



FOPIA Newsletter

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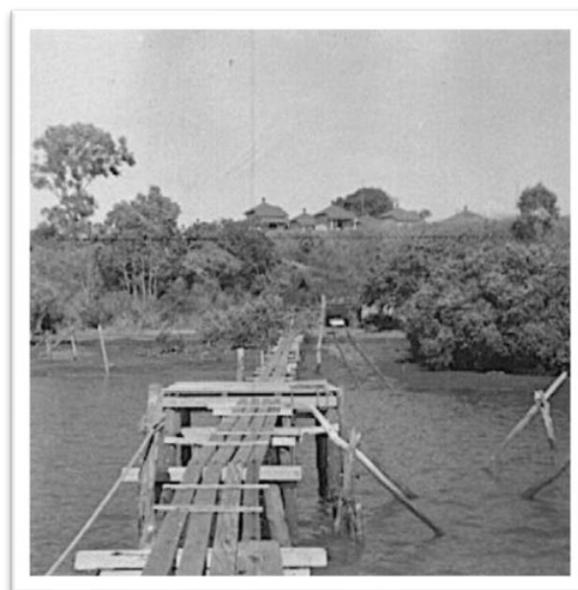
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Accessing Peel Island - Part 3

The third access point to Peel Island was via the patients' jetty which straddled the mud flats from the Lazaret Gutter right up to the embankment below the Lazaret itself. It was constructed by the patients with materials supplied by the Health Department and was for the exclusive use of the patients and their boats.



These photos were taken in 1958 by a former patient, June Berthelsen.



The photo on the left shows the Men's Compound in the background at the top of the embankment.

Parts of the planking were submerged at high tide.

In the second photo, the cradle used by the patients to repair their boats can be seen to the right of the jetty.



The patients' jetty at Peel Island Lazaret - c.1955 (Photo courtesy of the late Dr Morgan Gabriel)

Dr Gabriel's photo, taken at low tide, shows the patients' jetty could only be used at or near high tide.

If a similar jetty for public use was contemplated today, it would need to be a much more substantial affair.

A jetty would need to extend out to the Lazaret Gutter if it were to be used during all tides. In addition, Northerly winds would make it difficult for boats to berth and the size of the vessels would be very limited.

The advantage in siting a jetty where the patients' jetty was previously located is that visitors arriving at such a jetty would land directly at the Lazaret, thus saving a 40 minute walk (each way) from Horseshoe Bay, as is the case these days.

A landing barge has previously been used to land tourists and supplies at Horseshoe Bay.



A landing barge at Horseshoe Bay.

FOPIA members leaving Horseshoe Bay on a landing barge.



(Photos courtesy of Friends of Peel Island)