



Welcome to the
"Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp"
Quarterly Newsletter for 2013

 **Spring Edition**



Visit our website: www.woodmanpointquarantinestation.com



Friends News:



In gratitude of their kind donation of an All-terrain wheelchair, the Members of the Rotary Club of Fremantle Ports were offered a Heritage Tour of the former Woodman Point Quarantine Station, and a tour was organised for them for Saturday 20th July after which a BBQ was arranged for all who attended. The wheelchair is an added bonus for our Heritage Tours, especially as a majority of our tours originate from senior groups. It is available also for use by the Department of Sport and Recreation at Woodman Point with their camp bookings.

We still continue to persevere with our applications to Lotterywest in an attempt to be successful with a Heritage Grant towards the restoration of the Heritage Listed Shower Block, and a Cultural Heritage Grant towards the cost of a master plan for the Woodman Point Regional Park involving the Interpretation of the Woodman Point Explosive Magazine. As they say, "if you keep trying long enough " !!!.

The need of procuring funds for the installation of a Special needs/Aged and Wheelchair access pathway to the Woodman Point Crematorium is still high on our agenda and various avenues are still being investigated.

We received an exciting e-mail by way of our website from a Ms Kaye Payne in Maitland NSW in relation to her grandfather who was on the HMAT Boonah. Kaye and her family have kindly donated special images of her grandparents to Friends, and this kind offer also includes a unique photograph of her grandfather with his family taken prior to embarking on the Boonah. Also included was an image of the HMAT Boonah. The following extract from her e-mail is self explanatory: "*Hi Earle, This is a very interesting site, my grandfather, William Turnbull Armstrong, sailed on the 'Boonah' in 1918 and it was certainly part of our childhood stories. I have a copy of the picture that his mother had painted for him after his return from the war. The picture was copied from a picture on a matchbox. Kaye Payne ."*

Following this contact, we were informed that relations of Kaye's would be visiting WA in September and were very keen in visiting Woodman Point and following up on the heritage family trail of their grandfather, the Woodman Point Quarantine Station, and events that occurred with him at the end of WW1. An enjoyable tour was had by the relatives of William Turnbull Armstrong and their friends and I have been advised that further family information will be forthcoming.

We are still yet to receive the elusive and official photograph of Arthur David Waters, however we now have a photograph of the family home of the Waters Family and where Arthur David was born. The photograph was kindly sent by Ms Janet Napolitano from Dover Kent. War memorial project in the UK.

Mr Kent Taylor from Monument Australia, has kindly put a link from the Monument Australia's website to ours at the Woodman Point Quarantine Station site. This was in appreciation of additional information sent to him regarding burial information at the Woodman Point Military Cemetery.



Friends News (Continued)



Application to the ANZAC Centenary Grants Program for funding towards the Woodman Point Quarantine Station History Project, or the possibility of obtaining a separate funding grant for the purchase of incredibly historic images of the quarantine station during the Spanish Flu pandemic at the end of 1919. A very special word of thanks to Melissa Park's Office and her Secretary Ms Kath Longley for her kind assistance and advice on this subject

Following an on-air radio statement by Native Arc representative Mr. Dean Huxley, contact was made with him regarding the request for natural bush areas for the relocation of Bandicoots and Quendas after their habitat has been lost or destroyed. The area around the Isolation Hospital was offered as a relocation site, and seeing we have Bandicoots and Quendas resident there now, this native bush site seemed appropriate, and I'm told they take up very little space and cause no damage whatsoever. No incidents of relocation of the marsupials have taken place at this stage. Presumably relocation sites must be within five kilometres of the original habitat. Management of the Department of Sport and Recreation have been advised and their support of this worthwhile environmental sustainability program should be highly recognised.

Two historic red nurses capes and two protective nurses gowns have been kindly donated for display in our Interpretation Ward of the Isolation Hospital. It certainly looks like future visitors to our smallpox ward will be required to partake of a "Lysol bath"

Bollards have been strategically installed in the Regional Park to preserve sections of the "Plague Road". A necessity that has finally eventuated. Hope you are reading this Gail.

The CPR and Defibrillator Training course that was originally planned for the 26th July in the Isolation Hospital had to be postponed for that day, however the course was re-scheduled and completed prior to our Friends September meeting. The course can only be described as excellent and is thoroughly recommended, and should be a compulsory program for everyone. Special thanks must go to our instructor from the Royal Lifesaving Association, Mr Graham Sharpe from DSR Head Office, and also DSR Management for arranging the training instruction program. Friends members should be advised if they are interested doing this course please contact us and another can be arranged.

Get Well Soon.

According to the "wires" all our members are well and on deck



Members Details:

A big welcome aboard to new members Ms Olwyn Spears and Mr Les Jubbs.

Members are invited to send us any anecdotes of their own for submission in the Pratique Newsletter . The first historic article to be included in this edition has kindly been sent to us by recent Friends new member, Mr Les Jubbs. Also we are privileged to have some fascinating members in our group, and one in particular being Ms Olwyn Spears, past Governess of all women's prisons in the United Kingdom.



Current Friends Projects:



The continuance of further applications to Lotterywest that emphasise and clarify the necessity and the urgency of procuring funding grants that will go toward the Cultural Heritage Grant for the restoration of the Heritage Listed Shower Block, and the Cultural Heritage Grant towards the cost of a master plan for the Woodman Point Regional Park involving the Interpretation of the Woodman Point Explosive Magazine.

The replacement of limestone blocks in the Anchor Memorial area have been installed after damage caused by vandalism.

The Memorial plaques are now complete and have been re-installed in their appropriate positions around the Isolation Hospital. A special thank you must go to Wilson Signs and especially Clayton, for his patience, understanding and generous offer.

The repainting of the decking areas and handrails around the Isolation Hospital that were scheduled to commence in July is yet to eventuate. I'm not complaining about the rain, it's brilliant, and we really need it, but our painting contractor is still waiting for some clear skies on the horizon.

The Friends, Woodman Point Lighthouse Project continues apart from the weather even though this has made progress with this project a lot slower. Watch for further signals.

Our book project of the History of the Woodman Point Quarantine Station continues with our esteemed author, Mr Ian Darroch.

Historic items continue to be offered to us for interpretation projects in the Isolation Hospital.

Certain grassed areas around the Isolation Hospital and Jervoise Dormitory have been fertilised and re-seeded in the high traffic lawn areas.

A ceiling fan has been installed in the IH inside conveniences, and this installation has thereby also repaired and covered the visible ceiling damage that was previously caused by damaged plaster.

An Honour Board is presently being drawn up for past Friends Committee Members with elected positions, past and present and also Life Members.

The City of Cockburn Public Library has requested from Friends a Power Point information session on the former Quarantine Station to be presented in October

Just For The Record And For Those Who May Be Interested:

Dreamt is the only word in English that ends in the letters **mt**

No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver or purple.

Each year, three times as much rubbish is dumped into the world's oceans as the weight of fish caught.

February 1865, is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.



Department Of Sport And Recreation:



Comings' and Goings':

Exit Ben Walton, after relieving in the position of Woodman Point DSR Manager whilst Matthew Hayes was away.

Welcome back to DSR Manager Woodman Point, Mr Matt Hayes, after a stint in DSR Head Office. Leederville.

A Friends Woodman Point welcome to Matt Grace, the new DSR Accommodation Officer.

Defibrillator Awareness Training, thanks to Graham Sharpe and the SSLA Trainer on a very informative and necessary training exercise that should be made compulsory to all. Well done and many thanks to Matthew Hayes, Kym Lawrence and their staff for arranging this program for our members. We just hope we never have to use it.

Special thanks to Matthew Hayes for especially arranging Mr Gino Cataldo to repair the damaged cement flooring in the Fumigation block. Well done on your excellent workmanship Gino.

A great job of weed spraying the winter grasses on the lawn areas by our Weed Spray WA contractor Keith Burton.

To the Pat x 2's for installing the safety grate in the Fumigation Block and their continued offer of assistance whenever it is necessary. The level in law suits has now completely diminished in the tourist area of the Fumigation Block.

The installation of lattice work on the NE corner of Tuart Dormitory has greatly improved the building outlook and gives it a distinct heritage feel.

Special thanks to Dave Mulcahy and all those involved in the tree planting. You need to be commended, as these areas now not only look great, but will be an added advantage of shade in Summers to come and also protection from the elements.

Management and staff at Woodman Point need to be complimented on the excellent presentation and current pleasing outlook of the recreation camp, a credit to all. The majority of these highly regarded comments originate from remarks made by Heritage Tour groups and comments in our visitors book. A picture is worth a thousand words !!

As we all know, our Operations Manager Kym Lawrence, has many attributes, and he excels at all of them, but now there has been another notch added to the ladder of success, would you believe Time Travel. I'm not sure how he does it, but I know he can, because he confirmed it in an e-mail, and I have looked for the "Enterprise Molecular Transporter" everywhere, so all I can say now is, Star Date, August 2013, Space, the final frontier, or, to quote Mr Spock, please Captain, not in front of the Klingons



Members Take Note:



Anecdotes on FOWRC Members have been extremely light on lately, to say the least, however the warning is still current, so members do not drop your guard as your name is most likely to appear in this column sometime in the future.

Even though he passed with flying colours, and this also included an accepted associated degree or masters, in our recent CPR and Defibrillator Training course, I'm sure there is no truth in the rumour that our "keeper of the cash" Mr Howard Shepherd, intends to establish his own practice, including private rooms to pass his obvious knowledge onto others in this highly acclaimed science. Pardon the pun, but please do not hold your breath waiting for details on the outcome or the official opening date.

Cover Image:

Photographs of the Woodman Point Reservoir, now in disrepair. The reinforced reservoir was completed in July/August 1928, and was used to supply the Quarantine Station with an adequate water supply. Prior to WW2, Jack Mayers, was the Chief Boiler Engineer at the Quarantine Station. He was in charge of the fumigation shed and the steam laundry, including, maintaining a constant water supply to the Quarantine Station from the well situated nearby to the lighthouse. The well and reservoir required priming morning and night, a task completed daily by Mr Mayers. He was one of a limited number of civilians to be given security clearance to access the Naval Base Road during WW11 via the two wooden military security gates situated near the Woodman Point Army Camp.

What's On The Horizon for Heritage Tours:



The popularity of our Heritage Tours continues on its friendly way, and it is fascinating the variety of tour groups that participate, and the source they emanate from.

Excellent compliments are still made about our friendly tours and the amazing amount of history that we describe about the quarantine station and the associated area.

The high quality and presentation of our light luncheons is continually commented on to a high degree, and especially our Master Chef's speciality, the "Pastie Slice". Obviously the ingredients and cooking method is a family tradition, that has been passed down from family to family in the highlands of Scotland and onto some of the links courses as well, I would assume !! Quality Pete, and cannot go without expressing our thanks for the excellent service of your assistants, Lily, Norma and Christine from the Accolade catering staff.

On a sad note, we would like to express our get well soon and best wishes to Vivian on her sudden illness, and hopefully we will see you back at Woodman Point very soon.

When the Pratique went to print last quarter, the Heritage Tour total stood at 21+(3TBC) it now stands at 42 + (4TBC) and this is up to the end of November, I do not feel we will hit the "magic 50" but we are headed in the right direction.

Brochures giving booking information and describing details of the Historical Tours are available from the website. www.woodmanpointquarantinestation.com



A Vote Of Thanks:



To Ms Luisa White for her kind offer in making an additional Protective Nurse's uniform for the WW11 era. An excellent sewing job, and very authentic, thanks for your effort Luisa. We will definitely need to warn the cleaning staff who look after the Isolation Hospital regarding the lifelike additions to the Interpretation Ward.

To Purple Coaches for promoting our Heritage Tours on their website, great publicity and thank you for their kind assistance.

To Ms Coral Mullins, and Ms Lyn Pearton for their kind donation of the WWII Nurse's capes.

Kym Lawrence, thanks again for the printing of the Pratique and our Heritage Brochures, and also your assistance in all matters relating to the Isolation Hospital.

Mr Jack Edwards for his donation of the historic reading spectacles.

A special thank you to the Management and Staff of Svitzer Australasia and Svitzer Offshore for their kind donation of the towing line from the tug Wyola, for possible use in our Lighthouse Project. A special word of thanks to Chris Truslove from Svitzer for arranging it, with Barry Shaw and Frank Hutchins assisting with its transport.

Pat Miller, for his assistance with photographic boards in the Isolation Hospital

To the City Of Cockburn's Mr Kathleen Koelen for continually assisting us with arranging of our bus hire bookings.

Thanks to Manager Mark Ianello from Stella Industrial for the kind offer of storage and repainting, and Mr Milton Rear for welding repairs associated with our Lighthouse project.

Department of Parks and Wildlife:



Sorry to hear of the resignation of Mr Brad Johnston, he will be surely missed by Friends and we wish him well for all his future plans and endeavours.

Many thanks to DPAW staff Woodman Point for the installation of the bollards in the Regional Park, these additions will go along way in protecting the historic "Plague Road" for recognition by future generations. Thanks to Josh Cooper, as always, and ably assisted by Jen and Ez. A question, who gets the award for erecting the Aussie flag on the Norfolk Pine tree ?

100 Years Ago:

The West Australian 14 January 1913.

The Cockburn Sound Base, Western Australia is marching, if not step by step with the older States, at all events close behind them. When Admiral Henderson was here upon his visit of inspection, his eye the eye of the born connoisseur lighted upon Cockburn Sound. It went no further. So far as Western Australia was concerned, he had found what he wanted. Here was nature's gift, a natural harbour large enough, it was contended, to accommodate the navies of the world, naturally protected on almost all sides from the Indian Ocean. Possessing excellent tetter and holding ground, and having abounding it a mainland that was eminently adapted for all the requirements of a great naval base.



Memories Long Ago:

The following article was kindly sent in by Mr Les Jubbs:-



Quarantine Station Reflections from Nov/Dec 1945.

I arrived back in Fremantle from Service with the RAAF attached to the RAF in England and went to live with my parents at the Munitions Depot in Woodman Point. From January 1942 the Civilian Members of the Royal Navy had used this facility to store all the munitions, and equipment required by Naval Ships from different countries. Perhaps for torpedoes, they may have been stored at Naval Base Sheds or on a Royal Navy Mother Ship or elsewhere. Later, after the new Munitions facility was built at Byford all the personnel were transferred there. Nothing remains of that large facility in Byford or at Woodman Point.

The Quarantine Station Officer in Charge was a Mr Roy McIntosh, and myself and his pilot son, Keith, came home on the same ship the "Aquitania" which had also been a Troop Carrier & Hospital Ship in the first WW1 and did the same thing in 1939/45. Keith was an enthusiastic motor bike rider so he invited me to the Quarantine Station. As I heard a little about this mysterious place I rode my newly purchased Don R (Despatch Rider Army bike) only to find Keith hurtling around a circling space and even coming off as part of his demonstration. (I had no desire to emulate Keith, for all I required from my newly purchased bike was for it me to Perth and back each day.)

Mr McIntosh introduced me to his wife of many years, who had also lived on other Stations while bringing up two children. After a short discussion of what it was like living on a similar Quarantine Stations I was a little alarmed and concerned for the place gave me the creeps. (no patients were then in residence) but I made my departure as soon as possible never to return for another 61 years.

On a heritage tour bus trip to the former Woodman Point Quarantine Station recently, I was greatly surprised to find all the buildings restored and freshly painted for the site was NO longer used as a Quarantine Station, but a place where young people could have a short, well conducted holiday using all the wonderful facilities. Groups of adults frequently paid conducted visits.

My thoughts were for all the dedicated Staff that had cared for all the patients who spent time at the Quarantine Station while some to never leave. The price paid was shown by the graves of the volunteer nurses and Doctors who gave their lives. Thankfully those dreadful hideous diseases no longer come to our shores. For me it was pleasing visit and such a contrast to my first experience. You no longer see the dreaded YELLOW FLAG flying from a ship' Mast visiting Fremantle or on the Gate to the Quarantine Station.

NOTE: Keith McIntosh lost his life some years after I met him during a motor bike Road Race.



100 Years Ago: (Continued)



The Sunday Times, 30 November 1913: Plague Patient at Woodman Point

A member of a well known WA family, Mr Ernie Locke, walked into the chemist's shop of the late Jacky Angove and complained of a small swelling on the body. "Strained myself chopping wood, I think," he said jocularly. Jacky looked at him for a few moments across the counter. "Sit down a moment Mr. Locke," he said, "while I get you something." Then, while Ernie was calmly perusing the Penny Hackett of that period, Jack rang up the Health Department. In five minutes a special cart dashed up to the front of Angove's shop, disgorged three disinfected attendants, the latter grabbing Ernie and bundling him into the vehicle in a few sudden seconds. In two hours he was put to by-by in a cot at the camp at Woodman Point, where, as he afterwards humorously remarked, he had all the recreation possible. While ill he could see from his ward window the bodies of the dead being cremated. While during his convalescence probation he could fish from the rocks and sand and not feel a liar, the hauls being plentiful.

The Locke Family held unique records in having three sons who have respectively sustained and recovered from bubonic plague(Ernie), snakebite and lock-jaw, a daughter having gone one better in being the finder and presenter to the Perth Museum of the enormous whale skeleton (the largest known of its species in the world)

Did You Know:

In February 1899 the founder of the Salvation Army, General William Booth, was confined to the quarantine station with suspected smallpox after the vessel Prinz Regent Luitpold arrived at the Long Jetty Fremantle, but his condition was later correctly diagnosed as chicken pox. The authorities were so concerned with this ship having smallpox on board that the loading of 200 tons of coal was shot through two doors on the Starboard side whilst alongside the jetty so there would be no human contact with the ship's crew. It was also during General Booth's confinement at Woodman Point he wrote an article for the bulletin "The War Cry", in which describes vividly the quarantine station at this particular time. He writes, a convict built limestone wall in some decay enclosed the quarantine station and separated it from a vacant leper colony. A bell and a sign, Small-pox Here, hung on tall forbidding gates. Another incident was where the General's son, Commandant Herbert Booth, was able to discuss some Salvation Army business over the limestone boundary wall.

On The Radar And Within Radio Range:

Construction of a pathway to the crematorium
Restoration of the heritage listed Shower Block



Point Of Interest



What Is A Ship's Bell Time:

When a ship is underway at sea it is necessary to man the essential operating stations such as the navigation bridge and engine room 24 hours a day. To accomplish this, the ship's crew is divided into "watches" which rotate being on duty or "on watch" in shifts usually four hours long. In the sailing ship era before the development of mechanical clocks the passage of each 4 hour watch was marked with an hourglass which ran 30 minutes. Each half hour, when the glass was turned over, the ship's bell was struck. Over time a traditional pattern of striking the bell in couplets, or pairs of strikes, developed which added a strike each half hour. Thus, a person standing watch could tell by listening to the bells where he was in his watch and how long it would be before the next watch came on deck. Also, if the strike was an even number of bells, it was on the hour. If an odd number of bells, then it was the half hour, and which half hour it was. As mechanical clocks were developed this bell pattern was transferred into ship's bell clocks.

Nautical Quotes:

Design has taken the place of what sailing used to be." - Dennis Conner

A sailor's joys are as simple as a child's." - Bernard Moitessier

It isn't that life ashore is distasteful to me. But life at sea is better." Francis Drake

Something To Laugh At:

We live in a society where pizza gets to your house before the police.

The shinbone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.

If winning isn't everything why do they keep score?

I intend to live forever. So far, so good.

Excerpts from a Church Bulletin:- " The Low Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7:00 PM - Please use the back door.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind, They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

Project Lighthouse:

Preparations continue with this project, however delays in welding and certain structural planning have been delayed caused by the weather. It is envisaged that this month a more concerted effort will be put into the welding and fabrication of the structural base and make progress on the lens area. We all agree with Kym Lawrence, with the suggestion that we make an installation deadline at Woodman Point for February 2014 to coincide with a DSR event.





100 Years Ago:

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN Wednesday 3 December 1913

SMALL-POX ON A MAIL STEAMER. ARRIVAL OF THE MALWA. THE PATIENT SUCCUMES. FREMANTLE PASSENGERS QUARANTINED

When the P. and O. liner Malwa arrived from London via the usual ports yesterday morning it was noticed that her flag was flying at half-mast. The previous evening a wireless message had been received from the mail steamer stating that a case of infectious disease had been discovered on board, and although nothing definite was stated in the message, it was at once conjectured that the disease was small-pox. Immediately on arrival the Malwa proceeded to the river buoy, where she was boarded by Dr. Williams and his staff. It was then learned that after the departure from Colombo a second passenger, J. T. Ward, who with his wife was travelling from London to Melbourne, had contracted the dread disease, and that he had died that morning at 3 o'clock. The vessel was at once placed in strict quarantine, and during the day no communications was allowed with the shore. The disease appears to have manifested itself shortly after the vessel left Colombo.

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN Tuesday 12 August 1913

LOCAL PRECAUTIONS. THE LOCAL SUSPECT. CASE ONE OF TOXIC RASH

The sensation created in the city on Saturday by the discovery at the Commercial Traveller's Club in St. George's-terrace, of a suspected case of small-pox was entirely dissipated yesterday. The case, it is now officially testified, is not one of small-pox at all, but a simple toxic rash; that is to say, an eruptive skin ailment which in some cases follows the vaccination of the sufferer. The name of the suspect whose indisposition occasioned all the commotion on Saturday is Vivian Donald, an inspector in the employ of the Northern Insurance Co. Mr. Donald, who arrived from the Eastern States last Tuesday week, is at present confined to a room at the quarantine station, Woodman Point.

HARBOURS AND RIVERS, IMPROVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR.

The West Australian Tuesday 30 September 1913

At Woodman Point, the quarantine jetty was extended 100ft. at the request of the Commonwealth Government.

Life's Quotes:

The truth is incontrovertible. Malice may attack it. Ignorance may deride it. But in the end, there it is—*Winston Churchill*

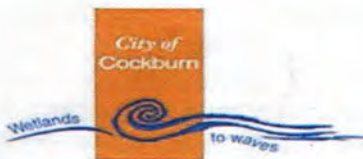


*Cheerio for now
The Caretaker*





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