

Townsville Orphanage

1878 – 1934

Details

The Townsville Orphanage was established on 30th August 1878. The Queensland Government assumed control with the passing of the *Orphanages Act* 1879. In 1934, its name changed to the Townsville Receiving Depot.

Original committee members charged with administering the orphanage were Gilbert William Eliot, the Reverend William Gray, Frederick Gordon, Patrick Francis Hanran and Joseph Hughes. The only change to this committee after the passing of the Orphanages Act 1879, was the replacement of Gilbert William Elliot with Charles Shortt Dicken, who occupied the position of Police Magistrate.

A matron was given the responsibility for running the orphanage with the assistance of a housemaid and a cook.

Annie Ball was appointed Matron of Townsville Orphanage in February 1899. Jean McIntyre was Matron of the Townsville Orphanage from March 1925 to October 1928.

Gallery



The Townsville orphanage and the National School, North Ward

Description: This is an image of the Townsville orphanage and the Townsville National School. This image is undated, the date included is an estimate. CityLibraries Townsville published the image with the following note: "The photo is taken from Cleveland Terrace, and looks over Eyre and Mitchell Streets."



Boys working at the milking shed at the Townsville orphanage, October 1911

Description: This is an image of the milking sheds at the Townsville orphanage. It shows at least 6 boys at the shed, some of whom are milking cows.



The Townsville orphanage, Warburton Street, 1913

More info

Chronology

- **Townsville Orphanage (1878 – 1934)**
 - Townsville Receiving Depot (1934 - 1964)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Public Instruction Department, Orphanages Branch, State Government of Queensland \(2 October 1879 - 1 December 1911\)](#)
- [Home Secretary's Office, State Children Department, State Government of Queensland \(1 December 1911 - 5 December 1935\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [St Joseph's Home, Neerkol \(1885 - 1978\)](#)

On 1 January 1886 the State Government transferred seven children came from the Townsville State Orphanage to St Joseph's Home, Neerkol.

Resources

- Queensland. Dept of Children's Services, [Centenary of care for children 1879-1979](#), 1979
- [Research Guide to orphanage and children's home records at Queensland State Archives](#), Queensland State Archives website, February 2022

Records

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

Records

- [Carramar Records \(1878 - 1995\)](#)
- [Client Files, Queensland Government-run Institutions \(c. 1865 - 2001\)](#)
- [Administrative Records, Queensland Government-run Institutions \(c. 1865 - 2001\)](#)
- [Registers of Children Hired Out, Townsville Orphanage \(4 July 1883 - 20 July 1896\)](#)
- [Minute Books, Townsville Orphanage \(19 August 1885 - 2 June 1926\)](#)
- [Treatment Books, Townsville Orphanage \(5 December 1916 - 8 June 1935\)](#)
- [Monthly Reports, Townsville Orphanage and Townsville Receiving Depot \(1 January 1930 - 31 August 1934\)](#)
- [Heritage photographs of Queensland children's homes, buildings and people \(1848 - 1979\)](#)
- [Indexes to State Children's Allowances \(1910 - 1914\)](#)
- [Visitors' Books - Townsville Orphanage \(1891 - 1936\)](#)
- [General Ledgers - Townsville Orphanage \(1908 - 1959\)](#)
- [Sent Out Books - Townsville Orphanage \(1902 - 1917\)](#)
- [Admission Registers, Townsville Orphanage and Townsville Receiving Depot \(17 May 1879 - 29 September 1949\)](#)

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