

Salvation Army Boys' Home

1918 – 1965

Other Names:

- Nedlands Boys' Home
- Subiaco Boys' Home
- West Subiaco Boys' Home
- Nedlands Boys' Orphanage
- Karrakatta Boys' Home
- Home for Probationary Boys, West Subiaco
- West Subiaco Probationary Home

Details

The Salvation Army Boys' Home, Nedlands (West Subiaco) was established in 1918. From at least the 1930s, boys aged under 6 to 16 years were admitted, including boys who were wards and private children. In 1965, the Boys' Home was renamed the Hollywood Children's Village as the Home moved from dormitory to cottage-style accommodation.

The Salvation Army Boys' Home was located on a site in the Perth suburb of West Subiaco (Nedlands) that had previously housed the Karrakatta Prison Gate Farm (1906-1918). It began in 1918 with the admission of 36 school-age boys who were transferred from the Collie Boys' Home (Collie No.2). Not all boys were 'State Boys', many were admitted by their families. Many boys were sent out to work under service agreements from the Home.

The Salvation Army's magazine, *The Victory* reported in 1919 (1 October, p.294) that 69 boys were at the Home, that a majority of them were 'State Boys', and they had a 'very proficient Band'. A month later, another article (1 November, p.352) said that the Home had 'been visited by the influenza scourge', and the annual report of the State Children Department recorded that one boy died in that epidemic.

The boys were expected to participate in the religious activities of the Salvation Army and it was reported in 1919 that the boys from the Home would march the 15 minute journey to the new Corps building in Subiaco, 'headed by their Band', every Sunday morning.

From 1920 until it amalgamated with the Hollywood Primary School in 1959, the Salvation Army ran a school at the Boys' Home.

In 1921, the Home was described in Salvation Army historical records as a Home for 'probationary boys'. 'Probationary' seems to be a term used by the Salvation Army to classify children who were in need of care and protection.

In October 1924, the Salvation Army's newspaper *War Cry* published a poem written by CH Brooks of Wikepin. The poem recalled a visit to the town by the boys from the Nedlands (West Subiaco) Home, and praised the 'ladder work', 'Swedish drill', 'Human pyramids', and 'Shadowgraphs' performed by the boys. The poem also mentioned the boys' onward journey to Narrogin.

From the 1930s, the Salvation Army Boys' Home took boys from under 6 to 16 years of age.

During World War II, the boys and staff were relocated to what had been the Seaforth Salvation Army Girls' Home.

Documents held in the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA and items in Western Australian newspapers show that the Home was supported by Perth community leaders. For example, a performance by the BP Band was described in 1959 as an annual event for the boys, which had been organised 'several years ago' by the local member of Parliament (and, later, Premier) CW Court MLA.

In 1964, and probably in other years, boys from the Home sang Christmas carols in department stores in Perth.

In 1965, when the Hollywood Children's Village was being built on the Nedlands site, the Boys' Home was described in a Perth newspaper as being 'old and dilapidated'. In 1965, the institution was renamed 'Hollywood Children's Village' and dormitory-style accommodation was replaced by a cottage parent model.

The Salvation Army Boys' Home was mentioned in the Bringing Them Home Report (1997) as an institution that housed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children removed from their families.

The Salvation Army Boys' Home was investigated by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Case Study 33: The Salvation Army children's Homes, Australia Southern Territory.

Gallery



Young Australians. These boys are a few of those who are being cared for at the Salvation Army Boys' Home in Nedlands.

Young Australians

Description: This photograph is from an article in the *Western Mail* titled 'Salvation Army's Jubilee'. It shows some of the boys who lived at the Salvation Army Boys' Home in Nedlands.



Salvation Army Home for Boys, Subiaco, 1920

Description: This is a digitised copy of a photoprint and is part of the Shapcott collection of photographs held at the State Library of Western Australia. The image shows the boys' dormitory (on the left) and the Supervisor's quarters, taken in 1920.



Salvation Army Home for Boys, Subiaco, 1920

Description: This is a digitised copy of a photoprint and is part of the Shapcott collection of photographs held at the State Library of Western Australia. The image shows the boys' dormitory (on the left) and the Supervisor's quarters, taken in 1920.



Nedlands Dorms

Description: 'Nedlands Dorms' is a digital copy of an item held in the Salvation Army Children's Homes, Nedlands Library Pictorial Collection. The image is undated. It is possible that this photograph was taken before the Salvation Army Boys' Home was converted to the Hollywood Children's Village.



Salvation Army Children's Homes, Nedlands

Description: This is an image of the entrance to the Salvation Army Children's Homes, Nedlands. The image is a digital copy of an item held in the Salvation Army Children's Homes, Nedlands Library Pictorial Collection.



Nedlands Lasses Cottage

Description: 'Nedlands Lasses Cottage' is a digital copy of an item held in the Salvation Army Children's Homes, Nedlands Library Pictorial Collection. 'Lasses' or 'Lassies' were female Salvationists.



Nedlands Quad 02

Description: 'Nedlands Quad 02' is a digital copy of an item held in the Salvation Army Children's Homes, Nedlands Library Pictorial Collection. The image is undated. It is possible that this photograph was taken before the Salvation Army Boys' Home was converted to the Hollywood Children's Village.



Nedlands Quad 03

Description: 'Nedlands Quad 03' is a digital copy of an item held in the Salvation Army Children's Homes, Nedlands Library Pictorial Collection. The image is undated. It is possible that this photograph was taken before the Salvation Army Boys' Home was converted to the Hollywood Children's Village. There is a boy on the verandah.



Nedlands Drive

Description: 'Nedlands Drive' is a digital copy of an item held in the Salvation Army Children's Homes, Nedlands Library Pictorial Collection, showing some little boys playing in the distance. It is possible that this photograph was taken before the Salvation Army Boys' Home was converted to the Hollywood Children's Village.



Nedlands Boys c.1962 04

Description: 'Nedlands Boys c.1962 04' is a digital copy of an item held in the Salvation Army Children's Homes, Nedlands Library Pictorial Collection. It shows the entrance sign for the Salvation Army Boys' Home at Nedlands.



The Salvation Army Boys' Home Nedlands, Sign

Description: 'The Salvation Army Boys' Home Nedlands, Sign' is a digital copy of an item held in the Salvation Army Children's Homes, Nedlands Library Pictorial Collection.



Salvation Army Boys' Home Nedlands, Quadrangle and Dormitories

Description: 'Salvation Army Boys' Home Nedlands, Quadrangle and Dormitories' is a digital copy of an item held in the Salvation Army Children's Homes, Nedlands Library Pictorial Collection. The date is uncertain. There was no quadrangle until 1941. The buildings around the quadrangle were repainted in 1954 and colour images of that area show lighter paint used on windowsills.



Salvation Army Boys' Home Nedlands, Quadrangle

Description: 'Salvation Army Boys' Home Nedlands, Quadrangle' is a digital copy of an item held in the Salvation Army Children's Homes, Nedlands Library Pictorial Collection. The date is uncertain. There was no quadrangle until 1941. The buildings around the quadrangle were repainted in 1954 and colour images of that area show lighter paint used on windowsills.



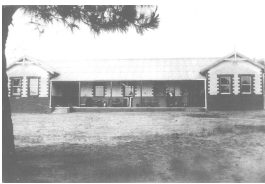
Nedlands Boys' Home, Dining Room

Description: 'Nedlands Boys' Home, Dining Room' is a digital copy of an item held in the Salvation Army Children's Homes, Nedlands Library Pictorial Collection. The image is undated. There were renovations to the Home in 1951-1954 and the furniture is consistent with that era, so it is likely that the photograph was taken after 1950 on a special occasion.



Nedlands p152361 kitchen and dining room [Salvation Army]

Description: 'Nedlands p152361 kitchen and dining room' is a digital copy of an item held in the Salvation Army Children's Homes, Nedlands Library Pictorial Collection. The date is uncertain. There was no quadrangle until 1941. The buildings around the quadrangle were repainted in 1954 and colour images of that area show lighter paint used on windowsills.



Salvation Army Boys' Home, Nedlands, 1936

Description: 'Salvation Army Boys' Home, Nedlands, 1936' is a digital copy of an item held in the Salvation Army Children's Homes, Nedlands Library Pictorial Collection and the *Nedlands Boys Home closed social work* file at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA. The museum version has a typed caption that reads, 'William St. Front Entrance Nedlands Boy's Home - 1936'. There are people on the verandah.



Visit to Kalgoorlie

Description: 'Visit to Kalgoorlie' is a digital copy of an item held in the *Kalgoorlie Photos* file at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA. The item is a photocopied excerpt from *The War Cry* dated 15 October 1921. The caption reports on a visit by the 'Subiaco Boys' and the presence of 'Girls from the Lamington Home'. These refer to the Salvation Army Boys' Home, West Subiaco (Nedlands) and the Salvation Army Girls' Home, Kalgoorlie (Lamington Heights).



Pied Piper Cottage at the Hollywood Children's Village

Description: 'Pied Piper Cottage at the Hollywood Children's Village' is a digital copy of an image from the pamphlet, *Serving the community in Western Australia*, that is held in the *Hillcrest photos* file at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA. The image dates from the period before girls were admitted to the Village, which was also known at that time as the Salvation Army Boys' Home, Nedlands.



Nedlands Boys Orphanage, 1951

Description: 'Nedlands Boys Orphanage, 1951' is a digital copy of a photograph held in the *Nedlands Boys Home closed social work* file at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA. A typed caption reads: 'The Salvation Army Nedlands Boy's Home - 1951. 59 Boys in truck and 17 standing outside! OK, You try counting em! In cabin is Brig. Jack Osborn - Outside cabin is Major David Capes. At the tailgate is Major Joe Pearce'. One of the boys is named in the caption.



Boys and girls at Salvation Army Boys' Home, Nedlands, 1948

Description: 'Boys and girls at Salvation Army Boys' Home, Nedlands, 1948' is a digital copy of a photograph held in the *Nedlands Boys Home closed social work* file at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA. A handwritten caption reads in part, 'Boys stayed home from Royal Show Lunch 1948'.



Salvation Army Boys Home, boys and fence

Description: 'Salvation Army Boys Home, boys and fence' is a digital copy of an undated photograph held in the *Nedlands Boys Home closed social work* file at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA. After 1965, the Home became known as the Hollywood Children's Village (or Boys' Village) so the image has been dated to the period up to 1965.



Female officers' quarters, Salvation Army Boys' Home, Nedlands, 1947

Description: 'Female officers' quarters, Salvation Army Boys' Home, Nedlands, 1947' is a digital copy of a photograph held in the *Nedlands Boys Home closed social work* file at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA. There is a handwritten caption which reads, 'Nedlands Lassies Quarters 1947'. According to the Director of the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA in 2013, 'Lassies' was a term previously used for female Salvation Army officers.



Hollywood Children's Village, aerial view

Description: 'Hollywood Children's Village, aerial view' is a digital copy of an undated photocopy held in the *Nedlands Boys Home closed social work* file at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA. A typed list in the file identifies the numbered buildings that are visible on the photocopy, showing the different eras of the property. The list has a note that alerts readers to possible omissions and mis-identification of buildings. On the right of the photocopy is the site of the original Karrakatta Prison Gate Farm which became the Salvation Army Boys' Home (1 and 2). On the left, are the newer cottages of the Hollywood Children's Village: Pied Piper Cottage (13); Brand Cottage (14); Buckingham Cottage (15); Cottesloe, also known as 'Withnell' Cottage (16); Cook's Cottage (17); Gymnasium, with a kitchen at the rear to service the cottages (18); Administration Block, including welfare officers' interview rooms, homework room and library (19); and Vegetable Gardens and Sports Oval (22). The other buildings form the Salvation Army Senior Citizens' Village. The aerial view must have been taken after 1970, which is when Cottesloe (Withnell) Cottage opened.



Boy Gymnasts, Salvation Army Boys' Home, Nedlands

Description: 'Boy Gymnasts, Salvation Army Boys' Home, Nedlands' is a digital copy of an undated photocopied image held in the *Nedlands Boys Home closed social work* file at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA, showing boys and possibly a staff member. The image shows boys in a gymnastic display in the grounds of the Home.



Nedlands Boy's Home (West Subiaco)

Description: 'Nedlands Boy's Home (West Subiaco)' is a digital copy of an undated photograph mounted on a single piece of paper, held in the *West Subiaco Boy's Home closed social work* file at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA. A handwritten caption gives the image its title. A small boy can be seen in the photograph.

Subiaco Boy's Home 1930's



Matron Maloney 1950?



Subiaco Boy's Home

Description: 'Subiaco Boy's Home' is a digital copy of two photographs mounted on a single piece of paper, held in the *West Subiaco Boy's Home closed social work* file at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA. Both images have handwritten captions. The first, a photograph of the front of the Salvation Army Boy's Home, Nedlands reads, 'Subiaco Boy's Home 1930's'. The second photograph, showing boys and a woman on the steps of the Home reads, 'Matron Maloney 1950?'



Children at Nedlands, c. 1950s

Description: This image was originally titled "Seaforth Boy's Home circa 1948", and was from the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA. The description of the photo included the information: "the typed caption reads in part, 'Seaforth Boy's Home - circa 1948 I counted 73 boys + driver.'" and that the photo was originally called "Young Australians". In 2025, the Find & Connect web resource was contacted by a former resident of both Seaforth Boys Home and the Salvation Army Home in Nedlands, who identified this photo as being taken at Nedlands not Seaforth. It is also likely this photograph was taken in the 1950s, not around 1948 as initially identified. With the closure of the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA in 2023, the whereabouts of the original photograph are unknown. The Salvation Army Museum in Melbourne holds a digital copy of this photograph however no additional information is attached to it.

More info

Chronology

- **Salvation Army Boys' Home (1918 – 1965)**
 - Hollywood Children's Village, Salvation Army (1965 - 1994)

Related Entries

Run by

- [The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territory \(1921 - 2018\)](#)
- [The Salvation Army, Australian Territory \(1880 - 1921\)](#)

Related Events

- [Case Study 33: The Salvation Army children's Homes, Australia Southern Territory, Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse \(2015\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Collie Boys' Home \(1902 - 1920\)](#)

When The Collie Boys' Home closed, boys were sent to the Salvation Army Boys' Home in the Perth suburb of West Subiaco (later known as Nedlands).

- [Seaforth Salvation Army Boys' Homes, Gosnells \(1920 - 1955\)](#)

Boys were transferred between the Seaforth Salvation Army Boys' Homes, Gosnells and the Salvation Army Boys' Home in Nedlands (West Subiaco). During World War II, the Nedlands boys all moved to Seaforth temporarily. When Seaforth closed, boys were transferred permanently to Nedlands.

Date: 1920 - 1955

Resources

- Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, [Bringing Them Home: Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families](#), 1997. Relevance: The Salvation Army Boys' Home was mentioned in the Bringing Them Home Report (1997) as an institution that housed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children removed from their families
- Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, *Report of Case Study No. 33: The response of the Salvation Army (Southern Territory) to allegations of child sexual abuse at children's homes that it operated*, July 2016
- Cleland, Sharon, [Caring for the Children: A history of institutional care provided by The Salvation Army for Australian children and youth \(1893-1995\)](#), August 2012
- The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territorial Headquarters (Vic), [Submission No. 46 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care: Appendix A: Children's Homes - A list of openings, closings and function](#), July 2003
- Manning, Lorna, [Submission No 184 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 19 August 2003
- Hart, Brian, [Submission No 231 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2 September 2003
- Rowe, William, [Submission No 438 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 17 August 2004
- Tulloh, Ernie, [Submission No 496 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 24 November 2004
- [Salvation Army's Jubilee](#), Western Mail, 15 February 1945
- [Collie Home](#), The Daily News, 2 August 1920
- *Remaking Young Australians*, The War Cry, 26 March 1921
- *A new chapter*, The War Cry, 28 January 1995
- *Survivor returns the favour*, The West Australian, 5 March 2011
- *Thomas struggled to millionaire status*, The West Australian, June 1981

Other Resources

Title: Salvation Army Nedlands drawings and plans

Type: Image

Date: 2009

[Details](#)

Title: Buckingham Cottage

Type: Image

Date: 1969? - 1994?

[Details](#)

Title: West Subiaco W.A. 1920

Type: Image

Date: 1921

[Details](#)

Records

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

Records

- [Historical information, memorabilia and photographs of the Salvation Army](#)
 - [Children's Homes Files, Western Australian Salvation Army Homes \(1897 - 2012\)](#)
 - [Photographs relating to life at Salvation Army children's homes in Cottesloe and Subiaco, State Library of Western Australia \(1921 - 1922\)](#)
 - [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
 - [Salvation Army, Nedlands Library Local Studies Collection, Nedlands Library \(1918? - 2000s\)](#)
 - [Papers \[manuscript\], Salvation Army Boys' Home, Nedlands \(1940 - 1956\)](#)
 - [Tuart Place Historical Photos Collection](#)
 - [Salvation Army Australia, Records of Homes in the former Southern Territory \(c. 1889 - c. 1988\)](#)
 - [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 \(1 January 1917 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
 - [Files - Departmental \[Education Department\] \(1 January 1885 - 31 December 2000\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/salvation-army-boys-home/>