



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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General Meeting

Our next General Meeting will be on 3 December 2022 at 2pm in Building 20, Bandicoot Heaven.

Our speaker will be Dr Peter Mitchell and the subject - North Head: geology and landscape.

Peter trained and worked as a geologist and soil scientist and spent too many years peddling environmental management at Macquarie University.

He was a member of Manly Council's Scientific Advisory panel when they were concerned about sustainability and climate change before those were household words. After teaching thousands, he retired to become a consultant on the rocks, dirt and landscapes of Aboriginal sites over much of Australia.

Peter is presently involved in promoting a potential UNESCO GeoRegion centred on Ku-ring-gai Chase and is helping local governments to set up geotrails that will interpret the geological features of this area.

In his talk on North Head Peter may challenge some of your understanding of just what this landscape was like before the Army and the Water Board moved in.

Everyone welcome.

Northern Beaches Eco Awards 2022

Achievement Award - Lifetime

Winner: Dr Judy Lambert

"Dr Judy Lambert has been strongly focused on North Head for becoming a national heritage site. Among many important conservation efforts, Judy is a Founding Member and ongoing member of the Friends of Quarantine Station as well as the Founding President of the North Head Sanctuary Foundation, fondly known as Bandicoot Heaven. Judy was one of the leading advocates for the listing of Cabbage Tree Bay as a No Take Aquatic Reserve and is also a Founding Member of the Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay and continues to volunteer for this group who celebrate 10 years this year.

Dr Lambert's scientific background, combined with her enthusiasm and commitment, makes her a very valuable resource for the community. Always willing to share her knowledge on all matters of conservation and environment, Dr Judy Lambert is highly deserving of this year's Lifetime Achievement Award."

<https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/community/awards/northern-beaches-eco-awards/eco-award-winners-2022>

Editor's note: Council report, summarising a nomination by NHSF member Toni Stevenson.

Education Room - Bandicoot Heaven

We are open on **Saturdays and Sundays between 10am and 4pm**. Please call in and have a chat.

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: twswombat@iinet.net.au or phone 0427 217 580).

Native Plant Nursery

The Nursery grows mainly Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub plants for planting by our volunteers into degraded areas of North Head. We are also looking after and planting in and around the frog habitat.

If you would like to join us, there is planting, weeding and maintenance to be done.

Please call in any Tuesday or Friday morning between 8am and noon, when we are open if its not raining or email northhead@fastmail.com.au if you would like to join us. To join you must be a member of North Head Sanctuary Foundation and be COVID vaccinated.

Enjoy North Head



Photo Ian Evans

Flannel flowers (*Actinotus helianthi*) are out in all their glory, so go for a walk and enjoy them together with all the other native flowers. Always something to see.

Identifying Frogs

Peter Macinnis

I'm not a frog expert, but an old friend at the Australian Museum talked me into running Frog Watch in 1991, based on my being a writer who knew computers, so I had to pick up frog lore in a hurry. I learned that frogs are variable, so appearance can trick you, but their calls are very distinctive. *Crinia signifera* goes giddy-giddy, *Pseudophryne australis* sounds like a rat being squashed, and *Limnodynastes peronii* goes **Pock!** In fact, when rain is coming, a gang of *L. peronii* can sound like a grass fire

on an ex-wartime airstrip in PNG, with the ground carpeted with old ammunition, but that's another story.

L. peronii uniquely produces foamy spawn, which I have



seen this year at North Fort, the Hanging Swamp, and in the new Gunners Road frog habitat. All three frogs

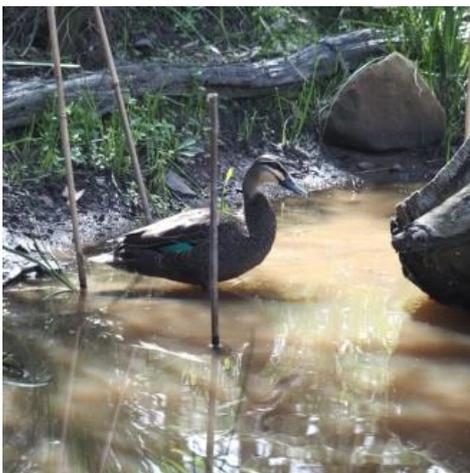
can be heard calling on the headland, but seeing one is always reassuring.

In mid-September, Nick Ewald found a frog between his feet. Now one of the things I learned at the museum is never to handle frogs, because their skin may be covered with poisonous anti-bacterials, and our skin may have fungal spores that could kill the frog.



I took off my hat, not in reverence to a dying frog, but because the hat should be fairly clean. A wadded glove persuaded the beast onto the hat, we raised it, and Juanita Roberts took this

shot. Here, you can see the hat, and a blow-up inset. Frogs don't live in water: they drown in it, so we did not drop our new friend in the water. Rather, we set it down in



cover, near water, and left it to go its way. I'm not totally convinced it was *L. peronii*, but it probably was. The frog that appeared under Nick's feet a week later was

definitely a *Crinia*.

Now I wait to see the rare and endangered red-crowned toadlet, *Pseudophryne australis*, but I know how to detect it. I need to go out on a rainy night, take off my hat, bellow "FROG!", listening for squashed-rat replies. I hope the police believe me, and that the frog habitat's resident ducks won't mind too much.

You see, it takes a village to raise a child, and a community to make this habitat: the rocks and plants provide shelter, not only for the frogs, but also for frog food. Predators maintain a balance...



Editors note

Both Nick and Juanita are Nursery volunteers, as is Peter.

Third Cemetery

Jenny Wilson

On 4 April 1900, John Gaynor aged 28 was removed to Quarantine from Law St Ultimo together with his contacts, Rachael Gaynor, John Gaynor jnr, William Gaynor.

Argus (Melbourne, Vic :1848-1957), Monday 9 April 1900. THE BUBONIC PLAGUE.

"In addition to Mrs. Langford, the following persons have succumbed to the disease;

John Gaynor aged 28 years, who was quarantined from Ultimo last Tuesday; Mary Rawlinson, quarantined on Thursday; Fred. Boshell, Arthur Yates, and Mary Quinn. The child Boshell survived the attack only a few hours. Quinn was quarantined on Wednesday and Yates on Friday.

Thirty-seven "contacts" were released from quarantine yesterday, and 30 more to-day.

A summary of the cases of plague for the week ending midnight last night gives the following figures:—In the hospital at the beginning of the week, 36; admitted during the week, 29; deaths, 9; leaving in the hospital, 56. The total number of cases since the outbreak in January is 83, and the total of deaths 26. The number of "contacts" sent to quarantine is 424, there remaining at North Head yesterday 145. Only five cases have broken out among the "contacts."

With the exception of one or two patients admitted during the last two days, all those in the hospital at North Head are doing well."

All of the deceased mentioned above were buried in the Third Cemetery. John Gaynor's contacts were released in due course.

Newsletter

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