

Dunwich and Eventide records



DR21981 - Eventide - Sandgate, August 1965

Research Guide to Dunwich and Eventide records
at Queensland State Archives

Queensland State Archives (QSA) is the official repository for Queensland Government records selected for permanent retention because of their continuing value. The archived public records are from state government departments, state courts, local government authorities and statutory authorities. The records are in our facility at [Runcorn, Brisbane](#), and open records are available for viewing in the Reading Room, free-of-charge.

The Dunwich Benevolent Asylum was established on 13 May 1865 when residents were first transferred to the Dunwich Quarantine Station from the Benevolent Ward at the Brisbane Hospital. Dunwich Benevolent Asylum operated until 30 September 1946, when it was officially closed. Dunwich Benevolent Asylum residents were gradually transferred to Eventide Home, Sandgate, which was officially opened on 4 October 1946. The function of the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum was defined in the *Benevolent Asylum Wards Act 1861* and the *Charitable Institutions Act 1885* as the care of the aged and infirmed, and the destitute who were unable to care for themselves. Eligibility criteria for admission to Eventide Home was similar to the criteria applied to applicants to Dunwich Benevolent Asylum.

The main finding aid for records held at QSA is the [Queensland State Archives' online catalogue](#) (known as ArchivesSearch).

The following citation abbreviations are used throughout our catalogue:

ITM	QSA Item (describes the item)
PR	Physical Representation (generally the original or microfilm copy)
DR	Digital Representation (for a digital image)
S	Series (for a series of records)
A	Agency (for the creating or responsible agency)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that our catalogue contains images, names and voices of people who have died.

Many of the records about Dunwich Benevolent Asylum and Eventide Home are subject to a 100 year restricted access period. Researchers may apply for access to restricted records through [ArchivesSearch](#). Access to restricted records is granted at the discretion of the responsible agency.

Digitised indexes and registers about residents

Digital copies of the indexes and registers listed below are available on our catalogue:

- Dunwich Admission – females, 1859–1906, BEN2/4, [DR51287](#)
- Dunwich Admission – males, 1859–1901, BEN2/5, [DR51288](#)
- Dunwich Admission – males, 1882–1889, A/52866, [DR51295 & DR51298](#)
- Dunwich Benevolent Asylum funeral book, 1866–1918, BEN2/7, [DR51289](#)
- Dunwich Benevolent Asylum register of persons admitted, 1859–1882, BEN2/1, [DR51258](#)
- Dunwich Benevolent Asylum index to applications for admissions, 1890-1922. Use this index to find files in the Home Secretary's Office special batches, COL/301-319 (Note: there were no applications for the letters – A, no B before Bou, E, K-L, O-Q, T-W) – this index is on Reading Room computers under *Finding Aids in QSA Search Procedures*

The *Queensland Government Gazette* (QGG) 1885–1906 published regular reports which included lists of people admitted, re-admitted and discharged from Dunwich (and also the deceased). The Queensland Government Gazettes from 1859 to 1900 are available in PDF format on [Text Queensland](#).

Other records about residents

Dunwich Benevolent Asylum and Eventide Home, Sandgate

Register of Deceased Estates

Circa 1/1/1960–31/12/1970

[S9637](#)

Daily Report Book, Female Division

1/1/1945–1/1/1949

[S9606](#)

Indexes (Inmates Registers)

Circa 1/1/1916–17/11/1979

[S9617](#)

Registers of Deaths

4/1/1918–1/7/1971

[S9628](#)

Transfer Register

1/1/1952–25/9/1959

[S9635](#)

Resident's Registers

Circa 1/1/1961–31/12/1989

[S10247](#)

Registers of Discharges

Circa 1/1/1928–31/12/1984

[S10248](#)

These registers record residents personal and clinical histories, admission dates, leave and dates of discharge.

Registers of Deaths and Discharges

Circa 1/1/1983–31/12/1988

[S10249](#)

Registers of Deaths

Circa 1/1/1928–31/12/1988

[S10250](#)

Hospital Daily Report Books, Male Patients

1/1/1949–31/12/1970

[S10340](#)

Hospital Daily Report Books, Female Patients

1/1/1949–31/12/1970

[S10341](#)

Daily Report Books, Male Division

24/1/1918–31/12/1970

[S10342](#)

Further references to Dunwich and Eventide residents may be found in correspondence series listed under the heading *Administration*, which begins on page 5 of this guide.

Immigration Department

Register – Applications for Admissions to Dunwich Benevolent Asylum

Circa 1/1/1896–31/12/1904

[ITM18597](#) in S13091, Register of Applications for Admission to the Benevolent Asylum, Dunwich

Public Curator Office, Brisbane

Indexes to Estate Registers

Circa 1/1/1870–31/12/1917

[S9640](#)

Records about staff

Dunwich Benevolent Asylum

Papers – Administration, Management and Staffing - Dunwich Benevolent Asylum

4/11/1941–11/05/1942

[ITM783651](#) in S4491, Management Reports - Dunwich Benevolent Asylum

Health and Home Affairs Department; Home Secretary's Office

Special Batches

5/11/1861–31/12/1975

[S8400](#)

Specific records of interest in this series include:

Dunwich, Staff

Circa 1/1/1920–31/12/1948

[ITM279397](#)

Hospital South - Brisbane; Dunwich Staff

Circa 1/1/1962–31/12/1964

[ITM280234](#)

Administration files

From 13 May 1865 to 1 May 1867, Dunwich Benevolent Asylum was administered by the Brisbane General Hospital. References to residents and their transfer to Dunwich may be in the records noted below.

Brisbane General Hospital

Minute Books

12/01/1849–21/03/1917

[S10814](#)

Specific records of interest in this series include:

Minutes

16/12/1858–25/9/1862

[ITM2870](#)

Minutes

9/10/1862–28/12/1864

[ITM2871](#) (Digitised microfilm 90862 available on the Reading Room computers under *Hospitals & Residential Care*)

Minutes

5/1/1865–3/1/1867

[ITM2872](#) (Digitised microfilm 90865 available on the Reading Room computers under *Hospitals & Residential Care*)

Colonial Secretary's Office

From 1867, the administration of the asylum was the direct responsibility of the Colonial Secretary's Office. Some references to the asylum are in the general correspondence series of the Colonial Secretary's Office from 1859–1860.

The following series of records created by the Colonial Secretary's Office have been digitised as PDF files and are searchable in the ArchivesSearch catalogue, refer to [Research Guide to Colonial Secretary's correspondence 1859–1903](#) for search strategies.

Inwards Correspondence

12/10/1859–31/12/1903

[S5253](#)

To find inwards correspondence, search the registers of letters received (S11936) and the indexes to registers of letters received (S11933).

Registers of Letters Received

15/12/1859–31/12/1896

[S11936](#)

This series is used to find inwards correspondence, S5253.

Indexes to Registers of Letters Received

Circa 1/1/1861–31/12/1877

[S11933](#)

This series is used to find inwards correspondence, S5253.

Home Secretary's Office

From 1897 the Home Secretary's Office was responsible for the administration of Dunwich Benevolent Asylum and Eventide Home. From 1931–1935, references to the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum and Eventide Home may be found in the general correspondence series.

For 1931–1935 specific records refer to:

General correspondence

Circa 1/1/1931 – 31/12/1935

[ITM848427](#) to [ITM848741](#)

Registers of Letters Received

Circa 1/1/1897–31/12/1935

[S12844](#)

General Correspondence

Circa 1/1/1931–31/12/1950

[S5263](#)

To find correspondence, search the registers of letters received, S12844.

From about 1904, registers for each year are arranged by subjects, such as general, charitable relief, benevolent asylums, and institutional (various institutions such as Diamantina Hospital, Dunwich and Charters Towers Benevolent Asylums as well as broader headings such as prisoners, relief and indigents). Some registers have an extended description such as Register of letters received concerning the work of benevolent asylums and Register of letters received from institutions, etc. These registers are used to find letters in S5263, General Correspondence.

For 1897–1930 to find specific records search these items in *S12844, Registers of letters received*.

Register of letters received concerning the work of benevolent asylums

Circa 1/1/1908–31/12/1908

[ITM17973](#)

Register of letters received concerning the work of benevolent asylums

Circa 1/1/1910–31/12/1910

[ITM17976](#)

Register of letters received concerning the work of benevolent asylums

Circa 1/1/1909–31/12/1909

[ITM17917](#)

Registers of letters received from institutions, etc.

Circa 1/1/1912–31/12/1930

[ITM17920](#) to [ITM17956](#)

For 1931–1935 specific records search these items in *S12844, Registers of letters received*.

Register – correspondence, inwards

Circa 1/1/1931–31/12/1935

[ITM212519](#) to [ITM212523](#)

Registers of Letters Sent to Dalby Sanatorium, Diamantina Hospitals, and Dunwich Benevolent Asylum

Circa 1/1/1905–31/12/1907

[S6607](#)

Health and Home Affairs (later Health Department)

From 1936–1952, references may be found in the records noted below.

General Correspondence

Circa 1/1/1936–31/12/1974

[S6679](#)

To find letter numbers and documents, search Registers of Letters Received Relating to Institutions, [S17262](#).

For 1936–1950 specific records refer to these items in [S6679](#), General Correspondence - Health and Home Affairs / Department of Health.

Correspondence

Circa 1/1/1944–31/12/1944

[ITM213431](#)

Correspondence

Circa 1/1/1936–31/12/1936

[ITM213432](#)

General Correspondence

Circa 1/1/1945–31/12/1951

[ITM213433](#) to [ITM214338](#)

Special Batches

5/11/1861–31/12/1975

[S8400](#)

The special batches series consists of batches of correspondence and papers removed from, or not included in the general correspondence of the Colonial Secretary's/Home Secretary's Office, and the subsequent Health and Home Affairs Department and Health Department. Letters were removed, either for administrative convenience or because the subject was particularly important. They were entered in the Registers of Letters Received, with a note often specifying 'Away' Batch. To find letter numbers, search Registers of Letters Received Relating to Institutions, [S17262](#).

Specific special batch records include:

Applications for admission to benevolent asylum: B – Y,Z

Circa 1/1/1892-31/12/1909

[ITM18217](#) - [ITM18235](#) in Home Secretary's Office Special batches, [S8400](#) (COL/301-319) (digitised microfilm Z2095-Z2110 available on the Reading Room computers under *Hospitals & Residential Care*)

Dunwich Benevolent Asylum

Circa 1/1/1891-31/12/1941

[ITM279392](#) in S8400

Circa 1/1/1899-31/12/1925

[ITM279399](#) in S8400

Dunwich

Circa 1/1/1909-31/12/1944

[ITM279393](#) in S8400

Circa 1/1/1901-31/12/1955

[ITM279394](#) in S8400

Circa 1/1/1919-31/12/1946

[ITM279395](#) in S8400

Circa 1/1/1919-31/12/1946

[ITM279396](#) in S8400

Circa 1/1/1931-31/12/1946

[ITM279398](#) in S8400

Batch File - Protected native plants at Dunwich, Police gardens, and miscellaneous correspondence

Circa 1/1/1907-31/12/1940

[ITM279859](#) in S8400

Registers of Letters Received Relating to Institutions

Circa 1/1/1936-31/12/1972

[S17262](#)

Use these registers to find letters in general correspondence, S6679 and special batch files, S8400.

Eventide Home, Sandgate

Use these records for general matters, residents, staff and administration at Eventide Home, Sandgate.

Health and Home Affairs

General Correspondence

Circa 1/1/1936-31/12/1974

[S6679](#)

To find correspondence, search Registers of Letters Received Relating to Hospitals, [S17086](#).

Registers of Letters Received Relating to Hospitals

Circa 1/1/1946–31/12/1971

[S17086](#)

These registers are used to find general correspondence, S6679 and special batch files, S8400.

Special Batches

5/11/1861–Circa 31/12/1975

[S8400](#)

To find records, search Registers of Letters Received Relating to Hospitals, S17086.

For Eventide Home, Sandgate, specific records in [S8400](#), Special batches include:

Eventide Sandgate General

Circa 1/1/1952–31/12/1960

[ITM280719](#)

Circa 1/1/1954–31/12/1961

[ITM280720](#)

Eventide Sandgate Staff General

Circa 1/1/1951–31/12/1962

[ITM280721](#)

Eventide, Sandgate

Circa 1/1/1946–31/12/1947

[ITM279404](#)

Circa 1/1/1948–31/12/1952

[ITM279405](#)

Inebriates. Staff, General

Circa 1/1/1950–31/12/1970

[ITM280718](#)

Institutions. Staff, General

Circa 1/1/1966–31/12/1969

[ITM280700](#)

Other information sources

There may be relevant information in the available in the [Research Guide to Mental asylum records.](#)

Need more information?

Check our online catalogue [ArchivesSearch.](#)

Phone us on (07) 3037 6777 or you can [email](#) an archivist.