

# Ballarat District Orphan Asylum

1865 – 1909

## Details

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The Ballarat District Orphan Asylum was established in 1865 and run by a non-denominational board of management. The Orphanage farm was established in 1869. In 1909, the institution became known as the Ballarat Orphanage.

The Ballarat District Orphan Asylum was established in 1865, in response to widespread community concern about the lack of services for neglected, abandoned and destitute children, during the widespread upheaval of the gold rush years.

It was run by a non-denominational (but nominally Protestant) board of management. The Orphan Asylum was originally located in Victoria Street, Ballarat.

The annual report for 1866 stated that Mr and Mrs Finlay ('well known as public teachers') had been appointed as the institution's first superintendent and matron. The first children were admitted to the Orphan Asylum in October 1865.

The Orphanage farm was established in 1869. A swimming pool (said to be the 'first of its kind in any charitable institution in the colony') was built at the Ballarat Orphan Asylum in 1870.

In 1871, the Superintendent was Mr H.B. Sadleir.

In 1909, the institution became known as the Ballarat Orphanage.

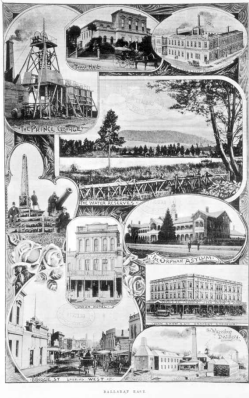
## Gallery

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**The Ballarat District Orphan Asylum**

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## Ballarat East, Vic.

**Description:** This image from the *Illustrated Australian News*, 1 August 1893, has drawings of major public buildings and infrastructure in Ballarat, including the Orphan Asylum.

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## More info

### Chronology

- **Ballarat District Orphan Asylum (1865 – 1909)**
  - Ballarat Orphanage (1909 - 1968)
    - Ballarat Children's Home (1968 - 1984)
      - Ballarat Children's Homes and Family Services (1984 - 1998)
        - Child and Family Services Ballarat (1998 - current)

### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Committee of Management of the Ballarat District Orphan Asylum \(1865 - 1909\)](#)

#### Related Events

- [Royal Commission into Charitable Institutions, Victoria \(18 March 1890 - 12 August 1895\)](#)

#### Related Organisations

- [Ballarat Benevolent Asylum \(c. 1859 - 1960?\)](#)

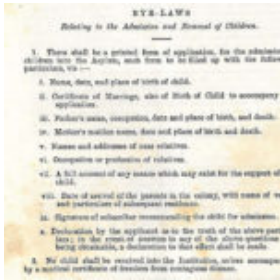
Before the Ballarat District Orphan Asylum was established in 1865, many children were accommodated at the Ballarat Benevolent Asylum.

### Resources

- Committee of Management of the Ballarat District Orphan Asylum, *The Second Annual Report of the Committee of Management of the Ballarat District Orphan Asylum - with the rules and regulations of the institution - 1866, 1867*
- Committee of Management of the Ballarat District Orphan Asylum, *The Sixth Annual Report of the Committee of Management of the Ballarat District Orphan Asylum, with the Rules and Regulations of the Institution; A List of All Subsriptions Used During the Year 1870, and a Financial Statement from January 1st, to December 31st, 1870., 1871*
- Golding, Frank, [Lost & Found: State Children in Victoria](#), Frank Golding: author, researcher, historian and consultant specialising in child welfare, 27 July 2017
- [Never hidden or forgotten! Ballarat District Orphan Asylum, Orphanage, Children's Home 1865-1984 \(website\)](#), Ballarat Orphan Asylum, Orphanage, Children's Home 1865-1984, 2023
- McGinniss, David B., [Histories of the Ballarat District Orphan Asylum, Ballarat Orphanage and Ballarat Children's Home, 1866-1983](#), 2019

## Other Resources

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**Title:** Bye-laws relating to the Admission and Removal of Children

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 1867

[Details](#)

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**Title:** Time Line [Child and Family Services Ballarat]

**Type:** Image

**Date:** c. 1994

[Details](#)

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## Records

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

### Records

- [Child and Family Services Ballarat Records \(c. 1865 - current\)](#)

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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/ballarat-district-orphan-asylum/>