



# Animal quarantine

In 1889 Matiu/Somes Island was designated a quarantine station. Animals arriving in New Zealand from other countries stayed on the island for 30–60 days to check that they were free of diseases. In 1972 a new Maximum Security Quarantine Station that could hold 120 cattle, 600 sheep or more than 200 deer, was completed. Many of the structures in the centre of the island were associated with the quarantine station. The quarantine station was closed in 1995.



## See if you can find:

- **stables that were built in 1916 to hold bulls and stallions**
- **the feed store**
- **the five houses that were built for the quarantine workers (11 staff and their families)**
- **the big maximum security station**
- **shallow troughs in the concrete at the entrance of quarantine station (used to disinfect the wheels of vehicles). These can also be seen on the wharf.**
- **the security doors and fly screens at the entrance of the main building**
- **furnaces where the dung, straw and diseased animals were destroyed.**

Background photo:  
Linda Chronis.  
Inset: DOC (ex MAF).

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