

Pratique

Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp

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AUTUMN 2022

RECOGNITION AT LAST

CONSTABLE RICHARD HUGHES 0328

Thanks to the research and persistence of Friends’ President Gary Marsh, the Western Australian Police Department has formally recognised and commemorated a WA Police Force officer who died carrying out his duties more than 120 years ago.



WA Police Force Memorial Wall at the WA Police Academy in Joondalup

Constable Richard Hughes 0328 was 37 years of age when he was required to board the R.M.S *Ormuz* at Fremantle on 16 May 1901. He was one of many uniformed police and detectives who boarded the vessel soon after her arrival in WA from Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Quarantine Doctor, Dr. Hope, had already boarded the ship and examined the passengers due to bubonic plague cases having previously been detected at the port. Following his examination, permission was granted for officials and visitors to board the vessel. Const. Hughes was to remain on board until the scheduled departure for Adelaide at 2200hrs that same day due to a report of an Italian anarchist being present among the crew. Owing to delays, Const. Hughes didn’t leave the ship until 31 May.

Immediately afterwards, Const. Hughes became unwell and his condition gradually worsened. He was granted leave to be examined by Dr. Hope on 2 June 1901 after complaining of a severe headache and fever. The consultation took place on the evening on 3 June 1901 and Dr. Hope noted that Const. Hughes had begun to develop a slight rash. Following another examination on the morning of 4 June 1901, Const. Hughes was diagnosed with smallpox. On 5 June 1901, he was placed in quarantine at the Woodman Point Quarantine Station in company with his wife, another married

couple and a young single man who was boarding at their home.

A considerable amount of concern arose in Fremantle when it became known that a case of smallpox had been discovered in the town., The alarm was further intensified by the knowledge that the infection may have come from the *Ormuz*, since a large number of people had enjoyed almost unrestricted access to her during the steamer's visit to Fremantle.

On 9 June 1901 Dr. Hope again examined Const. Hughes. His condition had continued to worsen with eruptions of sores present in large numbers over his face and body, and symptoms of delirium having set in.

He remained in quarantine and was reported on 12 June 1901 as progressing as well as could be expected. Sadly, at 0400 on Saturday 15 June 1901, Const. Hughes was pronounced deceased, his body being cremated that afternoon and preserved for burial. His funeral was held on 14 July 1901 with his remains later interred in the Anglican section of the Fremantle Cemetery. Const. Hughes was survived by his wife Augusta.

Although Const. Hughes technically died of a quarantinable disease, he died because he contracted this disease in the course of his duty as a police officer. Gary vehemently believed that this death should receive the same recognition as the deaths of all other police officers who have died while undertaking their public duties. That a disease was involved should not have been an obstacle to such public recognition.

Over a period of five years, Gary lobbied WA Police Department and the Police

Historical Society to achieve this recognition and in September 2021, the name of Constable Richard Hughes 0328 was added to the WA Police Force Memorial Wall at the Police Academy in Joondalup, and to the National Police Memorial Wall in Canberra: a fitting, though belated, tribute to a public officer whose story was known by so few beyond the confines of WA's quarantine network.



Friends proudly commend Gary on the research that has led to the recognition of Const. Hughes' service. It was truly a labour of love by our President.

FROM THE PAGES OF HISTORY

Continuing the series of articles of sites at Woodman Point that may no longer exist or may have faded from our memory.

The Isolation Hospital Change Hut

The Change Hut at the entrance to the Woodman Point Quarantine Station, featured in the Summer 2020 edition of **Pratique**, tends to be prominent in our memory, but are you aware that another change hut existed within the grounds, just outside the Isolation Hospital?

Built on a timber frame with corrugated asbestos walls and roof, and with an interior that could only be described as spartan, the hut was located between the

Isolation Hospital and the Observation Hospital, now Jervoise Dormitory, and next to the car park that existed there at the time.



It served a similar purpose as the Gate Change Hut: to provide a sterile area where doctors and medical staff could leave their civilian clothing and disinfect themselves by way of a shower, using Lysol soap, when entering the grounds of the Isolation Hospital and then, of course, repeating the same process in reverse when leaving the confines of the Isolation Hospital. In this way, there was no fear of



disease transmission from contagious patients who had been admitted to the Isolation Hospital to other “contacts” who were showing no signs of the disease, but were required to serve a mandatory quarantine period within the grounds of the Woodman Point Station.

As with many buildings on site whose purpose waned as air travel became more prevalent in the 1960s and vaccines

minimised the spread of contagious disease, so it was for this building. It fell into disrepair from lack of use and was eventually demolished in about 2006.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I welcome all members of Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp to another year. Hopefully, we can have another good year living with COVID.

I would like to welcome our 2022 committee: Neil Wilson as Vice President, Ainslie Poore as Secretary, Greg Ireland as our new Treasurer and Jenni Carder as Tour Co-ordinator. Also thanks to Mike Poore for his contribution as outgoing Treasurer and wish him well on his coming relocation to Cairns.

Friends welcomes the Camp’s new acting Manager, Ben Walton, who is standing in for Matt Hayes while he continues his secondment at Sport and Recreation, and extend thanks to Graham Sharpe who so admirably filled the Camp Manager role for the greater part of 2021. Graham has returned to a new role at the Department of Sport and Recreation in Leederville.

January has been an active month of activity around the Isolation Hospital as we prepare for tours in 2022. A busy bee on 13 January set up new historical displays and on 24 January, time was spent archiving documentation that had been in storage, as well as rationalising and cleaning out the kitchen storerooms. Sincere thanks to all members who gave their time to assist with this work.

Bookings for 2022 look healthy at this stage with a constant stream of enquiries

and bookings. Our regular monthly public tours have been well patronised and fully booked, and already there are bookings for as far away as May. Four group tours have already been booked for March and April. Friends have kept up to date with government COVID requirements and we have introduced a Proof of Vaccination policy for all bookings to ensure the safety of both our guides and our tour participants. The introduction of gift certificates for general public tours prior to Christmas has been a positive move with about a dozen future bookings being made this way.

Projects for 2022

Cockburn Cement has once again demonstrated their ongoing support for our work by donating fire hoses for installation at the Isolation Hospital. We thank them once again for their continued contribution and support. It is much appreciated as is the work of Friends member Graeme Churcher who has again done a wonderful job rallying this support with all his contacts. Friends are currently consulting with Sport and Recreation regarding an appropriate location for the installation of the hose cabinets.

New heritage signs to replace those damaged by time and the elements were installed in February. Design and installation was undertaken by Jason Signs with Friends contributing 50% towards the total cost. Many thanks to Kylie Howe for overseeing and organising this upgrade.

Recent high winds resulted in two large tree limbs falling at the crematorium site, one of which damaged the roof. Many thanks to new member Graeme Jeisman, who undertook to repair the damage. As a result of the branches falling, Friends

have contacted Parks and Wildlife in relation to the trees around the Crematorium. They have indicated they will undertake some maintenance to reduce the possibility of any future damage to this historic building and advice Friends when work is commenced.

Discussion regarding the maintenance and painting of the Isolation Hospital windows is ongoing as Sport and Recreation have indicated they will not have funding for this project until their 2022/23 budget.

Friends have received three quotes from painters to undertake this work and will need to decide whether to fund the repair and painting of the worst affected windows or wait until Sport and Recreation have funding to undertake this work. A decision on this matter will be made in the near future.

As always, we welcome the involvement of members in our ongoing projects and at our bimonthly meetings in the Isolation Hospital and look forward to a year of continued progress for our group.

Gary Marsh
President

LATEST NEWS FROM FRIENDS

- ❖ In November, Friends received the very kind donation of a period child's cot to be included in the children's room of the Isolation Hospital. Many



thanks to Robyn Rogers and her daughter Rebecca Harrison for this wonderful addition to the room.

- ❖ Many thanks to Betty Shepherd who arranged a wonderful Christmas lunch in the Woodman Point Dining Hall for Friends of Azelia Ley and Friends of Woodman Point just before Christmas. It was an excellent afternoon with magnificent food provided by Accolade Catering.
- ❖ Check out this visitor who has been seen several times frequenting the grounds of the military cemetery. It has been identified as a scorpion-tailed racehorse goanna.



- ❖ The next meeting of Friends will be held on Wednesday 16 March 2022 in the Isolation Hospital, commencing at 6.30pm. All members are welcome to attend.

2022 TOUR BOOKINGS ON THE RISE

The very hot weather that Perth experienced over the past few months doesn't seem to have impacted on the popularity of our monthly public heritage tours. To beat the heat, summer tours have commenced at 9am and each tour has been close to fully booked, with a rush of bookings occurring in the days preceding each tour. To ensure that each

tour commences on time and without delay or fuss, COVID check-in is conducted at the gate prior to entry, and this is proving an efficient way to handle this obligation.

Prior to Christmas, we introduced the availability of gift vouchers on our [trybooking](#) site. This saw numerous vouchers purchased prior to Christmas and they appeared to be the perfect gift for that Christmas stocking or that hard-to-buy-for person in our lives! Gift vouchers will remain a regular feature of our ticketing schedule so with Mother's Day fast approaching, they might prove to be the ideal gift for your mum too.

Group tours bookings for tours during the week are beginning to increase now as we head into autumn with three already scheduled for the coming month. Caravan clubs also seem to have discovered us, and we have been delighted to conduct several special group tours for clubs who have temporarily based themselves at the nearby Discovery Park Woodman Point.

As always though, our tours wouldn't be the success they are without our wonderful guides and the reviews we receive on our Facebook page are a fabulous testament to their knowledge and dedication.

UPDATE FROM THE CAMP

The practical completion for the restoration of the Doctor's Precinct is set for 8 March 2022. The project has progressed slower than was anticipated because of major delays with labour availability, however, finally the paint is hitting the walls and ceilings, doors and

locks have been installed and the ablution areas tiled and fitted out. Bunk beds and linen have been ordered to compliment the bedrooms. Below is a photo showing the old toilet and shower room which is nearing completion.



The restoration of the Doctor's Precinct project will be a huge achievement towards preserving the heritage values of Woodman Point, with many of the old doorways remaining visible for interpretational purposes.

A 2022 Conservation Plan for the Woodman Point Recreation Camp is in its developmental stages, the last conservation plan having been completed in 1995 by Ian Molyneux and Associates Architects. Some of the objectives of the new Conservation Plan focus on expanding the breadth of the earlier conservation plan including documented history, and documenting any capital works that have occurred at Woodman Point Recreation Camp since, particularly those that occurred in 2006. It will also look at the current form and condition of the buildings, aligning the future master plan objectives with the documented heritage values of the site, and ensuring Woodman Point management are complying with the *Heritage Act 2018*. In addition to this, the preparation of a statement of historical significance of the Woodman

Point site will be completed.

Camp management is currently seeking funding to connect the Gate House to the mains sewerage in a bid to restore functionality to the area. In addition, we are investigating the Shower Block for asbestos and contaminated materials through Aurora Environmental. This remains the last significant, major building refurbishment that needs to be undertaken at Woodman Point.

From an operational perspective, the Camp was set to break all previous records for accommodation and programs revenue in the Camp's history this term. Unfortunately, COVID restrictions have cancelled overnight camps for school children until further notice so this record will not be attained until restrictions are lifted. The Camp however still remains extremely active with school day programs and weekend non-school groups.

Our thanks once again to FOWPRC for your ongoing support of our site and work we undertake.

Ben Walton
A/Camp Manager

NEW MEMBERS

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

- Sara Dryden from Coogee
- Brenda Singleton from Bertram
- Kay Turner from Port Kennedy

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

March/April 2022

May 2022

2 Mar Caravan Club
 20 Mar Monthly public tour
 21 Mar West Coast Comm Centre
 7 Apr Kwinana Seniors
 10 Apr Monthly public tour

4 May Peel MALA
 15 May Monthly public tour

COMMITTEE 2021 – 2022

PRESIDENT
Gary Marsh



TREASURER
Greg Ireland



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

