

Gill Memorial Boys' Home

1936 – 1980

Other Names:

- The Gill
- Goulburn Boys' Home

Details

The Gill Memorial Boys' Home was a Salvation Army Boys' Home located at Auburn Street, Goulburn from September 1936. It was opened after the closure of the Salvation Army's Dee Why Boys' Home. It held around 90 boys at a time, aged from three to 18 years. In 1980 the Home was restructured and changed, becoming the Gill Memorial Family Group Home.

Some children at Gill Memorial Boys' Home were there under court orders, some were state wards, some were child migrants, some were placed there 'informally', for example by a parent.

The Gill Memorial Boys' Home was mentioned in a number of submissions to the 2004 Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee Inquiry into Forgotten Australians and Child Migrants. Some former residents recall sexual abuse and most described a harsh routine, where numbers were used instead of names.

One former resident, who described regular bashings and abuse in his submission, also wrote out the words of a song the boys used to sing:

THE BOYS AT THE GILL VERSION OF THE "ROAD TO GUNDAGAI"

*There's a gaol on the hill
and they call it the Gill
along the road to Goulburn High.
You can hear the Sallies singing
and hear the stockwhip ringing
beneath the Goulburn sky.
When my mummy and daddy are thinking of me
I'm in the Sallies office copping six, four or three.
There's a gaol on the hill
and they call it the Gill
along the road to Goulburn High.*

We used to sing this song on the way to school and after school, anywhere we could, just so long as the officers didn't hear it because we were well aware of the consequences. [Submission 336]

Gill Memorial Boys' Home was investigated by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Case Study 05: The Salvation Army boys' homes, Australian Eastern Territory.

Gallery



Gill Memorial Home for Boys, Goulburn

More info

Chronology

- **Gill Memorial Boys' Home (1936 – 1980)**
 - Gill Memorial Family Group Home (1980 - 1995)

Related Entries

Run by

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

Related Events

- [Case Study 05: The Salvation Army boys' homes, Australian Eastern Territory, Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse \(2014\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Dee Why Home for Boys \(1924 - 1936\)](#)

When Dee Why Home for Boys was closed some of the boys were sent to Gill Memorial Boys' Home in Goulburn.
- [Children's Court of New South Wales \(October 1905 - current\)](#)

Related Concepts

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

Resources

- Community Affairs References Committee, [Lost Innocents: Righting the record - Report on child migration](#), 30 August 2001
- [Boys' Home: First Arrivals](#), Goulburn Evening Penny Post, 29 September 1936
- [James Luthy interviewed by Hamish Sewell in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project \[sound recording\]](#), 4 July 2011
- F.E., *Statement in the matter of the Salvation Army Eastern Territory's Handling of Claims of Child Sexual Abuse: Statement and annexures of FE*, 11 March 2014
- [Opening Submissions of Counsel Assisting: Case Study 05: The Salvation Army boys' homes, Australian Eastern Territory, January 2014](#), 28 January 2014
- 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
- Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, [Report of Case Study No. 5: Response of The Salvation Army to child sexual abuse at its boys homes in New South Wales and Queensland](#), January 2015

Records

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

Records

- [Salvation Army Australia, Records of Homes in the former Eastern Territory \(c. 1891 - 1990s\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/gill-memorial-boys-home/>