



# TROUP

## Background

Mr Alexander Reid Troup, a city accountant who died on 30 November 1921, left a bequest to the Burnside Homes of £3,500 to be paid on the death of his wife, to build and fit out a cottage home to be called Mary Frances Troup Home.

The bequest was received in 1929 and it enabled the Board, on 8 December 1932, to purchase Miss Gracey's property, *Bramshaw*, which adjoined Lincluden, for £1,550. The tender of Howie, Moffat and Co, to undertake reconstruction work for £2,270 was accepted by the Board. It was furnished at a cost of £45.

His Excellency the Governor General, Sir Isaac Isaacs, opened the home on 5 October 1933 and donated three guineas to buy toys for the children.

The original Home is described by the architect, Gregory Nolan, as:

*".....A colonial stuccoed brick structure with a hipped terra cotta tiled roof and features a galvanised iron veranda around the front. The house was originally only one room deep, with a service room or kitchen at the rear. The floors are timber, the walls are cement rendered and the ceilings are plaster. It also features French doors to the living rooms.*

*The 1933 renovation, including the kitchen, dining rooms and dormitories are brick additions to the original home. They have a hipped roof of terra cotta tiles, windows are casement with brick sills. Floors are timber except to the bathroom and ceilings are AC sheeting.*

*....Several major and minor brick extensions have been added to extend the dormitory wing."*

About 25 kindergarten children, both boys and girls, from Cumbrae were moved into Mary Frances Troup Home.

## **War Years**

In January 1942, during World War II, the children were evacuated to the Blue Mountains and the Second General Army occupied the whole of the Burnside Homes and Gowan Brae used Troup as an Officers Mess. The children returned in January 1945.

## **1945 to present**

Between 1949 and 1965 the matrons and house mothers responsible for the home included Miss Gibson, Mrs Watkins, Miss Tuckfield, Miss Cornes, Miss Thorpe, Miss Ghest, Mrs Probert, Mrs Watt and Miss Monaghan. During 1962 and 1963 Troup was remodelled to accommodate only 15 children and in January 1966 Mr and Mrs Wilkinson were appointed house parents followed by Mr and Mrs Coe in 1969. When the Coe's left in May 1970, Mr and Mrs Henderson managed Troup until December 1974. They were followed by Mr and Mrs Jennings (Mr Jennings was also the storeman) and after they resigned in November 1977 Troup was closed.

## ***Troup Annex***

In 1968 the Board decided that there was a need to provide accommodation for babies and toddlers up to 3 years of age. Notwithstanding the extra operating costs, the opening of such a home, even for a limited number, was considered highly desirable. It meant that a gap would be filled in the field of child care; it would allow more family groups to remain together; and there was a pressing need to cater for children in that age group. Often the need was for temporary care while a mother was sick or otherwise incapacitated and Burnside had only been able to care for older children.

An annex, the Babies' and Toddlers' Centre designed by the architects, Laurie and Heath, and built by S S Mitchell to accommodate 6 infants, was added to Troup Home and occupied from March 1970. It was officially opened in

September 1970 when it was named the Geoffrey Johnson Wing after a past Chairman. Geoffrey Johnson was a member of the Board of Directors of Burnside from 1939 to 1971 and was Chairman from 1947 to 1964.

A fully trained mothercraft nurse and two resident assistants were appointed. In the first few months of operation 30 babies and toddlers were cared for. However the facility ceased to function in May 1976.

Major social changes occurred in Australian society in the 1970s resulting in a decline in the number of voluntary placements in the Homes. Fewer of the Homes in North Parramatta were needed to house children and it was decided to rationalise the properties on site to use the funds thereby created to expand our services beyond Parramatta.

Troup was sold to the Royal NSW Institute for the Deaf and Blind for \$625,000 on 10 June 1988 and is currently used by the Sir Garfield Barwick Special School.