

# St Christopher's Home for Little Children

1928 – 1978

**Other Names:**

- St Christopher's Home for Infants
- St Christopher's Babies Home
- Clifton
- St Christopher's Home for Children

## Details

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St Christopher's Home for Little Children was established by Anglican Diocese of Newcastle in 1928, with they day to day operations of the Home initially overseen by the Sisters of the Community of the Holy Name in 1928. It was located at Lochinvar in the Hunter Valley, New South Wales in a house called Clifton. It housed children aged one to six. In 1937 the Church Army took over day to day operations until 1958, after which time staffing was provided direct by the Diocese. St Christopher's Home moved to Taree in 1956. It closed in 1978.

The house Clifton was given to the Newcastle Diocese in 1927 by Mr Ernest Clift for use in connection with the work for children, together with an endowment of £300 per annum.

St Christopher's Home for Little Children was officially opened on 1 December 1928, but was open to receive children from 1 September of that year. Children were aged from birth to six years. Once they reached the age of six boys were sent to St Alban's Boys' Home and girls were sent to St Elizabeth's Girls' Home.

In 1938 an Aboriginal woman, Muriel Stanley, was brought to St Christopher's from Yarrabah Mission in Central Australia to train as a Church Army sister.

St Christopher's was relocated to new premises at Taree, which were officially opened on 18 March 1956. The Home at Taree closed on 31 December 1978.

## Gallery

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**St Christopher's Home for Little Children, 'Clifton', Lochinvar**

**Description:** The image shows the exterior of St Christopher's Home for Little Children.

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## In the care of the Church Sisters at Lochinvar

**Description:** This is an image that was published in the *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate* newspaper in 1934. The caption reads: "This picture shows a group of happy children cared for at St Christopher's Home at Lochinvar by the Community of the Holy Name of the Church of England". This is an example of how images of children in institutions were used by organisations to raise funds and promote the idea that children were "happy" and "cared for", even if these words do not reflect the reality of life in the Home.

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## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Anglican Diocese of Newcastle \(c. 1800 - current\)](#)
- [Community of the Holy Name \(1888 - current\)](#)

The Sisters of the Community of the Holy Name was appointed by the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle to oversee the day to day operations of the Home

Date: 1928 - 1937

#### Related Events

- [Case study 42: The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle, Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse \(2017\)](#)

St Christopher's Home for Little Children was mentioned in, but was not the primary focus of, Case Study 42.

#### Related Organisations

- [St Alban's Home for Boys \(1920 - 1980\)](#)  
Once boys at St Christopher's Home for Little Children reached the age of seven they were sent to St Alban's Home for Boys.  
Date: 1928 - 1956
- [St Elizabeth's Home for Girls \(1926 - 1977\)](#)  
Once girls at St Christopher's Home for Little Children reached the age of seven they were sent to St Elizabeth's Girls' Home.  
Date: 1928 - 1956
- [Church Army \(1932 - current\)](#)  
Date: 1937 - 1978
- [Wongala Junior Red Cross Home \(25 October 1947 - 1952\)](#)  
The buildings for St Christopher's Home for Little Children and Wongala Junior Red Cross Home were donated by Mr Ernest Clift.

### Resources

- University of Newcastle Library, [Anglican Diocese of Newcastle Archives](#), Archives of the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle, including parish registers, records of the Bishops of Newcastle and the records of St John's Theological College at Morpeth held by Cultural Collections, 2014
- [Improving Access to Children's Homes Records for Care Leavers in the Hunter Region](#), Hunter Living Histories, 5 June 2019
- [Doing Good](#), The Newcastle Sun, 6 April 1935

## Records

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

## Records held by other organisations

- [St. Christopher's Home for Little Children, Records \(1920 - 1979\)](#)
  - [Diocese of Newcastle Children's Homes \(1918 - 1987\)](#)
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