



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

Custodians of North Head

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Congratulations Nursery Group Has it only been four years?

"The Sydney Harbour Trust approved our Nursery application on 11th December 2008. Construction of the first Nursery bay was completed and approved on 27th February, 2009. Propagation commenced in February 2009.

The original remit of the nursery was 'the rehabilitation and revegetation of the Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub, an endangered ecological community'.

There was never any intention that planting would take place in natural bush that could be left to restore itself unless a specific request was made for this. The main planting is on the edges of the bush, and on steep banks, particularly adjacent to bush. It is also important that if the nursery is to flourish, it must acquire the skills to propagate all of those plants listed in the Skelton Report of 2004 that are labeled as ESBS, or are Endangered, Vulnerable, Protected, Rare or Significant. This of course will mean that a home will need to be found for those plants when they are ready to be planted out. It must also build up documentation about the propagation process in the ESBS areas."

Taken from Nursery group report dated 13 December 2009 from Sue Halmagyi and Toni Stevenson



Toni Stevenson and Sue Halmagyi at our 4th year celebration morning tea.

We had a special morning tea on 22 March 2013 to celebrate our first four years. Sue thanked all the volunteers that had made possible the results to date. We were also thanked by Geoff Bailey CEO The Sydney Harbour Trust for the work done and the community that Sue, Toni and others had created on the site and the difference we had made to the site with our plantings.

Thank you for all the volunteers who have helped us and were not able to attend the morning tea.



Judy Reizes, Nick Hollo, Sue Halmagyi & Jenny Wilson
 Photo: David Jenkins www.nomadphoto.com.au

Sue Halmagyi won the 2013 Manly Environment Centre's Eco-award for her work in the Nursery set up and management. . Sue, who is a volunteer, has led the North Head Sanctuary Foundation Nursery group from the beginning and has always consulted and worked with Australian Wildlife Conservancy and the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.

This means that Sue puts in long hours on a regular basis to ensure that all goes to plan with the team of hard working nursery volunteers. When we see her on a Tuesday or Friday morning she is always filled with enthusiasm and zeal to get on with whatever project is to hand.

Plants

All plants grown in the Nursery are from seed or cuttings. Seed is collected on site and then sown in seed trays until able to be put into tubes. Cuttings are taken from the site and grown on.

Number of plants planted out	
1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010	1,500
1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011	2,310
1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012.	3,273
1 July 2012 to 31 Dec 2012	1,226
1 Jan 2013 to 28 Feb 2013	750

These plants included *Acacia terminalis subsp. terminalis* (Conservation status in NSW and Commonwealth: Endangered) and *Eucalyptus camfieldii* (Conservation status in NSW and Commonwealth: Vulnerable).

One of the joys of planting out is to see how your plants are going and then to see them flower and flourish. We do have losses but we treat that as a learning experience.

The areas that have been planted, and are being maintained are North Fort - outside and inside wall, Gate House, Visitors Centre, bus entrance and along North Fort Road, in front of Gym, avenue beside the Gym, opposite Nursery and down to fence, semi circle and near chemical shed, area where coral trees removed, North Head Scenic Drive, Berm etc., steep bank opposite building one, the oval and surrounds. Our largest area is the oval and planting is ongoing there. We are growing and planting out this year a lot of native grasses for the oval.

Our plantings have helped the endangered population of the long-nosed bandicoots of North Head as we have increased the number of "vegetated links" – small areas of dense foliage where the bandicoots can take refuge. The oval site has also increased bandicoot habitat, they can forage in the mown grass plus the mulched areas and never be far from a safe haven.

North Head Sanctuary is becoming less of an old army base and more of a sanctuary.

Native Plant Nursery – Moving forward

We finally have our igloo or greenhouse which was finished late last month.

The igloo will protect our seeds and cuttings from the weather and will increase our production of plants. We need to grow and plant over 15,000 plants including grasses for the Oval over the next five years, as well as produce plants for other areas on the site.

Help us

More hands are needed for planting out and weeding days. Please indicate your interest and we will send you an email when our next planting morning/afternoon is scheduled. Please contact Sue Halmagyi at sue.halmagyi@gmail.com or northhead@fastmail.fm.

Glycine microphylla



Is a slender climbing pea, with leaves about 15 to 50mm long and 3 to 6mm wide. The flowers are variable in colour, mostly mauve and 5 to 7mm long. Flowering now.

Clean Up Australia Day 3rd March 2013

Geoff Lambert

On North Head, Geoff and Judy Lambert (from NHSF), with the agreement of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust and NPWS, organised a clean-up on Trust Land and on NPWS land at the North Fort Café. The Trust organised for a Dump-master to take the collected material away.



Hard-working volunteer Ginette Priestley at the end of Clean Up

We had 15 volunteer participants and collected 9 bags of waste and 6 bags of recyclables – all delivered to Dump-master or to recycle bins, as appropriate.

All track areas except the fire trail between the end of St Barbaras Ave and the 3rd Cemetery and the fire trail from inside the wall south of North Fort café and around to where that trail links up with the Memorial Walk were cleaned by our volunteers. Everyone who participated did well and seemed happy to have been part of the event.

Some unusual items were collected, including beer bottles from 1929 when the walls were being constructed and topped by broken glass. We did not collect some peculiar items, believing them to be part of some kind of animal survey. However they turned out to be bongos. Clean-Up volunteers also found 3 road-kill bandicoots during their rounds. These have brought the total road-kill figure for 2013 to 9- a 50% increase over the WHOLE of 2012. This is quite alarming.

Education Centre – Bandicoot Heaven

Our Education room is open every weekend, from 10am to 4pm in Building 20. Please call in and see us. Have a look at our range of botanical cards including three new designs. You can pick up a Echidna Survey form or download from our website <http://www.northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au>

Congratulations

Mary Johnsen has been involved in the protection of North Head for the last 15 year. Mary is a regular in our Education centre and was nominated for the MEC Eco-Award and received a certificate. **Thank you Mary**

Reminder

Next ClimateWatch walk is on Sunday 7 April, leaving the Trust Visitor Centre at 10.15am. To book Contact Kirsty at Earthwatch on 03-9016 7590 or email: krichardson@earthwatch.org.au.

**Next General Meeting
2pm on Saturday 18 May 2013**