



## Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp (Inc)

The Isolation Hospital, 74 O'Kane Court, Coogee, WA, 6166



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<http://www.woodmanpointquarantinestation.com>



<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofwoodmanpointrc/>

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

The new year is well underway, and I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and a happy start to 2026. It's hard to believe that the first quarter of the year is already behind us.

Although we have hosted only one tour so far, the coming months are shaping up to be busy, with many group booking enquiries. After a quiet start to the year at Woodman Point, several important projects are now progressing.

#### Current Projects at Woodman Point

##### • 1942 Quarantine Station Model

Work continues preparing the large aerial photograph that will accompany the scale model of the Woodman Point Quarantine Station as it appeared in 1942. Once complete, this material will be provided to the model maker to guide the next stage of construction.

##### • Theatre 180 – Boonah Tragedy Production

Theatre 180 has begun preparations for their upcoming play based on the Boonah Tragedy, scheduled for performance later this year. We were pleased to welcome both the Executive Director and Artistic Director for a site visit in January, and momentum is now building around this significant cultural project.

#### Grounds and Maintenance

The grassed areas surrounding the Isolation Hospital have shown a marked improvement compared with this time last year. The effort invested in maintenance has clearly paid off, and the area is looking healthier and more inviting for visitors.

#### Upcoming Meeting

Our next meeting will be held at 6.30pm on Wednesday, 20 May, in the Isolation Hospital at Woodman Point. Please contact Friends at the email above for entry details. I look forward to seeing many of you there as we continue our work to preserve, interpret, and share the history of this important site.

Gary Marsh  
President

#### LIFE MEMBER, NEIL WILSON

Thank you, Tour Guide Extraordinaire, retiring Vice President and Pratique Newsletter Editor, Neil Wilson for your outstanding contributions to Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp (Inc) and the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport.

## FROM THE PAGES OF HISTORY

*Continuing a series of articles recalling some of the patients who were nursed and cared for at the Woodman Point Quarantine Station.*

~ Special ANZAC edition ~

### Joseph Clatworthy 1897 – 1918



Above: The grave of Joseph Clatworthy, Perth War Cemetery, Row NC1, Grave 2

In 2019, Hon Ben Wyatt (WA's Treasurer 2017-2021) launched a book titled, *No less worthy: Acknowledging Western Australian Aboriginal men in World War I*. Available online, this book is highly recommended to anyone interested in military history.

Private Joseph Clatworthy was born in Esperance in March 1897, the second child to Robert Clatworthy senior, a shepherd, and Margaret, also known as Maggie, who was of Aboriginal descent.

Joseph was the younger brother of Robert, who also served and is also mentioned in the book.

Following the death of his mother in 1904, Joseph was placed at the Swan Mission, where he was raised and educated, along with his siblings Robert and Lily.

At the age of 16, he was sent out to work, with a portion of his wages being retained by the home.

In February 1917, while working in the Greenough area, Joseph was a member of the local football team playing against Geraldton.

He enlisted on 12 July 1918, stating his occupation as dairy hand and horse breaker and giving his permanent address as the Swan Mission.

Ten days later, he was appointed to the 3rd Reinforcements at Blackboy Hill. This was his second attempt to enlist after being rejected once while suffering from an illness.

He embarked from Fremantle on the *HMAT Boonah* on 29 October 1918. That was the last ship with servicemen to leave Australia for the Western Front. After arriving in Durban, South Africa (two days after the armistice had been signed), the commander received orders to return to Australia.

While taking on supplies, some of the passengers contracted pneumonic influenza brought onboard by some of the passengers and crew or the local labourers in Durban. By the time the ship arrived in Fremantle on 11 December, 327 of those on board had been affected. Joseph was one of the 150 patients who had transferred to Woodman Point Quarantine Station on 12 December, where he lingered for 11 days, unfortunately passing away on 23 December, aged just 21.

He was one of 26 servicemen, three army nurses and once civilian nurse who died during this period. Although Joseph never made it to the front, he still served our nation, unfortunately losing his life during his service. It is no less important that we remember all those who never made it to the front in the Great War but still served our nation.

The Boonah War Memorial outside the former quarantine station's isolation hospital, Friends' museum and the two remaining graves in

Woodman Point’s former military cemetery remain as on-site sentinels to this terrible loss of life.

*The Boonah Tragedy* by Ian Darroch (2004) provides an excellent historic account of this heartbreaking period. The Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour commemorates the lost service personnel (Panel 185).

A moving Last Post ceremony honouring Joseph Clatworthy is available on AWM’s Youtube channel.

**LEST WE FORGET**

Volunteers from Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp have shared their research and knowledge of all 29 World War I service personnel who died at Woodman Point from Spanish Flu online with the Virtual War Memorial (see: <https://vwma.org.au/explore/memorials/15040>). There were 26 servicemen from HMAT *Boonah* and three nurses from the HMAT *Wyreema*.

Friends also take an active interest in the condition of their graves, most recently successfully lobbying the Department of Veterans’ Affairs for restoration works on the headstones at East Rockingham, where the first 13 servicemen listed below were buried.

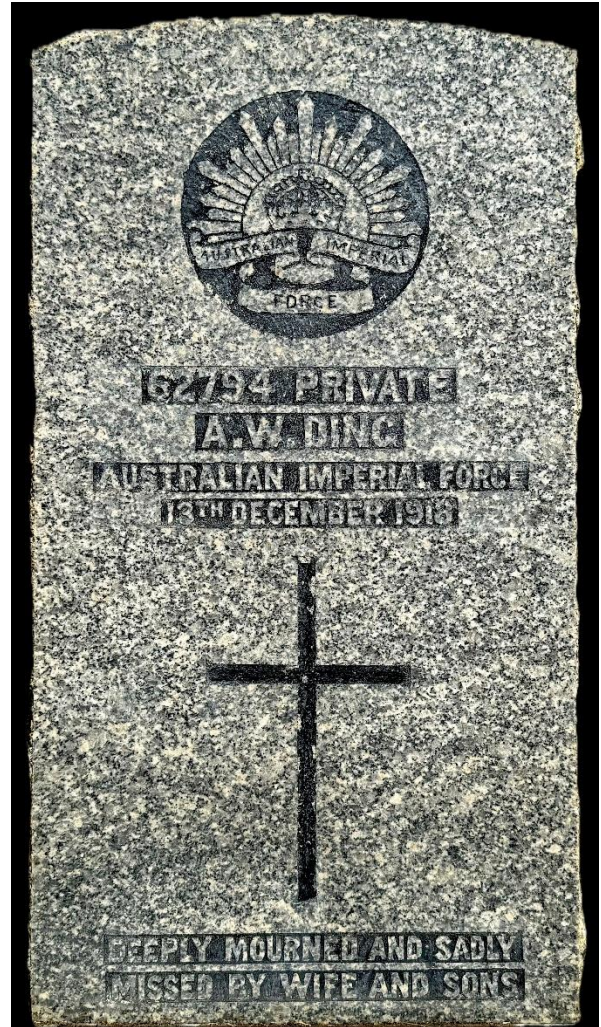


Above: Friends volunteer guide, Keith Dodd sweeping tree litter from Moreton Bay figs which shade the newly restored graves on either side of Smirk Walk at East Rockingham cemetery.

1. Fuge, John Leslie ; 2. George, Harold Maxwell; 3. Greene, Marcus John; 4. Haggerty, Michael Joseph; 5. Knott, Howard Spencer Oliver Gordon; 6. Laffan, William Michael; 7. McAdam, Basil Donald Rex ; 8. Morrison, Clifford Vivian; 9. Sayers, Albert Henry ; 10. Tutton, James & 11. Williams, James Henry. 12. & 13. Two exhumations as follows.

Two bodies from East Rockingham were re-interred at Karrakatta – Albion Staple (Colin) Wilson in 1919 and Albert Wonesford Ding in 1920. Albert’s story, and Friends’ connection with his granddaughter, Pam Waterhouse, featured in our Spring 2025 Pratique.

Albert’s grave has expired but his official Australian War Grave has been retained.



Memorial: Albert Wonesford Ding (KK Ang OC 0059)

Colin was buried in a family grave, which has also expired. The headstone reveals the names of his eminent maternal grandfather, Rev Silas Mead and aunt, Gertrude Mead (see Wikipedia entries for information). The names of Colin’s father, Rev A.S. Wilson and his older brother, Cecil Wilson (who died in infancy) are also engraved on the headstone.



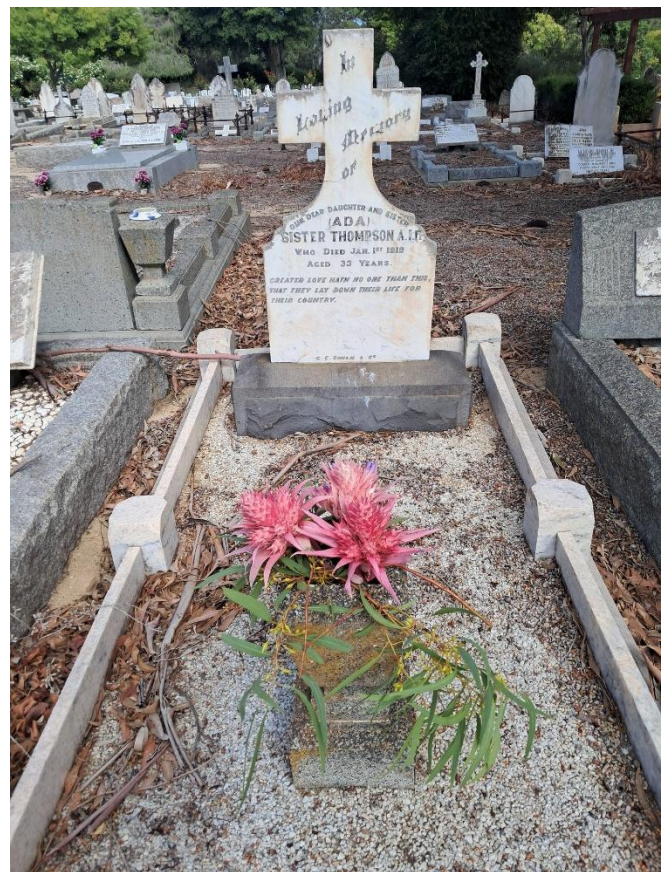


Memorial Albion Staple (Colin) Wilson (KK Bap AA191A).

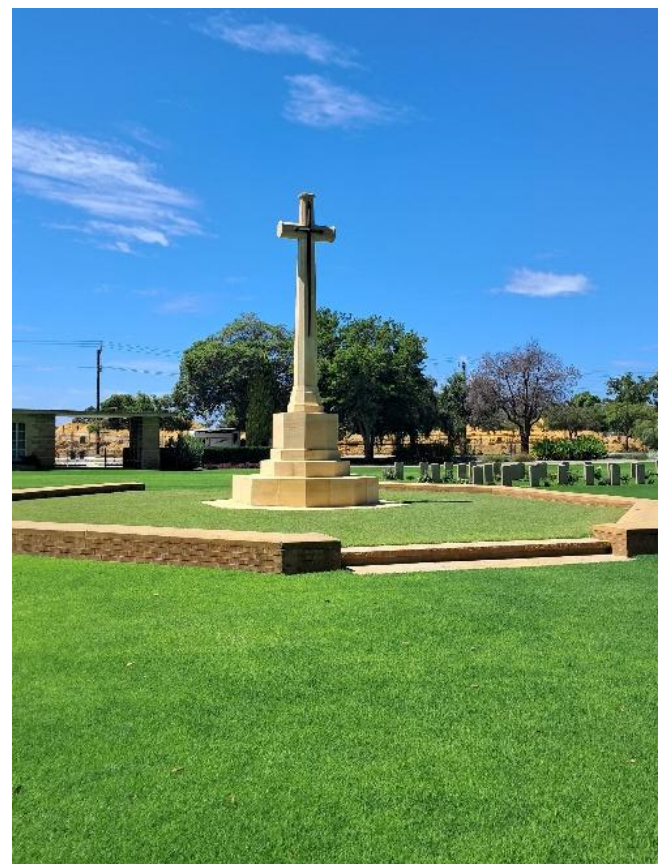
As the deaths from Spanish Flu became more frequent, the next 16 service personnel who died in that terrible incident were buried on-site at Woodman Point.

In 1920 Ada Thompson’s family had her body exhumed and re-buried at Fremantle Cemetery, then in 1958 the bodies of fourteen service personnel (listed below) who died in this tragedy were re-interred from Woodman Point to the newly established Perth War Cemetery.

1. Austin, Norman Roy; 2. Blair, Gordon; 3. Clatworthy, Joseph; 4. Corcoran, Thomas; 5. Dyer, Charles Louis; 6. Hemsell, Thomas Henry; 7. Lancaster, Charles Wesley; 8. Moss, George David; 9. Nilsson, Carl Gustav Thorsten; 10. Phillips, Harry Herbert; 11. Ridgway, Doris; 12. Torney, Clarence William; 13. Vernon, Arthur & 14 Wilson, Adolphus George. \*Adams, Robert John & Emmerson, Thomas Stanley (who died in separate quarantine incidents) are also re-interred at PWC.



Memorial: Ada Mildred Thompson (F Ang A, 806)



Perth War Cemetery, Smyth Road, Nedlands  
(For Woodman Point service personnel see Plots U1-16)

Only two World War I Spanish Flu victims remain in the remnant bushland cemetery at Woodman Point – Staff Nurse Rosa O’Kane and civilian nurse, Hilda Williams who also made the ultimate sacrifice, caring for the servicemen.



Friends’ volunteer, Jenni Carder laying a wreath at the monument to Rosa O’Kane.



Due to quarantine lockdown, Hilda’s parents were not allowed to attend her funeral. Her grave was marked with a simple wooden cross until in January 2020 (101 years after her death) Friends

replaced it with a polished stone memorial to appropriately honour her memory.

**THEATRE 180**

On 7 January, Friends were delighted to show Rebecca Davis (Executive Director) and Stuart Halusz (Artistic Director) of Theatre180 around Woodman Point Recreation Camp.

There was great interest in producing a new play about the story of HMAT *Boonah* soldiers infected with Spanish Flu and the Australian Army nurses who volunteered to care for them from the HMAT *Wyreema*.

Friends presented Rebecca with a copy of the book *The Boonah Tragedy* (by the late Ian Darroch) which she has shared with the script writers of the theatre company.

Rebecca and Stuart (photographed below) both felt incredibly moved and were keen to tell this moving story of loss, courage and sacrifice.



**NEW MEMBERS**

Friends warmly welcome Luke Conroy and Ian McDonald, who have recently joined our group.

## HERITAGE TOURS

Friends of Woodman Point Recreational Camp operate regular heritage tours of the former Quarantine Station and the Isolation Hospital Museum on weekdays for community groups. Morning tea is included in all tours.

Regular Sunday heritage tours, conducted on the third Sunday of each month, provide tours for members of the public to visit the former Quarantine Station and to learn about this important Western Australian heritage site.

The Isolation Hospital Museum is also open twice a year, on the third Sunday in February and in August, for members of the public to browse the historical collection at their leisure.

We acknowledge the contribution of our valued volunteer tour guides who lead heritage tours of the former Quarantine Station.



Jenni



Chris



Jo



Gary



Keith

## UPCOMING HERITAGE TOURS

The following heritage tours are currently planned:

MARCH	APRIL 2026	MAY 2026
15 Mar: Public Tour	19 Apr: Public Tour	17 May: Public Tour
	23 Apr: Rove Charters	

## COMMITTEE 2025 - 2026

The Committee Members are:

**President**



Gary Marsh

**Vice President**

Currently  
Vacant

**Treasurer**



Greg Ireland

**Secretary/  
Membership**



Ainslie Poore

**Committee  
Member**



Jenni Carder

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**Ex-Officio  
Committee  
Member**



Ben Walton

## MEMBER SERVICES

Key member services are provided as follows:

**Heritage Tour Bookings**



Jenni Carder

**Pratique**



Gail Dodd