

Salvation Army Industrial School for Boys [Collie]

1901 – 1920

Other Names:

- The Homestead
- Salvation Army Industrial School for Senior Protestant Boys
- Salvation Army Industrial School, The Collie
- No. 1 Boys' Home

Details

The Salvation Army Industrial School for Boys, Collie, opened in 1901 with fourteen boys sent from the Rottnest Reformatory. When the Industrial School closed in 1920, boys were sent to the Salvation Army's reformatory, Seaforth, in Gosnells. The site was later used for the Coolangatta Farm and then the Collie Power Station.

The Salvation Army opened an 'industrial school' (reformatory) for boys on 27 September 1901, outside the township of Collie, Western Australia. The first fourteen boys to live there were sent to Collie from the Rottnest Reformatory, from late 1901 until Rottnest closed in early 1902. The Collie Boys' Reformatory was one of three institutions set on 8,093 hectares of land held by the Salvation Army. The establishment of these institutions received wide publicity and glowing accounts were published in the newspapers in the early 1900s. By June 1902, there were 35 boys at the Home.

In 1902, Commissioner McKie, the leader of the Salvation Army in Australia, was interviewed in Kalgoorlie. The interview gives some insight into how the Salvation Army thought about their involvement at Collie, and how it was run and financed:

'It is well known that many unfortunate children (often more to be pitied than blamed) graduate from the streets, as neglected, then become criminal children, thence to swell the army of gaol-birds. To save children from such a calamity is a greater work than rescuing a ready-made criminal'. 'How is the work financed?' 'The Government grant a small capitation fee to pay the children's maintenance, the cost of land, buildings, inauguration expenses, and any deficiency in the annual balance-sheet must be met out of the social annual appeal'. 'But does the boys' labour not count for something?' 'Not as much as some people think. It is unskilled. Many of the boys must be taught to work; when they are competent and reliable they leave us, which we are quite willing they should do. The cost of oversight and technical training is more than the outside cost of the agricultural labourer. Many of them are too small, and others too delicate to do anything.'

In 1908, the three Children's Homes at Collie were vilified in the *Sunday Times* newspaper, which alleged children suffered overwork, unduly harsh punishment and poor food and living conditions. In the words of the newspaper, the Homes were 'coffinages'.

'General instructions' regarding punishment at the reformatory were included in the Salvation Army's 'Punishment Book'. Discipline was meant to be 'mild and firm' with corporal punishment a 'last resort', but could be 'inflicted in

the presence of a witness' for 'absconding, offences against morality, for gross impertinence, or for wilful and persistent disobedience'. Corporal punishment was not meant to be used for 'trivial breaches of discipline' and boxing children's ears was 'strictly forbidden'. All cases of corporal punishment were to be recorded in the Punishment Book immediately after the child was punished. The date, 'detail of the offence, number of strokes administered, and the name of the witness' were to be recorded. The instructions also gave guidance for 'light punishments' for other offences. These included: taking away a child's privileges and confining the child to a room 'but not in darkness'. It was also allowed to reduce the quantity or quality of food allowed to a child, who could be given 'eight ounces of bread and water' instead of the normal meal, 'but no child must be deprived of two meals in succession'. The punishments were intended to comply with the Regulations of the *State Children Act 1907*.

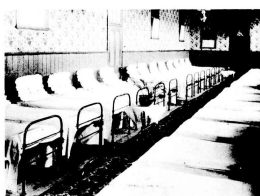
In a 2003 memoir, former Governor-General Sir Paul Hasluck recalled boyhood memories as a child of the manager of the Collie Boys' Home from 1913 to 1917: the No. 1 Home (the reformatory) and No. 2 Home (Collie Boys' Home) were 'almost wholly self-contained', with separate schools, stores, bakeries, boot-makers' shops, smithies and dairies. There were few visitors to the Homes, and few trips into the township of Collie. Meat, cereals, fruit and vegetables were produced to be eaten on site and the surplus was sold. Horses were an important part of the workforce, which included around 'a dozen Salvation Army officers, two school teachers, two in the office and seven or eight' others including 'boundary rider, carters, farm hands, etc'.

Boys would have been an essential part of the labour force at the Home, as Hasluck recalled there were 'about twenty milking cows and perhaps two thousand sheep...some cropping, mostly wheat and oats for chaff, and a good orchard and vegetable garden [and] the homes also did some carting of sleepers for the sleeper-cutters who were hewing on Crown Land'. There was also a run of chickens.

In 1913, there were around 38 boys at the Home.

In 1920, the institution closed and the boys were sent to the Salvation Army's reformatory, Seaforth, in the Perth suburb of Gosnells. The site was later used for the Coolangatta Farm and then the Collie Power Station.

Gallery



Dormitory at the Salvation Army Home

Description: This is a photograph of a dormitory at the Salvation Army Boys' Home at Collie, Western Australia. It shows two long rows of steel-framed beds packed tightly together in a long, high ceilinged dormitory room. A side-table with a pot-plant on it has been placed in the walkway between the rows of beds, likely as decoration solely for the purposes of taking the photograph. This image was published in an issue of the *Western Mail* on 22nd March 1902.



Trades - Salvation Army Industrial School, Collie, 1906

Description: 'Trades - Salvation Army Industrial School, Collie, 1906' is an image included (after p.22) in the *Report by the Superintendent of Public Charities and Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory Schools* for the year ending 31 December 1906. This image shows 10 boys standing in the grounds of the Industrial School demonstrating their various trades. One boy is seated and milking a cow, another is holding what appears to be a large lantern, two boys are wearing white kitchen aprons, and one is wearing a dark butchers apron and holding what might be a knife. One boy is standing with a shovel, rake, and pitchfork, another is holding two ducks, one is standing next to a cow on a lead, and another boy is sitting on a horse behind the other boys.



Salvation Army Children's Homes, Collie, ca. 1910

Description: This image shows buildings used as the Salvation Army Children's Homes near Collie, Western Australia.

More info

Chronology

- **Salvation Army Industrial School for Boys [Collie] (1901 – 1920)**
 - Seaforth Salvation Army Boys' Reformatory (1920 - 1955)

Related Entries

Run by

- [The Salvation Army, Australian Territory \(1880 - 1921\)](#)
- [The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territory \(1921 - 2018\)](#)

Related Legislation

- [State Children Act 1907, Western Australia \(1907 - 1948\)](#)
Salvation Army Industrial School for Boys [Collie] was classed as an Industrial School within the meaning of the *State Children Act 1907*.

Related Organisations

- [Rottneest Island Reformatory \(1881 - 1902\)](#)
When the Rottneest Island Reformatory closed the boys were sent to the Salvation Army Industrial School for Boys [Collie]).
Date: 1901 - 1902
- [Salvation Army Industrial School for Girls, Collie \(1901 - 1920\)](#)
The Salvation Army Industrial School for Girls, Collie was located on the same land owned by the Salvation Army in Collie, as the Collie Boys' Home. Salvation Army Industrial School for Boys [Collie]).
- [Collie Boys' Home \(1902 - 1920\)](#)
Collie Boys' Home was located on the same land owned by the Salvation Army in Collie as the Salvation Army Industrial School for Boys [Collie]. Salvation Army Industrial School for Boys [Collie]), and probably began by housing young boys transferred from that School.

Resources

- 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
- Information Services, Department for Community Development, [Signposts: A Guide for Children and Young People in Care in WA from 1920](#), 2004
- Coote, N. S. and S. Norman, *Pioneers of the Collie District, 1880-1930*, 1991
- Battye, JS, [The Cyclopedia of Western Australia \(1912\)](#), 1912. *Relevance:* p.505-506
- Hetherington, Penelope, [Reformatories](#), Historical Encyclopedia of Western Australia, 2009. *Relevance:* p.750
- Foster, Darren J, [Submission No 347 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 3 April 2004
- *West Australia*, The Victory, 1 September 1921
- *The Chief in the West*, The Victory, 1 October 1919
- Hasluck, P., *Memoirs of his boyhood in the Collie Region*, The Skeleton, 2003
- *Mrs McKie at the Collie*, The War Cry, 27 June 1903
- *Salvos given a caning*, Sunday Times, 19 November 1995
- [Collie Salvation Army Home: A Complaint](#), The Northam Advertiser, 7 March 1908

- [Salvation Army Settlement, Collie](#), Southern Times, 25 May 1901

Other Resources

Title: Our Collie Boys' Homes

Type: Image

Date: September 1913

[Details](#)



Title: Settlement Work at the Collie

Type: Image

Date: 1 June 1902

[Details](#)



Title: General instructions

Type: Image

Date: 1907 - 1920

[Details](#)

Records

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

Records held by other organisations

- [Historical records and memorabilia of Salvation Army institutions, Southern Territory](#)
 - [Children's Homes Files, Western Australian Salvation Army Homes \(1897 - 2012\)](#)
 - [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
 - [Salvation Army Australia, Records of Homes in the former Southern Territory \(c. 1889 - c. 1988\)](#)
 - [Correspondence Files, Colonial Secretary's Office, Chief Secretary's Department \(1883 - 1983\)](#)
 - [Files - Chief Protector of Aborigines \(1898 - 1908\)](#)
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