

Milleewa Home for Boys

1919 – 1966

Other Names:

- Milleewa Estate
- Church of England Home for Boys

Details

Milleewa was a boys' home that was established by the Anglican Homes for Children Association in 1919. It was located in Ashfield and housed approximately 20 boys aged from five to 14. For six months during World War II the Church Mission Society leased a portion of the home as a hostel for Aboriginal women and children evacuated from Groote Eylandt and Roper River Mission, in the Northern Territory. In 1966 Milleewa was converted to Charlton Boys' Home and Hostel.

The original residence 'Milleewa' was built between 1857 and 1867 by Nicholas Eager, a draper, as a family home. It was a two storey brick house, with a galvanised iron roof and wide verandahs on three sides. The Anglican Homes for Children Association purchased the house and outbuildings in 1918 and converted it to a boys' home. Extra washing and bathroom facilities were added, the upstairs rooms were converted to sleeping quarters and the vegetable gardens and orchards were retained. The outbuildings were converted to use as a gymnasium and carpenter's shop. The Home officially opened on 29th October 1919. Matron Connor was the first matron, and served the home for nine years. Her daughter replaced her in the role.

Milleewa admitted boys up to the age of 14 who had lost one or both parents, or whose parents were unable to support them. The sons of soldiers were given preference. The Home had no restrictions on the religious denomination of boys admitted, though all boys would be taught the scripture of the Church of England. If parents or family were able to contribute to the financial upkeep of the boys they were encouraged to.

Boys attended the Parish Church of St James, Croydon and went to school at Ashfield Superior Public School. They were trained in gardening, and each was responsible for a plot in the vegetable garden. and the boys' friends could visit on Sundays. An article published in *The Daily Telegraph* in 1933 stated that they boys were encouraged to take up hobbies, and listed gardening, collecting picture cards, raising silkworms, drawing, and playing cricket as some of the activities the boys engaged in ('Carefree Score of Youngsters', 15 November 1933). At the home the boys slept in the 'sleeping-out balcony', in the open air.

In 1923 the Anglican Homes for Children Association purchased the Windsor Farm Home at Freeman's Reach. This Home was intended to provide the older boys from Milleewa with farm training. Boys were transferred from Milleewa to the Windsor Farm Home around the age of 14, with the intention for them to stay there until they reached the age of 18. However, due to poor productivity at the farm, the decision was made to close the Farm Home in 1928.

In 1942 the Church Mission Society leased a portion of Milleewa as a hostel for Aboriginal children and mothers evacuated from Groote Eylandt and Roper River Mission in the Northern Territory due to World War 2. Approximately 30 Aboriginal children between the ages of 11 months and 14 years stayed at Milleewa for 6 months.

In the 1960s the Milleewa Committee noted a decline in the number of younger boys needing care so handed the Home and other assets to the Anglican Home Mission Society in 1965.

In 1965 the original house was demolished and new buildings constructed for a new Charlton Boys' Home and hostel, run by the Anglican Home Mission Society. This new Home was opened in 1966. In 1991 the site was sold to the Presbyterian Church for use as an aged care facility but the proposal was rejected. The site was then sold to a developer. The archaeological significance of the site was assessed in 2001 by Godden, Mackay, Logan.

Gallery



The original Milleewa

Description: This is a copy of an image owned by Anglicare Out of Home Services.



Milleewa Home for Boys, Ashfield

Description: This is a photo of the exterior of the new Milleewa building at Ashfield, which was built for the Charlton Boys Home after the previous Milleewa building was demolished. It shows two women and two men standing at the gate to a brick and timber single-storey building. At the front of the building is a sign that reads "Milleewa C of E Home for Boys". This photo was originally published on the cover of the Anglican Home Mission Society's 'Action' magazine, featuring an article about the purchase of Milleewa for the Charlton Boys' Home.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Anglican Homes for Children Association \(1918 - c. 1966\)](#)

Related Events

- [Interstate movement of Northern Territory children \(1930s - 1970s\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Groote Eylandt Mission \(1921 - 1978\)](#)
Children and some mothers from Groote Eylandt Mission were evacuated to Milleewa Home for Boys in 1942.
- [Roper River Mission \(1908 - 1988\)](#)
Children and some mothers from Roper River Mission were evacuated to Milleewa Home for Boys in 1942.
- [Windsor Farm Home for Boys \(1923 - 1928\)](#)
Milleewa Home for Boys and Windsor Farm Home for Boys were both run by Anglican Homes for Children and boys who had reached the age of 13 were sent from Milleewa to Windsor.
Date: 1923 - 1928
- [Church Missionary Society Home for Half-Castes, Mulgoa \(1942 - 1949\)](#)
Part of Milleewa Home for Boys was leased for six months in 1942 by the Church Missionary Society as accommodation for the evacuees from Roper River and Groote Eylandt Missions
Date: 1942 - 1943?
- [Church Missionary Society of Australia \(1916 - current\)](#)
The Church Missionary Society of Australia leased part of Milleewa Home for Boys during World War II, to

accommodate Aboriginal children evacuated from the Northern Territory.

Date: 1942 - 1943

- [Charlton Boys' Home, Ashfield \(1966 - c.1979\)](#)

Charlton Boys' Home was located on the site of Milleewa.

- [Crusaders Camp Mission Hostel \(1940? - 1946?\)](#)

Some of the children from Crusaders Camp Mission Hostel were sent to Milleewa.

Date: 1942 - 1943

Resources

- Mackett, J.P., [Milleewa Half-caste home - Mulgoa, NSW](#), 2005. *Relevance:* This resource contains transcriptions of files held by the National Archives of Australia that include names of Aboriginal children who were evacuated to Milleewa from the Northern Territory
- Anglican Homes for Children Association (N.S.W.): D.S. Ford, [Annual report of the Anglican Homes for Children including Milleewa Home for Boys Ashfield and the Windsor Farm Home for Boys Freeman's Reach, Windsor / Anglican Homes for Children Association.](#), 1925 - 1940
- [In Equity](#), They Sydney Morning Herald, 11 March 1933

Records

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

Records

- [Church Missionary Society of Australia, North Australia Committee \(1907 - 1989\)](#)
 - [Church Missionary Society \(New South Wales\) - Records \(1893 - 2003\)](#)
 - [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/milleewa-home-for-boys/>