



# 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 159 January 2022

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

### Education Room - Bandicoot Heaven

We are closed at present, but look forward to re-opening as soon as the Harbour Trust gives an ok.

### Native Plant Nursery

We grow Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub plants at our Nursery for planting into degraded areas of North Head. If you would like to join us, there is a lot of planting, weeding and maintenance to be done, as we were unable to work during lockdown.

Please call in any Tuesday or Friday morning between 8am and noon, when we are open or email

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

To join you must be a member of North Head Sanctuary Foundation and be double vaccinated.

### Update on North Head Scenic Area safety and access improvements

Since October 2021 the following work has been undertaken by National Parks and Wildlife Service:

- \* New footpaths and kerbing have been added to the loop section of North Head Scenic Drive to provide safer access for pedestrians.
  - \* Roadside drainage has been improved.
  - \* The entrance to the fire trail has been upgraded for fire truck access.
  - \* New ramps have been installed at the entrance to the Fairfax Track to improve accessibility.
- The construction works at North Head have been planned in stages to minimise impact on visitor access:
- \* Pedestrians will have access to the Fairfax track from late January 2022.
  - \* The loop road will be closed to traffic between October and March 2022.
  - \* Carpark 2 is closed until March 2022.
  - \* Carpark 1 is currently open but will be closed from January 2022 (date to be advised) until March 2022.
  - \* The Bella Vista Café and North Head Sanctuary (managed by the Harbour Trust) will be open during the duration of works.
  - \* Site fencing will be in place at North Head Scenic Drive around the construction zone.

For more information, please see

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/park-management/community-engagement/north-head-upgrade>

Information for this article taken from this site.

## Habitat Pods



These are a refuge for native animals left vulnerable and exposed after a bushfire has destroyed their homes. These ones can be found behind our Nursery area.

“The habitat pods themselves take the shape of a sturdy, six-sided pyramid made from folded cardboard, perforated with multiple small holes where animals can scamper in and out. Unlike the wire and shade cloth structures that have been used as post-fire shelters previously, the pods are light, easy to transport and set up, and entirely biodegradable.”

For more information, please see

<https://www.australianwildlife.org/biodegradable-flat-pack-homes-to-help-wildlife-survive-after-bushfires/>

## Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub

has had its listing changed by Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. The ecological community is now in the ‘Critically Endangered’ category nationally (it was previously listed as ‘Endangered’). This recognises the strong need to protect and restore the ecological community.

For more information see

<http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicshowcommunity.pl?id=2>

## Back in Time

### PNG SCOUTS ON NORTH HEAD

Sun (Sydney, NSW : 1910-1954), 4 October 1933

“HERE TO STUDY MEDICINE - 12 Papuan Youths Arrive  
A picturesque party of 12 Papuan medical students reached Sydney by the Macdhuil to-day, together with two native attendants. The lads will live at the Quarantine station for the next four or five months, and cross to the city daily by ferry. Dr. W. M. Strong, chief medical officer of Territory of Papua, who arrived with the boys, said that, on completion of their training, the lads would become native

medical assistants, treating native patients. For five days a week the boys will continue their studies at special classes at the University, particularly at the School of Tropical Medicine”.

#### **Papuan Courier (PNG: 1917-1942), Friday 5 April 1935**

“The contingent of native students who recently returned from Sydney claim that they are the only medical troupe of boy scouts in the world. They spent six months training at the University of Sydney where they took a course of first aid and medical treatment, and while there, through the offices of Mr. J. M. Walshe, European Medical Assistant of the Papuan Public Service, they joined the scout movement, and he became their first scoutmaster.”

#### **World's News (Sydney, NSW : 1901-1955), 19 Feb 1936**

##### **“Real Scouts**

On Saturday last there was a big Campfire gathering at the Quarantine, Manly. The Papuan Scouts were the centre of attraction. Also present were 1st Balgowlah, St. Matthew's, of Manly, 2nd Killara, and 1st Surry Hills Troops. After the opening ceremony it fell to the lot of Bob Turner to invest members of the Papuan Troop as Scouts. The P.Ls. among them were "brought up" by P.Ls. Harry Stewart and Walter Maddem, of 1st Surry Hills. Thereafter there were items by the Troops, the most popular of which was that of the Papuans, who sang songs and gave a dancing exhibition. I once heard of a clever man who constructed something out of empty air and some barrel-hoops; and the Papuans had but little more to work upon. Out of bush material a serviceable ambulance was conjured in very quick time. Even the lashings had to be improvised. The result was a credit.”

Articles supplied by Elizabeth Mills. Her grandfather was a Balgowlah scout master who helped Mr Walshe with the scouting training of the Papuan medical students and my father as a boy accompanied them on many outings. My father remembers Mr Walshe staying with his family in Balgowlah.

### **North Head Sanctuary Foundation: Heading towards 20 years of action**

Judy Lambert

After two years of major disruption to our activities at North Head due to COVID-19, it seems timely to reflect on who we are and our journey since July 2002 – a journey we look forward to resuming with strong volunteer support, in the near future.

On 18-19 July 2002, 25 community participants concerned for the future of the outstanding natural and cultural values of North Head joined a 2-day North Head Sanctuary Forum hosted by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (the Trust) and the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS). The presentation put by that group to the workshop hosts, as the two major land managers on North Head, soon led to the formation of North Head Sanctuary Foundation (NHSF), which, after early meetings at Manly Council's chambers, became an incorporated not-for profit Association in November 2002. As committed in our constitution:

*The primary purpose of the association is to conserve, protect and enhance the natural environment of the North Head of Sydney Harbour and specifically to protect the biodiversity and geodiversity of the marea.*

Although our primary focus is on conserving the plants, animals and other creatures and their habitat, we fully recognised that North Head and its Aboriginal, military and immigration heritage are highly significant to the Australian people as part of our national heritage. It was this recognition that led NHSF to bring together community members with the skills and knowledge to prepare the nomination that led to listing, on 12 May 2006, of almost the whole of North Head on the National Heritage list. Early strategic planning quickly led to a recognition that, through our volunteer activities, we could further our objectives in several ways – key among them:

- a native plant nursery propagating and planting local native plant species and caring for them to provide habitat for threatened animal species;
- building community appreciation of North Head through a community education/information room and related community activities focusing on science-based information about the outstanding natural values of North Head; and
- collaboration with others committed to science-based conservation management of the whole of North Head.

When, in 2009, an opportunity arose to enter into a community agreement with the Trust to develop and implement projects that assist in meeting its objective of “*protecting, conserving and interpreting North Head Sanctuary*” and, at the same time, to further NHSF's own conservation objectives, we moved quickly to develop a proposal that met these needs.

Since 2010, when we signed a Community Memorandum of Agreement with the Trust, we've continued on this pathway, and we currently look forward to renewing that agreement with the Trust as it enters the next phase of its evolution.

We've begun putting together a timeline of the many key milestones in NHSF's journey and would welcome input to that as we approach our twentieth anniversary later this year.

In the meantime, thank you to all who have been part of our journey towards our original (and continuing) mission:

*To secure a publicly-owned sanctuary of national significance for the whole of North Head, that is managed predominantly as a protected environment for its natural attributes; that celebrates our Indigenous, immigration and military heritage; and that provides a place of learning, research and contemplation.*