



BRUNY ISLAND QUARANTINE STATION

December 2020 Newsletter

Major Planning Day

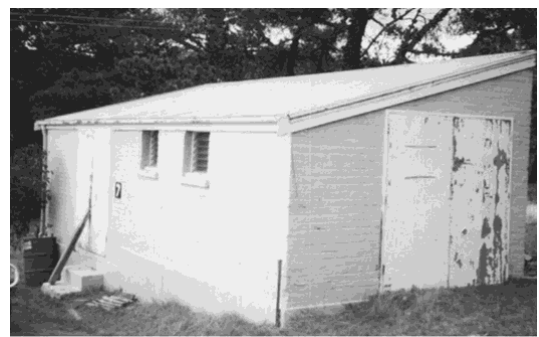
FOBIQS were extremely fortunate to have many experts on site on Tuesday December 1st. to guide forward planning for the Station. The day was kind to us with only a little threatening rain! Kathy's delicious cakes and morning tea kicked off the neurons!

Rangers Jen and Brett, heritage expert Peter, building expert Roger, medical heritage experts Phil and Liz, joined forces with FOBIQS committee members (Rob, Richard and Kathy) to ponder on the next conservation and interpretation steps for our interesting double brick mortuary (1885). Drainage, bricks, doors, paint and possible interpretation were some items on this unique building's agenda.

Copious notes were taken, ideas were pushed and massaged, research was interrogated, and draft plans formulated.

The group also reviewed needs of all other buildings on site.

Bringing the smart heads together was extremely valuable and this meeting may be a useful strategy every two years (or so) for our Station.



Double Brick Mortuary 1885



Example of paint restoration required one of the buildings.



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Visit to the Quarantine Station from Paul Thost, translator

At the beginning of WW1 the officers and crew of the merchant ship, Oberhausen were arrested and eventually transferred to the Quarantine Station on Bruny Island for a period of time.

In 2014 Wildcare, Friends of the Bruny Island Quarantine Station held an Oberhausen Day and also attempted to connect with the descendants of the Germans aboard the Oberhausen.

In 2016 a granddaughter of the 4th Officer, Fritz Stegherr, contacted Kathy and offered one of her grandfather's diaries kept during his time as a POW. A facsimile is housed in a glass cabinet at the Visitors Centre on-site. The diary is written in olde German, which many Germans can't read. Doro Forsck began the task of translating the diary and this was then taken over by Paul Thost. Paul has so far translated 375 pages of the 578 page diary.

Paul visited the Quarantine Station in November where he was able to view the original diary as well as visit the site where the Germans were interned and see the building described in the diary he has been so meticulously translating.



Paul and Kathy viewing the original diary.

Getting Back to the New Normal

After a short period of being closed the Quarantine Station is now back and operational with some Covid safe amendments.

Caretakers are back on-site and are on 6-week rotations. Casual Caretakers are now able to register using this link.

<https://eur05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpipwe.tas.gov.au%2Fabout-the-department%2Fvolunteering-at-dpipwe%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cce8766e4b5614edf370208d88b727c1e%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaa>



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COME AND FIND YOUR ANCESTOR ON THEIR

LAST STOP BEFORE HOME

Details of 9,000 soldiers quarantined available for viewing
Family friendly games
BYO picnic
Ample car parking available at the Quarantine Station



BRUNY ISLAND QUARANTINE STATION
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14th, 2021
10 – 2 PM

Post War Influenza Pandemic (Spanish Flu)

Due to the outbreak of the Spanish Influenza in 1918 all returning soldiers were required to isolate at the Quarantine Station for 1 week before heading home as of February 1919.

The pandemic of 1919 was a busy time in Bruny Island's history with around 9,000 troops being quarantined at the station over a 10-month period.

Last Stop Before Home is an opportunity for people to investigate the lives of these soldiers in quarantine and to look at the differences and similarities between 1919 and 2020.

Fundraising – Did you know that you can help Friends of Bruny Island Quarantine Station continue to restore and preserve the buildings and other historical features by donating on the Wildcare web site.

<https://wildcaretas.org.au/product/branch-fundraising-friends-of-bruny-island-quarantine-station/> Copy and paste this into your web browser and follow the prompts.