

# St Cuthbert's Home for Boys

1948 – 1977

**Other Names:** • St Cuthbert's Children's Home

## Details

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St Cuthbert's Home was established in 1948. It first accommodated boys aged 6 to 14 years, but by the 1960s also housed girls. The use of the name 'St Cuthbert's Children's Home' probably started around this time. From the late 1960s, St Cuthbert's established a number of family group homes. In 1977, St Cuthbert's was purchased by Glastonbury Children's Home, who established Glastonbury at Colac.

St Cuthbert's Home for Boys commenced operations in 1948, in a two-storey brick building overlooking Colac.

Although the Home was nominally a Church of England facility (Diocese of Ballarat), it was operated by a Board of Management comprising local citizens of Colac and district.

Boys slept in four upstairs dormitories accommodating seven to eight beds. In 1953 the Home's capacity was 36 boys, although actual placements fell well short of this through the 1950s.

It accommodated boys from age five through to school-leaving age, and accepted both wards of state and private admissions. The boys all attended local state schools.

St Cuthbert's was not extensively used by the Children's Welfare Department to place wards, partly because there were few boys in the care of the Department from the Western District of Victoria.

In April 1956, St Cuthbert's Home for Boys was declared an approved children's home under the Children's Welfare Act 1954.

However, numbers at the Home increased in the mid to late 1960s as state-wide pressure was placed on Victoria's residential child care system. During this time St Cuthbert's admission policy was changed to allow for the placement of girls. Presumably, the use of the name 'St Cuthbert's Children's Home' came into use around this time.

In 1969 St Cuthbert's established a cottage home on the edge of the property to house older boys. In 1970 another section of the Home was modified to become a family group home.

In 1972 St Cuthbert's applied for funding to convert its existing congregate care facilities to family group homes. Two new cottages were opened in 1975.

In the mid 1970s, government policy was being implemented to place children closer to their parents and families. In the past, many of the children at St Cuthbert's had come from outside the Colac area, and placements began to dry up as other 'care' options became available in other regions of the state.

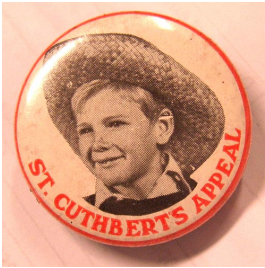
In 1977, following investigation and review, St Cuthbert's Board and the Social Welfare Department concluded that St Cuthbert's was not financially viable and should be closed. The Home officially closed in December 1977.

St Cuthbert's Children's Home was purchased by the Geelong-based organisation, Glastonbury Children's Home, in 1977. They established the new organisation, Glastonbury at Colac.

At this time the Social Welfare Department asked Berry Street Child and Family Care to establish a family group home in Richmond to house children affected by the closure of St Cuthbert's Children's Home Colac. Five of the children who had been at the Home were placed into family group homes run by Glastonbury.

## Gallery

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**St Cuthbert's Appeal Badge**



**St Cuthbert's**

**Description:** This is a copy of an image from page 62 of *Advancing This Good Work: a history of Glastonbury Child & Family Services* by Donella and Catherine Jaggs.



**St Cuthbert's in Colac**

**Description:** This is an image of St Cuthbert's Children's Home, as it was known from the 1960s, at Elliminyt, Victoria, taken from a 2013 article in the *Colac Herald* titled 'No justice for alleged rape victim'.

## More info

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### Chronology

- **St Cuthbert's Home for Boys (1948 – 1977)**
  - Glastonbury at Colac (1977 - 1984)

### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Anglican Diocese of Ballarat \(c. 1863 - current\)](#)

The Anglican Diocese of Ballarat ran St Cuthbert's Home through a Board of Management from 1948 to 1977.  
Date: 1948 - 1977

#### Related Organisations

- [Berry Street - Child and Family Care \(1975 - 1992\)](#)

In around 1997 the Social Welfare Department asked Berry Street Child and Family Care to establish a family group home in Richmond to house children affected by the closure of St Cuthbert's Children's Home Colac.

## Resources

- Mulholland, David, [Submission no 294 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
- Haywood, Robert, [Submission no 451 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
- Boyce, James, *For the record : background information on the work of the Anglican Church with Aboriginal children and directory of Anglican agencies providing residential care to children from 1830 to 1980*, 2003
- [Clergyman caned boy too severely, declares Colac magistrate](#), The Argus, 26 March 1953
- ["You have our fullest confidence" Clergyman who caned lad asked not to quit](#), The Argus, 2 April 1953
- [Establishment of St. Cuthbert's Boys' Home](#), Camperdown Chronicle, 16 March 1951
- *St Cuthbert's Boys' Home: Treadwell, Reverend J. - Mr Corrigan Wants Inquiry into 'Beast of Colac'.*, The Sun News-Pictorial, 1 April 1953
- *Reports Ordered in Colac Boy Case*, The Sun News-Pictorial, 2 April 1953
- *Home Supports Mr Treadwell*, The Sun News-Pictorial, 2 April 1953
- *MLA's Criticism Was Too Severe*, The Sun News-Pictorial, 2 April 1953
- *Corrigan Won't Be Home Guest*, The Sun News-Pictorial, 4 April 1953
- Chiu, Jennifer, [No justice for alleged rape victim](#), Colac Herald, 13 March 2013
- Care Leavers Australia Network, [Geelong and District Orphanages](#), No date
- [St Cuthbert's Home for Boys \(1948-1977\)](#), Finding Records, No date. *Relevance:* See the 'List of records held by the department' section for information about records relating to St Cuthbert's Home for Boys
- Savidis, Penny, [Sex abuse Royal Commission urged to hold public meetings in regional Victoria](#), Ryan Carlisle Thomas Lawyers, 2014
- *Glastonbury Children's Home - News from Glastonbury Children's Home - Geelong, part of the Barwon Region, Hops, Steps and Jumps: quarterly news from the Children's Welfare Association of Victoria*, 1978
- Barnard, Jill, [Stronger together: a history of the founding agencies of Barwon Child, Youth & Family 1855-2018](#), 2018

## Records

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

### Records

- [St Cuthbert's Homes for Boys Records](#)
  - ['Closed' Agency and General Correspondence Files \[Charities Board of Victoria\] \(1923 - 1983\)](#)
  - [Voluntary Children's Homes Files \(1921 - 1989\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/st-cuthberts-home-for-boys/>