

Australian South Sea Islander peoples



Research Guide to records about Australian South Sea Islander peoples at Queensland State Archives

Queensland State Archives (QSA) is the official repository for Queensland Government records selected for permanent retention because of their continuing value. The records are in our facility at [Runcorn, Brisbane](#), and open records are available for viewing in the Reading Room, free-of-charge.

The Queensland State Archives (QSA) holds records about Australian South Sea Islander people. This guide lists records about Australian South Sea Islander people from their first arrivals in the early 1860s to their subsequent repatriation or settlement, particularly in the first two decades of 1900s. The records cover the areas of immigration or recruitment, employment, repatriation, exemptions, education and settlement of the Australian South Sea Islander people in Queensland. A list of State and Commonwealth legislation is included.

Records

Throughout this Research Guide you will find references to the [online index to Australian South Sea Islanders](#). The main finding aid for records held at QSA is the [Queensland State Archives' online catalogue](#) (known as ArchivesSearch).

The following citation abbreviations are used throughout our catalogue:

- ITM QSA Item (describes the item)
- PR Physical Representation (generally the original or microfilm copy)
- DR Digital Representation (for a digital image)
- S Series (for a series of records)
- A Agency (for the creating or responsible agency)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that our catalogue contains images, names and voices of people who have died.

If an [online QSA index](#) is available, we recommend researchers search this, for example, the online index to [Australian South Sea Islanders 1867–1948](#). The content of online indexes has been sourced directly from original records. Digitised copies of many original registers and indexes are also available in the [QSA catalogue](#), and digitised copies of some microfilmed originals are available on Reading Room computers.

This guide is in two parts.

- Part 1 - the records created by the Inspector of Pacific Islanders
- Part 2 - records created by other agencies, and other information sources

Many of the records listed in this guide are available in digital format online in our catalogue. To find those that are digitised, follow the series hyperlink to the *Record Context* in the right navigation panel, and click on *Browse all items in series* to view digital representations.

Part 1: Records created by Inspectors of Pacific Islanders

Inspector of Pacific Islanders

Register of Agreements

1/04/1884–31/08/1897

[S13173](#)

This register of agreements kept under the *Pacific Island Labourers Acts 1880* section 3 of the *Pacific Island Labourers Act Amendment Act 1884* records the names of employers, estates (plantations) and districts in North Queensland. Details entered for each Pacific Islander include the number of inward passenger list, the

name, sex and island of the Islander, the ship arrived on, date of agreement and expiration, wages, return passage when paid and by whom, and general remarks (deaths, returns home, re-engaged etc).

For details in this register, please refer to the online index to Australian South Sea Islanders.

Inspector of Pacific Islanders, Childers

Ledger, Pacific Islanders' Wages

1/01/1896–31/07/1908

[S7752](#)

These ledgers record wages paid to South Sea Islanders (Pacific Islanders) employed in the Childers district. Details given are: South Sea Islanders' name; island of origin; date of arrival in Queensland; employer's name and address and number; bank, passbook details ie. passbook number, date, transaction, C.B. number, deposits, withdrawals, balance, and remarks.

For details in this ledger, please refer to the online index to Australian South Sea Islanders.

Inspector of Pacific Islanders, Maryborough

Register of Ships' Arrivals

2/06/1868–23/12/1881

[S13176](#)

This register, [ITM18833](#) in S13176, was kept by the Inspector of Pacific Islanders, Maryborough, records the arrival of ships under the *Polynesian Labourers Act 1868* and the *Pacific Island Labourers Act 1880*. Under the heading 'Particulars', details for each entry include the number, name of ship, port of arrival (from 1878, to Maryborough only), and date of arrival; under the headings for each island group (Loyalty, New Hebrides, Banks, Solomons, Other Islands), details for each entry include the name of the island and the number of islanders. Summary totals for males and females and for each year are also recorded.

Register of Ships' Arrivals at Maryborough

9/03/1869–26/03/1877

[S13174](#)

This register of Pacific Islanders arriving at Maryborough records the date of arrival, the name of the ship, and the name of the recruiting agent, and then lists the Pacific Islanders on board each ship with details including the number, name, from, disposal–name of employer, residence and date of agreement. Also included are total numbers of Islanders on each ship, dated and signed by the Inspector of Pacific Islanders, Maryborough.

For details in this register, please refer to the online index to Australian South Sea Islanders.

Register of Ships' Departures

5/01/1869–14/10/1881

[S13177](#)

This register, [ITM18834](#) in S13177, was kept by the Inspector of Pacific Islanders, Maryborough, records the departure of vessels returning Pacific Islanders to their homes under the "Polynesian Labourers Act 1868" and the "Pacific Island Labourers Act 1880". Under the heading "Particulars", details for each entry include the number, name of ship, port of departure (from 1877, from Maryborough only), and date of sailing; under the

headings for each island group (Loyalty, New Hebrides, Banks, Solomons, Other Islands), details for each entry include the name of the island and the number of islanders (except for some entries for 1880 and for 1881 for which totals only are entered). Summary totals for males and females and for each year are also recorded.

Registers of Agreements

1/06/1877–31/10/1903

[S13184](#)

Registers in S13184 were kept by the Inspector of Pacific Islanders, Maryborough, record the employment of Pacific Islanders ((Polynesians, South Sea Islanders) as required under the *Polynesian Labourers Act 1868* and the *Pacific Island Labourers Act 1880*, Register titles and details entered in the registers vary over time according to the Act under which the registers were kept, but, in the headings for each employer include the name of the employer, the name of the plantation and the district. Details entered for each Pacific Islander include the number, name of the Islander, where from, date of arrival or agreement, expiration of agreement, the name of the ship arrived on, date when due for return and remarks including transfers, deaths, returns etc.

For details in this register, please refer to the online index to Australian South Sea Islanders.

Memoranda of Agreements re Employment of Pacific Islanders

1/01/1877–31/12/1906

[S13175](#)

These signed and witnessed memoranda of agreements between employers and Pacific Islanders set out the conditions of employment of labourers including amount of wages and rations, provision of accommodation and payment of return passages. On the back of an agreement each Islander's details are included under the following headings: name and mark, island, village, wages, ship and date, first employer, last legal employer, by whom passage paid and when.

For details in this register, please refer to the online index to Australian South Sea Islanders.

Record of Deaths of Polynesians

1/01/1878–30/11/1880

[S13193](#)

This register, [ITM18855](#) in S13193, was kept by the Inspector of Pacific Islanders, provides a monthly record of the causes and number of deaths of Pacific Island labourers. Yearly entries include the names of the diseases (dysentery, consumption, general debility, accidents), and the number of deaths for each disease per month. Yearly totals are also included.

Register of Pacific Island Labourers Exempt from the Provisions of Clauses 3, 4 & 10 of the Act

7/05/1884–Circa 31/12/1885

[S13179](#)

This register records details of Pacific Islanders exempt from the provisions of clauses 3,4 and 10 of the *Pacific Island Labourers Act 1880 Amendment Act 1884*. Details for each entry include the number, name of the Islander, island, original employer, date of arrival, ship, date of registration and remarks (mostly ticket issued and date).

For details in this register, please refer to the online index to Australian South Sea Islanders.

Cash book, Pacific Islanders' Wages

2/02/1885–26/11/1907

[S13183](#)

This cash book, kept by the Inspector of Pacific Islanders, Maryborough, records amounts received from Pacific Islanders and lodged to their credit in Savings bank accounts, and withdrawals paid to Islanders. Under Cash, details for each entry include the date, number of savings bank passbook, name of islander, ledger folio, amount received from islander, withdrawal received from Savings Bank. Under Per Contra, details also include withdrawal paid to islanders and witness to payment. Throughout the book quarterly Savings Bank balances are also included.

For details in this cash book, please refer to the online index to Australian South Sea Islanders.

Ledger, Pacific Islanders' Wages

1/02/1885–30/11/1907

[S13181](#)

This ledger records deposits and withdrawals in Pacific Islanders' Savings Bank Accounts kept by the Inspector of Pacific Islanders, Maryborough. Details entered for each Islander include the pass book number, the name of the islander, ex (name of ship), and the name and address of employer. These entries are followed by spreadsheet columns for recording bank transactions with ledger details for each entry including the date, transaction (usually 'Interest'), Cash Book folio number, deposits, withdrawals, balance and remarks (initials and date).

For details in this ledger, please refer to the online index to Australian South Sea Islanders.

Government Savings Bank Pass Books

13/03/1885–31/08/1899

[S5246](#)

These Queensland Government Savings Bank pass books were issued to Inspectors of Pacific Islanders as trustees for Pacific Island labourers. Entries in [ITM18872](#) and [ITM844826](#) include the dates, Government Savings Bank stamps, the amount deposited and withdrawn, the balance and the initials of the Bank Officer.

Cash books, Queensland National Bank Account, Maryborough

6/01/1886–7/10/1907

[S13182](#)

These cash books record the Queensland National Bank Limited in account with the Inspector of Pacific Islanders (Polynesian Inspector), Maryborough. Details for each entry include the date, particulars of cash deposited (for example, transfer and bond, return passages, wages), by whom (names of individuals, companies, Immigration Agent, etc), amount, particulars of cheques drawn, in whose favour (names of individuals, Immigration Agent, ship owners), particulars of service (salaries and allowances, return passages, provisions etc) and amount.

For details in this cash book, please refer to the online index to Australian South Sea Islanders.

Circulars to the Inspector of Pacific Islanders

14/08/1887–28/07/1908

[S13188](#)

These circulars were addressed to the Inspector of Pacific Islanders, Maryborough and sent by the Immigration Department, Pacific Island Labour Branch. [ITM18849](#) includes directives sent to all Inspectors and others of concern only to the Maryborough Inspector. They relate to administrative matters such as records to be kept and returns to be forwarded to the Department, and the Commonwealth's assumption of responsibility for Pacific Island labourers after 1901. Matters relating directly to Pacific Islanders include the closure of the hospital, agreements, moneys due to Islanders and Savings Bank deposits, return passages, deportations and exemptions, drunkenness of vessel crews, and firearms and ammunition on vessels. The final circular (250) advises of the date of closure of all Pacific Island labour offices on 31 July 1908.

Letterbooks

31/12/1888–13/02/1908

[S13185](#)

Letterbooks of letters sent by the Inspector of Pacific Islanders, Maryborough. Follow these links to find digitised copies in our catalogue, [ITM18846](#) and [ITM18848](#).

Book of Receipts for Return Passages of Polynesian (Pacific Island) Labourers

30/01/1890–Circa 31/05/1904

[S13192](#)

This book contains stubs of receipts for return passages of 'Polynesian' (Pacific Island) labourers. Details on each receipt in [ITM18854](#) may include the number, date, received from (name or company) and sum for return passage of (either number of Islanders or names of Islanders) lately employed by (usually crossed out and ex name of ship included), and amount.

Books of Telegrams Sent

16/09/1892–1/05/1902

[S13197](#)

These books contain copies (on stubs) of telegrams sent by the Inspector of Pacific Islanders, Maryborough and in his capacity as Assistant Immigration Agent. Details for each telegram include the date, the message to be transmitted, from whom, and to whom addressed. Most were sent to the Immigration Agent, Brisbane (who was also the Inspector of Pacific Islanders), other government agencies such as the Government Labour Bureau, and individuals. Messages related to administrative matters, vessels used in Pacific Islanders' recruitment, labour required etc.

To find details, please refer to the online index to Australian South Sea Islanders. Follow this link to find digitised copies in our catalogue, [S13197](#).

Register of Re-Agreements

6/03/1893–1/02/1905

[S13186](#)

This register records re-agreements between Pacific Islanders and employers under the *Pacific Island Labourers Acts 1880–1892*, section 3 Amending Act. Under the headings of the name of the employer, the estate (plantation) and district, details for entries of Pacific Islanders include the number of inward passenger list, the name of the Islander, sex, island, village, name of ship and date of arrival, date of agreement and expiration of agreement, rates of wages per annum and wages paid quarterly, by whom guaranteed, return passage when paid and by whom, Chief Office re-agreement folio reference, reference folio of last employer, re-agreement folio, subsequent information (employer name).

For details in this register, please refer to the online index to Australian South Sea Islanders.

Book of Permits to Carry Pacific Islanders Coastwise

30/11/1896–23/03/1905

[S13180](#)

This book, [ITM18837](#), contains stubs of permits signed by the Inspector of Pacific Islanders, Maryborough for carrying Pacific Islanders coastwise. Details entered on the permit include the number, the office (Maryborough) of the Pacific Island Immigration Department, the date, and the statement that the master of the ship named had been granted permission to carry (number entered) of Pacific Islanders from the port of Maryborough to another named port. The permit then listed the names and islands of the Islanders, and their destination (for example, Cairns, Townsville, Port Douglas, Brisbane, Rockhampton, Mackay, Geraldton (Innisfail), Bundaberg).

Miscellaneous Correspondence and Forms

28/03/1898–28/02/1908

[S13190](#)

This series consists of completed forms of various kinds and miscellaneous correspondence with various government agencies and individuals about the identification, employment, wages, deportation or repatriation, and exemption of Pacific Island labourers as well as authorisations to sign on labour. The correspondence was kept by the Inspector of Pacific Islanders, Maryborough and contains the names and details of many Pacific Islanders.

Logbooks of Vessels 'Helena' and 'Lochiel'

18/11/1898–14/07/1903

[S16998](#)

The log of Government Agent J.K. Craig written on the voyages of the 'Helena' and the 'Lochiel', [ITM320853](#). These voyages were undertaken for the recruitment of labour from Pacific Islands and visited the New Hebrides and the Solomon Islands. Under Instruction 12 of the *Pacific Island Labourers Act 1880*, a daily log of occurrences on such voyages was compulsory. Details contained in the log include the ship's passage, weather conditions, movement of the agents and other boats, number and names of labourers recruited and some personal details; also ship's company, tonnage, owners of vessel, receipts for tonics, lotions, poultices and elixirs, directions for preserving food, destroying insects and disinfecting clothes.

Books of Memoranda Sent

31/07/1899–1/06/1908

[S13196](#)

These books contain copies (on stubs) of memoranda sent by the Inspector of Pacific Islanders, Maryborough and also in his capacity as Assistant Immigration Agent, Maryborough. Details for each entry include the date, to whom sent, and the content of the memorandum. Messages were sent mainly to the Immigration Agent, Brisbane (who was also the Inspector of Pacific Islanders), other government agencies such as the Government Labour Bureau, and individuals. Matters concern administrative matters, Pacific Islanders' travel and pay, labour requirements, etc.

To find details, please refer to the online index to Australian South Sea Islanders. Follow this link to find digitised copies in our catalogue, [S13196](#).

List of Pacific Island Labourers Engaged on the 'Sydney Belle'

19/10/1903–19/10/1903

[S13194](#)

This list has the heading "Pacific Island Immigration (Queensland), list of labourers engaged by the master of the labour vessel 'Sydney Belle' under licences dated 6 April 1903 and brought to Maryborough on 19th day of October 1903". Details for each entry in [ITM18856](#) include the serial number, sex, name, relationship to other recruits, date when recruited, island where recruited, village where recruited, where previously employed, rate of wages, to whom allotted on arrival (mostly Kalamia). Also included are the name of the master, the name of the government agent and a summary of the recruits on board from islands of the Solomons and New Hebrides.

Inspector of Pacific Islanders, Port Douglas

Cash book, Pacific Islanders' wages

Circa 1/10/1890–Circa 31/05/1902

[S13201](#)

This cash book, kept by the Inspector of Pacific Islanders, Port Douglas, records amounts received from Pacific Islanders and lodged to their credit in Savings bank accounts, and withdrawals paid to Islanders. Under Cash, details for each entry include the date, number of savings bank pass book, name of islander, ledger folio, amount received from islander, withdrawal received from Savings Bank. Under Per Contra, details also include withdrawal paid to islanders and witness to payment.

For details in this register, please refer to the online index to Australian South Sea Islanders.

Ledger, Pacific Islanders' Wages

Circa 1/02/1891–Circa 30/06/1907

[S13199](#)

This ledger records deposits and withdrawals in Pacific Islanders' Savings Bank Accounts kept by the Inspector of Pacific Islanders, Port Douglas. Details entered for each Islander include the Pass Book number, the name of the islander, ex (name of ship), and the name and address of employer. These entries are followed by spreadsheet columns for recording bank transactions with ledger details for each entry including the date, transaction, Cash Book folio number, deposits, withdrawals, balance and remarks.

For details in this ledger, please refer to the online index to Australian South Sea Islanders.

Register of Agreements

Circa 1/01/1894–Circa 31/12/1905

[S13202](#)

This register of agreements kept under the *Pacific Island Labourers Acts 1880–1892* section 3, Amending Act, records the names of employers, estates (plantations) and districts in Port Douglas and Mossman. Details entered for each Pacific Islander include the number of inward passenger list, the name, sex and island of the Islander, the ship arrived on, date of agreement and expiration, wages, return passage when paid and by whom, and general remarks (deaths, returns home, re-engaged etc).

For details in this register, please refer to the online index to Australian South Sea Islanders.

Letterbook

12/08/1906–11/02/1908

[S13200](#)

Letterbook of letters sent by the Inspector of Pacific Islanders, Port Douglas, [ITM18874](#).

Inspector of Pacific Islanders, Townsville

Ledger, Pacific Islanders' wages

12/12/1884–31/12/1907

[S13203](#)

This ledger records deposits and withdrawals in Pacific Islanders' Savings Bank Accounts kept by the Inspector of Pacific Islanders, Maryborough. Details entered for each Islander include the Pass Book number, the name of the islander, ex (name of ship), and the name and address of employer. These entries are followed by spreadsheet columns for recording bank transactions with ledger details for each entry including the date, transaction, Cash Book folio number, deposits, withdrawals, balance and remarks.

For details in this register, please refer to the online index to Australian South Sea Islanders.

Account Book

7/01/1881–30/03/1883

[S7244](#)

This register, [ITM270854](#), records payments made or received by the 'Polynesian Inspector in account with various employers and government departments. Details for each entry include the date and particulars of the transaction including Pacific Islanders' wages, costs of return passages, stamp duties on agreements.

Register of Returns of Number of Pacific Islanders Employed

30/06/1885–30/06/1896

[S13204](#)

This register, [ITM18878](#), records the return submitted of the number of Pacific Islanders employed on each plantation for the half year. Details for each entry include the name of the employer, the plantation and farm, and the number of employees.

Cash Book, Pacific Islander' Wages

3/07/1885–30/07/1908

[S13205](#)

This cash book, kept by the Inspector of Pacific Islanders, Townsville, records amounts received from Pacific Islanders and lodged to their credit in Savings bank accounts, and withdrawals paid to Islanders. Under Cash, details for each entry include the date, number of savings bank pass book, name of islander, ledger folio, amount received from islander, withdrawal received from Savings Bank. Under Per Contra, details also include withdrawal paid to islanders and witness to payment. Throughout the book quarterly Savings Bank balances are also included.

For details in this cash book, please refer to the online index to Australian South Sea Islanders.

Register of Blank Covers (B/Cs) Sent

30/07/1885–24/11/1896

[S18559](#)

This register, [ITM18879](#), records the date of the correspondence, the date received, the subject matter (including those related to immigrants or Pacific Islanders), from whom received, the date forwarded and to whom sent (usually the Immigration Agent, Brisbane or other government agency).

Register of Applications for Exemption

1/01/1907–31/12/1908

[S18560](#)

This register, [ITM18880](#), records applications by Pacific Island labourers for exemption from the provisions of the Commonwealth *Pacific Island Labourers Act 1901*. Details for each entry include the name, island and village of the Islander, the number, ship and date of arrival, and remarks re exemption.

Part 2: Records created by other agencies

Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement Department

Recognition of Pacific Islanders as Distinct Ethnic Group

Circa 1/01/1975–Circa 31/12/1976

[ITM510495](#) in S505, Correspondence - Alphanumeric Prefix - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Proposed Amendments to the Aborigines Regulation 1972–Aboriginal & Islander Welfare Policies; Special Needs of Pacific Islanders

25/03/1976–25/03/1976

[ITM1038193](#) in S18397, Legal Advice, Opinions and Memoranda

Aboriginals, and South Sea Islanders–A list of names and ages (3 Pages)

1/01/1942–31/12/1942

[ITM716211](#) in S4354, Miscellaneous Items and Correspondence - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander files

Agriculture and Stock Department

Register of Certificates of Exemptions Granted (or refused) to Aliens under The *Sugar Cultivation Act 1913*

Circa 1/01/1922–Circa 31/12/1923

[ITM194](#) in S10752

Sugar Cultivation Act 1913: Applications For & Certificates of Exemptions Granted Under the Act & Correspondence re Same

1914 -1927

[ITM902865](#)–[ITM902875](#) in S6041, Batch Files, Agriculture and Stock Department

Assistant Immigration Agent, Maryborough

Register of Rations Issued to Immigrants, Maryborough

1875 – 1882

[ITM18418](#) in S13062, Registers of rations issued by the Assistant Immigration Agent, Maryborough

For details in this register, please refer to the online index to Australian South Sea Islanders.

Chief Secretary's Department

Letter from the Chief Protector of Aboriginals, Walter E Roth, to the Chief Secretary's Office about enforced deportation of Pacific Islander Labourers and the impact on Aboriginal women married to Polynesians.

21/02/1905

[DR3430](#)

Letter from the Chief Secretary's Office to Prime Minister, Sir George Houstoun Reid about the enforced deportation of Pacific Islander Labourers and impact on Aboriginal women married to Polynesians, 28/03/1905

[DR3429](#)

Letter from the Prime Minister, Sir George Houstoun Reid, to the Premier of Queensland about the enforced deportation of Pacific Islander Labourers and impact on Aboriginal women married to Polynesians.
5/04/1905

[DR3428](#)

Letter from the Secretary of the Maryborough Chamber of Commerce to the Secretary of the Sugar Industry Labour Commission about deportation of Pacific Islanders with over 30 years residency in the Maryborough district. 23/04/1906

[DR3508](#)

Correspondence with J E Wirth-Marsh about Labour Matters (Kanaka) and Government Relief
1/10/1891–30/04/1892

[ITM861875](#)

in S5384, Batch and Miscellaneous Subject Files

Colonial Secretary's Office

Inwards Correspondence (includes labour vessel 'Bobtail Nag' log of voyage)

Circa 1/01/1878–Circa 31/12/1878

[ITM846982](#) in S5253, Inwards Correspondence - Colonial Secretary's / Home Secretary's Office

Correspondence and Papers about the 'Hopeful' Voyage Case

Circa 1/01/1884–Circa 31/12/1889

[ITM6821](#) in S8400, Special Batches

Correspondence, Clippings, Reports and Petitions, etc. re 'Hopeful' Voyage Case

Circa 1/01/1884–Circa 31/12/1889

[ITM6825](#) in S8400, Special Batches

Correspondence and Papers re South Sea Islanders

Circa 1/01/1932–Circa 31/12/1938

[ITM18099](#) in S8400, Special Batches

Batch and Miscellaneous Subject Files

Circa 1/01/1871–31/12/1980

[ITM18852](#), [ITM18853](#), [ITM18857](#) in S5384, Batch and Miscellaneous Subject Files

Inwards Correspondence

15/12/1859–Circa 31/12/1896

[S5253](#)

Registers of Letters Received

15/12/1859–Circa 31/12/1896

[S11936](#)

Court of Petty Sessions, Mossman

Deposition Books

17/04/1899–31/12/1919

[S9979](#)

Court of Petty Sessions, Normanton

Register of Arrival of South Sea Islanders at Sweer's Island

17/09/1868–22/12/1871

[S11691](#)

Register of South Sea Islanders Employed on Plantations

23/09/1868–26/03/1873

[S11690](#)

Court of Petty Sessions, Springsure

Wages Account Book for Credit of the Inspector of Polynesian Wages Account–Court of Petty Sessions, Springsure

13/09/1877–24/01/1880

[S8323](#)

Court of Petty Sessions, Walkerston

Police Charge Bench Book

1/01/1883–17/09/1905

[S827](#)

Crown Solicitor's Office

Briefs and Associated Papers in Cases Involving Pacific Islanders

Circa 1/01/1871–Circa 31/12/1889

[S12102](#)

For details of papers in this series, please refer to the online index to Australian South Sea Islanders.

Briefs etc Relating to the *Pacific Island Employers' Compensation Act & Pacific Island Labourers Act*

Circa 1/01/1884–Circa 31/12/1897

[ITM7861](#) in S18679, Correspondence Files - Crown Solicitor's Office / Solicitor General's Office

Briefs and transcripts of depositions–Aboriginal, Chinese, Cingalese, Javanese, Malay and Polynesian labourers

Circa 1/01/1858–Circa 31/12/1908

[ITM7901](#) in S18679, Correspondence Files - Crown Solicitor's Office / Solicitor General's Office

Briefs arising from cases re the *Pacific Island Labourers Act*

Circa 1/01/1880–Circa 31/12/1890

[ITM7904](#) in S18679, Correspondence Files - Crown Solicitor's Office / Solicitor General's Office

Correspondence arising from the case of Chuck Lum

Circa 1/01/1890–Circa 31/12/1890

[ITM7903](#) in S18679, Correspondence Files - Crown Solicitor's Office / Solicitor General's Office

Claims by Francis Charles Hornbrook on behalf of Kanakas on the estate of Mary Margaret O'Reilly

Circa 1/01/1902–Circa 31/12/1905

[ITM8519](#) in S12270, Briefs and Papers in Cases Heard in the Supreme Court and High Court re Deceased Estates

Ledger used as evidence in the claim by Francis Charles Hornbrook on behalf of Kanakas on the estate of Mary Margaret O'Reilly

Circa 1/01/1902–Circa 31/12/1905

[ITM8518](#) in S12270, Briefs and Papers in Cases Heard in the Supreme Court and High Court re Deceased Estates

Home Secretary's Office

Correspondence and Papers re South Sea Islanders in Receipt of Indigence Allowance

1/01/1932–31/12/1938

[ITM18099](#) in S8400, Special Batches

Indigence Cases in Batch Files

5/11/1861–Circa 31/12/1975

[S8400](#)

Correspondence Records re Hospitals and Hospital Boards

Circa 1/01/1889–Circa 31/12/1921

[ITM18148](#) in S8400, Special Batches

General Correspondence

Circa 1/01/1904–Circa 31/12/1935

[S5263](#)

Registers of Letters Received

Circa 1/01/1897–Circa 31/12/1935

[S12844](#)

Hospital for Pacific Islanders, Maryborough

Diaries

1/01/1884–31/12/1885

[S15138](#)

Admission Register and Death Record– Hospital for Pacific Islanders

1/10/1884–23/12/1888

[S15139](#)

Immigration Department

Register of Pacific Islanders

1/01/1870–31/12/1903

[S13122](#)

This register of Pacific Islanders was kept by the Immigration Department and details for each entry include the number, Pacific Islander's pass book number, name and island, arrival ship and date, notes, and amounts with

some annotations about payments. In the front of the register there is a list of the abbreviations used in the notes to indicate the whereabouts of the Islanders:

- C.I., Cannot identify
- D., Gone to Dunwich or Friday Island
- H., Gone home to Islands
- Viti., Gone to Fiji
- N.G., Gone to New Guinea
- All the rest, present address unknown
- Ex., Exempt, either under the Federal or State issues.

For details in this register, please refer to the online index to Australian South Sea Islanders.

List of Pacific Island Labourers

1/12/1865–31/01/1904

[S13092](#)

These two volumes list Pacific Islanders recruited for labour in Queensland. Details entered include serial number, sex, name, relationship to other recruits, date when recruited, village or passage where recruited. Item 18598 of this series is indexed in the online index to Australian South Sea Islanders.

Insolvency, Intestacy and Insanity Office, Brisbane

Protective Management Files

Circa 1/1 1865–Circa 31/12/1995

[S334](#)

Justice Department

Inquest Files

Circa 1/01/1859-04/11/2003

[S36](#)

Inquests are magisterial inquiries held before a coroner without a jury to establish the fact of death, the identity of the deceased, when, where and how death occurred and whether any person is to be charged with a criminal offence under the Criminal Code. Refer also to the Inquest Index online.

Registers of Coroners' Inquests

9/05/1876–Circa 31/12/1979

[S236](#)

Magistrate's Office, Maryborough

Police Magistrate's Letterbooks

7/06/1862–17/12/1910

[S15131](#)

Mines and Works Department

Ross Island, Townsville, Erection of a Residence for Polynesian Inspector

Circa 1/09/1888–Circa 30/09/1888

[ITM1014030](#) in S16433, Specifications for Queensland Government Buildings - Public Works Department

Office of the Governor of Queensland

Copy (Colonial Office Letterhead), Confidential Despatches, Sir Anthony Musgrave to the Earl of Derby, concerning the sentencing to death of Neil McNeil and Bernard Williams for murder of Pacific Islanders, and subsequent petitions and local reactions

17/12/1884–27/12/1884

[ITM17715](#) in S12786, Colonial Office Correspondence

Letterbook of Despatches to the Governor General

28/01/1901–31/12/1904

[S12791](#)

Official Correspondence

20/12/1859–Circa 31/12/1906

[S1139](#)

Return of Vessel for 'Roderick Dhu', which was licensed to introduce Pacific Islanders to Queensland

2/02/1897

[ITM1235101](#), [DR3436](#) in S1139, Official Correspondence - Office of the Governor of Queensland

Police Department, Police Service Commissioner's Office

Arms and Ammunition–Pacific Islanders

Circa 1/01/1897–Circa 31/12/1907

[ITM86509](#) in S14812, Correspondence and Reports

Assistant Inspectors of Pacific Islanders

Circa 1/01/1898–Circa 31/12/1900

[ITM86552](#) in S14812, Correspondence and Reports

Pacific Islanders and Javanese

Circa 1/01/1887–Circa 31/12/1899

[ITM86446](#) in S14812, Correspondence and Reports

Deportation of Kanakas

Circa 1/01/1897–Circa 31/12/1924

[ITM86538](#) in S14812, Correspondence and Reports

Coloured Labour (Asiatic Aliens)

Circa 1/01/1913–Circa 31/12/1913

[ITM86558](#) in S14812, Correspondence and Reports

Premiers Department

Correspondence, Various re British New Guinea, New Hebrides; New Australia colonists, Paraquay; Pacific Cable—estimates, minutes of meetings, conference

1/01/1890–28/02/1902

[ITM861792](#) in S5384, Batch and Miscellaneous Subject Files

Correspondence and Associated Papers relating to Pacific Island Labourers and deportation. Includes 1/12/1889 colonial report 461 on British Solomon Islands 1903–1905

1/12/1889–30/04/1907

[ITM861832](#) in S5384, Batch and Miscellaneous Subject Files

Correspondence and Associated Papers relating to Pacific Island Labourers. Includes regulations (including lifesaving), returns of licensed vessels, lists of government agents

1/04/1891–31/05/1894

[ITM861833](#) in S5384, Batch and Miscellaneous Subject Files

Correspondence and Associated Papers relating to Pacific Island Labourers. Includes lists of government agents, returns of licensed vessels, imperial Pacific order in council 1893 schedule of rules and forms (and acts 1849–1890).

1/04/1891–31/05/1895

[ITM861834](#) in S5384, Batch and Miscellaneous Subject Files

For details in this item, please refer to the online index to Australian South Sea Islanders.

Photographic Proofs and Prints of Queensland relating to Historical, Primary Industries photographs. Note: Many proofs and prints are undated and are older than the date range provided.

1/1/1958 - 1/1/1989

[ITM435754](#) in S189, Photographic Proofs

Correspondence and Associated Papers relating to Pacific Island Labourers and deportation, and effects on sugar industry. Includes lists of names of persons requesting exemption, and wages

1/02/1901–31/08/1905

[ITM861835](#) in S5384, Batch and Miscellaneous Subject Files

Correspondence and Associated Papers relating to Pacific Island Labourers and deportation. Includes white labour conference, resolutions opposing repatriation, and proposed introduction of other labour

1/08/1901–31/05/1905

[ITM861836](#) in S5384, Batch and Miscellaneous Subject Files

Correspondence and Associated Papers relating to Pacific Island Labourers. Includes responses to the Commonwealth Pacific Islanders Labourers Bill, administrative arrangements for deportation

1/10/1901–31/05/1906

[ITM861837](#) in S5384, Batch and Miscellaneous Subject Files

Correspondence and Associated Papers relating to Pacific Island Labourers: Papers and log book exhibit of 'Sydney Belle' inquiry

1/05/1902–31/12/1904

[ITM861838](#) in S5384, Batch and Miscellaneous Subject Files

Correspondence and Associated Papers relating to Pacific Island Labourers: Papers and log book exhibit of 'Clansman' inquiry

1/06/1904–31/08/1907

[ITM861839](#) in S5384, Batch and Miscellaneous Subject Files

Inwards and General Correspondence

1/07/1898–Circa 31/12/1983

[S5402](#)

Register of Letters Received

Circa 1/07/1898–Circa 31/12/1952

[S5401](#)

Prisons Department

Special Subject Batch: Polynesian Islanders

Circa 1/01/1886–Circa 31/12/1899

[ITM89505](#) in S9097, Special Subject Batches

Public Curator Office, Brisbane

Intestacy Files

16/12/1868–Circa 31/07/2009

[S335](#)

Public Instruction Department

Polynesian State School Administration File

10/02/1933–4/07/1934

[ITM15873](#) in S12607, School Files (Correspondence) for State Schools

Joskeleigh State School Administration File

31/10/1913–7/03/1935

[ITM15011](#) in S12607, School Files (Correspondence) for State Schools

Polynesian State School Returns

Circa 1/01/1933–Circa 31/12/1933

[ITM12799](#) in S12596, Statistical Returns Furnished by Head Teachers of Provisional and State Schools

Walkerston State School Admission Register

23/05/1938

[ITM439075](#) in S225, Admission Register - Walkerston State School

School Files

Circa 1/01/1858–23/01/1968

[S12607](#)

School files for schools near South Sea Islander communities may have relevant information

Letter from a Staff Member of the Polynesian Provisional School to Mr Smith about the closure of the school

29/06/1933

[ITM1219894](#) [DR3406](#) in S12607, School Files (Correspondence) for State Schools

Letter from the Director of Education to Michael Alexander McColl, Head Teacher of the Polynesian Provisional School, about the date of the official closure of the school

7/12/1933

[ITM1219892](#) [DR3404](#) in S12607, School Files (Correspondence) for State Schools

Letter from The Premier, W M Forgan Smith to Alexander McColl, Head Teacher of the Polynesian Provisional School, about a proposed visit to Mackay

4/07/1933

[ITM1219893](#) [DR3405](#) in S12607, School Files (Correspondence) for State Schools

To find the school admission registers, search [ArchivesSearch](#).

Public Works Department

Mackay, Erection of a Hospital for the Pacific Islanders

Circa 1/07/1882–Circa 31/07/1882

[ITM1013956](#) in S16433, Specifications for Queensland Government Buildings - Public Works Department

Pacific Islanders Hospital, work and material required in the erection of a hospital for South Sea Islanders

24/07/1882–24/07/1882

[ITM1013958](#) in S16433, Specifications for Queensland Government Buildings - Public Works Department

Walkerston Polynesian School

Circa 1/01/1934–Circa 31/12/1934

[ITM127130](#) in S17826, Batch Files – Schools

Bundaberg Kanaka Hospital

15/04/1893–15/04/1893

[ITM582497](#) in S1162, Architectural drawings of public buildings

Sugar Industry Labour Commission

Papers of the Sugar Industry Labour Commission

2/04/1906–30/06/1906

[S10569](#)

Legislation

The legislation is Queensland State legislation unless otherwise noted.

Polynesian Labourers Act 1868 - dealt with licenses, guarantees of returns, numbers of recruits, provisions, etc.

Pacific Islanders Protection Act 1872 – provided protection from kidnapping and other criminal offences. Amended in 1875.

Pacific Island Labourers Act 1880. Repealed the Act of 1868, and provided for regulation and control of the introduction and treatment of labourers from the Pacific Islands; limited the age of recruits; returns to islands; provision of medical treatments and rations and dress allowance.

Pacific Island Labourers Act 1884 - confined labour to unskilled agricultural pursuits; crews to be paid wages; no firearms to be supplied; limited recruiting operations further.

Pacific Islanders' Employers' Compensation Act 1885 - introduced compensation for employers whose employees had returned to the islands, by order of the Government.

Pacific Island Labourers Act 1880 Amendment Act (1885). Prohibited further importation of labourers after 31 December 1890.

Pacific Island Labourers Act 1880 Amendment Act (1886). Amended the definition of Pacific Islanders.

Pacific Island Labourers (Extension) Act of 1892. Repeal of prohibition.

Immigration Restriction Act 1901 (Cwth). Described as an Act “to place certain restrictions on immigration and to provide for the removal from the Commonwealth of prohibited immigrants.”

Pacific Islands Labourers Act 1901-1906 (Cwth). Decreed there should be no further entry of Islanders after 31 March 1901. After that date deportation was to follow, with some exemptions.

Sugar cultivation Act 1913 - prohibited employment of ‘certain forms of labour in the production of sugar’.

Other information sources

- *Calendar of Documents - Pacific Island immigration. GOV/A. 1869-1887, and Summaries of letters, Pacific Island. GOV/N, ca 1880–1889* (available on Reading Room computers under the *Selected QSA records*)
- [Research guide to Aboriginal And Torres Strait Islander Peoples records at Queensland State Archives](#)
- [Index to Coloured Labour and Asiatic Aliens in Queensland](#)
- The [Australian South Sea Islanders Secretariat](#) (ASSIS)
- State Library of Queensland, Exhibitions, [Australian South Sea Islanders](#)

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