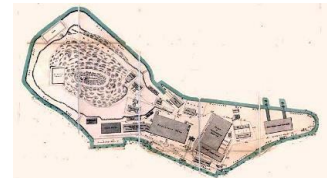


The history and operation of Garden Island.

Navy use of Garden Island started in February 1788, chosen by Arthur Phillip for HMS *Sirius* crew to establish a garden to grow onions and corn. This was to help prevent Scurvy. It was secure from the Settlers but was regularly visited by the Aborigines



With the establishment of the Australian Station in 1856, three new buildings were added by 1865. In 1887 the southern hill was removed to provide the space required for a full naval depot.



With the growth of the Royal Navy's Australia Station a further seven ships were to be based at Garden Island in 1891. Two of these ships were to be always held in reserve at Garden Island for emergency or rotational use.



Transferred to the RAN in 1913 with the arrival of the first RAN ships, the island serviced many naval and merchant ships until it became necessary to build a large docking facility for future needs.



Construction of the Captain Cook Graving Dock started in 1941, finishing in 1945 and first used by HMS *Illustrious* needing urgent repairs before the official opening. One of the two largest docks in the Southern Hemisphere at 365m long x 45m wide x 14m deep.



Church attendance on Sunday was compulsory, so a new Chapel facility was built in 1905 to cope with the increase in personnel after the construction of the Barracks building in 1889.



A detention centre was added to handle up to 20 defaulters. The defaulters were also required to attend Sunday church services so special security arrangements were required.

