

INTERESTING ITEMS FROM THE COLLECTION



Many Admin and NIRC staff members will have walked past this lovely painting hanging outside the General Manager's office at the New Military Barracks. This eye-catching painting was created by Tasmanian artist Roger Murphy for the Philatelic series 'Restored Buildings of the Convict Era'. The series of four postage stamps were released in Dec 1988 and printed in Melbourne and is currently on NIMT loan to NIRC for display at the New Military Barracks office.

Roger Murphy is a Tasmanian artist who produced five paintings from the Norfolk Island Philatelic Bureau in 1988 to commemorate the restoration of the Kingston buildings. In total Murphy was involved in creating three sets of stamps for Norfolk Island with other examples of his artwork appearing in the 1984 Christmas Commemorative issue highlighting the Methodist church on Norfolk Island and 1985 Christmas Commemorative issue showing traditional nativity scenes. If you have a postage stamp collection at home you might be able to see other examples of his fine water-colouring skills.

The painting of the Old Military Barracks became the 90c stamp in the series and the scene has stayed relatively unchanged from when Murphy painted it over thirty years ago until today. Murphy's painting shows the t-intersection between Rooty Hill Road (also referred to as House Rd) and Quality Row. Just in case you weren't sure, Murphy has included the road sign with 'Quality Row' clearly displayed. In this painting Murphy would have been stationed just in front of No.11 Quality Row.

The compound walls surrounding the Old Military Barracks takes up the majority of the frame with the Barrack's second floor peaking over the top. The structure used to be three stories high when it was finished in 1832 and has housed a wide variety of people. Initially the barracks was for the British military, with Pitcairn Islanders moving in after 1856. It was later renovated by the Methodist Church, including the removal of the top floor, in the 1880s to stabilize the structure and was used as the Methodist place of worship. Burns Philp & Co shipping company based their store in the Old Military Barracks from 1904, with it later being used by both New Zealand soldiers and local works depo as a works yard. Most Islanders will know it as either the home of the Parliamentary Chambers for the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly or the current NIPD tent embassy. For all this history and activity, Murphy's painting is devoid of any figures.

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16 September 2021