



## Underwater archaeological investigations: Bunbury Jetty objects found and sent to museum

An underwater archaeological investigation has been undertaken along a section of the demolished Bunbury Timber Jetty, as part of the Transforming Bunbury Waterfront project.

Commissioned by the Department of Transport and managed by Ventia, the work saw maritime archaeologists from the Maritime Heritage Department at the Western Australian Museum (WAM) collaborate with a commercial dive team from Engineering Technology Services (ETS).

The objectives of the underwater archaeological investigations were to excavate test pits to document the nature of the seabed and sub-seabed layers around the demolished jetty footprint and to identify any surviving cultural deposits.

Dredging operations are required before construction of the proposed northern breakwater and these investigations were planned prior to this taking place.

The underwater archaeological investigations carried out in late October identified a range of objects relating to historical use of the jetty. A sample of these objects was retained for conservation and study at the WA Shipwrecks Museum in Fremantle.



Main Photo: *ETS Divers pre-dive preparation*  
Insert Photo: *WAM directing dive operations*

A State Government project

## Early Christmas present for locals and visitors



*The new shade shelters on Jetty Rd.*

Shade shelters have been installed on the Jetty Road Causeway, just in time for summer.

The new structures provide welcome relief from the sun along the causeway, which forms the eastern extent of Casuarina Boat Harbour adjacent to Koombana Bay.

The area has become an increasingly popular spot for recreation since being upgraded as part of Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront.

The upgrade improved amenity – helping to rejuvenate an underutilised part of the city. Locals and visitors are now seen regularly walking, running, cycling, and picnicking along the coastal strip.

The 2020 causeway upgrade project delivered by the Department of Transport involved major repairs to the causeway rock revetments.

It also involved reconstructing Jetty Road, and the addition of a penholder amenities building including public toilets, shared paths and landscaping, new car parking bays, improvements to utilities and the historical Arrol Crane refurbishment.

## Community amenity improved

Used for both commercial and recreational craft, the Casuarina Boat Harbour launch ramp is one of the busiest in Bunbury with thousands of launches each year.

To improve the area for community use, Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront has been undertaking a range of staged enhancements. The latest initiative to enhance amenity is a new toilet block, constructed by local business Koormal Group. Nearly \$2 million has been spent on overall site upgrades, including a \$1.1 million modernisation of the boat ramp facility delivered by the Department of Transport.



*Hon Don Punch MLA, Member for Bunbury; Peter Westgate, Operations Manager Regional Services, Department of Transport; and Kyra Nimmo, South West Development Commission, Project Manager, Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront at the new toilet block.*





## Planning now, for future waterfront development



Exciting transformations are on the horizon. Among the developments planned for Stage 3.1 of Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront are breakwaters in Koombana Bay and Casuarina Boat Harbour that will unlock a marine industry precinct.

The State Government, with the support of the local marine industry community, is already looking beyond this phase to Stage 3.2.

The marine industry now has a direct voice to the team behind the Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront project.

A reference group has been established to advise and provide guidance to the State Government on future waterfront development.

The aim is to ensure a coordinated approach to planning for a future TBW Stage 3.2 that considers the input of the marine industry and community.

Other benefits include assistance with the identification of key maritime and community facilities required to maximise marine and associated commercial development and related jobs.

The reference group will additionally serve as an avenue for feedback to project delivery agencies during the construction of TBW Stage 3.1, which will assist in Stage 3.2 planning.

Considerable work has already been undertaken on improving marine facilities in Bunbury, including major repairs to the Jetty Road Causeway rock revetments, the modernisation of the Casuarina Boat Harbour boat launching facility, and improvements to the trailer parking area. Stage 3 is led by the South West Development Commission, working closely with Department of Transport (as Delivery Manager) and with other organisations in partnership.

The reference group is chaired by Regional Development Minister Don Punch and supported by the South West Development Commission.



*Regional Development Minister Don Punch and South West Development Commission Chief Executive Officer Mellisa Teede (centre of image) at the first meeting of the Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront Stage 3.2 Reference Group.*

### What's planned



Infrastructure to support future development of the marine industry and provide long-term assets for the community to enjoy:

#### New breakwaters

at Casuarina Boat Harbour and Koombana Bay (pending environmental approval)

#### Serviced lease sites

at Casuarina Boat Harbour for marine commercial activities such as boat lifting, boat servicing and boat storage

#### Community facilities

such as toilets at Casuarina Boat Harbour boat ramp (complete) and recreational platforms at Koombana Bay

## What's happening on the waterfront: Qigong

On Sunday mornings, you will find the community coming together for Qigong on the beach at Jetty Baths.

The Silveryogies give locals the opportunity to enjoy the traditional Chinese practice at the popular beach during a weekly session that gets underway at 7:30am.

With the waterfront backdrop and sand underneath, it's an ideal location for improving health and wellbeing with gentle movements that benefit the body and mind.

"Jetty Baths provides the perfect setting to our Qi Gong classes," John McInerney from the Silveryogies said.

"Apart from the amazing views, fresh air and occasional dolphin viewings, we also experience tranquillity, safety, a flat, clean beach and the surrounding cafés we can visit after class.

For more information, follow:

[www.facebook.com/silveryogies](https://www.facebook.com/silveryogies)



*John McInerney leads the Silveryogies at Jetty Baths Beach*



### HARBOUR HIGHLIGHTS

## Fremantle Octopus

Congratulations, Fremantle Octopus – Winner of the WA Export Awards 2023 Agribusiness, Food and Beverages Category.

Did you know that Fremantle Octopus recently broke its record for one-day catch while fishing out of Bunbury?

The award-winning WA exporter of Western Rock Octopus, Fremantle Octopus, operates two boats out of Bunbury – and the South West harbour city is becoming increasingly important for the company.

"We are focused on fishing more vessels from a number of coastal locations in the South West of WA

over the next year or two," Fremantle Octopus Group managing director Glenn Wheeler said.

The company was named the winner of the Agribusiness, Food and Beverages Category at the WA Export Awards 2023 in October.

Fremantle Octopus controls 47 per cent of the Western Australian Octopus Managed Fishery licences and recorded an overall 51 per cent increase in export sales last financial year.



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