



GIFAA Newsletter July2026

An update from your committee

Hello GIFAA Members

We hope this newsletter finds you all well. Winter has certainly arrived but there have been some fine, calm days so hopefully you are all still getting in a piece of island time.

Members Reminder - NO RAFTING

Members are reminded that rafting of vessels is prohibited in Herring Bay and Pig Trough Bay

Rafting is the tying together of two or more vessels in any configuration as per the examples below. GIFAA Members may use approved secondary vessels as long as they are registered with the association.



Why is it important?

GIFAA manages the moorings under the Recreational Moorings Management Policy for the Controlled Naval Waters of Garden Island (2005). The policy and the GIFAA Constitution set out the requirements for recreational boats to use the moorings within naval waters.

It is essential that GIFAA members adhere to the policy to help ensure that we maintain our relationship and compliance with the Department of Defence so that we can continue the safe use of the island and moorings.

- Rafting of vessels results in congestion within the mooring area
- Rafting of vessels can interfere with the swing of moorings resulting in damage to vessels
- Rafting of vessels may load the mooring beyond its design or cause other damage.
- Non-compliance with the policy may lead to issues with ongoing use of the island and moorings.

What can I do?

- All members should adhere to the policy at all times. It is important that we set an example for the public.
- If you see a non-member rafting, politely let them know about the policy and the signage at the entrance to Herring Bay.
- You can download a copy of the [WELCOME TO GARDEN ISLAND BROCHURE](#) from the GIFAA web-page and pass to non-members
- With the use of large floating pontoons becoming more popular please be mindful of the potential impact of its use in the restricted space of the mooring area.

Facilities Update

Our Ranger has been hard at work making our piece of paradise even. More beautiful and you may notice the area behind the wall in the picnic area at Herring Bay has been cleaned of weeds and mulched. It looks fantastic.

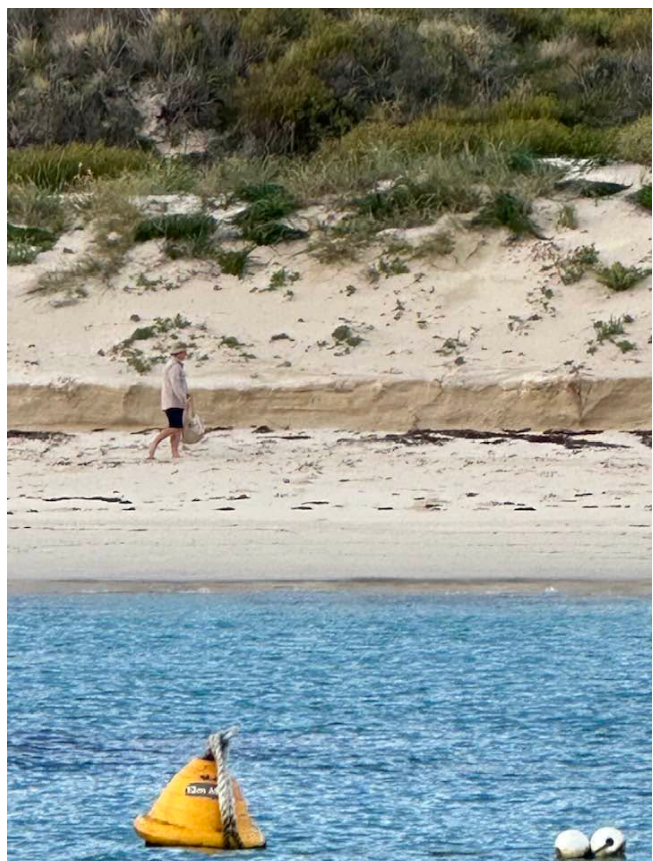
All 4 BBQ's are now operational so fingers crossed we will have plenty of room for all over the summer months.

The footpath from the beach has been extended and is holding upon well. The landscaping and planting is really taking hold. It makes it so much easier to make the trek top the hill so a big shout out to everyone that has assisted with this project.

Island clean up.

Over the winter period the amount of rubbish that ends up on our pristine beaches is quite astonishing. Many of you may have witnessed our Treasurer, Aaron and his helpers on the daily pilgrimage trekking the beaches with beach clean up bags. The work that Aaron does is amazing and we would like to formally recognise his efforts caring for the environment that we all enjoy. Please say g'day next time you see him and feel free to grab a bag and help along the way. Our Beach clean up bags (Only \$10) are available to be purchased at any of our events.

We are currently investigating ways to recycle as much of the plastic waste that is collected, mainly cray pots and baskets etc so if anyone has any suggestions, they would be more than welcome.



An important message from DOT



Government of Western Australia
Department of Transport
and Major Infrastructure

Dear Boat Owner,

The Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure (DTMI) - Maritime delivers services that allow Western Australians to enjoy our waterways safely. We value the contribution of the Western Australian boating community to creating a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

We are writing to you to advise you of recent changes to the *Navigable Waters Regulations 1958*.

DTMI now has stronger and more comprehensive laws to remove marine objects that create a hazard and/or obstruction and to recover costs. The object could be anything from a car to a shipping container, or a vessel that is illegally using a mooring. When it is deemed a threat to safety or the environment, DTMI officers can now remove objects immediately without notice. After taking charge of the object, the new streamlined laws allow DTMI to sell or gift it, and legal action can be taken against the person responsible to recover any outstanding costs.

New penalties apply for:

- failing to remedy a hazard or obstruction (up to \$5,000)
- causing a hazard or obstruction (up to \$15,000)
- accessing or interfering with a hazard or obstruction (up to \$10,000).

If a notice to remedy the situation is ignored, a daily penalty of \$200 may be applied until the issue is rectified.

It is hoped that the new laws act as a deterrent and make it significantly easier for DTMI to dispose of abandoned or illegally moored vessels and recover the costs incurred.

To find out more, please visit our website: [Boating rules in WA | Transport WA](#)

For any questions or assistance, please email us at mspolicy@transport.wa.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Chris J. Mather
Executive Director, Maritime

State Government | Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure

A Message from our Ranger

Austral Shield Exercise 2026

As you may have heard or noticed, the ADF is currently conducting Exercise Austral Shield 2026 on Garden Island and surrounding areas.

The exercise commenced on 3 July and will continue until 19 July. During this period, all areas of the island—including operational areas, public Defence areas, and naval waters—may be utilised by ADF personnel for training activities. Exercises may occur at any time, including during the day, night, and early morning hours.

Members of the public and GIFFA members visiting the island should continue to follow normal procedures. Any breaches of the *Defence (Public Areas) By-laws* or suspicious behaviour should be reported to the Emergency Control Centre (Wilson Security) on 9553 2222. If possible, please also notify the Ranger on 0455 604 646.

More information:

<https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/releases/2026-06-16/australian-security-strengthened-part-exercise-austral-shield>

Avian Influenza (H5 Bird Flu)

Another important and evolving situation is the recent Avian Influenza outbreak, with confirmed cases of the H5 bird flu strain now detected in Western Australia.

Multiple strains of avian influenza are currently circulating globally. Of particular concern is the highly pathogenic strain H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b, which has affected wild birds, poultry, and both wild and domestic mammals in many parts of the world.

The WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is leading the State response, in collaboration with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and the Department of Health. The risk to humans remains low and, to date, only individual migratory seabirds have been affected in Western Australia. However, the situation is evolving, and everyone is encouraged to remain informed and follow government advice. Anyone who observes a sick or dead bird, marine mammal, or other wildlife should report it to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

The Message Is Simple: **AVOID – RECORD – REPORT**

Avoid

- Keep a safe distance from sick or dead wildlife
- Do not touch, handle, or move affected animals

Record

- Note the species, number of affected animals, location, date, and time
- If safe to do so, take photographs or videos from a distance

Report

- Report sightings of sick or dead animals to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on **1800 675 888**
- follow the advice provided

Additional Reporting for Garden Island

If an affected animal is observed on Garden Island or within the surrounding naval waters, please also notify Emergency Control Centre: 9553 2222 and/or Ranger: 0455 604 646, as this will help facilitate a timely local response.

Signs of H5 Avian Influenza in Wildlife

Symptoms may include:

- Sudden death
- Lack of coordination (tremors, difficulty standing, walking, flying, or holding the head upright)
- Difficulty breathing, coughing, or sneezing
- Discharge from the mouth, nose, or eyes
- Cloudy or abnormal-looking eyes

More information:

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments/departments-of-primary-industries-and-regional-development/avian-influenza>

The H5 Bird Flu situation is likely to continue evolving over the coming months and into spring and the new boating season. I will provide further updates if the response plan for Garden Island and surrounding waters changes. If you decide not to issue a winter newsletter, I would appreciate it if you could include an updated H5 Bird Flu article in your next spring edition.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Otherwise, I'll see you around the island!

Kind Regards,

Linda Hocke

Ranger – Garden Island | Swan Coastal District

Regional Fire Management Services | Parks & Wildlife Service

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation, and Attractions

M: 0455 604 646 | E: linda.hocke@dbca.wa.gov.au | W: <http://www.dbca.wa.gov.au>

Calendar of Events

Members Open Day

- We will be conducting our annual GIFAA Opening Day on Sunday 4th October at the Cockburn Power Boat Club. The event will run between 12pm and 4pm
- We will have a light meal and refreshments on the day as well as plenty of auctions and raffles so please come along and support your association as we head into the warmer boating weather,
- We will also have available on the day the new GIFAA Beach Clean Up Bags \$10 each, new GIFAA Bumper stickers \$5 each and the new GIFAA Burgee Flags \$25 each. Please bring along some cash if you would like to secure these hot items.

GIFAA Mooring Surveys

- Scheduled to commence the third week in October, weather permitting. If you are available to spend a day on the water assisting the mooring team, please let either myself or Ken know your availability

GIFAA AGM

- Wednesday 18th November at CPBA. Details to be advised closer to the date.

Keep Smiling

- Why do milk stools only have 3 legs?....Because the cow has the udder
- How do you organise a space party?....You planet early
- What do you call glass bakeware in Jamaica?.....Pyrex of the Caribbean

And finally

Someone glued my deck of cards together. I'm having a hard time dealing with it.....

Take care and be diver aware.

Pete Fry

Secretary