



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



Summer Edition



Visit our website: www.woodmanpointquarantinstation.com





President's Report

2012 can only be described as another very progressive and exciting year for our Friends group, everything from approval from Lotterywest, wherein we received a Grant for the Bunker/Base mapping and specific site feature surveys for the Woodman Point Nature and Recreation Reserves Interpretation Grant, a City of Cockburn Community Grant approval, to a successful Environmental Community Grant on behalf of DEC. A very special thank you to Lotterywest and the City of Cockburn for their continued support. The Heritage and Historical Tours can only be described as extremely successful and popular. The bookings came from a variety of sources and the majority of the tour groups took up our offer for a catered luncheon and all were highly complimentary of the meals supplied by Accolade Caterers. Thank you to my committee and members for all their assistance and dedication throughout 2012, and especially our supporters who have kindly donated towards numerous Friends projects. Our Friends group has a great future and we look forward to 2013

Best wishes for a prosperous and healthy New Year, Andrea Lyndon James

Friends News:

The 2013 City of Cockburn Heritage Calendar will include a photograph taken in the Woodman Point Dining Hall is of Ms Patricia Maynard partaking of morning tea and depicts a staged heritage image of a bygone era. Ms Patricia Maynard was chosen for this photograph due to her having her 21st birthday in the Dining Hall on the 20th May 1949. Her father, Jack Mayers was the Engineer of the Woodman Point Quarantine Station.

The December issue of the Western Ancestor Journal, includes an article by the Editor Ms Jennifer Lydon on two identities synonymous with the Woodman Point Quarantine Station, namely, Roy McIntosh and Bertie Poore.

In October we had a visit by Jenny and David from the Bruny Island Quarantine Station in Tasmania. They are forming their own Friends of Bruny Island Group and were keen to learn the history, and procedures regarding the establishment of our own Woodman Point Friends group. The original contact emanated from an e-mail received from their newly elected President, Ms Cathy Duncombe.

A request by the Community Development Coordinator Wilmari Nel at the City of Cockburn for a brief article on Woodman Point Quarantine Station to be published in their December issue of "Soundings"

In November we were visited by Ms Anne-Marie Sherrit and Ms Megan Bateman, both relatives of Rosa O'Kane, and a visit to the Military Cemetery and a tour of Woodman Point Recreation Camp was arranged by Friends for them.





Friends News (Continued)

The ABC have requested an interview in the New Year regarding the possibility of confirmation of a Japanese Prisoner of War Camp and also the association with Special Force Z having been established or located within the confines of the former Woodman Point Quarantine Station between the years of 1943 - 1945.

The search continues for the elusive photograph of Chief Officer Arthur David Waters, who sadly died from smallpox with four other crewmen from the vessel SS Suva. A memorial plaque dedicated to these men is now located on one of the memorial anchors outside the Isolation Hospital, and was kindly donated by Mr Jack Edwards from the Allied Merchant Seamen's Association. The proposed planned visit by relatives in the UK of Arthur Waters has now been postponed till late in 2013.

By way of a chance meeting at a local antique store, contact was made with Ms Christine Lynch, a set decorator with various local film production companies. She has offered to assist us in anyway possible if and when we require certain set items that we feel will benefit any of our interpretation displays.

Thanks to the WA Genealogy Society, contact has now been made with Ms Patricia McGourty. Name doesn't ring a bell !! Patricia was the little girl photographed in the arms of the Officer in Charge, Roy McIntosh at the security gate at Woodman Point in 1949. The photograph shows passengers from the SS Mooltan, described then as "contacts" and the newspaper photograph captures them leaving Woodman Point after their compulsory detention. It is planned that in the New Year her family will visit us at Woodman Point for a reminiscent visit and some historic photographs.

Bereavements:

It is with regret that we announce the sad passing of Mrs. Dorothy (Dot) Trezise on the 20th October 2012. The Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp wish to pass on and express their sincere condolences to her son John and all the other members of the Trezise Family. Dot and Jim Trezise were the last resident caretakers at Woodman Point after the station officially closed in 1979. Our thoughts are with them.

It should also be mentioned that John, who was employed at Stammers Hardware in Palmyra, was always keen to assist Friends in any of our projects.

Did You Know:

Carnac Island was named after the English Navigator John Rivett Carnac who was with Captain James Stirling on the HMS Success when he first explored the Swan River in 1824.

The first official quarantine Caretaker on Carnac Island was a Mr. Hillman, who was accompanied there with his wife. He would later resign in 1899 and his replacement in this position would be taken by a Mr. O Williams on the 5th October 1899.





Current Friends Projects:

The brass remembrance plaques have been affixed to the three memorial anchors outside the Isolation Hospital in dedication to the HMAT Boonah, HMAT Wyreema and the SS Suva. Special thanks must go to the Perth RSL, the Flying Angel Mission to Seafarers and Mr Jack Edwards of the Allied Merchant Seamen's Association for their kind donations.

Our application to the Federal Volunteer Grants by Friends towards the purchase of one All-terrain Wheel Chair for special needs and aged use in our Heritage and Historical Tours was unsuccessful.

Following our successful grant application for the Mapping and Surveying of historic sites in the Woodman Point Explosive Magazine and its completion by Monaghan Mapping and Surveying totalling \$10,120.00 a further application has now been made to Lotterywest for the Heritage Grant for Bunker Conservation in the Woodman Point Regional Park, formally the Woodman Point Explosive Magazine.

Work is progressing with the writing of our book on the history of the Woodman Point Quarantine Station.

Department of Sport & Recreation:

Thanks to Kym Lawrence for arranging Pat Miller to repair some minor maintenance problems that needed attention in the Isolation Hospital.

Talk about "jumping the gun", even at this early stage as I type this newsletter I have decided to thank the Manager Matt Hayes for his kind offer to print our copies, even though he hasn't received it yet, and that way he will still be on the Christmas list. Apologies Matthew, but the numbering still hasn't been rectified.

Department of Environment & Conservation:

A well done to Ms Lauren McLees for being successful with the Coast Watch Grant Application, and special thanks to Lauren, Lyal and Josh for their assistance during the past year.

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 or another.

Travel seems to be an extremely popular pastime with two members of our little group. One has been closely described as our own Miss Stephen Scourfield, but now there is competition, as another member has joined the race. Just recently arriving back from places North, he then went South, and you guessed it, next year we are going east, to South America would you believe, and on returning we are going North again till September !!! I'm sure West is on his horizon as well.





Cover Image:

"If only these walls could speak" Looking across to the former WWII Navy Cottages from the Main Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage. Photograph taken at the end of the lighthouse tour that was arranged for DEC and DSR in October 2012.

A Vote of Thanks:

A special cheerio and best wishes to our "Overseas Members", Cathy and John Davis, from Wilmington North Carolina, for her greetings and kind words sent by postcard recently. It is a real pleasure to have them on board and we look forward to when they both can visit us "down under" at Woodman Point. Cathy and John are presently onboard ship touring the Caribbean, and we wish them well, with a safe voyage and calm seas.

Accolade Caterers and staff continue to impress all the Tour groups with their excellent quality meals and service. Positive feedback and accolades are regularly forthcoming from various persons taking part in our tours. Well done Peter, Lily, Christine and Norma. As they say, it's a pleasure to do business with you.

Special thanks also to Mr Barry Shaw for his donation of additional artefacts for display in our "Isolation Ward Interpretation".

Kathleen at the City of Cockburn for assisting us in anyway possible throughout the year regarding bus hire for our Heritage Tours.

Amy at the Cockburn Volunteer Community Resource Centre for her assistance with our printing needs.



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

It has been an outstanding year for our Heritage and Historical Tours, and their popularity and positive comments exceeded our best expectations. However due to some tours being cancelled or postponed till 2013, unfortunately, we did not exceed the 1000 persons mark but hopefully we can pass this magic target in 2013.

Our on-air Community advertisements courtesy of Curtin Radio will continue to be aired in 2013 and this method has been excellent in promoting the tours and getting the word out there.

Confirmed bookings for Heritage Tours for 2013 have already started, resulting in, two confirmed, and two tentative.

On The Radar:

Preservation of the "Old Plague Road"
Wheelchair access pathway to the crematorium.

A well known, excellent concrete contractor is to be approached with regard repairing damage to the concrete floor in the Fumigation Block. Hi Gino, talk to you soon and look forward to catching up.



60 Years Ago:



The West Australian Friday 14th March 1952

LINER MEETS NEEDS FOR BERTHING

The migrant liner Moreton Bay has been inspected and found to conform in every aspect with the berthing standards required by quarantine regulations. The port medical officer (Dr .A. Johnson) said this yesterday after the vessel had been inspected by the acting chief health inspector at Fremantle (Mr. L. Stanley). The inspection took place after complaints had been made by a number of passengers about dirty crockery and insanitary conditions. Commenting on the complaints, the manager in Western Australia for the Shaw Savill and Albion Co. Ltd. and the Aberdeen Commonwealth Line (Mr. S. E. Williams) said that he had been given evidence of contented and satisfactory conditions existing aboard the ship. He and his family had travelled back from the United Kingdom on the last voyage of the Moreton Bay and they had been perfectly satisfied. The master of the vessel (Capt N. S. Milne) emphasised that the Moreton Bay was not a first class ship but a tourist-class vessel. Although there was no excuse or dirty crockery, he said, he was aware that some passengers used milk jugs to make tea in their cabins.

"Satisfied" During the morning, Capt. Milne said, he had received several letters from passengers asserting that they were satisfied with conditions aboard. One passenger, Mr. H. Howard, had said that he and his wife had seen their steward cleaning and polishing the bathroom every morning. However, Mr. Howard had said that he had heard the steward complaining about children writing on the walls and putting refuse down the lavatories. In an interview with a representative of The West Australian, Mr. J. B. Hill, one of the passengers who had complained, that he had asserted that the "stewardesses were stewardesses in name only" or that he had commented on the conditions generally. He said that he had no wish to "pick" on individuals" because he felt that the company was at fault. He intended to write to the head office in London about the lack of facilities for children.

Milk Jugs: Meanwhile, Mr. E. A. Knox, who is travelling with his wife and three small children, took two dirty milk jugs ashore and showed them to Dr. Johnson. Mr. Knox maintains that the jugs had been placed on the children's tea table on Wednesday afternoon. Asked whether he stood by his original statement that the crockery was "absolutely filthy and unhygienic," he said: "Yes." Another passenger, Mr. A. F. Joyce, complained that his cabin had not been properly cleaned. At meal-times, he added, he and his wife had had to ask for "everything."

The Moreton Bay left for Melbourne yesterday afternoon



80 Years Ago:



The Daily News, Wednesday 19th October 1932, page 6

KEEPER OF THE RIVER LIGHTS

Early settlers who used the Swan River as a transport route had no charts or buoys, to assist them in the navigation of the river, and, consequently, a voyage from the Port. to the settlement was full of hazards until the watermen became river-wise. Many a pilot experienced the mortification of beaching his craft upon one of the numerous sandbanks after being certain he was following the tortuous channel, but nowadays with the river properly charted and marked, that is a rare occurrence. The channels are indicated by the presence of posts and at night lighted beacons show the way. Maintenance work in connection with the navigation indications is undertaken by the Harbor and Lights Department and an officer is stationed at Perth to attend to requirements,

(BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)

THE OFFICER, Mr. Arthur Dray, has been caring for the river beacons for 14 years, and if during that time any river mariner has run aground it has been due to his own carelessness and not to the failure of the beacons. It is his job to see that the lights are kept burning, and in the fulfilment of the requirements of his position has often been necessary to make a round of inspection and maintenance during the course of a winter gale, and any body who knows the river when it is under the influence of a severe squall will agree that such trips would not come under the category of a picnic cruise.

For over a quarter of a century Mr. Dray has been showing the boats the way to go home. Before becoming keeper of the river lights he was stationed at the Woodman Point lighthouse near Rockingham, and before that he was at Rott-nest Lighthouse. He says he likes, the job'.

The Daily News, Tuesday 2nd August 1932, page 10

Fremantle Identity Passes: After a brief illness' the death occurred at Fremantle yesterday of 'Bob' McGuire, one of the port's old citizens. He celebrated his 92nd birthday last New Year's Day and until a couple of months ago enjoyed good health. Born in the Isle of Man, Mr. McGuire came to Western Australia about 50 years ago and joined the Lighthouse Department. He was appointed to the lighthouse which was at that time situated at Arthur's Head, Fremantle, and remained in charge for nearly a quarter of a century. Arthur's Head lighthouse was then the leading- light for the guidance of shipping into Fremantle, but in 1902 a new lighthouse was constructed at Woodman Point and the old lighthouse on Arthur's Head was demolished.





Out of the Past:

BLACKOUT. PERTH'S FIRST TEST. Many Breaches of Regulations Perth's blackout last night was not a complete success, but, as the first real attempt to blanket the city's lights from the sky, it was creditable. When the sirens began to wail at 10 p.m. the lights went out suburb by suburb until, as in Milton's hell, there was "no light but darkness visible." Watchers from the air and from Perth's high buildings had one abiding impression: the Swan River serves as a clear land mark. The blackout extended from Fremantle to Bellevue, embracing 252 square miles, 50,000 dwellings and thousands of shops and factories. Most important part of the organisation was the policing of the black out. Over 4,000 wardens and many policemen patrolled the area searching for and putting out forgotten lights and inadequately-shaded lights. Seven hundred and seven offences were committed, and the offenders will be asked to explain their breaches. The control centre received reports that the numbers of lights that did not comply with the regulations in various districts were as follows: North Fremantle, 21; Mosman Park, 18; Cottesloe, 18; Peppermint Grove, 53; Claremont, 17; Nedlands, 46; Subiaco, 20; Leederville, 11; Mt. Hawthorn, 47; Osborne Park, 1; Scarborough, 22; North Perth, 56; Mt. Lawley, 2; Inglewood, 17; May lands, 14; Bayswater, 7; Bassendean, 7; Midland Junction, 27; South Perth, 3; Victoria Park, 35; Belmont, 1; Central Ward, Perth, 76; North Ward, Perth, 28; South Ward, Perth, 60; East Ward, Perth, 18; West Ward, Perth, 21; East Fremantle, 9; Melville, 11; Fremantle, 39. From the roofs of the Shell Building and the C.M.L. Buildings, it was an eerie scene. Darkness had fallen upon the city; It obscured but did not completely envelop. The roofs of some buildings were gloomily shadowed; others of iron stood out. A few exposed lights yawned from dark chasms; and indirect and reflected lights glowed. Some folk with mischievous indifference turned on motor car headlights momentarily: others with childish enthusiasm tried out torches. Orderly crowds thronged the streets. Many people sat on the sidewalks with their feet in the gutters, waiting for the half-hour's blackout to pass. In the darker lanes and alleyways soft laughter and voices passed like disembodied spirits, balanced on nothing. For the most part, however, people could see their way about. White dresses and white shirts loomed up out of the night, startling the unwary; the white of sailors seemed to float in the air until the blur of uniform became apparent. In all streets lighted cigarettes glowed, and policemen passed a diligent half-hour ordering smokers to put them out. Here and there a bibulous few confounded the proverb "empty vessels make the most sound." The city awoke to the first strident call of the "raider's passed" signal. Streets were once again hedged with lights, men and women emerged from the colourless chaos. The blackout was over.

Courtesy of the West Australian Thursday 15th January 1942 Page: 8



Details from the past

Sunday Times, Sunday 7 August 1949, page 3

420 VACANT BEDS - WITH A CATCH

Within a few miles of accommodation-starved Perth only 4 people are living in spacious buildings where 420 beds are re-made once a week for guests who never arrive. only catch is, that requirements for occupancy are smallpox or some other highly contagious disease. Buildings are the Woodman Point Quarantine Station where the permanent Commonwealth employees comprise a foreman-assistant, two quarantine assistants and an engine-driver to handle disinfection and laundry work. At Woodman's Point are 400 beds for contacts and 20 hospital beds for patients. Reason for the constant readiness is that in an emergency there would be no time to issue linen and make beds. Albany Quarantine Station has 50 beds for contacts and 10 for patients, ready for immediate occupation. These big quarantine buildings are reminders of the day when Albany was a port of call for mail boats. Albany Station staff also enforce berthing regulations, fumigation of ships, and see that sanitary laws are observed in the harbor. For a few weeks each year, Albany buildings form a resort for country children. Their holiday is never spoiled by telling them they are under a few minutes' notice to quit if a quarantine emergency happens.

70 Years Ago:

BLACKOUT AREA. Coastal Strip Extended. The total blackout which was imposed by the Civil Defence Council recently covering a three-mile strip of coast between and including Woodman Point and Trigg Island, has now been extended. The order will operate immediately and will be effective until further notice. The part of the coast now under a total and permanent blackout is a strip three miles wide stretching between Woodman Point and Little Island

Memories Long Ago:

Western Mail : Thursday 5 February 1942

" Fishing at the Dummy."

Have you ever heard of a subterranean river that is at the bottom of the sea some short distance from Garden Island and between Woodman Point and Rockingham? It used to be said in years gone by when the timber mill at Jarrahdale used to rail their timber to Rockingham, where ships called and picked it up, as there was no means of watering there, the ships would go out and fill their tanks and casks at this place in the sea. I dare say some of the old residents of Rockingham or Fremantle could either confirm or deny this. The place used to be known as the Dummy, and on a calm day the water could be seen bubbling up. I can well remember the first time I was there. It was in the early nineties before the loco, shops were shifted from Fremantle to Midland Junction. Letters to Editor



Get Well Soon:



To the best of our knowledge all are well and on deck

Point of Interest:

The Western Mail: Saturday 12th July 1902. Page 33

WESTERN ECHOES by Yarragadee

"Ping-pong has been introduced among the Chinese plague contacts at the quarantine station." But it is doubtful if it will have a greater attraction for the Chinese of Australia in general, and Woodman's Point in particular, than any queue or fan-tan. The game has one thing in its favour from a celestial point of view; it is easier to pronounce than "clicket." As a matter of fact, its name is considerably more Chinese than English for the number of "Pings" and "Pongs" among the pig-tailed inhabitants of Perth is nearly as great as that of the Smith's and Browns among the untitled population.

Nautical Quotes:

Prevention is, as in other aspects of seamanship, better than cure.
- Sir Robin Knox-Johnston

Men in a ship are always looking up, and men ashore are usually looking down.-
John Masefield

Any fool can carry on, but a wise man knows how to shorten sail in time.
- Joseph Conrad

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

Something to laugh at:

I used to call a spade a spade, until the other night when I stepped on one in the dark.

I said to the girl in the shop, 'I want buy a hat.' She said: 'Fedora?'

I said: 'No, for myself'

You know you're a redneck if your home has wheels and your car doesn't. Jeff Foxworthy



120 Years Ago:

The West Australian Thursday 14th January 1892



CARNAC AS A QUARANTINE STATION.

To THE EDITOR.

SIR,- Ample time has passed since the arrival of the Schooner "E. & H. Avery" for the Government to decide whether the island of Carnac shall be proclaimed the Quarantine Station for this port. If not a permanent, why not a present one, so as to allow of the unfortunate members of this vessels crew to land and so recruit their health. Picture a crew on board a plague infested vessel of small size, watching their fellow shipmates suffer and die and themselves anxious and dreading the same fate. The one great longing for men in such a strait is to land where they believe they would soon recover. Their vessel lies close to a Small island that is totally useless at present, and yet these unfortunates wait day after day forbidden to land upon its shores. I hear everyone say this island is the proper place far a quarantine station. I heard the same thing said when the Woodman Point ornament was being erected, but one must have said it was not and of course carried the day. There is no doubt that if any patients suffering from infectious diseases and gets put in the Quarantine Station at Woodman Point, we stand a fair chance of sharing it, as we are in daily communication with visitors and residents of that quarter. Yours, Ac, SHELLBACK.

110 Years Ago:

The West Australian Saturday 29th November 1902

LEPROSY.

The Leper patient Higgins, who is being treated at the quarantine station, is showing good signs of improvement! He is being treated with chalmugra oil, an Eastern remedy, which is held in 'high esteem'. The Government endeavoured to induce one of the eastern States to take Higgins into their leper settlements, but were unable to arrange it owing to the difficulty of securing a passage for the patient in any of the trading steamers.

Life's Quotes:

A man who dares to waste one hour of time has not discovered the value of life.
Charles Darwin

Every man dies. Not every man really lives. William Wallace



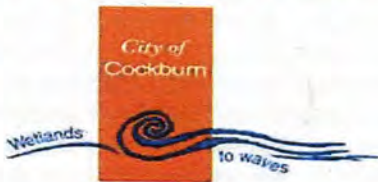
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