

# Yasmar Shelter

1946 – 1994

**Other Names:**

- Yasmar Detention Centre
- Yasmar Child Welfare Home
- Ashfield Remand Home

## Details

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Yasmar Shelter, also called Yasmar Child Welfare Home and Ashfield Remand Home, was established at Haberfield in the grounds of Yasmar Children's Court by the Child Welfare Department in 1946. It was a remand home for boys. Various additions were made to the buildings over the years. Yasmar Shelter closed in 1994.

Yasmar was located in a historic house built by the Ramsay family. The name is Ramsay, spelled backwards. It was bought by the New South Wales Government in 1944. In 1946 it became a centre for youth training and juvenile justice. Timber buildings were erected on the former tennis and croquet lawns to house delinquent boys. The grand reception rooms of the house became a children's court and others served as magistrates' rooms.

Two boys escaped from Yasmar in January 1950. They had been arrested after they had run away from home and gone on a destructive rampage through two public schools, including one at Riverstone. The boys, aged 12 and 13, were in Yasmar on charges of being 'uncontrollable' and stealing, but escaped over the school fence before police returned to question them.

In 1981 the estate was turned into a Juvenile Detention Centre. New buildings were designed by government architects, guided by the New South Wales Heritage Office, to ensure original features and the garden were maintained. The facilities were named Dobroyde and Waratah and the Sunning Hill Education and Training Unit opened for its inmates. A drawing of Yasmar House was used as its logo and carried over to the new Juniperina Juvenile Justice Centre.

In 1990 a boy committed suicide in the Yasmar Detention Centre. Christine Howlett writes that a coroner found that staff were poorly trained, particularly in resuscitation, and that grilles and hanging points should be removed from all juvenile detention centres. The Department of Youth and Community Services, which ran the centre at the time, instituted a system of regular night checks in its centres the wake of the death of this boy.

In 2013 it was still owned by the New South Wales Government and was being used by the Department of Juvenile Justice.

## Gallery

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**Yasmar - Children's Court and Administration Building**

**Description:** This is a digital copy of a photograph from an album collected by Child Welfare Department officers in the late 1940s. From the collection of Leonie Knapman.

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### Yasmar: Dormitory

**Description:** This is a digital copy of a photograph from an album collected by Child Welfare Department officers in the late 1940s. From the collection of Leonie Knapman.

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### Yasmar Junior Section

**Description:** This is a digital copy of a photograph from an album collected by Child Welfare Department officers in the late 1940s. From the collection of Leonie Knapman.

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### Kitchen at Yasmar [I]

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### Kitchen at Yasmar [II]

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### Yasmar: Recreation Room

**Description:** This is a digital copy of a photograph from an album collected by Child Welfare Department officers in the late 1940s. From the collection of Leonie Knapman.

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### Yasmar: Washroom

**Description:** This is a digital copy of a photograph from an album collected by Child Welfare Department officers in the late 1940s. From the collection of Leonie Knapman.

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### Ashfield Remand Home - "Yasmar" - New South Wales

**Description:** This is a copy of a page of a photographic album held in the Public Record Office Victoria series Photos and Negatives of Government Buildings.

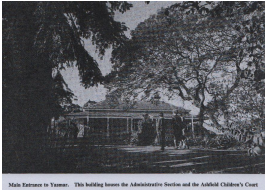
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### The recreation room in the senior school at Yasmar

**Description:** This is a copy of an image that appeared in the Child Welfare Department of New South Wales Annual Report of 1962.

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### Main entrance to Yasmar. This building houses the Administrative Section and the Ashfield Children's Court

**Description:** This is a copy of an image that appeared in the Child Welfare Department of New South Wales Annual Report of 1968.

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### School room, Yasmar Boys' Home

**Description:** This is a photograph of a classroom at Yasmar Shelter. It shows 12 boys at desks in a classroom reading from books, with one boy standing and reading aloud. The teacher stands at the front of the classroom in front of a chalkboard with the date (18th March 1948) and the word 'Arithmetic' written on it.

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### Carpentry classes, Yasmar Boys' Home

**Description:** This is a photograph of a carpentry class at Yasmar Shelter. It shows 7 boys and a teacher in a workshop. The boys are at workbenches working on projects, while the teacher points at schematics for a book stand written on the chalkboard.

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### Yasmar Boys Home, Ashfield

**Description:** This is a photograph of a dining room at Yasmar Shelter. It shows four six-seater tables set with tablecloth, plates, cups and saucers, and cutlery.

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## More info

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## Related Entries

### Run by

- [Department of Child Welfare and Social Welfare, State Government of New South Wales \(1970 - 1973\)](#)
  - [Department of Youth and Community Services, State Government of New South Wales \(1973 - 1975\)](#)
  - [Child Welfare Department, State Government of New South Wales \(1923 - 1970\)](#)
  - [Department of Youth and Community Services, State Government of New South Wales \(1976 - 1988\)](#)
  - [Department of Youth, Ethnic and Community Affairs, State Government of New South Wales \(1975 - 1976\)](#)
  - [Department of Health and Community Services, State Government of New South Wales \(1991 - 1992\)](#)
  - [Department of Juvenile Justice, State Government of New South Wales \(1990 - current\)](#)
- Date: 1990 - 1994
- [Department of Family and Community Services, State Government of New South Wales \(1988 - 1991\)](#)

## Resources

- Horner, Jack, [Clare, Mona Matilda \(Monica\) \(1924-1973\)](#), Australian Dictionary of Biography, 1993
- Irvine, Jenny, [The lost children of Sydney](#), Australian Women's Weekly, 19 July 1978
- Atkinson, Lynn, [An overview of juvenile detention in Australia](#), National Conference on Juvenile Detention: Proceedings of a conference held 10-13 August 1993, 1994

## Records

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

## Records

- [Departmental Records relating to State Wards, New South Wales \(1918 - current\)](#)
  - [Detainee files, Department of Juvenile Justice \(1985 - 1992\)](#)
  - [Detainee files, Department of Juvenile Justice \(1992 - current\)](#)
  - [Children's Court information, Department of Juvenile Justice \(c. 1980 - current\)](#)
  - [Appeal Register \[Yasmar Children's Court\] \(1976 - 1983\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/yasmar-shelter/>