

# Berry Training Farm

1934 – 1977

- Other Names:**
- Child Welfare Training Farm, Berry
  - Berry Recreation Centre
  - Berry Training School
  - Berry Boys Home
  - Berry Training Farm for Boys
  - Berry Training Farm and School for Husbandry

## Details

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Berry Training Farm was established in 1934 by the Department of Child Welfare on the former Berry State Farm. It was a farm training school. At the time it was started it received boys aged between 14 and 18 from Turner or Suttor Cottages, Brougham, Yarra Bay, Weroona or May Villa. By the 1950s it mostly housed children who were state wards and defined as intellectually disabled. Berry Training Farm closed in 1977.

Berry Training Farm was initially a training home, organised on the cottage system, which was originally intended for boys aged between 14 and 18 years.

In the mid-1960s there was a large-scale building programme at Berry, by which time there were two houses accommodating a total of 60 boys, who were thought by the Department to be incapable of proceeding to school certificate level. There was an internal school for the younger boys. According to the 1965 Annual Report of the Child Welfare Department, 40 of these boys were between 12 and 15, and 'the remainder [were] receiving dairy and farm training in preparation for rural placement'.

A former resident of Berry Training Farm, who attended from 1972 until 1977, told Find & Connect he believed the institution began holding boys who were as young as 12 in the 1960s. According to him, boys were placed in the training farm for five year sentences.

In 1977 the Berry Training Farm, by then known as the Berry Boys Home, closed. The site was converted to the Berry Sport and Recreation Centre. In 2009 a new hall, designed by Allen Jack + Cottier architects won first prize in the sport category at the world architecture festival in Barcelona.

## Gallery

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**Berry Training Farm - the house**

**Description:** This is a digital copy of a photograph from an album collected by Child Welfare Department officers in the late 1940s. From the collection of Leonie Knapman.

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### Child Welfare Training Farm, Berry - the football teams

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### Berry Training Farm - dining room

**Description:** This is a digital copy of a photograph from an album collected by Child Welfare Department officers in the late 1940s. From the collection of Leonie Knapman.

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### Berry Training Farm - recreation room

**Description:** This is a digital copy of a photograph from an album collected by Child Welfare Department officers in the late 1940s. From the collection of Leonie Knapman.

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### Berry Training Farm - dormitory

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### Berry Training Farm - distant view

**Description:** This is a digital copy of a photograph from an album collected by Child Welfare Department officers in the late 1940s. From the collection of Leonie Knapman.

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### The school library at Berry Training Farm

**Description:** This is a copy of an image that appeared in the Child Welfare Department of New South Wales Annual Report of 1965.

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### The main buildings at Berry Training Farm with boys returning from school

**Description:** This is a copy of an image that appeared in the Child Welfare Department of New South Wales Annual Report of 1965.

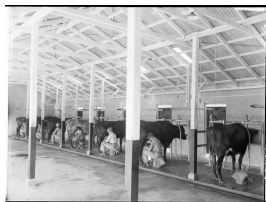
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### Child Welfare Training Farm, Berry - evening lecture

**Description:** This is a photograph of a classroom full of boys at Berry Training Farm. The class holds approximately 40 boys, who are seated facing a blackboard (but turned around to pose for the camera). A teacher stands next to the blackboard, written on which is a lesson about the composition of milk.

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## Child Welfare Training Farm, Berry - milking time

**Description:** This is a photograph showing six boys milking cows in the dairy at Berry Training Farm.

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## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Child Welfare Department, State Government of New South Wales \(1923 - 1970\)](#)
- [Department of Child Welfare and Social Welfare, State Government of New South Wales \(1970 - 1973\)](#)
- [Department of Youth and Community Services, State Government of New South Wales \(1973 - 1975\)](#)
- [Department of Youth, Ethnic and Community Affairs, State Government of New South Wales \(1975 - 1976\)](#)
- [Department of Youth and Community Services, State Government of New South Wales \(1976 - 1988\)](#)

#### Related Organisations

- [Mittagong Farm Home for Boys \(1906 - 1947\)](#)  
Boys from Turner and Suttor Cottages at Mittagong Farm Home for Boys were sent to Berry Training Farm when they reached the age of 14.
- [Yarra Bay House \(1917 - 1923\)](#)  
Boys from Yarra Bay House were sent to Berry Training Farm when they reached the age of 14.
- [May Villa \(1919 - 1983?\)](#)  
Boys from May Villa were sent to Berry Training Farm when they reached the age of 14.
- [Brougham \(1943 - 1993\)](#)  
Boys from Brougham were sent to Berry Training Farm when they reached the age of 14.
- [Weroona Home \(1946 - 1984\)](#)  
Boys from Weroona were sent to Berry Training Farm when they reached the age of 14.
- [Yarra Bay Boys' Home \(c. 1955 - 1985\)](#)  
Boys from Yarra Bay House were sent to Berry Training Farm when they reached the age of 14.

### Resources

- Boyle, Brian, *The Child Welfare Schools: Recollections of these unique schools and the men and women who taught in them often under considerable difficulty*, 1996
- [Ronald Arthur interviewed by Jeannine Baker for the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project](#), August 2011 - September 2011

## Records

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

### Records held by other organisations

- [Departmental Records relating to State Wards, New South Wales \(1918 - current\)](#)
  - [School Files \(1876 - 1979\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://findconnect.efront.digital/entity/berry-training-farm/>