



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

Custodians of North Head

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Education Room - Bandicoot Heaven

Staffed on a roster basis, our community education room opens from 10am to 4pm on Saturdays and Sundays. We welcome recent volunteers now helping staff our room in Building 20, but others will still be welcomed.

If you are interested in helping out, or want more information, please contact Judy Lambert at twsombat@iinet.net.au

Eriophora sp.



A garden orb spider, taken by Roger Wier

On 9 March, 20 people had a lovely walk around with the Society for Insect Studies Inc. looking at various insects that can be found on North Head. Thank you everyone involved for an interesting morning.

Saving an Echidna

Peter Macinnis

On the Ides of March, I popped down to see what the rains of the previous night had done to the drainage



system. The leaves covering the leaf trap, just west of the 'frog pond' showed that the whole area had been under water on Thursday night, confirming that I had made the right call on the Tuesday.

Barry Fudge and I had wandered down to look at the overflow on Scenic Drive, but we stopped when we saw an echidna, trapped inside the locked leaf trap. I know that echidnas can swim, but there was no way for the animal to climb out, and it was clinging precariously to an inspection ladder. Rain was forecast.



Hoping the rangers would have keys, I called them, and two of them came. There are no progress shots (my hands were full), but we got the large echidna out, using brickies' gloves. No great force was needed, just some cautious rocking.

Once on the ground, she (? I am assuming this was



'Junior') dug in, so we left her there beside the drain, but she seems to have moved on, late on Thursday, as I found a 'nest' nearby on the Friday. The original resting place had also been well washed.

After she was out and the drain was locked, the rangers did a good job of working out where the animal probably got in, so they shifted a slab to stop any repeat entry. They and we were unsure of the law on this sort of wildlife handling, but I would do it again.



Native Plant Nursery



Toni Stevenson, Mary Darwell, CEO Sydney Harbour Federation Trust and Daniel Sealey. Photo Ian Evans

It has been 10 years since we started our Sanctuary Foundation Native Plant Nursery and we celebrated with a special morning tea on 26 March 2019 to thank all our volunteers and celebrate what we have achieved in the past ten years.

Toni Stevenson, the Nursery manager said "Thank you all for coming to the nursery's 10th anniversary. It is so good to see so many friends here today. In 2008 Sue Halmagyi put forward to the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, the NHSF idea of a native plant nursery. The nursery would grow and plant out local species, especially those from the now critically endangered eastern suburbs banksia scrub community. Following agreement Sue and many others worked hard to establish and achieve what you see here today. Sadly, Sue died five years ago, however, the standards had been set and we volunteers keep on going. Updates on the Nursery can be found in our monthly Newsletter."

Peter Nash, Friday supervisor said

"1. I would like to briefly talk about what we do. We propagate plants from both seed and cuttings and sometimes division. Then we plant them out and that is it, apart from some weeding.

If you compare that with what we do at home

- No regular fertilizing

- No regular watering
 - No spraying to combat either pests or diseases
- Yet after 10 years, we have an abundance of healthy growing plants, it is indeed something of which we can be proud.

2. One of the pleasures we have is in knowing that every plant that we plant out, is indigenous to North Head and has been propagated by Jenny and the team.

3. The fact that although some of the trees and plants that we propagate and plant out will pass on, many will self-propagate so that the legacy we will be leaving will hopefully be enjoyed forever.

4. So, I hope that you enjoy bringing friends to North Head as much as I do and not just for the coffee at Bella Vista. I had a new grandson born less than a week ago and I look forward to the time when I can bring him here to appreciate it."



Some of our Volunteers.

Photos by Ian Evans

We are lucky in having some many dedicated volunteers who turn up on a regular basis and even remove weeds on their walks around North Head. Unfortunately, not all our volunteers could join us on Tuesday. To those not present, I say **thank you** too.

If you would like to join the Nursery Group, just contact Jenny at northhead@fastmail.com.au or ring 0414735350.