

UQFL361 Rosemary Opala Papers

Notes Unrestricted access

Box 1

Folder 1

Sketches of scenes from the Brisbane General Hospital, [between 1940 and 1945 – most done in 1942]: 38 items, 23 x 30 cm or smaller:

- 1) Casualty: It's the nerves of me stummick they're twisted. (pencil & ink : 15 x 22cm)
- 2) Occupational therapy. (pencil & ink : 25 x 16cm)
- 3) Casualties. (pencil & ink : 18 x 14cm)
- 4) The blue coat. (watercolour : 11 x 15cm)
- 5) The sutures. (pastel & ink : 13 x 18cm)
- 6) R.M.O. on call for Casualty spends an unhappy night on one of the couches. (pastel & ink : 15 x 12cm)
- 7) [Gloving-up]. (pastel, ink & watercolour : 14 x 18cm)
- 8) Between operations. (pastel, ink & watercolour : 18 x 14cm)
- 9) Sunday morning. (ink & pastel : 14 x 18cm)
- 10) The vultures. (ink : 22 x 15 cm)
- 11) Day's end. (ink & watercolour : 27 x 18cm)
- 12) The unrepentant. (ink & pastel : 14 x 21cm)
- 13) 2:30 A.M. (ink & pastel : 14 x 15cm)
- 14) Nurses off duty. (ink & pastel : 25 x 16cm)
- 15) Casualty: old man with broken leg. (ink & watercolour: 22 x 14cm)
- 16) Girl with asthma. (ink: 14 x 21cm)
- 17) Casualty : man with broken ribs. (ink, pastel & watercolour : 14 x 21cm)
- 18) Roof tops. (watercolour : 12 x 17cm)
- 19) Roof tops. (watercolour: 10 x 13cm)
- 20) [Five nurses off duty, two reading a newspaper] (pencil & ink : 8 x 8cm)
- 21) [Three nurses leaning over stair rail] (pencil & ink : 9 x 9cm)
- 22) The guinea pigs. (ink & watercolour : 30 x 23cm)
- [Doctor and nurse examining patient's foot] (pastel & watercolour : 15 x 25cm)
- 24) Casualty: wet Sunday. (ink, pastel & watercolour: 22 x 19cm)
- 25) Moribund. (pencil: 11 x 15cm)
- 26) Baby dead of diptheria. (pencil & watercolour : 14 x 14cm)
- 27) Gran at 7 A.M.. (ink & watercolour : 13 x 18cm)
- 28) Scabie Georgie. (ink & watercolour : 8 x 14cm)
- 29) Gentlemen of leisure. (ink & watercolour : 21 x 14cm)
- 30) [Patient in bed, person in chair with legs raised] (watercolour & pencil: 15 x 25cm)
- 31) R.M.O. putting in I.V. drip. (watercolour & pencil: 15 x 23cm)

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- 32) [Operating room] (ink & watercolour : 28 x 22cm)
- 33) Night round. (ink & pastel : 15 x 23cm)
- 34) Students. (ink & watercolour : 22 x 15cm)
- 35) Post-tonsillectomy. (pen & watercolour : 20 x 17cm)
- 36) Return from theatre. (ink & watercolour : 18 x 14cm)
- 37) Casualty: hot day. (ink, pastel & watercolour: 26 x 19cm)
- 38) [Operation] (ink, pastel & watercolour : 28 x 21cm)

Folder 2

- Brief curriculum vitae, May 31, 2002, 1 p.
- Drawing of Hibiscus tiliaceus (Cotton Tree)
- Photograph of Rosemary Opala, taken in December 2001
- 'Wanted * A Tidy Girl as a Nurse', 10 p. [written to accompany the above sketches]
- 'Childhood in Palmwoods', 9 p.
- 'The Trees of Paradise', 8 p. [Author notes this essay is 'on schooldays in Palmwoods in the Depression. Also called 'When Dad Went Broke on Bananas!']
- 'Sharing Lost Lives', 2 p. [Account of the author's time as a nurse at the Peel Island Lazaret in the late 1940s]
- 'A Speck on the Map', 9 p. [fuller account of the author's time at the Peel Island Lazaret]
- E.J. Reye, 'Leprosy', 14 Sept. 1988, 3 p. [discusses the medical understanding of leprosy in the 1940s]
- 'Comments on *The Lost Years* by June Berthelsen', 1996, 4 p.
- 'A Legend of Leprosy in Moreton Bay', Australian Folklore 12, 1997, pp220-223.
- 'Building An Island Home', January 1993, 5 p. [short account of Coochiemudlo Island life in the 1950s]
- 'Coochiemudlo 'The Sixth Island", [c. 1993], 10 p. [fuller account of Coochiemudlo Island life in the 1950s]
- 'Islands Revisited', Version A, 3 p. [short account of Peel and Coochiemudlo Islands]
- 'Islands Revisited', Version B, 9 p. [fuller account of Peel and Coochiemudlo Islands 'written just prior to NPWS assuming management of Peel Island']
- 'Necessary Monsters', 8 p. [on sea monsters and other legends]



- 'Those Were the Days, My Friend....', 4 p. [account of Brisbane life in the 1950s and the 1960s]
- 'Outward Bound', 9 p. [historical essay on experiences of early Australian emigrants]

- Ethel Fielding, 'A little world of insects', [c. 1975], 21 p. [with covering note by Rosemary Opala discussing her mother's writing career]
- 'I remember the rose: a study in communication', *The Australian Nurses' Journal*, Vol 9, No. 8 (March 1980), pp16-17.
- 'Mandy Comes to Stay', *The Australian Women's Mirror*, April 27, 1960, pp4-28.

Also in Box

Magazine stories written in the late 1950s and early 1960s:

- 'Change of Air', All Story Magazine, No. 7, [n.d.], pp80-88.
- 'My Battle with Talent', The New Idea, March 12, 1958, p11.
- 'Behind the Big Window', The New Idea, May 28, 1958, p31.
- 'Mushrooms are Funny Things!', The New Idea, June 11, 1958, p10.
- 'At the Bottom of Our Garden', The New Idea, August 20, 1958, pp10-11.
- 'Home is a Lovely Word', New Idea, April 24, 1963, pp.6-43.
- 'Nightingale in Suburbia', The Australian Women's Mirror, January 8, 1958, p11.
- 'Happy Days That Were', *The Australian Women's Mirror*, June 4, 1958, p13.
- 'Why Not a Verandah?', *The Australian Woman's Mirror*, June 18, 1958, pp.10-29.
- 'I Married a New Australian', Woman, August 29, 1955, pp. 14-15.
- 'The ministering angel with tired feet', Woman, May 14, 1956, pp20-21.
- 'The unwanted stranger', Woman's Day, July 28, 1958, pp20-45.
- 'Afternoon of a hero', Woman's Day, April 27, 1959, pp20-59.
- 'The White Rabbit', Woman's Day, November 9, 1959, pp20-63.
- 'The Well', Woman's Day, December 12, 1960, pp.36-108.
- 'So Quiet, So Deep', Woman's Day, May 22, 1961, pp21-70.



- 'Tiger Under the Tree', Woman's Day, July 10, 1961, pp35-44.
- 'Each heart has its Winter', Woman's Day, July 24, 1961, pp29-59.
- 'Late Christmas', Woman's Day, July 31, 1961, pp20-24.
- 'The Gift', Woman's Day, December 14, 1964, pp31-34.

Box 2

Photograph Albums: [mostly undated and no descriptions]

Album 1: Family photographs and photocopies of photographs [late 1800s? to modern day]

Album 2: Coloured photographs showing scenery and vegetation of Coochiemudlo Island? [1990s onwards?]

Album 3: Coloured photographs of area around Noosa, Rainbow Beach and Cooloola [some dated 1990]

Album 4: Coloured photographs of Caloundra bell swamp, Moolalah River Park area. Includes photographs of Lois Davis, Cressy Walters and members of WPSQ Caloundra [early 1990s] Includes loose poem 'Christmas Bells' and three early photographs of Caloundra – Happy Valley 1919, Caloundra Heads, Sept 1900 and King's Beach [undated] [all in back pocket of album]

Item 5

Two diplomas admitting Rosemary Opala to College of Nursing and photograph of her at graduation [1976-1977]

Box 3

Album 1: Coloured photograph album includes photographs of Cobby Cobby Island, Eprapah, Woodgate Beach and other areas. Appears to be album of group excursions to various wetland areas [1990s?]

Album 2: Coochie [Coochiemudlo] - Late 40s early 50s [includes loose plastic pockets with photographs]

Folder 3

14 photographs [coloured and black and white] including Sunshine coast hinterland, replica Weyba Ck bridge under construction, Heather and Lois on 'Heathers Hill' [1993?], photograph of shack of Mr Harold Fielding in late 1940s for his daughter Rosemary (later Opala), unnamed photographs possibly Coochiemudlo and Victoria Point, 1 photo of Point Lookout Stradbroke Island 1940s. Also sketch of boat, two newspaper cuttings, photocopy of woman in row boat, Certificate of appreciation awarded to Rosemary Opala 2001, and certificate of Honorary Life membership from Friends of Peel Island Association Inc 2007

Item 4

Boxed Australia Day medal Rosemary Opala 2005 Cultural



Box 5

Folder 1

Typescript of *Chronicles of Coochiemudlo* by Twelve Authors. The Royal Historical Society of Queensland.

Correspondence relating to the publication of above material and talk at the Conference (1993-1995)

Folder 2

Folder of articles by Rosemary Opala including 'The Old School Reader', 'Consider the lilies', 'Give me a home among the Banksias' and items from Local group newsletters with assorted illustrations

Folder 3

Botanical articles and some Peel Island material (2001-2005) by Rosemary Opala together with Toohey Forest Protection Society calendar 1996 illustrated by Rosemary Opala

Folder 4

Articles and correspondence relating to Thespesia populnea conservation work (1996-2007) – with two watercolour drawings

Folder 5

Folder of newspaper cuttings of Rosemary Opala's botanical writings (1994-1999)

Folder 6

Newspaper cuttings relating to Rosemary Opala's nomination and award of Living Treasure 2002, Certificates of appreciation from Redland District, Australian Day Cultural Award and general biographical information (1997-2007)

Folder 7

Old Woman's Mirror articles 1950s – 1960 written in the style of that period.

Folder 8

Six Friends of Peel Island Greeting cards – new issue – artwork by Rosemary Opala

Folder 9

Folder of newspaper cuttings of Rosemary Opala's botanical writings (1989-1999)

Folder 10

Folder of newspaper cuttings of Rosemary Opala's nature writings (1989-1997)

Folder 11

Folder of newspaper cuttings of Rosemary Opala's nature writings (1989-2001, mostly 1989-1991)

Folder 12

Material relating to the Going to the Gums exhibition, 31st May 2007 which included Rosemary Opala's material. Includes two coloured photographs of Rosemary the opening



Newspaper cuttings by or about Rosemary Opala 1898-1995

Folder 14

Folder of various photocopied articles including 'Sharing lost lives: a brief history of a nurses' experience of Hansen's disease on Peel Island, Moreton Bay, Queensland' (6 I., typescript) and 'The Queensland Acclimatisation Society and the Southern Moreton Bay Islands', written and published by RKLM Islands Heritage Group Inc

Folder 15

Palmwoods – Schools: Folder of loose notes, mostly biographical information about Rosemary Opala, includes photograph of her school class, and photocopy of *The Queensland Acclimatisation Society and the Southern Moreton Bay Islands*, written and published by RKLM Islands Heritage Group.

Box 7 - Photographs

Album 1

Coloured photos, probably of group tour to Peel Island [undated]

Album 2

Coloured photos, possibly of group tour to Peel Island, but includes early black and white photographs of Rosemary Opala and family. Includes an article about the death of her mother.

Album 3

Coloured photographs, appear to be of group tour to Peel Island [undated]

Folder 4

Photocopies of photographs, black and white and coloured, including photos from published works. Mostly relating to Peel Island and Caloundra. Includes one folder marked Indapamide and signed 'from Peter'

Folder 5

- Item 1: Envelope of photographs 'Marian's family'
- Item 2: Envelope of photographs 'Long Island early '50s' [Long Island, Great Barrier Reef, Qld]
- Item 3: Envelope of photographs 'Rosemary and Marian' family photographs
- Item 4: Envelope of photographs 'Rosemary' family photographs
- Item 5: Envelope of photographs marked Redcl. Viaduct, St Helena, Peel Island, Nth Stradbroke, Coochie Mudlo Isl, Vic. Point [aerial views, black and white] with negatives
- Item 6: Envelope of photographs 'Then & later Horseshoe, looking S.W.'
- Item 7: Envelope of photographs 'Rosemary' appear to have been removed from a photograph album – all of Rosemary Opala

Folder 6

Photographs, coloured and black and white, appear to be of tours to Coochiemudlo and Peel Islands



- Item 1: small photograph album of coloured and black and white photographs, appears to be of Peel Island
- Item 2: three coloured photographs and covering letter from Peter Ludlow (8 Sep 1995) of group at the book launch of 'Moreton Bay People vol. 3', 24 Aug 1995, with names on back.

Folder 8

Index to photograph and tape archive [appears to refer to some photographs in the collection but unable to cross reference them]

Folder 9

Unsorted photographs, mostly black and white, some coloured, majority are family photographs, but some coloured views of the Islands. Some are annotated. Includes two photographs of Bugler H.E. Fielding taken when a POW in Germany in 1910.

Folder 10

Envelope of photographs "54 flood"

Box 8

Folder 1

Loose sketches, coloured and black and white, some laminated.

Folder 2

Loose sketches, coloured and black and white, some laminated

Folder 3

Ten spiral sketch books

Folder 4

Articles and newspaper cuttings relating to Coochiemudlo, including note cards with artwork by Rosemary Opala

Box 9

Folder 1

Outward bound – published articles mainly relating to Stradbroke Island history

Folder 2

Material relating to her article on the Queensland School Readers

Folder 3

'Under the carpet' article by Rosemary Opala

Folder 4

School comics - 'A pernicious influence (based on Penny dreadful and comics)' Typescript article by Rosemary Opala, together with 'Rules for teachers 1879' (3 I.)



Smiths weekly – typescript article 'Who remembers *Smith's Weekly*' from George Blaidie's: 'Remember *Smith's Weekly*' Typescript article (13 l.)

Folder 6

Movies - Two typescript articles 'Our man who came to dinner' by Iris Page (May 1990, Auckland, 4 I.) and 'Fantales and jaffas' author unknown, (typescript 1990? 12 I.), with newspaper cutting on Caloundra School of Arts by Stan Tutt

Folder 7

Life styles – typescript articles 'Australian etiquette of the 1880s' (15 l.), 'Before we had life styles' (12 l.), by Rosemary Opala (10 l.), and cutting from Depression era, *Courier Mail* Jan 17, 1992.

Folder 8

Local history – material relating to the Cleveland and Redland Bay area history

Folder 9

Newspaper cuttings and photocopies of material relating to Peel Island history **Folder 10**

Newspaper cuttings and photocopies of material relating to Coochiemudlo Island

Folder 11

D. Downs 20's – typescript articles on Darling Downs history, 'Grandma Discourse on Cricket', 'The Twenties in vogue', and untitled photocopies on Darling Downs (2)

Folder 12

Victoriana – Envelope of 'Beholders Eye' typescript articles 'Etiquette', 'Parlour games', 'Next to Godliness' and 'Seen but not heard' plus loose handwritten notes.

Folder 13

'Those were the days' - drafts of article by Rosemary Opala

Folder 14

Typescript scripts for Caloundra Lunch Hour Theatre by Rosemary Opala - 'Childhood in Palmwoods – Depression Years' [undated] 'Kill or Cure' (1991) (2 drafts) plus 'Brisbane in WW2 (2 copies), 'Paradise lost', 'Tangalooma' (3 copies), drafts of script 'Outward bound' (3) For Caloundra Lunch Hour Theatre

Folder 15

Typescript 'Coochiemudlo – the sixth island', two untitled typescripts on Australia in the 1800s, 'From part of an account of a canoe trip to Swan Bay in search of a supposed wreck', personal reminiscence 'A good way to go – so they say' (1997), 'Skilled to rule', 'Introduction to Iceland', 'Islands revisited', 'From a kangaroo skin pouch'; miscellaneous biographical material and other material relating to nursing

Folder 16

Convicts – typescript and published articles on convicts in Moreton Bay



'Woodwork ghosts' - drafts and newspaper cutting about ghosts

Folder 18

'Old tales retold' for May '98 – drafts of article by Rosemary Opala

Folder 19

Typescript articles – 'Building an island home', 'Last man' by M.E.M., 'A good way to go – they say', 'A very strange boat', and two poems 'Coochie, then' and 'Voyagers'

Folder 20

Victoriana manners – Typescript articles – 'When manners made man', Untitled article on manners (14 l.), 'Those good (?) old days', 'The Aristologist' (19 l.)

Folder 21

Folder of material relating to Sunshine Coast and Peel Island history mostly written by Stan Tutt

Folder 22

Material relating to J. Berthelsen's book about Peel Island

Box 10

Folder 1

Springback folder of articles written by Rosemary Opala (1990s)

Item 2

'Australia's Heritage in stamps' – folder of three booklets – The Pastoral era, Boomtime, and Rush for Gold, accompanied by set of heritage stamps. (Set of stamps missing from 'Rush for gold')

Folder 3

Brisbane and South Coast Hospitals Board certificates of Registration for Rosemary Fielding (1945-1948); small blue pouch with Australian Society of the History of Medicine Biennial Conference Norfolk Island 1995 medallion together with small woven badge Queensland Member 1996.; poster 'Common seabirds' from Gould League; two Christmas cards, one dated 2005, various loose notes on medicine and botany, and typescript article on Sir Ninan Stephen' experiences in Water Transport

Folder 4

Peel Island Ecological & Vegetation Survey Diploma of Horticulture students (RUH50198) Moreton Institute of TAFE Bayside Campus 2000; artwork courtesy of Rosemary Opala

Box 11

Folder 1

Moreton Bay Strategic plan: a community proposal prepared by Friends of Coochiemudlo Island [undated] with loose newspaper cutting and article by Rosemary Opala 'Paradise lost?'

Folder 2



Heritage area assessment & proposed conservation plan for the Quarantine Station, Platypus Bay – Peel Island by Diploma Students, Moreton Institute of TAFE Bayside Campus 1999.

Folder 3

Site assessment and revegetation project, Platypus Bay, Peel Island [by] Diploma of Community Natural Resource Management Students, 2001. (Drawings by Rosemary Opala)

Folder 4

Peel Island 'Turkrodar' {Indigenous name} Ecological & Vegetation Survey [by] Diploma of Horticulture Students HRT531 Moreton Institute of TAFE Bayside Campus 2001; artwork courtesy of Rosemary Opala

Folder 5

Newspaper and magazine cuttings and photocopies (1934-2003) mainly relating to Peel Island or Hansen's disease

Folder 6

Correspondence (1987-2007) mainly relating to Peel Island and Hansen's disease

Folder 7

Material relating to Elbert 'Bert' Reddington Cobb including correspondence from Dudley M. Cobb, his great nephew

Folder 8

Awaiting print - five pen and ink artworks (original and photocopy)

Folder 9

Correspondence from Peter Ludlow (19.10.1987) together with his ms on 'Peel Island'

Folder 10

Two hand drawn maps of Peel Island including layout of the Leprosarium 1949 (2 copies), together with published map *Redlands North Stradbroke and Bay Islands road and tourist guide*

Folder 11

Typescript and hand written articles by Rosemary Opala (some incomplete)

Folder 12

Folder of published articles on Hansen's disease throughout the world

Folder 13

Small notebook with some notes, *Images : a small collection of haiku...* by Gordon Dickens, artwork b Rosemary Opala, loose notes and newsletters on Peel Island including Peel Island Tour Guide accreditation, handwritten timelines of Dunwich and Peel Island Lazaret, photocopy of letter to E. Gregory, 1917 advising appointment as Assistant Superintendent at Peel Island with photograph.

Folder 14

Last updated: 4/08/23



Publications: Wildlife Australia Summer 1992 with article by Rosemary Opala 'Silent Bells'; *National Trust Journal* April 1993 with article on Peel Island 'Out of sight, out of mind' by Ed Brannigan, *Dolphins Curve* by Margaret A. Manson, illustrated by Rosemary Opala; Signed copy of *Matthew Flinders: the discoverer of Coochie Mudlo Island* by Edward F. Jones [signed by author], *Not far from Heaven: stories in verse* by the Bards of Coochiemudlo (accompanied by letter from Rosemary Opala to Joy)

Folder 15

'Tours on the North Coast Line – Brisbane to Gympie'. Inscribed A.K. Hatfield.

Box 12

Item 1

Adventures on Parrot Island by Biron Fielding, with illustrations by Rosemary Fielding (Opala), London: Ward Lock & Co., 1964

Folder 2

Wildlife Australia Summer 1992 (3 copies); Autumn 1994 (2 copies); Winter 1995 (2 copies); Summer 1995-96 (2 copies); Autumn 2003 (2 copies) – contain articles by Rosemary Opala

Item 3

Flip file plastic file of coloured artworks – appear to be possible illustrations for children's book

Item 4

Plastic file of black and white pen sketches and coloured artwork, mostly botanical

Item 5

Plastic file of black and white pen sketches and coloured artwork, mostly botanical

Item 6

Plastic flip file of artwork, black and white and coloured, botanical drawings

Item 7

Framed photo of Organising Committee and Special Guests at the Regional Conference 'Chronicles of Coochiemudlo' 1993, with names.

Item 8

Spiral sketch book of pencil drawings

Item 9

Spiral sketch book of drawings, mostly botanical

Folder 10

Envelope of 'Conservation work – Philip Island Hibiscus

Item 11

Framed artwork – black and white botanical drawing (15 x10.5cm) in black frame (27 x 22cm)



Parcel 1

Item 1

Coloured botanical drawing of banksias(26 x 26cm) in white cardboard mounting (43 x 42cm)

Item 2

'Survivor' - framed coloured painting of a tree trunk (35 x 24 cm) in brown wooden frame (49 x 39cm)

Item 3

Framed coloured painting of a hibiscus flower (37 x 22cm) in green wooden frame (55 x 38cm)

Parcel 2

Item 1

'Christmas bells – Blandfordia grandiflora' – coloured artwork (37 x 21 cm) in brown wooden frame 50x35 cm)

Item 2

Framed coloured painting of banksias (50 x 30cm) in gold frame (56 x 42cm)

Parcel 3

Item 1

Framed floral landscape (40 x 33cm) in brown frame (52 x 42cm)

Folder 1

16 photocopies of botanical artwork (previously in A4 Flip File folder.

Folder 2

15 photocopies of botanical artwork (previously in Flip File folder)

Folder 3

20 original botanical artworks on paper (previously in A2 Flip File folder)

Folder 4

11 original botanical artworks on paper, 2 line cut prints (previously in A2 Flip File folder)

Folder 5

5 pen/ink original drawings, 3 colour original drawings, 13 leaves of paper of various sizes with pencil sketches, 10 black and white photocopies of line drawings, 6 colour photocopies.

Folder 6

3 original artworks on paper, one with board mount.

Folder 7

Photocopies from publication with heading 'Plants of the Horseshoe on Peel 11 A3 size photocopies of aerial photographs of Peel Island with 4 black and white photographs. Photocopies on A3 paper of selected articles by Rosemary Opala in *Woman's Day* (1958-1965)



Album 1

Unnamed album of coloured photographs. Mostly photographs of Coochiemudlo, some photographs of Rosemary in later life. [1950s to 1993]

Album 2

448 x 35mm colour slides, some have annotations on mounts. Content of slides includes: "Castaways"; Nudgee; Caloundra; Beachmere; Curumundi Lake; Beerwah; Glasshouse Mountains; Coochimudlo house being built; flowers; bird and wildlife; Marian Opala; and beach sunsets.

Album 3

382 x 35mm colour slides, some have annotations on mounts. Content of slides includes: Graduation photographs; Hunchy Hall and School from 1989; Peel Island in the 1940-1950s, 1990; Milla Milla Lookout.

Box/Parcel Number Conversion Chart

Old no.	New no.
Parcel 4	Album 1
Parcel 13, 14 15	Parcel 1
Parcel 16, 17	Parcel 2
Parcel 18, 19, 20	Parcel 3
Box 6	Albums 2-3