

# Boys' Town, Engadine

1939 – 2010

**Other Names:** • Boys' Town

## Details

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Boys' Town Engadine was a children's home run by the Salesians of Don Bosco. It was founded in 1939. It was a residential school for adolescent boys which also received some children transferred from the ACT. In 2010 Boys' Town Engadine adopted the name Dunlea Centre.

Boys' Town was founded in 1939 by Father Thomas Dunlea (1894-1970) as a residential school to work with adolescent boys and their families to resolve disruption and difficulties at home, in the community and at school. It was run by the Salesians of Don Bosco, an international Catholic society of priests and brothers whose specific charter is to work with disadvantaged youth. The Salesian philosophy is to engage with the positive aspects of young people and their life situations.

According to annual reports, Boys' Town Engadine located in New South Wales, received some children from the ACT requiring temporary 'care' due to 'family crisis.' Prior to ACT self-government in 1989 children requiring temporary placement (for reasons such as illness, hospitalisation or relationship breakdown) could be transferred to Homes interstate.

In 2008 the Salesian Order apologised to former residents of Boys' Town Engadine for sexual abuse conducted by a former priest who had worked at the institution in the 1980s. The Salesians are no longer involved with teaching or dormitory supervision of boys, and trained social workers now run the programs.

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## Gallery

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**Entrance gates to Boys' Town, Engadine, ca. 1950s**

**Description:** This is a black and white image of the entrance to Boys' Town, Engadine. The photograph shows the driveway and front gates, which include signs which read 'Boys Town', 'Father Dunlea', and a sign behind the fence stating 'Visitors Welcome'. Behind the gates, three or four buildings are visible situated among several large eucalyptus trees.



**Chapel at Boys' Town, Engadine, ca.1950s**

**Description:** This is a black and white image of Boys' Town, Engadine. The photograph shows the chapel (centre) and surrounding buildings and gardens. Two boys can be seen walking up the path between the buildings.

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A class of boys watching a training demonstration by a butcher, with Father Thomas Dunlea standing to the left, Boys' Town Engadine, New South Wales, 1954

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## More info

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### Chronology

- **Boys' Town, Engadine (1939 – 2010)**
  - Dunlea Centre (2010 - current)

### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Salesians of Don Bosco \(1922 - current\)](#)  
Date: 1939 - 2008

#### Related Events

- [Transfer of children from Australian Capital Territory \(ACT\) and Norfolk Island to New South Wales \(NSW\) \(1941 - 1986\)](#)

#### Related Organisations

- [Murray-Dwyer Boys' Home \(1933 - 1970\)](#)  
Some boys were transferred from Murray-Dwyer Boys' Home to Boys' Town Engadine, when they turned 12 years of age.

### Resources

- [Catholic Church schools and homes with the most child abuse claims revealed](#), ABC News, 17 February 2017
- Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission and the Australian Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes, *A piece of the story : national directory of records of Catholic organisations caring for children separated from families*, November 1999

## Records

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

### Records

- [Records of Boys Town Engadine \(1939 - 2006\)](#)

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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/boys-town-engadine/>