

MEDIA RELEASE

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Fremantle Prison commemorates 20 years as a major visitor attraction

This week marks 20 years since Fremantle Prison opened to the public as a visitor attraction.

Fremantle Prison opened for tours in January 1992 just two months after it was decommissioned as a maximum security prison on 8 November 1991.

Fremantle Prison Executive Manager Bevan Beaver said the site was an important part of Western Australia's history.

"Since opening as a visitor attraction on 24 January 1992, Fremantle Prison has become an integral part of the Western Australian tourism industry and has welcomed more than 2.7 million visitors through the gates," Mr Beaver said.

"Western Australians should not only be proud of Fremantle Prison's history but of what it has achieved in the last 20 years as a visitor attraction, including being named Perth's first and only World Heritage site last year."

In 2010, Fremantle Prison entered the WA Tourism Awards Hall of Fame for Major Tourist Attraction.

"Originally known as the Convict Establishment, the Prison was built by convict labour between 1852 and 1859 from limestone quarried on site. It housed 10,000 convicts during this time," Mr Beaver said.

"Over the decades the Prison saw 44 hangings and 1,000 prisoners at its busiest time, making it the main place of incarceration for Western Australia."

Following its closure extensive community consultation was undertaken and Fremantle Prison began its transformation into one of the State's major historic heritage sites.

Fremantle Prison is open daily for guided tours, except Christmas Day and Good Friday. Admission to the Gatehouse complex is free and is open 9.00am to 5.00pm daily.

The Prison is managed by the Department of Finance – Building Management and Works.

For more information, please visit www.fremantleprison.com.au

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