

# <i>Sobraon</i> Training Ship

1892 – 1911

**Other Names:** • N.S.S. Sobraon

## Details

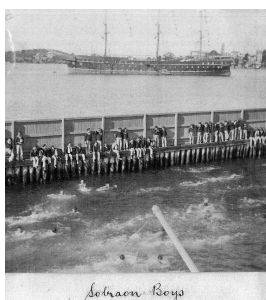
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The *Sobraon* Training Ship replaced the Nautical School Ship *Vernon* as a reformatory in 1892. It was three times the size of the *Vernon* and housed more than 200 boys at a time. After the *Neglected Children's and Juvenile Offenders' Act* of 1905 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.

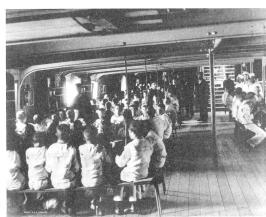
## Gallery

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### Sobraon boys

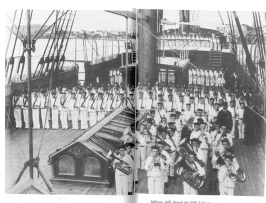
**Description:** This is a digital copy of an image from the Mitchell Library's Small Pictures File of boys on board The H.M.A.S. Sobraon. This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.



Dinner aboard the NSS Sobraon in the early 1890s  
State Archives of NSW (No. 1622)

### 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.

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# More info

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## 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

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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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