

Mittagong Training School For Boys

1947 – 1976

Other Names: • Training School for Boys, Mittagong

Details

Mittagong Training School For Boys, run by the Child Welfare Department, was the new name given in 1947 to what had been the Mittagong Farm School for Boys. It was an institution for boys aged 8 to 17 convicted in the Children's Courts. Some children were transferred from the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and placed in this Home. In 1976 Mittagong Training School ceased operating and the boys were transferred to Ormond House, Thornleigh. Mittagong Cottage Homes also closed in 1976, and Renwick, a Home for dependent children, opened on the site.

The school at Mittagong Training School for Boys was originally called the 'Lower Mittagong School' but eventually its name was changed to Toombong School. The Department admitted in its Annual Report of that year that it wanted to avoid any connotation that the school was 'lower' than any of the other local schools.

In 1954, the Training School comprised 8 cottages, housing from 22 to 32 boys each, and one hospital home. According to the Department's annual report:

Each home is in charge of a married couple and inmates are allocated to the various cottages according to religion, age, physique and maturity, results of clinical examination and previous history.

...

In his new home each boy is provided with opportunities for development of character, the eradication of undesirable traits and the formation of habits of industry and cooperation. Each boy is taught to care for his clothing and to attend to his own personal cleanliness.

In 1962, there were 180 boys at Mittagong Training School, aged up to 15.

By 1971, the Department's approach to 'delinquents' was changing, and there was a new emphasis on maintaining the boys' relationships with their families. According to that year's annual report:

Every effort is made to actively involve the families of inmates of training schools in their rehabilitation. District Officers regularly visit inmates' families to discuss progress and to offer assistance and advice in the preparations for the child or young person's return on completion of the training period.

Visiting by parents is encouraged, and although distance presents a problem in some cases, many parents undertake quite lengthy journeys to maintain contact with their children. Special arrangements exist for the issue of rail warrants to parents in necessitous circumstances who would otherwise be unable to maintain

contact with inmates.

To further facilitate family contacts with younger delinquents the number of visiting days at Mittagong Training School for boys has been increased during the year, and consideration is being given to the introduction of home leave for selected inmates at this institution. (Home leave is granted as a special privilege to selected inmates of other training schools.)

The educational needs of these younger delinquents are catered for at Toombong School, a special school conducted and staffed by the Department of Education on the Mittagong property. The school programme here is specially designed to provide realistic goals, and rewards for achieving them, for individual inmates, who in many cases are considerably retarded from an educational point of view.

In 1973, the Department reported that DeLauret cottage had been demolished and rebuilt to house 24 boys from the Training School 'in the younger age bracket and the design of the building should permit a standard of care which has not formerly been possible'.

That year, a new system of home leave had been introduced at Mittagong, 'which was used extensively with very promising results'.

The Mittagong Training School was closed in August 1976.

At this time, the entire complex of cottages at Mittagong (for state wards and for convicted boys) was renamed Renwick, which had originally only been the name of one of the individual buildings.

Gallery



Heffernan [Mittagong Homes]

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.



Rowe Cottage

Description: This image shows a building that was part of the Mittagong Training School Group.

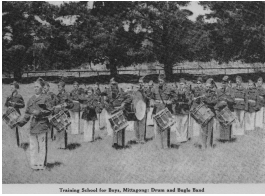


Goodlet Cottage: Mittagong Training Centre Group



Challoner Cottage viewed from Bong Bong Road

Description: This image shows Mittagong Farm Home, Cottage No.12, Old Dormitory Building, Renwick Child Welfare House, Mittagong Training School for Boys, Renwick Farm Home, Renwick State Ward Home.



Training School for Boys, Mittagong: Drum and Bugle Band

Description: This is a copy of an image that appeared in the Child Welfare Department of New South Wales Annual Report of 1958.



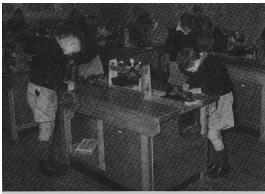
Toombong School - library class

Description: This is a copy of an image that appeared in the Child Welfare Department of New South Wales Annual Report of 1959.



Houseparents and boys at "Rowe", the newest of the cottages at the Training School for Boys, Mittagong

Description: This is a copy of an image that appeared in the Child Welfare Department of New South Wales Annual Report of 1967.



Manual training class at Toombong School

Description: This is a copy of an image that appeared in the Child Welfare Department of New South Wales Annual Report of 1959.



Mittagong Training School

Description: This is a copy of an image showing boys playing sport at Mittagong Training School for Boys.



Mittagong Training School



Mittagong Training School

More info

Chronology

- Mittagong Farm Home for Boys (1906 - 1947)
 - **Mittagong Training School For Boys (1947 – 1976)**

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, Ethnic and Community Affairs, State Government of New South Wales \(1975 - 1976\)](#)

Related Events

- [Transfer of children from Australian Capital Territory \(ACT\) and Norfolk Island to New South Wales \(NSW\) \(1941 - 1986\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Institution for Boys, Tamworth \(1948 - 1976\)](#)
Boys who offended at Mittagong Training School for Boys, or absconded, could be sent to the Institution for Boys.
- [Renwick \(1976 - 1994\)](#)
When Mittagong Training School for Boys was closed in 1976, its buildings were taken over and became part of Renwick.
- [Ormond, Thornleigh \(28 October 1946 - 1962\)](#)
- [Renwick Association Inc \(15 September 2011 - current\)](#)
- [Mittagong Cottage Homes \(1885 - 1976\)](#)
Mittagong Training School for Boys was located on the same site as the Mittagong Cottage Homes.
Date: 1947 - 1976
- [Ormond Training School \(1962 - 1980\)](#)
When Mittagong Training School was closed the boys were sent to Ormond.
Date: 1976 -

Resources

- State Records Authority of New South Wales, [Mittagong Training School For Boys](#), No date
- Anson, Bill, [Renwick \(Mittagong Farm Home for Boys\) web site](#), No date
- Quinn, Peter E, [Unenlightened efficiency: the administration of the juvenile correction system in New South Wales 1905-1988](#), 27 March 2006
- Knapman, Leonie, [Mittagong Farm Homes: Renwick Mittagong NSW: Caring for disadvantaged and delinquent children 1885-1994](#), No date
- Downie, Leeallison, [Challoner Cottage - Mittagong](#), Heritage Watch NSW, 2013
- [Hassall and Jefferis Cottages \[Cutler's Inn, Government or Mittagong Farm Home, Kangaroo Inn\]](#), State Heritage Inventory, 2022
- [Rowe Cottage \[Mittagong Training School Group\]](#), State Heritage Inventory, No date
- [Goodlet Cottage: Mittagong Training Centre Group](#), State Heritage Inventory, 2013
- [Renwick Group](#), State Heritage Inventory, No date
- [Suttor Cottage](#), State Heritage Inventory, No date
- [Challoner Cottage, Mittagong Farm Home \[Other names: Cottage No.12, Old Dormitory Building, Renwick Child Welfare House, Mittagong Training School for Boys, Renwick Farm Home, Renwick State Ward Home\]](#), State Heritage Inventory, 2022
- [Renwick Reunion attracts big crowd](#), Southern Highland News, 5 November 2014
- Arnold, Alex, [Renwick State Ward Home gets listed](#), Illawarra Mercury, 27 March 2014
- [Reliving the Renwick State Ward Home years](#), Illawarra Mercury, 29 October 2012
- Matthews, Bernie, [Unintended Consequences for State Raised Children](#), No date
- [George Bloomfield interviewed by John Maynard in the Bringing them home oral history project \(2001\)](#), 7 April 2001

Records

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

Records

- [Departmental Records relating to State Wards, New South Wales \(1918 - current\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/mittagong-training-school-for-boys/>