

North Head Sanctuary Foundation Custodians of North Head

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Newsletter No 10 -November 2012

NHSF is 10 years old!

Please join us on Friday 9 November 4.30-6.30pm at Bandicoot Heaven (Building 20).

Celebrate our first 10 years and hear from North Head land managers on what being a part of North Head Sanctuary means to them.

Please RSVP by Sunday 4 November to Judy Lambert – twswombat@optusnet.com.au or leave a message on 9948 7862

Aunty Fran Talk

If you missed this talk at our last meeting, the video is now on our website,

http://www.northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au/just click on the link.

North Fort Memorial Walk Dedication

On 1 December, the Memorial Walk will be dedicated as an official memorial site. The Guest of Honour at the Dedication will be Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, AC, CVO, Governor of New South Wales.

For more info - http://www.artilleryhistory.org

Ocean Care Day 2 December 2012

The Manly Environment Centre will host the 19th Ocean Care Day Festival, a free fun community event on Manly's spectacular surf beach. Check out the eco exhibitions and local art, while learning more about our gorgeous local environment as well as today's big issues.

We still need volunteers to staff our display stall for a couple of hours. If you're able to help, please contact Judy Lambert this week, by emailing twswombat@optusnet.com.au

Calochilus



Or bearded orchid is now out. This photo was taken on the North Fort fire trail. The flower looks like a wizard in a fairy tale with its colourful beard.

Native Plant Nursery



On the afternoon of 24 October our volunteers planted some of the plants grown in our Nursery onto the oval. Mulch will now have to be spread around the plants; the pile in the photo is one of many. Our planting area of the oval has been significantly extended.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the planting out and the cleaning of Bay two. Goodbye mould.

We will be increasing the number of plants being grown in our Nursery over the next twelve months, so that we will have enough plants for the extended areas. We are also growing hundreds of grasses for planting on the oval.

If you would like to help with planting on a one off basis, or help clean Bay one, or help on a regularly, please contact Sue Halmagyi at sue.halmagyi@gmail.com. Otherwise just turn up any Tuesday or Friday morning 8.30am to noon.

Giant Hills Hoists?

Geoff Lambert

The recent Blue Fish burn revealed four mysterious objects. Are they: Giant Hills Hoists? Umbrella Stands? Lawn sprinklers? Tent supports? Radar technology? or Secret Army Men's Business? Scott Pentland, North Head genius, tracked them down.

They were "wigwam" shelters for radar sets and the antenna was originally mounted on the top. They were developed by the Radiophysics Laboratory at Uni. Sydney for the RAAF. They only lasted a few days in 1942 on North Head- the Army asked for them to be moved and they went to Collaroy Plateau. How they got back to North Head is a matter for conjecture.

Spring splendour showcased to many Judy Lambert (the walks 'kelpie')



Spot the climbing orchid

As spring moves quickly towards summer, our annual spring wildflower walks have seen 65 people enjoy the North Head bushland at its best.

We started small, with 5 participants in the 2 September walk, followed by walks on 15 September (20 walkers), 30 September (16 walkers) and 1 October (19 walkers). Finally, on 21 October, 5 members of the South Turramurra Environment Protection group discovered some of what they'd been missing about North Head.

During the 2½ - 3 hour walks, Geoff Lambert blended a focus on the wildflowers with commentary on the history, heritage and bushland management on North Head. This all seemed well received, with plenty of questions as we walked and some good feedback at the end of each walk.

Education Centre – Bandicoot Heaven

Our Education room is open every weekend, from 10am to 4pm in Building 20. Call in and see us for a chat or information.

This photo was taken on the road near the Plotting Room- a little guy- less than a kilo, I would say.



photo by Geoff Lambert

Third Cemetery



Jenny Wilson

On 16 March 1888, Chow Chiong or Chow Theong died 48 years. This appears to be his headstone which shows the name Chow Ling Shon. The newspaper article has the name as Ah Ehsueng.

From The Sydney Morning Herald 17 March 1888 "SMALLPOX AT THE NORTH HEAD The steamship Moyune, Captain John Hogg, from Shanghai 10th February, Nagasaki 14th February, Hong Kong 27th February, and Thursday Island 8th March, arrived in Port Jackson at 6 a.m. on Thursday, & was immediately placed in guarantine. Upon examination it was found that one of the Chinese passengers was suffering from a severe attack of malignant smallpox in its worst form, usually known as hemorrhagic smallpox. He was at once removed to the hospital ship Faraway. This man fell ill on the 13th instant or on the 14th day of departure from Hong Kong. Four other Chinese passengers, convalescent from smallpox, but still not yet sufficiently free to be allowed with safety to mingle with the general public, were found on board this vessel. These also were removed to the Faraway. The numbers and nationalities of the crew and passengers are: 30 Chinese crew, 30 European crew, 4 distressed seamen, 78 Chinese passengers, and 8 European passengers. Yesterday it was ascertained that the Chinese passenger who was suffering from malignant smallpox died at 1 a.m. vesterday, and was immediately interred in the cemetery at the quarantine station. His name was Ah Ehsueng. He was booked as a passenger for Greymouth, NZ. As soon as the remainder of the Guthrie and Tannadice crews and passengers leave the stationwhich will probably be on Tuesday next-the passengers and crew of the Moyune will be transferred from that vessel to the houses at the North Head. The steamer will then be fumigated and handed over to the agents. The period of quarantine will date from the 15th instant, unless any other cases of the disease occur. If any fresh outbreak takes place on the vessel the passengers and crew will be retained for a period of 21 days

from the date of such on occurrence."