

Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children

1955 – 1978

Other Names:

- Burnside
- Burnside Homes

Details

The Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children was formally known as Burnside Presbyterian Orphan Homes. The name change occurred in 1955. Originally a complex of cottage homes, Burnside began to provide foster care and other sorts of care in the 1960s and 1970s. It changed its name to Burnside Homes for Children when the Uniting Church Board of Social Responsibility assumed control of it in 1978.

By 1955 the Burnside site included its own school with a gymnasium and swimming pool, a hall, a hospital, playing fields, and a farm, dairy and vegetable garden. There was also staff accommodation. Although closely linked to the Presbyterian Church, Burnside was independent of the Church hierarchy. The Burnside Homes were established and maintained entirely by private donations.

The way children were cared for by Burnside changed considerably over the years reflecting changes in child care theories. In the 1960s the capacity of the homes, originally designed for 30 children, was reduced to house 12-15 children. At that time Burnside began to establish group homes in the suburbs, designed to care for around six children at a time. In the 1970s Burnside commenced a comprehensive and successful system of foster care that was still running – and expanded – in 2013.

In 1972, Burnside also became responsible for St Andrew's Boys' Home at Leppington.

In 1977, the Uniting Church in Australia was formed, made up of the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches of Australia. It was decided that the Burnside Homes should pass to the Uniting Church Board of Social Responsibility. This occurred in 1978 and the organisation became known as Burnside Homes for Children.

Gallery



Burnside Orphanage, Parramatta



War Memorial

Description: This is a photograph of the Burnside home 'War Memorial'. It shows a large, square, two-storey stone building with a bell tower above the main entrance. This image was published in a document called 'War Memorial', which was created by UnitingCare Burnside to provide historical information about the home. This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.



Airlie

Description: This is a photo of Airlie at Burnside. It shows a large single-storey stone building with columns around the perimeter, and curved stone steps leading up to the entrance. Several children can be seen lying on the lawn in front of the home. This image was published in a document called 'Aerlie', which was created by UnitingCare Burnside to provide historical information about the home. This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.



Blackwood

Description: This is a photograph of the Burnside home 'Blackwood'. It shows a large two-storey brick and stone building with columns supporting a balcony above the main entrance. On the front of the balcony the words 'Blackwood Home' are written. This image was published in a document called 'Blackwood', which was created by UnitingCare Burnside to provide historical information about the home. This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.



Blairgowrie

Description: This is a photograph of the Burnside home 'Blairgowrie'. It shows a large federation style single-storey cottage. A row of young children can be seen sitting on the grass in front of the building. This image was published in a document called 'Blairgowrie', which was created by UnitingCare Burnside to provide historical information about the home. This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.



Cumbrae

Description: This is a photograph of the Burnside home 'Cumbrae'. It shows a brick and stone two-storey house. The house is on a slight hill, with the main entrance of the house accessed by stairs up to the second storey, while the ground floor is slightly sunken into the hill. A group of children can be seen sitting on the grass in front of the house. This image was published in a document called 'Cumbrae', which was created by UnitingCare Burnside to provide historical information about the home. This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.



Dunkeld

Description: This is a photograph of the Burnside home 'Dunkeld'. It shows a brick and stone two-storey house. The house is located on a hill, with the main entrance is on the second storey, accessible via a set of steps, and the lower storey sunken into the hill. A group of children can be seen sitting on the grass in front of the house, and others are looking out the windows of the home. This image was published in a document called 'Dunkeld', which was created by UnitingCare Burnside to provide historical information about the home. This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.



Eskdale

Description: This is a photograph of the Burnside home 'Eskdale'. It shows a large, three-storey stone and brick building with a round turret next to the main entrance. The home is located on a slight hill, with the main entrance on the second storey accessible via a staircase, and the ground floor sunken into the hill. Several children can be seen standing in the grounds around the home. This image was published in a document called 'Eskdale', which was created by UnitingCare Burnside to provide historical information about the home. This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.



Ivanhoe

Description: This is a photograph of the Burnside home 'Ivanhoe'. It shows a large two-storey brick building with decorative striped brick and stone pillars around the entrance portico. This image was published in a document called 'Ivanhoe', which was created by UnitingCare Burnside to provide historical information about the home. This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.



Lincluden

Description: This is a photograph of the Burnside home 'Lincluden'. It shows a large two-storey brick building with large arched openings onto a sheltered front walkway. This image was published in a document called 'Lincluden', which was created by UnitingCare Burnside to provide historical information about the home. This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.



Reid

Description: This is a photograph of the Burnside home 'Reid'. It shows a large two-storey building with columns at the front entrance, and large open archways leading to a covered walkway along the ground floor. Several children and a dog can be seen outside of the home. This image was published in a document called 'Reid', which was created by UnitingCare Burnside to provide historical information about the home. This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.



Robertson

Description: This is a photograph of the Burnside home 'Robertson'. It shows a large two-storey stone building with a decorative stepped roof and a round turret on one corner. This image was published in a document called 'Robertson', which was created by UnitingCare Burnside to provide historical information about the home. This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.



Ross

Description: This is a photograph of the Burnside home 'Ross'. It shows a large two-storey brick building with a central upper balcony supported by columns. This image was published in a document called 'Ross', which was created by UnitingCare Burnside to provide historical information about the home. This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.



Troup

Description: This is a photograph of the Burnside home 'Troup'. It shows a single-storey cottage with decorative chimneys. Several children and a woman are standing on the verandah of the home. This image was published in a document called 'Troup', which was created by UnitingCare Burnside to provide historical information about the home. This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.

More info

Chronology

- Burnside Presbyterian Orphan Homes (1911 - 1955)
 - **Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children (1955 – 1978)**
 - Burnside Homes for Children (1978 - 1986)
 - Burnside (1986 - 2000)
 - Uniting Burnside (2000 - current)

Related Entries

Ran

- [Murdoch Holiday Home \(1954 - 1990?\)](#)
- [St Andrew's Home \(c. 1943 - 1986\)](#)

Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children assumed control of St Andrew's Home in 1972
Date: 1972 - 1978
- [Gordon Family Group Home \(1967 - c. 2014\)](#)

Date: 1967 - 1978
- [Minnamurra Family Group Home \(1975 - current\)](#)

Date: 1975 - 1978
- [Presbyterian Church of Australia \(1901 - current\)](#)
- [Margaret Harris Hospital \(1917 - 1982\)](#)
- [Cumbrae \(1912 - 1987\)](#)

Cumbrae was one of the cottages at Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children
Date: 1955 - 1978
- [Ivanhoe \(1919 - 1984\)](#)

Ivanhoe was one of the cottages at Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children
- [Dunkeld \(1913 - 2000\)](#)

Dunkeld was one of the cottages at Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children
- [Airlie \(1914 - c. 1971\)](#)

Airlie was one of the cottages at Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children
- [Novar \(1916 - 1952\)](#)

Novar was one of the cottages at Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children
- [Glencoe \(1918 - 1949\)](#)

Glencoe was one of the cottages at Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children
- [Robertson \(1919 - 1977\)](#)

Robertson was one of the cottage at Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children
- [Blackwood \(1921 - 1984\)](#)

Blackwood was one of the cottages at Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children
- [War Memorial Home \(1922 - 1982\)](#)

War Memorial Home was one of the cottages at Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children
- [Reid Home \(1922 - 1977\)](#)

Reid was one of the cottages run by Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children

- [Ritchie Home \(1928 - 1941\)](#)
Ritchie was one of the cottages at Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children
- [Lincluden \(16 February 1931 - August 1989\)](#)
Lincluden was one of the cottages at Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children
- [Troup \(1933 - 1976\)](#)
Troup was one of the cottages at Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children
- [Ross \(1935 - 1985\)](#)
Ross was one of the cottages at Burnside Presbyterian Homes for Children

Related Organisations

- [Presbyterian Metropolitan Mission \(1900 - 1973?\)](#)

Related Concepts

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

Resources

- Shayler, Kate, *The Long Way Home: The Story of a Homes Kid*, 2001
- Shayler, Kate, *Burnished: Burnside Life Stories*, 2011
- Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, [The Forgotten Australians, Business of the House, Speakers Horner Ms Sonia; Goward Ms Pru; Ashton Mr Alan; Maguire Mr Daryl; Morris Mr Matthew](#), Hansard, 25 November 2010
- The Hills Shire Council, [Hills Voices Online: Heritage Sites](#), The Hills: Sydney's Garden Shire, No date
- Herbert, Harry (Rev), [Address to Uniting Church Historical Society](#), September 2011
- Uniting, [Burnside: Photos and Stories of the 20th Century](#), No date
- McKenny, Leasha, [I Was Always Told, 'You Won't Be Believed'](#), SBS News, 14 December 2017
- [Patrick Sephton interviewed by Ann-Mari Jordens in the Bringing them home oral history project \(2001\)](#), 2001
- *War Memorial*, 2013
- *Airlie*, 2013
- *Blairgowrie*, 2013
- *Burnside Primary School*, 2013
- *Cumbrae*, 2013
- *Dunkeld*, 2013
- *Eskdale*, 2013
- *Ivanhoe*, 2013
- *Lincluden*, 2013
- *Reid*, 2013
- *Robertson*, 2013
- *Ross*, 2013
- *Troup*, 2013

Records

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

Records

- [Records held by Burnside Archives \(1911 - current\)](#)

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/burnside-presbyterian-homes-for-children/>