

Church of England Boys' Home

1918 – 1976

Other Names:

- Church of England Boys' Home, Carlingford
- Carlingford Boys' Home
- Buckland Memorial Home
- Buckland House
- Vickery Cottage
- Noller Cottage
- Broad Cottage
- Frank Johnstone Home
- The Working Boys' Hostel
- James Stuart Memorial Hostel
- Spurway Cottage
- Trigg Annex
- Trigg Home
- Killara Family Home

Details

The Church of England Boys' Home was for boys aged 3 to 18 years. It was established by [Church of England Homes](#) in 1918 in a rented house in Cronulla, before moving in 1920 to Carlingford occupying the building 'Minden' at 216 Pennant Hills Road, the site that had previously housed the [Carlingford Children's Home](#). Boys from the [Havilah Home](#) were sometimes transferred to the Church of England Boys' Home upon reaching the age of 9.

Minden initially had capacity for approximately 30 boys, but it was extended the following year to enable the Home to accommodate 60 children with the addition of the No. 2 Home, which opened on 7th May 1921. According to local newspapers this addition featured "Large airy dormitories, together with wide verandahs and balconies, afford plenty of sleeping-out accommodation. Provision has also been made for rooms for the matron, a sick room, and large linen room and stores" ('New Home for Boys', *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrower's Advocate*, 11 May 1921). The expanded accommodation was quickly filled, and the following year the Home received another grant to extend the No. 2 Home, creating space for a further 30 boys. This work was completed in early 1924, with two new dormitories and an isolation hospital ward opened on 16th February, increasing the capacity of the Home to 96.

In December 1925, *The Sydney Morning Herald* reported that 81 boys lived at the Home in Carlingford. As part of a Christmas appeal for gifts it noted that children were "either orphans, destitute, or needy children...[and] numbers of them are children of men who made the great sacrifice in the Great War" ('Christmas Appeals Church of England Homes Glebe', 10 December 1925).

Boys at the Home attended the local state school, and received religious education from the rector of the local parish. All boys were expected to keep their dormitories spotlessly clean, and assist in general household duties. They played sports including cricket and soccer, often in local leagues, and also did gymnastics and drill training. They sang in the Home's choir, and were trained in handcrafts such as basket weaving and woodwork, as well as basic farming including animal husbandry and growing fruits and vegetables. Some of their produce and

handcraft items were sold at the Home's fundraising events, which the Home relied on to support its activities. As reported in *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, the Home was known for their annual December prize giving ceremony which focused not on scholarly achievements but on other qualities such as "making the garden grow", "quiet and thoughtful behaviour", "being a good sportsman", and "consistent looking after the cows and horses" ('Prize Giving, Church of England Boys' Home, Carlingford', 31 December 1930). In 1931 one boy received one of these prizes for "cheerfully and willingly cutting the hair of 100 boys all the year", and another received an award "just for being himself" ('Novel Awards', *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 24 December 1931).

The boys grew crops such as pumpkins, maize, cotton, and turnips on a 46 acre block of land called the Ebenezer Training Farm, named after Ebenezer Vickery whose family donated most of the farm's land to the Home. This site was situated approximately 1km north of Minden along Pennant Hills Road, and from at least 1924 plans were in motion to develop the farm into a much larger Boys' Home. The proposal for the new site consisted of 6 cottage buildings and one larger residential building with capacity for a total of 250 boys, plus additional buildings such as a chapel, gymnasium, school, staff quarters, and workshops.

By late 1927 the first buildings at the Ebenezer Training Farm site at 754-762 Pennant Hills Road were completed, and the first boys moved out of Minden. The first Home at the new site, the Buckland Memorial Home, opened on 17th December 1927 with capacity for 40 boys as well as the superintendent's quarters. The next two cottages were both opened on 14th April 1928 and were situated on either side of the Buckland Memorial Home. They were named Vickery Cottage and the Frank Johnstone Home (although this was later renamed Broad Cottage), after the two donors of the land that the homes were built on. The cottages were also furnished through donations, and brass plaques were placed in the cottages naming those who had provided or paid for furniture. The opening of these two homes allowed for the remaining boys to move from Minden to the new site, and the [Church of England Girls' Home](#) began to move into Minden from mid-1928.

The Boys Hostel was the next to open in 1929 in the old Church of England St Paul's Rectory, which was also located at 754-762 Pennant Hills Road. The Hostel, which was also known as the James Stuart Memorial Hostel, was for older boys at the Home who had finished their schooling, and who were undertaking apprenticeships or going out to work. It was intended to transition them into independence so they would be more prepared when they left the Home. It had capacity for 10 boys at a time. Boys living at the hostel were expected to pay board based on their wages, as well as contribute to the housework.

By 1929 there were 100 boys living at the Home. A newspaper article from that year reporting on fundraising efforts stated that the boys did not wear full uniforms, but did wear a blue Winter blazer with gold trimmings, and a matching skull cap. They each had a personal locker in which to keep their clothes and personal belongings, though they were not provided with keys to their lockers. ('Carlingford Boys Home, Big Effort to Raise Money', *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 18 April 1929).

Eric McGraw, who lived at the Home in the 1930s, recalled his life at the Home in an oral history interview with The Hills Shire:

We were part of the community. We weren't segregated, so that's probably why we know nearly as much about the district as the locals did, if not more, because we all had inquisitive minds – lots of "free spirits". We went to the local schools, we went to the local church. As we got older we joined the local Boy Scouts. We played cricket in the Northern Districts Saturday morning cricket competition in the Summertime. In the Winter time we played soccer in the Granville Districts competition. We were pretty well regarded in the sporting field. Maybe because we slept in the dormitory alongside each other and were more like brothers and we stuck up for one another. You had to rely on yourself and your mates. We were pretty much our own community, but at the same time we were still part of the community.

Quite often boys used to... we went to school... the boys and the girls from the Church of England Homes, and the girls and boys from Dalmar, the Methodist Home which is now where the Alan Walker Retirement

Village is. And then there was all the children from their own homes. And there was three categories... we were from the Church of England Home. We were called "Churchies". The Dalmar children were called "Dallies". And if you came from your own home you were called a "Schoolie". And if you had any sense you got on with us because we were the strength – we had more.

There was a hundred boys there when I was there and we grew up in a cottage atmosphere. We had two cottages when I was there, I think. There was Noller, which held 30 boys. We had a staff member in charge. Most of them were single, older women. She had her own quarters in that cottage and we had our dormitories, seven and eight to each dormitory. We had to have a cold shower every morning – Winter or Summer. There was hot water but we didn't use it. We never got sick... I don't remember anybody that got that sick there. I can't remember if there was. You stayed in that one until you were probably about eight, I think, and then you moved up to a cottage called Victory. Miss Upton was the staff member in charge of Noller. You went up to Victory where Miss Thornton was the staff member – the House Mother, for want of a better term, although we didn't call her that. You were there until you were about 11 or 12, and then you moved up to Buckland. Both Noller and Buckland are still there to this day.

In 1935 a new cottage, Spurway Home, was opened, increasing the capacity of the Home by another 30, up to 140 boys. In 1939 further additions were made to the Home with the opening of a new dining hall, and kitchen which could seat 180. According to an article published in *The Sun*, the boys themselves helped with the groundwork and building of the block, with one boy stating that he had carried 1500 bricks in a single day ('Boys Sing at Foundation Stone Ceremony', 18 June 1939). In 1941 Trigg Annex was opened as part of the hostel, followed by the Trigg Home in 1947, which brought the Home's capacity up to 170 – both additions had been funded by Mr E. S. Trigg. In 1942, [Terrigal Holiday House](#), at Wamberal, was donated to the Boys' Home to allow the boys to spend some holiday time at the seaside.

A former resident of the Home, Ben, shared his memories of his time at the Church of England Boys' Home in the early 1940s as part of a submission to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care (submission number 329). Although Ben was very young during his time at the Home, he clearly remembers his time at Carlingford, which he recounted to an interviewer who published it on his behalf:

One of his strongest memories is of the food that was served at the Home. Ben admitted that the food rationing of the time may have been to blame but he can clearly recall that every meal of porridge that he ate, and there were many, contained weevils. He has strong memories of being served plates of little else but boiled cabbage or silverbeet and being forced to eat those meals or go hungry. Ben stated that to this day he is unable to eat either vegetable. He laughed when he said, "Imagine a fifty-seven year old man who cannot eat his vegetables."

Ben recalls the regime in the Home was very strict, with no compassion or motherly caring for the children. Ben found it difficult to talk of this time without the emotion showing in his voice. He told how he felt when first placed in the Home and he spoke of his "most dreadful fretting" for his mother. Ben told of recognising the same feeling many years later when his only son died of a drug overdose and he considers that what he felt at the Home was a type of grief. He remembered his mother visiting the Home and when it came time for her to go he recalled clinging tightly to her, feeling that if he held on to her hard enough she would have to take him home with her.

Ben commented that at the Home boys as old as eleven or twelve were there with boys as young as two or three. Ben claimed that it was pretty much a case of being tough enough to survive a system where all ages were lumped together. He was too young to attend school but can remember that he and the other younger boys accompanied the older boys when they marched quite a distance through the streets to school. On occasion, where the route passed behind a bakery Ben (who says he was always hungry) stole a warm loaf of bread. It was the first time he can remember stealing and he can clearly recall thinking that stealing could not be so wrong if the result was so good.

Another former resident shared his experiences in a submission to the Inquiry about him, his brother, and other boys being physically and sexually assaulted by staff while in the Home during the 1960s.

Gwen Pearce shared recollections from her time in the Church of England Girls' Home and how she interacted with her brother who was in the boys Home as part of a submission to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care (submission number 352):

My first home was a Church of England Home in Carlingford, we used to go out to school there. My brother Ken was in the Boys' Home and we would see each other on the way to school. We would try to talk to each other but would be stopped and get into trouble for talking to the opposite gender even though we were brother and sister as this was not allowed...Ken remained in this Home till he left to go to work on a farm.

John Ingersole who grew up in the Boys' Home has written about the history of the complex in his book *Memories of a rural village : Carlingford Church of England Children's homes, 1930s-1940s-1950s*.

Throughout the 1950s the number of children at the Home began to decline, from 163 in residence in 1949 down to 120 by 1961. Due to this decline, as well as to shifting attitudes to institutional-style out of home 'care' for children, and the cost of maintaining the old large buildings, the Church of England Homes started to establish smaller family group homes as an alternative living situation for the children in its care. The first family group home to open on the site was Killara Composite Family Home, which had capacity for 10 children plus house parents. It opened in 1965 in what had, until that time, been the Boys' Hostel. It ran until December 1968, when the children moved to the newly opened [Crecy Group Home](#) at Marsfield.

Following the removal of children from the Killara Composite Family Home, the building reverted to being used as a Boys' Hostel in early 1969, and was renamed to the Trigg Working Boys Hostel. The Boys' Hostel closed in 1977 when it was temporarily moved to the Molly-Trigg Cottage on the site of the Church of England Girls' Home, before opening as the [Trigg Hostel](#) at its final location at Granville in 1979.

Throughout the 1970s the numbers of children at the Church of England Boys' Home continued to decrease, and from May 1976 the phasing-out of the large Homes began. In an interview with *The Sydney Morning Herald* in 1978 the CEO of the Church of England Homes stated that it wasn't unusual for children who had grown up in the large institutional-style Homes to be unprepared for life after the Home, and to get in trouble with police, ending up in a "home institution, jail institution" cycle. For this reason, as well as the increasing number of temporary placements over permanent placements, the Church of England Homes had decided to close the large Boys' Home and Girls' Home at Carlingford and focus their efforts exclusively on Family Group Homes and Foster Care. The Church of England Boys' Home at Carlingford was finally closed and sold to developers in 1979.

According to research done by the staff of the Northern Territory Department of Health, children from the Northern Territory were sent to the Church of England Boys' Home. The Home was also mentioned in the Bringing Them Home Report (1997) as an institution that housed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children removed from their families.

The Church of England Boys' Home was mentioned in the Lost Innocents Report (2001) as an institution involved in the migration of children to Australia.

Gallery



Buckland Memorial Home Carlingford

Description: This is a photo of the Buckland Memorial Home at the Carlingford Church of England Boys' Home. It shows a large two-storey brick building with lots of windows and decorative archways running along a covered walkway along the ground floor, some of which have white rendered highlights. Above the central front entrance is lettering that reads "Buckland Memorial Home". The building is surrounded by lawns, shrubs, and young trees. There is an empty flag-pole sitting in front of the building.



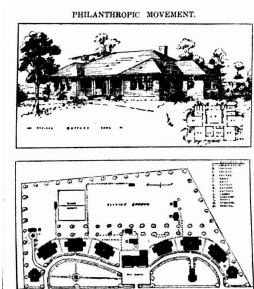
Vickery Home

Description: This is an image of the Vickery Home, or Vickery Cottage, at the Church of England Boys' Home, Carlingford. It shows a white rendered single-storey cottage with a tile roof and two chimneys surrounded by lawn and a few small shrubs. The cottage has a small central front verandah which is framed by thin white columns. This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.



Former Rectory, now the site of Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints Temple

Description: This is an image of the Boys' Hostel at the Church of England Boys' Home, Carlingford. The Hostel was previously the rectory connected with St Paul's Church, and was also known as the James Stuart Memorial Hostel. The image shows a large two-storey white weatherboard house with a red roof, with a large eucalyptus tree standing in front of it. The house is situated on a slight hill, and two transit vans (one blue, one orange) parked outside it at the end of a dirt driveway. This image is undated - the date included is an estimate.



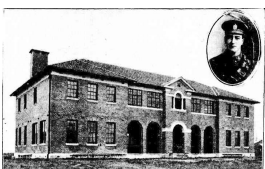
Philanthropic Movement - Church of England Home for Boys

Description: These two images are building plans for the Church of England Boys' Home site at 756 Pennant Hills Road. The top image shows a sketch of the front of a single-storey cottage accompanied by an inset floor-plan of the building. The lower image is a plan of the whole site. It shows a curved line of eight cottages facing Pennant Hills Road, with the larger Buckland Memorial Home in the centre of the cottages. Behind the cottages is a sports field, a garden, and several smaller buildings (possibly workshops, laundry block, sheds, etc). Each image has text identifying the different buildings, or rooms in the cottage, however this text is not legible in this version of the plans. These images were published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 25 May 1927 in an article titled 'Building Industry, Homes for Boys'.



Minden/Strathmore - Carlingford

Description: This is a photo of the building known as 'Minden', or sometimes 'Strathmore', at Carlingford. It shows a large two-storey building with ornate wrought-iron verandahs circling the top floor. The building was initially used by the Church of England as a home for 'delicate' children, then from 1918 it became the Boys' Home, and from 1928 it was used as a Girls' Home. This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.



Buckland Memorial Home for Boys

Description: This image was included in The Sydney Morning Herald article titled "Buckland Memorial Home for Boys".



Noller Cottage

Description: This is a copy of a photograph of Noller Cottage, which was part of the Church of England Boys' Home. The image was published on the 'Hills Voices Online' website, with the transcript of the oral history interview 'Carlingford - Eric and Lorna McGraw'. Its caption reads: 'Noller Cottage housed the younger boys'.



Church of England Boys' Home, Carlingford

Description: This is a copy of a photograph from the Church of England Boys' Home, Carlingford. This image appeared in an article published in *Pix* on 31 May 1958. The caption reads 'Ray (left) and Ken bringing home the cows'.



Church of England Girls' Home [Carlingford]

Description: This photo shows the front of the Church of England Girls' Home at Carlingford. This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.



Old Rectory for St Paul's

Description: This is a copy of a photograph from the collection of Anglicare. The description reads: Old Rectory for St Paul's. Later became the Working Boys Hostel. From Dec 1965 - Dec 1968 it was the first family group home for house parents and 10 children, known as Killara Composite Family Home. This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.



Carlingford Boys' Home Cottages

Description: This is an image of three of the buildings at the Church of England Boys' Home, Carlingford. It shows the Spurway Cottage (right hand side), Broad Cottage (centre), and part of the Buckland Memorial Home (left hand side). The two cottages are similar in shape and style - both are large single-storey cottages with a central verandah framed with white columns. The Spurway Cottage has brick walls, while Broad Cottage has white rendered walls. Only the rear of the Buckland Memorial Home can be seen - it is a brick two-storey building. There is a large lawn in front of the homes, with several small trees and shrubs and one larger tree planted through it. This image is undated, the date included is an estimate.



Trigg Home

Description: This is an image of the Trigg Home at the Church of England Boys' Home, Carlingford. It shows a large single-storey brick cottage with a small central front verandah framed with white columns. The cottage is surrounded by lawn, with a few trees in the background and foreground. This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.



Church of England Home for Children

Description: This is a photo of the boys and staff of the Church of England Boys' Home, Carlingford, lined up in front of the Buckland Memorial Home. It shows a large group of boys lined up in front of a large two-storey brick building with archways along the centre ground-floor section. This image was published in *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate* on 10 November 1932. It was published with the following caption: "Church of England Home for Children. Boys lined up at the Boys' Home in Pennant Hills road, Carlingford. A garden fete is being held at the Girls' Homes on Saturday next, and Mr. F. H. Stewart, M.H.R., will perform the opening ceremony at 2.30pm. Sympathisers are invited to help the movement. Included in the entertainments will be folk dancing, physical drill on the lawns by the girls, glee singing by the boys, singing by the tiny tots. Bring your children to the slippery slide and other attractions. The motor drive to Carlingford is one of the best around Sydney. Annie E. Hare is the hon. organiser"



Church of England Home for Boys, Carlingford, sign near gate

Description: This is a photo of a sign outside the Church of England Boys' Home at Carlingford. It is a small white sign with grey text that reads 'Church of England Home for Boys', and it has a small figure of a boy kicking a ball sitting on top of it. A Union Jack flag can be seen flying in the background.



Church of England Home for Boys, Carlingford, the chapel

Description: This is a photo of the interior of the chapel at the Church of England Boys' Home, Carlingford. It shows the inside of a room with eight rows of chairs on either side of a small aisle leading up to a small wooden altar.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Church of England Homes \(c. 1884 - 1984\)](#)

Related Events

- [Visit of John Moss \(1951\)](#)
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [Interstate movement of Northern Territory children \(1930s - 1970s\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Church of England Girls' Home, Carlingford \(1928 - 1977\)](#)
The Church of England Girls' Home opened on the same site that had previously operated as the Church of England Boys' Home.
- [Havilah Little Children's Home \(1918 - 1976\)](#)
Boys at Havilah Little Children's Home were sent to the Church of England Boys' Home

- [Carlingford Children's Home \(1914 - 1920\)](#)

The Church of England Boys' Home moved into the site 'Minden' in 1920 after it was vacated by the Carlingford Children's Home.

- [Terrigal Holiday Home \(1942 - current\)](#)

Related Concepts

- [Child Migration \(1800s - 1970s\)](#)

Resources

- Charles Hill, ["Back to St. James, Pitt Town", Prize Essay by Charles Hill, one of the Carlingford Boys](#), Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 16 November 1928
- [Carlingford Homes Bazaar](#), The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrower's Advocate, 11 November 1922
- Community Affairs References Committee, [Lost Innocents: Righting the record - Report on child migration](#), 30 August 2001
- Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, [Bringing Them Home: Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families](#), 1997. *Relevance:* The Church of England Boys' Home was mentioned in the Bringing Them Home Report (1997) as an institution that housed Indigenous children removed from their families
- [Where children receive their natural heritage](#), The Australian Women's Weekly, 2 September 1933
- The Hills Shire Council, [Hills Voices Online: Heritage Sites](#), The Hills: Sydney's Garden Shire, No date. *Relevance:* 'Carlingford - Eric and Lorna McGraw', date of interview: 30 March 2007
- [In Equity](#), The Sydney Morning Herald, 11 March 1933
- Carl Beauchamp, [Submission No 453 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 1 September 2004

Records

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

Records

- [Anglicare Children's Homes, Foster Care and Out-of-Home Care Records \(1932 - 2010s\)](#)
-

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/church-of-england-boys-home/>