Ballarat Mental Hospital

1893 – 1996

Other Names:
- Ballarat Hospital for the Insane
- Ballarat Asylum
- Lakeside Hospital

Details

Ballarat Mental Hospital was opened by the Victorian Government at Ballarat in 1893. It was located on a site that had previously been the Ballarat Industrial School, an earlier iteration of the Ballarat Asylum from 1877 to 1879, and the Ballarat Boys' Reformatory. It was initially known as the Ballarat Asylum, then from 1905 to 1934 as the Ballarat Hospital for Insane, then Ballarat Mental Hospital until 1969, and finally as Lakeside Hospital.

The Ballarat Mental Hospital was primarily a hospital for long-term adult patients with mental illness and intellectual disabilities, however it is known to have also admitted young people under the age of 18. Patients were often transferred between Ballarat Mental Hospital and other Victorian mental health institutions. At its peak in 1959 Ballarat Mental Hospital had capacity for 1100 patients.

From 1912 Ballarat Mental Hospital ran a receiving house at Dana Street Ballarat, which admitted short-term patients (patient's requiring admissions of over 2 months were transferred to the main hospital). In 1954 another receiving house called Novar was opened at 109 Webster Street, Ballarat. Both the Dana Street and Novar receiving houses occasionally admitted children, and in the 1960s admitted some mothers with their babies. A children's clinic operated first at Novar, and was transferred to Norwood (another premises managed by the hospital) in 1960. This clinic was for children who had been referred to the hospital as out-patients (i.e. children who were not admitted to the hospital, but were receiving treatment from it). These children were often referred to the hospital by the children's courts, schools, welfare organisations, and family doctors. In 1969 the Dana Street house was replaced by the Parklands Clinic, which was located on the main hospital site. Ballarat Mental Hospital closed in 1996.

Gallery

Ballarat Hospital for the Insane c1909 - Portion of Women's Homes
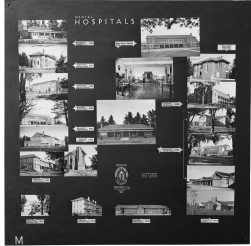
Description: This is an image of some of the women's wards at the Ballarat Hospital for the Insane, also known as the Ballarat Mental Hospital. It shows two buildings in Federation Queen Anne style, with decorated roofs and wide front verandahs. Two women dressed in white, possibly nurses, can be seen standing in front of one of the buildings. This image is part of a collage of photographs showing various aspects of the Ballarat Hospital for the Insane.

Ballarat Hospital for the Insane c1909 - Men's Ward

Description: This is an image of the men's wards at Ballarat Hospital for the Insane, also known as Ballarat Mental Hospital. It shows a large two-storey brick building with arched windows and doorways on the ground floor. The face of the building is covered in climbing vines. This building is the same building that housed the Ballarat Girls' Industrial School and the Ballarat Boys' Reformatory. This image is part of a collage of photographs showing various aspects of the Ballarat Hospital for the Insane. Inset in the top left of this image is another photo showing a pergola within the grounds of the hospital, in front of some other hospital buildings

Mental Hospitals (around Victoria designed by Percy Everett)

Description: This is a poster created by the Victorian Department of Public Works to show buildings at Mental Hospitals around Victoria that had been designed and built by the department. It includes images of ward blocks, administration offices, and staff residences at Ballarat Mental Hospital, Sunbury Mental Hospital, Mont Park, Janefield, Larundel, and Brierly Hospital Warrnambool.

More info

Related Entries

Run by
- Lunacy Department (1905 - 1934)
- Department of Mental Hygiene (1934 - 1944)
- Mental Hygiene Branch (1944 - 1959)
- Mental Health Authority, State of Victoria (1962 - 1978)
- Health Commission of Victoria (1978 - 1985)
- Community Services Victoria, State Government of Victoria (1985 - 1992)

Related Organisations
- Sunbury Mental Hospital (1879 - 1992)
  The first patients at Sunbury Asylum were transferred there from the earlier iteration of Ballarat Asylum

Resources

- *Lakeside Hospital*, Finding Records, 2016

Records

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

Records

- Records of Ballarat Mental Hospital, Public Record Office Victoria

You can view this page online by visiting https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/ballarat-mental-hospital/