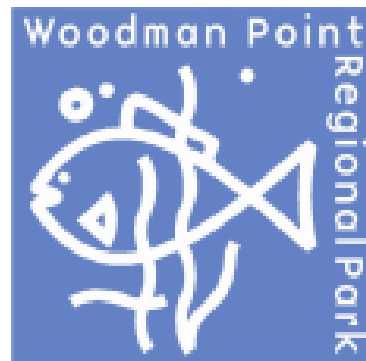


# A Heritage Interpretation Plan ~ Woodman Point Regional Park ~



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## Acronyms used in the text

DEC	Department of the Environment and Conservation (formerly the Department of Conservation & Land Management, CALM).
DSR	Department of Sport & Recreation
NAA	National Archives of Australia
SRO	State Records Office



# Executive Summary & Recommendations

This Interpretation Plan is written in the format adopted by the Department of the Environment and Conservation (DEC, formerly CALM), the agency responsible for co-ordinating the management of Woodman Point Regional Park. It was also strategically designed to connect to a framework recently adopted by the State Government for assessing places most likely to be successfully linked to heritage tourism in Western Australia,<sup>1</sup> and to embody corporate objectives outlined in Woodman Point Regional Park's draft management plan, the conservation plan for Woodman Point Recreation Camp, the conservation and recreation enhancement plan for Jervoise Bay, DEC communication strategies, and other contemporary best practice interpretive planning guidelines. The Plan is intended as a resource for the promotion and conservation of the Park's diverse heritage assets at a critical time in the growth of the City of Cockburn,<sup>2</sup> and to endorse the unique contribution that Woodman Point's natural and cultural heritage provides to government, as tourism and community culture-building assets.

Sites within the Park have been identified by the heritage industry as significant at local, State, and national level, but there are currently no in-situ interpretive displays, other than a memorial to early colonial settlers. However, Woodman Point Regional Park's site managers placed a high priority on the development and implementation of an interpretation plan in 2002,<sup>3</sup> and the community group, Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp,<sup>4</sup> ultimately aim to have a published history, to complete an audio and static display, and to provide history workshops for interested parties. This Interpretation Plan seeks to provide direction to both groups. It identifies

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<sup>1</sup> Tourism Western Australia and Heritage Council of Western Australia, *A Heritage Tourism Strategy for Western Australia* (Perth: Government of Western Australia, 2006).

<sup>2</sup> Local resident numbers are projected to increase from 25,000 in the 1970s to 110,000 by 2016. This is based on comparative statistics from the City of Cockburn's Municipal Inventory (1997), and its Strategic Plan 2006-2016 [online, available at [www.Cockburn.wa.gov.au](http://www.Cockburn.wa.gov.au)].

<sup>3</sup> Conservation Commission of Western Australia et al., *Woodman Point Regional Park: Draft Management Plan 2002-2012* (Perth: Department of Conservation and Land Management, 2002), p53.

<sup>4</sup> Of which the author is a steering committee member.



themes based on research into the tangible and intangible elements of the Park's heritage and proposes signage and other media at eight key locations within the Park, in order to inform the process of providing visitors with an understanding of the site's history of human use, and its natural features.

This Plan interrogates archival resources held at the National Archives in Perth and Canberra as the primary evidence for much of its text, and it contains a CD of electronic resources, including aerial photographs, colonial maps, a register of deaths, burials at cremations at Woodman Point, and photographs from the publication, the *Boonah Tragedy*. The *Boonah Tragedy's* author, Ian Darroch, has kindly permitted interested parties to use those photographs in interpretive media.

There have been many changes to the curtilages of sites within the park, reflecting the various land usages as a former quarantine station, a munitions reserve, a naval base, and a recreation and conservation reserve. There have also been a number of nomenclature changes, as footnoted.<sup>5</sup>

This Interpretation Plan highlights 29 recommendations:

**Recommendation 1:**

That Woodman Point Regional Park be conserved and interpreted as a single heritage precinct, irrespective of its management regimes and boundaries. This is consistent with the recreation camp's conservation plan recommendation 8.07.01.ii. **[Section 2.2]**.

**Recommendation 2:**

That managing agencies of Woodman Point Regional Park liaise over their respective signage and communication policies in order to provide a consistent policy which addresses the needs of visitors of all ages and

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<sup>5</sup> 'Woodman' is cited as 'Woodman's Point' in most pre-1950s records; Woodman Point was formerly part of the Town of Clarence and is now located in Munster in the City of Cockburn; Cockburn Road is variously named as Rockingham Road, Naval Base Road, Mandurah Road, and it may soon be part of the proposed Fremantle-Rockingham Highway, which will bring the Woodman Point Lighthouse and Light Keepers' Cottages into the Park's curtilage. The lighthouse is designated in historic records as 'Coogee Lighthouse,' and 'Woodman Point Lighthouse' in contemporary records, with the exception of the Park's draft management plan. The latter also designates the munitions jetty as 'Woodman Point Jetty,' presumably because it has been confused with an earlier jetty once located at the former quarantine station.

abilities, and conforms their respective disability service plans.<sup>6</sup> **[Section 2.2].**

**Recommendation 3:**

That all sites within Woodman Point Regional Park be declared prohibited to dogs. **[Section 3.2].**

**Recommendation 4:**

That interpretation policy for Woodman Point Regional Park be based on the heritage values of the place. This is consistent with Burra Charter Article 1.17. **[Section 3.2].**

**Recommendation 5:**

That interpretation policy for Woodman Point Regional Park be linked to the Park's management and conservation plans. **[Section 3.3].**

**Recommendation 6:**

That an inventory of stories for Woodman Point Regional Park be presented by DEC to the Park's Community Advisory Committee and distributed for comment to community and commercial organisations, and government agencies with links to the Park. **[Section 4.2].**

**Recommendation 7:**

That issues managed within the Park include the impact of visits and stays, and the locations of accommodation, parking, amenities, and activities. **[Section 5].**

**Recommendation 8:**

That interpretative planning at Woodman Point Regional Park target low environmental impact behaviours by Park visitors for the conservation of the natural and built environment. **[Section 5].**

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<sup>6</sup> State Government departments and Local Governments are required to have a Disability Service Plan under the State Disability Services Act (1993).

**Recommendation 9:**

That interpretative media be reviewed twice-annually, in conjunction with a site survey of heritage assets by specialist investigators. **[Section 5].**

**Recommendation 10:**

That greater public accessibility be made available to the recreation camp (former quarantine station) in order to raise public awareness of the Park's significance. This is consistent with the site's conservation plan recommendation 5.10.i. **[Section 5.2].**

**Recommendation 11:**

That DEC, as the Park's managing agency, commission regular visitor analyses of current, and prospective users of Woodman Point Regional Park, in order to inform the development of interpretive programs that meet user needs and expectations. **[Section 5.3].**

**Recommendation 12:**

That cultural tourism at Woodman Point Regional Park be promoted on a local, national, and international scale. **[Section 5.3].**

**Recommendation 13:**

That further interpretation of Thomas Peel's settlement be developed in Beeliar Regional Park in the region of Mt Brown. **[Section 7.1.3].**

**Recommendation 14:**

That information on Woodman Point Regional Park in DEC's new publication, 'Your Guide to Perth's Regional Parks,' be reviewed for errors (in relation to the history of quarantine), and omissions (in relation to site attractions) and that corrections be addressed in the brochure's next reprint. **[Section 7.1.6].**

**Recommendation 15:**

That interpretive themes for Woodman Point reflect its diverse history of indigenous use; that sites within the Park played a key role in the settlement,



development, and defence of Western Australia; that the Park is a place where nature's processes of formation and modification can be understood; and that it is also an important habitat, feeding, and breeding ground for significant flora and fauna. **[Section 8.1].**

**Recommendation 16:**

That the Park's managing agencies negotiate an agreement with the Beeliam group of Whadjug Nyungar people on processes for interpreting their heritage. **[Section 8.1.1].**

**Recommendation 17:**

That prior to any development or activity, suitably qualified consultants be engaged to conduct ethnographic and archaeological surveys of the area. **[Section 8.1.1].**

**Recommendation 18:**

That the crematorium at Woodman Point Regional Park be protected and sensitively interpreted as a rare and highly significant building, and that the Park's cemeteries be interpreted to provide context to engage with the history of public health and quarantine in Western Australia.

**Recommendation 19:**

That commemorative memorials be erected to victims of smallpox, typhoid, leprosy, and bubonic plague who were buried in the original cemetery in the recreation reserve from c1893; and to those victims of smallpox and pneumonic influenza (Spanish 'Flu) interred in the military cemetery in the nature reserve from 1918. **[Section 8.1.2.1].**

**Recommendation 20:**

That the story of the former Woodman Point Quarantine Station be promoted to organisers of the National Museum's centennial exhibition on quarantine to be held in 2008. **[Section 8.1.2.1].**

**Recommendation 21:**

That oral history recordings with migrants who experienced quarantine at Woodman Point be undertaken as a valuable future interpretive resource.

**[Section 8.1.2.1].**

**Recommendation 22:**

That the pastor of the Flying Angel Club in Fremantle be contacted with respect to collaborating on the renewal of the memorial that the Flying Angel Mission installed to the memory of four Fijian crewmen who died of smallpox at Woodman Point in 1943. **[Section 8.1.2.1].**

**Recommendation 23:**

That Threatened Species Day be promoted annually at Woodman Point Regional Park, and that promotions be aligned with DEC's target for the full recovery of 20 plants and animals currently listed on the State's Threatened Species List. **[Section 8.1.4].**

**Recommendation 24:**

That DEC institute a management program for the protection of extant munitions magazines at Woodman Point Regional Park. This is consistent with the strategy cited in the Park's draft management plan to develop management guidelines for historic sites in accordance with the ICOMOS Burra Charter. **[Section 8.3, A].**

**Recommendation 25:**

That a visitor centre with a controlled-environment museum, archival repository, curatorial, and interpretive facilities be developed and staffed so that moveable heritage can be recovered, conserved, and interpreted. This is consistent with the recreation camp's conservation plan recommendation 9.3.i. **[Section 8.3, D].**

**Recommendation 26:**

That archaeological surveys be conducted at the two undesignated cemeteries within the nature reserve and the recreation camp at Woodman Point Regional Park. **[Section 8.3, D].**

**Recommendation 27:**

That the undesignated cemetery in the recreation camp be protected from future development. **[Section 8.3, D].**

**Recommendation 28:**

That managing agencies of Woodman Point Regional Park continuously monitor and explore outside sources of funding available to the Park's community groups, in order to achieve interpretative goals. **[Section 9.3].**

**Recommendation 29:**

That interpretative planning be flexible enough to encompass new knowledge about the Park, and new conceptual approaches to its delivery. **[Section 10.3].**