

# Pratique

Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp

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

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<http://www.woodmanpointquarantinationstation.com>



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

**SUMMER 2021**

## DOCTORS PRECINCT RESTORATION BEGINS

The Doctors Precinct (originally known as “A Block”) was the original Administration, Dormitory and Doctors’ Rooms (c1886). These are the oldest remaining buildings on the site. As you’d be aware from the Spring edition of **Pratique**, the long-awaited restoration of the Doctors Precinct is now well underway.

The broad principles of this restorative build are:

- the preservation of the building;
- the restoration and reconstruction are subject to professional advice and trades, including removal of asbestos; and
- the adaptation of the building to meet the needs of recreation camp clientele.

One of the considerations when coming on camp is having group leaders and teachers close to students without them being in the same sleeping area. It is our intent is to restore the Doctors Precinct to be a client group leader accommodation

area, which will have ablutions, kitchenette and meeting areas close enough for leaders to supervise students, but with separate accommodation areas. This links with the broader Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) position on child safeguarding.



The restorative build is being undertaken by CLPM Pty Ltd, who specialise in heritage restoration, in conjunction with architects Hocking Heritage and Architecture who, as their name suggests, are well versed with projects of this nature. Any heritage restoration is fraught with unknowns, and to date, this restoration has already lived up to this



were staying at the Recreation Camp. It was a wonderful way for them to learn the unique history this once hidden community has.

Perhaps the most exciting development for Friends has been the introduction of our public tours on the third Sunday of each month. These have been incredibly successful, with the tours usually fully booked. We began using Trybooking as a



reservation tool for these tours, and it has made it very easy for people to book and pay, often months in advance. A big thank you to Neil for setting up our profile on Trybooking, which has been recently extended to include the sale of our two history books, *Western Sentinel* and *The Boonah Tragedy*.

The reviews Friends receive after a tour have been wonderful. We often hear people on the tours telling us that they have lived in area for years and never known there was a quarantine station at Woodman Point, and were eager to tell family and friends about our tours. We have even had one lady come on a public tour in September then return on our October tour, this time with her brother. She claimed there was simply too much information to absorb in one two-hour tour and that she just had to come again.

These tours would not be the success they are without our wonderful members who conduct them. We are usually there at the Isolation Hospital by 8am doing a COVID clean and setting up the dining room for morning teas and, after the tour is complete, doing a clean-up and often not finishing until after 1pm. Special thanks go to our tour guides, Chris, Gary and Neil. A big thank you also to Rita, Jacky and Greg for helping in the kitchen this year during large tour groups. Your help is much appreciated.

We look forward to conducting even more tours in 2022.

Jenni Carder — Tour Coordinator

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a wonderful year we had even with COVID-19 restrictions. Twenty-four tours and many projects completed.

I would like to thank our committee for the wonderful job done during the year.

- **Neil**, our Vice President for producing **Pratique**, covering for me during my absence, for tour guiding and researching the National Archives for the Woodman Point Quarantine Admission Registers. And also, for introducing Trybooking to Friends.
- **Mike**, our treasurer for keeping the books, maintenance of the IH. decking, working on the pathway to the morgue slab and supervising the Crematorium project.
- **Ainslie**, our secretary, for secretarial work, organising of our Strategy Planning Session and for her expertise on our website.

Many thanks also to:

- **Matt** and **Graham** for their assistance in relation to all things to do with the Recreation Camp.
- **Jenni** for her hard work coordinating and running our heritage tours, especially having to alter bookings to comply with COVID restrictions.
- **Chris** for tour guiding and kitchen duties.
- **Graeme C** for his organisation of work to renovate the Crematorium chimney, the morgue slab pathway and repairs of the kitchen chimney.
- **Suzu** for running of our Strategy Planning Session, organising defib training for the group and for getting us a stall at the Cockburn Spring Fair.
- **Greg** for his assistance in completing the morgue slab and other projects.

I would like to thank **Kym, Ryan, Kylie, and Michelle** from the Camp Office for their ongoing assistance during the year.

And thank you to **all members** who attended our busy bees to clean up the IH in February and October.

### Projects during the year

- **Renovations to the Crematorium Chimney:** Thanks to Perth Scaffolding, Mercer & Co. and Veolia for their generous contributions towards this project.
- **Pathway to the Morgue Slab:** Thanks to MJ Walker Contracting for their generous support.
- **Tree replanting:** Thanks to Mike and Greg for planting of Betty's tree after digging through a layer of limestone. I hope this one finally survives.
- **Repainting of the IH decking – March 2021:** Thank you to Bunnings

Bibra Lake for their generous donation of twelve litres of decking paint.

- **Painting of IH – April 2021:** Thanks to Pedrini & Co.

### Events

- Cockburn Spring Fair was held on 31 October 2021 at Manning Park and our stall there was very successful with many interested in doing our tours. Thanks to Jenni, Suzu, Chris and Ainslie for staffing the Stall.



### Tours

- Our first general public tour was on 17 January 2021.
- We then decided to conduct the general public tours on the third Sunday each month. This initiative has been a huge success.
- 11 public and 12 group tours have been held during the year.
- Tours of the IH commenced for students by Sport and Recreation.
- Thank you to all guides who made these tours a huge success.

### Special Mentions

- The passing of member Ian Darroch on 12 December 2020, our Honorary Historian and author of our books.

- Water Police Constable Richard Hughes, who died of smallpox at Woodman Point Quarantine Station in 1901, was accepted onto the WA Police Honours List.
- Closure for the Fijian family of Osea Tuqova, who died of smallpox at Woodman Point Quarantine Station in 1943, knowing that he was nursed with compassion, and buried with respect and dignity.
- A further thank you to Bunnings Bibra Lake for their donation of \$150 towards the purchase of a Kartcher cleaner for use reaching and cleaning those high spots at the IH.
- We welcomed to 14 new members.

Thank you once again to everyone who helped and gave support during what has been a greatly successful year.

Gary Marsh  
President

### NEW LIFE MEMBER

At our November AGM, Mike Poore was awarded Life Membership of Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp.

Mike has been Friends' Treasurer since 2017, keeping our books in meticulous order, but it was behind the scenes that Mike made his greatest contribution to Friends. Over the years, Mike has:

- organised the publishing of *Western Sentinel* and the re-print of *The Boonah Tragedy*, involving months of negotiations with publishers.
- met with many contractors, often at 7am, to get quotes, provide access for the many jobs that needed to be done

around the Isolation Hospital.

- painted the IH verandahs four times.
- overseen the construction of our *HMTS Boonah* model, researching the true colours, size, gun turrets etc with the help of Trevor Churcher, then seeking quotes and presenting them at meetings.



Mike's other contributions are too many to list. Busy bees, window washing, tree planting, path constructions, setting up for special events and building the limestone monument out the front of the Isolation Hospital are just a few examples of his dedication and passion in preserving the history of the old Woodman Point Quarantine Station.

### LATEST NEWS FROM FRIENDS

- ❖ Pat McEntee, the Recreation Camp's Senior Facilities Officer, is currently on extended sick leave. Friends are missing you around the Camp Pat, and send their very best wishes to you as you recover. We're looking forward to seeing you on your return.
- ❖ Friends extend their deepest sympathy to the family of our long-time member Jack Edwards who passed peacefully away on 13 August 2021.

- ❖ The next meeting of Friends will be held on Wednesday 19 January 2022 in the Isolation Hospital, commencing at 6.30pm. All members are welcome to attend.

### UPDATE FROM THE CAMP

Congratulations to the Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp on their recent Annual General Meeting and your accomplishments over the year. I am sorry that I wasn't able to join the AGM. I am, however, continually impressed with the professionalism of your tours and the effort put in by the members in preserving the former Woodman Point Quarantine Station for current and future generations.

This edition of **Pratique** finds Woodman Point Recreation Camp enjoying one of its busiest times of the year. While statistics are not everyone's favourite reading, I am proud of the efforts of the Recreation Camp team from our full-time team and instructors, to our cleaners and caterers in running one of the largest recreation camps in Western Australia.

Since the last edition of **Pratique**, the recreation camp has provided 4,124 bed-nights and 8,971 participations (~13,457 physical activity hours). In the first few months of 2022, the team is forecast to deliver a further 16,967 participations. I share this as an insight into how hard the team works on behalf of the department, all while doing it with a smile and relaxed demeanor.

I recently attended our regular Recreation Camp Manager meeting, and for your awareness, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) engages an external

company to provide insights into client satisfaction across all our recreation camps. One of the insights from this year's report was that the above-listed bed-nights and physical activity hours were completed with client-rated programs as "very good" to "excellent" by 8 out of 10 clients visiting our recreation camps. A great result.

The Recreation Camp continues to roll out a series of minor maintenance tasks as well as our major Doctors Precinct restoration work, which is outlined in more detail in this edition of **Pratique**. While the minor maintenance is not always immediately noticeable, Reece, our Accommodation Officer, has been doing some serious mileage walking around the camps managing repairs. This includes:

- improved emergency action plans and signage on-site;
- the cleaning of the ceiling voids in Spinifex and Grevillea dormitories;
- scheduling the replacement of Camp street lights; and
- QR code of maintenance requests from clients and user-groups on-site.

Thank you again for a fantastic year. I hope to see you all at the Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp Christmas Function in December.

Graham Sharpe  
A/Camp Manager

### NEW MEMBERS

Friends welcome the following who have recently joined our organisation.

- Bernadette Dell from Ardross

## 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



Neil

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

## UPCOMING HERITAGE TOURS

December 2021

January/February 2022

12 Dec Monthly public tour

16 Jan Monthly public tour

20 Feb Monthly public tour

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COMMITTEE 2021 – 2022

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**PRESIDENT**  
Gary Marsh



**TREASURER**  
Greg Ireland



**PAST PRESIDENT**  
Jenni Carder



**SECRETARY/  
MEMBERSHIP**  
Ainslie Poore



**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Neil Wilson



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**EX-OFFICIO COMMITTEE MEMBER**  
Matt Hayes



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MEMBER SERVICES

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**HERITAGE TOUR BOOKINGS**  
Jenni Carder



**PRATIQUE**  
Neil Wilson



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WEBSITE MAINTENANCE AND DESIGN

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