



North Head Sanctuary Foundation Inc

Custodians of North Head

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Sad passing of cartoonist Michael Leunig and his link to NHSF

Judy & Geoff Lambert

Thursday 19 December was a sad day for many readers of the SMH and Melbourne Age. The death of quirky but extremely thoughtful cartoonist, Michael Leunig, leaves a hole in the lives of many who knew and loved Mr Curly, his collection of teapots, the moon and the wisdom he gained from his friends the ducks.

Geoff first met Michael through a cadet media photographer friend Ken, while at uni. Ken said "You have to come and meet this bloke. He's just like you – really weird". From there Michael Leunig was 'on our radar'.

In our early days as environmental campaigners, mostly with The Wilderness Society-TWS, Michael had an office/studio upstairs from the TWS Melbourne office and we came to know him a little more. The depth of his whimsical views of the world are reflected not only in his cartoons, but also in a series of wilderness films, in one of which he featured. Now almost 40 years old, 'Central Australia: Tracks in the Sand' is a deeply thoughtful documentary about Central Australia and its original inhabitants.

But why in particular does Michael's passing have significance for NHSF? Next time you are visiting Bandicoot Heaven take a look at the blue & white sign that announces that we are open. The 'Bandicoot' is an authorised adaptation of Michael's 'lean and nosey' ferret (see <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/10081499-ferretabilia>)

When we decided to create a sign that might attract visitors to Bandicoot Heaven, Geoff sought

Michael's permission to use his 'ferret' as our 'bandicoot'. He was delighted at the suggestion.

Next time you are passing Building 20 on North Fort Road on a Saturday or Sunday between 10am and 4pm, look out for the sign, and think of the amazing Michael Leunig – a deep thinker and for almost 60



years a media cartoonist with his own particular style – now sadly missed.

Save the Date

The next NHSF general meeting is scheduled to be held on **Saturday 15 March at 2pm** in Bandicoot Heaven. Please save the date in your diary! Confirmation and meeting papers, including details of the expert guest speaker, will be sent to members by email at least 2 weeks ahead of the meeting.

Volunteering Opportunities

Pam Smith

Why not consider joining our lively band of NHSF volunteers - photographed here at the 2024 Christmas Party at Bella Vista Café.



Photo: Peter Macinnis

Winners of our "Come as NHS flora, fauna or fungi competition" were *Best in Show*: Juanita Roberts (Illegal immigrant rabbit transforming into a lace wing butterfly); *Nice Try*: Andy Evans (*Actinosa helianthi* – Flannel Flower); and *Highly Commended*: Geoff Lambert (*Lambertia geoffii* – new species!), Lyn McNeil (*Pimelea linifolia* – Riceflower) and Jan Ritchie (*Ricinocarpos pinifolius* – Wedding Bush). Winners were expertly judged by Toni Blackwell of Anderson Environment and Planning.

A feature of the day was Peter Macinnis's "Hard Quiz" to name the items on his t-shirt! T-shirts are available for \$30. Contact Peter at: petermacinnis44@gmail.com

Opportunities to volunteer are available now in Bandicoot Heaven on Saturdays and Sundays (10am-4pm), or in one of the Tuesday or Friday Nursery groups (8am-12pm). Come join in the fun. Email northhead@fastmail.com.au if you are interested. NHSF membership is required.



Nursery success

Jen Muirhead



The NHSF nursery grows mainly Eastern

Suburbs Banksia Scrub plants for planting by our volunteers into degraded areas of North Head.

Our collaborative nursery team has been successful over the past year in propagating a number of local plant species - by germinating seeds and taking cuttings - and the plants are now ready for planting out in appropriate locations.

The species include *Banksia aemula*, a number of different local *Acacia*, *Grevillea*, *Xanthorrhoea*, *Pimelea*, *Hibbertia*, *Lasiopetalum*, *Epacris*, *Bossiaea*, *Westringia*, *Calytrix* and many others. We have a constant battle with rabbits, so all new plants are guarded when planted out.

You are welcome to join us – particularly on a Friday! There is always planting, weeding (never ending!), and maintenance to be done in our many 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.

New project for 2025

Nick Ewald

The nursery group has a new project to transform part of the grassed bank west of St Barbaras Ave into an extension of the remnant bushland now fronting Scenic Drive. At approximately 400m² this



New site under preparation for planting. Photo: Nick Ewald

will be a big undertaking with great opportunities for everyone to contribute from conception to establishment and maintenance. The grass has been sprayed twice and we are waiting for truckloads of mulch to be delivered before planting.

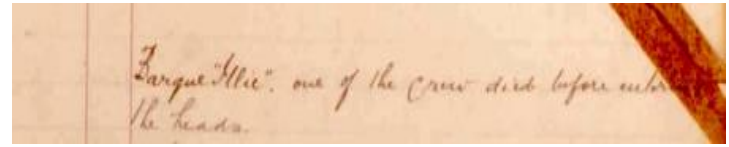
Third Quarantine Cemetery

Kaye Lee

Who actually was the seventh person buried in the Third Cemetery and on what ship did he arrive? Confusingly called Christian Andersen or Anderson in newspaper reports^(1,2), Christian Roslin in Quarantine records⁽³⁾ and Christian Rusenussion in this Newsletter⁽⁴⁾, the real identity of the person buried in the seventh grave would seem an enigma. Equally questionable is the name of the craft that

brought him to the Quarantine Station, identified as the Illic in many references, at least back to 1969⁽⁵⁾.

The [Record of Deaths at the Quarantine Station](#)⁽³⁾ states that the seventh death was that of a 42 year old man named Christian Roslin who died on 14 February 1882, before his ship had entered the heads. As mentioned, the craft he was travelling on has been referred to by many as the Illic, but in reviewing the actual entry, I read it to be the 'Illie' (see below and compare the lowercase e's in the sentence).



This was confirmed by a search of [Mariners and Ships in Australian Waters](#)⁽⁶⁾ that shows the Illie arrived in Sydney on 16 December 1882 (though no sign of an Illic listed). The associated scan of the ship's original Inwards List of Crew and Passengers⁽⁷⁾ signed by the Illie's Master J W Brown, further confirms this and shows that a crew member of German nationality by the name of Roseler was dead on arrival.

In all likelihood, Master Brown would have been quite familiar with the names of his small crew, and as he was happy to include the dead man's name as Roseler in the Crew and Passenger List provided to HM Customs, it is probably the correct surname of the person in question (though the actual spelling of it could vary slightly given its German origins).

The difference between the Crew List and the Quarantine record of Roseler's name might have arisen because Roseler and Roslin can sound quite alike when spoken, but the newspaper reports of him being Christian Andersen/son have proved totally unfounded. The third name mentioned, Christian Rusenussion, whilst the only death at sea found to be registered in NSW in 1882, is shown on his Death Certificate⁽⁸⁾ to be a man who drowned whilst drawing water on the Ketch Champ, so not relevant to this story either.

An enigma no longer, it was the Barque Illie that sailed into Quarantine on 16 December 1882, and with it, the body of Able Seaman Roseler. He was buried that day, just the seventh person to be interred in the Third Cemetery.

(1) Java Fever. (1882, December 16). *Evening News (Sydney, NSW : 1869 - 1931)*, p. 6. Retrieved January 15, 2025, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article107998488>

(2) NEW SOUTH WALES. (1882, December 18). *The Age (Melbourne, Vic. : 1854 - 1954)*, p. 3. Retrieved January 15, 2025, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article198559222>

(3) [Record of Deaths at Quarantine Station](#) Folio 1, page 57; retrieved January 15, 2025 from National Archives of Australia

(4) [North Head Sanctuary Foundation Newsletter No.5 2015](#) Retrieved January 15, 2025

(5) Copy of Dept of Public Health, New South Wales; Record of deaths at the Quarantine Station Annex B to School of Artillery 1 July 1969

(6) [Mariners and Ships in Australian Waters](#) retrieved January 15, 2025; transcribed from (7) below by Gloria Sheehan

(7) State Records Authority of New South Wales: Shipping Master's Office; Passengers Arriving 1855 - 1922; NRS13278, [X158] reel 452

(8) New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Registration Number 12886/1882; Christian Rusenussion