



North Head Sanctuary Foundation Inc

Custodians of North Head

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Newsletter No 177 July 2023

Education Room - Bandicoot Heaven

We are open on **Saturdays and Sundays between 10am and 4pm**. Please call in and have a chat. We can provide you with information about the plants, birds, small animals and other parts of North Head's natural environment.

We are keen to recruit volunteers interested in helping visitors better get to know North Head. Anyone interested 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. You are welcome to join us. There is always planting, weeding and maintenance to be done. Please call in any Tuesday or Friday morning between 8am and noon when we are open, or email northhead@fastmail.com.au if you would like to join us.

Bandicoot Heaven & Native Plant Nursery:

To become a volunteer, you must be a member of North Head Sanctuary Foundation and be COVID vaccinated.

<https://www.northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au/join/20190629%20NHSF%20membership%20form.pdf>

Back in Time

Jenny Wilson

Evening News (Sydney, NSW:1869-1931), 5 June 1900.

The Plague

"A 'quarantine area' has been proclaimed at Manly. Its boundaries are Fountain-street, the Corso, one side of the old Manly pier, a line running twenty yards outside the pier boundary to opposite Eustace-street, and thence along Eustace-street to the point of commencement at Fountain-street. Any person who wishes may now obtain tickets for inoculation at the Town Hall, no matter where residing or employed.

Under the auspices of the Sydney Ladies' Sanitary Association, Dr. W. Camac Wilkinson delivered an interesting lecture on the bubonic plague at the Town Hall on Monday afternoon. There was a very large attendance."

Note from Terry Metherell - Fountain Street was an early name for the section of (what is now) Sydney Road, between Belgrave Street and The Corso. There may have been an idea for a large fountain feature, perhaps at the junction of Fountain Street and the Corso, as another tourist attraction like the stone Camera Obscura tower (Tower Park/Camera Street) and stone kangaroo (Kangaroo Street).

New lookouts for North Head



"NPWS is pleased to announce the opening of the new lookouts at North Head, Burragula and Yiningma. Burragula (southern lookout) and Yiningma (northern lookout), are safe, accessible and provide stunning views along Sydney's coastline and city skyline for our visitors to enjoy.



Designing with Country

The two new lookouts were designed to reflect Aboriginal connection to Country and include spaces to share stories and learn about Country.

Burragula meaning sunset provides views southwards across to South Head and into Sydney harbour and is associated with burraga, the long-nosed bandicoot, which is most active at this time. Yiningma meaning cliff edge, provides views along the coastline and far out to sea and the beautiful sandstone seating is in the shape of a Bara or fishhook."



As well as enjoying the view, have a look at the floor of the lookouts.

Photos
Jenny
Wilson

Text from NPWS website

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/park-management/community-engagement/sydney-harbour-national-park/north-head-upgrade>

Yarning as a scientific activity Peter Macinnis

All that glisters is not gold, because we once had many Christmas beetles like this one. The past tense must apply, because their numbers have plummeted in recent years. I think we all know how rare they are now, but can we prove it?



I went to a talk a few weeks back given by an enthusiastic former Canadian (she's ours now) entomologist who has been surveying local wee beasties around Manly Dam. She complained that we have anecdotal evidence on the decline of Christmas beetles, but we have no data, because nobody counts insects.

Back in the mid-60s, I was an undergrad research assistant in a forest entomology lab, and a research contract was signed, just before I left. People planting *Eucalyptus* trees on abandoned dairy farms had found Christmas beetles were defoliating the saplings, and the planters were unhappy. Before I left, we had ruled out cow pats, which I had suggested might have been harbouring eggs, and we were grasping at straws.

Years later I got the solution: in science, tea, coffee and beer breaks are much underestimated as useful tools, and having a beer with one of my former colleagues, I learned that they had concluded that the ex-dairy farms, with no trees, had been lacking in resident possums, which ate Christmas beetles, so the plantation trees were being

stripped.

This all flooded back into what passes for my mind as she spoke, and I had a rough hypothesis, barely more than a partly-baked idea." (PBI is science code for 'weird stuff'.) The ento people were all older than me, and are likely dead by now, so I may be the last link, and I need to pass this on. I don't hold possums in high regard, and my daughter, now a Kiwi botanist, detests them (possums were released in New Zealand and became a serious pest). On a few occasions when one was caught in a Montessori kindy garbage bin (until we persuaded them to seal the bins) I would don my wrangling gloves and lift them out. The ungrateful beasts would try to bite and scratch, until I dropped them into a bucket, where they subsided into quiescence (that's a pro tip!). I carried them away, told them to say no to bins, and released them, but I blame our current lack of Christmas beetles on the possums. You can't have everything!

Third Cemetery

Jenny Wilson

Evening News (Sydney, NSW : 1869 - 1931), Monday 28 May 1900, page 4

"THE PLAGUE.

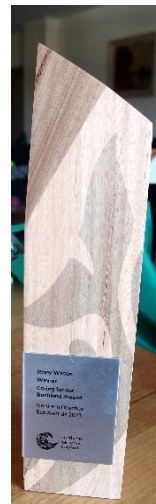
No cases of plague were reported on Saturday. William Henry Brown, 17, a greengrocer, residing at Moncur-street, Woollahra, was found to be suffering from plague on Sunday. There are six contacts."

He died on 4 June 1900 and was buried in the Third Quarantine Cemetery.

Northern Beaches Council 'Caring for our Bushland' 2023 EcoAward winner

Great to see Jenny Wilson win this year's bushland award.

Jenny has contributed countless hours in her 18 years working as a volunteer at the North Head Sanctuary Foundation (NHSF) and native plant nursery. In addition to being our treasurer and newsletter editor, Jenny continues to assist with the revegetation program for the nationally endangered Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub.



Newsletter

If you would like a copy of our e-Newsletter, just email northhead @fastmail.com.au.

If you have a photo, information, or a story regarding North Head, please send to same email address. Thank you.