

Gateway, site of Yarra Bend Asylum



THIS MAIN GATE PILLAR IS THE ONLY REMAINING STRUCTURE OF VICTORIA'S FIRST LUNATIC ASYLUM. THE YARRABEND LUNATIC ASYLUM, INCORPORATING MOST OF THE YARRABEND AREA WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED ON 5TH OCTOBER 1848. IT HAD ACCOMMODATION FOR OVER 1100 PATIENTS.

THE ASYLUM CEASED OPERATIONS ON THE 10TH AUGUST 1926 AND WAS THEN CONVERTED TO A VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC WHICH OPERATED UNTIL 1956.

THE FAIRLEA WOMEN'S PRISON COMMENCED OPERATIONS ON THE 9TH MARCH 1956.

J Ward, Ararat, internal view



YARRA BEND ASYLUM

"It was not pleasant when walking quietly in the garden at eve, to be startled by the wild maniac laughter that came echoing down the river"

Lucy Anna Edgar (Merri Creek Aboriginal School) reflecting on the Yarra Bend Asylum.



The asylum was decommissioned and demolished in 1925, and only fragments now remain; bluestones that marked borders of vegetable gardens, and the pillar from the main gate.



Picture from 'The Southside Side of the River' by Andrew Jamieson.

This location was chosen for the asylum as the Yarra River almost surrounded the area, providing excellent security. The asylum operated here between 1848 and 1925.

At times over 1000 inmates were housed here and the asylum was almost a self-sufficient township. Unfortunately conditions were poor and residents suffered severe hardship.



Beechworth Asylum, Mayday Hills

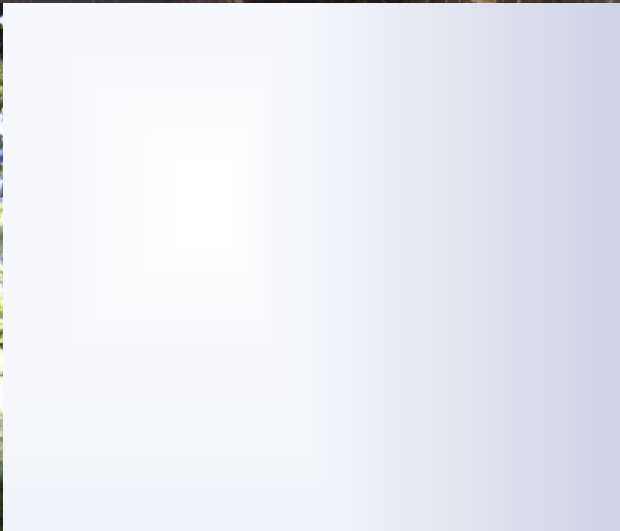




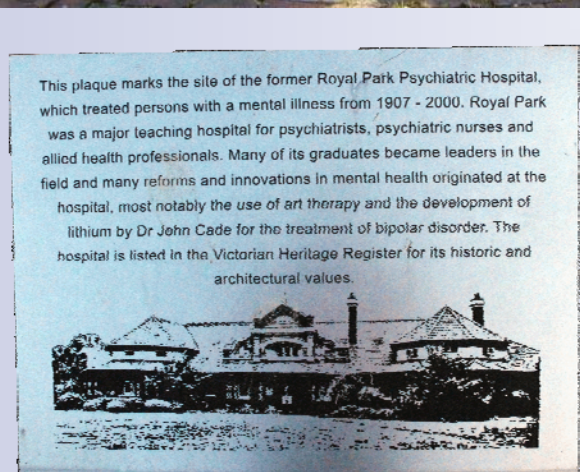
J Ward, Ararat, internal view



J Ward, Ararat, exercise yard



Lakeside Mental Hospital, Ballarat



Royal Park Psychiatric Hospital

Aradale Psychiatric Hospital, Ararat



Aradale Psychiatric Hospital, Ararat



Kew Mental Asylum, Willsmere



Kew Mental Asylum, Willsmere

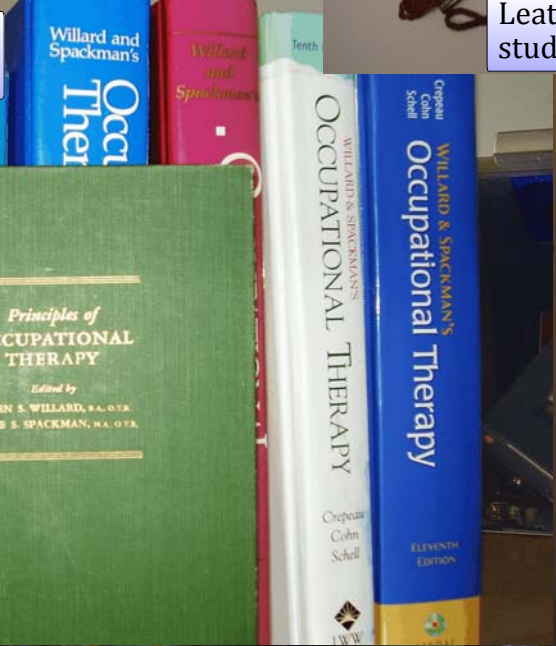


In the garden,
Rockingham Convalescent Home



Occupational Therapy Department,
Bundoora

Willard and Spackman,
Occupational Therapy



Leather lacing
student sampler



J Ward, corridor



J ward, baskets, Occupational Therapy Department

Low security area, Forensic Mental Health Services



Hospital wall, Forensic Mental Health Services



Inpatient Mental Health Service, Geelong

Hospital wall, Forensic Mental Health Services



Psychiatric Disability, Rehabilitation and Support Services, Geelong

Psychiatric Disability, Rehabilitation and Support Services, Geelong



Macramé student sampler