



## GIFAA Newsletter May 2025

### An update from your committee

Hello GIFAA Members.

Vale Warren Caird



I hope this message finds you well. It is with deep sadness that I share the news of the passing of one of our members, Warren Caird. Warren and his wife Keryl were often seen in the bay on their boat Cocomo and many of us had the chance to experience his jovial manner and welcoming smile.

Warren was an avid boatie and a member of the Swan Yacht Club.

Warren's presence will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Keryl, his family and friends during this difficult time. He will be fondly remembered by all of us.

### Easter Activities

This year the weather gods smiled upon us for the Easter break, and it was great to see a good turnout. I must say that the standard of Easter Hat was fantastic. This year, Kelly set the bar very high and took out the major prizes. I'm sure he has already put some thought to next years event so the rest of you should start getting organised if you want to be in the running. Thank you, Linda, for your excellent judging.

Perhaps the second-best hat on the day was the piñata. The kids all had a great time and when the winning blow was struck, it was on for all to grab the candy. Unfortunately, that hat did not make it through the day and will also not be in appearance for the next event.

It was also fantastic to see many of the members, including the bigger kids, making use of the games and activities that we keep stored in the shed. Please remember that all your committee members have a key to this shed and are more than happy to open it up for you to access these activities.





### Callendar of Events

GIFAA Opening Day - Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October (To be confirmed)

GIFAA AGM - Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November

### Facilities Update

For some time, many of us have found it a great workout (yeah right!) to trek up the hill to the picnic area and through to boggy sand. Well thanks to the great help from Sefton, Aaron, Patrick, Wayne and our fantastic Ranger, Linda. We are now able to make that trek with a much lower level of difficulty. We spent about a week between Easter and Anzac Day creating a path up the hill with the left-over limestone blocks and other material that we were able to acquire.

The path looks great, very rustic and should hopefully enable many more people to join us in the picnic area for Saturday afternoon barbecues. Please note that we have done our best to stabilise the neighbouring dunes and reduce the impact from water run off but given the harshness of the environment there may be times when not all the path is perfectly flat. Please mind your steps as you proceed.





### Did you know

Garden Island has three separate listings on the Commonwealth Heritage List

- The whole of Garden Island, listed for natural heritage values
- Cliff Point Historic Site, for colonial settlement values: and
- J Gun Battery, Entrance Point (also known as Challenger Battery), listed for WW11 coastal defence values.

Two shipwrecks located within Naval Waters, the *Day Dawn* and the *DATO*, are listed on the Register of the National Estate and are protected under the Commonwealth Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976. Garden Island is also included on State and Municipal Heritage lists.

(Source: HMAS Stirling History and Heritage Brochure)

### 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

### **Keep Smiling**

Every day brings new choices. The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today, the future starts today, not tomorrow. Remember to embrace the present moment and make the most of each opportunity. Keep your face always toward the sunshine - and shadows will fall behind you.

Take care and be diver aware.

Pete Fry

Secretary