



# North Head Sanctuary Foundation Inc

## Custodians of North Head

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

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

email [northhead@fastmail.com.au](mailto:northhead@fastmail.com.au)

Newsletter No 162 April 2022

### Thank you

To John Faulkner – former Minister of Defence, with responsibility for North Head and other military sites around Sydney Harbour for his interesting talk on the **Bondi to Manly Walk**.

Check out <https://www.bonditomanly.com> for details of the walks, maps and other interesting info.

### Education Room - Bandicoot Heaven

We are open **Saturdays and Sundays between 10am and 4pm**. Please call in and see us.

Some of our volunteers are no longer available after such a long break and we are keen to gain some new recruits.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer and helping visitors to better get to know North Head and all its treasures, should contact Judy Lambert (email: [tswombat@iinet.net.au](mailto:tswombat@iinet.net.au) or phone 0427 217 580).

### Native Plant Nursery

We grow Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub plants at our Nursery for planting into degraded areas of North Head. If you would like to join us, there is a lot of planting, weeding and maintenance to be done, especially as weeds love all this rain.

Please call in any Tuesday or Friday morning between 8am and noon, when we are open or email [northhead@fastmail.com.au](mailto:northhead@fastmail.com.au)

To join you must be a member of North Head Sanctuary Foundation and be COVID vaccinated.

### Storm Damage



Harbour Federation Trust Visitor Center to collapse.

While most of our areas were okay after all the heavy rain, there was damage to our gardens at the entrance to North Fort caused by the flood of water that caused part of the sandstone wall outside the Sydney

The bank of the Frog Pond above North Head Scenic Drive, near St Barbara's Ave also collapsed near the drain due to the amount of water coming down the slope. This spilled sand and rocks onto the road. The bank will need to be repaired before we fix up the area.



Photo Ian Evans

### Hanging Swamp Track now open

You can now enjoy a walk around the Hanging Swamp, watch all the dragon flies, hear the frogs and maybe see a duck.



A Black Pacific Duck enjoying the Hanging swamp. Photo by Anne Pickles

### *Tricoryne elatior*

a small perennial herb with a height of 10 to 40cm. One of the joys of North Head is finding hidden delights when out walking.



photo by Elizabeth Mills

## Diamond Python



The Diamond Python is found in large bushland areas, but often goes undetected because of its nocturnal,

slow-moving habits. It is non-venomous but can inflict a painful bite, so if you see one, please leave it alone.



Photos by Alan Ventress taken on North Fort Road

## Third Cemetery Incorrect Quarantine Record

Kaye Lee

The entry in the Quarantine Station Record of Deaths for Burial No.22 states that a four year old boy by the name of Alexander Myles died in quarantine on 16 January 1886 following amputation of his right hand after an accident on board the Parthia. Research shows however, that it was Alexander's little sister Jane who was hurt on board ship, and subsequently died on 16 January following amputation of her left foot above the ankle. Jane is buried in the Third Cemetery.

Alexander, Jane, their mother and four other siblings, were travelling aboard the immigrant ship SS Parthia, to meet father, Alexander Myles and start a new life in NSW, but the ship was called into quarantine, as there was a measles outbreak on board. Newspapers of the day reported that Jane, aged about 2, had been playing about the ship when her leg was caught in the chain of the steering gear aft (1,2). Her left foot had been crushed so badly, it required immediate amputation above the ankle, but she died three days later. Her death is confirmed by the U.K Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths at Sea, 1844-1890 which shows that Jane A.D. Myles, aged 2, died from shock and prostration on 16 January 1886. Two records of the death are also held by the NSW Registry of Births,

Deaths and Marriages NSW, one registered at Manly and the other registered as a marine death. Three other children also died on board the Parthia on that trip (as well as one adult) but Alexander Myles (the boy recorded as having died in the Quarantine records) is not one of them, nor is his death recorded in the UK records. Alexander did in fact live a long life, dying in 1950 (3).

The error in recording the death of the wrong child in the Quarantine record seems to have stemmed from a misreading of the entries made in the Assisted Immigrant Passenger List for the SS Parthia arriving on 13 January 1886 (4). Almost all members of the Myles family, including mother Mary and children, Mary, Catherine, Robert, Duncan and Jane are entered line by line, but 4 year old Alexander's name, omitted initially, has been added between the lines, dots being used extending from both Alexander and Jane's names to differentiate their ages, and to the far right in the Remarks column, on the line clearly associated with Jane is stated "Died in Quarantine". To a person not concentrating, it might seem from the way Alexander's entry has been squashed in above his sister's entry, that he died in quarantine. The difference in the details recorded of injury sustained and amputation carried out (i.e., to the right hand), compared to the limb actually involved (left foot) bears no reasonable explanation. Quite extraordinary!

Perhaps a good thing that bereaved mother, Mary would not have seen this incorrect record, as having just lost her youngest child, she was forced to hear her newly deceased daughter's name mistakenly called for disembarkation. On 21 January, the Governor and his wife, Lord and Lady Carrington, boarded the Parthia and prior to touring the ship, sat through the roll call of each immigrant departing the ship. After Mrs. Myles name had been called and she had replied, Jane's name was also called, which brought Mrs. Myles to tears. She was quickly ushered away, but Lady Carrington rushed after her and endeavoured to console her (5).

1. 1886 'ARRIVAL OF THE PARTHIA WITH IMMIGRANTS.', The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW: 1883 - 1930), 14 January, p. 6. , viewed 13 Mar 2022, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article237237561>
2. 1886 'Immigrant Steamer Parthia.', Evening News (Sydney, NSW: 1869 - 1931), 14 January, p. 4. , viewed 13 Mar 2022, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article111192779>
3. NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages, viewed 12 March 2022 <https://familyhistory.bdm.nsw.gov.au/lifelink/familyhistory/search/result?3>
4. Assisted Immigrants (digital) Shipping Lists; 1886 SS Parthia Reel 2143 [4/4811], NSW State Archives & Records viewed 12 March 2022
5. 1886 'LORD AND LADY CARRINGTON'S VISIT TO THE PARTHIA.', The Yass Courier (NSW : 1857 - 1929), 22 January, p. 2. , viewed 12 Mar 2022, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article263932805>