



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

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northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au

No. 10 Newsletter – November 2009

General Meeting November 2009

Our next meeting will be held on 21 November at 2pm in the Education room in the Gatehouse building at North Head Sanctuary (former School of Artillery).

Come along and hear what is happening. Our Guest Speaker is Dr Nelika Hughes from Australian Wildlife Conservancy.

Native Plant Nursery

Work has continued on the second Nursery bay. It will be finished this month which will be great as we will have more room to grow more plants. We have been busy collecting and sowing the seed. Our Flannel flower cuttings did not do well so we will collect seed this month and see if we have better luck with seed.

Floral diversity on North Head

By Geoff Lambert

For a vest-pocket piece of Australia, North Head has an amazing range of plants. In this small area, we have representatives of 91 plant Families and 234 Genera, with a total of over 450 species in all.

In the last few weeks NHSF members have discovered several orchids not previously reported for North Head and the list continues to grow.

Most of these are flowering plants. There are always flowers to see on North Head, but October is the best month- in good years, 250 species will be in flower on North Head during October. Information about these plants has been compiled into a web-linked "database" by myself and is held on the NHSF computers and is available to NHSF members. The database is linked to a collection of some 6,000 digital photographs of North Head taken by NHSF members or downloaded from the Internet.

Education Centre

We are open from 10.00am to 4.00pm, every Saturday and Sunday. Please call in.

Thank you to Judy Lambert and Geoff Lambert for their Wildflower and Weeds Workshops and the Guided walks.

Christmas will soon be here. This year we have our own Christmas cards designed by award-winning botanical artist Julie Nettleton. They are \$20 for a pack of 10 or \$2.50 each. You can buy them in the education centre or by mail order.

Watch this area

The Sydney Harbour Trust has increased the size of their bush regeneration area. You can see this area as you come up the front road to the Gatehouse or walk the metal track from Blue Fish Road into the North Head Sanctuary.

The native plants do come up through the grass and once the area is not mowed they can be seen.



Ocean Care Day Festival Sunday 6 December 2009 11am to 5pm

We will be having a stall again, more next month. If you would like to help on the stall or in the education room or write a plant information sheet, please contact Jenny at northhead@fastmail.fm or 0414 735 350.



Who's Who on North Head

Dr Nelika Hughes is one of the newest additions to the small band of people who work on North Head. Nelika has recently joined the Australian Wildlife Conservancy as its Wildlife Ecologist in this region. In her PhD research with Dr Peter Banks at the University of NSW Nelika studied how house mice use smell in their social

interactions with other mice and predator-prey relationships.

Nelika has worked on a range of both plant and animal projects with the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service. These include monitoring and management of the coastal invader, Bitou Bush, and work on the Endangered Long-nosed Bandicoot population at North Head. She is based in the gatehouse building at the North Head Sanctuary and will be developing a number of interesting projects to help manage and conserve the bushland of North Head and its inhabitants. The Sanctuary Foundation will be working closely with Nelika and you can get involved in some of her initial projects by responding to her call for volunteers

Volunteers needed to assist AWC

The Australia Wildlife Conservancy needs your assistance with two of the studies it is planning to help improve conservation on North Head.

If you are a cat owner on Eastern Hill or North Head and would like to know more about the activity of your cat, please contact Nelika Hughes about a tracking collar for your pet.

If you'd like to know more about the Endangered Long-nosed Bandicoots and their movements and can be available between sunset and 1am for at least 3 nights between early November and mid-December Nelika would also like to hear from you. She can be

contacted by emailing nelika.hughes@australianwildlife.org

Kunzea ambigua



Or Tick Bush is a large spreading shrub that is now in flower with white showy flowers with many stamens. The leaves are small, narrow and crowded. It is a species characteristic of Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub and can be found in dry and wet areas like the Hanging Swamp.

Usual flowering period is October to December. This plant belongs to the Myrtaceae family.

North Head Sanctuary Foundation aims:

'The Sanctuary for biodiversity will honour the natural and cultural significance of North Head. It will be a safe place for flora, fauna and people, a living laboratory promoting the spiritual and biological value of Sydney Harbour.'

It will:

- * Respect and honour the Indigenous significance of North Head;
- * Build understanding of the natural and cultural values of North Head; and
- * Promote integrated planning and management for the whole area, to ensure the highest level of protection for the natural and cultural attributes of North Head

We are a volunteer organisation and we need your support to continue our protection of North Head. Please consider joining us, numbers count.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Help support North Head Sanctuary Foundation Inc by purchasing our local Christmas card designed by Julie Nettleton and printed in Australia.

Epacris longiflora, Fuchsia Heath

Reproduced from an original watercolour painting by Julie Nettleton
© Julie Nettleton, 2009



Epacris longiflora or Fuchsia Heath is an Australian native plant and is a species characteristic of Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub which is found on North Head. It is a slender shrub with rows of tubular or bell shaped flowers which are crimson with spreading white tips. Leaves are small and heart shaped with pointed tips. Flowering period is April to November but may be seen at other times.

Sales of this card support
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www.northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au



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Cards are available at our education centre on the weekends or at the general meeting on November 2009.

Your can also purchase the cards by mail order

Season's Greetings



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