

Pratique

Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp
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WINTER 2021

BERTIE POORE CENTENARY

On 28 March 2021, the extended Poore family held a reunion to mark the centenary of Bertie's appointment as a nurse at the Woodman Point Quarantine Station on 14 March 1921, a position he held until his retirement in 1956.



The reunion was a wonderful get together for the descendants of Bertie and Babs Poore. Well over 60 grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren gathered around the Isolation Hospital to remember Bertie's contribution to the many patients he nursed at the Woodman Point Quarantine Station. Pride of place at the reunion went to Sally Poore, their daughter-in-law and wife of their



fourth child Frank (1927 – 1984), who was the oldest family attendee.

During the day, stories were told and memories shared of Bertie, remembered as being a quiet, unassuming man. Eldest grandson and Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp member, Barry Ireland, spoke about Bertie's early years when he tried to enlist in the Australian Army in 1914, but was deemed to be too short in

Pratique - just what does it mean?

Pratique is the license given to a ship to enter port on assurance from the captain to convince the authorities that she is free from contagious disease. The clearance granted is commonly referred to as *free pratique*.

A ship can signal a request for *pratique* by flying a solid yellow square-shaped flag. This yellow flag is the **Q** flag in the set of international maritime signal flags.



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

stature, his application to enlist being rejected. Bertie consequently sailed to England and instead, enlisted in the British Army. When World War II broke out, he again tried to enlist in the Australian Army, but this time, he was told he was too old!

Bertie and Babs had six children: daughter, Vi, and five sons: Dick, Jim,



Frank, Bill and Bob, all raised at the Woodman Point Quarantine Station; 26 grandchildren (of which I'm very proud to be one of them), 48 great grandchildren and, we have calculated, around 80 great great grandchildren and still counting!

Bertie and Babs have left behind a wonderful legacy, one that all their descendants are very proud of.

Jenni Carder (nee Poore)



Poore grandchildren



Poore great grandchildren



Poore great great grandchildren

FROM THE PAGES OF HISTORY

The next in a series of articles of sites at Woodman Point that may no longer exist or may have faded from our memory.

The Disembarkation Jetty

Fundamental to the operation of the Woodman Pont Quarantine Station as a protector of the western maritime approach to Australia was the station's jetty. A jarrah timber-piled structure, it extended into Owen Anchorage from a point midway between the Quarantine Station's Disembarkation and Ablution Blocks though today, nothing remains of its former existence.

Tenders for the construction of the Woodman Point Disembarkation Jetty were called in June 1901 and the contract awarded to Davis, Hankinson and Co, at a cost of £500. Constructed over a period of about seven weeks and completed in late September 1901, the jetty was 98m (322ft) long, with an L head 12m (40ft) long, and a red tin shed at its end.



Quarantine Station and Jetty in the 1940s

At a depth of water at half-tide of 2.4m (8ft), reasonably large steamers were able to moor alongside. For larger vessels, the Station's launch moved patients and their luggage from the ship to the jetty.

The jetty was later extended at an angle, in two stages, in 1912 and 1923, again by builders Davis, Hankinson and Co.



Quarantine Station from jetty extension

In 1903, a narrow-gauge tram rail was constructed at a cost of £64 10s to transport sick patients and luggage along the jetty to the Station's medical and fumigation facilities. The tram rail extended the complete length of the jetty and on to the Isolation Hospital.



Pat Mayers standing near the end of the jetty, with the tram line running its entire length clearly visible

During World War II, the rails to the Isolation Hospital were removed and the tram was used exclusively to transport luggage to the Dirty Luggage Block, located next to the Fumigation Block.

Use of the Disembarkation Jetty was at its peak during World War II and in the post war era. However, as contagious diseases became more controlled and less virulent, and with Australia's migrant intake beginning to increasingly arrive by air as the 1960s progressed, so the jetty became less of a focal point for the Quarantine Station.

In late 1960, a massive storm damaged a major portion of it and this section was never repaired. For safety reasons, the damaged section was removed and the Disembarkation Jetty completed the remainder of its service life at a reduced length of just over 20 metres.



The Disembarkation Jetty in 1964, following the 1960 storm

Following further extensive storm damage in the early 1970s, the jetty was removed in 1972.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The past three months have seen a lot of work happening around the Isolation Hospital. In early March, the verandas, balustrades and steps of the Isolation Hospital were painted over the course of a few days. Mike Poore spent a lot of time painting the base boards the entire perimeter of the Isolation Hospital – very tedious and back-breaking work. Many thanks to all members who turned up to help with this painting and especially to Mike for attention to details and fastidious work, as always.

The paint for this job was kindly supplied by Bunnings at Bibra Lake and we extend out sincere thanks to them for supporting Friends in this way.

We next turned our attention to the paint which was peeling off on some of the interior walls within the Isolation Hospital. Prior to the painters moving in, members and a few coerced friends spent time clearing furniture and displays from the rooms which were to be painted and then, reinstating the displays in their respective rooms. We seized this opportunity to spring clean wherever we could as well as spruce up our displays

prior to occurrence of our usual winter heritage tour schedule. Many thanks again to those who helped carry out this work.

The interior of the Isolation Hospital is now looking renewed and sparkling clean and again, we extend our sincere thanks to Perdrini Painters for the speedy and quality work they undertook between 12 and 15 April.

Whilst COVID-19 continues to impact on our regular heritage tours due to number restrictions and snap lockdowns, bookings from community groups are starting to increase and we already have a busy schedule booked in the coming months. Due to the interior painting project, we had to unfortunately cancel our April public Sunday tour. The Sunday public tours are, however, proving to be a real hit and most are fully booked well before their scheduled date. I believe their popularity will ensure they become an ongoing element of our tour schedule.

We are delighted to also welcome two new tour guides to our heritage tour program. Both Jacky and Marlene are new members too, and we are delighted that they have joined into this aspect of Friends activities.

Staff from the Woodman Point Recreation Camp have recently begun conducting historical tours of the site incorporating the Isolation Hospital, for school groups using the Camp. The feedback from schools has been most encouraging and we thank Michelle Young for her initiative and sensitive handling of these tours.

Gary Marsh
President

LATEST NEWS FROM FRIENDS

- ❖ As part of our commitment to the welfare of tour groups, heritage tour guides attended a training session conducted by a St John Ambulance officer in the use of the defibrillator that has been installed at the Isolation Hospital. This training was undertaken prior to our March meeting.
- ❖ We recently enjoyed a special visit from Maya Mundy. Maya lived at the



Woodman Point Quarantine Station during the 1970s when her father, Bill McLaren was a Quarantine Officer there.

- ❖ The next meeting of Friends will be held on Wednesday 21 July 2021 in the Isolation Hospital, commencing at 6.30pm. All members are welcome to attend.

UPDATE FROM THE CAMP

This **WAS** the busiest March on record! The reminder of the year has a steady flow of occupants with few days without a group present on site. We are excited to have so many people coming through our gates this year and hope it continues well

into 2022.

The Doctor's Precinct restoration project has taken another step forward with Architect Dinah Mujatl stepping in to replace Renae Canterbury



who is departing on maternity leave. It has been noted that there is some degradation to the Doctors Precinct (internal/external) through rising damp and this will be taken into consideration as the project progresses. More information will be available in the coming months.



Some of the heritage signs around the Camp are being upgraded due to the degradation from the local salty air. Eight of the heritage signs will get a clean and a new sign face. Two of the backings will be completely replaced with aluminium that will never rust, but will have a rust coloured finish. This was based on a recommendation by the sign makers who use this type of sign for DBCA and local councils for outdoor spaces and parks. Keep an eye out around the camp as we take on this new project in the second half of



the year.

May saw Camp staff take the opportunity to have a huge clean-up around the site. New clothes lines have been put in, replacing the broken ones, some of the CUBE external walls have been removed paving the way for some new ideas and designs, well used areas have been given a fresh coat of paint and many of the rusty pipes from around the site have been disposed of.

27 May – 3 June was National Reconciliation Week and Thursday 27 May, Camp staff took part in an Acknowledgement of Country Event on Facebook, on , with a collage of staff members recognising the traditional owners of the land we are on.



The October 2021 school holidays will see the first Family Camp Out program run at the Camp. This will be setup in the Jervoise grassed area utilising the Jervoise dormitory as a “Camp Kitchen” and toilet, shower facility. For additional facilities, we have requested permission from FOWPRC to utilise the outside toilets. The idea behind the Family Camp Out is to allow families to learn how to

camp with the help and instruction of outdoor leaders. It will expose families to the outdoors in a safe environment and build their confidence to tackle more outdoor adventures with their families.

There have been some movements around camp with Matt Hayes, Camp Manager, taking on an Acting Director Strategy and Investment role in our Leederville Office for the next six months. In the interim, Graham Sharpe from the Leederville Office is A/Camp Manager until 30 June 2021.

Graham was the Senior Program Coordinator at Woodman Point Recreation Camp from 2007-2010.



There will be a longer-term Expression of Interest released for the remaining four/five-month period for a replacement Camp Manager through the Department.

The Camp’s Operations Manager, Kym Lawrence, has been having some much-needed long service leave and will return at the beginning of June. Kylie Howe has been filling in as the Operations Manager and Michelle Young has been filling in the Camp Event Coordinator role.

Michelle Young
Camp Event Coordinator

NEW MEMBERS

Friends welcome the following people who have recently joined our organisation.

- Marlene Martin from Warnbro
- Maya Munday from Miandetta Tas

HERITAGE TOURS

Friends of Woodman Point Recreational Camp operate regular heritage tours of the former Quarantine Station and the Isolation Hospital Museum for community groups.

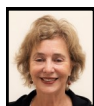
Morning tea is included in all tours, and if required, lunch can be provided at an additional cost.

Periodic open weekends provide tours for members of the public to visit the site and to learn about this important Western Australian heritage site.

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



Jenni



Chris



Suzie



Gary



Jacky



Neil

We also acknowledge Daniel and the staff of Accolade Catering who provide the delicious lunches enjoyed by our tour participants.

UPCOMING HERITAGE TOURS

June 2021

July/August 2021

17 June Lakeside Village
20 June Monthly public tour

18 July Monthly public tour
15 Aug Monthly public tour

COMMITTEE 2020 – 2021

PRESIDENT
Gary Marsh



TREASURER
Mike Poore



PAST PRESIDENT
Jenni Carder



**SECRETARY/
MEMBERSHIP**
Ainslie Poore



VICE PRESIDENT
Neil Wilson



EX-OFFICIO COMMITTEE MEMBER
Matt Hayes



MEMBER SERVICES

HERITAGE TOUR BOOKINGS
Jenni Carder



PRATIQUE
Neil Wilson



WEBSITE MAINTENANCE AND DESIGN

