

# Woogaroo Lunatic Asylum

1865 – c. 1880

## Details

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The Woogaroo Lunatic Asylum, located near Woogaroo Creek, was run by the State of Queensland. It opened in 1865 and in the 1880s the name was changed to Goodna Asylum for the Insane.

Evidence shows that children were inmates of Queensland mental institutions however more research is needed to find out about children placed at Woogaroo Lunatic Asylum.

The Woogaroo Asylum was founded by the Queensland government as the first publicly-funded mental health institution in the colony. As well as people with a mental illness, the asylum also housed those who were destitute, ill, or old and without family or other means of support.

The provision of health and welfare services was regarded as the responsibility of charitable and religious organizations in the nineteenth century, however the care and treatment of mental illness was the one exception.

Woogaroo Asylum's first patients were transferred from the Brisbane Gaol on 10 January 1865. The *Brisbane Courier* of 14 January 1865 reported that:

*On Tuesday morning last, the lunatics, which hitherto have been confined in Brisbane Gaol, were removed to the new Asylum at Woogaroo. They were conveyed to the steamer Settler in cabs, under the supervision of Mr. Warder Phillips, who was accompanied by four ordinary wardsmen and by ten constables. The female lunatics were under the charge of two female warders. The embarkment was very successfully managed, considering that there were 57 males and 12 females, and we understand that all were safely lodged in their new quarters.*

The first buildings consisted of a male division, erected near the creek, and a female division, located further up the hill. The superintendent quarters stood in between. Due to recurring floods additional buildings were erected further up the hill.

## Gallery

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### Wolston Park Hospital Complex - Bostock

**Description:** This image is included in the gallery of images for Wolson Park Hospital Complex in the Queensland Heritage Register.

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## Noble 2

**Description:** This image is included in the gallery of images for Wolston Park Hospital Complex in the Queensland Heritage Register. It shows the building known as Noble House.

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## More info

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### Chronology

- **Woogaroo Lunatic Asylum (1865 – c. 1880)**
  - Goodna Asylum for the Insane (c. 1880 - 1898)
  - Goodna Hospital for the Insane (1898 - c. 1940)
    - Brisbane Mental Hospital (c. 1940 - 1963)
    - Brisbane Special Hospital (1963 - 1969)
    - Wolston Park Hospital (1969 - 2001)

### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Colonial Secretary \(10 December 1859 - 6 August 1896\)](#)  
Date: 1865 - 1880

#### Related Legislation

- [Lunacy Act of 1869, Queensland \(1869 - 1884\)](#)

#### Related Organisations

- [Ipswich Branch of the Woogaroo Lunatic Asylum \(1878 - 1910\)](#)  
The Ipswich Branch of the Woogaroo Lunatic Asylum was opened in 1878 to take patients from the overcrowded Woogaroo Lunatic Asylum at Wacol.

### Resources

- Wolston Park Centenary Cricket Club, [Wolston Park Site History: Overview](#), 2013

## Records

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

### Records

- [Registers of Patients and Admission Books - Wolston Park / Ipswich Special Hospital / Challinor Centre, Ipswich \(23 March 1861 - 18 March 1994\)](#)
  - [Case Books - Wolston Park Hospital \(1860 - 1951\)](#)
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