



Guest Editor - Harry Beiers

## CEMETERY PROJECT - MAY 2014

During 2013 Harry Beiers suggested FOPIA arrange for a metal detector so that further research into the cemetery area could be undertaken. Grave marker plates for both the Quarantine Station and the Lazaret are located within the cemetery.



*Gordon with metal detector and Harry and Karilyn "searching"*

Over the years, FOPIA members have spent many hours endeavouring to uncover grave marker plates and have stabilised and secured the wooden grave sites and the grave sites with steel pipes and wooden corner posts.

The steel pipe grave sites without corner posts have been marked, however, the steel pipes remained on the ground.

A number of the grave marker plates had been lost since 1990 when Peter Ludlow, with the help of the Army (refer July Newsletter) first surveyed the cemetery.

At the General Meeting in March 2014, it was suggested a 5 day Activity Weekend be arranged for May, during which time further investigations with a metal detector take place. Scott Fowle contacted QPWS and QYAC. Approval was granted provided FOPIA agreed to adhere to procedures and protocol.

Harry approached Kennards Hire at Cleveland. Hire costs for a metal detector were quoted at \$250-300 for five days and expenditure was approved at the March 2014 meeting.

QPWS supplied a number of star picket posts and Scott provided metal identification tags for future reference.

Between 17 and 21 May, 2014, Harry and Karilyn Beiers, Scott Fowle and Gordon and Jean Wilson carried out the survey.



*Star Picket with Identification Tag*



Painted row markers

The known general cemetery area of 57m x 56m was pegged and 5m wide grids marked with pink string line. Six permanent star picket survey pegs were positioned on the perimeter, painted and the identification tags affixed. Painted wooden markers indicate the start of each row of grave sites and remain in situ.



Before and after - Lazaret #6

Scott prepared a map of the area and, as each grave marker plate was located, it was recorded.



The markers were cleaned and placed vertically at the location where found.

Some of the markers required further cleaning.



Before and after - Lazaret #28



In addition to the grave marker plates, a buried wooden corner post was found together with remnants from a glass dome and miscellaneous items including a steel rod, a steel strap, the end section of a pit saw, a carcass hook and a mattock head.



Carcass Hook



Mattock Head



End Section of a Pit Saw



Many of the marker plates were well below the surface and could not have been located without the aid of the metal detector.

Before and after - Quarantine Station Grave Marker



In summary :

- 24 grave marker plates were found (5 of which had been missing since Peter Ludlow's 1990 survey) and all the grave marker plates located by Peter have now been recorded
- 83 Quarantine Station and Lazaret grave marker plates were recorded
- a number of grave sites without marker plates but identified by wooden crosses and the like were located and recorded
- the total of all grave sites now recorded is in excess of 90.

Before and after - Quarantine Station #36



When the metal detector was returned, Leigh from Kennards Hire reduced the rental to \$160.00.

By way of appreciation, Leigh was given a copy of *"...Going to the Gums..."*.

Leigh and Harry with Metal Detector



Story by Harry Beiers