



Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp (Inc)

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



friends@woodmanpointquarantinationstation.com



<http://www.woodmanpointquarantinationstation.com>



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



SILVER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – 9 AUGUST 2026

On a spectacularly sunny winter's day, Friends celebrated our 25th Anniversary. The special occasion brought together members, supporters, and friends to reflect on our achievements and the shared commitment that has united us for a quarter of a century.

Among the special guests were Hugh Maclean and Jim O'Neil, who attended Friends' very first meeting 25 years ago.

Supported through a City of Cockburn Small Event Sponsorship, the celebrations were organised by a

dedicated planning committee comprising Jenni Carder, Suzy Carder, Chris Harwood, Jo Sterkenburg and Ainslie Poore. Guests enjoyed music provided by Party with Artie, while the day's events were beautifully documented by Friends' member Sam Barba of Stellar Nights Photography.

Ainslie Poore, Friends' Secretary (and great-granddaughter of Woodman Point Nurse, Bertie Poore) emceed the special event, sharing the story behind our foundation, and our many wonderful achievements. Gary Marsh, Friends' President (and son of George Marsh, the Station's last Officer-in-Charge) provided a heartfelt Welcome Address. The program also featured an illuminating presentation by Friends' member and Emeritus Professor of Tropical Medicine and Infectious Diseases, Dr Nicholas Beeching, on isolation and quarantine conditions in the bubonic plague era (1900-1906).

At the Anniversary, Friends celebrated our remarkable contribution to heritage conservation and community education. Through guided heritage tours, publications, commemorative events, archival preservation and historical research, the group has uncovered forgotten stories and shared the experiences of those who lived, worked and were quarantined at Woodman Point.

The celebrations also highlighted the connection Friends has built with other major Commonwealth Quarantine Stations. Peers from North Head Quarantine Station (NSW), Point Nepean (VIC), Torrens Island (SA) and Lytton Quarantine Station (QLD) sent messages of congratulations, which were shared in the event's program.

A highlight of the day was a series of special launches. With the support of the City of Cockburn, Friends unveiled its first Recognition Plaque, honouring past Presidents and Life Members whose passion has helped build the organisation over the past 25 years.

Guests also celebrated the unveiling of a detailed replica model of the Quarantine Station – one of Friends' most ambitious interpretation projects. The model was made possible through the generosity of individuals and organisations who sponsored this project: our late member, Barry Ireland; member Jo Sterkenburg; the City of Cockburn; Veolia; Cockburn Cement; and Veris. Barry Ireland's Living Bequest ensured the model's production. Barry was the first-born grandchild of Bertie Poore. While he never saw its completion, Barry's wife and adult children

attended the celebration in his honour. The project itself was led by and our Treasurer, Greg Ireland, in honour of his late brother, Barry. The model shows the buildings that came, went, and are still standing, from the year 1886 until 1942. The model is a fantastic addition to our museum, and its unveiling was a highlight for many on the day.

As members gathered for morning tea and conversation, the Silver Anniversary served as a fitting tribute to the founders, members and supporters whose efforts have shaped Friends of Woodman Point over the past 25 years. Their dedication has preserved an irreplaceable part of Western Australia's heritage and created a lasting legacy that will continue to educate, inspire and connect future generations.



Pat Howlett (with program) flanked by Gary Marsh (left) and Jim O'Neil (right). Next to Jim is Friends' Founder, Hugh McLean, former Manager, Camps and Reserves at the Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR now CITS) from 1999 - 2003. Back Row L-R: Keith Dodd, City of Cockburn Mayor, Logan Howlett, Dr Nick Beeching, and Ainslie Poore.



Greg Ireland explaining the 3D Model to Cr Phoebe Corke, Deputy Mayor City of Cockburn and Sharinna Ireland.



Artie Paul entertaining the guests.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have just returned from my annual winter pilgrimage to Exmouth, refreshed and ready for the busy season ahead. My sincere thanks go to Keith for stepping in as chairman during my absence and ensuring our meetings continued smoothly.

The past three months have been exceptionally busy for Friends. We successfully conducted three tours, each receiving excellent feedback from visitors. My gratitude goes to our dedicated guides, whose knowledge and enthusiasm continues to elevate the visitor experience.

A major highlight of the season was the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Friends. This milestone event was a testament to the strength and commitment of our community. A heartfelt thank you to:

- ✚ Jenni, Suzy, Jo, Chris, and Ainslie for their outstanding organisation and tireless work.
- ✚ The City of Cockburn – We deeply appreciate the grant that made the event possible.
- ✚ Volunteers – Thank you to everyone who helped prepare the Isolation Hospital for the celebration and to those who assisted with the clean-up afterwards. Your efforts were invaluable and truly inspiring.

During our anniversary celebration, we proudly launched a 3D model of the Quarantine Station as it stood in 1942. This project was warmly received by our guests and marks a significant addition to our museum.

- ✚ Donors – Thank you for your generosity and belief in this project.
- ✚ Greg Ireland – A special acknowledgement to Greg for his long hours, meticulous planning, and

dedication in overseeing the model's construction. His work ensures that it will be a major feature for years to come.

As we move into the next three months, I look forward to an increase in tours and continued engagement with our community. The momentum we have built together sets a strong foundation for the season ahead.

Thank you all for your ongoing support and commitment to preserving and sharing the history of Woodman Point.

FROM THE PAGES OF HISTORY

Continuing a series of articles recalling some of the quarantine station's staff and patients.

MARGARET MITCHELL GOLDEN (NEE LEYS)

Twenty-seven-year-old Margaret Golden died at Wooroloo Sanatorium on 13 April 1918. Her body was transported to Woodman Point Quarantine Station for cremation and burial there the next day. She was a victim of leprosy. Leprosy does not cause flesh to rot or fingers and toes to drop off. In the past, limbs that have been damaged have sometimes had to be amputated because the person cannot feel pain.

Margaret was brought up in India as part of a Scottish military family, mainly in Calcutta and educated in the Bengal hill stations. She was born in Calcutta in 1890, went to England from 1897-1898, and returned to Calcutta from 1898-1911. Between 1902-1906, she spent nine months each year at college in the hill stations. In 1908, at the age 18, the early signs of leprosy became apparent. She sought out medical advice in Calcutta.

Leprosy (Hansen's disease) is well-documented for its exceptionally long dormancy period, with full symptoms often taking 5 to 20 years or more to appear after initial exposure to the bacteria *Mycobacterium leprae*.

In 1911 Margaret married Frederick Alfred Golden.

MARRIAGE.

GOLDEN—LEYS—August 12th, at St. Andrew's Church, Calcutta, by the Rev. Geo. J. Chree, Fred. A. Golden, eldest son of Frederick Golden, of Ilford Essex, England to Marguerite, only daughter of the late William Leys, of Aberdeen, Scotland.

The Times of India, 28 August 1911

The young couple lived in England, Singapore, and finally Western Australia. Margaret arrived in Fremantle on the *Gorgon* on 2 July 1914 with her husband and baby son, Terence Eric.



SS *Gorgon* [available at https://birtwistlewiki.com.au/wiki/File:MS_Gorgon.jpg]

Sadly, that year double tragedies struck. She was officially diagnosed with leprosy and her six-month-old baby died on 22 October. Terrence was buried at Karrakatta Cemetery.

Leprosy is not highly infectious, and it is not known how the disease is transmitted. It is thought likely that leprosy is spread from person to person in respiratory droplets (expelled from the nose and mouth, for example when an infected person coughs or sneezes). In cases of leprosy in children under one year of age, it is thought possible that the infection may have been transmitted from the mother via the placenta.

Margaret must have been devastated. She and her nurse were removed and isolated at Wooroloo reserve to temporary buildings. State Records detail the purchase and transport of furniture, a piano, and music for 'Mrs Golden, at Wooroloo.' Handwritten letters by both 'Mrs Golden and Nurse Motley' are also on file. Margaret's rental home in Cottesloe was fumigated, and the beds and bedding were destroyed by fire.

In April 1916 the building of two new houses in the sanatorium were authorised for the women and the temporary buildings were burnt to the ground.

Five victims of leprosy are known to have been at Woodman Point over the years. Margaret Golden, John Higgins and Ah Sing (aka Ah Sin) were all cremated at

the quarantine station. In 1903 newspaper reporters described John's living conditions at Woodman Point as a two-room structure on the beach, in the centre of a sandy patch of land enclosed on three sides by a galvanised iron fence, and on the fourth side by the stone wall of the quarantine station, his 'banishment from the sight of his fellow men,' and a plea to make him more comfortable. Another leprosy patient, Ah Lee kept escaping and was sent away, to Jerejak Island, an islet of the eastern coast of Penang Island (formerly the main leper asylum for the Straits Settlement and a former quarantine station). Ah Ti, a storekeeper from York, was misdiagnosed with leprosy and eventually released from quarantine at Woodman Point but by that time everything he owned had been burnt. Critically ill with tuberculosis, he argued for compensation through legal channels. Ah Ti died destitute in September 1897. The Colonial Secretary's Office was not prepared to pay any compensation before or after Ah Ti's death and declined to cover the funeral expenses.

In October 1898, the *Northam Enquirer* published the findings of a Leprosy Enquiry in Western Australia. *'In regard to leprosy, your committee begs to suggest that extraordinary powers should be given by statute to the health authorities to deal with all suspected cases and is of the opinion that it would be to the benefit of the public health if legislative means were provided whereby Asiatic habitations might be subject to surprise domiciliary visits by the health officers. Power should also be given to allow the arrest of persons suspected of being sufferers from leprosy so they may be examined by a magistrate and two medical men in a manner similar to that provided in the case of suspected lunatics.'*

According to the National Trust¹ this is exactly what happened to Hookum Chan, a well-educated, high-born Hindu carpenter in his 98th year. Some of Hookum's fine furniture is in the collections of the National Gallery and the Western Australian Museum/Boola Bardip.

Hookum was both distressed and humiliated by the process of determining whether his skin condition – actually Vitiligo, a loss of pigmentation in the skin – was leprosy. There was a real danger Hookum could now be locked away at Woodman Point for the rest of his life or

¹ Hookum was born on the border between Tibet and India in 1800 and died in 1903.

<https://www.ntwa.com.au/about/news/a-shining-moon-and-the-wheel-of-fortune/>

sent as far away as Derby in the northwest to the leper colony there.

People suffering leprosy were outcast by society, considered untouchable and unclean. Many people suffered terribly from the isolation and stigma surrounding this disease and to be accused of carrying leprosy in the Perth region would be a frightening experience for anybody, let alone a man of Hookum's advanced age. The accusation was proven to be false, but the damage to his reputation was done.

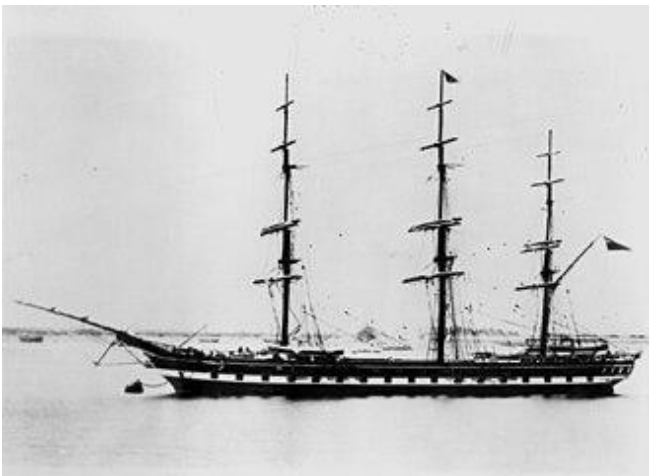
THE CANTANKEROUS MR HOOLEY

One hundred and forty years ago John and Annie (Emma) Hooley applied to be Woodman Point's first Caretakers.

WANTED MAN and WIFE as CARETAKERS for Woodman's Point Quarantine Station.

Husband to know something of Gardening.
Wages from £5 to £6 per month with furnished quarters.
Applications will be received up to the 14th April next.
J. ARTHUR WRIGHT,
Director of Public Works.²

According to Wikitree.com (a worldwide site for genealogists), John Hooley was born about 1834 in Lymm, Cheshire, England and married Ellen Skelhorn in Manchester in 1857. They had three sons and one daughter. In 1874 Hooley boarded the vessel 'Earl Dalhousie', recording himself as a Joiner who was a single man. He arrived in Adelaide on 23 February 1875.



Earl Dalhousie from the State Library of Queensland.

Just six weeks after his arrival, Hooley went on to bigamously marry Annie (Emma) Shaw in Adelaide,

starting an entirely new life and family in Australia while his first wife and children remained in England.

Emma bore four children, two of whom died as babies. Surviving sons, John Jonathan and Robert Joseph were born in 1877 and 1879, respectively.

In July 1884, the *South Australian Register* carried stories of a Coroner's Inquest into a suspicious fire and insurance claim at a home John Hooley was renting (and formerly owned) in Birkenhead, a suburb of Adelaide. The jury returned a verdict that there was no evidence to show how the fire originated. Statements presented were that Hooley had the contents insured well above their worth at £200; that his savings at the time amounted to £46; that he had recently purchased two allotments of land at East Adelaide and others at Sandwell; that before moving to Birkenhead, a small fire occurred at Hooley's former business (a grocer's shop in Yatala); and that he was building a new home in Payneham. No wonder representatives of the Liverpool, London, and Globe Insurance Company and the South Australian Insurance Company were present!

Very strangely, Inspector Doyle testified at the Inquest that he had a conversation with Hooley as to an easy way of setting the place on fire, specifically – 'spirits of salt, he thought – to be placed on a kerosene tin and fixing a piece of cotton to a clock. The clock was to be set to go off at a certain time, and the cotton had to drop into the receptacle prepared for it.' Mr Webb then testified that – 'there had been suspicious fires at the time. Hooley had been in Chicago at the time of the great fire there. It was a neighbourly chat on fires and their origin and nothing serious was meant.'³

In 1885 John and Emma Hooley moved their young family to Western Australia.

State Records Office files show that at the time of their application, John and Emma were living at Highgate Hill, Perth. One of the referees was Francis Fraser Armstrong, early Colonial Government interpreter and settler, who confirmed knowing the family since their arrival in the Colony seven months previously. He endorsed Hooley's work ethic and the family's suitability as tenants. Two additional referees described Hooley as steady, respectable, sober, and married.

² *The West Australian* Friday, 19 March 1886, p2

³ Interestingly, Hooley's Opera House – a famous 19th century playhouse owned by Richard Martin Hooley (1822-1893) – was destroyed in the Great Chicago Fire.

The application stated that John (51) and Emma (43) had two sons, aged eight and six. He was a qualified joiner and carpenter and possessed practical experience in gardening and farming. Emma, who completed the application on her husband's behalf, was previously employed as a head nurse for a gentleman's family.

On 15 May 1886 Hooley's appointment was recommended to His Excellency, the Governor. Officials at the Colonial Secretary's Office may have come to regret that decision! The year 1886 coincided with the building of 'A Block.' It was designed by the famous colonial architect, George Temple-Poole to accommodate the hospital dispensary, surgery, a small dining hall and accommodation for medical staff.

Hooley immediately began a bitter feud with the primary building contractor, James Kelly, and his workmen. He attempted to supervise and direct the construction work, a role he did not possess, leading to severe clashes. On 1 December 1886, Hooley brought Kelly and Thomas Lee before the Fremantle Police Court on charges of using abusive language towards him. Kelly's case was dismissed as being frivolous, with costs of £3 3s against Hooley. Lee's case was fully proven and the accused was fined £9 9s.

Beyond the site interference, Hooley engaged in public defamation, telling locals that Kelly had been jailed and had indecently exposed himself to women on a train!

The severe friction forced Temple-Poole, E. G. Back (a Sub-Inspector of Police in Western Australia) and J.J. Harwood (Chief Inspector of Public Works) to intervene. Internal memorandums uniformly concluded that Hooley was highly cantankerous, regularly extorted visitors for personal fees, and displayed erratic behaviour that Temple-Poole ultimately characterized as bordering on insanity. Temple-Poole also stated that 'there is one thing that the caretaker is worthy of commendation, that is, he is industrious in clearing and planting the grounds and has accomplished noticeable improvements.' His chief faults, according to Dr Hope, the Health Officer, were being 'crotchety, over-zealous and over officious.' Although to blame, Dr Hope believed that Hooley would 'improve the grounds more than any other man would.'

The West Australian newspaper reported on Hooley's angry reactions to trespassers (fishermen using Woodman Point to camp overnight and several young

men frequenting the Quarantine Station for duck shooting). Before daylight on 31 March 1890, Hooley caught a duck shooter and took the lad, his gun and dog to the Fremantle Police Court. In a surprising twist, Hooley was summoned the same day to appear in court for having assaulted Frederick Lewington. In summing up, the Magistrate did not support the defendant in carrying out the arduous duty of keeping trespassers from this government reserve, stating 'that if the boy had been trespassing, the Caretaker had the remedy; he could have laid an infringement for trespass. Instead of that, he hollered at the boy and assaulted him. He [Hooley] had no right to take the law into his own hands' and fined the defendant with costs.

On 2 June 1890 Hooley's employment as Caretaker at Woodman Point ceased. His replacement was Police Constable John Carroll.

By 1893 the Hooley family were living at Cemetery Road in Beaconsfield but John Hooley died in South Australia in 1904 and is buried at Cheltenham Cemetery. Probate of £50 was granted to Peter Theisinger, perhaps indicating another family estrangement.

In 1910 Emma moved from her Beaconsfield home and was living with her sons John Jonathan, a carpenter and Joseph Robert, also a carpenter, at 23 May Street, in East Fremantle. The boys had formed the building company, Hooley Brothers.⁴ One of their lasting legacies was the building of St Paul's Church, Beaconsfield (photographed below).



Fremantle Library photo #1586A, nd. Consecrated in 1906.

By 1916 Emma moved to Onslow where John jnr was working as a merchant and Robert as a storekeeper. Ten years later, a newspaper announcement of John's engagement stated that he was 'one of the best known men about town' and that he was one of the owners of Diomenor Station. Emma died in 1922 and is buried at the old Onslow Cemetery.

⁴ <https://www.streetsofeastfreo.com/eastfreohouses/tag/23>

HERITAGE TOURS

Explore this once hidden community and discover its significance as Western Australia's primary defence against ship and airborne infectious diseases for nearly a century. Woodman Point played a crucial role in safeguarding the state during global pandemics and houses an extraordinarily intact collection of late 19th and early 20th-century quarantine buildings.

What to expect on a tour:

- ✚ Visit heritage-listed buildings.
- ✚ Explore the original Plague Isolation Hospital.
- ✚ Hear amazing stories of the staff and patients who walked these grounds.
- ✚ See the oldest crematorium in Australia.
- ✚ Absorb the fascinating history from friendly and knowledgeable guides.

Tour options (book Public Tours and Open Days online at www.trybooking.com/eventlist/woodman)

- ✚ Sunday Public Heritage Tours
\$30 pp
2+ hours guided walk over the whole quarantine site (moderate pace)
Includes morning tea
Third Sunday of most months
- ✚ Isolation Hospital Open Days
\$10 pp
1.5 hours to peruse quarantine artefacts (leisurely)
Twice yearly as advertised
- ✚ Private Heritage Tours (email friends @woodmanpoint.quarantinestation.com to organise a date)
\$25 pp
Minimum 15 persons (or the financial equivalent of 15p)
2+ hours guided tour
Includes morning tea
Suitable for community groups
Must be booked two weeks in advance

We acknowledge the contribution of our highly valued volunteer tour guides. The cost of your visit helps us to maintain the former quarantine station's Isolation Hospital and to preserve the Station's history.



Jenni



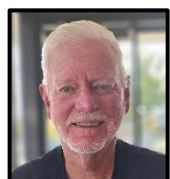
Chris



Jo



Gary



Keith



Ian

UPCOMING HERITAGE TOURS

The following tours are currently planned:

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
Public Tour – 20 th Sep	Public Tour – 18 th Oct	Public Tour – 15 th Nov
	Rove Charters – 21 st Oct	Rove Charters – 26 th Nov
	Kingsway Retirement Village – 28 th Oct	

<https://www.woodmanpointquarantinationstation.com/heritage-tours>

COMMITTEE 2025 - 2026

The Committee Members are:

President



Gary Marsh

Vice President
(Interim)



Keith Dodd

Treasurer



Greg Ireland

**Secretary/
Membership**



Ainslie Poore

**Committee
Member**



Jenni Carder

**Ex-Officio
Committee
Member**



Ben Walton

MEMBER SERVICES

Key member services are provided as follows:

**Heritage Tour
Bookings**



Jenni
Carder

**Pratique
Newsletters**



Gail Dodd

Pratique online <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-2903522259>
<https://www.woodmanpointquarantinationstation.com/pratique-newsletters>