



GIFAA Newsletter January 2026

An update from your committee

Hello GIFAA Members.

Happy New Year to all. I hope this message finds you all well and refreshed, hopefully having enjoyed some family time and the delights of Garden Island.

Christmas breaks on the water

Over the Christmas and New Year period we had some great weather. The usual sea breeze was around, at times a little strong but the mornings were fantastic. This was enjoyed by many of our members and at times, many non-members. Overall, the behaviour was pretty good, but we continue to see isolate incidents where some visitors, particularly non-members, that do not comply with all the rules.

I would like to remind all members that it is our responsibility to ensure we do our best to educate other users. Occasionally you may need help with someone that is being non-compliant, and I would also take this opportunity to thank our Ranger, Linda, for her amazing support. One incident over the break stood out. We had 2 boats rafted up that had 5 dogs on board. They were approached by members of the GIFAA committee, and the rules were politely explained to them. Unfortunately, they did not take kindly to this information and became a little aggressive towards the committee members. This can happen and I would remind everyone to stay calm and act in the professional manner that we all do. A quick call for back up, led to attendance by the Fremantle Water Police in their large support Vessel Cygnet V (and later followed up by a smaller vessel that was actually able to fit into the bay). This led to the offenders being contacted and they quickly left the bay under continued observation by the Water Police and Ranger (and maybe a few satisfied GIFAA Committee members). This was a great outcome, and I would again thank everyone involved.



Callendar of Events

Australia Day Reminder

We will be having our annual Australia Day BBQ on Sunday 25th January. Starting at 12:00 pm with a free sausage sizzle for all members at the picnic area in Herring Bay. Please come along dressed in your best Aussie colours and enjoy the celebrations with us.

GIFAA Day – Save the date

We will be holding our annual GIFAA Day celebrations over the February / March long weekend. There will be heaps of activities for the kids on the Sunday Morning as well as auctions, raffles and a sausage sizzle for all on Sunday 1st March. Please come along, enjoy some fellowship with your committee and members and support our fantastic association.

Facilities Update

Our little piece of paradise is looking amazing. The grass has never looked so green and even the birds are singing merrily. Thank you to all the members that have commented so positively on our newly installed foot path. It is great to see it getting so much use and provides the committee with inspiration for whatever the next project is. One small fly in our ointment is our BBQ's in Herring Bay. We are aware that 1 or 2 of the BBQ's seem to be a bit temperamental at times. This is being worked on by our Ranger, and we hope to have a solution for you soon. In the meantime, please do your best to share our available resources with other members and public users.

Did you know

The island has a depauperate fauna (lacking in numbers or variety of species) in comparison with the nearby mainland. There are 14 species of reptile including two geckos, a legless lizard, nine skinks, the carpet python (MORELIA SPILOTA) and the tiger snake (NOTECHIS SCUTATUS). There is a single frog species, LITORIA MOOREI.

There are four native mammals on the island, the white-striped mastiff bat (TADARIDA AUSTRALIS), King River bat (EPTESICUS REGULUS), Gould's wattled bat (CHALINOLOBUS GOULDII), and the Tammar wallaby (MACROPUS EUGENII). Thirteen species of butterfly have been recorded, including JUNONIA VILLIDA and JALMENUS INOUS, which are declining in the Perth area.

The bird fauna of the island is more diverse, with 115 species recorded. Of these, only 46 species are residents or regular visitors. There are 18 resident landbirds including forest species such as grey fantail (RHIPIDURA FULGINOSA) and golden whistler (PACHYCEPHALA PECTORALIS), and aerial foragers of heathlands such as welcome swallows (HIRUNDO NEOXENA) and willy wagtails (RHIPIDURA LEUCOPHRYNS).

The island provides a predator free breeding site for species such as painted button quail (TURNIX VARIA), fairy tern (STERNA NEREIS), and little penguin (EUDYPTULA MINOR). The island is used by 30 birds listed on international migratory bird agreements (JAMBA, CAMBA, and the Bonn Convention) and is a breeding site for osprey (PANDION HALIAETUS), bridled tern (STERNA ANAETHETUS) and rainbow bee-eater (MEROPS ORNATUS).

(Source: HMAS Stirling Website)

From the Mooring Manager

We currently have one mooring available for Primary User allocation in Pig trough Bay. This is mooring 102.

If you are a current member and are keen to secure a mooring, please contact our Mooring Manager - Ken Reynolds on 0411 252 759.

That's a wrap.

Thanks once again for everyone that works so tirelessly behind the scenes to make our association stronger. I hope all our members are enjoying the many activities we are coordinating, and you are making the most of our piece of paradise. As usual please drop me a note if you have any questions. I look forward to catching up with everyone at the island soon.

Keep Smiling

This one's for you ...

Researchers for the new extension of Tonkin Highway found that more than 150 crows were injured in the area around the road works. A bird pathologist has confirmed that these injuries were due to vehicle impacts.

During the detailed analysis, the pathologist noted that varying colours of paint appeared on the birds' beak and claws. By analysing the bird's paint samples, it was ascertained that 98% of crows had been hit by trucks, while only 2 % were hit by cars,

An ornithologist was called to determine whether there was a reason for the disproportionate percentage of truck versus car injuries. They discovered that when crows eat roadkill, they always have a lookout crow perched in a nearby tree to warn of impending danger.

The scientific conclusion as that while all the lookout crows could say "cah", non could say "truck".

And finally

Scientists recently combined DNA of a cheetah with the DNA of a crab. Things went sideways real fast.

Take care and be diver aware.

Pete Fry

Secretary