



# North Head Sanctuary Foundation Inc

## Custodians of North Head

ABN 97093480659 P.O. Box 896, Balgowlah, NSW 2093

northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au

email [northhead@fastmail.com.au](mailto:northhead@fastmail.com.au)

Newsletter No 140 June 2020

### Education Room - Bandicoot Heaven

We are closed until further notice due to COVID-19 but, thanks to the efforts of Lynette Jones and

Kathy Pearce, Bandicoot Heaven has been painted. Work continues. Thank you both.



### Native Plant Nursery

From 2013 to 2019, we have planted 20,560 plants, all grown in our Nursery. Not all have survived as we have fed the rabbits, and some did not like their new homes.

We are back at the Nursery, but numbers are limited. We are hand washing and social distancing.

Unfortunately, we cannot take any new volunteers at present, but if you would like to join us when restrictions are lifted, please send an email to [northhead@fastmail.com.au](mailto:northhead@fastmail.com.au)

### Birds of North Head by Ian Evans



Superb Fairy-wren (female), Little Wattle Bird, New Holland Honeyeater and Yellow-tailed black cockatoo in order of appearance.

### Bird of paradise flies

Peter Macinnis

Anybody who has ever looked at a trout fly knows those things are pure fantasy, but on 7 May, fantasies were flying at the Third Cemetery, and also near the entry to the Hanging Swamp track.



Some of my fellow Wednesday volunteers encountered strange floating white fluff at the cemetery in 2016, but I haven't seen these 'snowflakes' since. If you

look closely at the flying fluff, each flake is an insect.



As the heading implies, these are called 'bird of paradise flies', but even though they seem to have two wings, these aren't true flies at all. The males have four wings, but the hind wings are greatly

reduced. The males (and only the males) have long waxy filaments on their abdomen, and the ones I have seen are about 20 mm long.

These are true bugs, Hemiptera, members of the genus *Callipappus*. To gardeners, they are scale insects, beasties that suck sap from plants like *Xanthorrhoea* and *Banksia*. The adults emerge in the autumn and should be visible until June. I am still searching for the females, which must be there: if you want to join the search, Google *Callipappus* and look for images.

So, if you think you see snow at the Third Cemetery on a warm May day, look again, but these things are much too magical for anybody to feed them to trout!

**Lantana (*Lantana camara*)** Judy Lambert  
Originally a native of South America, Lantana is a scrambling shrub growing rapidly to as high as 4 metres in much of our bushland in Sydney and far beyond. Its stems are square with short prickles, leaves are hairy and it has a characteristic smell. There are several varieties, the most common having composite flowers, which are about 2.5cm across, changing from cream/yellow to pink, lilac and purple as they age. Berry fruits change from green to purplish to black as they ripen.

Lantana is spread by birds, bush dumping and re-rooting at ground level.

Difficult to control once established, *Lantana* needs to be



removed carefully, as it takes over from the native vegetation and provides habitat for native birds and animals.

*Lantana camara* Photo: Sydney Weeds Committee

Lantana is one of Australia's 20 worst weeds, known as a Weed of National Significance.

Because of its widespread distribution and negative impacts on native species Lantana is a State Priority Weed, with the 2015 NSW Biosecurity Act requiring that it

is not moved from one location to another, imported into NSW or sold.

### Back in Time

Jenny Wilson

Maitland Daily Mercury (NSW:1894-1939), 11 Dec 1918  
**THE NORTH HEAD BATTLE**

"The splendid fight that the medical, nursing and sanitary staffs are putting up in the quarantine area near Sydney Heads should enlist the heartfelt admiration and gratitude of the people of the State. When we call to mind the ravages of the epidemic of pneumonic influenza so near to us as New Zealand, schools, churches, places of amusement closed, business almost entirely suspended, bands of voluntary workers engaged in sanitary and nursing work, thousands of serious cases and hundreds of deaths, and multiply the experiences there by hundreds involving fatalities running into millions, we can get some idea of what we are being sheltered from by the thorough and scientific battle that is being, fought to prevent the escape of the deadly germs amongst the general population. It is calculated that the mortality from the disease in Australia will be numbered by thousands if once the vigilance of the authorities fails to keep the pestilence within the quarantine area, though what is hoped are intelligent, thorough, and adequate precautions are being taken with a view to minimise the deadly results of the epidemic if the momentous North Head battle takes a turn in favour of the enemy. While our communities have been jubilating through-out the Commonwealth with the shadow of a great calamity over their homes, the greater through the huge and promiscuous peace celebration gatherings, doctors, nurses and others obliged to be in close attendance upon those stricken down with the disease, have been engaged in their toil-some, self-forgetful, self-sacrificing tasks. The large numbers to be guarded, watched and cared for in a limited space imposed a great strain upon the medical and nursing staff, but right, nobly they rose to the occasion, and, Australians cannot be too grateful to them for their whole souled devotion to duty. It is much to be regretted that the High Command in this battle has been at fault in connection with the inexcusable action with the regard to the admission of a Roman Catholic chaplain. This must be put down as a politician's and military officer's lack of appreciation of spiritual values rather than an intentional slight to a particular denomination. Even on the lower ground, from a politician's point of view, it was a grievous blunder to flout public opinion by having "no time" to give adequate attention to so serious a subject. This official blundering, however, does not, detract from the quality of the service being rendered at the quarantine station in fighting the disease, but, rather calls attention to heroes and heroines who are as deserving of their country's appreciation and gratitude as those who have faithfully served in the great adventure overseas."