

Murrumbeena Girls' Home

1897 – 1912

Details

The Murrumbeena Girls' Home was established by the Salvation Army in 1897. It accommodated around 40 girls and young women. The Home closed in 1912, with the remaining girls being sent to the newly opened William Booth Girls' Home in Camberwell.

Murrumbeena Girls' Home was located on the corner of Dandenong Road and Belgrave Road, Murrumbeena. According to the Salvation Army's submission to the 'Forgotten Australians' inquiry, the Home closed in 1912.

Some scenes in the Salvation Army's religious epic, *Soldiers of the cross* (1900) were shot at Murrumbeena Girls' Home.

The *War Cry* in 1912 described the Home as 'a beautiful old place ... If environment helps to lift to higher things, then the Murrumbeena girls are much favoured.'

Some of the first residents of Murrumbeena Girls' Home were transferred there from the Heidelberg Girl's Home on its closure in trained in housework, needlework, shorthand, and also took part in bible classes and outdoor activities. According to the *War Cry*:

And so physically, mentally and spiritually there is a constant endeavour to equip the girls to fight the battle of life successfully. Some are today Salvation Army officers, others are engaged in office work. Quite a number are respectably married, and settled in homes of their own. Most of those in domestic service are giving satisfaction.

The circumstances of a number of these girls were such that one trembles to think what would have become of them but for the timely help of the Home.

Some have failed, sadly, but the seed sown will bear fruit, and the bread cast upon the waters return after many days

Gallery



Girls' Home - Murrumbeena - Victoria

Description: This is an image of the Murrumbeena Girls' Home. The description provided for this image by Stonnington Libraries reads: "Belgrave was built in 1873 for Robert and Elizabeth Benson on 14 acres (5.6 hectares) of pasture land at the corner of Dandenong Road and Benson's Road (Belgrave Road). For further information on Belgrave and its use by the Salvation Army and on Benson see MP 395. This is a photograph of 'Belgrave' on the north-east corner of Dandenong Road and Belgrave Road, East Malvern/Chadstone (Murrumbeena). The photo shows the two storey house with slate roof and rendered walls and large glass conservatory."

More info

Related Entries

Run by

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

Related Organisations

- [Heidelberg Girls' Home \(1896 - 1899\)](#)
When Heidelberg Girls' Home closed its residents were moved to the Murrumbeena Girls' Home.
- [William Booth Girls' Home \(1912 - 1972\)](#)

Resources

- 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

Records

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

Records held by other organisations

- [Salvation Army Australia, Records of Homes in the former Southern Territory \(c. 1889 - c. 1988\)](#)
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