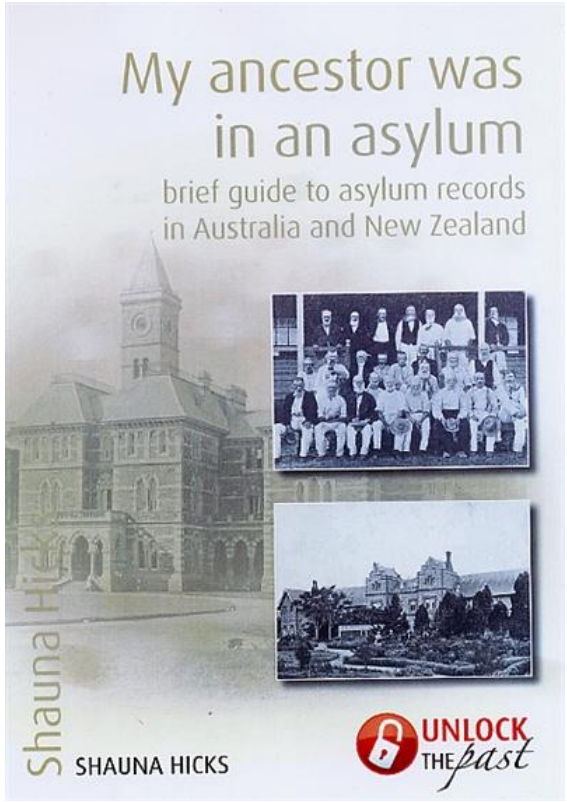
Family Skeletons or Just Old & Sick: Looking in Asylum Records



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Introduction

- What are asylum records?
- Where are the records?
- Finding aids
- Some examples

What Are Asylum Records?

- Terms include benevolent, mental, psychiatric hospitals, sanatoriums etc

- For the sick, not just those with mental illness
- For the aged
- For the destitute
- For the forgotten
- For those with no one else to care for them

Female admissions – Victorian asylums

- Alcohol
- Desertion of husband
- Destitution
- Influenza
- Heredity
- Religion, religious mania
- Senility
- Lonely life in bush
- Worry & hard work
- Stress
- Childbirth
- Climacteric (menopause)
- Shipwrecked
- Shock, death of husband

Where Are The Records?

- Lots of resources especially in State Archives Asylums, Colonial (Chief) Secretary's Office, Hospitals, Justice Department (inquests), Police Department, Prisons Department (gaols)

- Trove (photographs, newspapers, published histories etc)

- Police gazettes

Types of Records

- Admission files
- Admission registers (registers of patients)
- Case books (case files)
- Indexes and alphabetical lists
- Medical case books
- Warder's diaries

- Access varies around Australia

Finding Aids

- Records usually with the State Archives
  - Brief guides or Fact sheets
  - Online indexes and databases
  - Digitised records

- Portal sites eg Trove, Coraweb, Findmypast, Ancestry etc

CoraWeb

Helping you trace your family history in Australia and elsewhere

Home | About | Books | Handouts | Quick Sheets | Speaking | Search

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- Apps for genealogy on the move
- Archives
- Asylum and hospital records
- Begin your family history
- Birth, death and marriage records
- Blogs
- Bookshops
- Cemeteries
- Child welfare
- Convicts
- Criminal and court records
- Digital books and eResources
- Directories
- Electoral rolls and census records
- India and Sri Lanka (Ceylon)
- Libraries
- Local history
- Maps, places and land records
- Military records
- New Zealand
- Newspapers
- Occupations
- Other countries
- Pictures and images

Asylum and hospital records

- New South Wales (4)
- Old Medical Terms (7)
- Queensland (5)
- South Australia (2)
- Tasmania (1)
- Victoria (8)
- Western Australia (2)

Bendigo Family History - Online Indexes

This site offers free searches of a wide variety of local indexes. New indexes are being added on a regular basis. Indexes include:• Sandhurst [Bendigo] Mining Claims and Leases • ... more

The Royal Women's Hospital (Melbourne) site

Images of Midwifery Book no 1, 1856-1876 are available as well as a Guide to Patient Records which provides detailed and descriptive accounts of the most precious records in the Women's archival ... more

LincTasmania - Family History

This site is designed to explore Tasmanian ancestry using the following categories: Aboriginal Ancestry; Arrival or departure; Birth, Death or Marriage; Convict life; Education; Work; Home; Land ... more

Olive Tree Genealogy - Glossary of Ancient Diseases

www.coraweb.com.au

Insanity / Mental Asylum Records

A 3 page guide listing main series

Brief Guide 39

This Brief Guide provides an overview of Queensland State Archives records relating to mental health patients. Prior to the separation from New South Wales in 1859, there were no facilities for psychiatric treatment in the Moreton Bay Region. As such, mentally disturbed persons, or "lunatics", would have been sent to Brisbane Gaol or possibly to an asylum in Sydney. Woogaroo Lunatic Asylum opened in 1865 with 69 patients, and has undergone many name changes and renovations since.

There are two main types of mental asylum records held at Queensland State Archives: Public Curator Insanity files and Goodna Case Books.

Public Curator insanity files

In general Public Curator insanity files held at Queensland State Archives consist of records of people who were admitted to the institutions in Goodna (Woogaroo), Ipswich (Sandy Gallop), or Toowoomba (Willowburn).

The main series of records at Queensland State Archives that relate to insanity and

www.archives.qld.gov.au

Series Search Results

Click on the required Series title/abstract to view its details and see a list of Items.

Matching Series

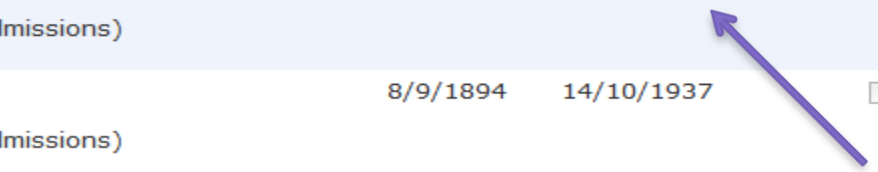
Series ID	Title / Abstract	Start Date	End Date
9051	Case Books Wolston Park Hospital patient records	5/11/1860	25/1/1951
5839	Case Books - Male	8/6/1866	26/3/1956
5236	Letterbook of Samuel Lewis	28/11/1893	18/2/1899
6749	Loan Account Registers Loan account registers for all towns, districts, shires, etc. including all repayments and bank deposits.	28/4/1861	30/6/1930

Items for Series 9051 - Case Books

Click on the Record Type/Description to view its details and order the item. Please note that items may only be ordered if you are in the Public Search Room.

Matching Items

Series ID	Item ID	Record Type / Description / Departmental Numbers	Start Date	End Date	Has Digital Images
9051	292592	Case book Case book (male and female admissions)	5/11/1860	16/6/1916	☐
9051	292618	Case book Case book (male and female admissions)	8/9/1894	14/10/1937	☐
9051	292619	Case book Case book (male and female admissions)	8/5/1895	11/1/1939	☐



www.archivessearch.qld.gov.au

A/52896

FINN J

DUNWICH BENEVOLENT ASYLUM.

No. 34/21

INMATE'S NAME FINN JOHN

ADMITTED 8.2.21 34/21

Date of Admission 8.2.21 Whence Admitted Longreach Hospital

Cause of Admission Senility

Age 63 years Birthplace Wicklow, Ireland

Religion R.C. Education R & W

Trade Labourer Married or Single Widower

Father's Name and Profession James Finn, Farmer

Mother's Maiden Name Rose Bakey Pensioner

Wife's Maiden Name Sarah Fagan

Age when Married 24 years

Where Married County Wicklow Ireland

Children Albert; James; John; Dennis; Margaret Rose; Mrs Mary Kennedy & Mrs Sarah Duesbury. Addresses Unknown

Other Relatives Nil

Electorate { State / Federal

History.

34 years in Queensland. 15 years on Railway Maintenance work in different parts. Westfield Station 3 months. Had a farm at Nambour for a number of years. Been in Longreach Hospital since 28.12.20. Rheumatism. 7 week in Bne. Hospital prior to going to Longreach.

No Money No property

CLINICAL RECORD.

Certified on Admission as Suffering from Senility

Date.	Disease.	Prescription.	Remarks.

Leave of Absence.			Transfers, Discharges, etc.		
From.	Period.	Date Ret'd.	Ward.	Date.	Remarks.
			4	8.2.21	Admitted
			P.1.	21.2.21	
				25.7.21	Struck off
			reported died in Bne. Hospital		

In the event of Death, Number of Grave to be shown under "Remarks."

For continuation of Record see over leaf.

Other Indexes

Australian South Sea Islanders 1867-1908
Boer War Indexes
Brisbane Hospital Registers of Deaths 1899-1913
Brisbane Hospital Admission Registers 1872-1887
Chronological Register of Prisoners 1824-1839
Civil Servants Index 1865-1867
Coloured Labour and Asiatic Aliens in Queensland 1913
Companies Index 1863 - 1959
Consumptive Patients 1897-1902
Criminal Depositions 1861-1885
Dental Board 1903-1932
Divorces 1861-1894
Inquests 1859-1886
Justices of the Peace 1859-1910
Mackay Hospital Admissions 1891-1908
Naturalisations Index 1851-1904 NEW!
Seamen 1882-1919 NEW!
St Helena Convict Indexes 1863-1936
Teachers 1860-1904
Toowoomba Prisoners Index 1864-1906

Index to Consumptive Patients 1897-1902

Background

Original correspondence sent to the Home Secretary regarding the admission and discharge of patients to the Roma and Dalby Sanatoriums for Phthisis (also known as Consumption or Pulmonary Tuberculosis) from 1897 to 1902 can be found in Series ID 8400, Special Batches, Letters detail medical assessments of the patients and accommodation as well as travelling allowances.

This Index was created from the following batches:

- Item ID 18164 (COL/237a), Batch file: (a) Applications and associated correspondence re admission of patients at Roma and Dalby sanatoriums, 1/1/1897 - 31/12/1902
- Item ID 18165 (COL/237b), Batch file: (b) General correspondence re the hospitalization of patients at Roma and Dalby sanatoriums including correspondence re the setting up of the Jubilee Sanatorium at Dalby, 1/1/1897 - 31/12/1901.

The images below (click for larger image) depict [L-R] 2 pages from COL/237a and 1 page from COL/237b

www.archives.qld.gov.au/research/indexes.asp

SURNAME	First Name	Second Name	Third Name	Date	Letter	Item ID	Prev Sys	M/F No
...DEN ?	-	(Miss)		29-Aug-1900	00/13312	18165	COL/237b	89390
ANDERSON	-	(Girl)		27 -Oct -1899	99/13538	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	-	(Miss)		31-Aug-1900	00/13476	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	-	(Miss)		31-May-1901	01/08713	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	-	(Miss)		31 -Oct -1899	99/13629	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	-	(Miss)		29-Aug-1900	00/13312	18165	COL/237b	89390
ANDERSON	-	(Miss)		31-May-1901	01/08682	18165	COL/237b	89390
ANDERSON	-	(Mrs)		27-Aug-1900	00/13218	18165	COL/237b	89390
ANDERSON	-			27-Jul-1897	97/09527	18165	COL/237b	89390
ANDERSON	J	W		10-Jul-1897	97/08777	18165	COL/237b	89390
ANDERSON	J	W		7-Jul-1897	97/08637	18165	COL/237b	89390
ANDERSON	J	W		7-Jul-1897	97/08637	18165	COL/237b	89390
ANDERSON	James	W		18-Sep-1897	97/11936	18165	COL/237b	89390
ANDERSON	Marion	(Miss)			00/13476	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	Marion			20-Dec-1901	01/20189	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	Marion			27-Dec-1901	01/20189	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	Marion			12-Aug-1899	99/10447	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	Marion			31-Oct-1899	99/13609	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	Marion			4- Aug-1899	99/04181	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	Mary	(Miss)		26-Sep-1900	00/14857	18165	COL/237b	89390
ANDERSON	May			27-Aug-1900	00/13218	18165	COL/237b	89390
ANDERSON	Minnie			9-Jul-1900	00/10341	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	Minnie			8-Jun-1901	01/09092	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	Minnie			15-Feb-1899	99/01965	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	Minnie			24-Mar-1899	99/04181	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	Minnie			6-Apr-1899	99/04181	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	Minnie			7-Mar-1899	99/03117	18164	COL/237a	89390
BAILEY	Amy	(Girl)		16-Nov-1897	97/14652	18165	COL/237b	89390
BAILEY	Amy	(Miss)		27-Oct-1897		18165	COL/237b	89390
BAILEY	Amy			23-Feb-1898	98/02392	18165	COL/237b	89390
BAILEY	Amy			5-Nov-1897	97/14161	18165	COL/237b	89390
BAILY	Amy			23- Sep-1898		18165	COL/237b	89390
BAILY	Amy			5-Oct-1898	98/12458	18165	COL/237b	89390
BAINES	T			4- Aug-1899	99/04181	18164	COL/237a	89390
BASSETT	Jane			13-Apr-1899	99/05109	18165	COL/237b	89390
BASSETT	Janie			5-Oct-1898	98/12458	18165	COL/237b	89390
BEECHAM	-	(Patient)		23-Sep-1897	97/12177	18165	COL/237b	89390
BEECHAM	-			27-Jul-1897	97/09527	18165	COL/237b	89390
BEECHAM	Elizabeth			19-Jul-1897	97/09205	18165	COL/237b	89390
BIRCH	-	(Miss)		31-Aug-1900	00/13480	18164	COL/237a	89390

Entries can be under title eg Miss, Mrs, initial, etc

www.archives.qld.gov.au/downloads/Indexes/consumptives_1897-1902.pdf

Queensland Public Curator Insanity Files

Surnames beginning with A - B

Receive email when this page changes (private & spam-free, powered by ChangeDetection)

Does your family history have someone who **'vanished'?** If you **cannot find a death certificate** or if **children were raised** by someone other than a parent, check **mental asylum** records. Reasons for admission included **epilepsy, head injury, alcoholism, birth defects** and **depression** (especially post-natal depression). Many patients (adults and children) spent only a few days in an asylum, and descendants would be unaware of that.

'**Public Curator insanity files**' (which are only closed for 75 years from the date of the last document in the file) are different from 'case books'. These insanity files are mainly about getting someone to pay for the patient's maintenance, so they often have superb information about the **patient's relatives.**

Qld State Archives hold Public Curator insanity files for people admitted to mental asylums at Goodna (Woogaroo / Wolston Park), Toowoomba (Willowburn) and Ipswich (Sandy Gallop). The size and contents of these files vary, but they usually give **dates** of admission and discharge or death, and many include **letters** from the patient or his/her relatives, and sometimes **police reports, certificates, wills, divorce details, lists of property**, etc. Information about **relatives** may include addresses, biographical data, children, employment history, property, financial and social circumstances, etc.

Qld State Archives have a printed **index to old insanity files c1865-1893**, and (arranged only by first letter of surname) a **register of insanity files up to 1918** and an **index to insanity files 1919-c1945.** Names below are from my index to the 'register up to 1918', which has some details for patients whose file is missing.

Other sources

To research mental asylum patients, **use all available sources**, including (these open in new windows):

www.judywebster.com.au/insanity.html

New South Wales

- No 85 Mental Health Records – Patient Records
- No 86 Infirm and Destitute Asylum Records
- No 87 Liverpool State Hospital & Home

- 110 year access except for Liverpool asylum which is 30 years access

Education and welfare

- » 20th century child and youth migration
- » Aboriginal schools, 1876-c.1979
- » Child care and protection
- » Photographs
- » Pupil records
- » Randwick asylum for destitute children
- » Schools: 1788-c.1979
- » Teachers

Hospital

- » Cemetery records
- » Crown Street Women's Hospital
- » Curator of Intestate Estate case papers
- » Deceased estate files, 1880-1958
- » Hospital buildings
- » How to find probate and deceased estates
- » Infirm and destitute asylums - inmate records
- » Inquest and coronial records
- » Liverpool State Hospital and Home - inmate records
- » Mental health facilities - Patient records
- » Probate packets

Archives In Brief 86 - Infirm and destitute asylums - Inmate records

Information on what inmate records are available for the Infirm and Destitute Asylums and where to find them.

- Brief administrative history
- Infirm and destitute asylums
- Using the Archives Investigator to find records
- Surviving records of asylums for the infirm and destitute
- Access to patient-identifying records
- Records held elsewhere

Brief administrative history

Function of government

One of the functions of Government, overtime, has been to provide care for the poor and infirm as part of social and community services. More detail on the history of the Government function of social and community services can be found in Archives Investigator. By choosing the advanced search option you can search for function 4 — Social and community services.

Care for the poor and infirm is not the same as care provided as part of mental health programs. For records relating to mental health patients please see Archives in Brief 85.

The Benevolent Society

Before 1862 care for the infirm and destitute was primarily provided by non-government organisations. The Benevolent Society, founded in 1813, opened the first asylum for the poor, blind, aged and infirm in 1821 on the site of Central Railway Station.

www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/guides-and-finding-aids

NSW Asylum Records @ SRNSW

- Bay View House, Tempe 1865-1946
- Broughton Hall Psychiatric Clinic 1915-1963
- Callan Park Mental Hospital 1877-1965
- Gladesville Mental Hospital 1822-1985
- Kenmore Mental Hospital 1938-1942
- Lunatic Asylum Liverpool 1829-1838
- Newcastle Psychiatric Centre 1871-1976
- Newcastle Psychiatric Hospital Reception House 1903-1964
- Parramatta Psychiatric Centre 1848-1989
- Reception House, Darlinghurst 1868-1962
- Rydalmere Psychiatric Centre 1888-1985
- Temporary Hospital for the Insane Cooma 1879-1884

SRNSW Infirm & Destitute Asylums

- George Street Asylum, Parramatta
- Hospital of Consumptives, Waterfall
- Lidcombe State Hospital & Home
- Liverpool State Hospital & Home
- Macquarie Street Asylum, Parramatta
- Newington State Hospital (closed 1964)
- Rookwood Asylum (later Lidcombe State Hospital & Home)

Child Welfare

Child Welfare - Mittagong Farm Home for Boys, 1907-21
Covers the Register of Committals for a limited period of the Farm Home.
Online copy service available = $3.00 per entry + Admin Fee + Postage
| Search | More information |

Child Welfare - Orphan schools, 1817-86
A number of series of records relating to the Orphan Schools which were run by the colonial government of NSW.
Online copy service available = $3.00 per entry + Admin Fee + Postage
| Search | More information |

Child Welfare - Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children, 1852-1915
Name search for children admitted to the Asylum. This index is complete and contains 5890 entries.
Online copy service available = $3.00 per entry + Admin Fee + Postage
| Search | More information |

Index To Randwick Asylum

Surname	Walker
First name	
Age	
Date of Admission	

Submit Reset

www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/indexes-online/indexes-online

Back to Search Form

Select	Page No	Entry No	Surname	FirstName	Alias	Age	Date	Series	Item	Reel
	002	1034	WALKER	Carss John	-	7	23 Jan 1866	NRS 13362	2	1866
	107	1346	WALKER	Elizabeth	TINE, Elizabeth	7	10 Jun 1867	NRS 13362	2	1866
	064	2856	WALKER	Frederick	-	6	17 Jan 1876	NRS 13362	3	1867
	122	1392	WALKER	George	-	7	10 Oct 1867	NRS 13362	2	1866
	467	2516	WALKER	George	-	9	30 Jul 1873	NRS 13362	2	1866
	284	773	WALKER	Henrietta	-	12	19 Oct 1864	NRS 13362	1	1865
	069	1233	WALKER	Henry	-	3	13 Dec 1866	NRS 13362	2	1866
	406	3881	WALKER	Henry	-	7	19 Jun 1882	NRS13362	3	1867
	020	2723	WALKER	James	-	8	15 Sep 1874	NRS 13362	3	1867
	108	1348	WALKER	James	-	4	14 Jun 1867	NRS 13362	2	1866
	254	3427	WALKER	John	-	3	19 Jun 1879	NRS 13362	3	1867
	344	3694	WALKER	John	-	7	25 Apr 1881	NRS13362	3	1867
	399	3860	WALKER	John	-	8	26 Apr 1882	NRS13362	3	1867
	090	2933	WALKER	John Thomas	-	9	20 Jul 1876	NRS 13362	3	1867
	285	774	WALKER	Nathaniel	-	8	20 Oct 1864	NRS 13362	1	1865
	065	2859	WALKER	Rachael	-	7	17 Jan 1876	NRS 13362	3	1867
	107	1347	WALKER	Richard	-	6	14 Jun 1867	NRS 13362	2	1866
	355	5195	WALKER	Stephen Charles	-	9	21 Dec 1908	NRS 13362	4	1868
	466	2515	WALKER	Sydney	-	4	23 Jul 1873	NRS 13362	2	1866
	271	4947	WALKER	Thomas	-	12	1 Dec 1902	NRS 13362	4	1868
	090	2934	WALKER	William	-	7	20 Jul 1876	NRS 13362	3	1867
	406	3880	WALKER	William	-	5	19 Jun 1882	NRS13362	3	1867

Back to Search Form

Proceed to Checkout

www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/indexes-online/indexes-online

Sydney Benevolent Asylum

Index to Admissions and Discharges

1857-1900

- **Welcome**
- Search the Index
- Once you have found an entry
- The Project
- What was the Benevolent Asylum
- Records of the Benevolent Asylum
- Other records of interest
- Photo Gallery
- About Us
- Privacy and Disclaimer Statement
- Contact Us

Welcome

This website deals with the historical records of the Sydney Benevolent Asylum for the period 1857-1900.

The records of the Asylum can be the answer to many research problems and, with that in mind, between 1995 and 2007, an index of the inmates of the Asylum was compiled from records held at the Sydney Mitchell Library. The resulting database contains over 78,000 records. As far as has been possible, it is a listing of all the inmates of the Asylum between 1857 and 1900.

We are grateful to The Benevolent Society for permission to prepare this index and to the staff of the Mitchell Library for their co-operation with our project.

We also thank the State Library of NSW for permission to reproduce the image 'Benevolent Asylum' (Government Printing Office, State Library of NSW ref 1-08079) on this website.

Heather Garnsey & Martyn Killion

^ Top

Next page: Search the Index

www.sydneybenevolentasylum.com

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Search the Index

Summary of Results

If you find a POSITIVE match on this index, make a note of the name and date of admission or discharge for the person you have found. Enter these details in the Request Form and we will then provide you with the 'notes' field from our database where available. This can provide further identifying information.

Surname	Given Name	Admission Date	Discharge Date	Age	More Details
WALKER	Maria	3 Aug 1868		38	Submit Request
WALKER	Maria		27 Nov 1868		Submit Request
WALKER	Rachel	22 Oct 1868			Submit Request
WALKER	Rachel		27 Nov 1868		Submit Request
WALKER	Maria	30 Apr 1869		39	Submit Request
WALKER	Rachel	30 Apr 1869		6m	Submit Request
WALKER	Rachel		10 Feb 1870		Submit Request
WALKER	Maria		10 Feb 1870		Submit Request
WALKER	James	19 Feb 1874		8	Submit Request
WALKER	William	19 Feb 1874		5y 10m	Submit Request
WALKER	Frederick	19 Feb 1874		4y 6m	Submit Request

www.sydneybenevolentasylum.com

Helen Castle index & transcription of Penrith District Dispensary Register 1847- Feb 1860

1853

These pages contains transcripts of newspapers, a postal directory and a register that have been typed up from the original.
I have no further information than what is on these pages. You may find microfische of the originals at your local or state library

[registers/transcripts/images/1853.jpg]

No	Patients Name	Residence	Date	Disease	Prescription	No of attendances	Name of member recommending	Remarks
1	Joseph Ettle	St Marys	January	Tupis Senilis			P P King Esq	relieved
2	William Lewis	Castlereagh	26/1/1853	Psora Senilis			A Fraser Esq	relieved
3	Edward lambert	Colubrook	1/5/1853	Pthisis		4	Revd M Brennan	B Asylum
4	Mary Shelton	Castlereagh	10/5/1853	Injd Loins			Mr John Perry	discharged
5	John Warren	Castlereagh	12/5/1853	Catarrh		4	Mr Alex Fraser	well
6	Edward Ingliss	Castlereagh	25/6/1853	Destitute			Mr Alex Fraser	B Asylum
7	Mrs I Mc Glinchy	Erskine Park	26/6/1853	Hernia			Revd M Brennan	???
8	Alexander Smith	Castlereagh	11/7/1853	Blind and destitute			R C Lethbridge Esq	B Asylum
9	John Ray	Regentville	27/7/1853	Influenza		3		well
10	John C ourt	Penrith	29/9/1853	Hydross Thoracis		10+	A Fraser	dead
11	Patrick Neale	Penrith	31/12/1853	Injd Hand			Mathw Hogan	well
			1854					
12	Timothy Corcoran	Penrith	16/1/1854	Cough and disease of heart			Matthw Hogan	dead
13	Margaret Sinfield	Penrith	22/2/1854	rheumatism			R C Lethbridge	well
14	George Smith	Castlereagh	25/2/1854	Injd Hip Joint		1	A Fraser Esq	discharged
15	Thomas Agars	Penrith	28/2/1854	Syphilis		2	M Lowe Esq	gone away

These pages contains transcripts of newspapers, a postal directory and a register that have been typed up from the original.
I have no further information than what is on these pages. You may find microfische of the originals at your local or state library

[Home] [Up] [1847] [1848] [1849] [1850] [1851] [1852] [1853] [1854] [1855] [1856] [1857] [1858] [1859] [1860] [Vaccinations]

http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~hcastle/registers/registers.htm

Victoria

Public Record Office Victoria (PROV)

- www.prov.vic.gov.au
- PROV*guide* 23 PROV's Digitised Records and Online Indexes NB some asylum PDFs are quite large but you can save them to your computer for use offline
- PROV*guide* 59 Mental Health Records
- PROV*guide* 71 Inquest Records

Mental health

Digitised records

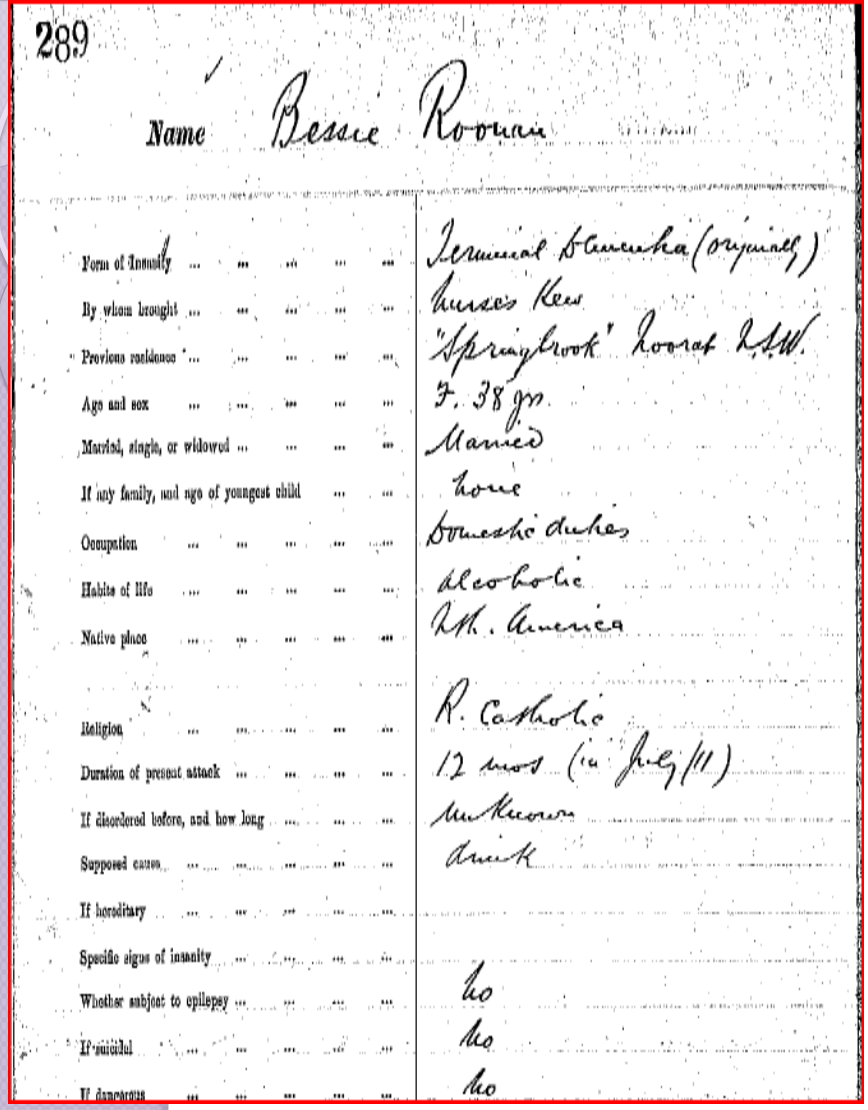
Records are digitised and freely accessible online

VPRS 7446/P1 Alphabetical Lists of Patients in Asylums, 1849-1885
VPRS 7427/P1 Nominal Register of Patients, Ararat Asylum, 1867-1906
VPRS 7426/P1 Nominal Register of Patients, Ballarat Asylum, 1893-1907
VPRS 7428/P1 Nominal Register of Patients, Ballarat/Sunbury Asylums, 1877-1907
VPRS 8236/P1 Register of Patients, Ballarat/Sunbury Asylums, 1877-1920
VPRS 7395/P1 Case Books of Male Patients, Beechworth Asylum, 1867-1912
VPRS 7396/P1 Case Books of Female Patients, Beechworth Asylum, 1878-1912
VPRS 7493/P1 Register of Patients, Bendigo Receiving Ward, 1874-1908
VPRS 7721/P1 Register of Patients, Collingwood Asylum, 1866-1873
VPRS 7425/P1 Nominal Register of Patients, Kew Asylum, 1871-1906
VPRS 7690/P1 Nominal Register of Patients, Kew Asylum, 1871-1914
VPRS 7680/P1 Register of Patients, Kew Asylum, 1871-1919
VPRS 7423/P1 Nominal Register of Patients, Royal Park Hospital for the Insane, 1907-1913
VPRS 7490/P1 Asylum Records [Case Books], Sunnyside Licensed House, 1905-1915
VPRS 7422/P1 Index to Male and Female Case Books, Yarra Bend Asylum, 1848-1912

Ararat, Ballarat, Beechworth, Bendigo, Collingwood, Cremorne, Kew, Royal Park, Sunbury, Sunnyside, Yarra Bend

www.access.prov.vic.gov.au/public/PROVguides/PROVguide023/PROVguide023.jsp

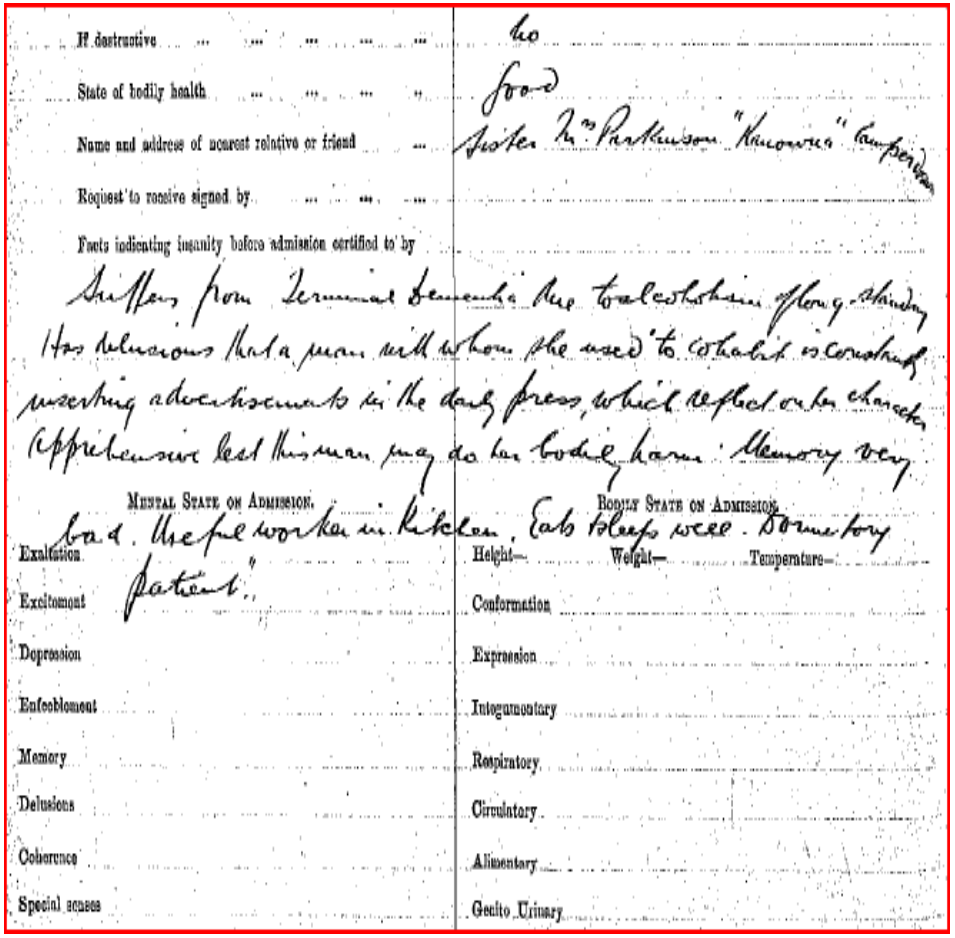
www.prov.vic.gov.au



289

Name Bessie Rowan

Form of Insanity	Terminal Dementia (original)
By whom brought	Nurse Kew
Previous residence	"Springbrook" Koorat N.S.W.
Age and sex	F. 38 yrs.
Married, single, or widowed	Married
If any family, and age of youngest child	None
Occupation	Domestic duties
Habits of life	Alcoholic
Native place	N.S.W. America
Religion	R. Catholic
Duration of present attack	12 mos (in July/11)
If disordered before, and how long	Unknown
Supposed cause	Drink
If hereditary	
Specific signs of insanity	
Whether subject to epilepsy	No
If suicidal	No
If dangerous	No



If destructive ... No

State of bodily health ... Good

Name and address of nearest relative or friend ... Sister Mrs Parkinson "Kanowna" Camperdown

Request to receive signed by ...

Facts indicating insanity before admission certified to by

Suffers from Terminal Dementia due to alcoholism. Long standing. Has delusions that a man with whom she used to cohabit is constantly inserting advertisements in the daily press, which reflect on her character. Apprehensive lest this man may do her bodily harm. Memory very bad. Useful worker in kitchen. Eats, sleeps well. Dormitory patient.

Mental State on Admission	Bodily State on Admission
Exaltation	Height— Weight— Temperature—
Excitement	Conformation
Depression	Expression
Enfeeblement	Integumentary
Memory	Respiratory
Delusions	Circulatory
Coherence	Alimentary
Special senses	Genito Urinary

www.prov.vic.gov.au/publications/documents/07396-P0001-000003.pdf

www.prov.vic.gov.au/publications/documents/07396-P0001-000003.pdf

April 1911

To the Superintendent

Dear Sir

I was brought to this Asylum under the impression that you would discharge me in a short time I've been hear 2 years and over 5 Months & as its very distressing for me me to be hear & I'm in in the people's way and I'm quite Sane will you kindly send me to my people or write for them to come for me

Faithfully yours

Florence Daley

Over

247

Name Florence Daley.

Form of Insanity	Delusional.
By whom brought	Nurses Vana Bend
Previous residence	Auriniatt Ile Harbour
Age and sex	26 in 1903. Coburne St. W. Brunswick Female
Married, single, or widowed	Single
If any family, and age of youngest child	
Occupation	Maid servant
Habits of life	Not stated
Native place	Victoria.
Religion	Presbyterian
Duration of present attack	1. month
If disordered before, and how long	First attack
Supposed cause	Unknown
If hereditary	Not stated
Specific signs of insanity	
Whether subject to epilepsy	No
If suicidal	Yes.
If dangerous	Believed to be.
If destructive	No

For case book.

Delusions of persecution & poisoning present. Always asks for her discharge when she is mentally bad

[illegible] 13-4-11

Shauna Hicks
History Enterprises

Sarah Sophia Matheson

- Admitted to Sunbury August 1898 aged 34 yrs
- In poor circumstances
- Married with one child, 16 weeks old
  - Patient changed after birth of child – afraid of hurting child
- Transferred to Ballarat Mental Hospital March1943, not improved after 45 years

DEATHS IN THE CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

The following are lists of the deaths (exclusive of those of persons born in the colony) that have taken place in the Melbourne Hospital and the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum since our last summary, specifying, as far as they are known, the names of the deceased persons, their ages, places of birth, dates of arrival in the colony, the names of the vessels in which they arrived, and the causes of death :—

MELBOURNE HOSPITAL.

Baggott, Frederick, aged 41, native of London; arrived in 1857, in the Red Jacket; died January 5, of apoplexy. Burchall, Sarah, aged 60, native of Ireland; arrived in 1856, in the Donald M'Kay; died January 18, of hernia.

Capp, Stephen, aged 58, native of Uxbridge; arrived in 1855; died January 5, of cancer of liver and pneumonia. Clarke, Charles, aged 22, native of London; arrived in 1862 in Lightning; died January 2, of compression of the brain and fracture of the skull. Cooper, Elizabeth, aged 53, native of Scotland; arrived in 1854, in Miles Barton; died January 15, of schirrus of breast. Cornish, Alice, aged three and a half, native of Suffolk; arrived in 1874 in Tim Whiffler; died December 21, of diphtheria. Croad, Alfred John, aged 50, native of Hampshire; arrived in 1853 in Tancred; died January 15, of carcinoma of stomach.

Roberts, Sarah Ann, aged 34, native of Manchester; arrived in 1857; died January 9, of peritonitis. Rogers, Henry, aged 10, native of Lancashire; arrived in 1868, in Naval Reserve; died January 13, of diphtheria.

Shaw, Ann, aged 35, native of Ireland; arrived in 1860, in Merlin; died January 4, of pneumonia. Sullivan, Jane, aged 54, native of England; died January 3, of pneumonia.

Tansen, Christian, aged 26, native of Denmark; arrived in 1877 in Sarah Ann; died January 6, of phthisis. Thomas, Mary, aged 36, native of Ireland; arrived in 1855 in Queen of the Seas; died December 20, of pneumonia. Thorne, Marion, aged 34, native of Herefordshire; arrived in 1870 in Bombay; died December 30, of entiritis. Tierney, Mary, aged 38, native of Ireland; arrived in 1864 in Marco Polo; died December 20, of phthisis. Truby, Stephen, aged 58, native of London; arrived in 1853, in Jane Francis; died January 11, of dilatation of the heart.

Wainwright, William, aged 43, native of Gosport; arrived in 1856, in Mermaid; died January 3, of strangulated hernia.

BENEVOLENT ASYLUM.

Bunsworth, Charles, aged 86, native of Cork; died December 31, of old age.

Holt, Sarah, aged 74, native of Ramsgate; died January 13, of enteric fever.

Jones, Jesse, aged 55, native of Flintshire; died January 3, of phthisis.

Wells, William, aged 82, native of Deal; died January 20, of old age.

Tasmania

- Tasmania's Heritage (Tasmanian Archive & Heritage Office (TAHO)
- www.linc.tas.gov.au/tasmaniasheritage
- Hospital Records – some inc Royal Hobart and Royal Derwent hospitals (75 years closed access)
- Inquest Records – index online 1828-1930

Tasmania's Heritage

- Tasmania's Heritage

Popular
- Convicts
- Family History
- Tasmanian Newspapers
- Tasmanian Films
- Allport Library + Museum

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Welcome

With the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office you can:

- Explore Tasmania's history
- Search archives and library items
- Access information online or in person
- Browse our exhibitions and more.

I want to...

Popular...

allport arrivals artists births census church records convicts donation diaries exhibitions family history images inquests maps marriages newspapers orphans name indexes place names plans railways musical scores Trove government records Wayn index whaling wills

What's On

All that's on

Architecture Drawing
Free exhibition about Tasmanian architecture

Chat with us online!
Do you have a quick reference question?

Featured

All featured

Peace at last!
Peace day celebrations and welcoming home our Anzacs

The Crowther War Diaries
Sir William Crowther: Army Medical Officer, 1915-1919

www.linc.tas.gov.au/tasmaniasheritage

AUS-Tasmanian Genealogy Mailing List

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GUIDE TO RESOURCES FOR TASMANIAN GENEALOGY

by Malcolm Ward

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This is a description of some of the resources for Tasmanian genealogy I have found useful over the years. It is a personal selection and biased towards my own experiences and will no doubt omit some useful material and may contain some inaccuracies. For instance, I haven't used Tasmanian institutions outside of Hobart and it's likely that many of the resources noted to be at the Archives Office of Tasmania are also available in the north of the state and probably elsewhere. My thanks to Meryl Yost for suggestions and refinements and to the many people who have given me tips and help over the years.

What resources you use will depend on the problem you are trying to solve, but those ones I think are particularly useful under certain categories (especially for beginners) I've marked with **START HERE!** Although many on-line and CD resources are mentioned here, it is wise to remember to always check the primary source, as transcription and spelling errors are all too common.

For further suggestions, comments and reports of broken links please contact me Malcolm Ward

PLEASE NOTE: Prior to 1825, Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) was governed from New South Wales, so pre 1825 government records pertaining to Tasmania (for instance, land, courts, etc) would likely be in the NSW Archives in Sydney. However many are held in the Tasmanian Archives

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~austashs/resource/mal_index.htm

5 **CONVICTS AND COURTS**

- 5.1 **START HERE!** TAS LIST CONVICT INDEXES & INFORMATION
- 5.2 AOT CONVICT INDEX AND DIGITISED CONVICT RECORDS ON LINE UPDATED
- 5.3 CONVICT RECORDS UPDATED
- 5.4 CONVICT TRANSPORTATION DATABASE NEW
- 5.5 CONVICT PERMISSION TO MARRY INDEX UPDATED
- 5.6 FEMALE CONVICTS UPDATED
- 5.7 FAMILIES OF CONVICTS
- 5.8 PORT ARTHUR UPDATED
- 5.9 CONVICT SHIPS AND NAVAL MEDICAL OFFICERS' RECORDS UPDATED
- 5.10 CONVICT TRIAL RECORDS - UK UPDATED
- 5.11 SWING RIOTERS / MACHINE BREAKERS UPDATED
- 5.12 IRISH CONVICT TRANSPORTATION NEW
- 5.13 PETTY SESSIONS COURT INDEX AND OTHER LOWER COURT, GAOL AND PRISONER RECORDS UPDATED
- 5.14 QUARTER SESSIONS TRIALS IN TASMANIA
- 5.15 POLICE GAZETTES ('REPORTS ON CRIME') NEW
- 5.16 SUPERIOR COURT TRIALS IN TASMANIA UPDATED
- 5.17 OTHER CONVICT RESOURCES UPDATED

7 **ORPHANAGES, HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS, PUBLIC SERVICE & HOTELS/BREWERIES**

- 7.1 ORPHANAGES, HOSPITALS AND CHILDREN IN CARE UPDATED
- 7.2 AOT ON SCHOOLS UPDATED
- 7.3 PUBLIC SERVICE RECORDS NEW
- 7.4 HOTELS & BREWERIES UPDATED

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~austashs/resource/mal_index.htm

FIND & CONNECT

History & information about Australian orphanages, children's Homes & other institutions

Find & Connect Support Services
1800 16 11 09
Freecall: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

Send message to **Find & Connect support service**

Find out what these words mean

- Orphanage (1828 - 2006)
- Apprenticeship (c. 1833 - c. 1945)
- Indoor relief (c. 1830 - c. 1935)

Some people may find content on this website distressing. Read more

TASMANIA - ORGANISATION

Queen's Orphan Asylum (1833 - 1879)

Summary | Records | Photos | Full page

From	1833
To	1879
Categories	Orphanage, Home
Alternative Names	Queen's Asylum for Destitute Children Queen's Orphan Schools King's Orphan Schools Queen's Orphanage Orphan School

Queens Orphan Asylum New Town, 1863, courtesy of Tasmanian Images: Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office

www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/tas/TE00053

Look for Homes

www.findandconnect.gov.au/look-for-homes

You can use this page to look for information about Homes.
There are no personal records or private information on this site.

Quick search

e.g. name of Home, orphanage, organisation or suburb

Search

OR

Advanced search

Do you know the name of the Home?

Do you know the state?

Do you know the suburb or town?

Do you know the date?

Do you know who ran the Home?

Sear

OR

Look for Homes by state/territory

- New South Wales
- Queensland
- Victoria
- Australian Capital Territory
- South Australia
- Tasmania
- Western Australia
- Northern Territory

South Australia - SRSA

- www.archives.sa.gov.au
- Adelaide and Parkside Lunatic Asylums later Glenside Hospital
  - Alphabetical lists of patients 1846-1901
  - Record of Patient Deaths 1891-1909
- card index to Destitute Asylum Admissions 1870-73; 1881-1924
- card index to Royal Adelaide Hospital Admissions 1842-1904

South Australian Genealogy Directory

Family history, family tree & ancestry resources

Uncategorised resources

- Adoption and Family Information Service of South Australia
- AUS-SAGEN Mailing List
- Find & Connect South Australia [to help find institutionalised persons, past & present]
- German History in South Australia
- History of Disability in South Australia
  - Destitute Asylum
  - Education
  - Estcourt House
  - Home for Incurables
  - Lunatic Asylum
  - Minda Home
  - Royal Society for the Blind
  - Sheltered Workshops
  - Townsend House
- History SA [previously the History Trust of South Australia]
- Huguenot Society of South Australia
- Naturalization in SA's early days [article]
  - South Australian naturalizations [searchable database]

www.familyhistorysa.info

History of Disability in South Australia

Feedback | About | Feeds

- HOME
- 1800 – 1899
- 1900 – 1999
- 2000 & BEYOND
- MULTIMEDIA
- PIONEERS
- STORIES

Tell your story here
Have a story about disability in South Australia? Share your experience. more..

Related Images:

Tags:
1851, Destitute Asylum

Destitute Asylum

In April 1851 the government granted the Destitute Board access to part of the barracks complex next to Government House on North Terrace. The destitute moved into their new quarters on 10th May 1851. It became the Destitute Asylum and a place where the aged, poor and chronically sick were looked after and kept alive. The Asylum was not abandoned until 1917.

Destitute Asylum 1850's – 1860's

The term 'asylum' was often used in the early nineteenth century, in England, the United States and Australia. It referred to the use of a building or group of buildings where institutional care was provided. The asylum allowed regularity, supervision and control. It provided economies of scale and was the most efficient way of handling those who were socially dependent. Consequently, the Destitute Asylum provided institutional care for women, children, the aged, destitute and the sick. During the 1850's and 1860's the Asylum's occupancy of the barracks expanded.

The building was repaired and wings added to accommodate the increasing number of residents. In 1863 an Act was passed for the 'Regulation of the Destitute Asylum' to better regulate the government's aid to the destitute and sick. It also

Western Australia

State Records Office Western Australia (SROWA)

- www.sro.wa.gov.au
- Hospitals and Health Records
  - Fremantle Asylum est 1865 closed 1909
  - Claremont Hospital for the Mentally Insane est 1903
  - Lemnos Hospital
  - Whitby Falls
  - Heathcote Mental Hospital
  - Greenplace Hostel

STATE RECORDS OFFICE
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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Hospitals and Health Records

- Introduction
- Departmental Records
- Hospital Records
- Mental Health Institutions
- Doctors and Nurses
- Dentists
- Local Boards of Health
- Royal Commissions of Inquiry
- Other Health Related Records
- Further Information

Introduction

The State Records Office holds a large number of records created by the central agency responsible for health in Western Australia. These records were created by the Health Department and its predecessor agencies. The State Records Office also holds some records of mental health institutions, general hospitals and Local Boards of Health.

www.sro.wa.gov.au/collection/hospital.asp

Search Results

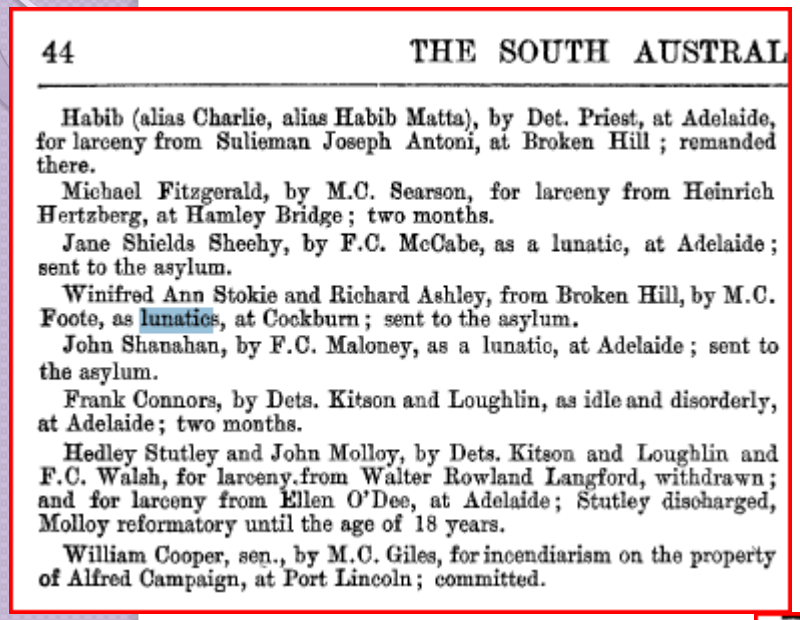
Search Criteria : **All Words** for '**asylum**'

Reference	Entity	Title	Start Date	End Date	Links
WAA-1223	Agency	WHITBY FALLS HOSPITAL	1 Jan 1897	1 Jan 1972	Detail
WAA-543	Agency	CLAREMONT MENTAL HOSPITAL	1 Aug 1903	31 Dec 1972	Detail
WAA-660	Agency	FREMANTLE ASYLUM	1 Jul 1865	31 Dec 1909	Detail
ITEM-1	Record Item	Case book - Female Patients [Fremantle Asylum].	31 Dec 1873	12 Oct 1878	Detail
ITEM-1900/02144v1	Record Item	Land for Whitby Falls Asylum. Shire of Rockingham. (a) Enquiries for additional land for stock (cattle) kept at the asylum.	-	31 Dec 1900	Detail
ITEM-19(d)	Record Item	Plan of lunatic asylum and grounds at Fremantle by J Cowl, Fieldbook 1 dated 1866. [Scale: 4 chains to an inch]	1 Jan 1866	-	Detail
ITEM-CSO 1489/189	Record Item	From Colonial Surgeon to Colonial Secretary. Report on the Public Health for 1882. [Colonial Hospital, Fremantle Lunatic Asylum]	13 Jan 1883	15 Jun 1883	Detail
ITEM-CSO 1489/201	Record Item	From Colonial Surgeon, Fremantle to Colonial Secretary. Asks for increase of pay for attending Lunatic Asylum.	25 Jul 1883	27 Dec 1883	Detail
ITEM-27/344	Record Item	Central District. Payment for forwarding lunatic J Bloomfield to asylum.	1 Nov 1878	31 Mar 1879	Detail
ITEM-29/042	Record Item	York - Half Caste, Peter Bannister arrested and sent to Fremantle Asylum.	1 Jan 1880	31 Dec 1880	Detail
ITEM-30/569	Record Item	CSO - Directions re detention of prisoner Annie Weir in Lunatic Asylum.	1 Jan 1881	31 Dec 1881	Detail

ITEM-1900/5307	Record Item	Mrs E. Blanche, inquiry re ability to contribute to support of mother, Margaret Thompson in Victorian lunatic asylum.	-	-	Detail
ITEM-1883/0094	Record Item	James McMahon - Maintenance of his wife in the Lunatic Asylum. To be relieved of the cost of.	12 Oct 1883	15 Nov 1883	Detail
ITEM-1885/3777	Record Item	Surgeon Superintendent Lunatic Asylum - Lunatic Henry Clarkson, reports the death of	17 Sep 1885	18 Sep 1885	Detail
ITEM-1897/1499	Record Item	W.J. George - Whitby Asylum - Appointment of Chaplain for.	12 May 1897	12 May 1907	Detail
ITEM-1897/1514	Record Item	R.A.Sevete - Warden at Lunatic Asylum - for post of.	10 May 1897	18 May 1897	Detail
ITEM-1897/1570	Record Item	Acting Superintendent of Relief - Inmate Female Home Girl (Blind) - Transfer to Lunatic Asylum.	14 May 1897	27 May 1897	Detail
ITEM-1897/1597	Record Item	Henry Power - Secretary or Head Warden Lunatic Asylum - for post of.	17 May 1897	26 May 1897	Detail

http://aeon.sro.wa.gov.au

Police Records – Police Gazettes in findmypast.com.au



44 THE SOUTH AUSTRAL

Habib (alias Charlie, alias Habib Matta), by Det. Priest, at Adelaide, for larceny from Sulieman Joseph Antoni, at Broken Hill ; remanded there.

Michael Fitzgerald, by M.C. Searson, for larceny from Heinrich Hertzberg, at Hamley Bridge ; two months.

Jane Shields Sheehy, by F.C. McCabe, as a lunatic, at Adelaide ; sent to the asylum.

Winifred Ann Stokie and Richard Ashley, from Broken Hill, by M.C. Foote, as lunatics, at Cockburn ; sent to the asylum.

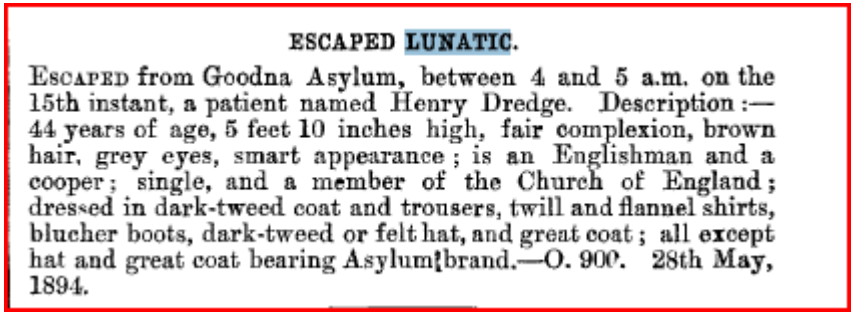
John Shanahan, by F.C. Maloney, as a lunatic, at Adelaide ; sent to the asylum.

Frank Connors, by Dets. Kitson and Loughlin, as idle and disorderly, at Adelaide ; two months.

Hedley Stutley and John Molloy, by Dets. Kitson and Loughlin and F.C. Walsh, for larceny from Walter Rowland Langford, withdrawn ; and for larceny from Ellen O'Dee, at Adelaide ; Stutley discharged, Molloy reformatory until the age of 18 years.

William Cooper, sen., by M.C. Giles, for incendiarism on the property of Alfred Campaign, at Port Lincoln ; committed.

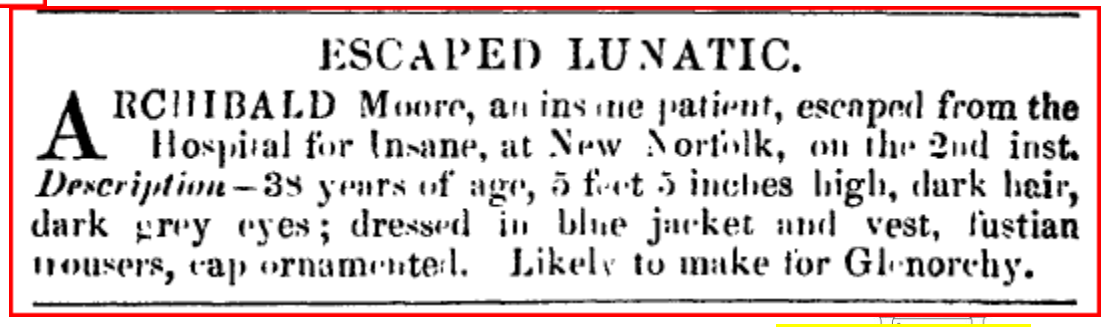
SA 1900



ESCAPED LUNATIC.

Escaped from Goodna Asylum, between 4 and 5 a.m. on the 15th instant, a patient named Henry Dredge. Description :— 44 years of age, 5 feet 10 inches high, fair complexion, brown hair, grey eyes, smart appearance ; is an Englishman and a cooper ; single, and a member of the Church of England ; dressed in dark-tweed coat and trousers, twill and flannel shirts, blucher boots, dark-tweed or felt hat, and great coat ; all except hat and great coat bearing Asylum brand.—O. 900. 28th May, 1894.

QLD 1894



ESCAPED LUNATIC.

ARCHIBALD Moore, an insane patient, escaped from the Hospital for Insane, at New Norfolk, on the 2nd inst. *Description*—38 years of age, 5 feet 5 inches high, dark hair, dark grey eyes ; dressed in blue jacket and vest, fustian trousers, cap ornamented. Likely to make for Glenorchy.

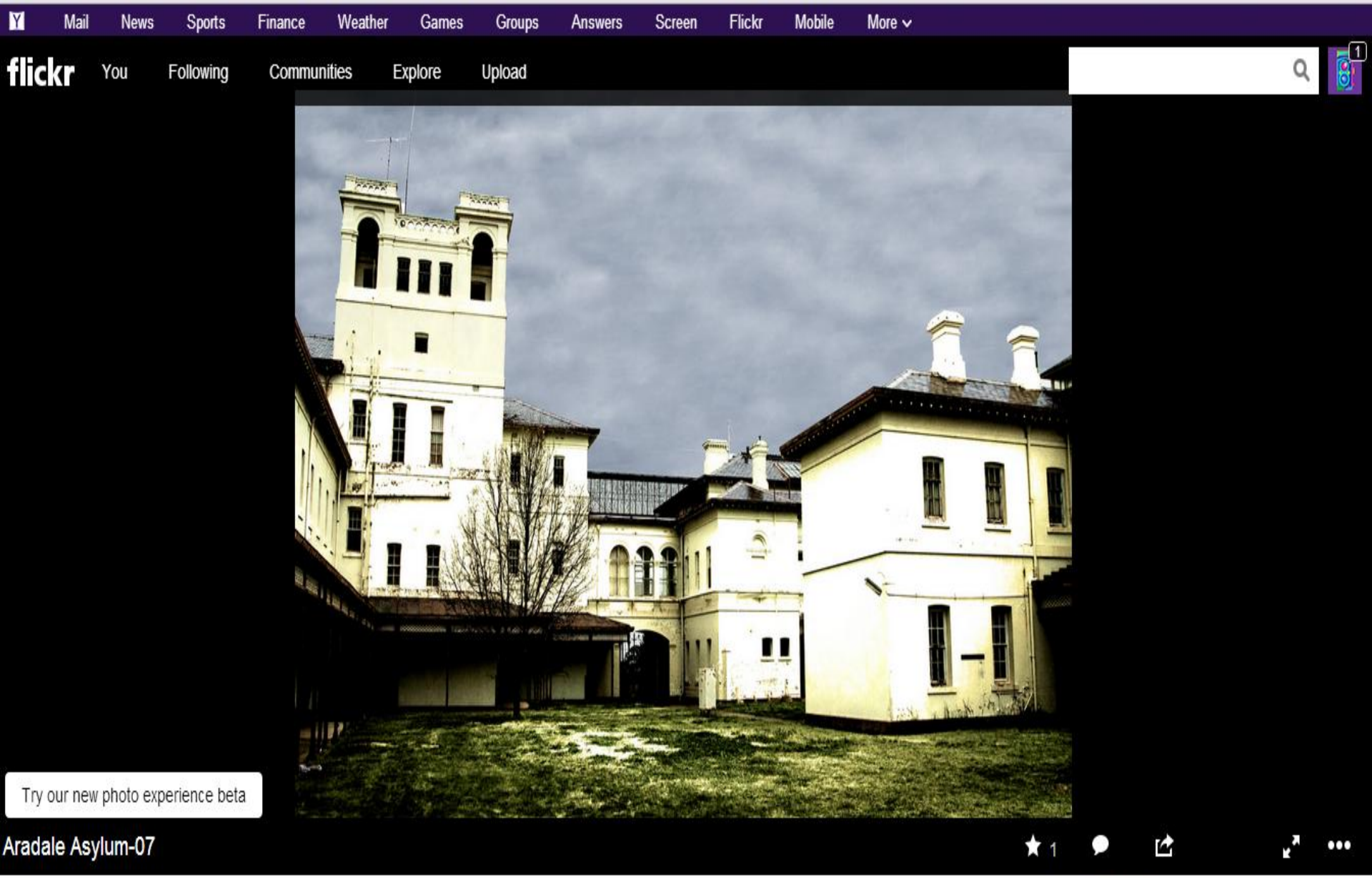
TAS 1879

www.findmypast.com.au

Ararat Asylum ca 1880s

State Library of Victoria image

http://trove.nla.gov.au



www.flickr.com

Shauna Hicks
History Enterprises

Goodna Asylum mechanical staff ca 1919

State Library of Queensland image

One Search

Descriptive Information options:

View Options

Christmas Day at the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, Queensland, 1906

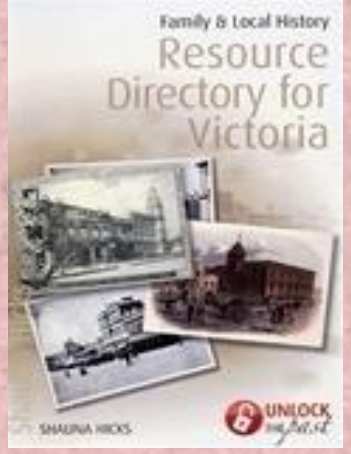
Do more: Tag,comment, or order (via Details tab) this image in One Search

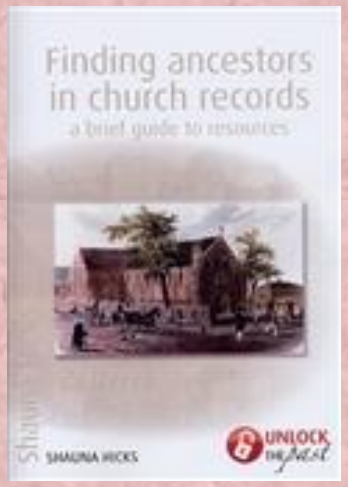
Title: Christmas Day at the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, Queensland, 1906

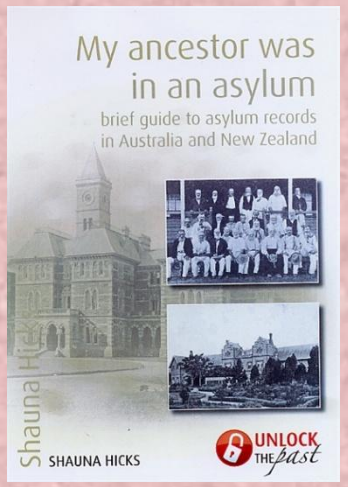
www.slq.qld.gov.au

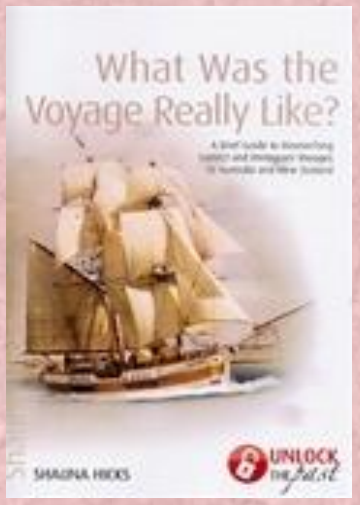
Conclusion

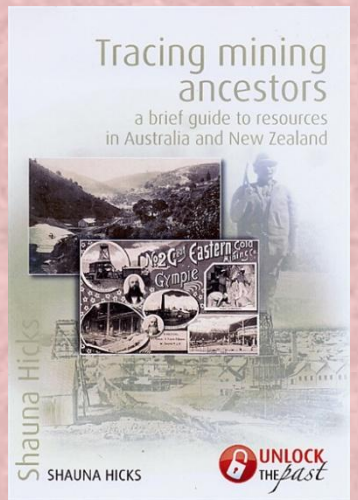
- Lots of resources for researching asylums
- The biographical and physical information is not always available elsewhere
- New resources – more online indexes, digitised records, ongoing
- Remember – it is not all online – you still need to research at archives and libraries

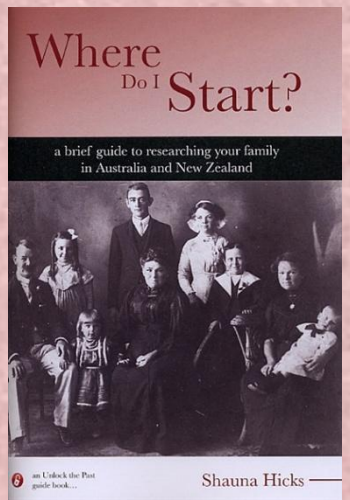


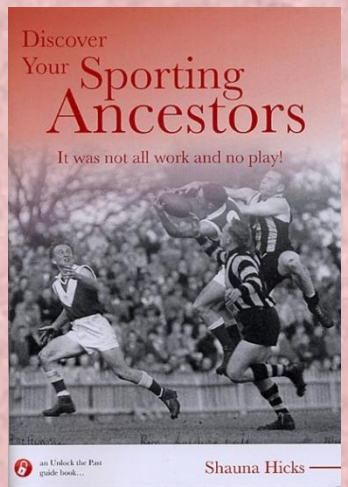












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