



# North Head Sanctuary Foundation Inc

## Custodians of North Head

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### HAPPY NEW YEAR

A new beginning, if you are not already a member of North Head Sanctuary Foundation, think about becoming a member.

If you join now your membership goes to 30 June 2025.

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

Once you join us you might like to volunteer in either our Information room or Nursery. You are welcome to come and say hello and see what we do.

### 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 need to recruit new volunteers to help provide visitors with information about North Head and its bushland.

Anyone interested should contact Judy Lambert (email: [twswombat505@gmail.com](mailto:twswombat505@gmail.com) or phone 0427 217 580).

### Native Plant Nursery



Some of our Nursery volunteers at our Christmas morning tea. The Nursery grows mainly Eastern Surburbs 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 in one of our areas.

Please call in any Tuesday or Friday morning between 8am and noon, in really hot weather we may not work, or may leave early due to the heat. Email [northhead@fastmail.com.au](mailto:northhead@fastmail.com.au) if you would like to join us.

### Heritage Road at North Head?

Jan Ritchie

During one of our Foundation's spring wildflower walks for community members led by Geoff and Judy Lambert, the group found themselves on the wide path built along the coastal side of the headland's dune system. marked on the



map as the Avenue of Honour. The group was surprised to hear one of the participants exclaim with reverence that they were walking on a 'Telford road'! What, you may ask, is a Telford road? And also, what actually is an Avenue of Honour?

Last century, Manly Council made the decision to recognise fallen soldiers from the first World War through tree plantings in avenue formation. Four Avenues of Honour were established in the Manly locality with the last completed at North Head in 1933. Here 209 newly planted Norfolk Island pine trees lining the Avenue were each dedicated to the memory of a soldier. (Note that at that time, introduced species like these pines were valued far more than the local 'scrub'!) Possibly due to the large amount of broken rock pieces of Hawkesbury sandstone that had been locally quarried but were now lying around, left from the construction of the headland's many walls, the Avenue itself was built following the innovative construction design established in the previous century by Thomas Telford. Telford was a Scottish stonemason who rose to become a respected but self-taught surveyor and engineer making a name for himself in the early 1800s in the way he constructed roads. Although the stones on our headland's Avenue of Honour appear to be randomly placed cobblestones, this is not actually the case. Telford had designed the underlying foundation layer of his roads to be meticulously hand-packed with larger and evenly sized stones, carefully siting them to account for alignment and drainage. He planned for the intermediate and wearing layers on the surface above this base to consist of

angular broken stones that were to be packed purposefully in an irregular pattern.



Sadly, the Avenue at North Head was never completely finished, and the significance of the plantings did not last long. Two thirds of the trees died, with rabbits and drought being blamed for their death. The remaining trees that did live are said to have been stolen by local residents to be replanted in their own gardens – a rather sad ending to what started as a worthwhile effort.

Next time you take this path, rather than complaining of the hard-to-walk-on, uneven surface – as I have been guilty of doing in the past – why not instead try valuing the efforts of early road makers? More importantly, despite the lack of trees, pay your respects to those the Avenue intended to be honourably remembered.

With acknowledgement to earlier notes from Geoff Lambert and Terry Metherell. Photos Peter Macinnis

### **Weeds Found on North Head** Jenny Wilson

“Tussock paspalum can quickly invade bushland where it forms very dense infestations. It outcompetes native plants and reduces food and shelter for native animals. It also changes fire regimes and provides shelter for feral animals.

Tussock paspalum grows in large bluish-green tufts reaching 2 m high. The leaves are up to 70 cm long and 9



mm wide and are sometimes folded inwards. They are hairless except near the ligule. The seed heads are 12 to 25 cm long, pyramid shaped usually with 15 - 25 branchlets.

Flowering is mostly in spring. It is spread by seed. The sticky seeds can be spread by animals, on clothing, vehicles or machinery. Water also spread the seeds.”

<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Tussockpaspalum>



### **Third Cemetery**

Jenny Wilson

Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954),  
Thursday 31 May 1900, page 8

### **THE BUBONIC PLAGUE. ANOTHER CLEAR DAY.**

“The Register of fresh cases of bubonic plague yesterday was clean, showing that none were discovered There was, however, one death - Roger Drummond, whose illness was diagnosed on Monday. All the work in the quarantined areas was completed yesterday, and as no further areas have been declared, the men engaged on them, to the number of 1050, were temporarily dismissed. It is, however, understood that they will be again engaged. On the wharfs all the staff has been retained, and work there is progressing. Two of the wharfs are practically ready for occupation, there remaining nothing to be done except the painting of the woodwork. On another the concrete beneath the decking has all been laid, and the men are now relaying the decking.

Yesterday's report from the quarantine hospital states that one of the sufferers is worse than on the previous day, another was very delirious all night, two more are said to be not well, and all the rest are doing very well.

The number of rats delivered direct at the incinerator yesterday by the ratcatcher was 546, while an additional 125 came from the suburban receiving depot.”

Roger Drummond was 23 years old, and lived at Albion Street, Annandale. He worked at Blackwattle Bay. His case was discovered at Prince Alfred Hospital, and he was moved to Quarantine Hospital where he died on 30 May 1900. He was buried in the Third Cemetery.