FIND & CONNECT

Dayman Island Lazaret

9 May 1889 – 1892

Details

The Dayman Island Lazaret, in the Torres Strait, was established in 1889 as a leprosarium for non-European sufferers of leprosy. It was run by the Queensland government and closed in 1892. Remaining patients were moved to Friday Island.

The Dayman Island facility received non-European patients, the majority of which were Chinese. South Sea Islander and Chinese people were thought to carry and spread leprosy, consequently they were removed to the isolated and uninhabited island.

Dayman Island was a Lazaret in name only. The patients were abandoned on Dayman Island and left to fend for themselves. In *Going to the Gums: the lazaret on Peel Island* (2007), Dr Hugo Ree writes:

> *The men were provided with food, seeds, fishing tackle and some tools; two military tents were put up for their accommodation. The steamer that had brought them then sailed away.*

The passing of the Leprosy Act of 1892 resulted in the estabishment of two leprosariums; one on Friday Island for non-Europeans and the other on Stradbroke Island for Europeans. The patients on Dayman Island were transferred to Friday Island.

More info

Related Entries

Related Legislation

- Leprosy Act 1892, Queensland (1892 - 1937)
  The Leprosy Act provided for the treatment of lepers as well as their detention and isolation. It also allowed for the government to appoint any place to be a lazaret for the reception and medical treatment of lepers.

Related Organisations

- Friday Island Lazaret (27 October 1892 - c. 1907)

Records

Records held by other organisations

- Special Batches [Correspondence Files of the Colonial Secretary's Office and Health Departments] (1852 - 1975)

You can view this page online by visiting https://findconnect.efront.digital/entity/dayman-island-lazaret/