



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

Custodians of North Head

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Newsletter No 10 October 2018

Annual General Meeting

Will be held on Saturday 10 November at 2pm in Bandicoot Heaven. Please save this date.

Education Room - Bandicoot Heaven

We're seeking additional volunteers to help staff our community education room in Building 20 on North Fort Road at North Head. Help others learn about the wonders of North Head and the rich mix of interests to be found there. Staffed by volunteers on a roster basis, our community education room opens from 10am to 4pm on Saturdays and Sundays. We'll help you get to know the information available and you'll meet plenty of interesting visitors – many of them keen to share this great environment. If you are interested, or want more information, please contact Judy Lambert at tswombat@optusnet.com.au.

Native Plant Nursery



Here is an aerial view of the old Oval dated 21 August 2018.

One can notice the difference our planting has made. We are always happy to have help with the planting and maintenance including weeding. There is no need to come every week, just when you can. Please join us on Tuesday or Friday morning between 8am and 12 noon. For more details email northhead@fastmail.com.au Or just turn up and ask for Jenny.



Photo by Ian Evans

This *Caladenia* orchid was found in our planted area on the Old Oval by our planting volunteers.

Join a Spring Wildflower Walk

We are once again offering you an opportunity to come and enjoy an easy guided walk to see spring's wildflowers at North Head.

Each walk, led by NHSF founding member Geoff Lambert, will be of 2½ - 3 hours duration.

The remaining walks this year will be on:

Monday 1 October, 10am-12.30pm

Sunday 7 October, 10am-12.30pm

Spaces are limited, so please call Geoff & Judy Lambert on 9949 3521, or email tswombat@optusnet.com.au to book your place.

Botanical Survey of North Head

Geoff Lambert

Viyanna Leo of Australian Wildlife Conservancy is in the process of setting up for a new headland-wide survey of the flora of North Head. A sample of about 35 blocks of 20x20 metres will be thoroughly surveyed in the September-October period. The survey will be undertaken by a number of teams. Viyanna is looking for skilled and experienced botanists to carry out the plant identifications for each team, also for assistants to aid the botanists in the surveys. Full details of how the surveys are to be carried out should be finalised by the time you read this. Contact Viyanna on at Viyanna.Leo@australianwildlife.org if you can help with these tasks.

Articles/Photos needed.

Do you have an interesting story about North Head or just an article as to why you love/enjoy going to North Head? A great photo to share?

Please email northhead@fastmail.com.au

News from the Fire Front

Geoff Lambert

It is now four months since the burns of 29 May 2018, a period in which we have 240 mm of rain, well up on the 164 mm we had after the 2012 burns. However, rainfall has been very uneven, with 164 mm falling in June, after which we had a record 50 days without a drop of rain. Although existing fire-tolerant plants with deep roots (such as Grass Trees—see previous Newsletters) have thrived, seedlings of other plants have been very slow to make their appearance. Furthermore, the fences which were meant to exclude rabbits from sections of the burn area were slow in coming. This has clearly had an effect on those seedlings that dared poke their heads up – many have simply vanished. We have been surveying for rabbits via dropping counts since the fences went in and there are signs that we have trapped one or more rabbits within at least one of these “exclosures”. The Trust will attempt to remove these animals. The first post-fire ground surveys inside the existing quadrats will be carried out in November by Belinda Pellow, the same botanist who did the 2014 pre-fire surveys. This is a separate survey from survey mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter.



Photographs of typical quadrats after the 2012 (above) and 2018 burns (to follow), showing how the lack of rain in 2018 inhibited growth and regrowth of plants.



Be part of some ‘citizen science’ - Help design a new project

Judy Lambert

Thanks to the generosity of some of our past and present members, and in particular the family of our late native plant nursery coordinator, Sue Halmagyi, NHSF has a tax deductible gift fund that enables us to do some projects to:

- Protect and enhance the natural environment, or a significant aspect of it (such as our Critically Endangered Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub); or
- Provide information or education or carry out research about the natural environment or a significant aspect of it.

We are keen to hear your ideas on small projects that meet these conditions. They might be projects that can be done by our native plant nursery group, our community education group, or as little research projects that we can do together.

We like to take on one new project each year, so if you have an idea for a suitable project, send us a summary of your idea (no more than a ½ page), with your name and contact details and we’ll get back to you to explore the possibility further. Please send your ideas to our Secretary Dr Geoff Lambert at G.Lambert@iinet.com.au by the end of October.

Back in Time

Evening News (Sydney, NSW: 1869 - 1931), 1 July 1919, “Breach of Quarantine Act - NAVAL SEAMAN FINED
In the Central Summons Court, Leslie Raymond Croft, a naval seaman, was fined £1, with £1 2s costs. In default five weeks goal, on an information alleging that being a person in the Quarantine Station at North Head, he went beyond the bounds of the station. Mr. A. G. Addison who, instructed by the Commonwealth Crown Solicitor, appeared to prosecute, stated that the defendant who had been removed from a steamer to the Quarantine Station, was missed from the convalescent isolation area about 1 pm on June 12. The Manly police found him at 9 o'clock that night coming out of a picture show at Manly. He was taken to the Quarantine Station”.

Aerial View Third Quarantine Cemetery 21.8.18

