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ACQUISITIONS

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

CONTROLLER OF PRISONS

REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1978

(PRISONS - RISDON AND THE KILDERRY FARM AT HAYES)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command

By Authority:
T. J. HUGHES, Government Printer, Tasmania

(No. 7)

The Attorney-General, The Honourable B. K. Miller,
Attorney-General's Department,
Murray Street, Hobart.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report and Statistical Tables of the Prisons Department for the year ending 30 June 1978.

Prison Population

For the seventh consecutive year, a decrease in the daily average number of prisoners held in custody has been recorded. Although not so dramatic a decline as the 14-8 per cent recorded during the previous year the reduction of 8-26 per cent was still quite substantial. The highest number of prisoners confined on any day during the year was 269 and the lowest number was 221. The former figure is the lowest recorded since 1964.

The following table outlines the highest number of prisoners held and the daily average prison population during the past decade:—

30 Jun	e								Highest Number Held	Daily Average
1969	****						••••		362	333-21
1970		••••	****				••••	••••	405	359.09
1971								••••	414	385-85
1972		••••		••••	••••	••••			406	373
1973	••••			••••					398	370.7
1974	****	••••		••••	••••				388	343.78
1975	••••	••••		••••	.,				366	342.07
1976						****		•	365	308-73
1977	,		****	••••	****		••••		301	263-12
1978						****			269	241.38

The continuing effects of parole and the alternative penalties now available to Courts have undoubtedly been responsible for the decline in prison population over the past two years. Prison populations are notoriously difficult to predict but indications over the last two months of the year under review appear to indicate that a base level may have been reached.

Populations could again increase should Courts hand down harsher sentences for breaches of alternative penalties.

Accommodation and Buildings

The new Security Patients' Hospital at Risdon was completed early in the year. This unit with accommodation for up to 28 patients will alleviate the poor medical facilities at Risdon and provide treatment facilities for both the physically and mentally ill for many years to come.

Work continued during the year on much needed maintenance at Risdon Prison. The Remand Yard in particular has been given a substantial overhaul. Unfortunately, this work has had to be severely limited due to the unavailability of funds.

During the year a new closed circuit television surveillance system was installed at the Risdon Prison and Security Patients' Hospital. The installation has already proved its worth as a valuable back-up aid to safety and security.

Launceston Prison

As indicated in last year's report the old prison at Launceston was abandoned during that year and the prisoners were transferred to the new Police Headquarters building. Since then the Police Department have taken over the financial responsibility for the operation and control of remandees in Launceston. In view of this no separate statistics are provided in this report for Launceston.

Women's Prison, Risdon

The daily average number of woman prisoners increased from 3.73 in the previous year to 5.63 per cent last year. A total of thirty-nine female prisoners were received into custody during the year. Much help has again been received from voluntary helpers at this institution and I wish to express my appreciation for their efforts.

Escapes

There were no abscondments from maximum or medium security during the year. One prisoner absconded from the Prison Farm at Hayes. He was re-captured two days later and suitably dealt with by the Court.

Official Visitors

Official Visitors continued to visit all institutions throughout the year. I wish to express my appreciation for their assistance and co-operation.

Educational and Recreational Activities

During the year the Education Officer who was previously seconded from the Education Department was appointed a full time officer of the Prisons Department. This brings Tasmania into line with the majority of the mainland States.

In April a Recreation and Amenities Officer was appointed to the Department and this has permitted us to expand the range of activities available to inmates.

The established education and recreation activities continued. These include contact lessons in basic subjects, supervision and counselling in respect of correspondence studies in a wide range of subjects (one inmate successfully completed a Science degree, majoring in Maths and Computer Studies), football or cricket in season, regular use of well-stocked library, debating club, chess club, hobby classes in woodcarving, metalwork, silkscreen printing and oil painting. In the exercise yards volley ball, table tennis, chess, padder tennis and simple cricket are available. Rug making in the cells has continued to be a popular activity.

The annual exhibition of prisoners' arts and crafts was held in the State library in late November and the Red Cross sponsored auction of these works was held in December at Domain House.

A first aid course leading to the St John's certificate was held and ten inmates were successful in obtaining certificates.

An Alcoholics Anonymous group was founded at Risdon under the sponsorship of the Moonah Group. This will be a valuable addition to the activities within the prison and it is envisaged that a system of sponsorship by people in the community will develop.

The Red Cross Blood Bank continues to visit Risdon and Hayes quarterly and the percentage of staff and inmates giving blood is very high when compared with the general community. For the year under review 363 donors from Risdon and 53 from Hayes donated blood.

The Athletic Carnival at Risdon which takes up all the Christmas and New Year recess once again provided the highlight of the activities. Gratitude is expressed for the donations of prizes at this time and for all the support given during the year by individuals and clubs which visit the prison in an encouraging role.

Discipline and Health

The discipline of prisoners throughout the year has been of a high standard and the health of prisoners remained generally good.

Prison Industries

The prison workshops have again had a very satisfactory year's operations. As well as providing useful occupation, training and work experience for prisoners, many other government agencies and approved organisations have benefited from the work carried out. The surplus returned to Consolidated Revenue at the end of the year's operations was \$63 658.

Welfare and After-Care

The Prison Welfare Officer ably assisted by the Probation and Parole Service and the many non-statutory bodies has again capably dealt with the many problems facing prisoners on incarceration. Numerous enquiries have been carried out on behalf of inmates into matters relating to domestic, marital, behavioural and financial problems. In addition to this close co-operation has been maintained with solicitors, psychiatrists, sociologists, psychologists and other agencies. Commonwealth Employment Officers continue to interview prisoners prior to release thus ensuring registration for employment prior to discharge. The assistance received from the Probation and Parole Service, the Commonwealth Employment Service, Hobart City Mission, Prisoners' Aid Society, Society of St Vincent de Paul and a number of other individuals is greatly appreciated.

H.M. Prison Farm, Hayes

The daily average number of prisoners held at the Prison Farm during the year was 33.45. This was the lowest number held there for the past 26 years and is approximately one-half the daily average of two years ago. Despite the dearth of suitable labour, farm activities were maintained at a high level. Production figures for the year include:—

Milk — 398 895 litres.

Wool — 5 197 kilos.

Eggs — 35 638 dozen.

Vegetables — 264·42 tonnes. —

A surplus of \$33 864 was paid into Consolidated Revenue at the end of the year's operations.

Several major prizes were won at the Royal Hobart Show in the piggery section.

The Farm Potters also took out a first prize.

Charitable Institution

During the year the use of this building to house inmates committed there under certain sections of the Police Offences Act was discontinued. The building was undoubtedly a fire risk and its abandonment was long overdue.

Staff

During the year, twenty-five new officers were inducted into the service and all completed a four week induction training course. Nine officers undertook a three week course for Senior Prison Officers and 115 male and two female Prison Officers qualified for the St Johns Ambulance First Aid to the Injured Certificate.

The Education Officer and the Welfare Officer attended two seminars on Drugs and Alcohol, one of two and the other of three days duration.

The Education Officer also attended an Adult Literacy Conference at Melbourne University and an Education of Prisoners' Workshop at the Institute of Criminology in Canberra.

Throughout the year the staff have performed their duties efficiently and conscientiously and I wish to express my appreciation of their efforts.

Yours faithfully,
D. HORNIBROOK, Controller of Prisons.

STATISTICAL TABLES

Table 1 refers to multiple receptions.

Tables 2, 3 and 4 refer to individual prisoners received on conviction.

Highest number of prisoners confined at any one time during the year — 269.

Lowest number of prisoners confined at any one time during the year — 221.

Daily Average

Daily average number of male prisoners at Risdon Prison	,	202,32
Daily average number of female prisoners Women's Prison Risdon	••••	5.63
Daily average number of male prisoners at Kilderry Farm Gaol	••••	33:43
Daily average number of prisoners		241.38

TABLE 1
RETURN OF PRISONERS RECEIVED AND DISCHARGED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1978

H.M. Prison, Risdon						H.M. Female Prison					
On hand 30 June 1977					262	On hand 30 June 1977					2
Received during the year		••••	•	••••	809	Received during the year	••••	••••		••••	39
Total on hand and received				****	1 071	Total on hand and received	Į.		,,,,,		41
Discharged during the year	••••	••••	••••		800	Discharged during the year		٠		••••	39
Remaining 30 June 1978			••••		271	Remaining 30 June 1978		****	,	••••	2

TABLE 2

RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER OF PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS OF ALL CONVICTED PRISONERS RECEIVED IN THE STATE DURING THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1978

					No Previous	One Previous	Two Previous	Three or More Previous	Total
Males					 35	21	18	485	559
Females	••••	••••	••••	****	 6	1.	••••	16	23
	الما				41	22	18	501	582

TABLE 3

RETURN SHOWING THE AGES OF ALL CONVICTED PRISONERS IN THE STATE DURING THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1978

						16-17		18-19	20-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60 and over	Total
<u> </u>						10-17		10-19	20-24	27-29	JU-J9	70-72	20-29	000	10141
Males		••••	 			65		96	180	76	69	40	26	7	559
Females	••••	****	 ••••	••••	••••	3		3	1	4	2	1	. 6	3	23
						<u> </u>	_					· ——			
						68		99	181	80	71	41	32	10	582

TABLE 4
RETURN SHOWING OFFENCES FOR WHICH CONVICTED PRISONERS WERE RECEIVED IN THE STATE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1978

Offences against the person

								Males	Females	Tatal
Murder	, ,,,,	,,,,	••••		.,,,,	,.		. 2		2
Wounding			****	,.,.				1		1
Robbery with violence	,.		****			4111		13	. 3	16
Common assault			****	****		.,	••••	43	••••	43
Aggravated assault			****				,	2	,	2
Assault police								23		23
Rape			****			****	••••	7	••••	7
Attempted rape		••••	****					1	****	1
Indecent assault		,	,	••••				9	****	9
Assault a female			••••	••••				1	••••	1
Defilement							****	4	••••	4
Unlawful carnal knowledge		••••	••••	****				8	****	8
Indecent practices between		persor	าร			••••	****	4	****	4
Forcible abduction						****		4	••••	4
Incest					.,			3		3
Obstruct police		••••	****	****		.,	••••	2	••••	2
Drunk in charge of a dang	gerous	weap	on		••••	••••		. 1	****	1
										,
								128	3	131

Offences against property

								Males	Females	Total
Aggravated burglary								13	****	13
False pretences	**** ****		••••		****			162	57	219
Uttering		••••	****					37	20	57
Forgery								45	17	62
Burglary		,						405	3	408
Attempted burglary								5		5
Steal a motor vehicle		••••				••••		135	****	135
Attempt to steal a motor	vehicle		****					7	••••	7
Stealing					••••			406	168	574
Stock stealing		••••		••••	••••		••••	5		5
Trespassing			••••		••••			56	1	57.
Trespass with intent					••••			13		13
Unlawfully setting fire to			****	****	****			3		3
Attempting to set fire to			••••	••••	••••			20	****	20
Imposition	Liebarry		****					8	••••	8
Receiving		••••					****	21	1	22
Defraud	****						****	5		5
Injury to property		****	••••		****	****	****	34		34
Other offences against pr			****	.,			.,	12	••••	12
			:					1 392	267	1 659

Offences against good order

								Males	Females	Total
Breach of suspended sentence		,,,,						. 32	1	33
Breach of bail		,,,,	••••	••••		,	****	21		21
Breach of probation order		****	****	****				46	. 3	49
Breach of parole	••••	****	••••	••••	****		****	5	****	- 5
Breach of social services act					••••	••••	.,,,	4	****	4
Revocation of work order	,.	••••	• • • •	••••				13	****	13
Non payment of fines	••••			****			••••	85	1	86
Drunk and incapable	,					••••		29	11	40
Drunk and disorderly	••••	****		****				23	3	26
Indecent language	••••	,				,		9		. 9
Resist arrest	****		••••		****			10	••••	10
False statement to police				****	****		••••	20	1	21
Use threatening language to p	oolice	:		****		****	****	.5		5
Contempt of court	••••						.,	6	••••	6
Escape from custody			,					6	••••	ີ 6
Endeavour to impose untrue	repre	sent	ation		****	****	••••	6	••••	6
Fail to comply with an order		,		••••				5	****	5
Vagrancy				••••				11	•	11
Discharge a firearm		.,			••••		••••	2		2
Perjury		****	••••				••••	1	2	. 3
Other offences against good of	order			. ••••	••••	••••		8	••••	8
								347	22	369

Traffic Offences

						Males	Females	Total
Drive whilst disqualified	••••				,.,,	197	1 .	198
Exceed 08 per cent		****		.,		69	****	69
Traffic offences				••••	****	33.	****	33
Drive under influence	••••		••••	,		29	••••	29
Dangerous driving					•	9	••••	9
Drive an unregistered motor vehicle		••••	****	••••	••••	3	••••	3
Having no third party insurance	••••	••••	••••	••••	••••	2	••••	2
Drive whilst alcohol present in body		••••				2	****	2
Drive without licence		••••	••••	••••	••••	2		2
In possession of a licence calculated to	dece	ive	••••	••••	••••	1	****	1
Refuse breath test	••••			••••	••••	1		1
Cause death by dangerous driving			••••		****	1	****	. 1
Fail to stop at an accident		••••		••••	****	1	****	1
						350	1	351

Drug Offences

								Males	Females	Total
Sell prohibited substance								16	••••	16
Possess prohibited substance			****		••••			13	•	13
Use prohibited substance		••••				****	****	7	****	7
T 1		••••					****	4		4
Grow prohibited plant		****				••••		1	****	1
Traffic in a dangerous substan								1	••••	1
Administer dangerous drugs				••••	••••			. 1	•	i
Failure to disclose source of s	upp	ly		••••			****	1	****	1
		•								
								44	****	44

GAOL FARM SUSPENSE ACCOUNT Statements of Receipts and Payments for the Year Ended 30 June 1978

Receipts	\$	\$	Expenditure	\$	\$
Balance from last Account	••••	55 042.30	Paid to Consolidated Rev-		
Sheep and Wool	12 510 85		enue: Surplus 1976-77	****	55 042-30
Vegetables	43 309 43		Equipment	9 882.74	
Dairy	73, 167-15		Maintenance of Plant	22 328 49	
Pigs	45 754-57		Maintenance of		
Cattle	10 345-97		Buildings	4 690.93	
Poultry	35 607.96		Motor Vehicles: Run-		
Millwood	****		ning Expenses	11 802.72	
Firewood	2 966.04		Garden	9 006-44	
Oil Changes	144-25		Fertilizers	11 229.80	
Miscellaneous	1 052.00		Pigs	37 338 87	
		224 858-22	Sheep and Wool	3 377-23	
			Dairy	18 582 11	
			Cattle	7 475.71	
			Horses	60.10	
			Poultry	28 233 57	
			Freights	1 195-36	
			Oil and Motor Power	16 799-69	
			Black Hills	9.00	
			Saw Mills	740-90	
			Ellesmere	3 647.44	
			Clay Plant	2 018 09	
			Miscellaneous	2 574	
					190 993.39
			Balance to next Account		33 864 83
	•	\$279 900.52			\$279 900.52

The Goal Farm Suspense Account has been examined for the year ended 30 June 1978, in accordance with the provision of the Audit Act 1918, and I certify that in my opinion the Statement of Receipts and Payments gives a true and fair view of the transactions during the year, having regard to the records produced for inspection and the explanations tendered.

CERTIFIED CORRECT
D. HORNIBROOK, Controller of Prisons.

J. G. LENNOX, Auditor-General. Audit Department, Hobart,

(No. 7)

GAOL SUSPENSE ACCOUNT

Statements of Receipts and Payments for the Year ended 30 June 1978

Receipts	\$	\$	Expenditure	\$	\$
Balance from last Account		30 632.47	Paid to Consolidated Rev-		
Bread	108 521-52		enue: Surplus 1976-77	****	30 632 47
Woodwork	29 328-33		Maintenance of plant	.,,,	18-38
Tinsmith	13 319-14		Maintenance of		
Tailor	13 798-92		vehicles	*****	6 303.48
Miscellaneous	3 522.74		Flour	42 365:17	
Laundry	79 454-97		Yeasts & salts	15 036.68	
-		247 945-62	Bakers stores	5 693.05	
			Bakers expenses	8 246 00	
			Bakery fuel	2 278-37	
			•		73 623-27
			Woodwork	21 744-21	
			Woodwork expenses	2 103-67	
			•		23 847 88
			Paintshop	1 997.93	
			Paintshop expenses	377.92	
					2 375.85
			Laundry	31 724.47	
			Laundry expenses	15 882-18	
					47 606-65
			Tailor	16 581 15	
			Tailor expenses	906-62	
					17 487.77
			Tinsmith	11 070-24	
			Tinsmith expenses	1 918.78	
					12 989.02
			Oil and motive power		35.12
			Total Expenditure	•••	184 287-42
			Balance to next Account	****	63 658-20
		\$278 578.09			\$278 578.09

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