

Country Women's Association Hostel, Moree

1956 – 1970s

Other Names:

- CWA Hostel, Moree
- Moree CWA Hostel

Details

The Country Women's Association hostel in Moree was opened in 1956 in Frome Street. It was a boarding hostel for high school girls who lived in isolated areas. With the advent of school buses the building was offered to the Department of Education and became additional classrooms for Moree High School around the early 1970s.

The Land reported in 1996 that the Moree Branch of the Country Women's Association decided to build its own meeting rooms and child welfare centre in Frome Street in 1928. They decided to make this building a hostel for women who were waiting for the impending birth of their children, as the roads were often impassable in the rain. Mrs Matt Sawyer, president of the CWA, opened the building on 18 April 1929.

As transport and road conditions improved, the demand for this service declined. However country girls who sought town employment needed accommodation, as did high school girls who lived in isolated areas. In 1956 the first pupils were taken to board at the hostel.

Iris Smee (nee Fuller), was one of the first girls to enter the hostel. She contacted the Find & Connect web resource to share her photographs and memories. She wrote:

After 1956 (beginning of year) flood [on the Mehi and Gwydir Rivers] caused hostel staff and school girls to be evacuated. The last half of the year, the hostel only a metre off ground, was raised – jacked up – all the while still being used until December 1956!

January 1957 school holidays, when the job was completed for school girls to start school year, in completely raised building, with laundry and three girls showers downstairs.

Iris remembers Governor Sir John Northcott visited and inspected the hostel in 1957 and the girls formed a guard of honour along the front footpath on Frome Street.

Iris also shared photographs of a reunion of girls held in 1996, and of tours of the hostel. According to Iris, the building burned down around 2008.

Gallery



Moree CWA looks back

Description: This is an image of an article that appeared in *The Land* on 30 November 1995 and was donated by Iris Smee, whose annotations appear on the image.



Some originals of 1st intake of CWA Hostel, Moree, 40 years later (1956-1996)

Description: This is a scan of a photograph taken in 1996 and donated by Iris Smee



1996 front CWA Hostel, Frome Street, Moree

Description: This is a digital copy of an image supplied by Iris Smee (nee Fuller). The back of the image states 'building burnt down about five years ago'.



Back yard 1996 CWA Hostel, Moree Reunion (March)

Description: This is a digital copy of an image donated by Iris Smee (nee Fuller).



June 1957 standing in the high school yard looking at Hostel [Moree]

Description: This is a digital copy of an image donated by Iris Smee (nee Fuller).



June 1957 Frome Street, Moree: NSW Front CWA Hostel Moree

Description: This is a digital copy of an image donated by Iris Smee (nee Fuller).



1996 photo SWA Hostel Moree. Standing in 'Kirkby Park'

Description: This is a digital copy of an image donated by Iris Smee (nee Fuller).



1957 Moree CWA Hostel Girls: visited by Sir John Northcott, Governor of New South Wales who visited and went through hostel

Description: This is a digital copy of an image donated by Iris Smee (nee Fuller). The photograph is captioned 'Front CWA Hostel, Moree, after building raised because of 1956 flood. Hostel girls formed guard-of-honour for Governor General along front footpath.'

More info

Related Entries

Related Organisations

- [Country Women's Association of New South Wales \(1922 - current\)](#)
Country Women's Association Moree branch members ran the CWA Hostel at Moree.

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/country-womens-association-hostel-moree/>