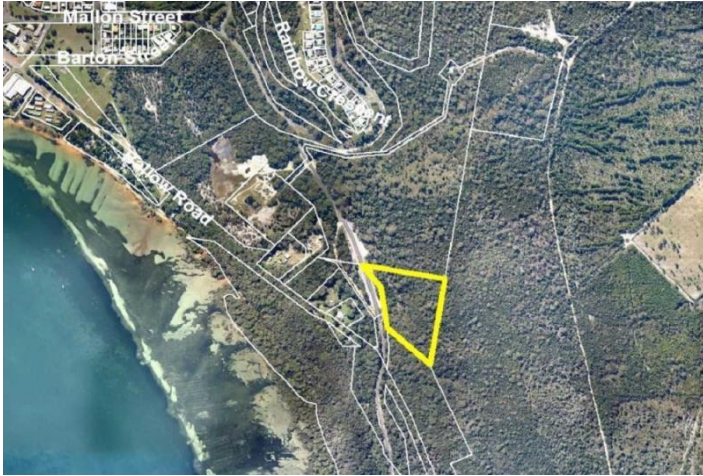


21 - DUNWICH: Stradbroke Island Lazaret Cemetery

Street Address	32 Ballow St, Dunwich
GPS/RPD	TBC
Place Type	Landscape



Red-e-map (RCC, 2017).



Lazaret Cemetery C.2004 - RCC

Condition	Good	Integrity	Good
Statutory Listings	Local Heritage Place		
Non-Statutory Listings	No current listing		
Inspection Date			

Historical Context

A lazaret for leprosy patients was established on Stradbroke Island in 1892, at Adam's Beach, one mile (1.6 kilometres) south of the Dunwich jetty.[1] The Stradbroke Lazaret Cemetery was created in the late nineteenth century and is believed to have been created for the deceased patients of the lazaret.[2] Established for white patients, it housed both lepers and inebriates under the *Inebriates Institutions Act 1896*, before facilities were moved to Peel Island in 1907 and 1910 respectively.[3] Before the formation of the lazaret, a number of Hansen's Disease patients were housed in tents at the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum.[4]

By the early twentieth century, the Stradbroke Island lazaret was open to non-white patients. A lazaret on Friday Island in the Torres Strait had originally been established for this purpose, however patients were moved to Stradbroke in preparation for the opening of a multi-racial lazaret at Peel Island.[5]

There were approximately 70 admissions to the Stradbroke Island lazaret. Three patients were recorded as being discharged, 35 died and any remaining patients were transferred to Peel Island. The deaths were recorded in the Dunwich Funeral Register, however, unlike inmates from the Benevolent Asylum, no grave number was recorded.[6] It is believed the deceased patients from the lazaret were buried at this cemetery.

Physical Description

The cemetery is located on a slope adjacent to a private road just south of Dunwich, and is not generally publicly accessible. A 2003 inspection noted about a dozen cloverleaf metal grave markers, some upright, and some lying loose on the sand, as well as one grave with headstone and metal and concrete surround. The headstone was reported to be that of Isaac John Innes, who died in 1897, at age 46 years.

Sand mining company CRL now maintains the cemetery. Pedestrian access from the road is provided via a short but steep sandy slope. There is no vehicular track.

The soil is sandy and vegetation comprises mature banksias, eucalypts and casuarinas, grasses and ferns. A recent pine paling fence surrounds the cemetery on three sides, with an opening along the gorge to the south.

This description is based on an earlier assessment completed in 2002. The site could not be examined due to restricted access.

Statement of Significance

Stradbroke Island Lazaret Cemetery is of local heritage significance and embodies historical, rarity and associative values. It is historically and socially important as the burial place of patients of the lazaret. It is a reminder of the social policies and attitudes of the late nineteenth century and a memorial to those patients that died of leprosy.

21 - DUNWICH: Stradbroke Island Lazaret Cemetery

Criteria A	The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.
Stradbroke Island Lazaret Cemetery is historically significant as surviving evidence of the lazaret operating on Stradbroke Island from 1892 to 1906.	
Criteria B	The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the region's cultural heritage.
Stradbroke Island Lazaret Cemetery, as the burial site of the lazaret patients, is important in demonstrating the social policies adopted by the Queensland Government in the late nineteenth century islands to deal with sick or disabled members of society. It illustrates how the Moreton Bay islands were used as places of social control and isolation, and attitudes to leprosy patients and the treatment of the disease.	
Criteria G	The place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons important to the region.
Stradbroke Island Lazaret Cemetery is socially important as a burial place of patients of the lazaret.	

Primary Themes

10.0 Providing Health and Welfare Services	10.01 Health services
7.0 Maintaining Order	7.03 Customs and quarantine services

References

- [1] The Telegraph, 24 November 1892, p. 2.
- [2] "Dunwich Cemetery," Stradbroke Island Website, 2017, <http://stradbrokeisland.com/straddie/view/dunwich-cemetery>.
- [3] Stradbroke Museum, 2017. <http://stradbrokeisland.com.au/dba>
- [4] John Prangell, 'Intended solely for their greater comfort and happiness': Historical archaeology, paternalism and the Peel Island Lazaret'. PhD Thesis, University of Queensland, 2002, p. 91.
- [5] Ibid., p. 92
- [6] Ibid., p. 92-93.