

# Woodlands Home

1944 – 1981

**Other Names:** • Woodlands Boys' Home

## Details

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Woodlands Home, at Wallsend, was opened as a children's home in 1944 by the United Protestant Association. After 1945, the girls were moved to Ellimatta at East Maitland and Woodlands became a boys' home. The home was closed in July 1981 and converted to a community centre by the United Protestant Association head office.

Woodlands was a historic house on eight acres at Wallsend.

In 2013, Joanne McCarthy published an article in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, stating that former residents of Woodlands had given distressing testimony to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and stated that an organised ring of paedophiles, including members of the Anglican and Catholic clergy, had sexually abused boys during a Christian programme held on Sundays at Woodlands in the 1970s. Additionally, a girl from Ellimatta was allegedly abused by a gardener.

In the article, the UPA issued an unreserved apology to children abused while they were living in the Woodlands and Ellimatta Homes, and acknowledged it had paid compensation to victims.

The UPA Board has since issued a further and full apology stating:

*We sought to be trusted by children, parents, and the State, but we freely acknowledge that in many of our homes we failed to provide the safe and nurturing environment that children need to thrive. Emotional, physical and sexual abuse did occur in those homes. We are ashamed of those failures and offer our sincere and deep apology for the harm caused.*

## Gallery

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**Woodlands Boys Home at Wallsend**

**Description:** This is a digital copy of an image from *Newcastle Morning Herald*, held in the Hunter Photo Bank.

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## More info

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## Related Entries

### Run by

- [United Protestant Association of New South Wales Ltd \(1938 - current\)](#)

### Related Events

- [Case study 42: The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle, Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse \(2017\)](#)

Former residents of Woodlands Home were called as witnesses to Case Study 42.

### Related Organisations

- [Ellimatta \(1945 - 1982\)](#)

In 1945 girls were taken from Woodlands and placed in Ellimatta.

## Resources

- United Protestant Association of N.S.W., *The Protestant world : official organ of the United Protestant Association of New South Wales.*, 1921 - 1980
- United Protestant Association of N.S.W., *Souvenir pictorial of homes for children and pensioners / United Protestant Association of N.S.W.*, 1956

## Records

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

### Records

- [United Protestant Association of New South Wales Records \(1932 - current\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/woodlands-home-2/>