Welcome to the
"Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp"
Quarterly Newsletter for 2014 / 2015

Summer Edition

Visit our website: www.woodmanpointquarantinestation.com

Friends News:

Hi all, well it's that time of the year again, with the festive season upon us, and the Summer/Christmas Edition of the Pratique is now supposedly available on your local news stands, but, believe me, I still cannot work out where the past eleven months have gone. I was forewarned though about the "season to be jolly" fast approaching, by the Christmas decorations on display in late September, would you believe. Anyway, the seasons move on, and it is now Slip, Slop and Slap time, so resurrect the inaccurate Insect Repellent, or the ever accurate fly swat, and hopefully we all make it through the festivities, and we will see you all in 2015.

President's Report: 2014 has continued on to be another successful year for FRIENDS, with an increase in membership numbers. On the down side, it is regrettable that nothing positive has resulted from our continuous and ongoing grant applications, with no grant approvals towards our high priority projects, such as additional funding of the Cultural Heritage Grant for a master plan for the Interpretation of the Woodman Point Explosive Reserve in the Woodman Point Regional Park. In addition no grant application approvals were forthcoming for the restoration of the Heritage Listed Shower Block or the Special Needs access pathway to the crematorium. Our Heritage Tours continue to be as popular as ever, and assist us financially for all our ongoing Interpretation projects, and all around maintenance on the Isolation Hospital. Interpretation displays in the Isolation Hospital continue to grow, thanks to the many kind donations from various tour visitors, and especially from some of our members. We emphasize, as FRIENDS, our responsibility is to continue to promote and preserve our cultural and historical heritage of the Woodman Point area for all future generations, and to assist DSR and DPAW with any heritage or cultural projects they deem necessary. To all my Committee, our sponsors, supporters, and especially our members, I would like to express my sincere thanks, and for you all to have a very special family Christmas, make it a safe and memorable one, and all the very best wishes for 2015.

At the time of going to print, no confirmation or decision on our ANZAC Centenary Local Grant Extensions in obtaining a grant to purchase a number of high resolution historical photographs for a FOWPRC public display in 2015 had been received.

Donations were made from Friends to the Azalea Ley Homestead Group of some unique historical farm implements, and also to the Castledare Miniature Railway in appreciation of their assistance in obtaining some historic rail line for our Fumigation Block Interpretation Project. We thank them sincerely for their kind support.

The Cockburn Library requested a photograph of the Trig/Nav Obelisk for a book being written on one of the Royal Navy Commanders involved in its' construction.

Friends News (Continued)

During a recent Friends Heritage Tour by members of the Vindicatrix Society of Merchant Seamen, it was suggested to us from some members of the New Zealand section of the group, that we should approach the worldwide publication of the Merchant mariners Magazine "Sea Breezes" to see if they can further assist us with additional information on Arthur David Waters of SS SUVA fame. The Editor of this renowned Maritime Magazine has kindly agreed to publish an article giving full details of our research, and the following is his reply.

"My apologies for the delay in responding to your email of 30th October. It was most interesting and I will carry it in a forthcoming edition of Sea Breezes in the hope that we will be successful, through our readership in being able to assist you in your research. It was sad to hear of these seafarers dying in such circumstances, but good to know that there is now a memorial to them, reminding visitors of their story. The courage of Chief Officer Waters in tending to these men stricken by Smallpox is admirable and moving." Signed , Hamish H Ross. Editor Sea Breezes

For further history information on the sailing vessel Vindicatrix. Refer to Page 18

Contact has been made recently with Senior Management of the Water Corporation's Woodman Point Waste Water Treatment Plant to discuss the possibility of having the vegetation and shrubs cleared from around the historic Trig/Navigational Obelisk that is located on the Spearwood Ridge. It is such a pity that this heritage listed shipping marker or Cairn, once seen by the naked eye far out in Cockburn Sound, is now barely visible at all because of vegetation overgrowth. We hope that this government facility will consider and agree with our genuine request.

Following a Heritage Tour by the Bullsbrook Seniors, a Nurse's Veil was kindly offered to Friends as a display item in our Isolation Hospital Interpretation Ward.

An approach has been made by Friends to Air Liquide WA, of the possibility of obtaining a donation from them of two medical oxygen bottles, together with their apparatus for display in our Medical Interpretation Wards in the Isolation Hospital.

Ms Janet Granger (nee Welch) of SS MOOLTAN fame, and family have confirmed their visit to us at Woodman Point in April / May 2015. We look forward to her memorable visit.

In November a Power Point Presentation was conducted by FRIENDS, and well received by members of the Glyde-In Community Group in East Fremantle. The presentation resulted in the possibility of at least three proposed Heritage Tour bookings for 2015.

Friends News Continued:

A request was received from the Town of Claremont's, Freshwater Bay Museum for two photographs of Nurse Hilda Williams for a special exhibition, Western Suburbs at War.

In September we were contacted by the relatives of Sister Ada Thompson, requesting some photographs and information for their family records. This is the WWI Army Nurse who volunteered to assist the soldiers suffering from the Spanish Flu at Woodman Point Quarantine Station, and would sadly pay the ultimate sacrifice on the 1st January 1919. During discussions with the family member, they did say, that "we are hopeful of donating to FRIENDS her original shipping trunk". What an historic addition that would make for interpretation and display in the Isolation Hospital.

I will give credit where credit is due, but regrettably, not this time however, but I do wish to comment, that there is a small percentage of groups who do not show, or have respect of, the Heritage listed Woodman Point Recreation Camp and its buildings, including the surrounding natural vegetation areas. Examples include, wanton damage, vandalism, graffiti and rubbish, and this being brought about, by what appears to be, a lack of supervision within the groups, especially on weekends. Sadly, they do not gratefully acknowledge the unique privilege of participating in the programs, and experience staying at this wonderful historic site, that is professionally organised, and managed by the Department of Sport and Recreation and the Woodman Point staff. It is sincerely hopeful that a solution is quickly forthcoming, as something of a more drastic event could occur in the future, and some of Western Australia's true historical heritage could be lost forever. A sad conclusion that I fail to contemplate.

Current Friends Projects:

An official written approach and an appointment with Management of the Bunnings Hardware Spearwood Branch in the hope of a possible donation, or at the least, a substantial price reduction for the purchase of 100 treated pine bollards for installation around the Jervoise Dormitory and the Isolation Hospital.

The decking areas of the IH have been repainted with a more durable brand of oil, and we are hopeful, this may extend the repainting period. An excellent job and looks great.

Our book, on the History of the Woodman Point Quarantine Station continues to progress well, thanks to our "Author Ian", and the last chapter completed covered the year of 1919. This particular year contained an incredible amount of historic material and all endeavours are to include as much as possible. Certain chapters prior to this one have been edited, with additional material included. I'm sure, "Mo" Cowan, would be proud of you.

Two Heritage signs were purchased for the interpretation display in the Fumigation Block.

Current Friends Projects Continued:

The restoration of the Fumigation Block's luggage platform and baggage trolley is now complete, and we hope to restore a second larger trolley of a different structural design. No decision on the construction of a pathway to the crematorium consisting of either crushed or rolled limestone, or the alternative option of a bitumen profile has been forthcoming.

A Vote Of Thanks:

Special thanks and appreciation go to the following throughout 2014, and words fail to express our gratitude for their ongoing assistance and support, without which our Friends group would, without doubt, not function. Our sincere thanks, to all below, and not necessarily in this order:

To the Management of the Department of Sport and Recreation for their patience and assistance in allowing Friends access to conduct the Heritage Tours, with special thanks to all the Woodman Point staff, especially, Kym, for being onboard at all times for us, and we are extremely grateful of his generous support, in the highly unpaid position of editor, officer quality control, electrical engineer and all round good listener. Mark, for taking pride in the camp, and also being on hand at all times to assist Friends in anyway possible. Pat (No1), for his carpentry skills, and his unique qualifications of being able to hang things on walls.

To the Department of Parks and Wildlife staff at Woodman Point for their continued support and advice, with special thanks to Ranger Josh Cooper.

To all at the City of Cockburn, (not sure how long we will be using this title !!) a special thankyou for all the assistance during the year, but not forgetting our gratitude to Cassandra Cooper, Alex Green, Amy Neale, and Kathleen Koelen.

To all the staff at MHR Melissa Park's Office, and especially, Kath Longley, a big thank you, as always, for all the help and advice.

Howard and Betty Shepherd, the two Friends stalwarts, for being there as always, and for keeping a host of things, including everything financial, in proper audit order.
Frank Hutchins, our volunteer coach driver, for making himself available at short notice, and at all times, and in addition, reminding me if and when I forget things !!

Milton Rea for his time, and welding expertise, and all the crew at Stella Contractors, especially Mark and Terry for being very patient with us regarding the Lighthouse project.

Lastly, but not least, NO 1, for being on deck at all times, to assist me with everything involving the Heritage tours. I can only say, you make it happen, thank you.

MEMORIES LONG AGO:

Moments in history at Woodman Point during the same monthly quarter of this Edition of The Pratique -

Namely, December - January - February.

DAILY NEWS (PERTH-WA) - Thursday 10th December 1914
WOODMAN POINT RACES.
'For the convenience of those who purpose attending the Woodman Point races on December 28, we hear that Messrs Randell, Knight, and Co. will ply several of their steam-boats between the Fremantle Jetty and the racecourse.'

THE PERTH GAZETTE AND INDEPENDANT JOURNAL - 15th January 1848
Whooping Cough Epidemic Fremantle
Excerpt :- However, now that a contagious infantile disease actually prevails in Fremantle which may call forth the selfish fears of parents and others, by presenting its infectious influence at their very doors, there is no doubt that active measures will be taken to arrest the progress of the complaint, and that proper precautions will be made to prevent a recurrence of the shameful neglect complained of. We are aware that the Port Regulations, but recently promulgated, include a provision for quarantine these regulations, however, do not appear to be authorised by an act of legislative council; and if so, how can the numerous penalties be enforced? Nor does it appear they have emanated from the executive council. Again; the Harbour Master is therein required to decide upon sickness, whether it is contagious or otherwise! For, there is no mention made of a medical officer to accompany him on board. We have been unable to make inquiries as to the existence of a quarantine act in this colony, but our present impression is that no such act has been passed, and that consequently these regulations which impose pecuniary penalties, may be inoperative. At all events, it is high time the authorities be themselves in the matter, in order to exert a more vigilant and effectual watchfulness over the public health.

NORTHERN TIMES CARNARVON - Saturday 15th February 1919

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC

SUSPICIOUS CASES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA - Monday 10th February 1919
The south-west township of Australind has been placed in isolation because a soldier, a member of the Boonah's contingent and a four year-old child belonging to the same family have developed a temperature. The latest report states the cases are satisfactory.

PATIENTS AT WOODMAN POINT IMPROVING - Tuesday 11th February 1919
The patients at Woodman Point are improving daily, and Dr. Mitchell expects to have those on the present list, which numbers 11 cases, all convalescent by the end of the week

Department Of Sport And Recreation:

Firstly, before we get into the "nitty gritty' material, FRIENDS would like to sincerely pass on our special thanks and appreciation to all the staff at DSR Woodman Point for their kind assistance and patience throughout the year. It has been an absolute privilege to associate and participate with such a professional group. We, as FRIENDS, do not under estimate the privilege it is to be able to access this magnificent, and heritage listed area that is, the former Woodman Point Quarantine Station. The public of Western Australia in general, and FRIENDS, are indebted to the Department of Sport and Recreation for preserving this unique and historic site. We are hopeful that this special association continues to grow and prosper. Finally, we would like to wish everyone at DSR, and especially the staff at Woodman Point, all the joys and surprises that go with a wonderful family Christmas. Make it a safe one, and may 2015 bring you all that goes with a healthy, prosperous and happy, New Year.

In October, our Operations Manager had well earned " R & R" at the Quaranup Camp at Albany, Wasn't long enough, was it Kym !
Kylie "Fireperson" Howe, was our birthday girl in November, congratulations, Kylie, certainly hope your day went well for you, and you thought we didn't know !!
Pat (No2) McEntee, has been on sick leave recently, and we look forward to having him back on deck soon. We've compiled a list of jobs, awaiting your return Pat.

Great to see the 'Off Road' wheel chair being utilised by the DSR staff for 'special need', requirements that emanate from the camp bookings

A select and extremely privileged group of DSR Woodman Point staff braved the elements recently, by way of a "Junket" overseas to Rottnest Island, presumably to see how things are professionally managed on the holiday island. (some people do have to work !!). Vaccinations were not compulsory, I'm told, but prior to boarding the ocean going vessel, it was emphasised strongly by the "Captain", that this exercise was exclusively "business only". A current passport, notebook and biro, being the main luggage items, with absolutely no pleasure, so the pastime of fishing was completely erased off the agenda. Duty Free items could not be brought back to the mainland because of Customs and weight restrictions. The agenda also included, a post mortem of suggestions and ideas, to be discussed, on the outcome of the trip, on their return to 'terra firma', at the end of this fact finding mission, after their memorable overseas voyage. It is "unreel" though !!, some people just don't seem to understand, that no fishing, means no fishing. So why then, may I ask, was one member of the seafaring travellers allowed to "burley up" for herring and other exotic fish species, especially after being told, I repeat, NO FISHING. It was then explained to me, If I required further details, I should go an ask Ruth, err' sorry Mark. It should be noted that counselling was available to them on the wharf, and a fire brigade hose tender was on standby mode, if required. This epic voyage was sponsored by the International travel company of Oilslick Enterprises, and live onboard entertainment featured the renowned duo of Whitebait & Mulie.

Department Of Parks and Wildlife:

To all the staff at DPaW, especially the Woodman Point Regional Park crew, on behalf of the Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp, I would like to wish you all a very special, happy and safe Christmas, and a healthy and prosperous 2015. It has been a real pleasure to be associated with such professionally minded officers, and a privilege to be able to contribute to various combined conservation and environmental projects that occurred within the Regional Park area during 2014. FRIENDS look forward to the same association in 2015, with the same friendly assistance, and advice given by your regional staff. Well done to Lyal, Josh and Robbie, and all the staff.

Thanks to Lisa Bland for the Marine Debris Survey Results for Coogee Beach, Woodman Point, and this important survey should be made available to the WA public in general. The main items collected on the 2nd May 2014, covered an area of just over 600 metres of the local beach.

Cigarette butts & filters: **68**

Plastic packaging food (wrap, packets, containers): **60**

Glass beer stubbies & pre-mixed alcohol bottles: **42**

Lids & tops, pump spray: **30**

Plastic bits & pieces hard & solid: **26**

Rope & net scraps less than 1 metre: **24**

Aluminium cans: **22**

Metal bottle caps, lids & pull tabs: **18**

Sanitary (tissues, nappies, condoms, cotton buds): **15**

Newspaper, magazines & brochures: **14**

Straws, confection sticks, cups, plates & cutlery: **12**

General items: **40.**

Sadly, not figures to be proud of. Simple Solution, take your rubbish home with you.

Did you know:

The first posted electronic "SMILEY" was onto a computer science Bulletin Board on September 19, 1982 at 11:44 am, by Scott Fahlman from Carnegie University.

He proposed the following character sequence for joke markers :-) and the following character sequence to mark things that are not jokes :-(

The first American film to show a toilet being flushed on screen was Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho*.

Ninety percent of all species that have become extinct have been birds .

The "save" icon on Microsoft Word shows a floppy disk with the shutter on backwards.

100 Years Ago:

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN MONDAY 15TH JUNE 1914

Fatal Accident at Woodman Point. The death occurred at Fremantle on Saturday of Mr. H. Huxtable, licensee of the Chesterfield Inn, who for some years was a member of the police force in this State. It appears that on Thursday afternoon last the deceased was driving a spring-cart along the Rockingham Road. When near the Woodman Point lighthouse the horse took fright at a passing train, with the result that Mr. Huxtable was precipitated on to the road, a loose bag of chaff, on which he was seated, falling with him. The unfortunate man fell on his head, and when picked up a minute or so later by the lighthouse keeper, he was unconscious. A medical man was at once summoned, and on arrival he had the injured man removed to the Grosvenor Hospital. Despite all that could be done, however, Huxtable never regained consciousness, and he passed away on Saturday. An inquest was formally opened yesterday afternoon and adjourned

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN MONDAY 3RD AUGUST 1914

THE NAVAL BASE. SIR MAURICE FITZMAURICE'S REPORT.

JERVOISE BAY FAVOURED. Sir John Forrest forwarded from Bunbury on Saturday a communication stating that a further report has been received from Sir Maurice Fitzmaurice and a final report is promised as soon as possible after the receipt of further information now being obtained under Sir Maurice's direction. The present report states that, as a result of the trial shaft directed by Sir Maurice with a dredger borrowed from the Fremantle Harbour Board, the banks can be dealt with by suction dredgers, the channels to be dredged shall not be less, at bottom, than 60ft. Wide, that the depth across the Success Bank shall be 39ft. and across the Parmelia Bank at 7ft. at low water at the beginning, and, if eventually the size of ships increases, the depth-shall be increased as circumstances render desirable; while further work of similar character will require to be done inside the banks. Having in view the large quantity of material to be dredged, Sir Maurice recommends on the ground of economy that it is desirable to obtain special dredgers for this work. He points out that it will be necessary for these channels to be available by the date when the base can accommodate ships and, assuming that financial provision will be made for the work to be carried out at a definite rate, he estimates that it will be five years before such partial completion will enable them to be used. He estimates that it will take, at least, 15 months to obtain the necessary dredgers and these will occupy something less than four years to complete the channels

140 Years Ago:

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN THURSDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 1884

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said "Hon. members, any rate it has become imperative we should make some provision at our principal seaport for the accommodation of passengers who may have to undergo Quarantine, and the Government, having taken advice on the subject, had come to the conclusion that the island of Carnac was the most eligible spot for a quarantine station, in the vicinity of Fremantle" .

Pat Miller's Nemesis (Thankfully, the bird, now has a bird, if you know what i mean !!)

From a different angle, the Fumigation Block's recently restored Baggage Trolley and Luggage Platform

The side of the Autoclave that is rarely photographed or studied. There are a few minor irregularities in the photograph caused when taking the vertical panorama image.

1967

2003

E A CHANGIN' " *Courtesy of Bob Dylan*

1976

1988

Taking a well earned break after Saturday's programs on the CUBE.
DSR Instructor Caylin Valli and Camps Training Officer Graham Sharpe

One time residence of the Deane Family - Shell Grit Merchants. Passed by many on Cockburn Road, yet never knowing its history. The colour of the structure being the remains of a TV commercial on Travel/Hospital Insurance filmed in the 1990's

The Fumigation Block's recently restored Baggage Trolley and Luggage Platform

Rarely seen, and especially in daylight, due too its brilliant camouflage, a nesting Mopoke in the Regional Park. Special thanks to our "Eagle eyed", and nature minded, Parks and Wildlife Ranger Josh Cooper, for sharing the moment with us.

70 YEARS AGO

THE DAILY NEWS : FRIDAY 14TH JANUARY 1944

NAZIS' BALLOON BOMBS

LONDON, Friday German radio announces that trailing balloon bombs were used for the first time by German air defences against American bombers on January 1st.

Balloon bombs or airmines, as our experts call them, were towed by fighters through attacking enemy formations and released from tow-ropes at the most suitable moment with devastating effect, the radio said. 'Enemy bombers were caught in tow-ropes or got within range of the terrific blast from exploding mines, making them easy prey for the German fighters'. Allied pilots returning from the raid told of these bombs

Food For Thought:

Always remember that you are unique, just like everyone else.

The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to your ability to reach it.

There are three kinds of people: Those who can count and those who can't.

Eat right. Stay fit. Die anyway.

I wonder how much deeper the ocean would be without sponges.

Something to Laugh at:

For FRIENDS Members who have recently thought of taking up another language, why not learn Chinese QUICKLY !!

ENGLISH PHRASE	CHINESE TRANSLATION
1)."That's not right"	Sum Ting Wong
2)."Are you harbouring a fugitive?"	Hu Yu Hai Ding
3)."See me ASAP"	Kum Hia Nao
4)."There goes Stupid Man"	Dum Dum Wa King
5)."Small Horse"	Tai Ni Po Ni
6)."Did you go to the beach?"	Wai Yu So Tan
7)."I bumped into a coffee table"	Ai Bang Mai Ni
8)."I think you need a face lift"	Chin Tu Fat
9)."It's very dark in here"	Wao So Dim
10)."I thought you were on a diet"	Wai Yu Mun Ching
11)."This is a tow away zone"	No Pah King
12)."Our meeting is next week"	Wai Yu Kum Nao
13)."Staying out of sight!"	Lei Ying Lo
14)."He's cleaning his automobile"	Wa Shing Ka
15)."Your body odour is offensive"	Yu Stin Ki Pu
16)."Great"	Su Pah

60 YEARS AGO

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD Monday 9th August 1954

MORE MIGHT BE SENT TO QUARANTINE

PERTH, Sunday. The Deputy Director of Health, Dr. A. Johnson, said today that about a half of the liner Strathaird's 277 passengers for Adelaide, 239 for Melbourne, and 645 for Sydney might have to be quarantined for 14 days.
Much would depend on their reaction to vaccination ordered after the discovery that a steward in the ship had smallpox, he said.
More than 1,200 of the 1,245 passengers were vaccinated yesterday while the liner lay at anchor in Gage Roads.
Seventy-six were taken to Woodman Point quarantine station.
Doctors said today that the steward would almost certainly have died but for his vaccination two years ago

WOODMAN POINT QUARANTINE STATION LOG BOOK 6th September 1954

(The following report in the log book refers to the STRATHAIRD Smallpox Incident)

The feature of this active quarantine which was most impressive was the wholehearted superhuman effort of the Station Staff during those first three hectic days (7th, 8th and 9th August). Their work for hours on end, without food and without rest had to be seen fully to realise the magnitude of their task. One can have the safe knowledge that future active quarantine can be undertaken with complete confidence in the Staff, their skill co-operation and loyalty. It's been a pleasure to work with them. These remarks apply also equally to the temporary staff.

A conference of all officers in-charge will be held in the near future to discuss fully the many interesting features which were encountered. Signed Dr A. Johnson

40 YEARS AGO:

THE CANBERRA TIMES Friday 14 June 1974

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS: Workmen are just specks compared with the giant oil-drilling rig being built at Woodman Point, near Fremantle. Work on the rig, which is expected to be floated in Cockburn Sound in December, is well advanced, with the decks being covered and living quarters being constructed

ON THE RADAR AND WITHIN RADIO RANGE:

Restoration of the Heritage listed Shower/bathing Block
Construction of a "Special Needs and Seniors" pathway to the crematorium

Continuation of the Interpretation of the Woodman Point Explosive Magazine.

Completion of the installation of bollards around the Isolation Hospital.

Painting the exterior window sills and doorframes of the Isolation Hospital.

Compilation of the FOWPRC Honour Board for all past Committee Members.

THE ALLIED MERCHANT NAVY by Mr Jack Edwards

Continued from The Pratique Winter Edition:-

The bag lodged on one of the wharf timbers and burst into flames. Consequently a piece of the material fell into the water and made contact with a large patch of oil that acted as an accelerant.

Fremantle at that time was the largest submarine base in the Southern Hemisphere. Dutch, British and American, with the submarine depot ship "MAIDSTONE", twenty in all. The "MAIDSTONE" loaded with mines, torpedoes and other ammunition astern of the "Panamanian". The entire wharf for metres was aflame, fortunately crews and firemen and others managed to clear the vessels and tow the "Panamanian" to the lower end of the harbor. Should this have been unsuccessful, Fremantle and many residents would have been no more, a similar incident during the war in Bombay resulted in 3,500 known casualties when an ammunition ship blew up in 1943.

There are other stories of ships and their crews that have made headlines none more than the tanker "SAN DEMETRIO" which after being torpedoed in the Atlantic, and fully loaded with fuel for Britain, being abandoned by the crew in lifeboats, only to discover next morning that the vessel was still afloat, they reboarded, and sailed the vessel to the Clyde with her valuable cargo intact. A movie "SAN DEMETRIO. LONDON" was made of this event.

My service at sea was the greatest time of my life, although I witnessed some fearful and tragic events I was never scared nor thought this won't happen to me, but when I analyze things now what I did, I would certainly think twice about it. One great plus and inducement for my original decision involved money, there I was working at D.J Fowlers for 19 shillings and 11 pence per week and with war risk and bonuses I earned around £32 per month., my father as a blacksmith was earning around £3.10 per week. I saw the world, places I had only read or heard about at school and met some great people. I travelled to India, Ceylon, the Middle East, USA and UK free of charge and finally left the Norwegian ship on Melbourne Cup day 1946. I was injury free except for having had a 5 metre fall in the engine room, which now at 89, effects my neck somewhat.

It was my ambition to have a Merchant Navy Memorial erected in Fremantle, and together, with others, we formed the Allied Merchant Seamen's Association in 1988 with around 80 ex Merchant Mariners, we are now down to less than thirty. With the assistance of many donors we realized our dream in 1995 when we unveiled our Memorial on Monument Hill Fremantle. One of our biggest disappointments was to find around 11 years ago a memorial to Australian Servicemen was unveiled in Hyde Park, London bearing the plaques of Army, Navy, Air Force, together with the Australian Coat of Arms, and no mention of the Merchant Navy, this is a common complaint.

I, as Secretary have pursued this matter with Prime Ministers, Veteran Affairs, HRH Prince Phillip, and heaps of other dignitaries, but to no avail. I registered our disgust with the Minister of Affairs, Miss Donna Vale, informing her that 50,000 British and Allied Merchant Navy personnel paid the supreme sacrifice, she replied that my figures were incorrect and that only 50 had died. I informed her that there were over 50 killed in Kings Cross in pub brawls. To this day, there is still no plaque on that monument.

(To be continued in The Pratique Autumn Edition)

Mr. Jack Edwards is Secretary of the Allied Merchant Seamen's Association, and a member of the FOWPRC.

80 Years Ago:

SUNDAY TIMES. SUNDAY 3RD JUNE 1934

UNVEILING CEREMONY

Mrs. Jenny Grose Honoured: The tablet on the naval flagstaff at the Fremantle Esplanade which records the landing of Captain Charles H. Fremantle, R.N, on May 2, 1829, will be unveiled tomorrow by Mrs. Jenny Grose, of 249 Marmion Street, Cottesloe. Mrs. Grose, who was born at the Southern Cross Hotel, in High street, now the Commercial Hotel, 81 years ago, was selected by the Fremantle City Council as being the most representative of six old residents of the district to perform the ceremony. The father of Mrs. Grose was Captain John Thomas, a master mariner, who landed from the sailing ship Gilmore in 1829, at Clarence, in the vicinity of the Ten-mile Well, on the old Rockingham road. south of Fremantle. He built the Southern Cross Hotel, where his daughter was born, and later became possessed of considerable property and a prominent personality in the town. Mrs. Grose possesses a remarkably retentive memory, and can recount most of the important facts concerning the early settlement of the colony.

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN. THURSDAY 18TH OCTOBER 1934

ANIMAL QUARANTINE

Station's Removal Suggested

At a meeting of the Melville Road Board on Tuesday night it was decided to approach the Federal member for the District animal quarantine station at Bicton be removed to permit the further improvement of the locality and the enlargement of a nearby reserve. The matter was brought before the board in a letter from a ratepayer, who said that if the station were removed it would be possible to subdivide, for building purposes, an area leading to the Bicton foreshore. Board members considered that the station would be better situated at the Woodman Point quarantine area.

WESTERN MAIL. THURSDAY 12TH JULY 1934

FREMANTLE A CHANCE NAME

Fremantle owes its name to a mere fluke. It happens to he called Fremantle by virtue of the fact that for some unknown reason the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty changed their minds on December 2, 1829, and countermanded the orders they had previously issued for the despatch of the warship Tweed to the Swan River, sending instead the warship Challenger commanded by Captain Fremantle. Thus it was that the town owes its name to the captain of the Challenger instead of the captain of the Tweed, when (for all I know) the port might otherwise have been called Murphy. But Murphy is just a guess, and a wild guess. Is there anyone who can tell me off hand the name of the captain of the Tweed who thus just missed having his name immortalised in the name of the Gateway of Australia? I think we ought to call something after him as a sort of consolation prize.

Members Details:

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

To each and everyone, we wish a happy family Christmas, and a healthy, prosperous and safe 2015.

Members Take Note:

Sadly through lack of information, certain members have escaped the wrath of the pen in this edition, however, the warning is still current, so members, do not COUNT on your name NOT appearing in this column sometime in another future edition.

Believe it or not, one of our committee left an historic item in the Isolation Hospital for safe keeping for an interpretation display planned for a later date. Guess what, it was so 'safe keeping', no one can find it. Reminds me of the "Welcome to the Alzheimer's Information webpage" - Please enter your 18 digit password, and another thing, I still can't remember the last time I went for an Alzheimer's check-up.

Cover Image:

True Woodman Point, the natural peninsular that was once destined to be part of the breakwater to protect the proposed Naval Base that was planned for in this area of Jervoise Bay in the early part of the 1900's, prior to WWI. The area most confused with, and commonly titled as Woodman Point, is the artificially reclaimed area that protrudes westerly into Cockburn Sound, This western end of Woodman Point was modified in 1967 by the construction of a lengthy groyne, and an oil rig was located there (so called WAPET'S Groyne) from which West Australian Petroleum Pty. Ltd. drilled unsuccessfully for oil. (see images in timeline on the centre pages)

120 Years Ago:

THE BRISBANE COURIER. MONDAY 2 JULY 1894

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

SMALLPOX ON THE SULTAN. The second case of suspected smallpox on the Sultan is pronounced to be the true disease. One patient, a Malay, has been removed to Woodman Point Quarantine Station. It is proposed to thoroughly disinfect the rest of the cargo and to allow tho Sultan to unload, and immediately afterwards despatch the vessel direct to Singapore.

A Point of Interest:

When the computer mouse was invented, it was called the "X-Y Position Indicator for a Display System".
The plastic things on the end of shoelaces are called "aglets."

In 1859, 24 rabbits were released in Australia. Within six years the estimated population had grown to 2 million.

Australia is now being swept by a second wave of post-settlement extinctions, and the culprit is the feral cat. Cats are estimated to eat 75 million native animals every night and more than 20 billion mammals, reptiles, birds and even insects every year, the future for Australian fauna looks extremely bleak.

WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON FOR HERITAGE TOURS:

Heritage Tour bookings, appear to have come to an end for 2014, but not as many in total as the previous year, but still exceptionally popular, going by the remarks in our Visitor's Book. There was a total of 33 tours, not including, 8 special tours for certain family groups, 1 Book Launch, and 5 Power Point Presentations that eventuated from Heritage Tour requests. We now have six tentative heritage tour bookings for 2015, including, one confirmed for Friday 4th December 2015. I did explain to them, that I am hopeful the world will not have self destructed by then. This is the most future tour booking we have ever had, and with this in mind, and the positive comments we received following all tours, everything points towards 2015 being a good year. On air Heritage Tour advertisements are still running, courtesy of, and thanks to Curtin Radio which is of great assistance to FRIENDS, in promoting, and getting the word out there. The City of Cockburn coach hire continues to be a marvellous asset to us as a promotional tool for FRIENDS Heritage Tours, and the Council must be thoroughly commended for their support and its availability to us. Finally, not forgetting, the great assistance given by Ms Kathleen Koelen, that is indeed greatly appreciated, for the arranging and confirming our booking dates and days.

Our Heritage Tour booking details and available days can be confirmed by phoning 0412 987 478 or by visiting our website: www.woodmanpointquarantinestation.com

125 YEARS AGO:

WESTERN MAIL. SATURDAY 10 AUGUST 1889

THE QUARANTINE STATION AT WOODMAN POINT. By a Correspondent

Woodman Point, is situated about six miles from Fremantle, and is known to most people in the colony, as being the resort of the Fremantle Sporting fraternity on the occasion of their New Year's meeting, and few are aware of the existence of the building, known as the West Australian quarantine station. A limestone wall stretching from sea to sea encloses the Point, and is the only outward sign from the land to denote the site of the building. Once inside, the visitor will be charmed with the natural beauty of the enclosure, which have been considerably enhanced by the Caretaker, Mr. John Hooley, and his two sons. On the right, is the ocean, with casual glimpse of the ships at anchor in gage Roads and Owens Anchorage, on the left, are the projecting lands of Rockingham, while to the front is a fine view of Garden Island. Returning from the shore, one is confronted with numerous specimens of the graceful cypress tree, which here grows in abundance. No doubt these trees afford a splendid shelter to the inmates of the Point, as they are formed into groves all over the place.

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER 1889

TENDERS ACCEPTED. The following tender has been accepted by the Government:

BUILDINGS. R. Honey : **Woodman Point** quarantine station: Erection of house, etc, for leper, £175.

For Information:

The Vindicatrix was a British built sailing ship, that sailed under the red ensign for the first 17 years of her life. Sold to a German firm, she first became a hulk and then an accommodation ship for U-boat officers. After WW1, she was repossessed and given to the Shipping Federation where she sat in London docks, until she became a training ship for boys in 1939 in Sharpness UK, where it is estimated that 70,000 boys received their basic training. She had a very interesting life, spanning 74 years, and survived several major mishaps. The Vindicatrix was eventually broken up in 1967.

Out Of The Past:

I quite often get asked, "what were the deadliest diseases throughout history", and how many died as a result of these, aptly titled Pandemics.

For reference, here are the **7 Deadliest.**

Smallpox (430 BC? - 1979): Killed more than 300 million people worldwide in the 20th century alone, and most of the native inhabitants of the Americas

Spanish Flu (1918 - 1919): Killed 50 to 100 million people worldwide in less than in 2 years.
Black Death (1340 - 1771): Killed 75 million people worldwide.
Malaria (1600 - today): Kills about 2 million people per year.
AIDS (1981 - today): Killed 25 million people worldwide.
Cholera (1817 - today): 8 Pandemics. Hundreds of thousands killed worldwide.
Typhus (430 BC? - today): Killed 3 million people between 1918 and 1922 alone, and most of Napoleon's soldiers in Russia.

50 Years Ago:

Extract from Woodman Point Quarantine Log:- 18-8-1964. *Station handed over to-day, and I must compliment Dr. Mathieson on the extensive improvements which have now been carried to near completion. Also the station staff have, as always, continued to take a pride in the buildings and the grounds which are now in excellent condition. With this help I will carry on the improvements and ensure that this is a model, unsurpassed in any other division in the Commonwealth.*
Signed: Dr. A Johnson

Nautical Quotes:

Waves are not measured in feet or inches, they are measured in increments of fear.
Anchor as though you plan to stay for weeks, even if you intend to leave in an hour.
Below 50 degrees south there is no law. Below 60 degrees south there is no God.
There are three sorts of people; those who are alive, those who are dead, and those who are at sea.

PROJECT LIGHTHOUSE:

A few time consuming setbacks have occurred with the project since the last Pratique, however, it's now all systems go, and we are progressing once more. As previously mentioned, repairs to the copper dome section of the roof are now complete, and contact has been made with a Structural Engineer to study our proposed plans for the fabrication and construction of the frame design, the formwork and base, of which we are hopeful of a positive sign off by the engineer, prior to the next stage of this unique project. Special thanks to Milton Rea for his generous assistance, and who is currently arranging and organising the fabrication of the lens area of the lighthouse.

100 YEARS AGO:

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN TUESDAY 20TH OCTOBER 1914
STATE PUBLIC SERVICE

D. A. Mitchinson, lightkeeper at Woodman Point (present classified range, £120 to £158), claimed a range of from £144 to £188. The range, he claimed, was attached to the position of the lightkeepers of the other five "first order" lights in the State. At the present time he was receiving the salary paid to the assistants of the other Lightkeeper, and his own salary was the same as that of his assistant. In answer to Mr. Alcock the appellant admitted that, acting on medical advice, he had refused a transfer to another first class station. He had no doubt that other lightkeepers had applied to be transferred to Woodman Point. The hearing of the appeal was concluded and the board adjourned to 10.30 a.m. today.

98 Years Ago:

THE WESTERN MAIL 17TH NOVEMBER 1916

OUR LETTER BAG: A NEW SILVER LINK – My Dear Aunt Mary, Just a few lines telling you I have joined the Silver Chain I am now 11, and I attend the. Coogee State school, and I have a little sister, six years of age, who is going to become one of your nieces. We live at Woodman Point lighthouse, and have jolly time at the beach. I can do many useful little things towards a bazaar or anything going on. Several other girls at our school have joined also I must now close my letter as I have nothing else to tell. I remain your loving niece, EMILY DRAY.

Life's Quotes:

What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness.

The biggest adventure you can ever take is to live the life of your dreams.

Remember, It is not the length of life, but the depth.

Cheerio for now

The Caretaker

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GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Department of Sport and Recreation

HANNAN Plumbing & Gas

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