



Welcome to the
"Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp"
Newsletter for 2012



Winter Edition



Visit our website: www.woodmanpointquarantinestation.com





Chief Officer, Arthur David Waters 1906—1943

It was mentioned in the Autumn Edition of the Pratique the research that is kindly being done by Mrs. Marilyn Simcock into making contact with a family member of the late Chief Officer, Arthur Waters who died of smallpox at Woodman Point on the 1st April 1943. An article has been placed in the Dover Mercury newspaper in the United Kingdom, requesting contact from a family member or any information at all on the Waters family, but regrettably, we have not been successful so far. Sadly, it could be possible that there are no surviving members in his family, but the family history research by Marilyn is continuing and she is hopeful of a positive result for us.

Success at last, the reply that Marilyn received on Friday 20th July 2012 from her contact in the UK, " David Waters is my husbands great grandfather. His daughter Jean (died mid 1990s) being my husbands grandmother. We were always told that David Waters died during the war but nobody seemed to know much else - even Brian who sadly is no longer with us. He died a couple of years ago and never had any children so my husbands mother is the only one left. I will contact her to see if she has a photo. " Watch this space. Congratulations Marilyn and thank you.

Resulting from a Heritage Tour in June by the Combined Probus Club of Leeming, an unusually wet day, i recall !!, i was contacted afterwards by a Mrs Barbara Mitchinson, a relation of David Anderson Mitchinson, who left Rottnest Island in 1910 to become the lightkeeper at Woodman Point Lighthouse. David Mitchinson and his wife Kathleen moved to Rottnest Island in 1893 and took up the position as Assistant Lighthouse Keeper, and in 1896 was promoted to Lightkeeper. It was David Mitchinson who first spotted the ill-fated City Of York as it sailed to Fremantle in 1899. In 1910, David Mitchinson left Rottnest Island to become the Lightkeeper at Woodman Point. He held that position until his death in 1925, aged 56 years. Barbara has kindly given her permission to display the images and information on our website. Thanks again Barbara. For details see the Woodman Point Lighthouse Page on our website.

In July two Heritage Tours were conducted for the Uniting Care Group, these tours were conducted for persons with special needs, and totalled twenty eight persons, and this included seven carers. The weather was excellent, and lunch was taken by one group in the barbecue area near the Disembarkation Block, and a great time was had by all. This restricted type of tour is a first for our Heritage Tours, and as you can see by our latest Federal Volunteer Grant Application, part of the application includes an All-terrain Wheel Chair. If and when the application gets approval, its inclusion and availability for our tours, will be an invaluable item.



Current Friends Projects:



Approval from the City Of Cockburn was granted in June for our Community Volunteer Grant Application for the purchase and installation of a new flag pole and the purchase of brass remembrance plaques to be displayed around the Isolation Hospital. The flagpole has now been installed and plans are now under way for the expenditure of the remainder of the funds for the completion of the plaques project,

Special thanks must go the City Of Cockburn for their continued support, and also a big thank you to City Of Cockburn staff members, Kathleen for her kind assistance when we require a bus booking for our Heritage Tours, and not forgetting Wilmari, Chloe, Cassandra for their assistance always, and a Friends welcome to Jessica Greenway.

The Federal Volunteer Grants Application for 2012 is now open, and an application by Friends has been lodged for the purchase of one All-terrain Wheel Chair for special needs and aged use in our Heritage and Historical Tours. These all-terrain wheel chairs will enable us to include historic areas on our Heritage Tours for special needs or aged persons where before access was restricted to able bodied persons, because entry was only accessible via sandy pathways. In this current grant application we have also applied for an Electronic Whiteboard that we feel would be beneficial with corporate groups in the usage of our premises, and another incentive in boosting our funds capital that would go toward supporting our work in community participation.

Progress is still continuing with Friends and the Department of Environment and Conservation on the Interpretation and Restoration Project involving the former Woodman Point Explosive Magazine situated in the Woodman Point Regional Park, and we are now awaiting on a Lotterywest Grant application to be approved so we can move forward and prepare base mapping and specific site feature surveys for the Woodman Point Nature and Recreation Reserves. This approval will allow for interpretation of vegetation, railways, historic sites, developments and will provide a base for master planning of works and will be useful for ongoing applications for funding and in addition become part of our future Heritage and Historical Tours.

Since the removal of asbestos from the shower block in December 2011, the inside of this heritage building now reveals the original timber cladding that was used for the wall lining, and ceiling sections, when it was built back in c1919. The majority of this building has been extensively damaged by white ants, and approaches are now being made to corporate companies with the hope of possible financial donations to restore this historical and heritage listed building. A Heritage Grant Application is also currently being prepared for presentation to Lotterywest for financial assistance to restore this building to its original heritage and historical condition.



Current Friends Projects (Continued)



A date is still yet to be confirmed for the blessing service of our Anchor Memorial outside the Isolation Hospital in dedication of the vessels, HMAT Boonah and HMAT Wyreema in 1918, and the SS Suva in 1943. It is intended that a Heritage Historical Tour will be conducted for all members of the Allied Merchant Navy Seamen's Association who will be attending the service, followed by a light luncheon. The service is to be conducted by the Reverend Dennis Cloughton, Padre at the Flying Angel Club, Mission To Seafarers.

Department of Sport & Recreation:



History took place at the Woodman Point Recreation Camp on Saturday 7th July by way of a wedding ceremony between David Mulcahy and Ms Phillipa Gibson, and according to our research, the first ever to be conducted at the former Woodman Point Quarantine Station site. The wedding reception was held in the historic Isolation Hospital and attended by over 100 guests. The Isolation Hospital was decorated for the occasion by the members of both families, and even the weather played its part by being kind on the day.

David is Senior Program Coordinator with DSR at Woodman Point and Phillipa is a Co-ordinator Planner at Capricorn Joint Venture, and we all wish them the very best in their future happiness. Photographs of the wedding can be seen on the website.

Thanks must go to Matt Hayes, Manager DSR Woodman Point for his kind offer of two disabled handrails, that have now been installed in the Isolation Hospital, and not forgetting his regular donation of the printing of our Pratique newsletter. Thanks mate. By the way, last time prior to printing the Pratique newsletter, Matthew kindly asked me "how many would you like this time, and i replied, would three dozen be asking too much" i think i should have said thirty six. Luckily though, i didn't ask for two score and ten, otherwise the generation gap would have struck again, i'm sure.

Department of Environment & Conservation:



Tim Fisher, has resigned from DEC to go overseas on an extended holiday. We wish Tim all the best with his future endeavours. The position of DEC Operations Officer. Regional Parks Branch, has been filled by Ms Lauren McLees. and the Friends group would like to congratulate Lauren on her promotion, and wish her every success and all the very best for the future, and Friends look forward to working closely with Lauren, and be of assistance to her in any way we can.





Get Well Soon:

Friends member Doris Alfirevich has not been in the best of health lately and we all wish her the very best for a speedy recovery. See you soon Doris.

Cover Image:

Photograph of our new flag pole outside the Isolation Hospital.

Thank You

A Vote of Thanks:

Accolade Caterers and staff for their ongoing and consistent, excellent quality and service. Persons on our Heritage Tours continually remark how good the meals really are.

Mr Barry Shaw, President of the Allied Merchant Navy Seamen's Association (Inc), who has kindly donated various nautical artefacts for our interpretation display at the Isolation Hospital.

Mr Jack Edwards, from the Allied Merchant Navy Seamen's Association (Inc), and the Mission to Seafarers for his valuable assistance with the Anchor Memorial Project.

Our Heritage Tour volunteer bus drivers, Gary Marsh and Frank Hutchins, for always being available when required to drive for a tour.

To Neil Wilson for sharing some historic photographs of the quarantine station, and this included doing some quality control on one of the web pages.



What's on the Horizon for Heritage/Historical Tours:

Our Heritage and Historical Tours continue to be extremely popular, and since our first for 2012 was conducted on the 8th February, another twenty seven have been completed, with a further fifteen booked through to October. In addition to the Heritage Tours, three Power Point Presentations have also taken place at a Rotary Club and two Family History Societies. The continuing interest, is still maintained by "word of mouth", and the regular on-air promotional radio advertisements with Curtin Radio. 100.1 FM.

Special thanks to Curtin Radio, and also Evelynne for her valuable assistance always, in all aspects of the tours.

Something to laugh at:

I'm on a whiskey diet. I've lost three days already.

Sometimes I drink my whiskey neat.

Other times I take my tie off and leave my shirt out



July Memories Long Ago:



The West Australian Wednesday 2 July 1919

TENDERS FOR GROCERIES, BREAD, MEAT and VEGETABLES at Woodman Point Quarantine Station, will be received by the undersigned up to 11 a.m. JULY 5. Particulars of Articles, together with any information may be obtained on application.

CHIEF QUARANTINE OFFICER,
Fothergill Buildings, Fremantle.

The West Australian Thursday 3 July 1919

FREMANTLE: Most of the remaining crew of the State steamer Bambra were removed to Woodman Point Quarantine Station yesterday. Dr. Ponsford reported last night that there had been several new cases of influenza diagnosed at the station throughout the day

The West Australian Saturday 5 July 1919

TROOPSHIP ACTIVITIES. Mr. W. J. Burton, secretary in charge at the Fremantle Y.M.C.A. reported: During the month of June the following transports arrived from overseas: China, Karoola, Kaiser-I-Hind, Leicestershire, Devonshire, Karoola, Orari, Wahebe, Soudan, Port Napier, Alexander Woermann, Irishman (munitions workers). The Vevankls, Orari, Alexander Woermann, and Irishman were quarantined. The boys on landing from the other ships have been welcomed by the, Fremantle Ladies' Auxiliary. As each transport arrives the bus is crowded to its utmost capacity. Refreshments are provided, and the boys are made to feel that they are home again. From every ship the ladies' receive letters of appreciation, and the splendid service which is being rendered by these ladies cannot be spoken of too highly. I quote the letters received from the troops on board. H.M.A.T. Leicestershire and Kaiser-I-Hind which are typical: "On behalf of the "diggers" on board the Leicestershire we wish to thank you most heartily for your kindness and attention to us during our stay in your city. Will you kindly convey our heartfelt thanks to the ladies of your association for the manner they served us with the tea and cakes? It is good to see our own countrywomen again, and to see dear old Aussie, the best spot on earth to us."

"On behalf of the men on the Kaiser-I Hind, It gives me great pleasure in conveying to you and your lady workers, the heartfelt appreciation of all, for the most cordial, warm-hearted 'Welcome home' you gave us. As I move round amongst the men, I hear expressions of thanks, gratitude, and appreciation on every side. You are doing noble work and rendering invaluable service to our gallant, but now rather home sick boys. Keep on smiling.--

Yours very sincerely (sgd.). Frank Vaughan."



July Memories Long Ago (continued):



Those who return from quarantine are, not forgotten. They are met by several members of our auxiliary. While speaking of quarantine I would like to mention that parcels and letters, if left at the hut, will be despatched to Woodman Point daily free of charge. With so many transports returning our ladies are looking forward to a busy time during the next few months. In addition to the welcome accorded the troops on shore, quantities of fresh fruit, cigars, cigarettes and newspapers are sent on board for the voyage eastwards. This work will be continued during the whole period of demobilisation

WOODMAN POINT. Dr. Pomsford, the medical officer in charge of the Woodman Point Quarantine Station, reported last night that there are now 44 of the crew, and 10 of the passengers of the S.S. Bambra suffering from the epidemic, while two nursing sisters have become infected. One of the patients is dangerously ill, and 13 are seriously affected

The West Australian Friday 11 July 1919

To the Editor. Sir,-We, the undersigned, wish to tender ,our heartiest thanks and appreciation to Dr. Pomroy, Sister Munster and the whole of the staff of the isolation hospital, Woodman Point. Quarantine Station, for the kind consideration and attention extended to us during our term of sickness whilst under their care. And we wish to thank Dr. Pomsford, Matron Sister Howie, and Father Flynn for their efforts to make our detention in the compound as pleasant as possible. We are E. Jones Tpr. A. V. Smith (ex Dorset), H. Munroe (ex War Deer), F. Mason, J. Muir, and J. Conway. (Fremantle Works Department).

The West Australian Saturday 14 July 1923

The following tender has been accepted by the Public Works Department
John White, Woodman Point Quarantine Station, disinfecting block painting. £74

The West Australian Tuesday 26 July 1928
WOODMAN POINT DISPUTE.

During the past few days work on the construction of a reservoir at Woodman Point, which is being built by contract for the Commonwealth Government has been subjected to delay on account of a dispute which arose between the Australian Workers' Union and the contractor. It was claimed by the union that award rates of pay were not being made. Yesterday, the organiser of the union (Mr. T. O. Butler) stated that the dispute had been settled and the contractor had agreed to abide by the A.W.U. award. Work would therefore be resumed on the basis of (1) the 44-hour, week; (2) a weekly wage of £4. 11s. and (3) a day's holiday monthly



Out of the Past:



The following is an article from the West Australian on a speech that was given to the Rotary Club in Fremantle by Dr J. B. Mathieson on the 28th June 1939, regarding quarantine procedures through the Port of Fremantle and the Woodman Point Quarantine Station.

May I state with pride that Australia holds the recognised highest place as having the most efficient quarantine service in the world, said Dr. J. B. Mathieson, Commonwealth quarantine officer at Fremantle, in the course of an address to members of the Rotary Club of Fremantle at their luncheon at the Orient Hotel on Wednesday.

Speaking of inspections aboard vessels arriving at Fremantle from overseas, Dr. Mathieson said that the routine was for every person on board to come before the quarantine officer with arms bared to the elbow. Special attention was also, paid to the face and forehead. It was taken as a general procedure that if no rash was found on the arms or forehead, demonstrable smallpox could be definitely excluded. Any of the other quarantinable diseases, with the exception of leprosy, would render the patient too sick to attend the muster and as a cabin or hospital patient, the person would be subject to a more thorough examination.

The incubation period for smallpox was practically constant at 12 days, and the rash usually appeared on the 14th day, although it might appear as late as the 17th day, Dr. Mathieson said, there was therefore a difficulty in connection with ships arriving from depots of small pox, such as India, on the 9th or 10th day.

The quarantine officer is supposed never to miss a case, he said, and the layman deals with him very critically if he has this misfortune. How is it humanly possible to diagnose a case in the incubation period with no symptoms, or in the first few days of the illness, having only the following symptoms: nausea, headache, perhaps vomiting, pain in the back and limbs, or even just mild malaise in modified types, plus a varying temperature. All these are characteristic symptoms of an incipient influenza, an extremely common and universally prevalent disease. What would be the reaction of the public and the shipping world if every case of influenza were to throw the patient and the whole ship into the expensive business of an active quarantine. The best the health authorities can do is to be able to trace every individual who has travelled on the vessel in question. If a smallpox patient lands at Fremantle all contacts are called in and quarantined, and so the possibility of an epidemic is very remote. When a patient was admitted to the quarantine station, the station became a closed area.



Out of the Past continued:



Dr. Mathieson continued. The only person allowed access was the quarantine officer. When he went there on his daily visit he first passed through the change block at the entrance to the station. This consisted of three compartments. In the first he left all his clothes. In the second he passed through a bathroom: In the third he donned a complete change. With mask and head covering and a gown, he first visited the quarters where the contacts were mustered. He then passed to the hospital, at the entrance to which was another change block. The same procedure as at the gate of the station was carried out. Then, with sterilised gloves on his hands, the officer examined the patient. Coming out he again passed through the change block, in which he had a thorough scrub in an anti-septic bath and changed his clothes, and then had another change and bath at the change block at the entrance to the station, where he donned his street clothes.

Members take note,

No doubt you have all read the travel section in Saturday's West, and enviously marvel at the exotic places and travel adventures of our own Stephen Scourfield, the West Australian Newspaper Travel Editor. Well Stephen, eat your heart out, we can go one better, for Friends now have their own "Travel Editor". Let me now clarify the matter. Amongst the Friends group is our own version that puts Stephen into a virtual "stay at home" category in our regard. Putting it mildly, our "El Presidente" has travelled more ground than the early explorers lately. On top of her recent excursion to the Chelsea Flower Show, her latest adventure involves a trip to America and sightseeing included of course, and all in one week, i say again, one week. believe me. Talk about jet excursions !!!

Fifty percent of "Dad's Army" has flown north on his yearly sojourn. This migration is the regular seasonal journey undertaken by many species, and these migratory habits include those made in response to changes in food availability, habitat, or weather. The most common pattern involves driving north in the Autumn months, but not necessarily to breed, but to acclimatise themselves in the temperate or summer climate, before returning in the later months to the warmer regions that are beginning south. On certain occasions the breed have been known to bring with them, via their migratory path south, samples of their northern feeding habits for distribution and to share with other unfortunate members of the species who are not so lucky, or are unable to traverse this migratory habit because of necessary priorities.



Point of Interest:



Signal Flag Quebec, plain yellow, and is known as one of the oldest flags among the International Signal Code Flags. The solid yellow flag was used to indicate quarantine before it was made the flag for Q - ICS Letter Q (Quebec). Flying of the yellow Q flag today, means that the ship does not have disease aboard and declares the ship to be healthy. It signifies "I request free pratique," when it is flown on entering a port, which means I ask that the authorities in the port give me a clean bill of health.



Quarantine Act—Quarantine signals on vessels and installations 1908 (Act No. 3 of 1908)

(2) The master of an installation subject to quarantine shall:

- (a) display the quarantine signal on the installation; and
- (b) keep the quarantine signal displayed on the installation until pratique is granted or until the installation is released from quarantine.

For reference, during a Smallpox lockdown at the Woodman Point Quarantine Station (an installation), a yellow flag would not only be hoisted at the entrance gate, and along sections of the beachfront, but also flown at numerous other noticeable positions around the quarantine station boundary and lowered when the lockdown had been lifted.

Signal flag "Lima" called the "Yellow Jack" which when flown in harbor means ship is under quarantine, and the authorities in the port did not give the ship a clean bill of health.



Nautical Quotes:

The sea finds out everything you did wrong - Francis Stokes

The sea hates a coward - Eugene O'Neill

Off Cape Horn there are but two kinds of weather, neither one of them a pleasant kind - John Masefield

Only the guy who isn't rowing has time to rock the boat - Jean-Paul Sartre





100 Years ago

The West Australian

Thursday 11 April 1912

THE SMALL-POX CASE. PATIENT PROGRESSING FAVOURABLY. Upon enquiry last night the Port Medical Officer, Dr. Williams, stated that Major Dowsett, the Australian military officer who is isolated at the Quarantine Station Hospital, Woodman's Point, suffering from small-pox, which he contracted in India while undergoing a course of military training there, is progressing satisfactorily. As the disease was detected in its early stages, Dr. Williams anticipates that the patient's recovery will be expeditious. The risk of spreading the infection is being minimised, and yesterday all the contacts were vaccinated. The five contacts who are being detained at the quarantine station are being carefully looked after during their enforced period of isolation, the exact length of which has not yet been decided upon. The following is a list of those in quarantine, all being passengers landing at Fremantle, with the exception of a ship's steward (a contact), Bombadier Green, Mrs. Green, and a child three years of age (from Bombay), Mr. Burkitt (from London), Mr. Foster (from London). The steward is in hospital with the patient. During the voyage- of the R.M.S. Malwa, from which the contacts were disembarked, to the Eastern States, the ship's doctor will vaccinate the whole of the passengers and crew, with the exception of those who were vaccinated on Tuesday after the discovery of the case of small-pox aboard.

Did You Know:

The Woodman Point Lighthouse was built in 1902 from local limestone, is (9.8m) high and was officially opened on 23rd August 1902 and is situated at Latitude 32 07.9S Longitude 115 46.0E. The light was originally powered by a kerosene vapour light and was visible for 17 nautical miles, and a timing pattern that hid the light for 3 seconds every 30 seconds but was converted to electricity on the 19th July 1955 and de-manned. The light is of 31,000 candle power and eclipses every 27 seconds for a period of 3 seconds and is now visible for 34.5 nautical miles (63.9 km) in clear weather and during WWII it was used by the army as a communications base and observation post. The lighthouse has an additional light that shines over Jervoise Bay toward Garden Island and both lights are activated through light sensitive receptors attached to the outside of the lighthouse

Anonymous quote:

All easy problems have already been solved.

Cheerio for now

The Caretaker





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