



BRUNY ISLAND QUARANTINE STATION

Newsletter – Summer Edition – 2019/20

Wildcare Friends of Bruny Is Quarantine Station work in partnership with Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service to care for this special reserve.

Palisade Fence

We know that the original medical quarantine station boasted a high wooden fence that surrounded the mortuary, hospital, doctor's quarters and entrance "cleansing" room. The fence allowed authorities to secure "residents" within and each state maritime quarantine station had its own tall fence style. Visitors to the station have long been fascinated by how authorities contained the sick "residents".

In conjunction with Tasmania Parks and Wildlife (PWS), we have erected a short section of reproduction fence based on original pictures and using original post hole depressions. The "new" fence has greatly enhanced interpretation and the visitor experience. Many thanks to Peter, Richard and John for your "hard labor" also to Peter Rigozzi (PWS Heritage Officer) for his advice and direction.

Aboriginal occupation of the peninsula

We are often asked about activities of the first custodians of the Quarantine Peninsula, people of the Nuenonne Nation of Tasmanian Aborigines. Our

archives revealed a detailed survey conducted in 2000 by Sim and West. Five stone artifacts were found on the peninsula confirming Aboriginal movements across the site. Due to the lack of permanent original water holes on the site the authors of the survey surmise that long term occupation of the land may have been less likely.

Superintendent's house

Many Friends of Bruny Island Quarantine Station will be familiar with the large grey coloured house on the hill above the main visitor precinct. PWS have done a wonderful exterior conservation on the house and we congratulate them on their excellent work...and their contractors.

Governor's Visit.

Tasmania's 28th Governor, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC recently visited Quarantine Station. She was interested in its amazing history and the work done to conserve the site.



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Science Day 2019

Our annual Science Fun Day was held on October 6. Over 200 people took part in activities, picnics, relaxing, walking, learning about science and a birthday party! Many thanks to Inspiring Australia, UTAS, sponsors, PWS and our large team of committed volunteers, incl. PWS volunteer caretakers.

Orchids and Orchids Sign

Many plants were quarantined on the Station during the 1950's. Show orchids were among the participants and our own pots are on show now!

Native orchids abound in the beautiful bushland and the new native orchid sign now helps visitors understand some of our flora. Many thanks to Malcolm Wells for assisting our committee with native orchid identification. There are photos of all native orchids found in the Flora & Fauna Folder on site.

Mortuary Interpretation

We are excited to commence plans with PWS to interpret the mortuary building. Research indicates that the style of small double brick building, with few windows, was also used in small rural English mortuaries. Work on doors and brick stabilization is needed before PWS open to the public. Fortunately, we think that very few deceased patients used this building. This was possibly due to the long sea voyages needed to get to Tasmania from places like Europe.

What's planned?

The committee is discussing future working bees, the mortuary interpretation, continuing renovation work on dams and new display panels for larger events. New historical information is constantly coming to our notice and the German Diary translations give fascinating insights into station life.

We thank PWS Bruny Is staff for their work and Ranger Jennifer Mudge for her leadership and assistance this year. Jen's attention to detail and understanding of the site's management needs have assisted us greatly.



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Young scientist learning some nature-based geometry, Science Day.

We wish all Friends of Bruny Is Quarantine Station (FOBIQS) an enjoyable festive season and a successful 2020. Please feel free to contact us if you have any ideas or feedback or would like to help the committee with our activities during 2020.



Governor's visit



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2019 Orchids.: Orchids were one of the plants quarantined on the station



Top: archival picture of stabilisation of north wall of mortuary in the early days of FOBIQS.

Below: smart new exterior to Superintendents' house



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Palisade fence replication in its original position.



Native orchid sign close to where we find orchids, just south of the interpretation centre.