

Catherine Booth Girls' Home

1915 – 1976

Other Names:

- East Kew Girls' Home
- Catherine Booth Memorial Home

Details

The Catherine Booth Girls' Home was established by the Salvation Army in 1915 in 'Blackhall' mansion, East Kew. The Home accommodated girls aged between 4 and 16. The Catherine Booth Girls' Home closed in 1976.

The Catherine Booth Girls' Home was situated at 26 Sackville Street, East Kew, in a mansion known as Blackhall. Catherine Booth and her husband William were the founders of the Salvation Army. The first girls to move into the Catherine Booth Home were those from the recently closed Glenroy Girls' Home.

In November 1955, Catherine Booth Girls' Home was declared an approved children's home under the Children's Welfare Act 1954.

The East Kew Home accommodated about 90 to 100 girls. During the mid 1950s attempts were made to convert the large scale dormitories to smaller unit accommodation. In the 1960s, the Home began accepting boys aged 2 to 8 years, to keep siblings together. By 1969, its capacity had reduced to 48 with an increasing emphasis on small group care for girls in the 4 to 16 year old age group.

In 1972, children were transferred to the Home when the Salvation Army closed the William Booth Girls' Home in East Camberwell Home.

During the 1970s, the Salvation Army was becoming increasingly aware that children living at East Kew, coming originally from Melbourne's northern and western suburbs, were experiencing difficulty coping with social involvement in the Kew community. Planning began to relocate the operations to Jacana in the North Western suburbs.

In an article from 1977, Major Doris Pengilly wrote about the reasons behind the closure of Catherine Booth in Kew, and the move to Jacana Children's Home in the north-western suburbs of Melbourne. Many staff from Catherine Booth were involved in the planning of Jacana and were transferred there when the Kew Home closed.

Some children living at Catherine Booth were transferred to Jacana. Pengilly wrote about five of the children living at Kew 'excitedly awaiting transfer' to Jacana, as their parents lived in the nearby area (*Hops, Steps and Jumps*, 1997).

Jacana, near Glenroy in northern Melbourne, was a very different suburb to Kew. Pengilly wrote:

For these children there will be considerable change as they move from a lovely locality in the City of Kew, a municipality that has the highest number of senior citizens in it. No wonder we have never really broken through with involving our children in the life of the community. The community has been too old for them.

The Catherine Booth Girls' Home closed in 1976.

Gallery



Salvation Army Girls' Home, Sackville Street, Kew

Description: "Blackhall", built ca. 1890. Acquired by the Salvation Army in 1915 and renamed Catherine Booth Girls' Home.



Blackhall, 26 Sackville Street Kew

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [The Salvation Army, Australian Territory \(1880 - 1921\)](#)
- [The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territory \(1921 - 2018\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Glenroy Girls' Home \(1902 - 1915\)](#)
- [William Booth Girls' Home \(1912 - 1972\)](#)
- [Jacana Children's Home \(1976 - 1995\)](#)

Jacana Children's Home opened following the closure and sale of Catherine Booth Girls' Home.

Resources

- James Jenkinson Consulting, [Guide to out-of-home care services 1940-2000 - Volume One: Agency Descriptions](#), November 2001
- Beaumont, Shirley Steans, *A Window of Time*, 2006
- Department for Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools, [Report of the Secretary and Inspector for the year ... / Department for Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools.](#), 1896 - 1924. *Relevance:* Mentioned in reports dated 1916-1924
- *Children's Welfare Department and Reformatory Schools. Report of the Secretary and Inspector.*, 1924 - 1954
- Smith, Marlene, [Submission no 189 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
- Longly, Jeanette, [Submission no 533 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
- Heather, [Submission no 393 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2004
- [Catherine Booth Girls' Home](#), The Argus, 21 August 1915
- [Christmas treat at Girls' Home](#), The Argus, 10 December 1925
- [Have you given your share?](#), The Argus, 20 December 1954
- Beaumont, Shirley Steans, *Time behind the green door*, 2008
- Eskey, Eileen, *Report on survey of children in salvation army care at Kew, Camberwell and Box Hill homes*, 1965
- *The Salvos: Part 1*, Australian Broadcasting Corporation Compass, 2014

- [Catherine Booth Memorial Home \(1915-76\)](#), Finding Records, No date. *Relevance:* See the 'List of records held by the department' section for information about records relating to Catherine Booth Girls' Home
- [Salvation Army Children's Camp](#), The Argus, 29 January 1945
- Cleland, Sharon, [Caring for the Children: A history of institutional care provided by The Salvation Army for Australian children and youth \(1893-1995\)](#), August 2012
- Kirkham, John C, *Southern Soup-Soap-Salvation, a compendium of Salvation Army Social Services in the Australian Southern Territory*, 2003
- The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territorial Headquarters (Vic), [Submission No. 46 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care: Appendix A: Children's Homes - A list of openings, closings and function](#), July 2003

Records

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

Records held by other organisations

- [Historical records and memorabilia of Salvation Army institutions, Southern Territory](#)
 - [Papers of Shirley Steans Beaumont](#)
 - [Salvation Army Australia, Records of Homes in the former Southern Territory \(c. 1889 - c. 1988\)](#)
 - [Clements Langford Pty Ltd \(1868 - 1960\)](#)
 - [Voluntary Children's Homes Files \(1921 - 1989\)](#)
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