

Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children

1955 – 1978

Other Names:

- Burnside
- Burnside Homes

Details

The Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children was formally known as Burnside Presbyterian Orphan Homes. The name change occurred in 1955. Originally a complex of cottage homes, Burnside began to provide foster care and other sorts of care in the 1960s and 1970s. It changed its name to Burnside Homes for Children when the Uniting Church Board of Social Responsibility assumed control of it in 1978.

By 1955 the Burnside site included its own school with a gymnasium and swimming pool, a hall, a hospital, playing fields, and a farm, dairy and vegetable garden. There was also staff accommodation. Although closely linked to the Presbyterian Church, Burnside was independent of the Church hierarchy. The Burnside Homes were established and maintained entirely by private donations.

The way children were cared for by Burnside changed considerably over the years reflecting changes in child care theories. In the 1960s the capacity of the homes, originally designed for 30 children, was reduced to house 12-15 children. At that time Burnside began to establish group homes in the suburbs, designed to care for around six children at a time. In the 1970s Burnside commenced a comprehensive and successful system of foster care that was still running – and expanded – in 2013.

In 1972, Burnside also became responsible for St Andrew's Boys' Home at Leppington.

In 1977, the Uniting Church in Australia was formed, made up of the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches of Australia. It was decided that the Burnside Homes should pass to the Uniting Church Board of Social Responsibility. This occurred in 1978 and the organisation became known as Burnside Homes for Children.

Gallery



Burnside Orphanage, Parramatta

More info

Chronology

- Burnside Presbyterian Orphan Homes (1911 - 1955)
 - **Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children (1955 – 1978)**
 - Burnside Homes for Children (1978 - 1986)

Related Entries

Ran

- [Presbyterian Church of Australia \(1901 - current\)](#)
- [Cumbrae \(1912 - 1987\)](#)

Cumbrae was one of the cottages at Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children
Date: 1955 - 1978
- [Dunkeld \(1913 - 2000\)](#)

Dunkeld was one of the cottages at Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children
- [Airlie \(1914 - c. 1971\)](#)

Airlie was one of the cottages at Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children
- [Novar \(1916 - 1952\)](#)

Novar was one of the cottages at Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children
- [Margaret Harris Hospital \(1917 - 1982\)](#)
- [Glencoe \(1918 - 1949\)](#)

Glencoe was one of the cottages at Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children
- [Robertson \(1919 - 1977\)](#)

Robertson was one of the cottage at Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children
- [Ivanhoe \(1919 - 1984\)](#)

Ivanhoe was one of the cottages at Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children
- [Blackwood \(1921 - 1984\)](#)

Blackwood was one of the cottages at Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children
- [War Memorial Home \(1922 - 1982\)](#)

War Memorial Home was one of the cottages at Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children
- [Reid Home \(1922 - 1977\)](#)

Reid was one of the cottages run by Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children
- [Ritchie Home \(1928 - 1941\)](#)

Ritchie was one of the cottages at Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children
- [Lincluden \(16 February 1931 - August 1989\)](#)

Lincluden was one of the cottages at Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children
- [Troup \(1933 - 1976\)](#)

Troup was one of the cottages at Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children
- [Ross \(1935 - 1985\)](#)

Ross was one of the cottages at Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children
- [St Andrew's Home \(c. 1943 - 1986\)](#)

Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children assumed control of St Andrew's Home in 1972
Date: 1972 - 1978
- [Murdoch Holiday Home \(1954 - 1990?\)](#)
- [Gordon Family Group Home \(1967 - c. 2014\)](#)

Date: 1967 - 1978
- [Minnamurra Family Group Home \(1975 - current\)](#)

Date: 1975 - 1978

Related Organisations

- [Presbyterian Metropolitan Mission \(1900 - 1973?\)](#)

Related Concepts

- [Child Migration \(1800s - 1970s\)](#)

Resources

- Shayler, Kate, *The Long Way Home: The Story of a Homes Kid*, 2001
- Shayler, Kate, *Burnished: Burnside Life Stories*, 2011
- Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, [*The Forgotten Australians, Business of the House, Speakers Horner Ms Sonia; Goward Ms Pru; Ashton Mr Alan; Maguire Mr Daryl; Morris Mr Matthew*](#), Hansard, 25 November 2010
- The Hills Shire Council, [*Hills Voices Online: Heritage Sites*](#), The Hills: Sydney's Garden Shire, No date
- Herbert, Harry (Rev), [*Address to Uniting Church Historical Society*](#), September 2011
- Uniting, [*Burnside: Photos and Stories of the 20th Century*](#), No date
- McKenny, Leesha, [*I Was Always Told, 'You Won't Be Believed'*](#), SBS News, 14 December 2017
- [*Patrick Sephton interviewed by Ann-Mari Jordens in the Bringing them home oral history project \(2001\)*](#), 2001

Other Resources



Title: War Memorial

Type: Image

Date: c. 2013

[Details](#)



Title: Airlie

Type: Image

Date: c. 2013

[Details](#)



Title: Blackwood

Type: Image

Date: c. 2013

[Details](#)



Title: Blairgowrie

Type: Image

Date: c. 2013

[Details](#)



Title: Burnside Primary School

Type: Image

Date: c. 2013

[Details](#)



Title: Cumbrae

Type: Image

Date: c. 2013

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Title: Dunkeld

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Date: c. 2013

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Title: Eskdale

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Date: c. 2013

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Title: Ivanhoe

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Date: c. 2013

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Title: Lincluden

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Title: Reid
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Title: Troup
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Date: c. 2013
[Details](#)

Records

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

Records held by other organisations

- [Records held by Burnside Archives \(1911 - current\)](#)
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