



FOPIA Newsletter

October 2018

Editor - Peter Ludlow

QPWS Vessels used to Transport FOPIA Members to Peel Island



For a number of years, the "Otter" has become a very valuable workhorse for the QPWS Rangers.

Being amphibious, it has the ability to drive out of the water and onto the sand where passengers and crew can disembark.

This saves a lot of time compared when the earlier vessel, the "Limosa", was used.

Unfortunately the "Otter" has a capacity to carry only four passengers whereas the "Limosa" could accommodate six.

Passengers also need to be agile enough to climb in and out of the "Otter".

The QPWS recently took delivery of their new 7.5m barge, the "Joongarra". This vessel is more suited to carrying trades people, their tools and the materials they may need, provided the materials are not too big and bulky. The "Joongarra" is not big enough to carry a normal sized Ute, however, the new side-by-side vehicle recently obtained by QPWS will fit onboard.



The photos show the "Otter" coming ashore and on land at Peel Island and the arrival of the "Joongarra"



Last June, FOPIA members had the opportunity to travel to Peel Island on the "Joongarra" as the "Otter" was undergoing repairs. The bow door on the "Joongarra" drops down and allows passengers to easily walk on and off, however, the vessel is tide dependent and requires a high tide to operate at Peel Island.

Grading of Tracks

In August 2017, the QPWS hired a grader to regrade the tracks around Peel Island.

To assist with their work, FOPIA members have use of the new and versatile side-by-side vehicle.

The vehicle is narrow and well suited for getting into and around the Cemetery.

Fallen branches and leaf litter are able to be loaded onto the back tray and driven out to the perimeter where the tray can be tilted and emptied.



The photos show the newly graded track from the Lazaret to the site of the former Western Jetty; FOPIA member, Kelsey, with one of the loads of debris that he and Scott collected from the Cemetery and the bank of Solar Panels with the new Machinery/Workshop in the background

Thanks go to our President, Scott Fowle, for providing the photos and the information for this month's newsletter.

Solar Installation and the New Machinery/Workshop

In June 2011, a solar system had been installed and was operating on Peel Island, thus avoiding the continual drone of the generator.

The new machinery/workshop was completed in 2016 and has enough room to house all the equipment and provide plenty of workbench space.

