



# North Head Sanctuary Foundation

## Custodians of North Head

ABN 97093480659 P.O. Box 896, Balgowlah, NSW 2093  
northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au

email [northhead@fastmail.fm](mailto:northhead@fastmail.fm)

Newsletter No 10 October 2013

### Getting to know North Head's bushland

Spring is the time when North Head's bushland is at its best. **Join a 2-3 hour guided walk with Geoff Lambert.**

A walk will be held on Sunday 13 October at 2pm start. The walk will begin with an overview of the area using the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust's big map. Meet at the Gatehouse Visitor's Centre off North Head Scenic Drive (parking in Bluefish Car Park) 10 minutes before scheduled start time. Bookings essential. Limit 20 people. Email: [twswoombat@optusnet.com.au](mailto:twswoombat@optusnet.com.au) or call 9949 3521(ah).

### 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 for information about the new tracks.

### Native Plant Nursery



Our two bays, our new shed and the igloo. In time the area next to the igloo will be planted by our volunteers..

On 13 September, we had a group of soldiers from 101 Battery, 8/12 Regiment from the 1 Brigade based in Darwin, who cleaned the Nursery bays and the igloo, dug out and put blue metal around the igloo, spread mulch on the old oval, planted outside the childcare centre and put tree selves around all the small plants. This was done to stop the possums from having a feed. It was great to get all these jobs done. Thank you.

### International Fleet Review

#### Sydney 3 to 11 October 2013

This review celebrates the centenary of the first entry of the Royal Australian Navy's Fleet into Sydney. There are many events on during this time. For more info, please see <http://www.navy.gov.au/ifr/>

### Terrible odour

At our General meeting on the evening of 24 February 2010, at The Gatehouse, there was a terrible odour that just kept coming, carried by the wind. An complaint was made to EPA.

### From The Sydney Morning Herald 1 Sept 2013 "Sydney Water pressure stopped inquiry"

Natalie O'Brien

"The state's environmental watchdog suspended an investigation into complaints about Sydney Water after the head of the government's water agency complained investigators had been "heavy-handed". A NSW Ombudsman's report into the actions of the Environment Protection Authority have revealed that, after criticism from Sydney Water, authority staff were told at a meeting that their actions were "out of proportion to the significance of the issue", that too many staff had been sent to investigate an odour complaint and that the EPA had more serious things to look at.

Former EPA deputy director-general Greg Sullivan told the Ombudsman that staff were told at that meeting, in 2010, there was unhappiness at the senior levels of Sydney Water about the EPA action and that the relationship might slip back to the "bad old days".

The Ombudsman found that while it was not wrong for the EPA to consider Sydney Water's complaint and to re-evaluate resources, "to an outside observer, the sequence of events could be perceived as evidence that the EPA allowed Sydney Water to influence the terms and manner of the investigation, including who could be interviewed and when".

Many residents had complained about the way the EPA had brushed off their complaints about terrible odours coming from Sydney Water's North Head Wastewater Treatment Plant and said it could not establish beyond reasonable doubt that there had been a breach of Sydney Water's pollution licence. Fairfax Media has revealed Sydney Water breached its licences hundreds of times without prosecution by the EPA.

The Ombudsman's report revealed that while the initial investigation had been pulled up, some senior EPA staff believed the investigation had not been excessive and had uncovered evidence that pointed to potential sources of the offensive odour.

The Ombudsman said some issues highlighted by the investigation were the "lack of guidance and clarity" about how one government agency should investigate and regulate another. Confusion about what should occur "appear to be guided by unspoken cultural values rather than policy and clear guidelines", he said.

The Ombudsman made no finding about the conduct of the EPA dropping the action against Sydney Water but made 12 recommendations, which have been accepted by the EPA. They include that clear leadership roles and reporting lines be formally assigned in every investigation and that clear guidelines be established on enforcement priorities and the use of regulatory tools."

### ***Burchardia umbellata***



or milkmaids. An erect herb to 70cm tall with white star-like flowers, six petals with reddish purple ovaries in clusters on the end of slender stalks. In flower now.

### **Third Cemetery**

Jenny Wilson

"A case of smallpox was on Saturday evening reported at Manly. The medical officer of the Board of Health immediately examined the patient and confirmed the diagnosis, pronouncing the case to be one of confluent smallpox. The patient is a child of Mr. Allan Lakeman, M.L.A., who resides in Victoria parade, Manly, aged two years, and unvaccinated. The premises were immediately placed under strict quarantine, and the members of the household, 10 persons in all, were removed to the quarantine station early on Sunday morning." Sydney Morning Herald 2 April 1888.

Iole Lakeman, 2 years and 2 months old, died at 9am on 6 April 1888 and was buried in the Third Cemetery.

Unfortunately, Mrs Ellen Lakeman and Miss Elizabeth Clifford, a domestic servant to the family, developed a mild case of the disease and were transferred to the hospital ship, Faraway.

On 20 April 1888, Mr Lakeman and his five children were offered a release from Quarantine but he requested that they remain until his wife was due to be released. Request was granted.

On Saturday 5 May 1888, Mr. Lakeman, his family and servants were released from quarantine and proceeded at once to Sydney.

Dr Watkins was the Doctor called in by the family to treat Iole Lakeman.



### **Back In Time**

The Sydney Morning Herald 11 May 1888

"IN the Summons Division of the Water Police Court yesterday morning, before Mr. A. M Fisher, D.S.M., Sidney Collins Watkins, medical practitioner at Manly Beach, was charged at the instance of the Board of Health of New South Wales with having neglected, in his capacity as a medical man, to report a case of eruptive fever at Manly Beach, which exhibited smallpox symptoms, and which he was attending on the 27th of March and subsequent days. Mr. Pring, instructed by the Crown Solicitor, appeared for the prosecution, and the Hon. E. Barton, instructed by Mr. C. A. Lawrence, for the defence. Mr. Pring, in placing the facts before the Bench, said it was evidently an oversight or inadvertence on the part of Dr. Watkins that the case had not been properly reported, and under these circumstances, he considered the minimum penalty of £10 would meet the case. Mr. Barton pleaded guilty for Dr. Watkins, and the fine was paid forthwith, besides 12s. costs, and £5.5s., the expenses of the prosecution."

### **North Head Sanctuary Foundation**

If you would like to support us by becoming a member, please download a form at [www.northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au/join/membership.htm](http://www.northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au/join/membership.htm) or email [northhead@fastmail.fm](mailto:northhead@fastmail.fm)

Please also email if you would like to receive our monthly newsletter.