

This paper, limited to one page, sets out a basic view of the possibilities for the future of WG Holloway Park in Lady Barron. It does not provide a comprehensive analysis nor is that intended. The paper simply highlights some possibilities for use of the facility which the Lady Barron Hall Special Committee, set up by Flinders Council, has a responsibility for administering. The General Manager of Flinders Council has requested that the matter be discussed with the committee prior to any representation to the council. My hope is that the committee would endorse an application to the council for the proposal should an application be made. I would be happy to discuss the matters raised with the committee.

Furneaux Maritime History Association Inc., an incorporated society, is looking for a site to construct a maritime museum. Around 3 years ago the society commenced a process to purchase the figurehead of the *Farsund*. The purchase is now complete and the society is looking for a permanent home to display the figurehead. A condition of sale imposed by the vendor is that the figurehead must be displayed in Lady Barron. The *Farsund* is grounded around 10 kilometers from Lady Barron and the vendor reasoned that it would be appropriate for the figurehead to be housed as near as possible to the location of the wreck.

One site which is very suitable for a museum building is in the vicinity of the defunct netball courts at Holloway Park.

The association is not looking for funding from the council, but would no doubt welcome any contributions, especially by way of discounts for set up fees. The association would look at raising funds to construct a building of around 6m X 12m. Funding would be by soliciting interested locals. It is anticipated that items of a maritime nature would be readily available from the local community for display. In fact, a number of residents have already offered artefacts for display. The association would talk to the council about entering a long term lease of the ground on which a building would be constructed. Obviously, the association would seek to ensure that the proposed rent would be minimal.

Siting a museum in WG Holloway Park has lots of advantages. It has connections for power and water. It has toilets. It has kitchen facilities which the museum could use to make tea and coffee for visitors. If a coin operated shower and laundromat for use by visiting boaties (refer later) were to be sited in the area then the museum would receive more visitors – and, more importantly, the visitors would see the museum which would enhance their stay in Lady Barron.

The concept of a museum in Lady Barron has two immediate benefits. The first is the preservation and display of historical maritime artefacts. The second is that a museum would add another feature for visitors to Lady Barron. There is precious little to entertain visitors at present.

The proposed museum would not be in competition with the museum operated by Furneaux Museum and Historical Society. The constitution of Furneaux Maritime History Association states that on dissolution any surplus assets are to be distributed to the existing museum. It should be noted that there are maritime museums at Low Head and Georgetown which are far closer than the 45 kms which would be the distance between the two museums on Flinders Island and both co-exist without any conflict.

It has been a long standing view that coin operated showers and laundry facilities should be established at Lady Barron, probably in the vicinity of the slipway, for visiting boat crews. That may be a suitable place. However, it is contended that a more suitable site would be WG Holloway Park. This facility, owned by the council, already has toilets, said to be large enough to house showers. Laundry facilities might require a small building to be constructed or it might be possible to fit machines within the existing building.

The next step would be to consider allowing the grounds at WG Holloway Park to be used for camping. They already are used for that purpose, but, with museum staff in the area [or, maybe a council appointed honorary monitor] there would be formal supervision of camping activities. There is even a simple playground on site. It is suggested that the camping facility could be enhanced by the installation of power supply stations. The kitchen could be opened for use by campers.

One further matter which should be considered is the development of cabin accommodation units on the vacant land at WG Holloway Park. Although it is not the brief of this paper the demographic of the likely users of this type of accommodation means they are not likely to compete with commercial providers such as Furneaux Tavern or residential house accommodation. The island has a perceived shortage of housing. While this type of housing might not be suitable for permanent occupation, it may very well suit interim needs. As well as providing accommodation for campers.

It should be disclosed that Cr Stockton is the Public Officer of Furneaux Maritime History Association Inc. and Crs Peter Rhodes and Willis are members, but have no official positions.