



North Head Sanctuary Foundation Inc

Custodians of North Head

ABN 97093480659 P.O. Box 896, Balgowlah, NSW 2093

northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au email northhead@fastmail.com.au

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Education Room - Bandicoot Heaven

We are closed until further notice due to COVID-19.

Native Plant Nursery

We are back at the Nursery and are busy working in our areas. There is always a lot to do.

Unfortunately, we cannot take any new volunteers at present, unless they are a member of North Head Sanctuary Foundation. For more details, please send an email to northhead@fastmail.com.au

Planning Proposal Ready for Former Manly Hospital Site

The latest concept master plan is on the Property NSW website. An interesting read, feedback due 19 August 2020.

A link to the updated concept master plan and an opportunity to submit feedback can be found here: <https://www.property.nsw.gov.au/former-manly-hospital-site>.

Sands ain't necessarily sands

Peter Macinnis

A sand grain rolling on the bottom of a river gets rounder. It loses 10 million molecules each time it rolls over, but over many hundreds of millions of years it only loses 10% of its weight by abrasion. In 1959, a Dutch geologist estimated that every second, for the past 4.3 billion years, there

have been one billion new sand grains added to the supply. Sand particles are



between 0.0625mm and 2mm in diameter, but what are they made of? During June, Associate Professor Ana Vila-Concejo of Sydney University made the news with her comparisons of Sydney beach sands. She said Northern Beaches sand sticks to you because it is a "carbonate sand", which contains more shell bits, CaCO_3 to the chemists. Narrabeen beach sand may be up to 70% calcium carbonate.

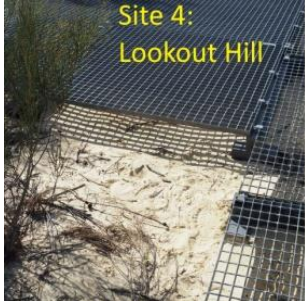
The geologists call the less sticky Bondi sand "siliclastic", and they tell lay people that this is sand made from broken rock. The sand you see in Column 1, from Congwong beach near La Perouse is a siliclastic sand.

Most of the books I write are based on a Temporary Obsession, but I have no T.O. of longer duration than *squeaky sand*: I recall insisting, in 1947, on digging on Cottesloe beach to find the squeaking animals that called me as I walked over them.

To get squeaks, the physicists say, we probably need well-sorted, well-dried high-silica sand with well-rounded grains that are between 0.1 and 0.5 mm in diameter. Congwong beach has squeaky sands, so I grabbed a sample and looked at it under a USB magnifier that cost less than \$30, and the grains are fairly rounded, fairly uniform, and of about the right size.

Because I obsess over sand, I saw the different sands of North Head, and looked more closely. I took sand from one of the white anthills on the oval; from the eastern boundary fire trail; from a sandy track running down from the Memorial Walk; and from near the north-facing lookout on the steel track from the Nursery to the Third Cemetery. Take a look: which sands do you think would be squeaky?





All you need to try this is some black cardboard (or blue, if you are looking at 'black sands') and a variety of sand samples. I collect mine in specimen tubes or sandwich bags: you only need a tiny pinch of sand.

You could write a book about this. Maybe I will...

Bitou Bush & Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*, subspecies *rotundata* & *monilifera*).

Judy Lambert

Thankfully only occasionally found on North Head, this is one to look out for.



In coastal sand dune areas it is an erect shrub that grows to about 2 metres with fleshy ovate leaves. Its golden yellow daisy-like flowers appear

Photo Sydney Weed Committee mostly in 13 petals and smooth-edged leaves and boneseed having 5-7 petals and slightly serrated-edged leaves. The fruits are bony purplish-black berries, 6-8mm in size, which ripen in summer.

A native of South Africa, bitou bush was originally introduced to stabilise denuded sand dunes, but it quickly spread, forming dense thickets which have taken over vast areas of coastal bushland and harbour feral animals. Decades of hard work, much of it by Landcare and Bushcare volunteers, have since gone into controlling it, especially on the NSW mid-north coast.

Bitou bush and boneseed are weeds of both national and state significance, which are spread by birds. They should be removed as soon as possible, immediately destroyed, and the area monitored for any new plants emerging, the goal being to eradicate them from the area.

Newsletter - Do you have a photo or story to share about North Head? If so, please send to northhead@fastmail.com.au

Back in Time

Jenny Wilson

Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW: 1931-1954), 7 Nov 1935, "BIG FORT FOR NORTH HEAD?"

FORTIFICATIONS and military barracks, covering 40 acres of North Head, as an item in the Federal Government's proposed extension of defence on our coastlines, were mentioned at the monthly meeting of the Parks and Playgrounds Movement of N.S.W. yesterday. Outside the mention of the possibility of the scheme being put into effect, the Movement was unaware of any definite action being taken, and consequently passed a resolution that a letter should be written to the Federal Government asking for particulars concerning the possible alterations to the landscape of North Head. "Through experience with the Chowder Bay naval oil tanks, and their being now a blot on our fore shores. despite our strong protest, we are determined to get in early before any other such project is put into operation," said Mr. D. G. Stead; in moving the resolution. The Movement also passed a resolution that a letter, should be written to the Government regarding the disposal of sewage. The Movement suggests that, the whole problem of sewage disposal should be reviewed with an eye to the national asset of our beach front and the damage done thereto by the present emptying of the sewage into the sea."

Third Cemetery

Jenny Wilson

Unfortunately, Annie Egan or Elizabeth McGregor do not meet the criteria for inclusion on the Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour as neither served overseas whilst serving with the Australian Army Nursing Service. Both served in Australia in what is classed as Home Service. Annie Egan served in the AANS from 23 November 1918 to 3 December 1918 at North Head Quarantine Station.

Whilst Elizabeth McGregor did serve overseas from 1914 -1917, it was with the Australian Voluntary Hospital and the British Red Cross. The Australian War Memorial does not take this into account. Only her AANS service is assessed. This was from 23 August 1918 to 5 December 1918 and was undertaken entirely in Australia, at Randwick Military Hospital and North Head Quarantine Station. Their service terminated at their deaths from pneumonia which was what their patients had. Both nurses are buried in the Third Cemetery.

