

Welcome to the  
"Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp"  
Quarterly Newsletter for 2014



**Autumn Edition**



Visit our website: [www.woodmanpointquarantinestation.com](http://www.woodmanpointquarantinestation.com)



## **Friends News:**



Once more, we must wait in anticipation regarding a decision on our Grant Application to Lotterywest Conserving Cultural Heritage Grant Approval for the restoration of the Heritage Listed Bathing Block, and also the cost of a master plan for the Woodman Point Regional Park that involves the Interpretation of the Woodman Point Explosive Magazine. We have now been advised by letter that the final decision on whether we have been successful has been postponed till later in the year.

The official launch of Ian Darroch's latest book, "Fremantle Tales" was a well attended function that was held in February and hosted by the FOWPRC. A very special thank you must go to our friendly local MHR Ms Melissa Parke for her excellent introduction, and credits must also go to Ms Kath Longley, Media & Research Officer, and the Mayor and Mayoress of the City Of Cockburn, Logan and Pat Howlett, for their continued support towards Friends. The weather was kind to us, and afternoon tea was supplied by our own Accolade Caterers, who as usual put on a sumptuous fare. We certainly hope Ian is now planning a second edition reprint. Not forgetting, the Editor of Community Newspapers, Mr Justin Bianchini, for making his valuable time available for us, to take the invaluable photographs for the publicity launch. Thanks again Justin.

An in depth e-mail has been sent to the editor of the worldwide publication of Mission to Seafarers, "the SEA", requesting further information on how to acquire details of, including a photograph of an Allied Merchant Navy Chief Officer, namely, Arthur David Waters, from the vessel SS SUVA. Since then, a reply has been received from the Editor of this publication advising us of all the appropriate contacts in the Merchant Navy Head Office in the United Kingdom, involved in their records section. The quest continues for this elusive image.

Another two quotations has been obtained for the construction of a pathway to the crematorium. One consisting of crushed and rolled limestone, the other being for bitumen profile, and hopefully something positive will eventuate from these quotes, as the urgency for wheel chair and disabled access is our priority.

We were approached by the owner of Sea Reward Charters to supply detailed information and photographs relating to when Carnac Island was officially used as a quarantine Station. The material is to be used in a publicity brochure.

The WA Genealogy Society has requested information and photographs relating to our memorial and plaques situated outside the Isolation Hospital. These are to be included in their forthcoming publication of "Lonely Graves". The stipulation is that they only relate to persons who actually died at Woodman Point.





Contact has been made with Stephen and Cathy O'Kane in Queensland with regard their request to obtain some additional copies of The Boonah Tragedy for their relatives in Ireland. Sister Rosa O'Kane is Stephen's great aunt. Stephen's wife Cathy visited us back in 2011 and was shown around Woodman Point including the memorial of Rosa O'Kane. We are hopeful that another visit to WA is planned by both of them next time. It should be mentioned that since contact was made with Stephen and Cathy O'Kane, they have now requested FOWPRC membership forms from us. Great to keep the O'Kane family name still associated with Woodman Point, they say. It should be noted that Stephen and Cathy are the only two relatives of Rosa remaining with the O'Kane surname.

The European Wasp eradication program commenced again in December and two traps have been installed in the same positions in the trees surrounding the Isolation Hospital. The program continues through to April, and going on the results from last years program, it is inevitable that there will be confirmed European Wasp nests located and destroyed in the Cockburn area. Stay vigilant for this imported and dangerous pest. For general enquiries please call the Department on 1800 084881 or email [info@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@agric.wa.gov.au).

During the WAM Senior Scout MOOT, ie: the gathering of the (WORLD'S AUDIO MOVEMENT or MUSIC OF OVERWHELMING THUMPS - sorry could you say that again louder please !!!) that was held at the recreation camp from the 1st January through to the 12th, the installation of bollards near Jervoise and a small section near the Isolation Hospital, was arranged by Kym Lawrence and David Mulcahy. The installation was carried out by members of the scouting fraternity during a time of promised "free time". Brings back memories of "Bob a Job". It is now proposed that ear protection be compulsory, and a mobile hearing clinic be onsite for future events, such as this. or BYOHP.

Glad to see that Marilyn Simcock is back online again with her computer. How can one expect to continue searching for that elusive photograph without a computer Marilyn !!

Received an inquiry from the United Kingdom with regard an update to our website, and information relating to the vessel *SS Essylt*, that arrived off the WA coast in March 1942 with a confirmed case of smallpox on board. The *SS Essylt*, was one of the so-called "Plague Ships" that details were revealed to the public for the first time in an article in the West Australian on Saturday 14th May 1949. ( refer Pratique Newsletter page: (12) Chris from the United Kingdom, refer website: [www.bandcstaffregister.co.uk/index.html](http://www.bandcstaffregister.co.uk/index.html), has requested permission to use two articles on their website, namely the articles on the Clan MacDonald, with special reference to Dennis Barrington, Robert MacLean, and the Empire Mist.



## **Friends News (Continued)**



A tour was organised in March for a special family group, namely, the Adlam Family, of Mike and Susie and Paddy and Wendy. Mike and Paddy qualify to be members of "The Hidden Community", seeing their father, Joseph 'Mick' Adlam, was quarantine officer at Broome, Bicton and Woodman Point Stations, including rostered duty on the Fremantle waterfront. It was commented, that things have changed slightly since Mike and Paddy's last visit here in the late 1960's. Family history details of the Adlam family will now be updated.

### **Current Friends Projects:**

As this Pratique goes to print, the proposed maintenance program of painting window sills and door frames on the exterior of the Isolation Hospital has been delayed, and is now planned for April or May.

Progress covering the History of the Woodman Point Quarantine Station continues with our esteemed author, Mr Ian Darroch, and by the time you receive this Pratique, Chapter six would have been completed. Our aim is to finish the complete draft first, and then check for any omissions and then add further articles and images as required.

An Honour Board of past records is still being compiled of Friends Inaugural Committee Members, positions, titles, and honours for the appropriate years since Friends origins.

### **Get Well Soon.**



Frank Hutchins, for a speedy recovery, and looking forward to seeing you back on deck very soon.

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

The waltz "Songe d'Automne," not "Nearer My God to Thee," was almost certainly the last song played by the Titanic orchestra, although the debate about the last song continues

An Italian emigrant aboard the Titanic, who leaped into the sea when the last lifeboat was lowered, swam to the side of a lifeboat and was dragged in when he said he had a bottle of whiskey, Alice Johnson, a passenger in the lifeboat, told friends.

The Cunard liner, "Slavonia", first broadcast the SOS signal on June 10, 1909, a full 3 years before the Titanic. Also, the SOS became the official distress signal in 1906, replacing the old CQD code - ( "*sécu*," from the French word *sécurité* " ) and contrary to popular belief, CQD does not stand for "Come Quick, Distress"

The Titanic held no passenger lifeboat drills during its voyage.



## A Vote Of Thanks:



A very special vote of thanks to Structural Marine for their extremely generous donation of fabrication steel for use in the construction of the lighthouse base framework, without which, this project could not continue.

Thanks to City of Cockburn Community Centre, and especially staff members Alex and Amy for their assistance in the printing of the book launch documentation. By the way, Alex and her family can only be described as extremely lucky that no damage was caused to their house during the recent Banjup bushfires.

To Kathleen at City Of Cockburn, for being on hand and very patient with regard our bus bookings and with alterations to any of our heritage tour dates.

Thanks to Jim Lynn, the City Of Cockburn volunteer bus driver, for filling the void as Friends volunteer bus driver during March.

Many thanks to our friendly local Federal Member for Fremantle, Ms Melissa Parke, for her excellent introduction of Ian Darroch's book "*Fremantle Tales*", and not forgetting Ms Kath Longley for her assistance with organising the prior arrangements.

To Kym Lawrence for his usual support, (he who never lets the side down), his assistance and expertise with the DSR reticulation system, especially the watering of areas around the Isolation Hospital during the WAM Scout Moot.

Thanks to Howard and Betty Shepherd putting aside some free time, and volunteering in the Clean Up Australia Day Campaign at Woodman Point. This project including many others, is organised by our own Friends member, Ms Gail Dodd.

To the Rural Stone Company for their friendly service and advice, and are always pleased to assist Friends in anyway. Many thanks again Brendon.

## What's On The Horizon for Heritage Tours:



Heritage Tours confirmed bookings so far for 2014 now total 12, plus two Power Point Presentation bookings, as they say, doesn't hurt to advertise. Whilst on Advertising, promotion of our the tours are now published in Probus magazines and Life Style Villages. Purple Coach Tours also advertise our Heritage tours on their website.

All details of bookings and information on our Heritage and Historical Tours is available on our website: **[www.woodmanpointquarantinestation.com](http://www.woodmanpointquarantinestation.com)**

## Members Take Note:

Sadly through lack of information members have escaped the wrath of the pen in this edition, 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 a future edition.



## Memories Long Ago:



### **Western Mail April 18th 1951 Subiaco and Karrkatta**

If Subiaco can be said to have enjoyed any boom period it followed the construction of the road to the cemetery. In 1895 when the road was started there were about 100 people resident in Subiaco, but at the end of the next year the population totalled about 1,300 of whom a portion lived in tents. A contemporary record states that at this time Subiaco boasted about 260 houses and 60 tents.

The cemetery was first used in 1894 during a smallpox epidemic and had use in subsequent years but, when a larger reservation was made at Karrakatta, the Subiaco site was abandoned. In 1906 the bodies were transferred to Karrakatta and the site became a commonage again.

#### **Bernard Shaw:**

It was stated recently that, that grand figure, Bernard Shaw's antipathy to orthodox medicine may have been in part due to the fact that though vaccinated as an infant he suffered an attack of smallpox more than 20 years later. The vaccination, though never renewed, probably prevented his death, but left him somewhat pock-marked. It is thought this possibly may have explained his beard.

#### **Edward Jenner:**

It's over 200 years ago that a child was born in England who was destined to be musician, poet and doctor. Fifty years later he published a treatise "An Inquiry into the Cause and Effects of Variolae Vaccinae (cowpox)." Nations honoured him. Middle Europe kept his birthday as a feast day. After the receipt of the brochure the Empress of Russia decreed that the first infant to be treated by vaccination would be educated at the public expense and would be named Vaccinov.

The name of the person thus honoured was Edward Jenner. The eventual acceptance of his research results (i.e., that inoculation with cowpox protects the person concerned from smallpox) has saved the world millions of lives. Before the application of the research a very high percentage of the people of Europe were pock-marked, beautiful lady or handsome knight. Today pock-marking of this sort in any modern community is unknown.

### **Project Lighthouse:**

Thanks to an extremely kind donation of fabrication steel by local and international steel fabricator, Structural Marine, the proposed construction of the steel base frame can now be planned in full. A structural welder has agreed to commence construction, and we are now, "all systems go" or as they say "a light can now be seen on the horizon".

Members will be kept informed by way of our three monthly updates in "The Pratique" Newsletter of the current progress and of any recent developments.

**THIS SPACE RESERVED -->**



## 86 Years Ago:

### IN REVOLT ABOARD LINER

#### SMALLPOX SCARE PLEA FOR REFORMS - Friday 14 December 1928

An outbreak of smallpox on the P. and O. branch liner, Ballarat, and the refusal of 15 passengers to obey the advice of the captain and be vaccinated, made the vessel's voyage from London a memorable one.

There are startling features attached to the occurrence, and the captain and many passengers stated on arrival in Sydney today that it should stir the Federal Government authorities into constructing improved quarantine facilities at Fremantle, the first Australian port of call for vessels voyaging from London. The trouble began shortly after the Ballarat had left Las Palmas for Cape town. A young girl, who was on her way to Australia with her family to settle, was found to have developed symptoms of smallpox. She was isolated and every precaution taken to prevent the symptoms spreading. There were no further cases, but no one was allowed ashore at Capetown. The girl and her family were taken ashore, and orders were posted throughout the ship that all passengers were to be vaccinated. Capetown passengers had been treated before coming aboard. Mr. de Baskerville-Carden, one of the passengers who refused to be vaccinated, told a 'News' man that there was only enough vaccine for 600 passengers, and a great deal of this was used on the crew. After leaving Capetown many of the vaccinated passengers became ill. We were given hell because we were not vaccinated,' he said, 'and were threatened that when we reached Sydney we would not be able to land, and that the Federal authorities would prosecute us. I understand that they can do this and that the fine £5.

'The Incident reveals a shocking slate of affairs, and I intend to have it thrashed out by the Federal Government. At Fremantle and Adelaide there were inadequate quarantine arrangements, and it was not until we reached Melbourne that anything like a proper quarantine station was found.

**GREAT DANGER** ' As Fremantle is the first Australian port of call for vessels coming from London, there should be an up-to-date quarantine station here, if there was a an outbreak, the lives of all the passengers would be endangered by the fact, that Melbourne would have to be reached before proper facilities would be available. It was a dangerous thing to allow the girl suspected to roam among the passengers for as long as she did before being finally Isolated with her family.' Mr. H. Braiding, a New Zealander, with his wife, daughter, and son were among the others who were not vaccinated. To a 'News' man, Mr. Braiding stated that his reason for refusing was the advice of the doctor who had vaccinated another son some time ago. Mr. J. Rudolph, a resident of North Shore, said he had suffered no ill effects when vaccinated, and attributed the illness of others to the bad weather. He too, condemned the lack of inadequate quarantine station at Fremantle. Captain Cotching added that he was certainly in favour of an up-to-date quarantine station being erected at Fremantle.



**FIND THE WORD :**



Answers in the Winter Pratique

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<b>Beach</b>	<b>Influenza</b>	<b>Disinfect</b>	<b>Flag</b>	<b>Quarantine</b>	<b>Walk</b>
<b>Morgue</b>	<b>Graves</b>	<b>Dingo</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Crematorium</b>	<b>Station</b>
<b>Disease</b>	<b>Laundry</b>	<b>Luggage</b>	<b>Lysol</b>	<b>Fumigation</b>	<b>Mooltan</b>
<b>Smallpox</b>	<b>Baggage</b>	<b>Shelter</b>	<b>Ship</b>	<b>Bertie</b>	<b>Plank</b>
<b>Isolation</b>	<b>Fumigator</b>	<b>Convict</b>	<b>Jetty</b>	<b>Death</b>	<b>Woodman</b>
<b>Hospital</b>	<b>Heritage</b>	<b>Disembarkation</b>	<b>Ocean</b>	<b>Cemetery</b>	<b>Poore</b>
<b>Doctor</b>	<b>Nurses</b>	<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Anchor</b>	<b>Contagious</b>	<b>Vaccination</b>



## 90 Years Ago:



### **Tuesday 15 April 1924: QUARANTINED MAN ESCAPES**

FREMANTLE, Monday:— A lascar seaman, who had been detained for. the past month at Woodman Point Quarantine Station, suffering from a contagious disease, escaped yesterday for the fourth time, but was captured shortly afterwards. The ease with which this particular man has gained freedom on so many occasions suggests that greater precautions should be taken to keep quarantine subjects in custody.

## On The Radar And Within Radio Range:



Construction of a pathway to the crematorium

Restoration of the Heritage listed Shower/bathing Block.

Continue with the Interpretation of the Woodman Point Explosive Magazine.

Commence painting the exterior window sills and doorframes of the Isolation Hospital

Completion of the installation of bollards around the Isolation Hospital.

## 60 Years Ago:

### **The West Australian Monday 18th January 1954**

A block of buildings on Rockingham-road, **Woodman Point** was sold for a total of £3,115 by public auction. The buildings which were originally erected to accommodate quarantined Asians, were used as a military hospital in World War I and to quarter enemy aliens in the last war.

The purchaser of most of the buildings which will have to be removed from the site, was Mr. L. Gill who said that he intended erecting them at tourist resorts at Penguin Island and Hamelin Bay. The Methodist Church paid £425 for a building 58ft by 20ft with a bay 16ft by 3ft., a skillion 21ft. by 14ft. and verandahs on the front and two sides. This building is to be erected as a church hall in Safety Bay.

### **The Canberra Times Monday 9th August 1954**

#### **PERTH, Sunday.**

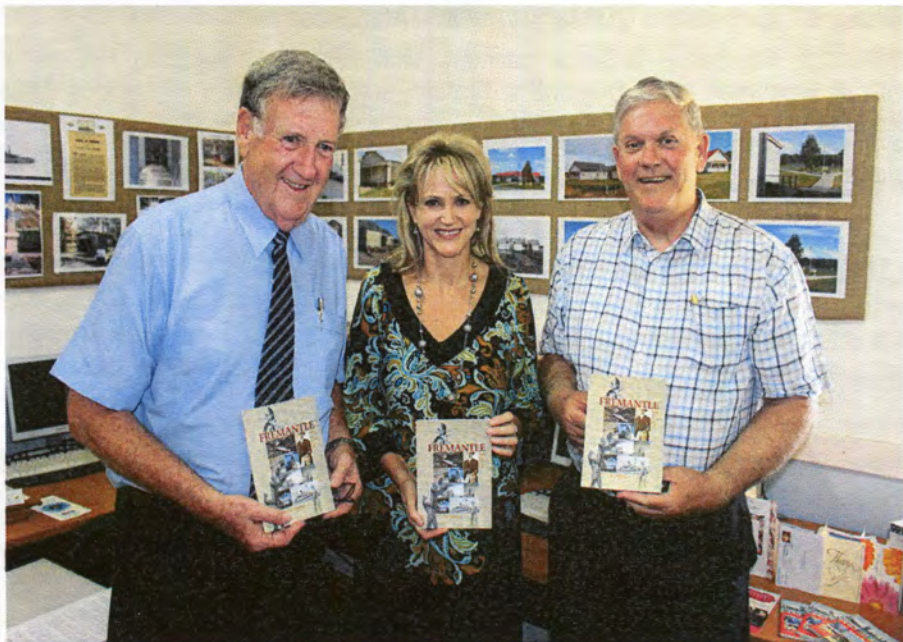
#### **Vaccination Helped Steward Of Strathaird**

Elbino Crasto, 53, ship's steward who was taken to quarantine from the liner Strathaird yesterday suffering from Small-Pox, would almost certainly have died but for his two-year-old vaccination, a quarantine doctor said today.

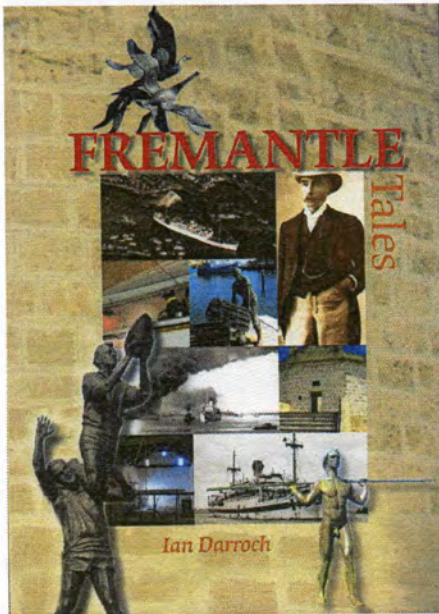
Over 1,200 of 1,245 British migrant passengers were vaccinated while the ship lay anchored in Gage Roads yesterday.

Seventy six passengers were taken from the Strathaird to Woodman Point Quarantine Station. There they were given germ killing baths and had their clothing and 15 tons of luggage disinfected. Their vaccination histories were also checked.





Ian Darroch - Ms Melissa Parke - Earle Seubert



Fremantle MHR Ms Melissa Parke, officially opened the launch by saying "it was a great honour to be asked to launch Ian's second book. (His first, *The Boonah Tragedy*, was shortlisted in the WA Premier's Book Awards in 2004.)" This is a book with great liveliness in it, a great sense of the joys and challenges of life as well as the sorrows and a licence of humour," she said.

"In *Fremantle Tales* Ian again delivers his characteristic attention to detail and his talent for constructing narrative frameworks of both iconic and little-known stories."

The book launch was hosted by the FOWPRC.

To obtain a copy of *Fremantle Tales*, call Ian on 9528 5899.

*Fremantle Tales* can be purchased for \$20, and makes the ideal present

## Out Of The Past:



With all Europe's "horrors of modern warfare and civilian bombing, the population of London is much more secure, healthy and comfortable than it was in the mis-named "good old days".

Those heroes of old, the Crusaders, distinguished themselves chiefly in the history of Europe, in that, they brought back from the Near East all the epidemics of the day. As one writer puts it: "They became a living bridge by which diphtheria, smallpox, leprosy, and scarlet fever made their fateful entry.

## Just for Information:

RSVP is French for : *répondez s'il vous plaît*), which means: please reply, and on invitations it is requesting a response of accept or decline the invitation. Etiquette rules followed in most Western cultures require that if you receive a formal, written invitation, you should reply promptly, perhaps that same day. For hosts who are planning a dinner party, a wedding or a reception, this is important from a practical point of view, because they need to know how many people to count on and how much food and drink to buy. More important, though, is the simple courtesy of responding to someone who was nice enough to invite you, even if it is to say that you regret that you will not be able to attend

## Disappointment for Friends and DSR:

Thanks to some inconsiderate being, graffiti has been painted or so-called 'tagged' on the Isolation Hospital and Jervoise Dormitory. Admittedly, only small, but this act of vandalism took place on Saturday 1st or Sunday 2nd March. Words fail to describe this life form, and one finds it difficult to justify any explanation for this wanton, costly, damage. Please reply, or contact the Caretaker.

## 80 Years Ago :

### **The West Australian, Tuesday 20th February 1934**

**A HOLIDAY RESORT:-** Mrs. M. (Shackleton) asks whether Woodman's Point would be a suitable place for a fortnight's holiday, if not, what would be a pleasant spot, not too far from Fremantle with a safe beach for children.

REPLY: Woodman's Point is the 'quarantine station' and people are not permitted to camp there. Rockingham would be a very pleasant spot for your holiday, and you could either board there. 'take' a cottage or erect a tent. If you write to the Government Tourist Bureau, they will supply you with a list of the accommodation available.



**"OTHER VISITORS" To Woodman Point Recreation Camp**



**Photographs taken at Woodman Point 2013**





## Woodman Point Explosive Magazine Reserve by Les Jubbs

Woodman Point is really the CENTRE of a wonderful Heritage Region. Just over the fence of the former Woodman Point Quarantine Station was the States place of security for all the dynamite, gelignite and detonators used in this State's Mining and Building Industry, as well as the farming regions. In well designed buildings, explosives were protected by sand bags loaded with cement and sand which when received the first rains became a form of concrete. Periodically sailing vessels brought cargoes of these explosives to the still standing jetty that once held a large protective building on the jetty. Lumpers from the harbour unloaded these vessels into railway carriages and then had them dragged by one of the two Clydesdale Horses into site. "Sailor" was the name of one of the Clydesdales.

With one permanent labourer and two temporary labourers the explosives were taken from the rail carriages into the bunkers except for the detonators, which were housed in similar protected buildings. Even during the nights men patrolled the extensive explosive area.

There was a high corrugated iron fence protecting the Explosive Magazine Reserve at Woodman Point and a securely locked gate at the entrance.

During World War 2 the Royal Navy Civilians escaping from Hong Kong Naval Armaments Depot set up an Armaments Depot at Woodman Point to look after the needs of a great many Naval ships visiting nearby Fremantle Harbour which was protected by not only guns but a submarine boom net across the harbour entrance.

A large Fleet of American Submarines were based in Fremantle together with their Mother Ship (One being the USS Holland. There were a number of other "Mother Ships") which looked after the servicing of the submarines.

Nearby the American Submarine Flotilla was the British Submarines with their Mother ship the "Maidstone". Later this large submarine base (second in size to Pearl Harbour) would become known as the secret fleets.

Coming from Woodman Point via Carnac Island, and onto the northern end of Garden Island, was also another submarine net that protected Coeburn Sound. The net itself was attached to the "wooden dolphins" located at the northern end of Garden Island. Another "net" constructed of mainly black pipe, run from the southern end of Garden Island across to Point Peron. There appears to be no known photographs of the net that ran from Woodman Point to Garden Island via Carnac Island.

### Did You Know:

The least used letter in the alphabet is **Q**.

The names of all continents both start and end with the same letter.

Perth is Australia's windiest city.

Honey is the only natural food which never goes off.

In every episode of Seinfeld there is a reference to Superman.

The oldest word in the English language is TOWN

More people die from falling coconuts than shark attacks.



## **Department Of Sport And Recreation:**



Special best wishes to David and Philipa Mulcahy, and congratulations for the up n' coming happy and exciting event. It would be advisable to try and get in some accumulated sleep time now, if possible, Dave!!

Kym Lawrence and David Mulcahy for the kind offer of the timber for the anchor memorial area and for also arranging the installation of the bollards.

The return of our Manager, Matt Hayes, from the International tennis umpiring circuit.

A section of Woodman Point Recreation Camp has now gone "Clean & Green" by way of the installation of solar panels to assist with the "Power Bills".

To Kym Lawrence, the "Pratique Print Manager", for his kind offer to assist Friends as always with the printing of this "Award Winning" Pratique Newsletter.

To our onsite "Archaeologist", Pat Miller, for his kind offer to donate to our Interpretation Room, his historic coal relic he discovered whilst "digging deep" recently near the original quarantine wards. (now Owen Dormitory). This unique discovery has two scenarios, firstly, and most likely, it is this piece of coal was most likely destined for a fire-place in the kitchen of the Doctor's Residence, or as heating in a nearby quarantine block. Secondly, it is a piece from a previously undiscovered and extremely valuable coal seam. I certainly hope you have the area "pegged" Pat, but feel i wouldn't necessarily notify Griffin Coal, just yet.

Brett Poole, for his willing assistance during WAM Event in January.

Mark Worobec, Thank you for your assistance to Friends, and especially in "furniture removal" recently at the Isolation Hospital.

## **Department Of Parks and Wildlife:**



**Arrivals:** (Refer Summer Edition) Would you believe, Ms Ezgi Perincek for Robbie Campbell.

**Departures:** Robbie Campbell, DPaW Operations Officer for Woodman Point Regional Park, is currently on four months paternity leave effective from the beginning of March His replacement during this time will be Ezgi Perincek. Ezgi will commence on 5th March, Welcome back to Woodman Point once more. Ez.

## **PUBLIC AUCTION: SATURDAY, NEXT 16th January 1954**

Commencing at 10.00 am on portion of compound (between quarantine station and main road) Woodman Point. From Fremantle SALE SITE, is approx 6½ miles, just past Explosive Compound. Inspection TODAY ONLY, SATURDAY 9th JANUARY.





### **Members Details:**

Members are invited to send us any anecdotes of their own for submission in the Pratique Newsletter.

Birthdays over the past three months were: Doris Alfirevich 7<sup>th</sup> Jan, Peter Mc, our Master Chef, 24<sup>th</sup> January, Alisha Hayes 3<sup>rd</sup> February, Les Jubbs 23<sup>rd</sup> February, and Tayla Hayes, 3<sup>rd</sup> March We would like to pass on our best wishes to them all and hope that "THEIR DAY" was everything they expected.

### **Cover Image:**

An elevated photograph taken from the Cube and looking towards the Point itself, and shows Woodman Point including the original area that was designated for quarantine back in 1885. The only buildings shown here, that were constructed later, are the 1st and 2nd Class Accommodation Blocks shown on the extreme right of the image, completed in the early 1920's. In the centre is the Admin/Medical and Doctor's residence, and shown in the foreground are the original quarantine wards, that would later become 'contacts' accommodation for ship's crew.

### **72 Years Ago:**

The *SS Essylt*, a South American Saint Line Company Ltd. vessel was one of the seven so-called "Plague Ships" that details were revealed to the public for the first time in an article in the West Australian on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 1949. quote:- "That in itself is a tribute to the handful of doctors, nurses and quarantine officials, who handled the cases, for their work had to be kept secret because of wartime security regulations. Under normal conditions, such incidents are of course reported in the Press, thereby keeping the public in-formed of the position and ensuring care and cooperation, but the officials had to go silently about their work during the period when Fremantle port had its greatest incidence of the dreaded smallpox". The *SS Essylt* was quarantined at Fremantle in March 1942 with one confirmed case of Smallpox, and fortunately there were no deaths eventuating from smallpox when the vessel was given free pratique. She was part of Convoy KMS-18B when she was attacked and sunk on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 1943 by U-375, 10 miles north of Cape Tenez, Algeria. Of the compliment of 399 on board the vessel, only one crew member and one military personnel were lost.

### **A Point of Interest:**

In 1895 a new species of wren was discovered unique to Stephen's Island, New Zealand. The Stephen's Island wren was identified only from dead specimens: the last had been killed by the lighthouse keeper's cat.





## 100 Years Ago:



### **IN QUARANTINE : Daily News Monday 6th April 1914.**

#### **A BUSINESS MAN'S EXPERIENCES**

Life At Woodman Point—A Scathing Incident.

Mr. W. W. Stodart, the founder and managing director of Nicholson's, Ltd, only returned from London three weeks ago, and thereby hangs a tale, and a long tale, too Mr Stodart was one of the quarantined passengers from the RMS. Orsova, and was, with his son, the last to be released. He regained his liberty on Saturday, after a confinement of three weeks duration. "You're a brave man to seek an interview with me," said Mr. Stodart, when approached by a Daily News' man this morning. 'Don't you know that I'm a contact'? Don't start! I've been properly fumigated, and the quarantine authorities are now satisfied that I'm no longer a source of danger, to the community. Did you ever feel it a reproach to be an Australian? No! Nor did I, until I had experience of the inner workings of a quarantine station. I, can't realise that it's only three weeks since I landed. Three weeks !, Surely it's three years !

## 60 Years Ago:

### **The West Australian Tuesday 2nd February 1954**

#### **DEATH NOTICES**

**TAPPER:** On Jan. 31. 1954, Suddenly, at Woodman Point. John Arthur Tapper of the Quarantine Station, Woodman Point, loved brother of Thomas, Albert, Richard and Edna (Mrs. Burman); aged 71 years.

**TAPPER. J. A. (Jack):** Sincere Friend of the McIntosh family Woodman Point. The long day closes.

## 110 Years Ago:

### **The Daily News Friday 15th January 1904**

**Our Indigent Sick:-** The case of Robert Hickman, a cancer subject, calls for more attention than first acquaintance with the circumstances suggests as necessary, Hickman is incurably affected with cancer in the throat, so far have the ravages of this dreadful complaint worked upon the man that, unless he is constantly supplied with morphine, he suffers the greatest agony. It will be remembered that Hickman wandered away from the Home of Peace, at Subiaco, last Friday. He was under the influence of the drug then, but during the 26 hours he spent in the bush, the effects passed off, and the intense pain so affected him that he beat his head on the ground, severely injuring himself. In this condition he was found by Constable Hickey, who took him to the Perth Public Hospital. It is not quite certain whether the man's injuries were attended to at the institution, the haughty exclusiveness observed there precludes the possibility of investigating the matter. The old question therefore arises of the necessity for an infectious diseases hospital, where all such cases of malignant disease might receive separate treatment. Failing that, the Woodman's Point buildings should be utilised for such cases as Hickman's



## **Did You Know:**



### **History and Uses of Quarantine**

The term originally referred to the 40 days of offshore wait during which incoming vessels could not discharge passengers or cargo in the distant past era when the plague and other great epidemics swept across Europe. In fact, some nations still maintain extended periods of quarantine for cattle and household pets coming from another country to guard against such diseases as foot-and-mouth disease and rabies. Plant life may also be held for assurance that fungus and other plant diseases are not being introduced.

Local quarantine regulations are also in effect to guard against the spread of communicable disease and law requires that physicians report certain infections to the authorities. The patients (and those who have come in contact with them) may be quarantined or separated and their personal effects disinfected, condemned or destroyed, if it is in the public interest, since quarantine laws supersede even property rights. Although antibiotics, vaccinations and other treatments have greatly reduced the use of quarantine in public health, persons with newly recognized or hard to treat communicable diseases may still be quarantined or isolated by health officials.

Recent experiences with emerging infectious diseases such as West Nile Virus, SARS, and Monkeypox have illustrated the speed with which disease may spread throughout the world and the impact communicable diseases, when left unchecked, may have on the global economy. As diseases evolve naturally or as a result of human intervention, it is important to ensure that containment procedures reflect new threats and uniform ways to respond to them.

### **Nautical Quotes:**

Calm seas never make skilled sailors.

Nothing soothes the soul like a walk on the beach.

If a man knows not to which port he sails, no wind is favourable.

Lighthouses don't go running all over the Island looking for boats to save, they just stand there shining.

Happiness is a journey, not a destination.

### **Something To Laugh At:**

You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice

Whenever I fill out an application, in the part that says "If an emergency, please notify:" I put "DOCTOR". What's my mother or wife going to do?

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.

A TV can insult your intelligence, but nothing rubs it in like a computer.

Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.



**70 Years Ago:**

**The Daily News, Friday 10th November 1944**

**His Ashes Stay Here**

Ashes of Chief Officer Waters, of Canterbury, England, who died at Woodman's Point (W.A.) 18 months ago from smallpox were placed in a niche in the Columbarium at Karrakatta Crematorium at 3.10 p.m. today. Chief Officer Waters nursed four Fijian seamen who had contracted smallpox on his ship and later died. Two former residents of Canterbury who now live in this State attended the ceremony this afternoon, which was conducted by Mission to Seamen's Chaplain Rev. F. C. Dixon, assisted by Rev A. R. Quirk. Representatives of the agents of Chief Officer Water's ship were also present.

**80 Years Ago:**

**Letters To the Editor:**

**Western Mail Thursday 18th October 1934**

**CREMATION**

"INTERESTED" (Bridgetown) asks for the address of a firm which undertakes cremation in this State. Cremation is not practised in Western Australia, except on rare occasions. Some years ago a few people who died from small pox were cremated at Woodman's Point. Certain Perth undertakers, however, will arrange for a body to be sent to Adelaide, Melbourne or Sydney for cremation. The cremation Society (Incorporated) is collecting funds to establish a crematorium as soon as possible, and the secretary of that body (Mr. Rankine Wilson, of E.S. and A. Bank Chambers, St. George's-terrace, Perth) says that steps are being taken to obtain amendments to the present Cremation Act. Mr. Wilson invites correspondence with him from those interested

**Life's Quotes:**

Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile.—Albert Einstein

It is not length of life, but depth of life.— Ralph Waldo Emerson.

A well-spent day brings happy sleep - Leonardo Di Vinci

While we are postponing, life speeds by. - Lucius Annaeus Seneca

A chain is no stronger than its weakest link, and life is after all a chain.— William James

**Situations Vacant:**

Sir Ernest Shackleton's newspaper ad for his 1914 expedition read as such: " Men Wanted For Hazardous Journey, Small wages, bitter cold, long months of darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful. Honour and recognition in case of success" A similar application written today would have varied only slightly, "volunteers also accepted gladly" !!



*Cheerio for now*

*The Caretaker*





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of  
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**Department of Sport and Recreation**



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