



North Head Sanctuary Foundation Inc

Custodians of North Head

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Annual General Meeting –

Will be held on Saturday 16 September 2023 at 2pm in Bandicoot Heaven.

Our speaker will be Dr Helen Smith, Technical Officer in the Arachnology section Australian Museum and her topic,

Spiders and their silky secrets.

Spiders are famous for their silken traps, but they actually use this marvellous thread for all kinds of things. Helen will talk about some local spiders; how different species use silk in their lives and how you can often tell 'who' is around just from the silky evidence.

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:

tswombat@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. Interestingly our Nursery volunteers did 3597 hours for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.



There are some of our Tuesday volunteers at work on the bank behind Building One, the Barracks. Other volunteers were working on the old oval and other areas.
Photo Ian Evans

You are welcome to join us. There is always planting, weeding and maintenance to be done. By weeding we are preventing the weed seed from entering the seed bank in the soil where native seeds are stored. 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.

Spring wildflower walks are returning

Spring is promising to begin early this year, and it looks as though wildflowers will be plentiful. Our guided wildflower walks will begin on Sunday 10 September.

Come on a 2-2½ hour walk led by Sanctuary Foundation member Geoff Lambert.

Bookings are essential.

Numbers on each walk will be limited and COVID-safe conditions respected.

You can book by emailing tswombat@iinet.net.au with

your name, contact number, number of participants in your booking and preferred walk

date, or call in to Building 20 (Bandicoot Heaven) on a Saturday or Sunday between 10am and 4pm and book on the sheet provided there.

Walks are free, but of course, we always welcome donations.

This year's walk dates will be:

Sunday 10 Sept:

Departing at 2pm

Saturday 23 Sept:

Departing at 10am

Wednesday 27 Sept:

Departing at 10am

Monday 2 Oct:

Departing at 10am

(Public Holiday)

Saturday 14 Oct:

Departing at 2pm

We look forward to sharing the splendour of North Head with you.

Open Day Q Station

The next open day will be on Sunday 10 September. More information next month. See

<https://www.qstation.com.au/self-guided-tour-q-station.html> to download a self-guided tour.

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>

If you would like a copy of our newsletter email northhead@fastmail.com.au



Pterostylis concinna

Elizabeth Mills



Or trim greenhood. It has a distinctive forked red labellum, "just visible from the front but not projecting over sinus". Photo taken in late June.

Whisky grass - *Andropogon virginicus*



Is a weed found on North Head. One can see the seeds in the photo -white fluff.

Photo Jenny Wilson

"Whisky grass prefers open sunny areas so can be found along roadsides, disturbed sites, waste areas, pastures, wetlands, grasslands and open woodlands.

This plant produces many seeds that are mostly spread by the wind, water, animals and vehicles and are able to readily establish on exposed soil.

Whisky grass, unlike many exotic weeds, is also known to invade native plant communities that are extremely deficient in nutrients." For more info see <https://sydneyweeds.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Whisky-grass-FS-2020.pdf>

The name came about as it was introduced to Australia as packaging for bottles of American whiskey.

Back in Time

Terry Metherell

Evening News (Sydney, NSW: 1869-1931), 1 May 1902.

THE PLAGUE.

The patient Olive Blackman, whose case was discovered at Manly on Wednesday, had not, it has been stated, been in Sydney for about ten days, so that the infection in her case was most probably local. Inquiries are being made with a view of, if possible, deciding how and where the disease was contracted. Should it be discovered that it was local, the advisability of cleansing an area at Manly will be considered. This morning's report showed that with the exception of the case of Martha Jones, who was no better, the condition of all the patients was still improving. The total number of cases is now 110."

(Olive survived the plague, as there is no death certificate for her issued in 1902).

Third Cemetery

Jenny Wilson

The above article is interesting in that there were no cases of anyone being buried at Third Cemetery of plague in 1902. The last death from plague who was buried in the Third Cemetery was that of James Ernest DERRINGTON aged 36 on 11 December 1901. He was too ill to be moved so a nurse was sent from the Coast Hospital to look after him until his death and then his body was removed for burial.

The Plague

<https://princehenryhospitalmuseum.org/the-plague/>

"Between January and August 1900, 303 cases of plague were reported in New South Wales with a mortality rate of 30 per cent. These cases were treated at the North Head Quarantine Station, to which thirteen of the Coast Hospital's most experienced nurses were sent for nursing duty, together with four ambulance drivers. This staff remained at the Quarantine Station for eight months. A second wave of plague started in January 1902 and lasted six months. In this outbreak 139 cases were notified of whom thirty-nine died. Cases of plague continued to occur each year until 1909 after which time the disease disappeared entirely from New South Wales until 1921."

In 1902 all plague cases were sent to the Coast Hospital not Quarantine.