



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

Custodians of North Head

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General Meeting – Wed 26 Nov at 7.00pm at Bandicoot Heaven

Artists – many of them convicts – arrived on the First Fleet and set about capturing what they saw in this strange new land. There were of course, no cameras for a further 70 years, so renditions of the landscape needed to be accurate, rather than impressionistic or tinged with nostalgia and echoes of the landscape they left behind. Naturally, Sydney Harbour – and very especially Sydney Heads – became a magnet. Geoff Lambert will show some of his (electronic) collection of over 400 art-works which represent North Head from near and afar. Pride of place will be “North Head from Balmoral” – a series of at least 9 works painted by Conrad Martens between 1835 and 1878 (and one from 15,000 years BC!). These and other works illustrate the landscape of the Harbour as managed by the locals, and how it was progressively modified by the invaders. From these we learn a lot about land management in Australia.

The “show” will conclude with a selection of paintings from the 2013 and 2014 North Head Plein Air artists’ colony organised by Australian Bronze. Some of these recent artworks will still be on display in the gallery next door and we hope to have Clive from Australian Bronze address us on the Plein Air projects.

FREE Nature Walks for Children at North Head

On Sunday, 23rd and Sunday, 30th of November, Katie Meyer, director of EcoXplore, (www.ecoxplore.com.au) will be giving two free, short nature walks for children. The walks will take place at North Head, Manly and start from Building 20 (Bandicoot Heaven), North Fort Road, at 10:30am.

Children will have the opportunity to participate in activities, explore, discover and learn about a very unique and special area of nature! Ideal for 4-10 year olds, but all ages welcome.

Walks will last approximately 1 and a half hours. Come along for a fun and interactive experience!

For more information or to book, please email Katie at: info@ecoxplore.com.au

Education Room – Bandicoot Heaven

Our community education room is open 10am to 4pm Saturdays and Sundays in Building 20. Call in to have a chat or gather information.

If you’d like to help others get to know more about North Head, please contact Judy Lambert on 9949 3521(ah) or email twsombat@optusnet.com.au

Native Plant Nursery

It is relaxing working with plants and removing weeds. Helpers are welcome, there is always something to do. Please email Jenny at northhead@fastmail.com.au or turn up any Tuesday or Friday morning between 8am & 12pm.

Spring wildflowers: Another good year

After an unusually dry July we were concerned that the bush was not producing its usual wonderful spring display. However high rainfall in August recovered the situation and by September when our annual guided walks began, the wildflowers were flourishing.

Three walks, on Sunday 14th and Saturday 20th September and Sunday 12th October saw a total of 44 people join our guided walks – all in fine weather and with



lots to see. There were a few ‘no shows’ on the second walk, but the final walk on 12 October was over-subscribed.

Alas we were not able to find an

additional date in October (while the flowers were at their peak) when those who missed out could join us.

Hopefully they’ll come along next year.

As always, it was great to have people sharing their knowledge of the bush at North Head and at the end of the walk series our donation bucket was looking healthy. Thank you everyone!

Gonocarpus micranthus



or Creeping Raspwort is a prostrate creeping plant with small round leaves with tiny reddish flowers. Likes the damp and old leaves often turn red.

All about ants

Peter Macinnis

I am a fairly predictable creature, and my temporary obsessions are fairly obvious to the Tuesday mob, at least. One of the longest lasting relates to ants, in part because they reveal what lies beneath the surface. Anybody who has worked on the oval will have seen something like this.



Bull ants have been of interest since I had a traumatic experience with them when I was three. I will gloss over the circumstances, but I ended up with a bull ant in my underpants. No, I don't want to

talk about it...

I was not amused, but I set out to study the enemy, and learned that the photos you usually saw were of dead specimens, and you could tell because the "nippers" were crossed.



My first bull ant is clearly alive, but slowed down by a break in the refrigerator before it was released onto a piece of paper toweling on a saucer, floating on a bowl of iced water.

The second was in a footprint on a sandy trail, with the camera coming in safely from above. No, I didn't step on it...



Other ants are safer to study, and there are ants almost everywhere, but they aren't easy to "catch". I have searched all over Australia for a good shot of an ant

trail, and I had just about decided that the "trail" is a construct, a figment of the way we see motion — until I found one in the cemetery at Alice Springs, where I had gone to see the graves of Namatjira and Lasseter.

The student of ants is better satisfied by studying ant hills, which are always neat and practical against floods. And informative about what lies below.



But ants feeding are also fun.

Each summer, we need use baits to control the little sugar ants that invade our home, but I do feed the meat ants, the ones seen here eating steak in a Petri dish.



Preparing for more fire ecology studies at North Head

Judy Lambert

As many of you know, much of Australia's bush needs fire to stimulate it and keep it growing vigorously. Since September 2012 we've been working with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) and the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust to study the regenerative effects of a Hazard Reduction burn on Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS). That study, focusing on small plots at North Fort and beside the Third Cemetery, has demonstrated that fire is indeed an important regenerative tool. However those first studies were done on small plots and we're now keen to see what happens across a wider area that can help better management of the bush.

AWC is leading a project that will research the effects of fire and fencing (to exclude the rabbits that see new plant growth as picnic time) on regeneration of ESBS and on the endangered population of Long-nosed Bandicoots.

We've been working with AWC to set up 32 5x5 metre study plots in the area between the Gunners Walk and North Fort Road, in preparation for a study that will begin immediately after the next Hazard Reduction burn. The timing of that burn will depend on weather conditions and how damp the bush is, and when the government agencies can all timetable what is quite a big operation. If summer heat arrives too soon after the bush dries out, the burn will happen next autumn.

In the meantime, AWC and NHSF have been working with



Australian Museum botanist Dr Belinda Pellow (who did the botanical surveys for our previous study) to get good data on what's present before the burn happens.

Having carefully made our way in to plots set up deep in the bush, it's obvious that while the edges near tracks and roads are old and largely dominated by tea-tree, core parts of the bush contain a rich mix of ESBS species — giving us plenty of scope for the study.

Third Cemetery

Jenny Wilson

Edward James Fury was a laborer who lived at 61 Aberecombe Street Redfern. He died suddenly on 5 August 1901. The Health Department were unsure whether he died of the plague, so his body was removed to the Quarantine Station and buried in the Third Cemetery.

It was later determined that the case was not plague. Edward had several abrasions on his hands and arms and had died of acute blood poisoning. He was 28 years old.