

Our Boys' Home

1890 – 1945

Other Names:

- The Boys' Farm Home
- The Boys' Home

Details

Our Boys' Home was established in 1890 in Camden by the Society for Providing Homes for Neglected Children. It was a farm training home for boys between nine and fourteen years old. Initially the home was intended to accommodate 12 boys, however from at least 1915 there were an average of 20 boys in residence. Our Boys' Home closed in 1945.

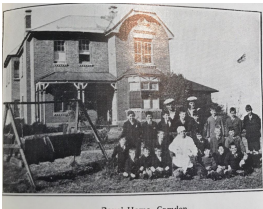
Our Boys' Home was founded by George Edward Ardill's Society for Providing Homes for Neglected Children, after a gift from Mr WH Paling, of Paling's Music Store in Sydney. It was intended as a farm training home, with the boys instructed in growing various fruits and vegetables at the home. They also attended the local state school. Like other institutions run by George Edward Ardill, such as the Home of Hope for Friendless and Fallen Women, 'apprenticeships' were arranged for the boys once they had left the home. Religious education also formed a large part of life in the home.

One of the aims of Our Boy's Home was to provide a home for boys too old to attend Our Children's Home, Liverpool (also run by the Society for Providing Homes for Neglected Children), which took boys between four and eight years old, and girls between four and fourteen years old. The first five boys in residence at Our Boys' Home were placed there from the Liverpool home.

At its opening in 1890 the home was described as a two-storey brick building situated on a one acre property on Ferguson Road, about 20 minutes walk from the centre of Camden, on the banks of the Nepean River. In 1925 a new recreation room was opened and additional land was acquired.

The Home closed in 1945 and the building was sold in 1946, later becoming known as Macquarie House.

Gallery



Boys' Home, Camden

Description: This is an image of Our Boys' Home in Camden, published by the Sydney Rescue Work Society c.1920 in a pamphlet titled *The Cry! Women and Children in Need - Will You Answer It?*. The image shows the Boys' Home (a large two storey brick building) in the background with a group of 21 boys and a woman seated and standing in the foreground. The boys range in age from approximately 7 years old to 15 years old. The two eldest boys are wearing what appears to be a naval uniform.



Boys' Home, Camden. N.S.W.

Description: This image was included in a small photo album that was created by a staff member of Our Boys' Home to send to their family in the UK in 1930.



[Our Boys' Home]

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[Boys at Our Boys' Home]

Description: This image was included in a small photo album that was created by a staff member of Our Boys' Home to send to their family in the UK in 1930.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Society for Providing Homes for Neglected Children \(1887 - current\)](#)

Related Glossary Terms

- [Apprenticeship \(1860s - 1960s\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Our Children's Home, Liverpool \(1887 - 1936\)](#)

The first boys to live at Our Boy's Home, Camden, were placed there from Our Children's Home, Liverpool.

Resources

- Sydney Rescue Work Society/Society for Providing Homes for Neglected Children, *The Rescue: official organ of the Sydney Rescue Work Society and Society for Providing Homes for Neglected Children*, 1880 - 1910
- [Our Boys Farm Home](#), Dictionary of Sydney, No date
- [Two Drowned in Nepean River: Boys from Orphanage](#), The Sydney Morning Herald, 29 September 1928
- [Desertions From a Boys' Home](#), The Daily Telegraph, 24 April 1891

Records

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

Records held by other organisations

- [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
Item B217 of the Child Endowment correspondence files relates to Our Boys' Home

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