

Kardinia Children's Home

1947 – 31 January 1986

Other Names: • Kardinia Child Care and Family Services Centre
• Kardinia Salvation Army Children's Home

Details

The Kardinia Children's Home in Belmont (Geelong) was established in 1947 and was run by the Salvation Army. Originally it opened as a toddler's home and accommodated children aged between two and five with children sent to Salvation Army children's homes in Melbourne upon reaching school age. Later on it provided for children of all ages and children often attended the local Belmont Primary School. From 1965 cottage homes were opened on the Kardinia grounds to enable siblings to stay together and the institution was also known as Kardinia Child Care and Family Services Centre. All residential care of children ended at Kardinia on 31 January 1986.

In 1983, the residential units declared as approved children's homes at Kardinia Child Care and Family Services Centre were Paringa Cottage, Attunga Unit, Wallara Cottage, Birralee Unit and Kyewong Cottage.

In around 2003 when the property was being "cleaned out", the personal files of children who had been at the Home were destroyed. It appears that the importance of these files and the meaning they might hold for former residents was not properly understood when this very regrettable incident occurred. There is however historical material about Kardinia at the Salvation Army Archives and Museum.

In 2025, plans were announced for the site to be subdivided and developed, with 34 townhouses to be built at the rear of the property and some mid-twentieth-century buildings near the main house to be demolished (realestate.com.au, 2025).

Gallery



Kardinia [editor's note: Salvation Army Children's Home]



Kardinia House, Geelong

Description: This is an image of Kardinia House, which was the site of Kardinia Children's Home from 1947 to 1986. The caption for this image reads: "Geelong. Kardinia House built before 1855. Built for Dr Thomson the first Mayor of Geelong. House totally transformed in the 1880s with bay windows. Kardinia House is one of the oldest major residences in Geelong. Alexander Thomson had his flocks of sheep along the Barwon River in 1836. He soon replaced his slab hut with a stone mansion built 1854. Dr Thomson became the first Mayor of Geelong in 1850. The house at 1 Riverview Terrace Belmont had extensive additions made to it in 1869. It was extended again in the 1880s by a local businessman who owned it then leaving no sight of the 1855 house. He added then popular bay windows and a veranda etc. In the 20th century for some time it was used as a Salvation Army Childrens' Home from 1947 to 1986. It catered mainly for two to five year old children. The house was last sold in 2019 with about 4 acres of gardens facing the Barwon River."

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territory \(1921 - 2018\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Salvation Army Children's Creche \(1915 - 1947\)](#)

Resources

- Cook, David, [Submission no 157 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
- Templeman, Steve, [Submission no 510 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
- Heather, [Submission no 393 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2004
- Care Leavers Australia Network, [Geelong and District Orphanages](#), No date
- [Kardinia children's Home \(1947-86\)](#), Finding Records, No date. Relevance: See the 'List of records held by the department' section for information about records relating to Kardinia Children's Home
- Savidis, Penny, [Sex abuse Royal Commission urged to hold public meetings in regional Victoria](#), Ryan Carlisle Thomas Lawyers, 2014
- [Milestone in Work of Salvation Army: Care of Youth in Adolescence](#), The Age, 22 March 1947
- [Kardinia House, 1 Riverview Terrace, Belmont, Greater Geelong City](#), Victorian Heritage Database, No date
- Clack, Peter, [Imported complete with heart of gold](#), The Canberra Times, 21 April 1991
- Cleland, Sharon, [Caring for the Children: A history of institutional care provided by The Salvation Army for Australian children and youth \(1893-1995\)](#), August 2012

Records

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

Records held by other organisations

- [Historical information, memorabilia and photographs of the Salvation Army](#)
- [Salvation Army Australia, Records of Homes in the former Southern Territory \(c. 1889 - c. 1988\)](#)
- [Voluntary Children's Homes Files \(1921 - 1989\)](#)

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/kardinia-childrens-home/>