



POINT NEPEAN NATIONAL PARK
QUARANTINE STATION

SELF-GUIDED BROCHURE



On November 4th 1852 the SS Ticonderoga arrived from Liverpool with 300 cases of typhus, dysentery and measles on board. 100 souls had died on the voyage. A 'Sanitary Station' was hastily established on this site to protect the new colony from these ship-borne diseases.

The ship, especially the lower part was in a most filthy state, and did not appear to have been cleaned for weeks

Source 'Hell to Health' Major J.H. Welch

**POINT NEPEAN
QUARANTINE STATION**

The Point Nepean Quarantine Station is a place of outstanding historic significance. Established in 1852, it was the major place for quarantine purposes in Victoria until 1979 and closed in 1980. The site was used by the Army as the Officer Cadet School from 1952–1985 and as the School of Army of Health from 1985–1998. In 1999 the Quarantine Station buildings were used to accommodate Kosovo refugees.

Visitors to the site can see remarkably intact historic buildings in an isolated valley, with artefacts spanning over 150 years of quarantine and army use. There are three phases of building development at the Quarantine Station; the 1850s, 1890s and 1911–1919. Buildings from each of these periods contribute to a rich historic cultural landscape and reflect several significant developments in quarantine philosophy and practice.



The yellow flag is the universally recognised sign of quarantine and dates back to the 14th century.

Ships arriving at their destination were required to sit at anchor for 40 days before landing.

The word quarantine was derived from the Italian words *quaranta giorni* which means 40 days.

This is a self guided walk around some of the key buildings and features of the Quarantine Station – a valuable insight into a place with so many stories to tell. Audio tours of the entire park are also available from the Point Nepean Information Centre.

Point Nepean has a diversity of places to see including the military forts and tunnels and the memorial where Prime Minister Harold Holt disappeared. There are views of spectacular coastline, coastal tracks through moonah woodland to explore and native wildlife to discover.

We hope you enjoy this special place and keep returning to explore as the stories of Point Nepean's rich history continue to unfold.

Visitors are reminded to take caution while discovering the Quarantine Station as there are uneven surfaces and trip hazards. Where possible please keep to the paths and walking tracks.

**POINT NEPEAN
NATIONAL PARK**

Open daily
parks.vic.gov.au
13 1963



The history of Point Nepean spans back thousands of years to the Bunurong people. Since then the park has been used to quarantine people arriving in Victoria, defence forts and for military training.

It is a place that protects the unique plants and animals; celebrates its rich history and welcomes the community to its stunning landscapes.

The Quarantine Station has now become part of the National Park. This fulfils the long term aspirations of the community for future generations to learn from and enjoy one of Victoria's truly unique landscapes.





1 MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT'S QUARTERS

Built in 1899, this residence housed the Medical Superintendent of the Quarantine Station at the time, Mr J Couper Johnston. From 1908 the Quarantine Station was run by the Officer-in-Charge who lived elsewhere and the residence was used by visiting doctors during intense quarantine periods. When the Army moved in the building was used as an Isolation Hospital used mainly for pregnant women who could not be immunised. After the Station closed the Army's Commander occupied what was then called the Commandant's House.



2 FIRST CLASS DINING HALL

This hall was built in 1916 to service the first and second-class passengers who were accommodated nearby in Hospitals 1 and 2. The dining hall had an internal central wall featuring a fireplace that separated the first and second-class passengers. Each of the dining rooms was accessible by covered walkways from the associated building. It contained one large kitchen that serviced both dining areas. From the 1960s the building was substantially altered by the Army and used as a mess (dining room) and bar.



3 SHEPHERD'S HUT

This is the oldest surviving building on the Quarantine Station site. The in-ground cellar of Shepherd's Hut pre-dates quarantine use of the site while the above-room structure is believed to have been constructed in the mid-1850s after the station was established. Its uses had been recorded as the Superintendent's private store house, paint store, a dairy, air-raid shelter and during the Army period the Regimental Sergeant Major's office from which he could survey his most important realm – the Parade Ground.



4 BADCOE HALL

This large hall and library building was built by the Army in 1963 to support officer training. It was part of the Army's major building development at the site which included two cadet accommodation blocks and the gymnasium. It was named after Major Peter Badcoe, the Officer Cadet School's first Victoria Cross recipient. The School of Army Health used the upstairs area as hospital training and syndicate rooms.



5 THE PARADE GROUND

The Parade Ground has always been the functional and social centre of the Quarantine Station site, located adjacent to the jetty and Disinfecting and Bathing Complex. The area was the site of the original settler's house (Shepherd's Hut) and two of the early quarantine buildings that were later demolished. During the period of the Officer Cadet School the Parade Ground was the location of marching, from learning to march to final Graduation Parades.



6 QUARANTINE STATION JETTY AND PASSENGER WAITING ROOM

The Passenger Waiting Room was constructed in 1911. It was built as a waiting area for discharged passengers, in a position close to the now demolished passenger jetty. It was the last building on the Station occupied by quarantine passengers prior to their re-embarkation aboard ship. During the period of Army use, this building was used as the Regimental Aid Post. The Quarantine Station Jetty, the station's key arrival and departure point, was built from 1858–1860. It was located to the right of the Passenger Waiting Room, the jetty was demolished in 1973 after becoming damaged by storms.



7 DISINFECTING AND BATHING COMPLEX

The first buildings of what became the Disinfecting and Bathing Complex were built in 1900 and are believed to be the first of its type in Australia. The complex was built in response to the new threat of a plague epidemic in the Western world, originating in Hong Kong and Bombay. These buildings served as the model for a series of similar complexes constructed throughout Australia from 1912 during a decade long quarantine upgrading programme. From the early 1900s the luggage was transported from the jetty by a tramway system. During the Army period this building was used as a model room in which cadets were taught the skills of battle on scale models as they related to maps. The bath houses were converted into accommodation.



8 HOSPITALS (H1, H2, H3, H4, H5)

From 1858–59, five two storey buildings were constructed from local sandstone in the early phase of the Quarantine Station's development. Hospitals 1 and 2 on the hill initially housed ill passengers and suspected infection cases, while the three buildings on the flat accommodated the healthy passengers. In the 1870s this was changed to a class separated system. First and second class passengers were in the buildings on the hill, steerage class in Hospitals 3 and 4 on the flat and Hospital 5 was for isolation of the sick patients. These five bay facing hospitals formed the spine of the station. The Officer Cadet School used Hospitals 1 and 2 on the hill as accommodation and training rooms. These were known as A and B Block. The other Hospital buildings on the flat were used as staff accommodation and stores under a shared agreement with quarantine personnel.



9 ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

The Administration Building was constructed in 1916 and was part of a major building program when the Commonwealth took over the Quarantine Station. The complex had a number of uses including police and visiting staff accommodation, doctor's consulting rooms and a post office. The Officer Cadet School used the buildings as administrative headquarters, with the buildings south of this used as the Officers' Mess and accommodation.



10 THE STABLES

The stables building was constructed in 1916 using pre-existing materials from the police stables at Police Point and a cart and cow shed which were located elsewhere at the Quarantine Station. The stables consisted of horse stalls, a shed, workshop, harness room and fodder store. The building was later used as a garage and from 1960s during the Army period the building was used as a Transport Office.



11 THE ORIGINAL CEMETERY AND HEATON'S MONUMENT

The cemetery was created to bury victims from the disease-plagued vessel Ticonderoga in 1852. The location proved unsatisfactory due to its close proximity to the Quarantine Station complex and was relocated in 1854 to the Point Nepean Cemetery (near Gunners Cottage). One hundred people were buried in the Original Cemetery, with a monument commemorating their names. Heaton's Monument was built from 1856–1858 as a single burial vault and monument, made of rendered sandstone.



12 ISOLATION FENCE

In 1890 a two-metre high galvanised iron fence surrounded Hospital 5, which was the isolation building for passengers with highly infectious diseases arriving at the Quarantine Station. Additional isolation buildings were constructed within this fenced isolation compound which included the Isolation Ward and Administration building in 1912 and the morgue in 1921. The fence was demolished by the 1960s and a remnant surviving section of the original fence remains.



13 INFLUENZA HUTS

These timber frame huts were rapidly designed and built in 1919 as emergency accommodation during the worldwide Spanish flu pandemic. The twelve buildings were constructed in five weeks. Around 300 ships, mostly returning World War One soldiers, were processed through the Quarantine Station from November 1918 to August 1919 and almost 12,000 passengers were quarantined. During the Army period the huts were used as classrooms, workshops and for general training.



14 ISOLATION HOSPITAL AND MORGUE

From 1870 Hospital 5 became the isolation hospital for passengers with infectious diseases. From 1912 the timber-framed isolation ward and administration building was added and then in 1921 the morgue and mortuary were built. Later the Army used the buildings for a number of purposes including Sergeants Mess accommodation and dental training.

