



IVANHOE

Background

Ivanhoe, the second home on the northern side of Pennant Hills Road, was officially opened on 11 January 1919 by Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, the wife of the Governor General, immediately after her husband had opened the neighbouring home, *Dachaidh Clann Donnachaidh* (Robertson).

The donor, Mrs S M McGaw, had been associated with the Homes since their inception. In 1911 she donated a trust to the value of 2000 pounds to financially assist parents to care for their children at home. A number of families were assisted but in 1918, after she had made several other donations, the donor agreed that the remaining funds should be transferred into the General Maintenance Endowment.

The *Scottish Australian* described the building as follows:

"Its plans show a large playshed underneath the building for use during wet weather, and as the inmates will be of tender ages, both boys and girls will be taken. In this portion of the house there is also the kitchen, private lockers for the children, a pantry and other apartments. A large dormitory on the first floor is also built as to be capable of subdivision in accordance with the number of boys and girls who may occupy the home. Then there are the matron's bedroom, sitting room, sick ward, with the necessary offices, as well as the bathrooms for the inmates, with lavatories, fires escape and so on. Local sandstone which is of high quality has been used for the walls, with brick facings. The roof is tiled. Throughout the building

electricity is the lighting agent. Messrs Kell and Rigby, of Parramatta, were the builders and the cost of whole, furnished, is in the neighbourhood of 4000 pounds.”

The McGaw Home was designed by the architects Joseland and Gilling who were also responsible for the master plan for the land on the northern side of Pennant Hills Road and would later design Sargood Hall and the Murdoch School.

The architect, Gregory Nolan, writes as follows concerning the building:

“Ivanhoe is a two storey red brick building with sandstone bonding courses, built on rusticated sandstone levelling courses. The facade is dominated by a prominent sandstone and brick portico capped by a well proportioned pediment. This portico is supported by piers of alternate brick and sandstone bands, while the entry way is framed by a finely worked sandstone arch supporting a brick balcony rail over. Twin miniature truscan columns support the split lintel above, and there is a semi-circular brick motive to the pediment.

The building has elements of colonial revival as evidenced by the shutters to the casement windows. These windows have sandstone lintels and sills. The floors are timber throughout except in the shelter and the roof is of red terra cotta tiles.

The quality throughout is very high, as is the detailing.”

Ivanhoe was originally a home for 30 infant children.

War Years

During World War II Burnside was occupied by the Second Australian Army. *Ivanhoe* was used by the Assistant Quartermaster General. The children were evacuated from North Parramatta and temporarily housed in the Blue Mountains.

1945 to present

Following the return of the children to Burnside in January 1945 *Ivanhoe* became a boys' home. In 1950 the boys were moved next door to Robertson while their home was remodelled. This included upgrading the kitchen with the addition of a stainless steel sink and a refrigerator, replacing the fuel stove with a gas one, renovating the bathrooms, placing the boiler outside and internal painting.

After the renovations were completed about 30 girls moved into *Ivanhoe* in January 1954 with Miss Keats as Matron. She retired after 30 years at Burnside in December 1959.

Further renovations took place in the following period when new philosophies of childcare were embraced. The dormitories were reduced in size to allow a maximum of five children per room. Individual wardrobes replaced clothes rooms and shutters gave way to conventional windows. Bright colours were used in the children's rooms.

Miss Paterson took over from Miss Keats and remained at *Ivanhoe* until her retirement in August 1973.

Ivanhoe continued to be used as a girls' home. Mr and Mrs Hall were the houseparents from January 1976 until May 1978 and were followed by Mr and Mrs McKay. By 1980 *Ivanhoe* housed only 8 girls and closed at the end of 1981.

It was reopened in 1983 to house the first children under the Khmer program until their suburban homes were prepared for them during 1984.

In 1985 *Ivanhoe* was leased to the Redeemer Baptist School together with Robertson, Sargood Hall, Blackwood Home, Son of the Rock and Reid Home. The buildings were sold to the School on 22 July 1994.