



# North Head Sanctuary Foundation

## Custodians of North Head

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### General meeting

Our next general meeting will be at 2pm on Saturday 22 February 2014 at Bandicoot Heaven (Building 20). Our speaker will be Nick Skelton from GIS Environmental Consultants ([www.ecology.net.au](http://www.ecology.net.au)). Visitors welcome. Nick will talk about The Sue Halmagyi Endangered Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub Regeneration Trial project so far, results, conclusions and management recommendations.



First cleared plot showing quadrats and fencing to keep out the rabbits. Taken 3 August 2012.



Recording the plant species on 17 December 2013

### North Head Sanctuary welcomes new AWC researcher

We are pleased to welcome Dr Jennifer Anson to North Head.

Jen has joined Australian Wildlife Conservancy's staff and will be researching projects that assist the Trust in managing North Head Sanctuary.

We look forward to hearing more about Jen's work once she has settled in.

### The Sue Halmagyi Endangered Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub regeneration trial



Nick Hollo, Michael Halmagyi with volunteers from the Tuesday Nursery group. Taken by Nick Halmagyi

Have you noticed the sign along North Fort Road? We will be continuing this project, with another new area to be fenced off in the next couple of months using the funds that we have received in memory of Sue Halmagyi. If you would like to contribute to this project, you can still donate.

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](mailto:northhead@fastmail.fm)

### Education Centre – Bandicoot Heaven

Our Education room is open every weekend, from 10am to 4pm in Building 20. Call in and see us for a chat, get information about the new tracks..

### Native Plant Nursery

Our volunteers have been busy. 2179 plants have been planted out in the last six months. We have another 2000 plants in Bays one and two that will be planted out in the first half of 2014. .

If you would like to help us get these planted, email [northhead@fastmail.fm](mailto:northhead@fastmail.fm) or turn up any Tuesday or Friday morning between 8am and 12 noon.

### North Head Sanctuary Foundation

If you would like to support us by becoming a member, please download a form at

[www.northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au/join/membership.htm](http://www.northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au/join/membership.htm)

If you would like to receive a copy of our enewsletter, email [northhead@fastmail.fm](mailto:northhead@fastmail.fm)

## *Amperea xiphoclada*

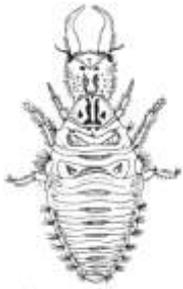


or Broom Spurge is a rigid shrub to 60cm high with tiny flowers. In flower now.

## Ant lions rule!

Peter Macinnis

Aged seven, I was given a book called Beetles Ahoy! and read about ant lions there and fell in love with them.



Family Myrmeleontidae (Neuroptera) to entomologists, these are the larval stage of lacewings. They dig neat holes. The name is a misnomer: they aren't lions, as anybody can see. More importantly, they don't always eat ants—I have seen one catch and presumably eat, a small weevil.



Any loose material like sand has a natural angle of rest. This is the steepest angle it can hold without tumbling down. Sand dunes, sand heaps and sand banks are all limited by this angle. So are wells dug in creek beds.



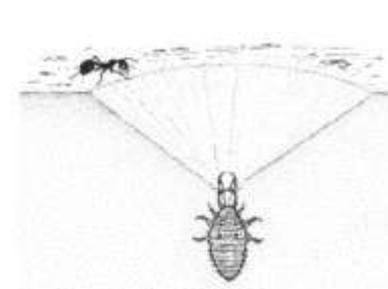
This angle shows up in sandstone cliffs which contain fossilised sand banks, and you can see these all over North Head. The best view is from the lookout off the Fairfax Track.

So sand has a position of maximum stability.

Ant lions rely on this. They dig conical pits in the sand by burrowing into the sand, and flicking sand up and away with their heads so the sides settle at the angle of rest. Then the predator sits hidden at the bottom, waiting for something to fall in.

Anything going over the edge dislodges sand and tumbles down. As it tries to scramble out the ant lion flicks the fallen sand out. This undermines the side which start to

slide down, while some of the flicked sand knocks them down. The prey slides down as well.



Once the unlucky animal reaches the bottom, the ant lion seizes it in its pincers and starts sucking it dry. In the end, it flicks the empty husk of the prey out of the pit.

They are all over North Head, but you have to know to look for a small conical pit, 1–3 cm across in dry sandy soil. The soil may be close to one of the gum trees that kill grass, inside a hollow tree, along the edge of a building or under a rocky overhang. Sometimes, you can even see ant lion pits, right out in the open.



At times, and for assorted reasons, I keep some as pets. Here is all you need: just add ants—or weevils.

## Third Cemetery

Jenny Wilson



From Sydney Morning Herald 6 December 1918

"The remains of Nurse Egan, who died of epidemic pneumonia at the quarantine station on, Tuesday, were interred in the Roman Catholic portion of the quarantine cemetery yesterday afternoon, with full military honours. The service was conducted by Nurse Williams, at the special request of the relations of Nurse Egan.

The firing party was provided by the troops in quarantine. A large number of convalescent patients were also present. The bugler attached to the quarantine station sounded the "Last Post" at the graveside. A large number of beautiful wreaths made by patients and contacts at the station, of Nature's wild flowers, including one from the medical staff of the quarantine station, were placed on the grave.

A solemn Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary's Cathedral to-day, at 10 am, for the repose of the soul of Nurse Egan."