

Ballarat Female Refuge

1867 – 1921

Other Names:

- Ballarat Female Home
- Ballarat Town and City Mission Rescue Home

Details

The Ballarat Female Refuge was established in 1867 by a group of protestant women, with the objective of reforming 'prostitutes'. It became a shelter for single mothers. It was the first such institution on Australia's goldfields. In 1921, the Refuge became part of the Ballarat Town and City Mission Rescue and Children's Home.

Initially, the Female Refuge was managed by a ladies' committee and a committee comprising lay men and ministers from various Protestant denominations.

The Ballarat Female Refuge's first location was in Grant Street, Ballarat. In 1885, it moved to new premises at 183 Scott Parade.

From 1900 until 1921, the institution was known as the Ballarat Female Home.

In 1921, the Ballarat Town and City Mission took over the management of the Ballarat Female Refuge.

At this time, a new institution for single mothers and their babies was established by the Mission, on the site of the original Refuge at 183 Scott Parade. This institution was known as the Ballarat Town and City Mission Rescue and Children's Home. The Alexandra Babies' Home (built in 1909) was situated on the same complex, at 187 Scott Parade.

Gallery



Female Refuge Complex, 183 Scott Parade, Ballarat East [former site]

Description: This two-storey building was constructed c.1884. Before the building at 187 Scott Parade was built for the Alexandra Babies' Home (later known as the Alexandra Toddlers' Home), babies and their mothers were accommodated at this site.

More info

Chronology

- **Ballarat Female Refuge (1867 – 1921)**
 - Ballarat Town and City Mission Rescue and Children's Home (c. 1921 - 1941)

Related Entries

Related Organisations

- [Alexandra Babies' Home \(c. 1909 - 1973\)](#)
The Alexandra Babies' Home began operation as part of the Ballarat Female Refuge. It was located on the same site as the original refuge at 183 Scott Parade.

Resources

- Wickham, Dorothy and Golding, Frank, *Refuge, Rescue & Reform: voices of suffering and survival*, 2024

Records

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

Records

- [Town and City Mission Records \(1892? - c. 1974\)](#)
 - [Child and Family Services Ballarat Records \(c. 1865 - current\)](#)
 - [Ballarat Female Refuge Records \(1892 - 1930\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/ballarat-female-refuge/>