



North Head Sanctuary Foundation Inc

Custodians of North Head

ABN 97093480659 P.O. Box 506, Balgowlah, NSW 2093

northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au

email northhead@fastmail.com.au

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Education Room - Bandicoot Heaven

New volunteers needed

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

We're sad to be losing two of our regular volunteers who are soon moving to other places. A big Thank You Katie and Tracey. With their departure, we're keen to recruit new volunteers to help provide visitors with information about the bushland. Anyone interested should contact Judy Lambert (email: tswombat@inet.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. Photo -Andy is looking over his work after he fixed the watering system by re-installing and putting in new supports.

Thank you.

Please call in any Tuesday or Friday morning between 8am and noon when we are open and see what we do, or email northhead@fastmail.com.au if you would like to join us.

Open Day at Q Station



Helen and Jenny on North Head Sanctuary Foundation stall on Open Day. The Open Day is a great day to explore Q Station by doing one or more of

their free tours during their twice yearly Open Days.

Have Your Say

North Head Sanctuary Draft Master Plan

is now available for feedback on the [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water \(DCCEEW\) consultation hub](#). Members of the public have until 5pm AEDT on Tuesday 31 October 2023 to comment on it. Visit the [DCEEW hub](#) to view the draft master plan in full, as well as a summary document.

Have a read, and supply your feedback, North Head Sanctuary is a special place to everyone to enjoy.

Thank you

Dr Helen Smith for your interesting talk about Spiders and their silken traps. Helen mentioned Australian Museum Web2Spider2 which is a scientific tool kit to monitor spider diversity in the local environment by observing web types. Have a look at

https://media.australian.museum/media/dd/documents/Am-Web2Spider_V11.4f04ced.pdf

Through the sandstone wall.

Echidna photo taken by Ian Evans at North Fort. 23 September



Back in Time

Jenny Wilson

Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842-1954), 15 April 1933

“PARK HILL RESERVE.

North Head's New Glories.

(BY W. GILMOUR.)

Three hundred and fifty acres of the finest ocean, headland, and harbour views will be open to the public after June 3, when the Federal Government hands over to the Manly Municipal Council more than half of what has been quarantine territory for many years.

The white sandstone wall that divides the 675 acres of North Head is almost complete, and, when the wide road that culminates in a great loop at Outer North Head is finished, Park Hill Reserve will be an added attraction, not only to the citizens of Sydney but to visitors from other lands.

The grandest aspect of the area is to be found from the cliffs of North Head where great walls of sandstone rise 240 feet above the Pacific. Westward are the ramifications of Port Jackson, whilst that wonderful series of sandy beach, bush, and coastal headland to the north are clearly visible when one returns towards Manly.

This magnificent bluff, presenting from the sea a high, flat-topped, precipitous appearance, must not be thought of only as a point of vantage, though that, no doubt, will be its chief charm. Nature has softened the austerity of its face by clothing it with many shrubs and decking it with many a wildflower, which one tremulously hopes, will be allowed to bloom for years to come.

Smiling upon you as you enter this unique reserve is the golden *Pultenea*. Masses of native honeysuckle greet the eye (several species of this genus, *Banksia*, are to be seen), and a small she oak (*Casuarina rigida*), which is even growing at the extreme edge of the cliffs, where its wind-blown stem lies horizontally on some flat rock in a crevice of which it has found a foothold.

Moorland slopes are characterised by the bright green leaf of the yellow-flowering geebung, or *Persoonia*, whilst tea tree (*Leptospermum floribunda*), very similar to that common in New Zealand, viz, *L. scoparium*, grey spider flower (*Grevillea*), and drumsticks, or blackfellows' marbles (*Isopogon*) are in great abundance. Above the face of the plain stand the dark heads of blackfellows' spear, the grass tree (*Xanthorrhoea*), with patches of Christmas bells (*Blandfordia*) adding radiance to the scene.

Clinging to the very edge of a precipitous cliff is an armful of native fuchsia, an *Epacris*, its tubular flowers of red tipped with white gleaming brilliantly. Hugging the coastline, too, is the sweet-scented *Lysinema*, with its massed white flowers surrounding a close and prickly leaved stem, wiry *Baeckia*, and *Darwinia*, whose white flowers are marked by their long projecting, spiky pistils, as also the daisy-like flowers of *Olearia*, distinguished by rich olive-coloured toothed leaves. Purple flowering *Hemigenia*, bearing whorls of smooth cylindrical leaves, is also prominent in the immediate vicinity of the cliffs.

Cast your eye over the edge and there, 150 feet below, where the crumbling cliffs have formed a shelving bank of rubble, *Westringia* grows in luxuriance, its pale mauve flowers standing out amidst the greenery like flecks of foam, whilst clinging to the rocky scarp is the bead fern (*Gleichenia*). Flannel flower and its minor relative are to be found all over the area, the smaller species being in abundance. Ubiquitous, too, is the red honey flower *Lambertia* which like the diminutive flannel flower, blooms all the year round. Nor must one overlook the many bunches of curly grass (*Caustis*).

The fishermen who frequent North Head have built themselves a series of ladders by which they climb the precipitous cliff. Not everyone would care to trust himself to the suspended ladder of rope that is hooked on to iron pins set in the rock at the summit. But after you have swung yourself clear of that 20 feet of space to the first ledge, the rest of the journey, assisted by staunch ladders of wood, is comparatively easy. Here, perched on a rocky projection of the exposed coast, the daring angler, at times obliterated by a curtain of foam, casts his line beyond the mouthing breakers by whose age-old onslaught this mighty cliff has been formed.”

Footnote: Several species names have changed since 1933.

Third Cemetery

Jenny Wilson

The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW:1842-1954) 20 August 1900

“THE BUBONIC PLAGUE.

On Saturday morning Robert West, who was admitted to the Quarantine Hospital suffering from plague on July 17, died in the institution. The sufferer had been very ill for many days prior to his decease and had in fact been unable to rally sufficiently to overcome the debilitating effects of the disease.

The medical report concerning the other patients gives an encouraging account of their condition.

The chaplains of the Roman Catholic, Church of England, and Presbyterian denominations, who have been at the station for the past few months, have now been informed that they are at liberty to leave whenever they please. So far there have been 303 cases registered in New South Wales, and 103 deaths. The number of persons now remaining in the hospital is eight.”

Robert West, 58 years of age, went to Prince Alfred Hospital as unwell and was transferred to the Quarantine Station. He died on 18 August 1900 and was buried in the Third Cemetery.

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>