



# North Head Sanctuary Foundation Inc

## Custodians of North Head

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### Thank You Volunteers

We are a volunteer organisation and have no paid staff, so without our volunteers, we would not do all the work that we do. THANK YOU

### Bushcare on North Head for World Environment Day 2022 – 5 June 2022 8 am

Garigal Landcare and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service invites everyone to come to North Head for a Weeding Working Bee on Sunday 5 June at 8am to celebrate World Environment Day 2022.

Join experienced bushcare volunteers in clearing the weeds from the Fairfax walk area. The only way to permanently remove the weeds to allow the endemic native plants to thrive is to clear the area taken over by paspalum, fleabane,



and whisky grass, see photo above, by hand.

Many hands making light work.

Meet in front of the Bella Vista Cafe on Scenic Drive at North Head at 8am. Parking is available through the gate in stone wall adjacent to the café.

Bring your own gloves, the largest screwdriver in your garage/workshop (the 87cm one), hat and sunscreen, insect repellent and a bottle of water. Small refreshments will be provided at the end of the session.

To book <https://events.humanitix.com/bushcare-at-north-head-sydney-harbour-national-park>

### General Meeting- Sat 18 June 2022

Our next meeting is on Saturday 18 June at 2pm, everyone welcome.

Author Tom Keneally has agreed to give a talk on a topic of his choosing.

### Q Station Open Day Sunday 5 June 2022 10am to 2pm

A new free self-guided tour is available, pick up a booklet on arrival at reception and follow the map to discover some of the Quarantine Station's curiosities.

A chance to see inside the moveable heritage store-bookable timeslots will be available through the website from May 28th.

Art workshop in S5 - Jo Neville will have paper native flower stems to paint. Learn about these blooms and many others that are very special to Q Station and North Head.

Music, stalls, native animal display and open heritage buildings in the Wharf precinct.

North Head Sanctuary Foundation will be having a stall, call in and say hello.

For More information, please see

<https://www.qstation.com.au/open-days.html>

### Education Room - Bandicoot Heaven

We are open **Saturdays and Sundays between 10am and 4pm**. Please call in and see us.

We have botanical cards and copies of Frances Bodkin's books -

D'harawal Climate & Natural Resources \$29.99

D'harawal Dreaming Stories \$19.99

for sale. Cash only.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer and helping visitors to better get to know North Head and all its treasures, should contact Judy Lambert (email:

[twswoombat@iinet.net.au](mailto:twswoombat@iinet.net.au) or phone 0427 217 580).

### 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 planting, weeding and maintenance to be done, especially as weeds love all this rain which keeps on coming.

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 COVID vaccinated.

## Everybody Loves Frogs

Peter Macinnis

Just about every group of animals has haters, people who fear spiders, ants, snakes, or cockroaches, but we all like frogs. Bats, dogs, and newts may frighten people, but alone in the witches' brew-book, frogs can do no wrong.



Mr Toad in *Wind in the Willows* was a bit suss, but Kermit, Tiddalik, even Neville

Longbottom's Trevor are all endearing.

Even this crawling frog, found on the edge of the Sahara, is cute. I was lured into running Frog

Watch at the Australian Museum in 1991, as a known project manager who had studied zoology, knew about computers—and liked frogs. The idea, “master-minded” by Telstra marketing people, flopped, but I was hooked. I began by editing, organising, and typing the illegible manuscript of a key to the local frogs, so I learned, fast. I found that frog lovers are called *herps*, or they are grouped among the herps, my sort of people. Among them, I passed for normal, and their experts trained me, but among them, I would never pass as a real herp. Still, I raised tadpoles in a fish tank on a bathroom windowsill. They came from spawn dumped in backyard puddles by careless green-and-brown-striped marsh frogs. They grew fat on lettuce, but until one died, none of them grew legs. Then the others ate their sibling, and metamorphosis began. I put a float in the tank because frogs can drown, and a cover on the top, because frogs can jump. Later, I let them go.

They were *Limnodynastes peronii*, which make *pock! pock!* calls, but I wondered what triggered the change. An expert told me it was thyroxin-related, and they probably got over a threshold by eating their sibs. Only *L. peronii*, ((Striped Marsh Frog) he said, leaves foamy spawn.



We have had touch-and-go taddies near the Gunners' Car Park since 22 February. Three weeks in, I planned a mass rescue from the smaller puddles as they dried out. There are, I believe, three species in the area, but I have concluded that three months later, most of them are within cooee of metamorphosing, and I am relying on nature to get enough tadpoles through the bottleneck and into adulthood.

Tadpoles are nigh-impossible to ID, but we can recognise adults by their calls, and we seem to have three main species, but somebody commented the other day that the frogs weren't calling. The experts told me they detect the lower pressure before rain, and only call then. They're waiting, just out of sight, waiting for a fall of rain.

## Third Cemetery

Sydney Daily Telegraph Friday 23 September 1881

“SMALL-POX IN SYDNEY,

The residence of Mr. Pope, of York-street, which was isolated on Wednesday last in consequence of it having become known that the patient Southcott, alias Jackson, developed the disease there, and was removed to Forsyth-street, Glebe, will be kept in quarantine until such steps are taken by the ambulance brigade as may be necessary to deter the progress of possible contagion.

The Medical Board has been engaged recently in devising the best means of preventing the spread of the disease, and a practical chemist, who is an experienced deodoriser, has been engaged to accompany the Ambulance Corps in their visits, in order that the men may acquire a more thorough knowledge of the work to be performed by them. In many instances infection is allowed to spread by parties not placing themselves in communication with medical men, and in this respect considerable advantage to the Board and the public health generally will be the result if early communication of all particulars connected with the cases in the early stages of their existence is ensured. The spread of the disease is, comparatively speaking, almost confined to the houses whence patients have been removed, and this in a great measure goes to prove the beneficial effects of the stringent measures adopted for its suppression. Little wonder it is that cases should occur in over-crowded and dirty houses, but as has been previously advocated, an Act of Parliament to render cases of this kind an offence will be necessary in the future. The official bulletin from the Quarantine Station received yesterday reads as follows:—“Mr. Fredk. Southcott passed a tolerable night, and is easier this morning; Mr. Caulfield is convalescent, and the others are doing well. All in the hospital enclosure are doing well, and those in the cabin enclosure are in a satisfactory condition.”

Interesting Fredrik Southcott was in quarantine on the hospital ship, Faraway. His condition became worse, and he died on 27 September 1881 (aged 20) and was the third person buried in the Third Cemetery.