Asylum Records: A Place to Look for Missing Ancestors

Shauna Hicks

www.shaunahicks.com.au

Twitter: HicksShauna

http://diaryofanaustraliangenealogist.blogspot.com.au
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
Asylum and hospital records

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

University of Newcastle - Cultural Collections - Flickr Photostream

This collection of 50,628+ photos in 300+ albums has a lot of material for family history research including this small selection: • Anglican Diocese of Newcastle - Churches and rectories, 344 ... more

State Records New South Wales - Online Indexes - Government Asylums for the Infirm and Destitute, 1880-1896

This index has 10,000+ entries relating to persons admitted to Government Asylums in the last two decades of the 19th Century 1880-1896. New more

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
Insanity / Mental Asylum Records

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
# Series Search Results

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

## Matching Series

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## 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.

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**DUNWICH BENEVOLENT ASYLUM.**

**INMATE'S NAME:** FINN, JOHN

- **Date of Admission:** 8.2.21
- **Whence Admitted:** Longreach Hospital
- **Cause of Admission:** Sclerosis
- **Age:** 63 years
- **Birthplace:** Wicklow, Ireland
- **Religion:** I.R.C.
- **Education:** 8 x 4\n- **Marital Status:** Married
- **Father's Name and Profession:** James Finn, Farmer
- **Mother's Maiden Name:** Ena Barry
- **Wife's Maiden Name:** Sarah Fegan
- **Age when Married:** 24 years
- **Where Married:** County Wicklow, Ireland
- **Children:** Albert, James, John, Dennis, Margaret, Kate, Mary, Ena, James

**History:**

30 years in Queensland. 15 years on Railway Maintenance track in different parts. Worked at Station 3 months. Had a farm at Rambo, for a number of years. Been in Longreach Hospital since 20.3.20. Paralysis. Trave in the Hospital prior to transfer to Longreach. No money, no property.

**CLINICAL RECORD.**

Certified on Admission as Suffering from:

- **Sclerosis**

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**Leave of Absence.**

- **From:** 8.2.21
- **Period:** Admitted
- **To:** 8.2.21
- **Ward:** A1
- **Date & Remarks:** 21.2.21
- **Ward:** A1
- **Date & Remarks:** 23.7.21

For continuation of record, see over leaf.
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.
Entries can be under title eg Miss, Mrs, initial, etc

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Queensland Mental Asylum Patients - Introduction
and Public Curator Insanity Files surnames A - B with links to others

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.

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

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.

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
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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

Next page: Search the Index
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.

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<th>Surname</th>
<th>Given Name</th>
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1853

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Victoria

Public Record Office Victoria (PROV)

- PROVguide 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
- PROVguide 59 Mental Health Records
- PROVguide 71 Inquest Records
**Mental health**

**Digitised records**

- 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

Records are digitised and freely accessible online

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


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<td>Dr. Smith</td>
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**Mental State on Admission**

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**Medical History**

- **Neurological**: No
- **Psychiatric**: No
- **Genito-Urinary**: No
- **Respiratory**: No
- **Surgical**: No
- **Other**: No

**Family History**

- Father: None
- Mother: None
- Siblings: None

**Social History**

- Employment: Housewife
- Income: None
- Education: None
- Home: 12 7th St, New York, New York

**Admission Diagnosis**

- **Main Impression**: Nervous Tension
- **Appearance**: Normal
- **Speech**: Clear
- **Gait**: Normal

**Immediate and Recent History**

- **History of Present Illness**: None
- **Family History**: None
- **Past Medical History**: None

**Current Medical Condition**

- **General**: Good
- **Local**: None

**Past Medical History**

- **Current**: None
- **Past**: None

**Family History**

- **Father**: None
- **Mother**: None
- **Siblings**: None

**Social History**

- Employment: Housewife
- Income: None
- Education: None
- Home: 12 7th St, New York, New York
To the Superintendant

April 1911

Dear Sir,

I was brought to this Asylum under the impression that you would discharge me in a short time. I've been here 2 years and over 5 months, and it is very distressing for me to be here. I'm in the people's way and I'm quite sane. I will very kindly send me to my people as I write for them to come for me. Faithfully yours,

Florence Daley

In case both

Believing that everything is going well, always ask for her discharge when she is mentally bad.

Dr. 13 Apr 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 March 1943, 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.

Baggett, 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 McKay; died January 18, of hernia.

Cap, 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 chiliran of breast. Cornish, Alice, aged three and a half, native of Suffolk; arrived in 1874 in Tim Whiffen; died December 21, of diphtheria.

Crotd, Alfred John, aged 50, native of Hampshire; arrived in 1854 in Tandred; 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 1858, 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 enteritis. 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 1858, 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 20, native of Deal; died January 20, of old age.
Tasmania’s Heritage (Tasmanian Archive & Heritage Office (TAHO))

Hospital Records – some inc Royal Hobart and Royal Derwent hospitals (75 years closed access)

Inquest Records – index online 1828-1930
Tasmanian archives and heritage

the Crowther Diaries

Dr William Crowther: Tasmanian doctor, army medical officer and collector

www.linc.tas.gov.au/archive-heritage/Pages/default.aspx

Shauna Hicks
UTP Feb 2016
History Enterprises
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...
7.1 ORPHANAGES, HOSPITALS AND CHILDREN IN CARE

Indexes of some orphanages, hospitals and related types of institutions have been published by J. Purtscher and others via the TFHS. See under publications at [http://www.hobart.tasfhs.org/sales.htm#Children in Care](http://www.hobart.tasfhs.org/sales.htm#Children in Care) and also [http://www.hobart.tasfhs.org/sales.htm#Health Records](http://www.hobart.tasfhs.org/sales.htm#Health Records).

St John's at New Town, Hobart was the site of a number of related institutions in the 19th and early 20th Century, variously the Queens Orphan Asylum, Orphan School and New Town Charitable Institution. Friends of the Orphan Schools St John's Park Precinct have established a website covering a number of aspects of the site, including lists of orphans and other inmates: [http://www.orphanschool.org.au/](http://www.orphanschool.org.au/).


The AOT also holds admission records for various other hospitals and these can have information such as age, place of birth, place of residence etc. Search at: [http://search.archives.tas.gov.au/default.aspx?search=1](http://search.archives.tas.gov.au/default.aspx?search=1) with words such as "<Zeehan hospital>". Records for schools and other institutions can be searched for in the same way.


[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~austashs/resource/mal_orphan.htm#orp_1](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~austashs/resource/mal_orphan.htm#orp_1)
TASMANIA - ORGANISATION

Queen's Orphan Asylum (1833 - 1879)

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


Shauna Hicks
UTP Feb 2016
History Enterprises
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

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? 

Look for Homes by state/territory

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

- State Records South Australia
- 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
As a family historian, consider what information may be found in the Police, Education or Government Gazettes or hospital, electoral, probate, naturalisation or other government held records. This guide focuses mainly on South Australian resources.


Types of information available

Though not so good for the ancestor, for the family history researcher discovering that an ancestor was hospitalised is great, as hospital records can provide a lot of information. Early records of the Adelaide Hospital (later the Royal Adelaide Hospital) include many of the following details:

- name
- admission and discharge dates
- medical officer in attendance
- ailment
- address
- marital status
- occupation
- place of origin
- age
- length of residence in the colony
- name of ship arrived on
- rates charged for treatment
- occasionally there are even comments about the patient's background, treatment or death

The public health system included not only the sick but also the destitute and the mentally disabled. The early destitute and asylum records are full of interesting information, such as:

Available at the Library

Records for Government run hospitals and institutions are kept at State Records of South Australia, however the State Library does hold copies of very early destitute records and has indexes to various other hospital related records.

Family History Area

Adelaide Hospital admissions 1840-1853 [microfiche]

Alphabetical index to register of infants born in the Destitute Asylum 1888-1930 [microfiche] : 2 volumes

Records of orphans and the destitute, Adelaide, South Australia, 1849-1869 [microfilm]

Destitute asylum admissions registers 1851-96 [microfiche]

Alphabetical index to return of sick and destitute emigrants who have received relief from the Emigration Department (also gives names of ship and date of arrival [microfiche] : January-December, 1840

Return of sick and destitute emigrants who have received

http://guides.slsa.sa.gov.au

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Behind The Wall
The Women of the Destitute Asylum
Adelaide, 1852-1918
Mary Geyer

Behind The Wall is a compelling social history, which provides an insight into Adelaide’s Destitute Asylum and the women who experienced life behind its walls. Although out of sight, the men, women and children who were forced to use its facilities, were certainly not out of mind. Until its closure in 1917 politicians and governments, Commissions and Boards of Inquiry tried to solve the problem and cost of destitution to the colony.

South Australia was planned according to the Wakefield principles, where there would be no poor or destitute. According to this theory emigration of the correct proportion of capital and labour would create an ideal society free from social, economic, political or religious problems. It would be a self-sustaining society, prosperous and virtuous without the need to provide for paupers.

Within months of landing at Holdfast Bay harsh reality would prove to be very different. Almost from the very start the South Australian Immigration Agent had to provide assistance to those in need. As early as 1843 the government passed its first legislation to deal with poverty. It now became law that relatives were responsible for the maintenance and relief of deserted wives and children.

Six years later the South Australian government became the main source of relief funds and established the Destitute Board to administer the destitute. During 1849 the Board provided relief to 25 indoor and 114 outdoor destitute. By 1851 this had increased to 63 and 187 respectively. By 1855 it reached an all time high when it had to provide relief to more than 3,000 men, women and children.

This alarmingly high number came about as a result of excess female immigration which resulted in lower wages being paid, a very poor harvest causing increased unemployment and the large number of wives who had been deserted by their husbands leaving for the Victorian goldfields. Deserting husbands were the chief cause of female poverty and it was suggested that these men should be flogged. During 1865 there were still 1,276 people on relief of which 150 were housed at the much overcrowded Destitute Asylum.


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Western Australia

State Records Office Western Australia (SROWA)

- 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
HOSPITAL AND HEALTH RECORDS

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.

NOTE: Health records generally have a restricted access period of up to 100 years in cases concerning patient information. Clients who wish to view restricted health records must obtain written permission from the Health Department. Please see the Accessing Restricted Records section for information on how to apply for access to restricted records.

Departmental Records

The Central Board of Health was established by the Public Health Act of 1886, as the governing authority for the Local Boards of Health. The functions of the Board included conducting health inspections of abattoirs, schools and factories as well as supervising and controlling the sanitary services of all Government buildings throughout the State. Circa 1904 the Board began to be referred to as the Public Health Department.
https://archive.sro.wa.gov.au
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>Record Item</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ITEM-1900/5307</td>
<td>Mrs E. Blanche, inquiry re ability to contribute to support of mother, Margaret Thompson in Victorian lunatic asylum.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Detail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITEM-1883/0094</td>
<td>James McMahon - Maintenance of his wife in the Lunatic Asylum. To be relieved of the cost of.</td>
<td>12 Oct 1883</td>
<td>15 Nov 1883</td>
<td>Detail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITEM-1885/3777</td>
<td>Surgeon Superintendent Lunatic Asylum - Lunatic Henry Clarkson, reports the death of</td>
<td>17 Sep 1885</td>
<td>18 Sep 1885</td>
<td>Detail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITEM-1897/1499</td>
<td>W.J. George - Whitby Asylum - Appointment of Chaplain for.</td>
<td>12 May 1897</td>
<td>12 May 1907</td>
<td>Detail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITEM-1897/1514</td>
<td>R.A. Sevete - Warden at Lunatic Asylum - for post of.</td>
<td>10 May 1897</td>
<td>18 May 1897</td>
<td>Detail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITEM-1897/1570</td>
<td>Acting Superintendent of Relief - Inmate Female Home Girl (Blind) - Transfer to Lunatic Asylum.</td>
<td>14 May 1897</td>
<td>27 May 1897</td>
<td>Detail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITEM-1897/1597</td>
<td>Henry Power - Secretary or Head Warden Lunatic Asylum - for post of.</td>
<td>17 May 1897</td>
<td>26 May 1897</td>
<td>Detail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Old catalogue system
Police Records – Police Gazettes in findmypast.com.au

**THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN**

Habib (alias Charlie, alias Habib Matta), by Det. Priest, at Adelaide, for larceny from Suliman 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. Poole, 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 Det. Kitson and Loughlin, as idle and disorderly, at Adelaide; two months.

Hedley Stutley and John Molloy, by Det. 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 incendiaryism on the property of Alfred Campaign, at Port Lincoln; committed.

**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.

**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,ustain trousers, cap ornamented. Likely to make for Glenorchy.

www.findmypast.com.au

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History Enterprises
Ararat Asylum ca 1880s

State Library of Victoria image

http://trove.nla.gov.au
"The Asylum"
From a series of shots taken at the abandoned mental asylum, Aradale, in Ararat, Victoria. Opened 1864, closed 1993, been left empty since.

www.flickr.com
Goodna Asylum mechanical staff ca 1919

www.slq.qld.gov.au
Christmas Day 1906 Dunwich Benevolent Asylum

Summary: Dunwich was the site of the Moreton Bay Quarantine Station from the 1820s to the 1860s, and was converted into an asylum in 1866. The asylum continued at Dunwich until 1946, when it was moved to the vacant R.A.A.F. buildings at Eventide, Sandgate.
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