Welcome to the
Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp
Quarterly Newsletter for 2016

Autumn Edition

Visit our website: www.woodmanpointquarantinestation.com

Friends News:

Welcome to one and all, as another new year has dawned, and if it means anything at all, 'Easter Eggs and Hot Cross Buns' were on sale in supermarkets in late January.

The Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp motto for 2016 should be, our Committee look forward to another year of progress, projects, and improvements to promote this wonderful area, that is Woodman Point.

Sadly, we wish to announce the sad passing of Friends member, Mrs Patricia Maynard [nee Mayers] on the 14th January 2016. FOWPRC were represented at her funeral. See further details under VALE in the members section.

Depressing, is the only word that describes the thought of the coastal scrub and natural bushland that surrounds the DSR camp area being devastated by fire on the 13th and 14th January this year, and with it, no doubt, some of our unique native flora and fauna, including reptiles that use the area as their habitat, were lost as well. The only plus side of this incident, was that the heritage listed historic buildings sustained very little damage, and that mainly emanating from water or smoke damage, and including the disappearance of the incredible amount of accumulated rubbish deposited in and around this bush location was also incinerated by the fire.

On the 7th December 2015, [hopefully inturn, we receive a more positive result than Pearl Harbor], the FOWPRC applied for a grant of $3,1700.00, by way of the advertised Australian Government Volunteer 2015 Program. The bulk of the grant was for a 'Defibrillator' [$2,400] to be permanently installed and available in the Isolation Hospital. At the time of writing this Pratique no positive notification has been received from the appropriate source if Friends have been successful or not.

On Monday the 15th February 2016, Friends were represented at a Cockburn Strategic Community Plan Meeting held at the City of Cockburn. Subjects discussed were varied and informative, but mainly centred around the future planning needs, submissions and proposals relating to the Cockburn area for the next two to three years.

I think it is only thoughtful and appropriate that we wish congratulations and best wishes to our retiring Fremantle MHR Melissa Park who recently tied the knot. Melissa and her staff have always been extremely helpful to the FOWPRC over the past, and we wish her all the very best for the future.

Friends contacted the BEACHSAFE Surf Lifesaving Website in NSW for copies of some aerial photographs, after accidently seeing some past images of Cockburn Sound, including Woodman Point on their webpage. Our request proved fruitless.

An email was received in January from Ms Alex Kopp, an Educator Writer at the Edith Cowan University, requesting an article on the Plague at Woodman Point Quarantine Station, for a future publication in the Inside History Magazine. Titled, 'In shadow of the plague', and an article and photographs were sent to her. Alex is also planning to publish her same article, about the onset of the Black Death [Bubonic Plague] in Fremantle, in the History Teachers Association Publication later this year.

In December last year, DPaW Operations Officer, Regional Parks Unit, Robbie Campbell and myself inspected the only recently installed by the City Of Cockburn, a fire protection system on the historic Azelia Ley homestead located in Manning Park. This installation can only be described as brilliant, and credit and top marks must go to the City of Cockburn. The system has back up protection, including a solar powered pump ignition system, is sensor activated, and has a run time of five hours. It is sincerely hopeful that a similar system can be installed to protect, not only for the heritage listed crematorium, but also the heritage listed Isolation Hospital. With the recent fire catastrophe we really do not know how lucky we were, to use a phrase, "ESCAPE", what could have been a disastrous and complete loss of something historically unique to Western Australia. More discussions, planning, and grant applications, including official approaches are definitely needed urgently, because we do know what happened to the original Azelia Ley Homestead, it was lost forever, so I do stipulate, with the emphasis being on urgent.

An approach has been made to the Missions to Seamen in Western Australia and Victoria, including the Anglican Diocese in both these states, with the hope of obtaining a photograph of the Reverend/Chaplain, Francis C. Dixon who was Acting Chaplain at the Missions to Seamen in Fremantle 1943-1944, and Assistant Chaplain in Fremantle in 1945-1946 and this during the final conclusion of the SS Suva incident, with regard the disposal of the ashes of the Chief Officer and the four crewmen. A photograph of the Reverend Dixon would add some additional factual history material to this sad and virtually unknown WWII maritime chapter. Francis Charles Dixon died on the 31st October 1985. I should also mention how extremely helpful Ms Lara Lynch was in obtaining some of this information for us.

A well done, and a special thank you to the members of the Bicton Men's Shed on the completion of the restoration of the cross for Nurse Hilda Williams' grave, and the new wooden plinth for the Suva gravesite, including an appropriate plaque with names and dates in the military cemetery. I can only say they do excellent volunteer workmanship, only too pleased to assist, with their normal reply, 'that's not a problem'.

Continuing on with the Military Cemetery, and as mentioned in the previous Pratique, an earlier approach was made to the Fijian Consulate in Canberra with regard to assisting us with the upgrade of the Suva gravesite in the military Cemetery, but nothing positive eventuated from them. An approach has now been made to the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board, with regard to the Suva gravesite itself, with the possibility of obtaining from them, some appropriately aged grave boundary material, either granite or steel, because at this stage, the grave has only four concrete corner pieces, so we continue to hope they can assist us.

Friends News: [Continued]

In last years Spring Edition of the Pratique, an article referred to an inquiry on the SS Dorset, and the death of Isaac Holmes and his burial at Woodman Point in 1919, with the inference made to 'divine interference'. Well earlier this year I received an email from a Ms Patricia Chapman, [nee Talent] in Queensland, who last year was on a cruise ship via Fremantle and decided to visit Woodman Point with her husband in a quest to discover the grave of their late uncle, Simon Talent, who was also on the SS Dorset. For reference, it is presumed that both these crewmen died on board the SS Dorset from Pneumonic influenza and then taken to Woodman Point quarantine Station for burial as their death certificates confirm. Now the 'divine interference' part, Patricia tells me that while they were at Woodman Point last year they called into the DSR office and just happened to pick up the 2015 Spring Edition of the Pratique Newsletter with the intention of reading it later, which, by the way, did not eventuate, only to find the newsletter earlier this year once more, open it up at that appropriate page, of course, and then discover the article on the Dorset. Since then, via emails to Patricia, I have filled in a few grey areas in their family ancestry. It was a real shame though that our paths didn't cross while they were both in Fremantle, as it would have been nice to meet in person, however their vessel was in for only eight hours.

Eventuating from a Heritage Tour three years ago, an inquiry from Mr Kevin Wall, requesting if we could supply him with details of his grand parents arrival on the RMS Otway in 1910. We were able to confirm for him, and forward information to him on his grandparents, including their three children, that they were admitted to Woodman Point on March 22nd - discharged on the 19th April 1910 as smallpox contacts. His reply below is self explanatory. "Earle, you have managed to prove what has always been 'word of mouth' and it has been wonderful to record the information in my family records. Many, many thanks and who knows we may meet some day. God bless".

The never ending saga continues into the research, and the eventual possibility of discovering that elusive photograph of CO Arthur D. Waters of Suva fame. The latest news received from Janet Napolitano in the UK, addressed to Marilyn Simcock, and forwarded to FOWPRC, and it has a good feel with this recent outcome. It reads:- "Hi Marilyn! Don't get too excited, but I have had a breakthrough! Uncork the champagne!!! I heard from Jen Waters and she has LOTS of information! Will write in more detail in the following weeks", email continues..... Regards Janet. On behalf of the FOWPRC we would like to thank Janet and Marilyn for their persistence and continuing the search, and hopefully in our next edition of the Pratique we will be able to confirm possession of that very elusive photograph, because it is now into its fourth year of searching.

Placement and rebaiting of the European Wasp traps has continued since the beginning of December 2015, and will conclude at the end May 2016, and luckily so far, no Wasps have availed themselves of our traps, but we must not be complacent as this imported invader is extremely dangerous, and last year 24 nests were discovered in the Munster area alone, so be vigilant, and on alert for the wasp nests.

50 Years Ago; "ON THE BEACH", a drama of Sand, a Summons & Senility

14th February 1966, the change over from pounds, shillings and pence, and at that time, I was earning the massive amount of fifteen shillings a week. That's a dollar fifty by today's standards. It is also the 50th Anniversary of the 'On The Beach' incident, [Any similarity to characters or incidents portrayed in the Aussie movie 'On The beach' are purely coincidental] when three South Fremantle football players, one, a future public servant, the other a future author, and their coach, a well known local butcher, [on and off the field], would knowingly and aggressively enter beach territory strictly controlled by the Commonwealth Quarantine. This was to be another classic case in the realms of Australian history, similar to the case of the Hutt River Province [HRH Prince Leonard & HRH Princess Shirley] versus the Commonwealth. Australia is known for its thousands of miles of beaches, see, I haven't changed over completely to decimal myself as yet, but why these three selected, and preferred to train on this particular, and please excuse the pun, stretch of beach, is one of life's great mysteries. Many excellent excuses have been put up by them over the past decades, but it still does not explain why three local delinquents, [known then as Bodgies] or reprobates, [known today as Ferals], and to term a phrase, fore-runners, [or should that be three-runners] of the future fitness industry, and furthermore, this had nothing to do with the Fremantle Fitness Studio, which is currently up for sale, by the way, would then choose the quarantine beach to improve their football fitness prowess level, not for long term, may I say. They would then inturn thumb their noses at bureaucracy by employing a local advocate, paid for by SFFC members fees, 'thanks very much', to defend themselves under international law of the universal declaration of human rights, that includes, being nice to your parents, and kind to stray animals. The case was settled in Henderson Street Magistrates Court, attended by many football followers, the Seaview Hotel Social Club, Oscar Stack, fishing clubs, the Salvation Army, a Bocce club, marching girls, members of AA, girls from the 'Palms', Wrightsons', Ava Gardner, a choral group, people of smelters, and Izzy Orloff, but it was still justly awarded to the Commonwealth. An appeal is still pending on the grounds of being rudely spoken to by a quarantine officer, including also, the deterioration of their fitness status brought about by the length of time passed, and the erosion of that particular part of the coastline, not forgetting also, the added stress of the appeal dragging on, or should I say, gasping on for so long. Possible resettlement, and unduly forced Henderson Street detention was not included in the appeal. The current appeal process for this illegal beach exercise virtually takes your breath away. Finally, the Magistrate in his closing statement, did explain to the three convicted law breakers, that their description of running, could only be described as a slow jog, and there was no confirmed evidence of them residing at either, the South Fremantle Power Station, or South Perth Zoo. He then went on to say, how extremely lucky they were for not having the 'Budget' thrown at them, or being apprehended wearing football boots with metal sprigs, wearing Big 'V' football jumpers, or for that matter, caught in the act in the Fremantle Oval Press Box, otherwise their definite conviction and penal servitude, would have been much more lengthy, and more severe, with the distinct possibility of Mitchells or Lancaster's bread and water on the menu in the 'big house' for a considerable length of time. For information, the particular Quarantine Officer concerned is still on extended leave. These three were fined the astronomical sum of $4.80 and costs of $10.90 each, also paid for by the Club, thank you. Information telexed to us courtesy of **AAP Reuters.**

Member's News:

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

New Members: FRIENDS would like to express a sincere warm welcome to the following new member, and from overseas, we welcome Mrs Mary MacLean from Toronto in Canada. Mary it is an extreme honour to have you onboard.

Members Details:

Mrs Mary MacLean, has an historic connection with the Quarantine Station at Woodman Point, for it was her future husband, back in 1942, then 7th Engineer Robert MacLean, was part of the crew on the vessel Clan MacDonald that came under quarantine jurisdiction on arrival in Fremantle with smallpox onboard. Prior to the ship's arrival in Fremantle, Engineer Robert MacLean, had assisted the medical orderly on board the ship, to help calm down, 3rd Class Radio operator, and smallpox patient, Dennis Barrington, who had become delirious in the isolation ward. Dennis Barrington would then survive his ordeal in the Isolation Hospital at Woodman Point Quarantine Station. It was only later, when the vessel had departed Fremantle, and was on route to the eastern states, and proceeding off the southern coast of Australia, that the dreaded symptoms of smallpox became noticeable with Robert MacLean, and he would inturn be discharged at the Point Nepean Quarantine Station at Portsea, and he too would survive his ordeal from the highly contagious and deadly disease and continue to serve on merchant vessels for the rest of his life, before settling down in Toronto in 1947, and this is where he met and married Mary. Robert passed away in March 1989. Mary it is a real pleasure to the have you as a member of the Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp.

Members Birthdays: Congratulations to Mrs Doris Alfirevich, Alicia Hayes, Les Jubbs, David Mulcahy, Frank Hutchins, and not forgetting Elvis of course. On behalf of Friends, we wish you all, the very best wishes, and hope your special day was a happy and memorable one, and we sincerely apologise if anyone has been accidently omitted in our birthday honours.

Vale: Condolences to the Maynard Family, from all the members of the FOWPRC, on the sad passing of Patricia Maynard [nee Mayers] on the 14th January 2016, aged 88 years. Our thoughts are with her family. Patricia was extremely proud of her family's past heritage with the quarantine station, seeing her father, Jack Mayers was Engineer at the station. Patricia would continue to socialise with families who were associated with Woodman Point, and especially the families of the quarantine station, all of her life.

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

The travelling bug is still evident amongst our own members, and we are seriously thinking about having a special travel supplement, in lift-out format, similar to that of the WEST, included in the next edition of the Pratique. Continued next page:-

Members Take Note: [Continued]

It is very noticeable that members of FOWPRC always appear to have some member or members circulating elsewhere on the planet, hence the reference to a Lift-out format on the previous page. Just to mention a couple of our latest seasoned travellers who have only just returned from a weighty or should I say, calorie free, sea voyage of seven weeks circumnavigating the Indian Ocean, would you believe, maybe I'll say that again, seven weeks !!. It is truly amazing that they haven't been asked to join in on The Amazing Race, I'm positive they would very good at it, they definitely have the qualifications, and have covered enough miles. Now this could only be a 'knee jerk' nervous reaction amongst travel and shipping agents, not forgetting Airline companies, who are clambering to get their business, but rumour has it they could be off once more in April. Medical authorities are now describing this condition as the "Scourfield Syndrome"

You may recall in the previous Pratique how our own Friends and US member, Cathy Davis, from the Olde Point Thursday Ladies League, has arranged to include in their National Days Menu 'Sweet Tooth' Selection, planned for July this year, a touch of "Australiana Fare'. Preparations are still taking place, including the selection of our own unique recipes, and especially ingredients, not freely available in the good old USA. However, this problem has been overcome by our FOWPRC San Francisco members Jay and Francesca, who are visiting WA during March, and they are only too pleased to transport all the recipes, and the ingredients back to the US and then inturn have them on forwarded to the 'girls' at the Olde Point Thursday Ladies League. We must especially thank Evelyn for the planning and logistics on this side of the globe, and one day ahead, by the way !!

Security WARNING for FOWPRC Members:

As we all know, it is imperative and extremely important that we maintain our computer updates and that the Antivirus and Malware Protection System is always the latest edition. So we are advising that If you receive an email telling you that you can catch swine flu from tins of ham then delete it. It's spam.

ON THE RADAR AND WITHIN RADIO RANGE:

Restoration of the Heritage listed Shower/bathing Block
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.
Automatic Fire Protection for the Isolation Hospital and the historic Crematorium.

Department Of Parks and Wildlife:

A welcome back to Woodman Point Regional Office for Ezgi and Karen, who are replacing Robbie Campbell, whilst he is on his extended travelling break.

Heard in the grapevine that Lyal Woods is recuperating from heart surgery, after a stint in hospital, or should that be 'stent in hospital'. We hope all went well Lyal, and you are keeping up with the 'pace', and back in the bush, amongst the wildlife, once more.

Always like to acknowledge the professional workmanship of the Woodman Point DPaW Park crew, and thought it only appropriate that this Letter to the Editor, that appeared in the Herald newspaper after Christmas be made available to our Pratique readers. "RUBBISH In John Graham Reserve over Christmas - disgraceful - as stated in an article in The Herald - the headlines say it all, " picnic filth left behind' over the Christmas and New Year holiday break. The amount of rubbish left behind by picnickers was unbelievable, and where DPaW do provide the necessary bins around the park to cater for this mess, but people still litter, and they would prefer that people take their litter home when they leave, and in this way preserve the natural environment that is unique to this area, and not use it as a 'rubbish dump'. The unenviable clean up job, left as usual, to the reliable DPaW Regional Park staff". I do not envy them one bit.

WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON FOR HERITAGE TOURS

For certain reasons, three Heritage Tours were cancelled in February and March, and as previously mentioned our Heritage Tours numbers last year were down slightly on previous years, but all feedback continues to be very positive, so much so, that certain groups and individuals have made tour bookings more than once.

Mention was made with regards approaching Inchcape Shipping Services, the major Agents for passengers vessels calling Fremantle and the possibility of having our Heritage Tours included in their current "Shore Excursions" Calendar . This is still in abeyance, but hopefully to be pursued further in 2016. For all Heritage Tour Bookings, please phone 0412 987 478 or visit the website.

Current Friends Projects:

The History of the Woodman Point Quarantine Station continues to move along.

On behalf of the FOWPRC, the restored cross on Hilda William's grave has been reinstalled, and the new painted timber plinth including the plaque dedicated to the four allied crewmen off the SS SUVA was installed on Sunday 6th March 2016.

Work continues on the Customs Interpretation Room, thanks to Karen Jardine and Ian Jamieson, but progress is currently on hold due to travel arrangements, as you do !!

A Vote Of Thanks:

FOWPRC wish to acknowledge the kind donation of a pair of crutches from Norm Abbott and family, and are now on display in the WWI Spanish Flu Interpretation Ward. Norm was working with Hannan Plumbers at the time, one of our FOWPRC sponsors.

Thank you to David Stock for his kind donation of photographs, and especially the 1800's Policeman's cape, that is now on display in the North Ward Interpretation Room.

Special thanks once again to the Bicton Men's Shed for their kind assistance and restoration work with the cross on Nurse Hilda Williams Grave, and also the great workmanship and the completion of the wooden plinth to be installed in the Military Cemetery, thank guys, and well done.

To Marilyn Simcock and Janet Napolitano for their persistent research into endeavouring to find the elusive photograph of Chief Officer, Arthur David Waters.

Did You Know:

In the past 60 years, vaccines helped to eradicate one disease, Smallpox and are close to eradicating Polio.

Vaccines prevent more than 2.5 million deaths each year.

Scientific studies and reviews continue to show no relationship between vaccines and autism.

New and underutilised vaccines could avert nearly 4 million deaths in 2016

Vaccines cause 'herd community', which means if a majority of people in a community have been vaccinated against a disease, an unvaccinated person is less likely to get sick because others are less likely to get sick and spread the disease.

Vaccines helped to reduce Measles deaths globally in 2010 by 80%

COVER Image:

I find it incredible, in the previous Pratique, an article was posted and included a description of a fire that took place at Woodman Point on Monday 3rd February 1896, that read "*Fires have also started at Woodman Point, a glare from blazing undergrowth being observed along the beach on Saturday night, stretching for fully half a mile.*" The fires recently at Woodman Point started Wednesday 13th January around 10.30 PM in the NE corner of the camp perimeter, and then fanned by strong easterly winds, it soon ignited the unique bush that surrounds the DSR Camp, and caused the ferocious blaze, to threaten the historic heritage listed buildings, and caused the Camp to be evacuated of all persons because of the extreme emergency. Extremely lucky, is really not the word to describe the outcome for our area, but the cover photograph says it all.

The ever so helpful and courteous staff members at the National Archives in Victoria Park. Personal assistance and friendly service is always part of their researching qualifications.

Members of the Bicton Men's Shed who have kindly assisted the FOWPRC with various projects. I believe their motto should be what they say regularly ' That's not a problem at all'

Daniel Nelson, left us for greener pastures at Scotch College, and selected, no doubt for his friendly and courteous manner. We all wish him all the very best for his future endeavours.

FOWPRC members at the Christmas gathering held at the Numero Uno Restaurant
The dinner is given in appreciation of assistance given towards "Friends'.

Looking west towards the Cube. 18th January 2016

The back-up Helitac 'Iroquois', overhead at Woodman Point. 14th January 2016

A Helitac 'Iroquois', overhead at Woodman Point. 14th January 2016

Looking south towards Jervoise Bay. 18th January 2016

Southern side of the Isolation Hospital showing the regrowth lawn area. C1980. This area was originally the exercise area for the Detention Block c1950, and bounded by a security fence .

This was the stables, blacksmith and workshop repair area as indicated in the 1911 Qtn plans. The buildings were later used by the 10th Light Horse Regiment following WWI. Image taken c1980s

Nurse Hilda Grace Williams' grave showing the recently renewed wooden cross, that was kindly restored by the members of the Bicton Men's Shed. It was replaced on Sunday 7th March 2016

The SS Suva gravesite of the four Fijians who died of Smallpox, and were cremated in 1943. The wooden plinth kindly constructed by the Bicton Men's Shed and the plaque by FOWPRC

Something to Laugh at:

Rice is great when you're hungry and you want 2,000 of something.

Q: Why are Helium, Curium, and Barium the medical elements ?
A: Because if you can't heal-ium or cure-ium, you bury-um.

10 Facts About You:

1. You're reading this now.
2. You're realizing that this is a stupid fact.
4. You didn't notice I skipped number 3.
5. You're checking now.
6. You're smiling.
7. You're still reading this even though it is stupid.
9. You didn't realize I skipped number 8.
10. You're checking again and smiling because you fell for it again.
11. You're enjoying this.
12. You didn't realize I said 10 facts not 12, you're checking once more, and smiling.

Project Lighthouse:

Acquiring the total amount of required steel that will give us the amount to finalise the structural framework phase of this project, [at an extremely reduced price !!] is still a problem, and causing very slow progress, however, whilst writing this another approach has been procured from a steel fabrication company, who appears to be keen on the idea, so we are hopeful that something positive may arise from this avenue. We continue to thank Milton and Elliot and especially Mark at Stella Industrial for their understanding and patience.

70 YEARS AGO:

THE DAILY NEWS. Friday 5th April 1946.

Smallpox Victims

Two Indian seamen who were admitted to the quarantine station at Woodman Point. suffering from smallpox were today reported to be recovering. The crewmen were landed from the SS Fort Wrangell, which arrived in Gage Roads from Hong Kong, on Wednesday night. What About The Pilot? What would have happened if a pilot had boarded the Fort Wrangell, now quarantined in Gage Roads while 2 Indian firemen are convalescing from mild smallpox ? We asked Chief Quarantine "Officer Dr. G. A. Murray, who replied that "surveillance release" applies in such cases. If a pilot, Customs officer or doctor boards a quarantined vessel, his clothes are disinfected and he is released under observation. All these officials' vaccinations are kept strictly up-to-date. On this occasion, as the cases were notified, the yellow quarantine flag was up before the ship reached Fremantle. The Pilot did not board the vessel, but led it by signals. "I don't expect any further developments, but both men are being held at Woodman Point quarantine station for the full 14 days," said Dr. Murray.

Out Of The Past:

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN Wednesday 29th May 1929

A Busy harbour Over 117,000 Tons in Fremantle.

Fremantle harbour was busy with shipping yesterday when on two occasions vessels had to wait for a berth at Victoria Quay. For the first time in as many weeks, nearly all the available labour was picked up for work on the waterfront. Punctually at 8.00am launches crowded with men left Cliff Street for the North Wharf, and at the same time there was a big stream of waterside workers going down Victoria Quay to vessels berthed there. During the day vessels whose aggregate tonnage exceeded 170,000 tons used the port. At daybreak three vessels were at anchor in Gage Roads awaiting the visit of quarantine authorities. The Minderoo from Singapore, was the first to be cleared, and she entered the port, but no berth was available for her, and she tied up to river buoys. The mail steamer Orvieto, from London, followed her into the harbour and occupied a berth at J Shed that had been used half an hour previously by the Buteshire. The Chakrata, with bananas from Banjoewangi and gunnies from Calcutta, was the third vessel to enter the harbour and a berth was found for her at E Shed. About noon the French mail steamer Commissaire Ramel, from Europe, dropped anchor in Gage Roads, but as it was necessary to berth her at Victoria Quay, she had to wait until the Orvieto moved out shortly after 7.00 pm. before she could be brought alongside. Although there were several berths vacant on the North Wharf there was considerable activity among vessels using that portion of the harbour for the discharge of phosphates and the loading of grain.

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN Thursday 21st November 1946

WRECKED BOAT. OWNER'S DISCOVERY.

Vessel Insured for £1,000. On Tuesday Mr. M. Wallington, of Claremont, the owner of a 30ft. auxiliary fishing boat registered as P264, visited the area near the quarantine station, Woodman Point, with his wife and family, in order to have lunch on the vessel. On arrival he found that the boat was not there. He then recollected having seen a paragraph in last Saturday's issue of "The West Australian" requesting the owner of a 20ft. yacht which had sunk at Woodman Point to communicate with the police. Further inquiries revealed that the craft were identical. The P264 is insured for £1,000 and it is understood that efforts to salvage her will be made by the insurance company. She is resting on the bottom in 30 to 35ft. of water off the Woodman Point jetty, about two or three miles from where Mr. Wallington moored her before the recent rough weather. During the storm the vessel was blown in between the jetty and the Woodman Point breakwater, but when she sank the surge of water between the two points carried her further out to sea. She was then secured with grappling irons to the end of the jetty by Messrs. R. J. Goodman and E. Weaver, of the Navy Victualling Depot, Fremantle, who noticed her plight.

Nautical Quotes:

"Mackerel skies and mares tails, soon will be time to shorten sails."

"Men in a ship are always looking up, and men ashore are usually looking down."

"Off Cape Horn there are but two kinds of weather, neither one of them a pleasant kind."

A Point of Quarantine Concern:

Food, plant material and animal products from overseas could introduce some of the world's most serious pests and diseases in Australia, devastating our valuable agriculture and tourism industries and our unique environment. Rabies, Foot and Mouth disease or Avian Flu could be introduced by infected animals or in food purchased overseas or from trading with overseas vessels. International vessels could bring in unwanted pests through many different avenues such as: The vessel itself could have exotic pests on deck or marine pests on the hull or in ballast. The galley could have stored product pests or diseased fruit. Waste from them [i.e. dry stores, cooked or uncooked meat, vegetable scraps and eggs] if not stored securely could become breeding grounds for exotic pests and diseases. Souvenirs with plant and animal content could contain exotic insects. Plants and items with feathers and seeds. Animals including ship pets, hitch-hikers or imported animals.

All vessels entering Australian waters pose some risk to Australia's marine bio-security, and to reduce this risk, the Australian government is investigating new bio-fouling management options for vessels entering Australian waters.

A Point Of Interest:

American Joshua Slocum was the first person to sail singlehandedly around the world in his sloop *Spray*. He began his journey in 1895 and completed it in 1898. Slocum spent several months in Australia during 1896 and 1897. Known for putting tacks on the deck of the sloop whilst at anchor at night in the Magellan Straits, so to be warned of any unwanted visitors, eg: local natives, who would venture onto the deck while he was asleep.

However, what a lot of people, and especially local WA's, do not know is that sixteen years after the Master Mariner Joshua Slocum in his gaff rigged sloop *Spray* accomplished the first solo circumnavigation, two West Australians set out from Bunbury to emulate the feat. **George D. Blythe and Peter** [often written as "Pietro"] **Arapakis** built their yacht *Pandora* on the lines of 'Josh' Slocum's famous vessel. The pair began building the *Pandora* early in 1909, and within sixteen months she was completed, fitted out and ready to sail. Both were men about whom little seems to be known, they were both sea captains, the former originally from Coventry, England, the latter Greek. Arapakis who, for reasons best known to himself, went under the name of Dominic Salvaro, and had been resident in Bunbury for some time before the arrival of Captain Blythe in the town. 1st May 1910, the *Pandora* left Bunbury today on her voyage around the world, and Blythe and Arapakis will attempt an east-about circumnavigation, including the doubling of the dreaded Cape Horn, in contrast to the voyages of Slocum 1895 - 1898. George Blythe wrote, Dismasted off Cape Horn. "I never knew what the sea was till I came here, and somehow there came on me a sense of foreboding". 16th January 1911, a year after leaving Bunbury they continued on from Ascension Island, and after a week's rest proceeded on for New York, making landfall at Cape Hatteras on June 23rd. On July 30 1911, the *Pandora* cleared for London, she was never heard of again, and by a strange coincidence she was lost in approximately the same area as *Spray*, twenty one months earlier.

115 YEARS AGO:

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN, Monday 6th March 1901

ACTION BY THE CENTRAL BOARD OF HEALTH. A special meeting of the Central Board of Health was held yesterday morning, to consider the arrangements to be made in connection with the disease cases. It was decided that if the second and third cases prove to be plague, the patients will be at once taken to Woodman Point, and there placed in the plague hospital. Should no further suspects appear in the Perth Hospital the quarantine will be raised next Friday week a period of 10 days from the date of quarantine. In the meantime, every precaution will be taken to guard against the spread of the disease, and in all cases of a suspicious nature, most rigorous quarantine restrictions will be enforced. The Central Board of Health had an interview with the Colonial Secretary yesterday afternoon in regard to the arrangements that are being made to cope with the outbreak. Dr. Black afterwards had an interview with the Premier on the same subject, and Mr. Throssell expressed his approval of the arrangements.

GARDINER'S CASE PRONOUNCED TO BE PLAGUE. Interviewed last night by one of our representatives, Dr. Black said he was unable to say at present whether Ah Fong was suffering from plague or not, but in regard to Gardiner, who was in the Hospital, he was now in a position to state definitely that the patient was suffering from plague. **PLAGUE SHELTER IN PERTH**. During a meeting of the City Council yesterday afternoon, the chairman (Cr. Quinlan) stated that a communication had been received from the Government asking if the council would grant a portion of the new sanitary reserve for the use of a temporary shelter for plague patients. The Acting-Town Clerk stated that the Government wanted about 10 acres of the reserve temporarily,' for the reception of plague patients while the present outbreak lasted. It was intended to erect a temporary shelter there, if the council would grant the land for the purpose.

81 Years Ago:

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN, Wednesday 27th February 1935

Japanese Whalers Call At Fremantle. Two months in the Antarctic.

Homeward bound from polar regions, a Japanese whaling fleet arrived at Fremantle yesterday afternoon and anchored in Gage Roads. It comprises an oil refining vessel, the steamer Antarctic Maru, which is the mother ship, and three whalers. It is expected that the vessels will remain at Fremantle for two or three days before continuing the voyage to Japan. It was not possible for a press representative to board any ship of the fleet yesterday afternoon or last night. As it was, quarantine and Customs officials had a long and strenuous task to granting the vessels pratique. They left Fremantle in a Harbor Trust tender shortly before 4 pm. and did not return until about 8 pm. It was learnt that the Antarctic Maru, which is a vessel of 9,593 tons gross register, left Tonsberg (Norway) on October 24 last year and went to the Antarctic with the three whalers by way of Cape Town. The fleet reached the whaling grounds on December 24 and the fishing operations extended over about two months. At times the ships were working as far south as 65 degrees. They commenced the return voyage on February 14, their destination being Japan. On the journey north it was decided that a call should be made at Fremantle so that the refining ship might take in stores and the whalers might take on coal.

MEMORIES LONG AGO:

Moments in history during the same monthly quarter of this Edition of The Pratique :- Namely, January - February - March 2016

WESTERN MAIL, Friday 10th January 1919

PNEUMONIC INFLUENZA

Last Saturday, the 4th January 1919 at the Woodman Point Quarantine Hospital, Nurse Hilda Williams of this State, died from pneumonic influenza, after having been on the danger list for over a week. A further death occurred at the Quarantine Station on Tuesday, Nurse Ridgway, of South Australia, being the latest victim, she was buried with full military honours at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

THE WESTERN ARGUS. Tuesday 26th January 1926

A SMALLPOX SCARE ON MAIL STEAMER MOOLTAN. Perth, Jan. 18 1926. The mail steamer Mooltan arrived at Fremantle this evening but owing to the fact that there was a case of smallpox on board no communication with the shore was permitted. The patient is a woman passenger in the second class. There are thirty passengers for this State, but they will have to remain in quarantine for 18 days at the Woodman Point Quarantine Station.

WESTERN MAIL, Saturday 17th February 1906

PLAGUE - DEATH OF A PATIENT.

Giovanni Fiori succumbed at Woodman Point Quarantine Station just before 6 p.m. on Wednesday 14th February. The Plague outbreak has caused the Local Board of Health to adopt special measures for the destruction of rats, which are believed to be responsible for the reintroduction of the malady, and poisoned baits are being laid in what is known as the plague area, which embraces the greater part of the business portion of the town.

WESTERN MAIL, Friday 26th March 1915

À SMALLPOX CASE ON THE MOREA. LOCAL PASSENGERS AT WOODMAN POINT.

With the usual yellow flag "Q" flying forward and the much, dreaded yellow and black "L" hauled up aft, the outward bound R.M.S. Morea arrived at Fremantle at 11 o'clock on Wednesday morning. The flag letter "L" denoted that a case of smallpox, plague, yellow fever, or cholera had been discovered on board the vessel, thereby necessitating strict isolation. The quarantine authorities had on the previous day 'been advised by wireless that one of the coloured crew had contracted smallpox since Colombo was left, and consequently preparations had been made to attend to the vessel on her arrival. After the Morea had tied up to a river buoy. Dr. Williams, principal medical officer, and Mr. Chambers, quarantine officer. inspected the passengers and crew, and the fumigation launch was moored alongside the mail steamer. None of the passengers or crew was permitted to have any communication with the shore, and the 15 passengers who had reached their destination were transferred by launch to the quarantine quarters at Woodman Point. The patient, who is a native of Goa (India), about 32 years of age. was also taken in a boat down to the isolation hospital. He contracted the disease on Tuesday and has it in a mild form.

Food for Thought:

An Englishman who visited a Red Indian village in the United States had been told that the Indians had amazing memories, and to satisfy himself he asked one of them: "What did you have for breakfast two months ago today?" Without hesitation the Indian replied, "Egg." Some years later the Englishman found himself in the district again, met the same man. and gave the Indian greeting: "How." "Poached," replied the Indian.

When asked at the Murdoch-Hall wedding, what present he had selected for the happy couple, Barry Humphries replied, 'David Beckham and a set of jump leads.'

99 Years Ago:

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN Wednesday 25th July 1917

QUARANTINE STATION. WOODMAN POINT TO REMAIN.

Melbourne, July 21. As the result of the visit to Western Australia of Mr. Watt, Minister for Works and Railways, a saving of £60,000 will be made in regard to one item alone. This amount was involved in the decision to remove the quarantine station from Woodman Point to Garden Island, which will not now be done. Mr. Watt has come to the conclusion that the land occupied by the quarantine authorities may not be needed for naval purposes in the next 50 years, if at all. In this view, he is supported by Mr. J. A. Jensen, Minister for Customs,, who was previously Minister for the Navy. Mr. Jensen directed Mr. Watt's particular attention to the proposal, with the view of a decision being reached on the question. Plans for the new quarantine station on Garden Island were in hand, and steps were to have been taken shortly to call for tenders. It is likely that steps will he taken by the Federal Cabinet this week to reverse the previous decision, and retain the quarantine station at Woodman Point.

67 YEARS AGO:

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN. Wednesday 22nd June 1949

FREED FROM QUARANTINE Welch Family Leaves Woodman Point

Clutching her lucky mascot, a toy kangaroo with a joey in its pouch, which she has christened Kanga and Joey, Janet Welch, with her father, mother and sister Anne left the Woodman Point quarantine station yesterday morning. The family, all of whom looked well and happy, were high in their praise of the kindness shown them by the staff at the quarantine station. Before two miles had been covered by the procession of cars conveying the Welch family, pressmen, Customs and immigration officers from Woodman Point, a halt was called at the first confectionery shop, where Janet and Anne were bought ice creams. They were the first they had eaten since being placed in quarantine from the Mooltan at Woodman Point on May 27 after Janet had contracted smallpox on the voyage from England. The family will stay at the Point Walter immigration depot until July 2, when they will resume their journey to Sydney in the liner Maloja. Mr. Welch, who is a builder, said that he hoped to get Government contracts in New South Wales.

97 YEARS AGO :

The Daily News, Saturday 22nd February 1919

DEATH AT WOODMAN POINT.

One of the returned soldiers ex the s.s. Karmala, died at the Woodman Point Quarantine station this morning. The deceased was. P. W. Emmerson, of Black Butt, Queensland, and was suffering from acute Bright's Disease. When the vessel arrived at Fremantle, Emmerson's condition was dangerous, and it was regarded, as inadvisable to remove him to the Base Hospital.

For reference: **Bright's disease** is a historical classification of kidney diseases that would be described in modern medicine as acute or chronic nephritis. It is typically denoted by the presence of serum albumin (blood plasma protein) in the urine and is frequently accompanied by edema.

THE DAILY NEWS, Tuesday 19th March 1919

POSITION AT WOODMAN POINT

Twenty eight munitions workers, five nurses, four passengers, including one child, and three of the crew, who came by the S.S. City of Cairo yesterday, are now undergoing quarantine at Woodman Point. One of the cases is in a serious condition, one is mild, and two are under observation. Three persons who were aboard the S.S. Lancashire are now convalescent.

THE DAILY NEWS, Saturday 17th May 1919

BIRTHS MARRIAGES and DEATHS.

DEATH.

FERGUSON.—On May 17, 1919, at Woodman Point, Ethel Helen, beloved second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ferguson, 310 Railway Parade, West Leederville, sister of Mrs. T. Harrison, Osborne, Lydia and William S.S. Charon. At rest.

THE BUNBURY HERALD, Wednesday 21st May 1919

The LATE MISS ETHEL FERGUSON.

The death is reported from Woodman Point of Ethel, daughter of Mr Paul Ferguson, loco superintendant at Bunbury. The deceased left for a holiday in South Australia some four months ago, and was unable to return owing to the Quarantine Regulations. Eventually, she obtained a passage on board the s.s. Wyandra, only to be landed at the quarantine station on arrival at Fremantle. Miss Lydia Ferguson of the Bon Marche, is a sister of deceased.

62 YEARS AGO:

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN, Tuesday 2nd February 1954

DEATHS - TAPPER: On January 31. 1954, suddenly, at Woodman Point. John Arthur Tapper of the Quarantine Station, Woodman Point, loved brother of Thomas. Albert, Richard and Edna (Mrs. Burman), aged 71 years. TAPPER. J. A. (Jack): Sincere friend of the McIntosh family, Woodman Point. The long day closes.

112 YEARS AGO:

THE WESTERN MAIL. Saturday 13th February 1904

THE LEPER. John Higgins

LEPROSY

Dr. Blackburn and Dr. Anderson recently examined the leper, John Higgins, who has been detained at Woodman Point for the past twelve months. The doctors have sent a report to the Colonial Secretary, to the effect that the patient has practically recovered. They state that when they examined him there were no signs of any activity of the leprosy from which he had been suffering, although his hands were in a paralyzed condition, rendering him unable to act entirely for himself. He was not, however, in an infectious state, and, from a public health point of view, there was no further need to keep him in isolation. It would be advisable, however, to subject him to periodical examination. The Colonial Secretary, in commenting upon this report, said that the improved condition of the leper, which practically amounted to a cure, had been effected by the use of what is known as chalmoogra oil. John Higgins would succumb from the ravages of Leprosy and pass away at Woodman Point on the 9th February 1906, aged 67 years.

110 YEARS AGO:

WESTERN MAIL, Saturday 20th January 1906

THE CASE OF ETIENNE. A STATEMENT BY DR. LOVEGROVE.

In regard to the case of Etienne, the Frenchman who was taken from the F.M.S. Nera to the quarantine station at Woodman Point, Dr. Lovegrove, the Principal Medical Officer, on Tuesday made the following statement to a "West Australian" reporter:- "On the afternoon of January 11, I examined, with a lens magnifying some serum taken from the patient who was on board the French mail steamer, and found organisms in a stage of involution, some of which gave what is known as the bipolar staining of the bacillus pestis. I was also given a careful and precise history of the case by Dr. Hope, the Port Quarantine Officer. I there upon instructed that pratique should not be given to the vessel, and that all work in connection with the vessel should be performed in quarantine. I also directed that passengers for this State should be sent to the quarantine station in the steam launch until the following morning, for the purpose of disinfection. As the patient was convalescent, some six or seven weeks having elapsed since the beginning of his illness, the captain of the vessel was told that he might, if he wished, take him on. Dr. Blackburne has since examined the serum taken from the patient, and made some cultures, but, so far, with negative results.

Life's Quotes :

Gossip is the art of saying nothing in a way that leaves practically nothing unsaid.
The truth may hurt for a little while, but a lie hurts forever.
A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out.

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The Caretaker

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