

Salvation Army Girls' Home, Cottesloe

1918 – 1969

Other Names:

- Kia Ora Salvation Army Home for Girls
- Byanda
- Cottesloe Beach Girls' Home
- Salvation Army Children's Home
- Mosman Park Orphanage
- Cottesloe Girls' Home
- Cottesloe Beach Probationary Home

Details

The Salvation Army Girls' Home, Cottesloe was established in 1918. Girls aged 3 to 16 years and pre-school aged boys were accommodated in either 'Kia-Ora' or 'Byanda'. During World War II, the Home relocated to Kellerberrin in 1942, and returned to Cottesloe in 1944. In 1969 the girls were transferred to Withnell House, Mt Lawley, which they called 'Cottesloe House', but which was known by the Department of Child Welfare as 'Withnell House Girls Home'. The buildings at Cottesloe were demolished.

The Salvation Army Girls' Home was run by the Salvation Army from 1918 in the Perth suburb of Cottesloe. Fifty-six girls from the Salvation Army Industrial School for Girls at Collie were the first children to live there. According to Salvation Army historical records, Cottesloe was developed because the girls' Home at Collie was receiving more requests for admissions than it could accommodate. Younger 'probationary girls as distinct from those who are classified as reformatory' were sent from Collie to the new Home at Cottesloe towards the end of 1918. 'Probationary' seems to be a term used by the Salvation Army to classify children who were in need of care and protection.

Cottesloe admitted girls who were aged 3 to 16 years, including girls who were Wards and also private admissions. Pre-school aged boys were also admitted. There were two houses on a large plot of land near the Cottesloe beach. From 1920, older girls were accommodated in the Kia-Ora house, and the younger children lived in Byanda.

Various operating dates and names have been given for the Salvation Army Girls' Home, Cottesloe. Detailed archival research conducted for the Find & Connect web resource at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA confirms that the Home opened in 1918 and closed in 1969. Government and Salvation Army records also refer to 'Cottesloe Girls' Home' and the Salvation Army Girls' Home, Cottesloe. Either of these names refer to the same institution, which was also known as the 'Cottesloe Beach Girls' Home', the 'Mosman Park Orphanage' and the 'Salvation Army Children's Home' at different times. As there were two 'wings' at the Home, it was sometimes also referred to as either 'Kia-Ora' or 'Byanda'.

The first entry in its 'history record' book described the establishment of the Cottesloe Home:

The Cottesloe Home for Girls was started in December 1918. On Dec. 18. 56 girls were transferred from the Collie home. 45 were State Children and 11 were Private cases. 53 were under the age of 14 years.

The three over 14 came to assist in the Home. Historical Record of The Children's Home, 15 Broome Street Cottesloe Beach 18 December 1918

The foundation stone, unveiled at the Home's official opening on 1 September 1919 read:

For the Glory of God. Opened by Commissioner T.H. Howard (Chief of the Staff), 1st September, 1919. 'She reacheth forth her hands to the needy.' Prov. Xxxi. 20. James Hay, Commissioner. W. Bramwell Booth, General.

At the opening ceremony, the girls were reported to be look 'very healthy and charming in their serviceable fawn-coloured dresses' and sat in the schoolroom, 'demure, but interested, while the visitors chatted to them' *The War Cry* 27 September 1919, p.5

From the 1920s, girls were sent out to work under service agreements.

Originally, everyone lived in the large building, Kia-Ora, but in June 1920 an adjoining property, Byanda, was purchased. It had room for 36 children and two officers. The younger children lived in Byanda.

Outbreaks of illness such as measles (1921, 1936) and influenza (1921), scarlet fever (1923), whooping cough (1924, 1937), mumps (1950), chicken pox (1951) and diphtheria (1951) were also recorded by the Matron.

Children at the Home were expected to participate in religious and fundraising activities, and notable events and efforts were recorded in the history record book. A new Matron in 1939 made favourable comments about the children's conduct as 'guards' and 'sunbeams'. Garden fundraising fetes, outings and entertainments, such as the children's 'annual birthday party' were also documented, along with notable donations from sponsors of the Home.

A mandolin and guitar band started in May 1923 and a Band of Hope was established in 1936. Children participated in community events such as Royal Show and other competitions, and prizes were recorded in the history record book.

Inspections of the Home were also recorded, and included comments by high-ranking Salvation Army officials and members of the Children's Court.

A school operated on the site from 1919 and was enlarged over the years, and the history record book describes most of the major renovations and refurbishments to the Home, including the construction of a 'great V for victory placed in cement on the back verandah' in 1941. The Home was situated along a major thoroughfare between Perth and the port of Fremantle, so there was a heightened awareness of troop movements and of wartime preparations:

The children all keyed up, waiting for they knew not what. Hopping under beds at different times to sleep, for fear, something might happen. Falling flat out on the ground when an aeroplane came along, in case it was the enemy. The night of the mock evacuation a night to be remembered. We tried to tell them it was fun. Fun at 2am. All dress when the siren blows and out and away down the street. The sirens everywhere wailing. Byanda children passed Kia-Ora in the street. No child spoke. Around they went and back to bed. Enough for children, their nerves were upset onward. Historical Record of The Children's Home, 15 Broome Street Cottesloe Beach Undated entry from Major A. Adams, Matron on her retirement from Cottesloe in 1949

In March 1942, the Home relocated to Kellerberrin when the army requisitioned the Cottesloe premises after Darwin was bombed. There, they operated from a former working men's hostel, the Prince of Wales Hostel, and the adjacent cooperative store. Some children of Salvation Army officers were also included with the evacuees and the government teachers from Cottesloe were also transferred to Kellerberrin.

Staff have recalled that the people of the Kellerberrin district were very generous to the Home during this period.

Children and staff returned to Cottesloe on 24 April 1944. The Home was repaired and renovated after the army's occupation and gradually life returned to 'normal'. By 1951, a new ablution block had been added, along with a sleepout for Byanda, and the old school, which had closed in 1948, was converted to a recreation hall and homework room. Lighting was installed in the yard and in the grounds between Kia-Ora and Byanda. In 2006, a former resident from this era recalled Kia Ora had 17 rooms; Byanda had six rooms; there were two laundry rooms and five rooms in the ablution block.

At this time, the uniform of the Home was maroon tunics, blazers and felt hats and in the following years a purchase of black shoes, grey coats and straw hats and sandals for summer completed the outfit. Girls marched 'crocodile style' to and from the Mosman Park Corps in these outfits on Sundays.

Children went to the Cottesloe Primary School and the Princess May High School in Fremantle.

Byanda was vacated in 1968 and all the staff and residents were lodged in Kia-Ora until that, too, closed.

When the Home closed in 1969, the residents and staff transferred to Withnell House, Mt Lawley, which had been a boys' hostel. They renamed the property 'Cottesloe House', although it was known to the Child Welfare Department from 1969 to 1972 as 'Withnell House Girls Home'.

Gallery



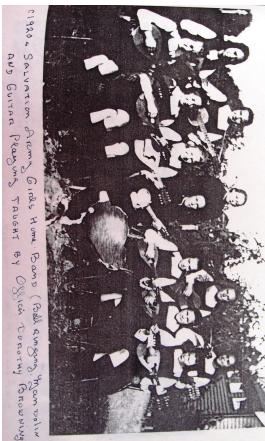
Meal time at the girls' home at Cottesloe

Description: This photograph is from an article in the *Western Mail* titled 'Salvation Army's Jubilee'. It shows a small group of girls seated around a dining table at the Salvation Army Girls' Home at Cottesloe.



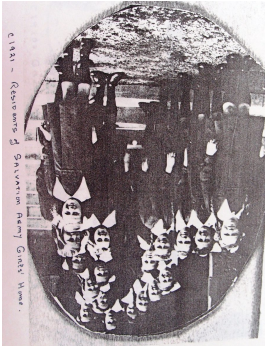
Salvation Army Girls at Cottesloe Beach

Description: This is a digitised copy from a collection of photocopies of images held by the State Library of Western Australia in its collection, 'Photographs relating to life at Salvation Army children's homes in Cottesloe and Subiaco [picture]'. It shows a large group of girls, with staff.



Salvation Army Girls Home Band, c1920

Description: 'Salvation Army Girls Home Band, c1920' is a digital copy from a collection of photocopies of images held by the State Library of Western Australia in its collection, 'Photographs relating to life at Salvation Army children's homes in Cottesloe and Subiaco [picture]'.



Residents of Salvation Army Girls' Home, c1921

Description: 'Residents of Salvation Army Girls' Home, c1921' is a digital copy from a collection of photocopies of images held by the State Library of Western Australia in its collection, 'Photographs relating to life at Salvation Army children's homes in Cottesloe and Subiaco [picture]'.



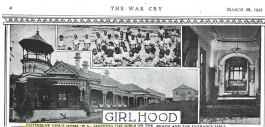
Dawn Martell and Marlene Robinson in front of Byanda, 1962

Description: This is a copy of a photograph that shows two girls on the netball court in front of Byanda, one of the two buildings that were part of the Salvation Army Home for Girls. This image is part of the The Grove Library's Community History Images Collection.



Kia Ora, Salvation Army Home for Girls

Description: This is a copy of an image showing Kia Ora, one of the two buildings that were part of the Salvation Army Home for Girls. It is thought that the photo was taken in the 1960s. This image is part of the The Grove Library's Community History Images Collection.



Girlhood - Cottesloe Girl's Home (W.A.), Showing the Girls on the Beach and the Entrance Hall

Description: Digital copy of an item held in the *Cottesloe Photos* lever-arch file at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA. The item is a photocopied excerpt (p.4) from *The War Cry* dated 26 March 1921. It includes the Kia-Ora building.



Byanda Cottesloe Beach WA 1920

Description: Digital copy of an item held in the *Cottesloe Photos* lever-arch file at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA. The item is a photocopied excerpt (p.4) from *The War Cry* dated 26 March 1921 and shows one of the buildings at the Salvation Army Girls' Home, Cottesloe.



[Ablution block] 1964-1969

Description: Digital copy of an image held in the *Cottesloe Photos* lever-arch file at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA.



Back of main house [Salvation Army Girls Home, Cottesloe]

Description: Digital copy of an image held in the *Cottesloe Photos* lever-arch file at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA. The image is held with other items dated 1964-1969.

More info

Chronology

- **Salvation Army Girls' Home, Cottesloe (1918 – 1969)**
 - Withnell House Girls' Home (1969 - 1973?)

Related Entries

Run by

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

Related Organisations

- [Hollywood Children's Village, Salvation Army \(1965 - 1994\)](#)

After the Salvation Army Girls' Home, Cottesloe closed, girls were admitted to the Hollywood Children's Village, Salvation Army.
- [Salvation Army Industrial School for Girls, Collie \(1901 - 1920\)](#)

When the Salvation Army Industrial School for Girls, Collie closed in 1920, 56 girls were sent from Collie to the Salvation Army Girls' Home, Cottesloe.
Date: 1920 -
- [Salvation Army Girls' Home, Kalgoorlie \(1904? - 1924?\)](#)

The Salvation Army Girls' Home, Cottesloe admitted girls transferred when the Salvation Army Girls' Home, Kalgoorlie closed.
Date: 1924? -

Resources

- 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
- Information Services, Department for Community Development, [Signposts: A Guide for Children and Young People in Care in WA from 1920](#), 2004. *Relevance*: pp.485-487, Table 46: Children and Young People at the Salvation Army Girls' Home (Kia - Ora), 1920 - 1969
- Kirkham, John C, *Southern Soup-Soap-Salvation, a compendium of Salvation Army Social Services in the Australian Southern Territory*, 2003
- 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
- Foster, Darren J, [Submission No 347 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 3 April 2004
- Name withheld, [Submission No 363 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 17 March 2005
- Thomas, Ivy, [Submission No 483 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 1 November 2004
- [Salvation Army's Jubilee](#), Western Mail, 15 February 1945
- [Collie Home](#), The Daily News, 2 August 1920
- James, Ruth Marchant and Cownie, Stewart, *Heritage of pines : a history of the town of Cottesloe Western Australia*, 1977
- *Salvation Army Girls*, The War Cry, 24 July 1926
- *Glimpses of the Cottesloe Beach Home for Girls*, The War Cry, 25 July 1931
- *Opening of a new citadel at Cottesloe Beach, W.A.*, The War Cry, 7 August 1920
- *Welcomed to West Australia*, The War Cry, 25 September 1926
- *Letters to the Editor*, The West Australian, 3 August 2009
- *Letters to the Editor*, The West Australian, 5 August 2009

Other Resources

Title: Regulations Historical Record

Type: Image

Date: 1918? - 1969?

[Details](#)

Records

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

Records

- [Historical information, memorabilia and photographs of the Salvation Army](#)
 - [Salvation Army Australia, Records of Homes in the former Southern Territory \(c. 1889 - c. 1988\)](#)
 - [Photographs relating to life at Salvation Army children's homes in Cottesloe and Subiaco, State Library of Western Australia \(1921 - 1922\)](#)
 - [Children's Homes Files, Western Australian Salvation Army Homes \(1897 - 2012\)](#)
 - [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
 - [Community History Images Collection \(1890s - current\)](#)
 - [Tuart Place Historical Photos Collection](#)
 - [Files - Departmental \[Education Department\] \(1 January 1885 - 31 December 2000\)](#)
 - [Files - Child Welfare, State Records Office of Western Australia \(1 January 1917 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/salvation-army-girls-home-cottesloe/>