



North Head Sanctuary Foundation Inc

Custodians of North Head

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Newsletter No 188 June 2024

General Meeting Saturday 15 June 2024

At Bandicoot Heaven, Building 20, at 2pm. Our guest speaker is Alana Guest, Anderson Environment & Planning's ecologist and project leader at North Head. Alana will give us an overview of AEP's work as the new contract environment manager to the Trust at North Head, taking over from AWC. Everyone welcome.

Education Room - Bandicoot Heaven

New volunteers needed

We are open on **Saturdays and Sundays between 10am and 4pm**. Please call in, have a chat and see our new echidna poster. We also have some new card designs. 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: twsombat505@gmail.com or phone 0427 217 580).

3-year agreement at North Head

Judy Lambert After lengthy negotiations, including lots of documents to review and make input to, various meetings with our 'landlord' the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, and thorough scrutiny by the Harbour Trust's solicitors, NHSF now has a new 3-year Memorandum of Understanding and a Licence to operate at North Head.

Our native plant nursery group's plant propagation and use around the site, community education activities, and occasional citizen science projects will continue, at least for the next 3 years.

We do have to agree annual work/operational plans for each of the three key components of our volunteer work and submit progress reports along the way to show that we are meeting agreed volunteer commitments. It is these that ensure our rent for the areas we occupy in the School of Artillery area, just up North Fort Road from the Parade Ground, is offset.

Your visits help us to sustain this agreement.

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 (never ending), and maintenance to be done in one of our many areas. At present we are targeting the weed, Whiskey Grass as it is producing seed. Please call in any Tuesday or Friday morning between 8am and noon. Email northhead@fastmail.com.au if you would like to join us.

We especially need more help on a Friday morning.

Fungi: North Head and beyond

Peter Macinnis

Fungi get a bad press, because a few of them (yeasts and moulds) make us sick, or even kill us. Still, if it weren't for the fungi, our gardens and the bush would smell a lot worse, and bushfires would be hotter. Some fungi clean up the dead matter, quickly and cleanly.

The Good Guys are the mushrooms, toadstools and bracket fungi, and as these are much easier to spot, I will talk about them. First, science knows no toadstools, and to ordinary folk a toadstool is any poisonous mushroom.

There is a joke: *every mushroom is edible, once*.

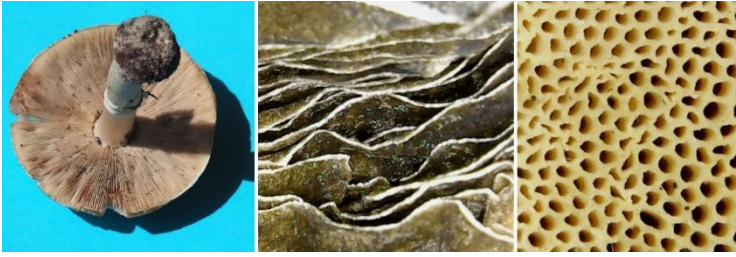
There are also Bad Guys, from our point of view as Friends of Plants. For example, *Phytophthora* causes dieback in banksias, eucalypts and grass-trees. On the other hand, there are the symbiotic (or mutualistic) fungi whose mycorrhiza are essential to many plants, including orchids, and there is fossil evidence that this has been happening for 400 million years.

One of the better-known 'bad' (for humans) mushrooms, the fly agaric, forms mycorrhiza with northern trees like pine and birch. And then there the puffballs: when you kick one of them (or tread on them), spores pour out to float on the breeze. All of the visible parts we see in this picture are designed to give the next generation a good chance of surviving.



L to R, A basidiomycete (mushroom), a bracket fungus (both North Head) and a puffball from Wilpena.

As a rule, I leave the fungi to do their own thing, but sometimes we need a closer look. The mushrooms have 'gills' that drop spores out, while the bracket fungi have 'pores':



And those coins? They are for scale: a 50-cent coin is 32 mm across...Some years back, I was photographing fossils in the Jurassic limestone used in many Spanish churches, and a companion asked me why I was always picking up money off church floors. I showed him my latest prize. "Not just money," I said, "but *Australian* money!"



mushroom



Small fungi



Pretty ones

Back in Time

Sun (Sydney, NSW:1910-1954), Tuesday 9 August 1938.

GIANT GUNS FIRE FIRST SHOTS

Emerging ominously from its underground hide-away among the scrub and sand of the North Head Military Reserve, Australia's largest heavy coastal defence battery boomed for the first time today.

From each of the two guns of 9.2 calibre, four rounds were fired. Windows shook in Manly, but the inconvenience caused by the concussion was surprisingly small. Using a switchboard 100 yards away, the Minister for Defence Mr. Thorby fired the first of the big 380lb. shells. There was, however, a preliminary hitch. Promptly at 9.30 a.m., the guns were ready for action. Army officials had gathered to watch the battery's baptism of fire. An Avro-Anson bomber reconnoitered overhead. In Line of Fire then, into the line of fire — unaware of warnings issued to shipping - crept a slow-moving coastal steamer. There was nothing to do but wait. Hardly had it crept to safety when the first gun boomed. The Lord Mayor. Ald. Nock fired the second shot. A military observer was at Manly Hospital, where, according to the secretary, Mr. F. Meadows, the shaking of the windows was not as bad as during other gun practice.

Third Cemetery

Jenny Wilson

Daily Observer (Tamworth, NSW : 1917 - 1920),
Wednesday 4 December 1918.

SOLDIERS OF THE NORTH

At Home and Abroad.

The influenza epidemic claimed an Inverell soldier as a victim in the person of Pte. Frederick Morgan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Morgan, of Dog Trap. Deceased's two older brothers, Privates William and Hubert, have been with the A.I.F. in France for over three years, and it had been the great ambition of the deceased to join them. When he attained the age of 19, he enlisted, and he had been in camp about four months' when he sailed in the Medic."

Pte Frederick Morgan was buried in the Third Cemetery



with full military honours. His grave is under one of the concrete slabs in the Cemetery. There is a bronze plaque for him in the Garden of Remembrance.