

Castledare

1934 – 1983

- Other Names:**
- Castledare School
 - St Vincent's Preparatory School for Boys
 - Castledare Junior Orphanage for Boys
 - Castledare Orphanage
 - Castledare Boys' Orphanage
 - Castledare Boys' Home
 - Castledare Junior Boys' Orphanage

Details

Castledare was established by the Christian Brothers in Queen's Park (later, Wilson) on the site of the former Castledare Special School. It began as a residential primary school for boys aged from around 6 to 12 years, including boys who were wards of the State and boys who were placed privately (by family or others), in premises previously used for the 'Castledare Special School'. Mostly, boys placed at Castledare were aged 8-10 years. Australian-born boys were sent to Castledare, as were child migrants (1947-1966). Castledare has had many name variations over the years, usually keeping 'Castledare' somewhere in the title. Castledare closed in 1983.

A residential institution, Castledare, operated on a site in what became 100 Fern Road, Wilson (originally, Queen's Park) from 1934 until 1983. It was run by the Christian Brothers. Castledare was originally (1929-1934) a 'special' school for boys with learning difficulties; and from 1934 it became a more general educational and residential institution that accommodated boys from various backgrounds including wards of the State, child migrants, orphans and private admissions. Although it began with boys aged 6-12 years, it became more common for Castledare to admit boys aged around 8 to 10 years. British and Maltese child migrants, and Australian-born Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal boys lived at Castledare.

Barry Coldrey writes of Castledare (*The Scheme* 1993, p.67):

Besides State wards it gradually attracted 'private' pupils and in a few years, there were about the same number in each class. Some parents found it convenient to place their children in Castledare because of some family emergency, and it served as a moderately priced boarding school. The school was periodically inspected by Officers of the Child Welfare Department.

Coldrey also explains that to 'remove objections of parents' Castledare was called 'St Vincent's Preparatory School for Boys' in 1934. But that name does not appear in the Child Welfare Department Annual Reports, which instead listed it as Castledare School or the Castledare Junior Orphanage for Boys.

Government reports (*Signposts* 2004, pp.144-148) don't show the number of boys resident in every year, but it can be seen from published figures that Castledare's greatest period of growth was after World War II. In 1937, there were 42 boys at Castledare. Between 1957 and 1968, there were around 100 boys at each year's census. By 1975, there was accommodation for around 45 boys and in 1982, there were 32 boys.

Some boys stayed at Castledare for short periods, while others remained there for years at a time. Castledare's purpose when it opened in 1934 was to educate primary-school age boys who would progress to 'farm schools' at Clontarf or Tardun. Some boys, who lived most of their childhoods in Christian Brothers' institutions, did follow this path. But Castledare also seems to have been used to accommodate boys for shorter periods of time and in response to referrals from child welfare authorities or families. From the admissions data available, it seems there was always a high proportion of 'private' admissions to Castledare.

During World War II, the boys remained at Castledare and in 1944 the institution was inspected by Mr W. Garnett, from the British High Commission. According to Coldrey (*the Scheme* 1993, pp.177-178), Garnett was not impressed with conditions at Castledare and found it to be 'poorly equipped' with a 'low standard' of accommodation. As Garnett was inspecting Castledare with a view to sending post-war child migrants there, his negative report concerned authorities.

When the British Fact-Finding Mission on Child Migration inspected Castledare in 1956, it found about 120 children being cared for by four Christian Brothers, a staff ratio of around 1:29, much lower than the rate at other institutions with child migrants at that time (Child Migration Programmes Investigation Report, 2022, p.139).

In evidence to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care, later known as the 'Forgotten Australians' inquiry, a man described (*Forgotten Australians* 2004, p.42), a life in Castledare that has left a deep impression on him: 'In 1950 aged 7 years along with other children, I was transferred to Castledare. This is where Hell on earth began. In 1954, aged 11, I was sent to Clontarf Boys Town a few miles away, where Hell continued for the rest of my childhood'.

Published, official, reports generally present a brighter picture.

The Christian Brothers' institutions Castledare, Bindoon, Clontarf and Tardun first received widespread publicity about child abuse in the early 1990s. In 1993, the Christian Brothers in Western Australia issued an apology and from 1995 have funded independent services to help with family tracing, counselling and remedial education for men who had suffered in their institutions. Many former residents of these institutions have shared their experiences and memories (bad and good) at government inquiries, in books and in oral histories.

Castledare closed in 1983, but the chapel remains open.

Castledare was investigated by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Case Study 11: Christian Brothers.

Gallery



Castledare Slideshow

Description: This is a slideshow of photographs from the archives of the Christian Brothers Oceania Province. It was created by 'old boys' Peter Bent and Michael Hogan, with assistance from Ed Butler, using images from 'Institution Albums 1 and 2'. It shows all sorts of scenes from life at Castledare from the 1940s to 1960s. Many people assisted with the identification of boys, brothers and staff to create captions for the images in this slideshow. DVD copies of this slideshow are available from Tuart Place. Please click on the photo, which will take you to youtube.



Dormitory, 1950

Description: This is a digitised copy of a negative and is part of the group of six images called 'Facilities at Castledare [picture]' held at the State Library of Western Australia. The image shows the dormitory at Castledare in 1950.



Boys in 'factions', 1950

Description: This is a digitised copy of a negative and is part of the group of seven images titled 'Boys at Castledare [picture]' held at the State Library of Western Australia. The image shows a large groups of boys posing for a photo in front of a water tower.



Castledare, January 1985

Description: This is a photo of the main building at Castledare, taken in January 1985. It shows the front of a decorative single-storey building with a central turret with windows on all sides. There is a crest or decoration above the front door featuring what appear to be thistles sitting in a vase. The name 'Niana' is painted on the window above the door. This photo is one of a group of seven photos taken at Castledare by the photographer, Betty Smith, and held by State Library of Western Australia. The other photos show the chapel, a house, and shrines/statues within the grounds of Castledare.

More info

Chronology

- Castledare Special School (1929 - 1934)
 - **Castledare (1934 – 1983)**

Related Entries

Run by

- [St Patrick's Province of the Christian Brothers \(1953 - 1967\)](#)
- [Holy Spirit Province of the Christian Brothers \(1967 - 2007\)](#)
- [Australasian Province of the Christian Brothers \(1885 - 1953\)](#)

Date: 1934 - 1953

Related Events

- [Fact-Finding Mission on Child Migration \(1956\)](#)
The Ross Fact-Finding Mission reported on conditions at Castledare to the British and Australian authorities.
- [Royal Commission appointed to Inquire into the Care and Reform of Youthful Delinquents, State of Western Australia \(1943\)](#)

Castledare was used to confine boys who had been convicted of offences by the Children's Court, according to evidence given in the Royal Commission appointed to Inquire into the Care and Reform of Youthful Delinquents.

Date: 1943 -

- [Case Study 11: Christian Brothers, Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse \(2014\)](#)
- [Select Committee into Child Migration, Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Western Australia \(June 1996 - November 1996\)](#)
The Select Committee into Child Migration heard evidence about Castledare.
- [Child Migration Programmes Investigation, UK Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse \(2017 - 2018\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Clontarf \(8 September 1901 - 1983\)](#)
Boys often went to Clontarf from Castledare.
Date: 1929 - 1983

- [Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association \(1947? - 1970\)](#)
The Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association was the church agency that 'received' child migrants from Britain and Malta to Castledare.
- [St Vincent's Foundling Home \(1914 - 1971\)](#)
Boys often went to Castledare from St Vincent's Foundling Home when they were about six years old.
Date: 1934 - 1971
- [Tardun Farm School \(1928 - 2008\)](#)
Boys often went to Tardun from Castledare.
Date: 1934 - 1966
- [Catholic Child Welfare Council, United Kingdom \(1929 - 2003\)](#)
The Catholic Child Welfare Council was a British peak group for agencies that sent boys as child migrants from Britain to Castledare.
- [Bindoon \(1936 - 1966\)](#)
Boys sometimes went to Castledare from Bindoon.
Date: 1936s - 1966
- [Father Hudson's Society, United Kingdom \(1902 - current\)](#)
Father Hudson's Society was one of the 'sending agencies' that sent boys as child migrants from Britain to Castledare.

Resources

- Community Affairs References Committee, [Lost Innocents: Righting the record - Report on child migration](#), 30 August 2001
- Immigration Museum, [Stolen childhoods](#), 2012
- Coldrey, Barry, [Good British stock: child and youth migration to Australia](#), 1999
- [On their own: Britain's child migrants](#), Australian National Maritime Museum website, 2010
- Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, [Report of Case Study No. 11: Congregation of Christian Brothers in Western Australia response to child sexual abuse at Castledare Junior Orphanage, St Vincent's Orphanage Clontarf, St Mary's Agricultural School Tardun and Bindoon Farm School](#), December 2014
- [John Walsh interviewed by Hamish Sewell in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project](#), 28 March 2011
- [Bert McGregor interviewed by Caroline Evans in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project](#), 1 October 2010
- [Ivor Knight interviewed by Christine Choo in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project](#), 14 June 2011 - 28 June 2011
- [Anthony Brennan interviewed by Christine Choo for the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project](#), February 2012
- [Oliver Cosgrove interviewed by Christine Choo for the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project](#), February 2012
- [Robert Francis Allan Isaacs interviewed by John Bannister in the Bringing them home oral history project \(2000\)](#), 2 March 2000
- [Catholic Church schools and homes with the most child abuse claims revealed](#), ABC News, 17 February 2017
- [Child Migration](#), National Archives of Australia, No date
- Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission and the Australian Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes, [A piece of the story : national directory of records of Catholic organisations caring for children separated from families](#), November 1999
- [Child Migrants Trust \[website\]](#), 2011
- McGregor, James Albert, [Submission no 34 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 5 July 2003
- Knight, Ivor Alan, [Submission No 11 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
- Knight, Ivor Alan, [Out of darkness : growing up with the Christian brothers](#), 1998
- Pinnell, Barry George, [Submission No 25 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 23 May 2003
- Coldrey, Barry, [Submission No 40 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 19 April 2003
- Walsh, John, [Submission No 41 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 23 July 2003
- [Cosgrove, Oliver Manuscript Note](#), State Library of Western Australia website, 1998
- Department for Community Development, State of Western Australia, [Submission No 55 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), July 2003

- Congregation of the Christian Brothers WA and SA, [Submission no 65 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), July 2003
- Bradshaw, Paul, [Submission No 85 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 1 July 2003
- Haenow, Ted, [Submission No 251 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
- House of Commons Health Committee, [Minutes of Evidence Taken Before the Health Committee on 4 June 1998 \(Health - Third Report\)](#), 4 June 1998
- House of Commons Health Committee, [Minutes of Evidence Taken Before the Health Committee on 11 June 1998 \(Health - Third Report\)](#), 11 June 1998
- The International Association of Former Child Migrants and Their Families, [Submission No 129 to the Senate Inquiry into Child Migration](#), 2001
- Family Care Society, [Memorandum by the Family Care Society](#), Minutes of Evidence Taken Before the Health Committee on 11 June 1998, 11 June 1998
- [Boy Migrants](#), The West Australian, 10 August 1938
- Bent, Peter, [Submission No 365 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 25 March 2004
- Thomas, Ivy, [Submission No 483 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 1 November 2004
- Tulloh, Ernie, [Submission No 496 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 24 November 2004
- Coldrey, Barry, [Submission No 15 to the Senate Inquiry into Child Migration](#), 2001
- [Education: Aborigines Living away from home](#), Hansard Archive 1870 to 1995, 6 November 1973

Other Resources

Title: The Christian Brothers' Agricultural School, Tardun, Western Australia
Type: Image
Date: c. 1936
[Details](#)

Records

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

Records

- [Records of Christian Brothers Children's Institutions in Western Australia \(1888 - 1983\)](#)
 - [Catholic Archdiocese of Perth CEMWA and CMC Files \[Former Child Migrants\], Catholic Archdiocese of Perth \(c. 1928 - 2008\)](#)
 - [Tuart Place Historical Photos Collection](#)
 - [Father Hudson's Society, Records \(1902 - current\)](#)
 - [Commonwealth Child and Youth Migration Records \(1901 - 1983\)](#)
 - [UK fact finding mission 1956 part 2, National Archives of Australia \(1955 - 1956\)](#)
 - [John Moss C.B.E. U.K. Child Welfare Expert. Visit to Australia. Part II, National Archives of Australia \(1951 - 1952\)](#)
 - [PHIND Personal History Index \(1938 - 1965\)](#)
 - [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
 - [Correspondence files, multiple number series \(policy matters\) \(1922 - 1968\)](#)
 - [Files - Community Welfare \("A" Series\), State Records Office of Western Australia \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)
 - [Files - Child Welfare, State Records Office of Western Australia \(1 January 1917 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
 - [Indentures \(Guardianship\) \(1947 - 1960\)](#)
 - [Former Child Migrants Referral Index \(1913 - 1968\)](#)
 - [Former Child Migrants Blue Index Cards \(1947 - 1968\)](#)
 - [Papers, 1948-1997 \[manuscript\] \[Cosgrove\] \(1948 - 1997\)](#)
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