

# Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk

1859 – 1915

## Details

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The Hospital for the Insane replaced the Lunatic Asylum in 1859. It remained on the same site. In 1937, the Mental Diseases Hospital replaced it.

The Gentleman's Cottage, which in 1941, became an institution for men and boys with intellectual disabilities, was built in 1859.

The Ladies Cottage, which later became 'J' Ward, opened in 1868. In later years, J Ward became a maximum security ward for disabled adult women and occasionally held girls with 'behaviour problems'. As the name implies, the Ladies Cottage was for patients from a privileged social class. It was a one storey building enclosed by walls and fences and at some distance from the original Barracks. It had a 'ha ha' wall along the front so that the patients could see the gardens. A 'ha ha' wall was a deep trench that kept patients in while allowing them to see out. They were also used at the Royal Derwent Hospital, built in 1968. In 1891, a second storey was added to the Ladies Cottage.

Between 1886 and 1888, an 'idiots' asylum, Olga or Ward O was built. Later it became the 'Male Idiots' Cottage'. In 1904, it became a women's hospital.

'La Maison' in Humphrey Street, formerly a doctor's residence, was purchased in 1891. Initially it was a convalescent home for women. Later, at different times, it became the Mental Defectives Home and the Boys' Cottage.

## Gallery

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**New Norfolk - Royal Derwent Hospital (Lachlan Park) - Male Asylum**

**Description:** This is an image of the male asylum at Lachlan Park Hospital, also known as the Royal Derwent Hospital.



**The original Barracks at the Insane Asylum**

**Description:** The Barracks housed patients until 1952.

## More info

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# Chronology

- Lunatic Asylum, New Norfolk (1827 - 1859)
  - **Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk (1859 – 1915)**
    - Mental Diseases Hospital, New Norfolk (1915 - 1937)
      - Lachlan Park Hospital (1937 - 1968)
      - Royal Derwent Hospital (1968 - 2000)

## Resources

- [Royal Derwent Hospital records](#), Libraries Tasmania, No date
- Brown, Joan C., *'Poverty is not a crime': the development of social services in Tasmania, 1803-1900*, 1972
- Gowlland, RW, *Troubled asylum: the history of the Invalid Barracks, New Norfolk Colonial Hospital, New Norfolk Madhouse, New Norfolk Her Majesty's Lunatic Asylum, New Norfolk Mental Diseases Hospital, New Norfolk Lachlan Park, New Norfolk Royal Derwent Hospital*, 1996
- [Willow Court Asylum Precinct, Humphrey St, New Norfolk, TAS, Australia](#), Australian Heritage Database, No date
- Tooth, John, [Royal Derwent Hospital](#), The companion to Tasmanian history, 2005
- Tooth, John, [Treatment of Mental Illness](#), The companion to Tasmanian history, 2005
- [Willow Court History Group](#), 30 April 2014

## Records

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For more information and to access your records, follow the links below:

### Records

- [Patient Records-Admission Register, Lunatic Asylum, Hospital for the Insane, Mental Diseases Hospital, and Lachlan Park Hospital \(1830 - 1954\)](#)
  - [Patient Files, Lunatic Asylum, Hospital for the Insane, Mental Diseases Hospital, Lachlan Park Hospital, and the Royal Derwent Hospital \(1857 - 1993\)](#)
  - [Patient Records-Alphabetical Register of Patients, Royal Derwent Hospital \(1888 - 1974\)](#)
  - [Patient Records Removed from Case Books, Millbrook Rise Psychopathic and Royal Derwent Hospitals \(1894 - 1979\)](#)
  - [Register of Cases admitted to the New Norfolk Asylum on the Authority of the Colonial Secretary \(1864 - 1879\)](#)
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