

*11.50am*

The prisoners left their work places just before midday to give them time to get to the yards and clean up before dinner. They mustered and the supervising officer marched them to the yards.

*12.00 midday*

Another roll call followed by dinner.

*1.10pm*

Time to return to work.

*4.00pm*

At this time the prisoners finished work for the day before being mustered, searched and marched back to the yards under the charge and watchful gaze of the officers. The numbers were checked again before the prisoners cleaned their boots, washed, and used the toilet.

*4.10pm*

Yet another muster and a general roll call. After this the afternoon meal of hominy was eaten in the cells.

*4.30pm*

The evening search.

*5.00pm*

All cells and wings were locked. It was still three hours before lights-out, and some prisoners would read in their cells. Until electric lights were installed in the cells in 1912 the only cell lighting after sunset was by candle. The day shift prison officers were relieved by the night shift officers at this time.

*8.00pm*

The last bell of the day. This was known as the 'silence bell', and it let the prisoners know that it was time to douse their cell lights and settle down for the night.

***Weekends***

There was no work on Saturday afternoons and Sundays and the prisoners were allowed to spend more time in the yards, where they could play approved games until four o'clock. Gambling games involving cards and dice were not allowed. On rainy weekends prisoners stayed in their cells, a situation which pleased the warders more than the prisoners.

For those with religious affiliations, Divine Service was arranged with the Chaplain. The female prisoners also received regular visits from the Sisters of Mercy, the Salvation Army and the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

**Labour**

"Labour should be provided for the prisoners, as they are more contented when employed and more amenable to the discipline of the gaol."

(A. Halloran, Sheriff of Queensland, 1887 *Gaols Report*)

Prisoners were made to do productive work while they were in prison because it was seen as a way of occupying their minds through the long days, and if they learned work skills then there was a stronger chance they would find regular employment after they left prison. Of course, prisoners were also a source of cheap labour.

The division of labour in the society outside the prison walls was replicated inside those walls, so the female prisoners found themselves doing a lot of cooking, sewing and cleaning in Boggo Road.

When the women's prison opened in 1903, the workshop was based in what is now D Wing. The women made prison clothing as well as shirts, mosquito nets, petticoats, jackets, nightdresses, pyjamas and drawers. This industry created a lot of income for the prison. Women in separate detention sewed in their cells, and made underwear for the male prisoners. The women also made clothing for other government institutions, and were also taught to make cabbage tree hats.

There was also a cookhouse and laundry on site where the women made the prison food and washed uniforms. Work was carried out in complete silence, and no form of communication between prisoners was permitted. The workshop was converted into a cellblock in 1930

**Rations**

Every day the amount and the quality of the food was the same, specified by the Regulations. In 1908 it was hominy for breakfast and evening meals, bread, meat and vegetables for dinner. The bread was good, but the 'meat' contained a lot of gristle and bone, leaving a relatively small edible content. Most of the women would have been on this diet:

Bread – 8 oz.

Maize meal – 8 oz.

Meat – 4 oz.

Vegetables – 8 oz.

Rice or barley - ¼ oz.

Salt - ½ oz.