

St John's Orphanage, Thurgoona

1882 – 1978

Other Names:

- St John's Home, Wirlinga
- St John's Orphanage, Albury
- St John's Albury

Details

St John's Orphanage was founded by the Albury Foundation of the Sisters of Mercy in 1882 at Thurgoona. It was also known as St John's Home, Wirlinga. The Orphanage first housed girls aged 5 to 16 years and later accommodated 30 British war orphans. In later years it cared for both boys and girls. From 1976, St John's Orphanage was replaced by group homes; it closed in 1978.

St John's Orphanage was founded by the Albury Foundation of the Sisters of Mercy in 1882 and was located at Thurgoona on the outskirts of Albury on the New South Wales-Victoria border. In 1907, the Sisters of Mercy, Goulburn Congregation was created, merging Goulburn with Yass and Albury foundations, and the control of St John's passed to the Goulburn Sisters.

With changes in the welfare system the large institution was closed and in 1976-1978 opened as group homes for children.

The site of St John's Orphanage Thurgoona was, at some stage before 2010, used by Guadalupe House.

St John's Orphanage Thurgoona was mentioned in the Lost Innocents Report (2001) as an institution involved in the migration of children to Australia.

Gallery



St John's Orphanage, Thurgoona

Description: This is a copy of an image that appeared in *The Border Mail* and came with the caption: It has been discovered the old Sisters of Mercy orphanage fence had been placed 1.5m over the boundary into council land.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Sisters of Mercy, Goulburn Congregation \(1859 - 12 December 2011\)](#)

The Goulburn Sisters of Mercy took over the Albury foundation of the Sisters of Mercy in 1907 and assumed control of St John's Orphanage, Thurgoona.

Date: 1882 - 1978

Related Events

- [Visit of John Moss \(1951\)](#)

John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report

Related Concepts

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

Resources

- Community Affairs References Committee, [Lost Innocents: Righting the record - Report on child migration](#), 30 August 2001
- Jones, Howard C., *Orphanage survivors : a true story of St John's, Thurgoona*, 2010
- Pattison, Gaye, *St. John's orphans reunited*, 2010
- [The Cry of the Children: Mr P McGarry Introduces a Deputation: The Chief Secretary's Sympathetic Words](#), Freeman's Journal, 25 November 1915
- 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

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

Records

- [Admission Register, St John's Orphanage, Thurgoona \(1882 - 1995\)](#)
 - [List of Names for Orphanage Endowment Claim, St John's Orphanage, Thurgoona \(1932 - 1959\)](#)
 - [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
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