



North Head Sanctuary Foundation

Custodians of North Head

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Newsletter No 8 September 2015

Annual General Meeting

Will be held on Saturday 12 September at 2pm in our Education Room - Bandicoot Heaven – Building 20.

At this meeting elections will be held for all positions and updates given for the last financial year. There will also be a talk by Nick Hollo who has now retired from The Sydney Harbour Trust.

See North Head Sanctuary at its best

The bushland on North Head is coming to life after the cold winter weather. You can enjoy it at its best on a guided spring wildflower walk which will begin at the North Head Sanctuary Foundation's 'Bandicoot Heaven' (Building 20 at the old School of Artillery).

Walk dates for spring this year are:

Sunday 20 September, 10am (a QS Open Day)

Saturday 26 September, 2pm

Monday 5 October, 10am (Labour Day holiday)

Sunday 18 October, 2pm

Each will be an easy walk on good tracks and will last about 2½ hours.

Walks are free, but bookings are essential. Please contact Judy & Geoff Lambert

Email: twswombat@optusnet.com.au or call 0427 217 580



Blue carpenter bee photographed in the Third Cemetery

Q Station Community Day 2015

Sunday 20 Sept, 10am – 4pm

This annual event is a great chance for everyone to enjoy the behind the scenes tours, open buildings, talks, stalls and fun activities. We will also be having a stall at Q Station open day.

For further info see www.qstation.com.au

Cost – Free entry but RSVP essential.

Book at h8773-cr5@accor.com

Education Room – Bandicoot Heaven

Our community education room is open 10am to 4pm Saturdays and Sundays in Building 20. Call in to have a look at our displays and our botanical cards range with many new designs. Cards are \$5 each or five for \$20.

Native Plant Nursery

Do you have any spare wire coat hangers? We can use them to make pins to hold the wire mesh plant cages in place. Just leave at Bandicoot Heaven or outside the Nursery. Thank you.

If you would like to join us just turn up any Tuesday or Friday morning between 8am and 12 noon. More details from Jenny at northhead@fastmail.com.au.

We have just said goodbye and thanks to Oli who helped us for six weeks while visiting Australia.

Gardening Australia - ABC



Some of the Nursery volunteers with Costa

On 25 July 2015 we were visited by Costa Georgiadis and were filmed planting in the old oval where we have been planting on for the last five years.

You can watch the segment on Saturday 19 September at 6.30pm or the repeat on Sunday at 1pm.

Patersonia glabrata



Or Leafy Purple Flag. A large herb with large purple flowers with hairless bract and stiff grass-like leaves.

Round the twist, part 3 Why twine and twirl?

Peter Macinnis

There are roughly 35 000 gastropods, snails and slugs in the world, and most of them are coiled. There used to be a theory



Right-handed snail, Margaret River, W.A.

that this coiling or torsion was a defence against predators in aquatic snails.

Torsion places the anus above the mouth, which may sound a bit unsavoury, but it lets the head be withdrawn inside the shell, said the theory, but later research questions this. There has to be something in it for the gastropods, though, so let's just say *torsion happens*.



Rainforests are typified by lianas, vines with seem to dangle from branches 10 or 20 metres above the ground: these lianas have climbed up some

of the hopeful young trees, long since dead and rotted, transferred to other trees, until they were high enough to twine around the lowest branches.

These creepers have a clear and obvious reason for twining, and they can be either left-handed or right-handed. The point of twining is to get some of the plant's leaves up to get a share of the sunlight.

The rarer left hand climber on the left and a right hander on the right.

A recent walk through rain-forest at Dorrigo revealed that right-handed creepers are more common than left-handed ones, and I later found that in 2008, ecologist Professor Angela Moles from UNSW published a major study showing that around the world, 92% of plants are right-handed.



This applies north and south of the equator, so we can rule out any influence from the way the sun seems to move in the sky, and we can even rule out the Coriolis forces that determine the spin direction of cyclones (and despite Bart Simpson's claims, have no measurable effect on sinks, baths or toilets).

Comedians Michael Flanders and Donald Swann, wrote and performed a song called *Misalliance*, about a love affair between the right-handed honeysuckle and the left handed bindweed. A web search on <Flanders Swann Misalliance> will turn up several versions.

Listen to their song, then wander out into the bush and look for twining creepers. Check to see which handedness is more common, and see if any species can twine both ways, maybe even on different stems of the same creeper.

Even grasses can twine: this one is from Ku-Ring-Gai Chase National Park.



Third Cemetery

Evening News Wednesday 16 May 1894

Smallpox on a China Liner

"Last week we published telegrams stating the steamer Taiyuan, from Chinese and Japanese ports, had been found on arrival at Cooktown to have a case of smallpox on board. No communication with the shore was permitted at Cooktown or Townsville, and the vessel came on to Sydney in continuance of her voyage. She arrived in Port Jackson on Monday night at 8 o'clock, and the patient, a Chinese stevedore named Ah Yet, was landed at the quarantine station. The case was a severe one, and the patient died yesterday at 10 a.m. His body was interred in the burial ground at the station. Two men who had been attending the deceased have been isolated, as their condition is thought to be suspicious.

Mr. Sager, secretary to the Board of Health, has made the following report on the case: ' The Taiyuan left Kobe, in Japan, on April 8 and after touching at Hong Kong, Port Darwin, and Thursday Island, came down the Queensland coast. She was examined at Thursday Island by the health officer on May 4, when all was found well. Before reaching Cooktown on May 7 it was reported to the captain that Ah Yet, aged 35, entered on the ship's articles, and called a stevedore, was unwell The patient was examined by the health officer at Cooktown, and by the ship's surgeon, Dr E. Broom, and he was pronounced to be suffering from smallpox. Townsville was next touched at, to see whether the patient could be landed. This the authorities refused to permit. The vessel accordingly proceeded to Port Jackson, arriving here at 10 minutes past 8 last Monday night. The patient was immediately landed and placed in the quarantine hospital enclosure. It was found to be an extremely bad case of confluent smallpox. The patient died at 10 yesterday morning, and was buried in the cemetery attached to the quarantine station. The whole of the crew and passengers have been carefully examined, and it has been thought desirable to specially isolate two men who had been in attendance on the patient. The number of persons on board the Taiyuan when the vessel arrived in Sydney was as follows: European crew 11, Chinese crew 89, Japanese crew 16, Malay crew 4; total crew 120. Passengers — European 6, Japanese 2, Chinese 5; total 13. The passengers and crew have been landed and housed at the quarantine station. The vessel will be put under thorough disinfection during the next two days, and it is expected that she will be ready to be handed over to the agents about Friday morning.'

Ah Yet was the 44th person buried. Date of death 15.5.1894.