

Weroona Home

1946 – 1984

Other Names: • Weroona Boys' Home

Details

Weroona was established at Woodford by the Child Welfare Department in 1946. It opened as temporary accommodation for preschool-aged children in 1946. From 1948 it housed 30 boys, aged from 7 to 15 years of age. Most of the residents could not get foster placements because of a shortage of foster homes for their age group. Weroona was destroyed in the December 1957 Blue Mountains bushfires and was rebuilt and reopened in March 1959. By the 1980s Weroona housed teenaged boys, aged 13 to 18. It closed in 1984.

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Weroona was destroyed by bushfire in November 1957, which temporarily increased accommodation pressure at many other children's homes. A replacement building was opened by the Minister for Child Welfare on 7 March 1959, according to the 1959 Annual Report of the Child Welfare Department, with space for 'thirty school age boys' of 8 to 12 years, 'of good intelligence'.

According to the 1964 Annual Report:

Weroona is an establishment set in fine mountain scenery at Woodford. It caters for 30 boys of school age and it has been possible to build up a group of boys who on the whole are at rather better levels of intelligence and stability than the majority of male wards of corresponding age.

A school for boys of primary standard in education is set in the grounds and High School boys go out to Katoomba. One boy this year gained a place at the selective James Ruse Agricultural High School.

By 1970, the internal school had closed down, and a 1970 publication of the Child Welfare Department claimed that 'the majority of these boys would be immediately placeable if there were sufficient foster homes available'.

Gallery



State home, Weroona, at Woodford, Blue Mountains



Weroona

Description: This image shows the outside of Weroona. This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.



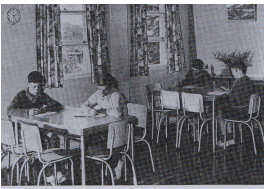
Panic Flight from Leura, Bushfires 1957

Description: This is a copy of the front page of *The Sun*, as part of a collection of photographs of the 1957 Leura, Wentworth Falls and Woodford fires.



The Minister for Child Welfare opens Weroona on 7 March 1959 [the official reopening of Weroona]

Description: This is a copy of an image that appeared in the Child Welfare Department of New South Wales Annual Report of 1959.



Homework time for the High School students at Weroona

Description: This is a copy of an image that appeared in the Child Welfare Department of New South Wales Annual Report of 1964.



A scene from the Department's film, "The Long Climb", illustrates the variety of tasks in which training is provided at the sheltered workshop at Werrington Park

Description: This is a copy of an image that appeared in the Child Welfare Department of New South Wales Annual Report of 1970.



State home Weroona, Woodford, dormitory

Description: This image shows a dormitory in Weroona Home.



State home, Weroona, school room exterior

Description: This is a photograph of the schoolhouse at Weroona Home. It shows a timber cottage surrounded by bushland, with a path leading up to the front door.



State home Weroona, Woodford, school room interior

Description: This is a photograph of boys in a classroom at Weroona Home. It shows 16 boys seated at desks in a classroom, facing a teacher pointing to the board at the front of the room. Another classroom can be seen through a doorway to the right of the photograph.



State home Weroona, Woodford, reading room

Description: This is a photograph showing boys reading books at the Weroona Home. It shows five boys in a large room furnished with a piano, a bookcase, a table and chairs. Most of the boys are reading or looking at books on the book case, and one boy appears to be kneeling in front of a radio.



State home Weroona, Woodford, sports room

Description: This is a photograph of boys in the recreation room at Weroona. It shows six boys in a large room playing table tennis, snooker, or checkers.



State home Weroona, Woodford, dormitory

Description: This is a photograph of a dormitory at Weroona Home. It shows a bedroom containing seven beds, and no other furnishings.



Weaving class, Weroona State home, Woodford

Description: This is a photograph of boys weaving at Weroona Home. It shows eight boys weaving cloth on table looms, winding warp threads, and weaving a basket. A small display of tartan-style woven cloth and a woven basket have been placed at the front of the room.



Dining room, Weroona State home, Woodford

Description: This is a photograph of the dining room at Weroona Home. It shows four large dining tables set with table cloths and cutlery in a long room.

More info

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

- [Berry Training Farm \(1934 - 1977\)](#)
Boys from Weroona were sent to Berry Training Farm when they reached the age of 14.

Resources

- Olsson, Kristina, *All the lost children*, The Weekend Australian Magazine, 30 March 2013
- State Records Authority of New South Wales, [Dept of Community Services](#), No date
- O'Neill, Cate, [Seeking former residents of Weroona Home](#), Find & Connect web resource blog, 11 June 2015
- 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
- [Dreams of pets, milkshakes and ironed clothes](#), Sydney Morning Herald, 1 September 2004

Records

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 \(1918 - current\)](#)
- [Weroona: Punishment book \(1959 - 1977\)](#)

You can view this page online by visiting <https://findconnect.efront.digital/entity/weroona-home/>