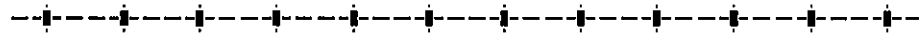
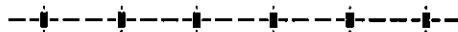


# TOWNSVILLE QUARANTINE STATION

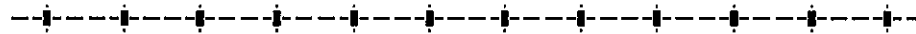


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# TOWNSVILLE QUARANTINE STATION

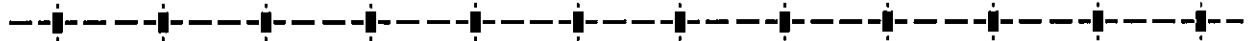


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# Time Line



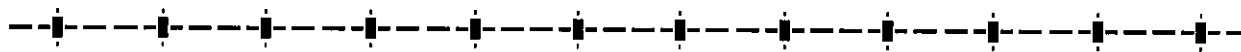
- 541 AD** First recorded evidence of an epidemic - Byzantine Court Historian Procopius wrote about a Pandemic of Plague (over the whole region or country or the known world) which wiped out a considerable portion of Medieval Europe.
- 1348** Isolation of ill people is thought to have begun in 1348 in Venice when a ship load of ill people were segregated from the public to protect the citizens of the city. They were detained for forty days, at which time it was thought that they were free of disease or would have succumbed to it.
- 13<sup>th</sup> Century** Another pandemic in Europe during which the population was reduced by one third.
- 1518** Quarantine regulations established by Britain. Under these regulations infected houses were sealed and marked with red, people were confined and the quarantine of ships was introduced.
- 1579 & 1670** Further pandemics swept through England.
- Post WW1** Flu pandemic
- 1849** Quarantine in the northern part of Australia began when a Quarantine Station established at Dunwich in July 189 in the Morton Bay District of NSW (Brisbane, Qld) after deaths were recorded on a ship at the Bay in January 1849
- After 1851** Spread of disease became a real issue after gold was discovered in 1851 in NSW and in Qld after the opening of mining fields at Crocodile Creek in Central Qld in 1866.

# Time Line (cont)



- 1867** The population exploded particularly after there was a rush of 15,000 diggers to Gympie and a rush later that year to Cape River in North Qld.
- 1884** The growth of population and the development of Australia as a sea trading nation made it obvious that there was a need to control the spread of infectious disease from other parts of the world. The first Queensland Health Act was introduced in 1884 – the other Australian colonies had drawn up complementary laws by the late 1890s.
- 1875** Magnetic Island set aside as a place of quarantine.
- 1878** Tents set up on beach at Picnic Bay, Magnetic Island – Butler family (early settlers) gave assistance to those in quarantine.
- 1884/85** First permanent buildings for a quarantine station constructed at West Point on Magnetic Island.
- 1885** *Quetta* quarantined – later lost in Torres Strait in 1890. First permanent buildings constructed at West Point.
- 1896** Buildings at West Point damaged by Cyclone Sigma
- 1897** Difficult location – lack of water – long way from doctors – ships located in shipping lane – people shipped by Lighter to Island.
- 1901** Commonwealth Quarantine Act introduced and control of quarantine passed to the Commonwealth Government.
- 1903** Damaged by Cyclone Leonta

# Time Line (cont)



- 1915/16** Buildings collapsed and ferried to the mainland at Pallarenda
- 1917** Cape Pallarenda was declared a Quarantine Station.  
Function of the Station – buildings; Segregation of people
- 1918** Death of 13 Vietnamese at Q Station – buried there
- 1939/45** Remained a Q Station during WW11  
WW11 Fortifications
- 1966/73** Quarantine hospital for Army – Malay Emergency
- 1973** Last patient quarantined at Q Station
- 1974** Australian Institute of Marine Science established at former Quarantine Station
- 1981** 44 hectares of land including the Q Station complex was purchased from the Federal government
- 1982** Area gazetted as an environmental part under Queensland National Parks & Wildlife Service control.
- 1990/91** Restoration and conservation of buildings
- 1991** Became the Department of Environment & Heritage Regional office (now known as the Environmental Protection Agency)

# Information about the buildings and Pallarenda site

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Townsville was selected as a site for a quarantine station because it was the first or second port of call of ships coming from Asia or the Pacific Island and because the town had permanent medical practitioners.

The first quarantined patients are reported to have been housed in tents at Picnic Bay in 1878. These people were left to care for themselves. The Butler family, who were the first settlers on the island, often cared for people in quarantine.

## West Point Station

The first permanent buildings for a quarantine station were built at West Point on Magnetic Island in 1884/5.

The buildings on West Point were damaged in 1896 by Cyclone Sigma and again in 1903 by Cyclone Leonta.

Why West Point was abandoned as a quarantine station:

1. There was always a severe shortage of water at the Quarantine Station on the Island.
2. The sheet isolation of the Island station forced it to be abandoned as a quarantine site in 1915. Supplies were only brought to the station once a fortnight and the Superintendent had an enormously difficult task in maintaining the complex.
3. The Port of Townsville developed into the second busiest port in Queensland between the years 1885 and 1900. With the provision of deep water berths along the Eastern Breakwater, coastal trading ships and overseas steamships no longer had to anchor in the channel.
4. The establishment of the Institute of Tropical Diseases at the Townsville Hospital made it desirable that the Quarantine Station be more easily accessible for the staff of the Institute.

# Information about the buildings and Pallarenda site (cont)

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## Pallarenda Quarantine Station

The Commonwealth Government decided to relocate the Station to the mainland to alleviate some of the difficulties.

A jetty was constructed for the Quarantine Launch bring patients from the Port.

A road was built across the Town Common from German Gardens (now Belgian Gardens) and the Pallarenda site was cleared of scrub.

The buildings at West Point were collapsed and brought by barge to Pallarenda.

## **Quarantine Station Tour Jetty**

The jetty was destroyed by Cyclone Althea in December 1971.

Luggage was brought on a trolley, along tram rails, over the creek to the fumigation shed.

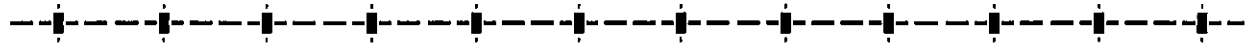
The passengers had to walk the short distance to the Bath House.

## **Bath House (Bld 16) (Office & Store shed)**

This building was divided in two for men and women/ children.

The passengers showered and changed into hospital clothes and moved into accommodation allocated to them

# Information about the buildings and Pallarenda site (cont)



This building was constructed from new materials in 1915.

## **Fumigation Shed Bld 15 (Museum)**

The shed was constructed of new materials in 1915. The trolley rails passed through a formalin cyanide chamber where the fumes penetrated any luggage containers which could not be sterilised by steam heat.

The steam engine was supervised by an engine driver.

## **Laundry (Bld 14) (Store Shed)**

This was a new building in 1915

## **Store Shed (Bld 13) (Storage Shed)**

This was an 1884 store shed which was re-located at Pallarenda.

## **Fuel shed, Store shed, Stables & Workshop 2 - Blocks In Picnic Area N/E**

These buildings were constructed along the foreshore in front of the fumigation shed in 1915. They were all demolished in 1984.

## **Caretaker's Residence (Cultural Heritage Office facilities) (Bld 12)**

This was the caretakers residence at West Point. The building was re-erected at Pallarenda and the verandahs extended to surround the central core. Balustrading was added to the verandahs at that time.

## **Asiatic Area**

Constructed in 1915 as an area where tents could be erected. A small shelter shed was also built in this area.





# Information about the buildings and Pallarenda site (cont)

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## **First Class Passengers Quarters**

(Conference Building)  
(Bld 2)

This building was constructed in 1915 using half the West Point Hospital.

As with most of the buildings at Pallarenda, this building is surrounded with verandahs which have balustrading typical of the period.

The ceilings in this building and the Administration building are constructed in an unusual style. This type of ceiling construction can be found in several houses in Townsville.

The building had male and female toilets and bathrooms located in the corners of the rear verandahs.

**Married Quarters**  
(Wetlands Building)  
(Bld 6)

this building was the 1884 hospital kitchen from West Point.

Verandahs were added at the rear and northern sides of the structure in 1915. The front verandah was enclosed some time after World War 11.

Despite these alterations, the core 1884 structure is intact.



# Information about the buildings and Pallarenda site (cont)

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**Administration Block**  
(Marine Parks Building)  
(Bld 1)

This building housed the doctor's room, matron's room, nurses room, maid's rooms and examination room.

It was a new building in 1915.

**Dining Room**  
(Resource Building)  
(Bld 4)

This building was constructed from part of the single womens quarters from West Point.

In 1915 it was divided into three equal parts to provide separate dining rooms for the passengers.

The building has been divided into office space without destroying the original fabric of the structure.

**Kitchen (Bld 5)**  
(Graphics)

This building was the surgeon's quarters on West Point.

While the interior of the building has been altered for us as a graphics/photographic workspace the basic structure remains intact.

**Second Class Quarters**  
(Reception/Directors)  
(Bld 3)

This is the other half of the hospital building from West Point.

This building is identical in design to the First Class Quarters.

# Information about the buildings and Pallarenda site (cont)

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## **Second Assistants Quarters**

(Administration)      This building was constructed in 1921.  
(Bld 8)

   It was constructed with the same exterior  
character  
   as the rest of the complex, however, the  
interior  
   construction is a little different.

**Hospital Building**  
on the  
(Coastal Planning)  
(Bld 7)

The present hospital was constructed in 1974  
site of the 1915 hospital

Cyclone  
   The early building was severely damaged by  
Althea in 1971.

The site was extensively cleared in 1914. However, some remnants  
of the  
beach scrub survived. The strip of bush along the road at the rear  
of the  
complex retains some of the original trees, ie Burdekin Plums.

A list of the birds of the Environmental Park has been prepared and  
copies of  
this list can be found in the Museum.