

# Riverview Training Farm

1926 – 1956

**Other Names:**

- Riverview Training Farm for Overseas Boys
- Riverview Training Farm for Boys
- Riverview

## Details

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The Riverview Training Farm, in Riverview, was operated by the Salvation Army. In 1926 its function changed from a boys reformatory to a training farm for local boys and British 'child migrants' over 14 years. In 1935 it once again became an Industrial School. The name changed to Home for Boys, Riverview in 1956 when it ceased operating as an Industrial School.

The Industrial School for Boys at Riverview was opened in 1898 as a boys' reformatory. In 1926 it was changed from a reformatory to a farm training school for immigrant boys and local youths. The Salvation Army was involved in child migration from Britain to Australia and in 1927 the Queensland Government agreed to contribute half the yearly cost of the reception and resettlement expenses of 100 boys. This was to assist the Salvation Army in providing agricultural training at the Riverview farm.

The reformatory work was transferred to the government-run home at Westbrook, however the Industrial School reopened in 1935. In 1950 extensions to the training farm were completed, including a new dormitory and recreation room. This increased the capacity of the home to 65. During the 1950s the Salvation Army Training Home for Boys at Riverview admitted 77 boys under the child migrant scheme. Only "child migrants" over 14 years of age were accepted, on account of the type of work involved at the training farm.

In 1951 a child endowment officer visiting Riverview Training Farm criticised the home for its poor record keeping, such as the failure to report where children leaving the home had been discharged to.

The Riverview Training Farm was licensed under The Children's Services Act on 4 August 1966.

In 1998, former residents of Riverview Training Farm made submissions to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions (widely known as the Forde Inquiry). The Committee reported on incidents of unsafe, improper and illegal treatment of children in Queensland institutions, including cases of sexual, physical, emotional and systems abuse. Its findings were detailed and explicit.

Riverview Training Farm was investigated by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Case Study 05: The Salvation Army boys' homes, Australian Eastern Territory. The evidence to be heard during this Case Study was to have a particular focus to the years 1966-1977, although the Royal Commission stated it expected to hear allegations dating back to as early as 1936.

## Gallery



### **Boys standing on the verandah of the Queensland Home for Boys, Riverview**

**Description:** This description was supplied with the photograph and included on the library website: The Queensland Home for Boys was opened and operated by the Salvation Army in 1903.

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### **Collage of images from the Salvation Army training farm for youths, Riverview**

**Description:** This description was supplied with the photograph and included on the library website: Images include boys having fun in a swimming hole, working on the farm with the horses, cutting crops and herding the cows.

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### **Immigration - Child migration schemes - Salvation Army Training farm, Riverview, Queensland**



### **Child migration - British youth migrants learning how to mount and ride a horse at the Salvation Army Training Farm for Boys, Riverview, Queensland.**



### **Child migration - British youth migrants having their daily swim at the Salvation Army Training Farm for Boys at Riverview, Queensland. When they first arrived very few could swim. Now they all can.**



### **Entrance to Riverview Farm**

**Description:** The Salvation Army has occupied this site since 1897. The avenue of pines was planted c.1920s.

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### **Front entrance to original home, Riverview**

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**Original buildings, Riverview**

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**Salvation Army Hall, Riverview**

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**Bethany, farm manager cottage Riverview**

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**Entrance drive Riverview**

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**Looking towards visitor residence**

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## **Immigrants and staff, Salvation Army Home, Riverview, October 1926**

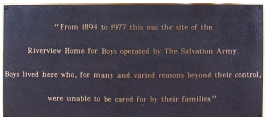
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**Plaque on memorial plinth at Riverview**

**Description:** This is an image of a memorial plaque at Riverview. The inscription reads: "This monument commemorates the residents of Riverview Girls Home April 1897 to June 1898 and Riverview Boys Home July 1898 to January 1977 'Never to be forgotten' Funded by The Salvation Army Australia and Mayor Paul Pisasale City of Ipswich 14th January 2012"

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**Plaque unveiled at Riverview on 21st April 2007**

**Description:** The inscription reads: "From 1894 to 1977 this was the site of the Riverview Home for Boys operated by the Salvation Army. Boys lived here who, for many and varied reasons beyond their control, were unable to be cared for by their families."

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## **More info**

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## **Chronology**

- Industrial School for Boys, Riverview (1 October 1898 - 1926)
  - **Riverview Training Farm (1926 – 1956)**
    - Home for Boys, Riverview (1956 - 1966)

## Related Entries

### Run by

- [The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory \(1921 - 2018\)](#)

### Related Events

- [Visit of John Moss \(1951\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [Fact-Finding Mission on Child Migration \(1956\)](#)
- [Case Study 05: The Salvation Army boys' homes, Australian Eastern Territory, Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse \(2014\)](#)

### Related Glossary Terms

- [Juvenile Delinquency \(1850s - 1990s\)](#)

### Related Legislation

- [Children's Services Act 1965, Queensland \(1965 - 2000\)](#)

### Related Concepts

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

## Resources

- Community Affairs References Committee, [Lost Innocents: Righting the record - Report on child migration](#), 30 August 2001
- The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory, [Submission No. 46 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care: The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territorial Headquarters \(VIC\), Appendix B, Eastern Territory Social Centres, A list of openings, closings and function](#), June 2003
- Immigration Museum, [Stolen childhoods](#), 2012
- Shew, Nigel, *Personal Story by Nigel*, 2013
- [Homes for Refugee Children](#), Sunday Mail, 2 June 1940
- [Youths who will not go on land](#), Recorder, 19 February 1940
- Porter, Warren and Scott, Glyn (editor), *A Tormented Life*, 2010
- Porter, Warren, [Living a Tormented Life \[excerpts\]](#), 28 April 2010
- [Boys home apology is a comfort](#), Queensland Times, 1 September 2009
- Blayse, Lewis, [Riverview Salvation Army Boys' Home \(Or: Unfinished Business\)](#), 14 June 2013
- [Riverview Industrial School](#), Queensland Times, 7 October 1927
- [Training Migrants](#), Queensland Times, 20 July 1928
- [To Begin on Monday: Short course at Riverview](#), Queensland Times, 2 October 1931
- [UK Migrants for S A Training Farm](#), Queensland Times, 12 August 1950
- [Opening Submissions of Counsel Assisting: Case Study 05: The Salvation Army boys' homes, Australian Eastern Territory, January 2014](#), 28 January 2014
- [Riverview Training Farm: Model Piggery Layout](#), Queensland Country Life, 18 November 1948
- Biddy, Paul, [Salvation Army abuse at 'severe end' of the scale](#), Sydney Morning Herald, 29 January 2014
- Cleland, Sharon, [Caring for the Children: A history of institutional care provided by The Salvation Army for Australian children and youth \(1893-1995\)](#), August 2012
- Salvation Army, [Riverview Farm](#), 2017
- Blayse, Lewis, [Some More Salvation Army Children's Homes \(Or: Ve Gaf Vays Of Making You Afraid\)](#), lewisblayse.net, 12 January 2014
- Social Work Staff, Faculty of Education, University of Queensland, [Directory of Social Services Queensland](#), 1958

## Other Resources

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**Title:** Training, Riverview

**Type:** Image

[Details](#)



**Title:** Training - Riverview Farm - Salvation Army

**Type:** Image

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## Records

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

### Records held by other organisations

- [Commonwealth Child and Youth Migration Records \(1947 - 1967\)](#)
- [Salvation Army Australia, Records of Homes in the former Eastern Territory \(c. 1891 - 1990s\)](#)
- [Training - Riverview Farm - Salvation Army \(1927 - 1927\)](#)
- [Training, Riverview \(1928 - 1928\)](#)
- [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)  
Item B96 of the Child Endowment correspondence files relates to Riverview Training Farm.
- [Batch and Miscellaneous Subject Files \[Files relating to child and youth migration\] \(1871 - 1980\)](#)
- [Correspondence files, multiple number series \(policy matters\) \(1922 - 1968\)](#)

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You can view this page online by visiting <https://findconnect.efront.digital/entity/riverview-training-farm/>