

Place No. 43 Peg's Well, Karratha



Pegs Well, Karratha 2012

LOCATION	
Name of Place	Pegs Well, Karratha
Other Name (1)	Old Well
Other Name (2)	
Location/Address	
Street Number	5
Street Name	Hedland Place
Suburb/Town	Karratha
Other Locational descriptor (text)	Shire of Roebourne
Local Government Authority	mE 484211 mN 7707116 Longitude: 116.8483 Latitude: -20.7355

OWNERSHIP & LAND DESCRIPTION				
Owner	Address	Phone/fax	Status	Item No.
Shire of Roebourne				
Reserve No.	Lot/Location No.	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	Item No.
33357	1451	P181088	LR3014/ 177	

LISTING AND ASSESSMENT	
HCWA Reference Number	8678
State Register of Heritage Places:(Y/N)	No
Classified by the National Trust (Y/N)	No
Register of the National Estate (Y/N)	No
Local Town Planning Scheme (Y/N)	Yes
Management Category	C

DESCRIPTION	
Construction Date (1)	April 1933 (started)
Construction Date (2)	April 1936 (completed)
Site Type (Place Type)	Other Structure
Use(s) of Place	
<i>Original</i>	FARMING/PASTORAL: Other – Well (watering point for stock)

<i>Present</i>	VACANT/UNUSED: Vacant/Unused
<i>Other</i>	
Construction Materials:	
<i>Walls</i>	3. CONCRETE 399 Other Concrete
<i>Roof</i>	
<i>Other</i>	6. METAL 699 Other Metal
Condition	Fair
Integrity (how much of the original fabric is intact?):	Some
Physical Description	
<p>Peg's Well is a former stock watering well located on land that was part of Karratha Station, on a division fence running north-south between Miller's paddock to the west and Nickol paddock to the east. The remains of the well are now situated approximately 100 metres from the SGIO building in the Karratha town shopping area. The circular walls of the well are constructed with concrete poured into corrugated iron sheets on a thicker base.</p>	
History	
<p>There was good availability of sub-artesian water and an average aquifer depth of approximately 9 meters on the land of Karratha station. This, along with the natural pools, provided good watering facilities for stock.¹</p> <p>Mr William Allen (Bill) Leslie, owner of Karratha Station from 1929-1966, sank 20 extra wells on the station and built troughs connected to each well in all the adjoining paddocks. One of the wells he built was called Peg's Well. The sinking of Peg's Well commenced in April 1933 and was finally completed in April 1936. It was sunk to a depth of 51.5 feet and then a horizontal drive was made 15.5 feet long. It proved a difficult and costly well to construct and the final cost, including installation of windmill, tank and troughing was £354/13/11. The water was very saline but was suitable for sheep.</p> <p>Wells were checked twice a week in the hot weather to ensure an adequate water supply for the stock. Any problems were usually dealt with immediately or noted for prompt attention, as a lack of easily available water could result in the loss of stock.²</p> <p>Bill Leslie named Peg's Well and Peg's Creek after Peg Ingram (nee McCamey) who lived at Croyden Station with her family. It was then the custom to assign girl's names to creeks and wells. A plaque was unveiled at the site by Peg Ingram on 29/1/1979, giving a brief history of the well.</p> <p>Many of the wells on Karratha station were filled in after the development of Karratha township on the land. However, this well is now an attraction in the Karratha town centre.</p> <p>Miller's Well, another well formerly located on Karratha Station, is located to the west.</p>	
Archaeology	
<p>There is little potential for archaeology because of the construction of Karratha townsite surrounding Peg's Well, which would have disturbed most archaeological evidence.</p>	

SIGNIFICANCE	
Historic theme (s)	<p>1. DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT AND MOBILITY 104 Land allocation and subdivision 106 Workers (including Aboriginal, convict)</p> <p>3. OCCUPATIONS 301 Grazing, pastoralism & dairying</p>
Statement of Significance:	

Peg's Well, together with Miller's Well, are all that remain in the town of the pastoral activities on Karratha Station and the well provides an important visual connection with the origins of the town as a pastoral sheep station.

ASSOCIATIONS

Architect/Designer (1)	
Architect/Designer (2)	
Other Associated Person(s)	William and Normana Leslie Tish Lees (daughter of William and Normana Leslie) The Cosmos family Peg Ingram

OTHER

References

Karratha Station 1934-1950, Collection of Photographs, BA1883, Battye Library
Karratha Station records 1929-1967 including account books, diaries and record books. MN 750, Battye Library

MHI 1996	Assessment undertaken, Place Name Record created
MHI Review 2012	Entry updated



Plaque on Pegs Well 2012

¹ Tish Lees, *Lonely for my Land: Tales of Karratha Station and the Nor' West*, Sid Harta Publications, Glen Waverley Victoria, 2010, p 62

² Lees, p 62-3