



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

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Newsletter No 2 February 2011

General Meeting Sat 12 Feb 2 to 5 pm

This Meeting will be a planning session, at which we map out a plan for our main activities during 2011 and 2012. It will be held in the Education Room, Gatehouse Visitors' Centre at North Head Sanctuary.

Committee member Matthew Taylor, who has worked in various community-based organisations and in the business sector, will lead our planning session. Please come along to this meeting and give us your input on how to move forward. If you are unable to attend and would like to have input, please email matthewrtaylor@optusnet.com.au.

Please bring your ideas on how to expand our membership and get more people actively involved in our work towards a sanctuary at North Head, while still setting ourselves realistic targets for a volunteer-based group.

Native Plant Nursery



We have replaced the cotoneasters near the gym with natives – bottlebrushes and blueberry ash.

Work continues, collecting seed, cuttings, potting and planting out. We are now growing some grasses for recreating habitat for the Long-nosed Bandicoots.

Help is always appreciated whether on a regular basis or just a one off. If you would like to help with the planting out or weeding, please email northhead@fastmail.fm.

Education Centre

We are open every weekend, from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Please come in and visit us in Building 21. Walk past the Parade Ground, continue along the road till you see our banner and then follow the footprints from our gate.

Escaped from South Africa



Asparagus densiflorus or Asparagus fern is a highly invasive and sprawling ground cover weed. It is difficult to control. The fern has a thick mat of roots which spread from a crown and has pale green berries that ripen to red. These berries are eaten and spread by animals and birds, so they need to be collected and taken off site. The crown after it is dug up should be placed in an area where it will not grow again or taken off site for careful disposal.

This weed was targeted at Collins Beach on 19 January 2011 as part of the Summerama program in which North Head Sanctuary Foundation was part of with National Parks & Wildlife Service to host one event that are part of the bigger Summerama program run by the Sydney Coastal Councils Group.

Join an Earthwatch "Bandicoots on the Brink" team for the day and help save Sydney's bandicoots from extinction

Until the 1960s, bandicoots were abundant throughout Sydney. Rapid urban development depleted their habitats and the dense vegetation they need to shelter from predators. Now with the Earthwatch 'Bandicoots on the Brink' conservation teams, you can help protect the bandicoots. Spend a day with Wildlife Ecologist Nelika Hughes from the Australian Wildlife Conservancy to learn about the threats facing the bandicoots and use scent lures to attract and film predators.

To join a one-day team for \$49, call 03 9682 6828 or email earth@earthwatch.org.au

Dates Sat 2 April, weekend 15-17 April, Sat 7 May, Thurs 12 May, Sat 21 May, Thurs 26 May, Thurs 2 June. Funds go towards this valuable research.

Something in the Air

If there is an unpleasant smell in the air at North Head, please report it to Sydney Water's 24 hour Number 9934 4423 and also to DECCW on 131 555

MEMORIAL TREES.

Removed from Avenue of Honour.

This article appeared in The Sydney Morning Herald on Wednesday 30 May 1934

"Manly aldermen expressed indignation last night when it was reported that 23 of the Norfolk Island pines planted in the "Avenue of Honour" on Park Hill North Head, had been removed. It had previously been reported that 56 trees had been destroyed. The Mayor (Alderman Seller) said the police had patrolled the avenue, but the area was a large one. Evidently people took the trees and planted them in their own backyards. It was an insult to the community that these memorial trees should be removed. It was decided to offer a reward of £10 for the conviction of any person responsible for destruction of the trees".

Mysteries of North Head

By Geoff Lambert

The Avenue of Honour

Most of us have walked along the cobbled road we know as the Avenue of Honour many times, but how many of us know its history? Avenues of Honour were a common initiative in the 1920s, after the horrors of World War One, I grew up in a town that had one of the first and most famous. The Manly Avenue of Honour was an initiative of the Manly Council, who had obtained permissive occupancy of parts of North Head in the 1920s. It ran from near where the arch is now, then below the present oval, along the site of the current fire-trail and down towards the "Loop Precinct" (this latter stretch only survives). Paved with local sandstone cobbles, it was lined with Norfolk Island Pines. Each was dedicated to a local soldier. These poor trees survived a mere few weeks- rabbits ate them and the citizens stole them. Those that survived this died because they were planted in rock instead of sand. When the Commonwealth took back the land, the Avenue of Honour became off-limits and the Avenue faded from memory.

Former St Patrick's seminary

Australia's first national ecclesiastical training college for Catholic priests has been awarded NSW's highest heritage listing announced by Planning Minister Tony Kelly on 20 January 2011 "It was the largest Catholic seminary in the southern hemisphere, the first national Catholic seminary, and located on one of the oldest and largest ecclesiastical estates in Australia at the time of its construction in the mid 1880s."

To join our group, see

<http://www.northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au/join/membership.htm>

To request a newsletter- northhead@fastmail.fm

Oplismenus aemulus



or basket grass is a weak creeping perennial grass to 30 cm high which weaves across the ground. Its leaves are less than 7 mm wide and it flowers all year around. We are growing this grass in the Nursery from cuttings.

Have your say

The Sydney Harbour National Park Draft Plan of management is now available at

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parkmanagement/SydneyHarbourNPdraftPOM.htm>

Submissions close on 30 April 2011.

Third Cemetery



On 14 March 1900, Edward Kelly died at his residence in Bourke Street, Redfern from the bubonic plague. He had been ill but it was only discovered after his death that he had been suffering from the bubonic plague. He was married with one child, and worked in a large establishment in the vicinity of Haymarket. The premises were isolated and his wife and child were removed to the Quarantine station. His body was placed in a coffin and removed to Spring Cove for burial in the Third Cemetery.

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.