each plant has several flowers on a stem about 40cm high. The flowers are upside down with colourful lip. The slender green arms serve as insect guides. In flower now.

#### Poor Birdy

Judy Lambert

In early November, the family who live in one of the house on North Head Scenic Drive heard a loud "thump" and went out to investigate. A young magpie, just learning to fly, had run into their back window. Dad told the kids that it had broken its neck and would have to be put down.



The kids entered into the sad spirit of the occasion and conducted a funeral and erected a memorial to a "Beautiful Bird"

## Eel Dreaming

Geoff Lambert



A year or so ago I found two anthills close together, but of different coloured sand – these appeared in an NHSF newsletter in December 2014. A few months ago, I found another example and was in a position to bore down near the ant heap with a post-hole digger. I laid the resulting core on the ground and it is illustrated here. The total length of the core was 1-metre and you can see that the colour of the core changes abruptly about half-way along it. This is a good illustration of how deeply these ants can burrow, but also of the rate of change of soil structure. The sand here (3rd cemetery) is about 100,000 years old, so it has taken 100,000 years to leach and bleach a mere half a metre of sand. This picture reminded me of the “Crocodile Dreaming” structure on the Todd River in Alice Springs – so I have called it “Eel Dreaming”. It is visible in aerial photos.



Taken on 2 September 2015 in Third Cemetery.

## Back In Time

### BUSH FIRE AT NORTH HEAD.

A fire was burning close to Collins's Flat, in the Quarantine Reserve, on Saturday morning. Towards evening it had crept up the hill in the form of a horseshoe, and, viewed from the hills overlooking Manly, it presented a fine spectacle. It burnt all day Sunday, and last night a detachment of the Manly Fire Brigade went out, as the fire had burnt round to the back of the buildings. As night fell, it again afforded the passengers by the boats a sight not often seen. The flames were kept at a

respectful distance from any of the buildings, and no loss was reported. The firemen returned to Manly about 11.30, and reported everything safe. Inspector Hyam was on the scene with half a dozen water police during the day. In clearing the scrub in that locality the fire may be considered as doing good work.”

Evening News - (Sydney) Monday 8 May 1899

## Third Cemetery

Jenny Wilson

### “GOTHIC IN QUARANTINE”.

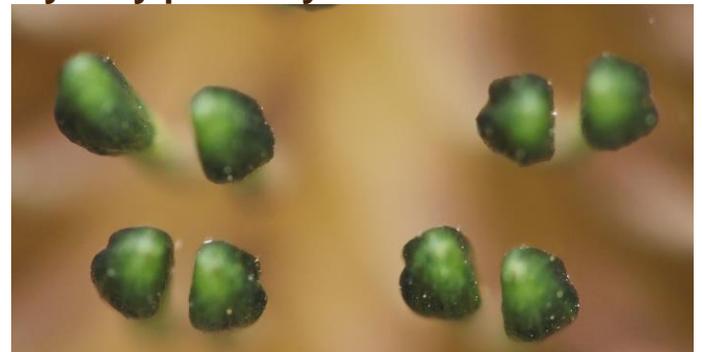
“Upon arrival in Sydney yesterday morning the White Star liner Gothic was ordered by the medical authorities into quarantine, owing to a serious outbreak of measles and scarlet fever among her passengers.

In all, 27 cases were reported, 24 suffering from measles, and the remaining three from scarlet fever, from which latter complaint one patient died between Melbourne and Sydney, the body being brought on to this port for interment. “  
The Sydney Morning Herald 7 February 1913

Thomas Cousin ROBERTSON aged 3 died on 5.2.1913 aboard the ship of Tonsillitis and Cellulitis of neck. The medical attendant was W.F. Neil (Ship's Surgeon). Thomas was buried in Quarantine Cemetery 7.2.1913 in grave number 166. Witnesses were J. Ball and E. Dickson Quarantine assistants.

On 20 February 1913, the last of the patients were released from quarantine. All 27 cases survived.

## Mystery photo by Geoff Lambert



Can you tell what it is?

The best answer will receive a North Head Calendar. Answers to Geoff at G.Lambert@inet.net.au

## HELP

Do you have a photo or an article about North Head you would like to see in our newsletter? Please email to [northhead@fastmail.com.au](mailto:northhead@fastmail.com.au)