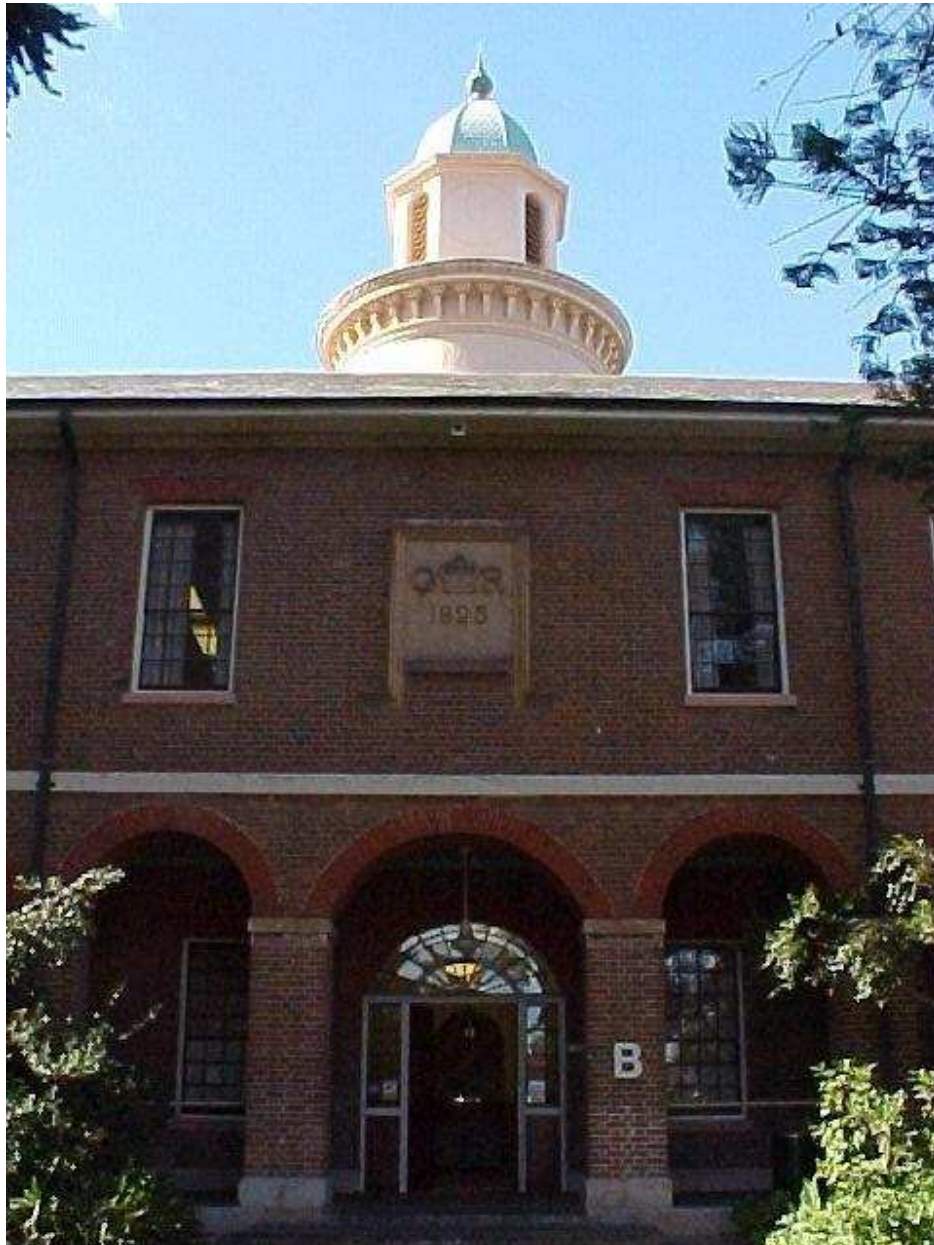


Australian Paranormal Phenomenon Investigators

Liverpool Institute of TAFE



Front view
Date: 18 February 2012
Time: 7:00pm – 10:00am

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Site History

The original Liverpool Hospital was built in 1813. Governor Lachlan Macquarie had officially founded the town of Liverpool in 1810 and ordered the building of a brick hospital to house 30 patients and a residence for the assistant surgeon. By 1821 Macquarie had plans to build a new hospital drawn up by his ex-convict architect Francis Greenway and work commenced in 1822. The building was completed in early 1830 and is now, known as Block B, the centre wing of the U-shaped building that contains the bell tower. The original hospital was later demolished.

From 1830 – 1836 Block B was used as a hospital principally to care for sick convicts. The existence of the hospital stimulated the growth and the spread of the settlement. By 1832 patients of the hospital included convicts from as far away as the Goulburn Plains. There were no kitchen facilities and the northern end of the basement, now known as the dungeon, was the only bathing room.

After 1836 the hospital was transferred to the control of the military and apparently used as a military hospital and barracks. In 1841 Patrick Hill became the first Assistant Surgeon and was granted land to the east of the site and built his house in 1827. (The Railway Commission purchased the house and land in 1856 to extend the railway to Liverpool).

The military vacated the site around the mid 1840s and the winding down of the convict system meant that the district could no longer support such a large hospital. The hospital became vacant in the late 1840s

In 1852 the government granted use of the building, together with £525, to the Benevolent Society of New South Wales for an asylum for the sick and aged. An 1850s plan shows, as well as Block B, a building to the south of Block B that ran east-west, (since demolished), and two gatehouses inside the main entrance, which may have been erected when the northern and southern wings were constructed in the 1860s or early 1870s, and exist today as Block S and Block T.

In 1862 the government took control of the premises and its 403 residents. The increasing rate of admissions led, in 1866, to tenders for an additional wing. The northern wing, now Block A, was completed in 1867 at a cost of £4,505 (\$9,010). The southern wing, now Block C, appears to have been commenced in 1873 and completed in 1874 at a cost of £5,567/7/4 (\$11,135). The balconies facing the courtyard on Blocks A and C were built in the late 1890s.

To compensate for the resumption of the south-east corner of the site the Railway Commission built Block E in or before 1873 for use as a dining room. Block G was erected by 1882 and served as a washhouse. Between 1878 and 1909 its size doubled and the verandah covering 3 sides and the roof lanterns were added. Block Y was built as a morgue about 1901 but may predate this first reference of its existence. A similar building to the right side of the driveway was the Chief Attendant Building, now Block Z, and is also first referred to in 1901 but may predate this.

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Block F was built between 1907 (when the old kitchen was removed) and 1911. It was described as the “new laundry buildings” and the “new kitchen”. A painted sign, though faded, survives on the western verandah which states “Discharges 8:30am”.



 Discharges at 8.30am

Block D was first noted in 1915 as a “swab store” whilst Block X, a small cottage between the morgue (Block Y) and Block C was recorded as a “ladies waiting room”.

In 1918 the Government Asylum became a State Hospital and Asylum and remained so until the Health Department vacated the site in 1958. The buildings were then renovated for use as a TAFE college and classes were first held in early 1960. The Minister for Education, E. Wetherell officially opened the site on July 10th, 1961.

Block J was not in existence in 1941 but appeared in a 1961 survey. In 1960 the building became the teaching and staff area for secretarial studies. The canteen and dining room later occupied the area until a new canteen was built in Block H adjoining Block J on its western side in 1993. Block J now houses the Adult Basic Education section. Block K was built in 1975 for TAFE purposes and is predominantly used by the Administration Studies, Maths and Science sections and has a number of computer rooms.

Block B was used in the 1960s for College Administration - the Principal's office and classrooms on the ground floor whilst the first floor contained classrooms. It has the same basic functions today. Block A housed the Carpentry and Joinery school on the first floor and Fitting and Machining classes on the ground floor and classrooms on the first floor. Today the Library occupies the whole of the ground floor, and classrooms and the offices of the General Studies staff and an Individual Learning Centre occupy the first floor.

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The former Liverpool Hospital complex is of State significance as one of the oldest, substantially intact early colonial hospital complexes in Australia. Built by convict labour, the main 1820's Colonial Georgian building is considered one of the finest colonial buildings remaining in Australia and the surviving complex of buildings, from the hospital period, are a fine representation of the high standard of workmanship carried out by these convict labour gangs. Convict labour was also used to construct the Gate Keeper's Cottages and the brick wall that continue to encircle much of the complex.

The former hospital is State significant for its long standing continuous history of servicing the health needs of, first convicts and then the wider Liverpool community from 1810 to 1958. As well as convict association, Liverpool Hospital also has associations with Governors Lachlan Macquarie, Sir Thomas Brisbane and Sir Ralph Darling and the civil Architects, Francis Greenway (Block B), Edmund Blacket (Blocks A & C) and W.L. Vernon (Block F).

The presence of significant in situ convict era archaeology could reveal evidence of how Liverpool and the hospital developed in the early colonial period, as well as the techniques and materials used by the convict labour gangs. The presence of this pre 1850 archaeology is rare in NSW.

Having State heritage significance for its historic, associative, aesthetic, social, research, rarity and representative values, there are few sites around Australia that could be comparable to the former Liverpool Hospital complex.

There are also mature *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Island Pine) trees located on site in the front of B Block. These are of significance as they are hand planted and estimated to be between 130-140 years of age. These Norfolk Island Pines are, therefore of extreme historical and horticultural significance.

The former Liverpool Hospital is enclosed within a convict built brick wall, constructed alongside the main 1820's building. Although a small portion of the wall has been demolished and replaced (1860), the wall is rare as a surviving example of the quality of craftsmanship of the convict labour gangs.

Block F is dominated by a tall brick chimney stack. Although the stack is believed to have been rebuilt (1940), the base appears to be original, dating from 1902.

SOURCE: R. Baker – Presentation to the Heritage Council



Prior Eyewitness Reports of Paranormal Phenomena

- It is claimed there is a spirit known as "Frank" who comes from Ireland. It is told that Frank appears in B block, and complains every night about the young people running all around the institute. Frank apparently tells his tale every time, about the time he lived in the Hospital, and how he passed away there, 143 years ago. Once his story is told, he disappears back into the wall.
- Although K block is not that old a building (circa 1970's) there have been paranormal reports of a girl being seen, who goes by the name of "Helen". Helen wears a white gown. Interestingly, earlier historic buildings were on this site previous to the current building.
- A white ball of light was seen with the naked eye, in the basement of the B Block. It was down near the shower area, and seemed to diminish until it disappeared altogether, as the witness drew closer.
- There are many reports of paranormal activity in the adjacent building, which is the current Liverpool hospital. Reports such as nurses seeing patients roaming the halls, only to investigate and find nobody there. The curtains in one section of ICU are always opening on their own, with the bed lifting itself. It would not be at all surprising to hear of any joint hauntings, due to the close proximity of both venues.

Investigators Present

- Peta Banks
- Nicole Hume
- Stephanie Milano
- Julie Parmax
- Don Meers



 Peta and Stephanie, discussing tactics

Investigative Conditions

Temperature: Lo 16.8° c Hi 24.1° c

Sky Conditions: Clear

Equipment Used



- Panasonic DVR x 4
- Night Vision Camera – still & video
- Electromagnetic Field Meter x 3
- K-II Meter
- Gaus Meter
- Ghost Meter Pro
- Mel-Meter (pictured)
- Panasonic Lumix Digital Camera x 2
- Sony Nightshot Camcorder x 3
- Digital Video Recording system (DVR) enabling us to film all locations while monitoring from a distance
- Mini IR Thermometer 4250
- Ghost/Spirit box
- Trifield Natural EMF Meter
- Dell Inspiron PC (Windows XP) Computer - Main Audio Processing System
- UHF handheld CB radios

MISC. Watch, Equipment Cases, Tripods, Flashlights & Penlights, Extra Batteries, Extra DVD's, Cassettes & Video Cassettes, First Aid Kit, Necessary Paperwork for Base Readings & Phenomena Experienced, Sturdy Table for Homebase Setup, Extension Cords, Duct Tape for taping Wires Down, Common Sense and Wits!



Mel-Meter

Schedule of the Investigation

7:00pm

Arrival at location, met up with Rashpal (Security Guard) to be advised of OH&S protocols and Fire Alarm procedures and meeting points etc.

8:00pm

Decided to concentrate most of our investigative efforts on B Block. It was therefore determined that a classroom located on the ground floor of A Block would be our base. Set up and discussion.

8:45pm

Walk through with team members, shown fire escapes and areas out of bounds – set up of equipment etc.

10pm

Vigil in Basement

- Peta – Convict cell
- Don – Convict cell
- Julie – Convict cell
- Stephanie – What may be the morgue
- Nicole – What may have been shower block

11.30pm

- Peta, Stephanie, Nicole and Julie concentrated on an EVP (electronic voice phenomena) session in the Art room of B Block, ground floor. (see *'evidence collected'*)
- Don does roaming investigations on 1st floor B Block (see *'evidence collected'*)

12:30am

Nicole lone vigil in the tower

1am

Peta lone vigil in the tower

1.30am

Stephanie lone vigil in the tower

2am

Julie lone vigil in the tower

2.30am

Psychic Board session in the basement (see *'evidence collected'*)

4.30am

First floor group vigils, evp sessions, various experiments

5.30am

Stephanie back to the tower for second lone vigil (see *'evidence collected'*)

7.30am

Free time to explore

8am

Conclusion

Evidence Collected

- Following our EVP session in the Art Room, ground floor of B Block, Peta and Nicole had the exact same vision, at the exact same time. What they both saw, in the foyer of the main building, close to the base of the spiral staircase, was a little girl, maybe around 6 or 7 years of age. She had blonde hair, which was pulled up off her face in a half pony-tale. She was wearing a white frock, and holding a teddy-bear in left hand, down the side of her body.



 Foyer near where the apparition of the little girl was seen

- Interesting evidence was captured on our lone vigils of the tower. Julie's lone vigil has the distinct sound of a telephone ringing. It appears to be rather close. No mobile telephones were with us on our lone vigils, as they tamper with our equipment. It is interesting to note that Julie does not respond to this telephone ringing, as she did not hear it at the time.
- Stephanie's lone vigil found the camera moving on its own, and strange noises being heard. Stephanie decided to speak as though she was asking for help for the former residents of the building, and this yielded results, as seen on the disc of evidence.
- The most wonderful piece of evidence we found, which can be seen on the accompanying disc of evidence, was the two taps on the table in the basement, as we were holding a physic board session. We can find absolutely no explanation for these 'bangs'.
- During our 4.30am group vigil session on the first floor of B Block, Stephanie's Digital Voice Recorder began playing itself. The audio it played was from Stephanie's previous lone vigil in the tower. We took this to be a sign that Stephanie should head back to the tower. Once in the tower, she glanced out the window, towards Block A (the end closest to the street), and in the window of an office saw a full bodied apparition. The apparition then turned and walked away. We immediately investigated the area to see if an intruder had entered the building, and found that the window she had seen the apparition belonged to an office, which was locked. More information can be found on the accompanying disc of evidence.

Audio & Video

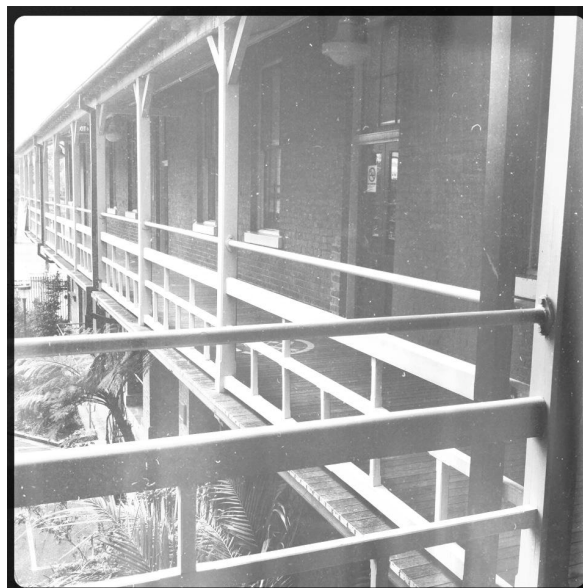
All audio we collected, which we cannot fully explain, is presented on the accompanying DVD, together with video clips of evidence.

Conclusion

When asking the attending team members of any stand out experiences in their opinion, they have advised:

Peta: I can proudly say that my investigation of the Liverpool TAFE was the most harrowing and frightening investigation I have ever conducted. The paranormal phenomenon in the building is second to none! Although we had the entire night to investigate, we did not even get to enter C Block, and look forward to returning to the TAFE to concentrate mainly on C Block and all other buildings which we were not able to enter at this time.

Nicole: I have been privileged to spend the night in plenty of 'supposedly' haunted locations but Liverpool College of TAFE is the real deal. At this venue, I experienced psychic impressions which were validated by another investigator, the unexplainable taps on the table in the cells, and a full bodied apparition at sun up. This is an absolute gem of a location, would love to spend more time there.




Verandah of C Block

Stephanie: The activity I experienced with APPI at Liverpool TAFE was amazing. Seeing full bodied apparitions, confirmed psychic impression and objects moving and banging by an unseen force, to name a few. This is a great location and I am eager to see it again. Definitely a place for further investigation with all the paranormal activity present.

Julie: What can I say Liverpool TAFE rocked my Paranormal World. After spending the night here I can truly say that there was something unforeseen happening within its historic walls. From moving objects, to disembodied voices and phones ringing that we're not caught by the human ear. Till we meet again Liverpool TAFE. I can not wait to unfold more of your hidden past.







In conclusion, this investigation would have to be our favourite venue, of all 17 we have investigated. The potential at the TAFE is unlimited and it was a privilege and a pleasure to be granted access to a venue with such rich Australian history. The events that took place during our time there have left us in complete amazement. For each investigator to have experienced something is not what we normally encounter. On investigations at other locations we have experienced phenomena which can be explained away through science and logic on a limited scale. To experience so many levels of paranormal phenomena at one location that evades scientific or logical explanation, is something that we have not found until now. A venue like Liverpool TAFE would be considered a Holy Grail in the Paranormal Investigative field.



 Liverpool College of TAFE

Our Determination

We collectively have determined the reported paranormal activity in our opinion to be:

Category	Determination
0. 	Unfounded - No Paranormal Activity Present
1. 	Inconclusive - Minimal Data, unable to totally Verify
2. 	Activity Present - Not Enough Data Present
3. 	Active and some Residual & Intelligent Verified Activity Present in Quantity that is Irrefutable/Confirmed.
4. 	Follow-Up Investigation Recommended
5. 	Case Is Closed

Nicole and I would be keen to conduct a further investigation, concentrating on the other buildings on the grounds, which we were not able to enter on the night of our investigation. We also believe that there could be great opportunities for Liverpool TAFE to fundraise, by having 'ghost tours' or 'paranormal investigation' nights, and would be very happy to discuss these possibilities with you.

Once again, we thank you wholeheartedly for the opportunity given to us to investigate this wonderful venue and look forward to working with you again in the future.

Kind regards,

Peta Banks & Nicole Hume.

Lead Investigators

Australian Paranormal Phenomenon Investigators (APPI)




Liverpool Hospital/TAFE

Images and articles located in research



 Liverpool Hospital – The Laundry



 Liverpool Hospital – The Kitchen

STATE ASYLUMS.

NEGLECT IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

SYDNEY, January 23.

The Acting Premier (Mr. Buttershaw) referred to-day to the condition of the State hospitals and asylums, which will be the principal matter considered at the meeting of the State Cabinet tomorrow, and said that, in his opinion, it would need an annual vote of £170,000 for five years to provide ample accommodation for the patients and an adequate nursing staff. "The hospitals have

Brisbane Courier, 24 January, 1928

been neglected for many years," he added, "and the number of patients has been increasing with the population."



 Liverpool Hospital – The District Ward

Sydney Morning Herald
25 May, 1914

HOSPITAL PATIENT'S DEATH.

An inmate of the Liverpool State Hospital named George Elmar, well-known throughout the district, dropped dead in the bathroom of the institution early yesterday morning.

The Liverpool News
10 July 1941

Undesirables at State Hospital

Liverpool Council's Protest.

At a recent meeting of Liverpool Council the question was discussed of undesirable persons being sent to the Liverpool Old Men's Home.

At last Tuesday's meeting of the Council, a letter was received from the Minister for Justice (through Mr. J. J. McGirr, M.L.A.), advising that, if the release of the men recently convicted of indecent assault on young girls, was recommended, it would not be made a condition that they were to enter the Old Men's Home at Liverpool.

Ald. Stenner said the letter did not state that the sending of undesirables to the institution would cease. He was of the opinion that the letter was very unsatisfactory. Deserving cases had difficulty in gaining admission to the home.

It was resolved, on the motion of Ald. Stenner and Marcy, that a letter be sent to the Minister for Justice, with the request that no more undesirables be sent to the Liverpool Home.

LIVERPOOL STATE HOSPITAL.

LIVERPOOL, Friday.

On Friday afternoon, Mr. G. Cann (Minister for Public Health) opened the two new dormitories at the local State hospital and asylum. The Mayor of Liverpool (Mr. L. J. Ashcroft) welcomed the Minister and the Director-General of Health (Dr. R. Dick). The dormitories provide for 100 additional beds, and will relieve the congestion at the main building, where the entertainment hall has been used for sleeping accommodation. The new buildings cost £8000. The suggestion was made by several speakers that the Government should provide nurses' quarters, and a ward for women and children. The request was sympathically received by the Minister and Dr. Dick. It was mentioned by Mr. Cann that the records in the Mitchell Library showed that the main buildings were 103 years of age—the oldest of its kind in Australia—and was originally established for the accommodation of sick prisoners of the Crown. Later it was an asylum for mental cases for Parramatta, after which it was converted into an asylum and hospital for aged men.

Sydney Morning Herald
7 April, 1936

LIVERPOOL STATE HOSPITAL.

LIVERPOOL, Monday.

The Liverpool Progress Association decided to ask the Minister for Health to have an electric lift installed in the Liverpool Hospital because of the inconvenience suffered by patients through having to be carried on stretchers to the second floor, where the accident ward is situated.

Queanbeyan Age
5 May, 1914

THE LATEST.

SYDNEY, Monday.

MORE SMALL-POX IN SYDNEY

Two cases of smallpox were reported yesterday, the patients being from the Liverpool State Hospital and Newtown.

Barrier Miner (Broken Hill)
24 November, 1923

NEW SOUTH WALES

HOSPITAL WORKER IS FINED FOR SELLING POISON MIXTURE

Sydney, Friday.

At the Liverpool Police Court George Carmichael, an attendant at the Liverpool State Hospital, was fined £4 for selling a poison mixture containing cocaine and morphine.

Liverpool News
7 April, 1938

DEATH AT HOSPITAL

Concerning the death of Robert O'Connell at Liverpool State Hospital on February 14, the Liverpool District Coroner found, on Friday, that deceased died from a wound in the throat, self-inflicted.

Sydney Morning Herald
30 July, 1929

OLD MAN KILLED BY TRAIN.

The body of Harry Turner, 82, an inmate of the Liverpool State Hospital, was found on the railway line near the Liverpool railway station yesterday morning, a train having passed over him during the night.

Townsville Daily Bulletin
2 June, 1928

SUSPECTED LEPROSY.

SYDNEY, June 1.

A Chinese inmate of the Liverpool State Hospital has been removed to the observation ward at the Coast Hospital. The case is suspected as one of leprosy.

The Advertiser (Adelaide)
24 February, 1916

FOUND DEAD.

The body of an inmate of the Liverpool State Hospital (Peter Anderson) was found in a bath full of water at the institution. His thumbs were tied together.

Barrier Miner (Broken Hill)
26 January, 1914

OBITUARY.

MR. DANIEL O'CONNOR.

Sydney, Saturday.

Mr. Daniel O'Connor, many years a picturesque figure in the political life of New South Wales, died this morning in the Liverpool State Hospital, at the age of 70.

DEATH AT 104.

Mr Michael Dooley died in Liverpool State Hospital on Tuesday morning, at the great age of 104 years. Deceased was born in Ireland, and came out to Australia 80 years ago. He retained practically all his faculties to the end.

FORMER HOSPITAL MANAGER DIES

Mr Robert James Brown, formerly of the State Health Department, died at his home, Pennant Hills Road and Gladstone Street, Parramatta North, on Thursday night.

Mr Brown was manager of the Liverpool State Hospital for nearly 20 years, and for 10 years before his retirement, in 1935, manager of the Lidcombe State Hospital. He was an alderman of the Parramatta Council for 18 years. For 50 years he was prominent in the work of friendly societies.

The funeral takes place to-day

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DR. D. WALLACE RETIRED.

The retirement of Dr. D. Wallace, medical superintendent of the Liverpool State Hospital and Home, was approved yesterday by the Executive Council, and announced later by the Premier, Mr. Mair.

Dr. Wallace, who has reached the retiring age in the public service, has been with the Health Department for about 35 years. During the last war he was, for some years, medical superintendent of the Coast Hospital.

The Canberra Times Wednesday 22 December 1937

Acquittal on Manslaughter Charge

SYDNEY, Tuesday.

William Henry Lawrence, 63, an inmate of the Liverpool State Hospital was acquitted at the Quarter Sessions to-day on a charge of manslaughter arising out of the death of another inmate, Herbert Croft.

It was alleged that Lawrence was the driver of a car which backed into Croft in the grounds of the institution. Lawrence said that the occurrence was accidental.