



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

Custodians of North Head

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Newsletter No 7 July 2013

Sad News

Sue Halmagyi lost her battle with cancer on 25 June 2013. The Foundation and its Nursery Group offer our condolences to her family. She loved North Head and her presence will be sorely missed. We have all lost a friend.



Taken on 12 February 2009, working to establish our first Nursery Bay which was completed and approved on 27th February, 2009.

Establishing a Nursery at North Head to support The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, was a dream in 2008, but hard work and dedication with Sue overseeing and enthusing others, meant that the Nursery was up and growing by March 2009.

The main emphasis of Nursery work has been to support the rehabilitation and revegetation of Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub at North Head, an endangered ecological community. This is done by replanting previously grassed areas, sometimes close to bushland, thus providing habitat for endangered bandicoot population, birds and other animals.



Robin, Sue, Toni and Janet on 7 August 2009, with some of our seedlings.

Sue Halmagyi won the 2013 Manly Environment Centre's Eco-award for her work in the Nursery set up and management. She was proud of her award and has left us her prize- a painting- which is hanging in our new shed.

Oval



We're slowly filling in the Oval surrounds, Sue lead us into this slowly, so we didn't panic and run away. The aim is for a mixture of trees, shrubs and lots of grasses to provide habitat and feeding areas for the endangered bandicoots. In a year or so everyone will be able to appreciate Sue's legacy.

Frog Pond



Sue looking at our frog pond on 17 April 2012.

This area was originally designed as an overflow run off area, but Sue had a different vision. She was particularly supported in this by Caroline Greentree, and together with other volunteers they established an area that frogs have colonised. It is not always as full as shown in the picture, but there is enough vegetation to provide habitat. An echidna has been sighted drinking from the edge.

Bank outside Gym



Sue loved to get her hands dirty and plant. Here she is planting one of our Xanthorrhoeas outside the Gym on 8 February 2013. Her vision for this area is a sea of grass trees on the bank.

Four year celebration morning tea.



Toni Stevenson and Sue Halmagyi
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 of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, for the work done and the goodwill that Sue and all the other volunteers had created, and the difference we had made to the site with our plantings.

Third Cemetery Project



On 6 March 2013, we started working in the Third Cemetery on the first Wednesday each month. We are clearing the graves and maintaining the site. This was one of Sue's favorite places on North Head - the view, the wildflowers and the peace. Jenny, Robin and Ian together with Eveline, Pam, Raquel, Sheila and others will be continuing this 1st Wednesday in the month project in partnership with the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.

Education Centre – Bandicoot Heaven

Our Education room is open every weekend, from 10am to 4pm in Building 20. Please call in and see us for a chat and look round..

Annual General Meeting 2pm on Saturday 17 August 2013

Please keep this date and time free, more details next month.

Clearing project



Here is Sue looking over the first clearing plot on North Fort Road on 11 June 2013. This was her last morning at North Head. She was keen to get started on the next plots.

On 25 June 2013, work started on clearing the area for the second and third plots on North Head Road. More on this project next month.

Native Plant Nursery

We will be continuing on with the work started by Sue who always said it was a group effort and we all played our part. No one can replace Sue, who had such a great sense of fun, as well as the drive and energy to bring the Nursery this far. We are going to divide up between us, all the things Sue oversaw and did, and just carry on. New volunteers will always be welcome.

Our watering system has now been installed in the igloo and is working, it will be switched on next week. **Thank you** to Nick Vale for all your hard working in making this happen. Also a thank you to the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust who paid for the system and helped with the installation.

Tuesday &/ or Friday nursery volunteers:

Toni, Brenda F, Brenda L, Caroline, Cheryl, Christabel, David, Ian, Geoff, Janet, Jenny, Nick, Peter M, Peter N, Peter & Liz. Robin, Rory, Rosemary, Sue C and Sharyn.

Photos - taken by Jenny Wilson, (so is never in the picture), who is the Nursery's chief seed collector.

In Memory of Sue

Please consider making a donation to the North Head Sanctuary Foundation in memory of Sue. The funds will be used for a project that Sue would approve.

Account name North Head Sanctuary Foundation Inc - Public Fund Account

BSB 802-147 (Northern Beaches Credit Union)
Account 40896

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible, so details needed for a receipt- please email northhead@fastmail.fm