



North Head Sanctuary Foundation Inc

Custodians of North Head

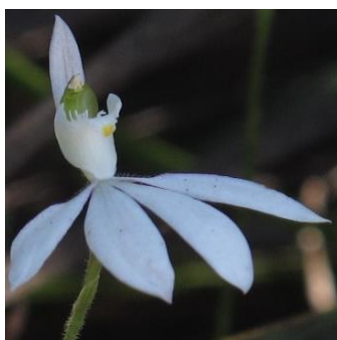
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Do orchids come from space?

Peter Macinnis

While I must concede that this is unlikely, most of the orchids on our plot are suspiciously unplantlike, but even an amateur like me can list more than a dozen living on North Head (I have not seen one of them, *Spiranthes*, since December 2014). Most of the orchids have no leaves and get their food by sending rogue fungi out to plunder genuine plants. How can they be plants when they refuse to undertake photosynthesis?



Some of orchids at least pretend to make flowers, like *Caladenia* and *Thelymitra*, above.



Less committed are the tongue orchid and the bootlace or scrambling orchid. The scrambler is probably our most widespread orchid, showing up as strings of light-yellow fairy lights on a black cylinder/bootlace which hangs onto dead timber or old trees, appearing in early September.



Three other orchids make no pretence at all. The bearded man bases itself on Costa Georgiadis. The donkey orchid and flying duck all appear in the Third



Cemetery (and other places) in September. Plants, my eye!

The careful reader will note a lack of location detail. Those of the volunteers who know the locations are happy to share these with people who don't wish to cut

them for a vase, or take them to plant in their gardens or to steal the seed to raise at home. Without the right fungal spores, without the right food plants, the seedlings will not flourish. Anyhow, if you don't see me around, the orchid aliens have come for me. Be careful: they are listening!

Birdlife Australia's annual Aussie Bird Count is on 20-26 October. Register, spend 20 minutes in a single outdoor spot counting the birds you see, then submit your results. <https://aussiebirdcount.org.au>

Garigal Landcare

Connie Harris

When Garigal Landcare started bushcare at North Head after the infamous fire that burnt 92 hectares of East Coast Banksia Scrub and Headland Heath, it was supposed to be for 1 to 2 years. Now 5 years on, the love of the area and the success of our work is there for everyone to see with wildflowers blooming everywhere and litter and weeds completely gone in large sections of the areas where we have worked.

Following the principle of the Bradley sisters we worked from the good bush to the bad bush. Areas that are less accessible to the public, like the section adjacent to the Sydney Water sewage treatment plant are now fabulous with stunning biodiversity and weed free. The Fairfax loop between the new lookouts was also an area of focus and is also a stunning example of the ancient seed bank returning after what was thought to be a disastrous burn. All the areas, which were burned and had not received foreign soil dumped in the past, are recovering beautifully. Species which had not been seen for many, many years have reappeared. All the species included in the endangered 'Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub' have been blooming and fruiting exuberantly.

Hundreds of Pampas grasses, perhaps our biggest and most invasive weed, are now removed from many areas with all agencies on North Head agreeing to get rid of it. Hurray! Paspalum and Tussock paspalum, whiskey grass and a few other known weed species have also been targeted and their removal facilitated the regrowth of the local endemic species.

Over 5 years we have seen the transformation of the landscape from black ashes into very different and unique plant communities on the different sides of North Head. It has been a delight with many of us being charmed by the land and perhaps its spirit. The bushcare team has learned on the job, shared their knowledge and love of the area, welcomed newcomers and enjoyed each other's company.

As a GP I have treated quite successfully many of my patients who often had mental health issues with Nature exposure. Additional gain comes from fresh air for our respiratory and immune systems and the light exercise brings benefits for our cardiovascular system. At North Head we get all this as well as being enchanted by our surroundings and enjoyable company!

We work every Sunday and Thursday from 8-10am. You are welcome to join and check it out. Please text me on 0432643295.



Garigal bushcare team members

James Shaw – Forgotten WW1 soldier

Kaye Lee

James Shaw lies in an unmarked grave in the Third Cemetery, just above the cement covered graves of three young soldiers from the SS Medic. All four died from pneumonic influenza at the Quarantine Station⁽¹⁾ though James alone saw active service.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ART100140

Perhaps responding to an Army recruitment poster such as this, Scottish born James (service no.2793) enlisted on 15 September 1915. Assigned as a Sapper to what would become the 7th Field Company Engineers, he left Sydney on the HMAT A23 Suffolk on 30 November bound for training in Egypt and then to conflict in France. Once there, James' Company was thrust into some of

the worst battles in WW1 in July and August 1916, at Pozieres and Mouquet Farm - the Battle of the Somme.⁽²⁾

James' military record⁽³⁾ shows little of his movements until he was discharged from No.1 Convalescent Depot in June 1916. He returned to active duty, but was hospitalised again in France on 21 August and evacuated to England through Calais on 8 September suffering from trench fever^(#). Obviously unwell, he was treated at various hospitals in England, but after being

diagnosed with tuberculosis, was shipped back to Australia.

Arriving in Melbourne on the Barambah on 10 June 1917, he was transferred overland to the 4th Australian General Hospital at Randwick, treated there for 6 months then transferred again to the Quarantine Station on 21 December, 1917. He was officially discharged from the Army on 11 January 1918 with a pension of £3 per fortnight, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

James' name then appears in a list of Males & Maids at the Quarantine Station showing that he started work as an Orderly at the Quarantine Station on 3 November 1918⁽⁴⁾. His final record is that of his death, admitted to hospital on 5 April and dying on 11 April, 1919⁽⁵⁾. James' whereabouts through most of 1918 are unknown, but it is possible that he was admitted, not to the Quarantine Hospital, but to the associated Seaman's Isolation Hospital at Collin's Beach, which treated returned soldiers for both venereal disease and tuberculosis.

James was remembered in the SMH Roll of Honour on 14 April 1919 as the "Dearly loved son of William Shaw and esteemed friend of Mr and Mrs Sydney Saunders and family, 106 Lennox Street, Newtown. Duty Done"⁽⁶⁾.



(7)



(8)

Whilst James has no headstone in the Third Cemetery, his military service is honoured on an obelisk in front of his old school, the Newtown Superior Public School, together with the names of all former students who went to the Great War⁽⁷⁾.

Trench fever was a huge infectious disease problem in WW1, the bacteria Rickettsia quintana (now called Bartonella quintana) found to be transmitted by lice. Ansted GM The centenary ... Lancet Infect. Dis. 2016 Aug; 16(8):e164-72

- (1) National Archives of Australia: C526, Register of deaths at Quarantine Station <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=314138> p.69
- (2) BirtwistleWiki https://birtwistlewiki.com.au/wiki/7th_Field_Company_-_Engineers
- (3) National Archives of Australia: B2455 <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8080508>
- (4) National Archives of Australia: C525, Roll1 Microfilm copy of Register of admissions & discharges <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=10971462> p.43
- (5) Ibid (1)
- (6) <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/15834248?searchTerm=James%20shaw%20death%201919%20quarantine>
- (7) <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/monuments-and-memorials/newtown-superior-public-school-honour-roll>
- (8) <https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/memorials/259201> Peter F. Williams-Image No.6

Remembering Jenny



Jenny's memorial plaque, located in the new 'finger' on the old oval, was unveiled recently in a small private ceremony of family and friends.