

Phyllis Ebbage collection

Accession number 9997

Abstract Photographs and newspaper clippings relating to Phyllis Ebbage.

Scope and content The collection includes photographs and newspaper clippings relating to the Peel Island Lazaret where Phyllis Ebbage spent 13 years of her life from 1939. The photographs include colour images of Peel Island taken about 2000 and some older family photos. Also included are newspaper clippings and photocopies of newspaper articles relating to Peel Island and the treatment of leprosy (some annotated by Phyllis Ebbage's daughter); and an oral history by Phyllis Ebbage held on cassette tape and a copy of the recording on CD.

System of arrangement Arranged into 3 series

Description 1 box

Additional format Digital copies available for selected items

Administrative / Biographical history Phyllis Ebbage lived in Ayr, Queensland with her husband and two young daughters and was diagnosed with leprosy (Hansen's Disease) in Townsville in 1940. Despite there being some doubt over the actual diagnosis, and without being told the reason, Phyllis was taken from Townsville to Peel Island, off the coast of South-East Queensland on 26th January 1940. She was not able to return to her home to say goodbye to her daughters, Desley and Verree who were only 5 and 6 years old. It was eight years before saw her children again. Family visits were restricted to once a fortnight for just 30 minutes and the only way to access the island was by taking the government's steamboat. A round-trip took eight or nine hours and no children were allowed. Phyllis' husband, Les Ebbage moved to Brisbane to be closer to his wife and after buying a sailing boat, made secret trips to the island with their two daughters. Eventually Les was caught and despite an outpouring of public sympathy, was fined 10 pounds by a magistrate (the minimum amount prescribed by law). Phyllis Ebbage spent 12 years and 8 months confined to the Lazaret on Peel Island.

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright.

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Notes English

Preferred citation

9997, Phyllis Ebbage Collection; John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

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Series 1: Clippings, correspondence, photocopies (1908?-2009)

Series number 1

Series title Clippings, correspondence, photocopies

Date 1908?-2009

Scope and content

Series consists of clippings (information artifacts), correspondence, and photocopies, ca. 1908-2009.

Description

Description 0 newspaper clippings; 0 photocopies and 0 correspondence

Additional format Digital copies available for selected items

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status Multiple copyright statuses

Conditions of use CC-BY

Items in this series:

Photocopy "Alone with the ghosts" (1997)

Unit ID 9997/1

Date 1997

Scope and content

Black and white illustrated photocopy of the magazine article "Alone with the ghosts",

published in the Post Magazine, 8 November 1997. The article talks about park ranger Shayne O'Sullivan's experiences living on Peel Island. Phyllis Ebbage was a resident 1940-1953.

Author / Creator

Post Magazine

Description

Description 1 photocopy (of magazine articles)

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Photocopy "Family reunion" (1908?-2009)

Unit ID 9997/2

Date 1908?-2009

Scope and content

Black and white illustrated photocopy of the newspaper article "Family reunion". The article talks about an Ebbage family reunion.

Description

Description 1 photocopy (of newspaper articles)

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Photocopies, correspondence (1908?-2009 (1941 and 1946))

Unit ID 9997/3

Date 1908?-2009 (1941 and 1946)

Scope and content

Black and white photocopies of newspaper articles and 1 photocopy of a letter to Les Ebbage in 1941 possibly following his prosecution for illegally removing his wife and another leper from Peel Island for dinner. Newspaper articles include "Visitor permits to Peel Island"; "... and Peel Island" which talks about how diet may cure leprosy; "Rotary luncheon address", Rockhampton bulletin, 4 October 1946, which talks about an address about improving the conditions of lepers on Peel Island; "Women lepers taken off Peel Island : Brisbane prosecution", Cairns Post, which talks about how Les Ebbage and his father were caught and fined for smuggling his wife and another leper from Peel Island for dinner; and "Abandon Hope : when will Peel Island patients be shown some mercy?", which talks about the treatment and conditions on Peel Island. Other newspaper articles cover subjects such as other leper colonies, treatment of leprosy, infectious diseases and associated people such as Sir Raphael Cilento.

Description

Description 0 photocopies (of newspaper articles) 0 photocopy (of correspondence)

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status Multiple copyright statuses

Conditions of use CC-BY

Photocopies (1908?-2009 (1941))

Unit ID 9997/4

Date 1908?-2009 (1941)

Scope and content

Black and white photocopies of newspaper articles (some illustrated) including an article "Sick wife - secret rendezvous", 21 September 1941 which talks about Les Ebbage's prosecution for illegally removing his wife and another leper from Peel Island for dinner.

Description

Description 0 photocopies (of newspaper articles)

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status Out of copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Photocopies (1908?-2009 (1946-1959))

Unit ID 9997/5

Date 1908?-2009 (1946-1959)

Scope and content

Black and white photocopies of newspaper articles. Newspaper articles include "More visits to Peel Island, 11 June 1947, which talks about visiting rights for outsiders to Peel Island; "Are Peel Island people subject to censorship? : cut envelopes rob mail of privacy" which talks about the possible censorship of mail to and from Peel Island lepers; All patients taken from Peel Island", 6 June 1959, which talks about the closure of the lazaret at Peel Island ; "Appeal made for release of lepers", Telegraph, 12 November 1946, which appeals for the integration of lepers into the community, including those from Peel Island; "Plea to free lepers", Courier, November 1946, which argues for freedom for lepers or re-location from Peel Island to place with improved conditions; "Leprosy Lazaret a 'Menace'"; Courier, 20 September 1946 which talks about the conditions at Peel Island; "Leper escaped from Peel", Truth, 14 January 1945, which talks about the escape of a male leper from Peel Island; "New Peel Is. Leprosarium", 24 June 1947 which talks about the building of a new lazaret on Peel Island to replace existing facilities; "Peel Island: heart-rending story of young mother's fight for liberty" which talks about the story of Phyllis and Lee Ebbage; and "Lepers condemned to living death", 24 May 1945, which talks about the conditions on Peel Island. There are also other articles about the treatment of leprosy.

Description

Description 0 photocopies (of newspaper articles)

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status Out of copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Photocopies (1908?-2009 (1947))

Unit ID 9997/6

Date 1908?-2009 (1947)

Scope and content

Black and white photocopies (some illustrated) of newspaper articles. Newspaper articles include "Peel Island appeal" which talks about the treatment of leprosy on Peel Island; "All ready for start on Peel Island buildings", 29 June 1947; and "Secret meetings with lepers" which talks generally about illegal visitors to Peel Island.

Description

Description 0 photocopies (of newspaper articles)

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status Out of copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Photocopies (1908?-2009 (1947??))

Unit ID 9997/7

Date 1908?-2009 (1947??)

Scope and content

Black and white photocopies (some illustrated) of newspaper articles. Subjects include Sir Raphael Cilento, leprosy and its treatment and other lepers.

Description

Description 0 photocopies (of newspaper articles)

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status Out of copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Photocopies (1908?-2009)

Unit ID 9997/8

Date 1908?-2009

Scope and content

Black and white photocopies (some illustrated) of newspaper articles. Subjects include the treatment of leprosy.

Description

Description 0 photocopies (of newspaper articles)

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status Out of copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Photocopies (1908?-2009)

Unit ID 9997/9

Date 1908?-2009

Scope and content

Black and white photocopies of newspaper articles. Newspaper articles include "Poignant letter from Peel Island", 14 June 1945, which talks about the conditions on Peel Island; "Don't

be swayed by old false ideas of leprosy", Telegraph, 22 October 1946, which talks about leprosy, the appointment of a new research officer at Peel Island and the conditions there. Other subjects include leprosy, its treatment and other infectious diseases.

Description

Description 0 photocopies (of newspaper articles)

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status Out of copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Photocopies (1908?-2009)

Unit ID 9997/10

Date 1908?-2009

Scope and content

Black and white photocopies (some illustrated) of magazine and newspaper articles.

Newspaper articles include "Equipment and staff short", 18 March 1950, which talks about the conditions at Peel Island. Other subjects include the treatment of leprosy.

Description

Description 0 photocopies (of newspaper and magazine articles)

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status Out of copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Photocopies (1908?-2009)

Unit ID 9997/11

Date 1908?-2009

Scope and content

Colour photocopy of a newspaper article about the history of the lazaret on Peel Island.

Description

Description 0 photocopies (of newspaper articles)

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status Out of copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Clipping (26 Mar 2005)

Unit ID 9997/12

Date 26 Mar 2005

Scope and content

Illustrated newspaper article from the Courier Mail, 26 March 2005, which talks about Peel Island and its lazaret.

Author / Creator

Courier Mail (Brisbane, Qld.)

Description

Description 1 newspaper clipping

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

Photocopy "The Pineapple...a slice of Queensland history" (1997)

Unit ID 9997/13

Date 1997

Scope and content

Colour photocopy of an illustrated magazine article "The Pineapple...a slice of Queensland history", Sunday Mail Magazine, 1997, which talks about the history of the Pineapple Hotel. Hand writing on the back of the copy states that Les Ebbage bought the hotel in 1941. This handwritten document has been digitised.

Author / Creator

Sunday mail (Brisbane, Qld.)

Description

Description 1 photocopy (of a newspaper article) 1 note (documents) (handwritten)

Additional format Digital copy available for selected item

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

Series 2: Photographs and photocopies of photographs (1908?-2009)

Series number 2

Series title Photographs and photocopies of photographs

Date 1908?-2009

Scope and content

Series consists of photographs and and photocopies of photographs, ca.1908-2009.

Description

Description 0 photographs and 0 photocopies

Additional format Digital copies available for selected items

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status Multiple copyright statuses

Conditions of use CC-BY

Items in this series:

Phyllis Ebbage sitting on the family's boat at Peel Island (1941)

Unit ID 9997/14

Date 1941

Scope and content

Photograph (and photocopy) of Phyllis Ebbage sitting on the family's boat at Peel Island 1941. Handwriting accompanying the copy further describes the restrictive visiting rights to Peel Island and Les Ebbages illegal trips to Peel Island with his children to see his wife.

Description

Description 1 photograph (and a photocopy)

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Les and Phyllis Ebbage (1941?)

Unit ID 9997/15

Date 1941?

Scope and content

Black and white photocopy of a photograph of Les and Phyllis Ebbage on Peel Island ca. 1941 when Phyllis was first taken there. Handwriting accompanying the copy further describes that Phyllis was in good condition on arrival but deteriorated with medical treatment.

Description

Description 1 photograph (and a photocopy)

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Photocopy "Les and Phyllis Ebbage with their two children" (1945?)

Unit ID 9997/16

Date 1945?

Scope and content

Black and white photocopy of a photograph of Les and Phyllis Ebbage and their two children Verree and Desley taken on Peel Island ca. 1945. Handwriting accompanying the photograph further describes the picture.

Description

Description 1 photograph (and a photocopy)

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Peel Island, neighbour to Phyllis (1941?)

Unit ID 9997/17

Date 1941?

Scope and content

Colour photograph labelled 'Peel Island, neighbour to Phyllis.'

Description

Description 1 color photograph (and a photocopy)

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Row of houses on Peel Island, ca 2000 (2000?)

Unit ID 9997/18

Date 2000?

Scope and content

Colour photograph of a row of houses on Peel Island, ca 2000.

Description

Description 1 color photograph

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Sealed road passing a two-storey building with verandas (2000?)

Unit ID 9997/19

Date 2000?

Scope and content

Colour photograph of a road and buildings on Peel Island ca 2000.

Description

Description 1 color photograph

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Two lazeret houses on Peel Island ca 2000. (2000?)

Unit ID 9997/20

Date 2000?

Scope and content

Colour photograph of two lazeret houses on Peel Island ca 2000.

Description

Description 1 color photograph

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Colour photograph of the beach on Peel Island ca. 2000 (2000?)

Unit ID 9997/21

Date 2000?

Scope and content

Colour photograph of a beach at Peel Island ca. 2000.

Description

Description 1 color photograph

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Shipwreck in the water at Peel Island ca. 2000 (2000?)

Unit ID 9997/22

Date 2000?

Scope and content

Colour photograph of a ship wreck off Peel Island ca. 2000.

Description

Description 1 color photograph

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Car ferry on the beach at Peel Island ca. 2000. (2000?)

Unit ID 9997/23

Date 2000?

Scope and content

Colour photograph of a boat, probably a car ferry, on the beach at Peel Island ca. 2000.

Description

Description 1 color photograph

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Collection of abandoned lazaret houses on Peel Island ca. 2000 (2000?)

Unit ID 9997/24

Date 2000?

Scope and content

Colour photograph of a collection of abandoned lazaret houses on Peel Island ca. 2000.

Description

Description 1 color photograph

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Phyllis Ebbage's lazaret house on Peel Island ca. 2000 (2000?)

Unit ID 9997/25

Date 2000?

Scope and content

Colour photograph of Phyllis Ebbage's lazaret house on Peel Island ca. 2000.

Description

Description 1 color photograph

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Collection of lazaret buildings on Peel Island ca. 2000 (2000?)

Unit ID 9997/26

Date 2000?

Scope and content

Colour photograph of a collection of lazaret buildings on Peel Island ca. 2000.

Description

Description 1 color photograph

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Various buildings at the Peel Island Lazaret ca. 2000 (2000?)

Unit ID 9997/27

Date 2000?

Scope and content

Colour photograph of various types of buildings in the Lazaret on Peel Island ca. 2000.

Description

Description 1 color photograph

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Portrait of Leslie Ebbage, husband of Phyllis (1941?)

Unit ID 9997/28

Date 1941?

Scope and content

Black and white portrait of Leslie Ebbage, husband of Phyllis Ebbage and owner of the Pineapple Hotel which he bought in 1941.

Description

Description 1 black-and-white photograph

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Photograph of Phyllis Ebbage (1941?)

Unit ID 9997/29

Date 1941?

Scope and content

Black and white photograph of Phyllis Ebbage.

Description

Description 1 black-and-white-photograph

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Photograph of Verree, Phyllis and Desley (1941?)

Unit ID 9997/30

Date 1941?

Scope and content

Photograph of Phyllis and her two daughters Verree and Desley.

Description

Description 1 black-and-white-photograph

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

1908 'Ravenswood Halloween' (1908)

Unit ID 9997/31

Date 1908

Scope and content

Group photograph of men, women and children dressed in Scottish dress and labelled as 'Ravenswood Halloween, 1908'.

Description

Description 1 black-and-white-photograph

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Wedding portrait of Ken Callaghan and Verree Ebbage (1945?)

Unit ID 9997/32

Date 1945?

Scope and content

Wedding photograph of Ken Callaghan and Verree Ebbage. Verree Ebbage is the daughter of Phyllis and Leslie Ebbage.

Description

Description 1 black-and-white-photograph

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Series 3: Oral history (1908?-1995)

Series number 3

Series title Oral history

Date 1908?-1995

Scope and content

Series consists of an interview of Phyllis Ebbage. A copy is held in both cassette and CD forms.

Author / Creator

Ebbage, Phyllis

Description

Description 0 sound recording (1 cassette, 1 CD (each 43 min. 48 sec.))

Additional format Digital copies available

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

Items in this series:

Phyllis Ebbage interview (1908?-1995)

Unit ID 9997/33

Date 1908?-1995

Scope and content

Interview of Phyllis Ebbage. A copy is held in both cassette and CD forms.

Author / Creator

Ebbage, Phyllis

Description

Description 0 sound recording (1 cassette, 1 CD (each 43 min. 48 sec.))

Locate OMBOX Box 10044

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use CC-BY

View the items

[Listen to the audio](#)

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(2 digital)