

Sobraon Training Ship

1892 – 1911

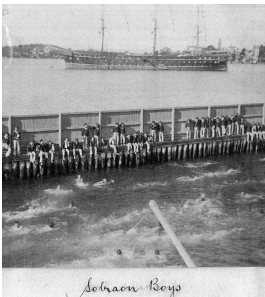
Other Names: • N.S.S. *Sobraon*

Details

The *Sobraon* Training Ship replaced the Nautical School Ship *Vernon* as a reformatory in 1892. It was three times the size of the *Vernon* and housed more than 200 boys at a time. After the *Neglected Children's and Juvenile Offenders' Act* of 1905 introduced probation, numbers declined on the *Sobraon*. Boys were either discharged to parents or guardians, apprenticed out or sent to the Mittagong Farm Home for Boys or the Brush Farm Reformatory. In 1911 the *Sobraon* was abandoned.

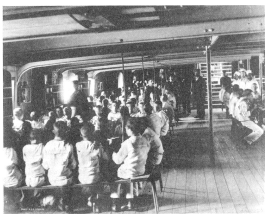
The *Sobraon* was sold to the Australian Navy, renamed HMAS *Tingira* and used as a training vessel until 1927.

Gallery



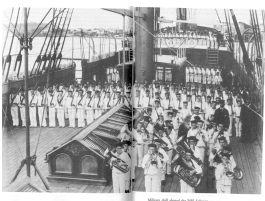
Sobraon boys

Description: This is a digital copy of an image from the Mitchell Library's Small Pictures File of boys on board The H.M.A.S. *Sobraon*. This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.



Dinner aboard the NSS *Sobraon* in the early 1890s

Description: This photograph shows boys in the dining hall under deck on the NSS *Sobraon*. The boys are dressed in white naval-style uniforms, and are seated on benches at long tables. Staff members can be seen walking amongst the tables. This image was published in *Children of the Back Lanes: destitute and neglected children in colonial New South Wales* in 1986. The original image is held by the State Archives of New South Wales.



Military Drill Aboard the NSS *Sobaron*

Description: This photograph shows boys in formation on the deck of the NSS *Sobraon*. The boys' brass band is standing at the front, and the boys standing behind are all holding rifles. All boys are wearing white naval-style uniforms. This image was published in *Children of the Back Lanes: destitute and neglected children in colonial New South Wales* in 1986. The original image is held by the State Archives of New South Wales. This image is undated, the date included is an estimate.

More info

Chronology

- Nautical School Ship Vernon (1867 - 1892)
 - **Sobraon Training Ship (1892 – 1911)**

Related Entries

Run by

- [Colonial Secretary \(1 Jan 1821 - 1 April 1959\)](#)

Related Legislation

- [Reformatory Schools Act 1866, New South Wales \(1869 - 1901\)](#)
Boys were committed to the *Sobraon* under the *Reformatory Schools Act*.
Date: 1892 - 1905
- [Destitute Children Act 1866, New South Wales \(1866 - 1901\)](#)
Boys were committed to the *Sobraon* under the *Destitute Children Act*.
Date: 1892 - 1905
- [Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act 1905, New South Wales \(1905 - 1923\)](#)
Boys were committed to the *Sobraon* under the *Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act*.
Date: 1905 - 1911

Related Organisations

- [Brush Farm Reformatory \(1908 - 1912\)](#)
The 'Sobraon' Training Ship was used until 1911 when the remaining boys were sent to the Mittagong Farm Home for Boys and the Brush Farm Reformatory.
- [Mittagong Farm Home for Boys \(1906 - 1947\)](#)
The 'Sobraon' Training Ship was used until 1911 when the remaining boys were sent to the Mittagong Farm Home for Boys and the Brush Farm Reformatory.

Resources

- Ramsland, John, *Children of the back lanes: destitute and neglected children in colonial New South Wales*, 1986
- Museums of History NSW, [Child Care and Protection Guide](#), No date
- Dunn, Mark, [Vernon nautical training ship](#), Dictionary of Sydney, 2008
- Rubie, Valerie, *Sent to the Mountain: A History of Mount Penang Juvenile Justice Centre*, 2003
- Quinn, Peter E, [Unenlightened efficiency: the administration of the juvenile correction system in New South Wales 1905-1988](#), 27 March 2006
- Museums of History NSW, [School Student Records Guide](#), No date
- Department of Justice, [History](#), Children's Court of New South Wales, 2012
- Central Coast Regional Development Corporation, [History of Mt Penang Parklands](#), No date
- State Records Authority of New South Wales, [Nautical School-ship "Vernon" \(1867-1892\) / Nautical School-ship "Sobraon" \(1892-1911\)](#), No date
- Luke, Sarah, *Like a wicked Noah's Ark: the nautical school ships Vernon and Sobraon*, 2020
- Luke, Sarah, [A day in the life of a Vernon boy](#), Traces Magazine, 11 December 2020

Records

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

Records

- [Entrance books \[Industrial Schools Branch\] \(1867 - 1897\)](#)
 - [Visitors' Book for Nautical School Ship "Vernon" \(1886-1892\) and "Sobraon" \(1892-1910\) \(28 Feb 1886 - 15 Nov 1910\)](#)
 - [Copies of letters sent concerning the administration of public schools \(1880 - 1896\)](#)
 - [Entrance Books \[Industrial Schools Branch\] \(1897 - 1911\)](#)
 - [Correspondence And Documents Relating To Committals \[Industrial Schools Branch\] \(1898 - 1903\)](#)
 - [Placement Book \[Industrial Schools Branch\] \(1904 - 1911\)](#)
 - [Miscellaneous Photographs, Newscuttings And Invitations Relating To NSS 'Sobraon' \[Industrial Schools Branch\] \(1906 - 1925\)](#)
 - [Registers Of Committals \(1907 - 1921\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/sobraon-training-ship/>