



UNIVERSITY OF  
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# Maritime Mobilities & Permeable Prisons: Theorising prison islands in colonial Australia

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# Case Studies

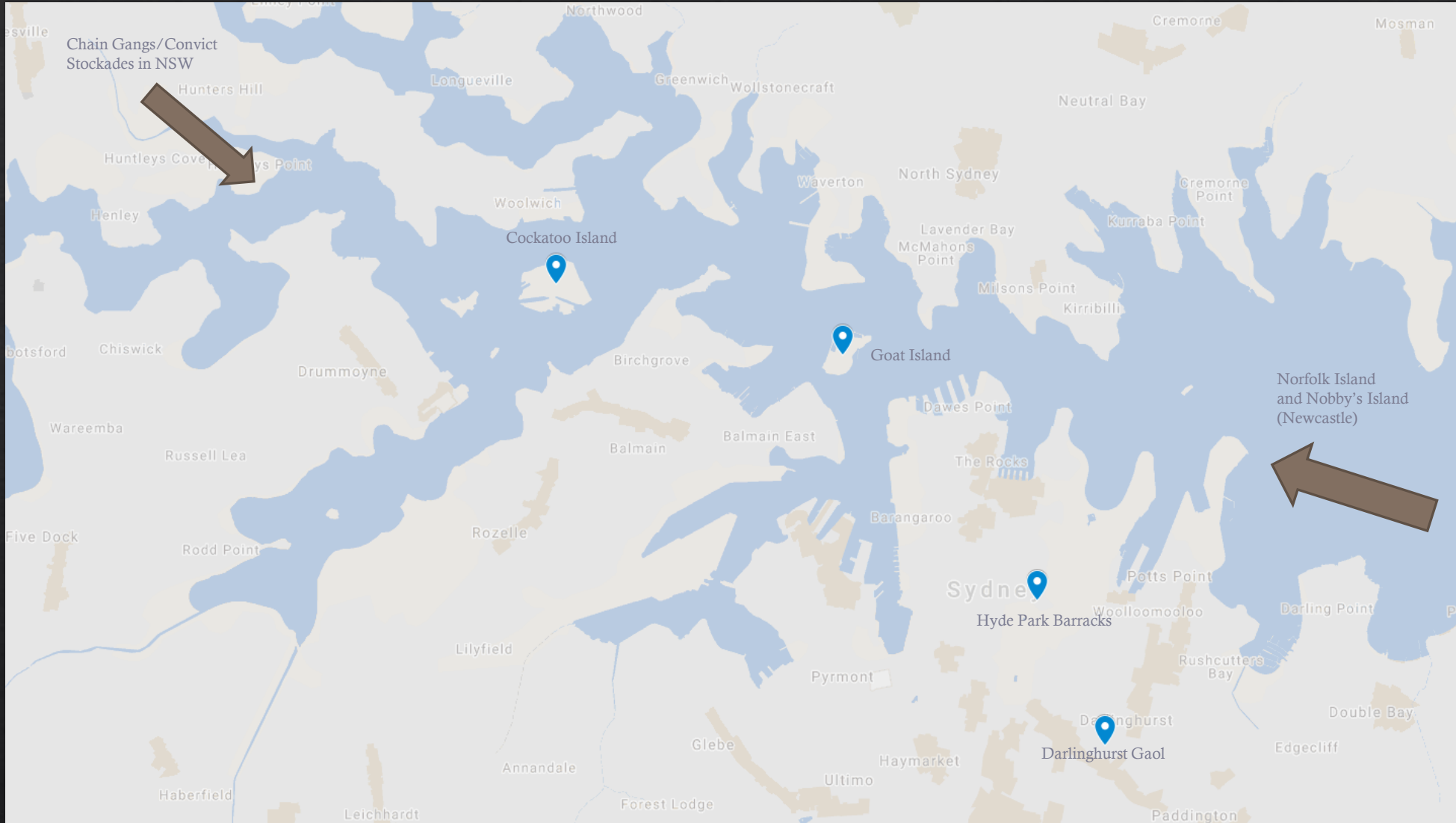
Waramah/Cockatoo Island



Wadjemup/Rottnest Island



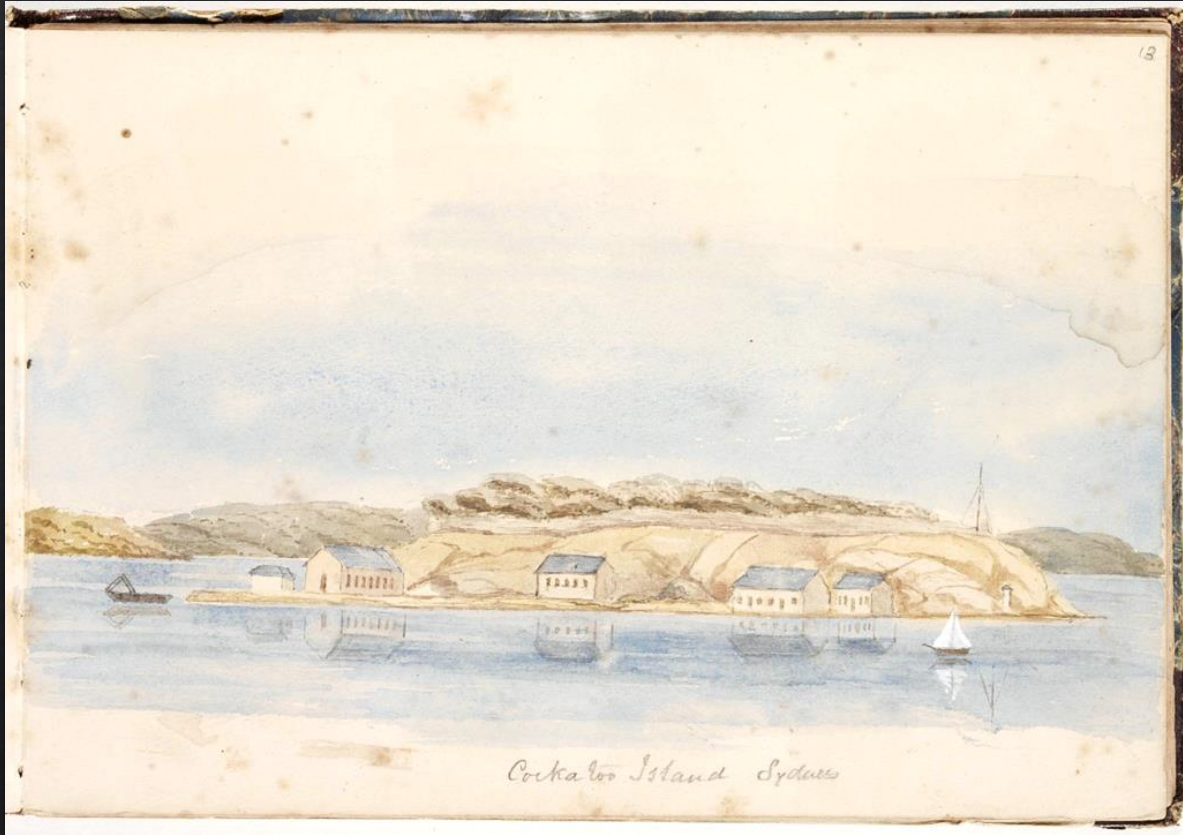
# Convicts' Journeys – to Waramah/Cockatoo Island



*Google Maps, 2015*



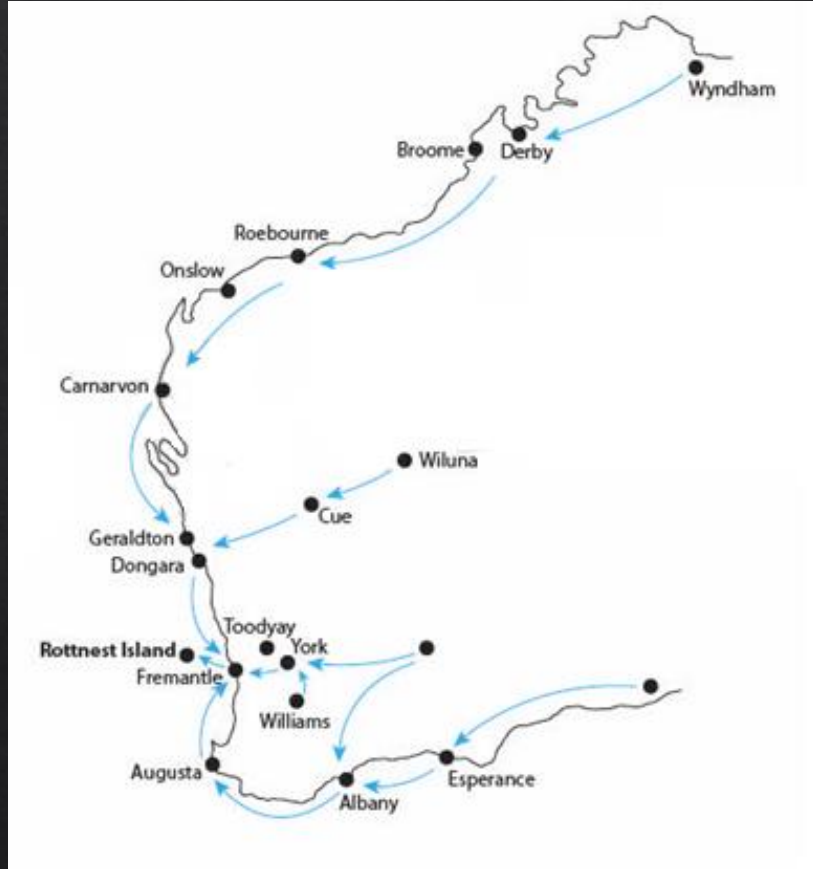
# Convicts' Journeys – to Waramah/Cockatoo Island



“The island is not more than a mile in circumference and as I looked upon it from a distance while being conveyed thither in the police boat, it appeared a small white bit of rock with a few stone buildings stuck upon the top of it. Small as it appeared, I soon found that there were upwards of 800 prisoners confined upon it.’

Owen Suffolk’s, ‘Days of Crime and Years of Suffering’, *Empire*, 11 June 1867, p. 2.

# Wadjemup/Rottnest Island





# Convicts' Journeys – to Wajemup/Rottnest Island

‘I walked from Eyre Sand Patch to Albany naked, with a chain on my neck. My neck was sore from the chain. I knocked up from the long walk. Police Truslove...hit me for knocking up. [...] I like ship I was not sick. I do not like walking so far. I came with a bullock chain round my neck...when it rained my neck was very sore from the chain. .. I was quite naked all the way, no clothes or blanket.

‘Benjamin’, Report of a Commission to Inquire into Treatment of Aboriginal Prisoners, WA L.C., 1885



# Permeable Prison – Waramah/Cockatoo Island

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August 1859

Rev. Mr. Flanagan attended and performed Divine service for the Roman Catholics

Rev. P. P. Lyness attended and performed Divine service for Prisoners of the Church of England persuasion.

Charles Ellis out on work at the Engine house, during the day & Prisoner and on Wagon, drawing a load of Coals to the Engine house.

Capt. Mann visited and left at 4.30 PM.

Provisions good.

JB

JB

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August 1859

Capt. Mann visited and remained until 6 PM.

Mr. Brown to Sydney on leave.

Provisions good.

Thomas Davies released from the Cells

JB

JB

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 1859

Capt. Mann visited and left at 6 PM.

H. M. S. Steam Ship Pelorus, entered the Docks

T. West & the Rev. P. P. Lyness visited.

Shops taken for the Prisoners amounting to £1.10.0

At about 8 PM this evening a Boat was seen by the sentry at the Prison, close to the shore, he fired at it and alarmed the Guard who turned out and fired several shots without effect. The Police boat searched round the shore in the darkness which the Boat attempted to make, but could find no trace; the Prisoners

were all safe in Warracks at the time  
George Day & Charles Ferris kept out to work at the Engine until 8 PM

JB

JB

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 1859

Capt. Mann visited the Main ship at 6 PM.

Mr. Welch & Sidney on leave.

Two Prisoners received from Darlinghurst Gaol

Capt. Seymour H. M. S. Pelorus, handed over a drunken & refractory seaman to be confined in the Cells.

Super. Russell & Drutke to visit the Island.

Mr. Cuthbert & friends to visit the Ship

Mr. Rogers visited.

Prisoner Taw confined in the Cells for disorderly conduct.

H. M. S. Pelorus still in Docks

JB

JB

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August 1859

Capt. Mann visited the Island & left at 6 PM.

Commodore Loring visited.

Super. Rogers & Wilson visited.

Mr. Hinman visited.

Local Tallow visited to see Mr. Woodford.

Secret Hunt & Sydney

When Mr. Drought, confined in the Cells for having Rings made on the Island, and Dice, in his possession.

Prisoner Taw released from the Cells this morning.

Shops taken for the Prisoners amounting to £1.1.6

H. M. S. Pelorus still in Docks

JB

JB

|            | Vessels | People |
|------------|---------|--------|
| 14 Aug '57 | 2       | 3      |
| 15 Aug '57 | 2       | 2      |
| 16 Aug '57 | 3       | 2      |
| 17 Aug '57 | 5       | 10     |
| 18 Aug '57 | 6       | 7      |
|            | 18      | 26     |



## Permeable Prison – Waramah/Cockatoo Island

Originally image of:  
HMS Pelorus see: C.B.C., H.M.S. Pelorus Farm Cove  
Sydney, c. 1860-1869, *State Library of New South Wales*,  
Digital Order Number: a1251001

Available [here](#)

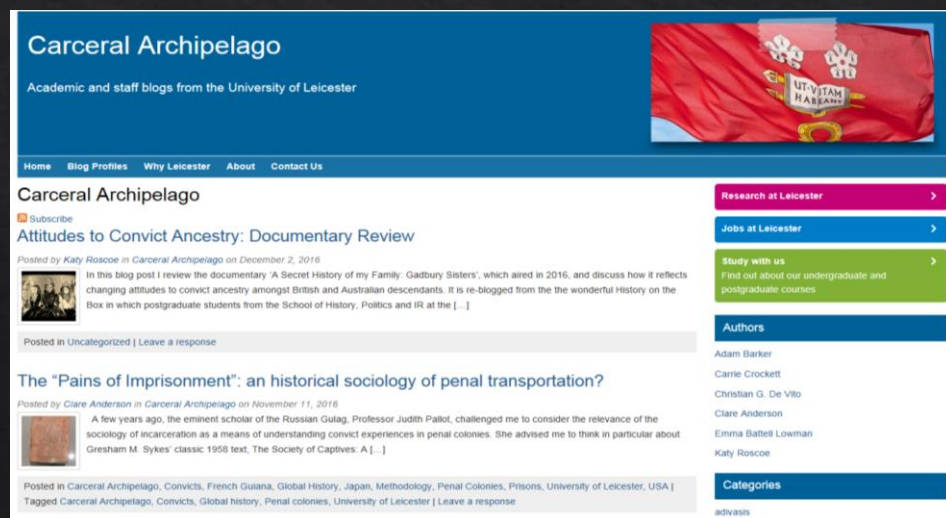
|            | Vessels   | People     |
|------------|-----------|------------|
| 14 Aug '57 | 2         | 3          |
| 15 Aug '57 | 2         | 2          |
| 16 Aug '57 | 4         | 2          |
| 17 Aug '57 | 5         | 270        |
| 18 Aug '57 | 6         | 7          |
|            | <b>19</b> | <b>284</b> |





# Permeable Prison - Wadjemup/Rottnest Island

- ◇ Images removed. Originally from:  
Collection of photographs from Colonel  
Angelo (Superintendent of Rottnest),  
1895, Battye Library, Western Australia,  
BA 1426, not available online.



# Conclusion



[www.convictvoyages.org](http://www.convictvoyages.org)  
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