



FOPIA Newsletter

June 2019

Editor - Peter Ludlow

Peel Island Lazaret's Buffalo Lodge

The Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes (RAOB) is a fraternal organisation started in the United Kingdom in 1822 and is known as "the Buffs" to members.

The RAOB organisation aids members, their families, dependents of former members and other charitable organisations.

The Order's motto is "**No Man is at all Times Wise**" (Latin: Nemo Mortalium Omnibus Horis Sapit), its maxim being "**Justice, Truth and Philanthropy**".

The Order has a Rule Book, Manual of Instruction and Ceremony Lectures which are issued and revised by the Grand Lodge of England. The "lodge" description for branch organisation and headquarters was adopted in imitation of Freemasonry.

Refer Source: Wikipedia



Peel Island Lazaret's Recreation Hall in 1956-7

(Photo courtesy of Barbara Walker)

Peel's Buffalo Lodge - Bayview 99 - was consecrated on the 3rd of April 1950 by Bro. E. Franklin, ROH, W.G.P, who was also a founder of the lodge.



The man behind the formation of the lodge was Bro. Frank Bennett. He was the live wire, spurred on with enthusiasm to get the lodge started and to give the male inmates of the institution another avenue of enjoyment to break the monotony of life on the island.

After the billiard table had been removed to another location in the new recreation hall, Bayview Lodge 99 held their meetings in the old billiard room at the settlement. On large occasions the recreation hall was used and this was often filled to capacity.

A night at lodge was something to be enjoyed and remembered. Membership at the lodge peaked at about 15-20 per meeting on a fortnightly basis.

Visitations from city lodges and from Stradbroke Lodge at Dunwich were always a highlight. Not only were patients members, but a large proportion of the staff were active Buffs, especially during the latter days of the institution's existence.

These staff brothers were the ones who actually kept the lodge going as, pending closure of the institution, patients were systematically transferred to the mainland. Lodge meetings were well conducted and played an important part in the social life of the island.

Bayview Lodge 99 was indeed a unique lodge, formed under never to be repeated circumstances. It may go down in history as the only lodge ever to operate or be constituted within the precincts of a Lazaret.

May the memory and the achievements of Bayview Lodge 99 remain an integral and vital part of the history of the Buffalo Order in Queensland.

Bayview 99 a unique lodge in a unique situation!!

Story by Barrie Shrimpton
July 27, 1988

The Lost Keg

On a wet and windy Friday night, kegs were being loaded onto the "Flirt" to be consigned to the Buffaloes' Stradbroke Lodge.

One keg had been carried down the stairs of the Paxton Street Jetty and placed on the landing prior to being loaded. The other keg was being carried down the steps when the carrier slipped in the wet conditions and the keg he was carrying knocked the first keg, so that both kegs finished in the Bay.

The Lodge advertised to let it be known that finders could have the contents as long as the Lodge got the kegs back - there was a £7 deposit on each keg.

One was returned very promptly but the other remained missing for some time until a party, returning from Cleveland to Dunwich, found the keg embedded on Cassim Island and exposed by a very low tide.

The contents as stated were said to be in good condition!!



Story by Ben Coghill, Dunwich