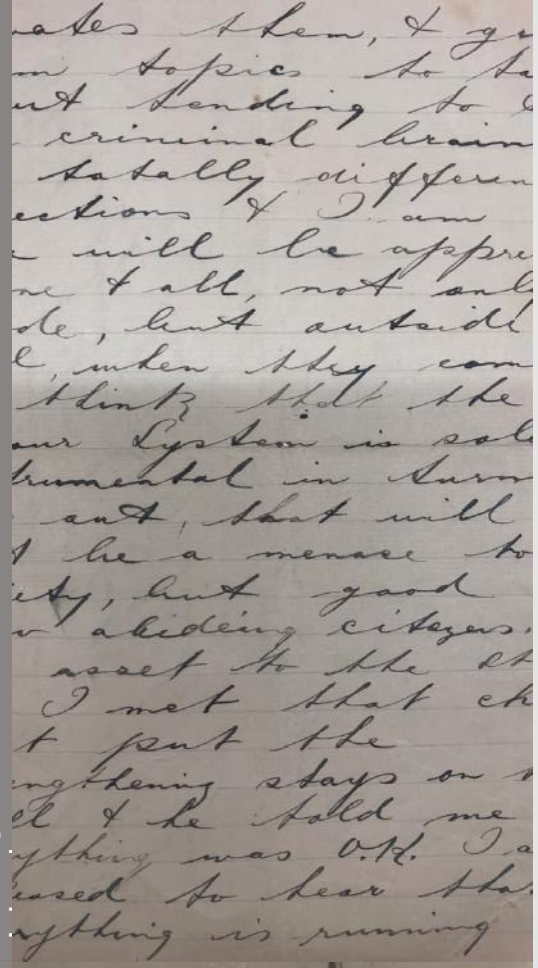
ISOLATION ISLANDS

St Helena

Challenge 1.



You are a prisoner who has been held at St Helena Island, known as the ‘hell hole of the Pacific’ for the past eight years.

The year is 1926 and Patrick Roche has just been made Superintendent.

Write a letter to your wife and children at home in Brisbane. Describe your interactions with this man who believes if you ‘treat men as men and not as beasts they will respond’. How do you feel about the changes you are noticing on the island?

ISOLATION ISLANDS

Peel Island

Challenge 3.

You are Phyllis Ebbage, a young mother from Far North Queensland currently being held in medical detention in the Peel Island leprosarium.

The year is 1948. You have been living on Peel Island for eight and a half years now and you have recently seen your two daughters for the first time, when your husband secretly brought them to see you on the boat he has purchased.

Today, Dr Gabriel put on a musical film for the patients to enjoy together. **Write a one-page diary entry** on how you feel going to bed tonight.

ISOLATION ISLANDS

St Helena

Challenge 2.

You are Patrick Roche, a prison guard who has recently transferred from the position of Superintendent on St Helena Island, back to the mainland posting of Rockhampton.

The year is 1932. The prisoners with whom you worked continue to write to you, thanking you and keeping you updated on their lives.

Write a letter to convince government authorities of the merits of the Honour System implemented during your time at St Helena.

ISOLATION ISLANDS

Peel Island

Challenge 4.

You are Les Ebbage, husband of Phyllis who has been held in medical detention in the Peel Island leprosarium since January 1940.

The year is 1941 and you have just been fined 10 pounds by authorities when you were caught making secret visits to your wife on the Island.

A journalist at the local newspaper has suggested you **write a letter to the editor**. This is a chance to tell Phyllis’s story and respond to the outpouring of public sympathy that has arisen since your arrest.