

# Information Sheet 10

## HEALTH CARE AND CEMETERY RECORDS OF SOUTH SEA ISLANDERS IN IPSWICH

In 1886, the Ipswich Hospital by-laws required a fee of £2 2s to be paid in advance before Polynesians could receive medical treatment. In December of the same year, Thomas Lorimer Smith of Marburg indicated that he would no longer subscribe and deduct money from the wages of his employees for the benefit of the hospital "until the by-law relating to Polynesians was annulled".

The Acting Committee of the Ipswich Hospital meeting held on 26 October 1887 provided details of admission and deaths for the previous three week period. Thirty two people were admitted, 31 were discharged and 3 people died including James Manken who was listed as a 30 year old kanaka who died from dysentery. He was admitted to the hospital on 12 October and died on the 18 October.

In 1897 the Woogaroo Asylum's annual report revealed that they had 3 Polynesian patients, 4 Aborigines, 2 Cingalese, 1 Indian and 5 Chinese. They estimated that up to 1897 the accumulated numbers were 8 Polynesians, 4 Aborigines, 9 Cingalese, 6 Indians, and 55 Chinese.

The Ipswich General Cemetery records show the following burials of Australian South Sea Islanders:

Harry (Islander) aged 26 was buried in the Methodist C section on 19 January 1872. His occupation was listed as 'Labourer'.

William (Islander) aged 25 died on 28 April 1872 and he was buried in the Methodist C section on 29 April 1872. William was a 'Labourer'.

Jimmy (South Sea Islander) died on 3 August 1872 and was buried on 3 August. His religion was listed as Church of England.

An unnamed Islander (male) died on 16 August 1880 and was buried on 17 August. His religion was listed as 'Free'.

Charley (South Sea Islander) aged 20 died on 13 August 1881 and was buried on 13 August. His religion was listed as 'Free'.

An unnamed Islander aged about 30 years died on 25 April 1886. He was buried on 25 April.

Willie (South Sea Islands) died 17 September 1891 and was buried in unselected ground. His Religion was listed as "Free".

Johnny Aramanga died on 26 January 1918 at the age of 71. He was buried in the Ipswich General Cemetery on 28 January 1918. His name is included in the admission listed on the QLD Mental Asylum Records up to and including 1918. A file held by Queensland State Archives reveals that Johnny was from Bundaberg and was transferred to Ipswich on 13 June 1917. He was admitted as a patient at Goodna. It states a return date of 16 April 1917 and admission date in the same month.

Tarra Gindi Tasserone

Tarra died on 13 January 1913 and was buried on the 14 January 1913 in the Congregational Section of the Ipswich General Cemetery near the Foote family.

