

Swan Homes

1943 – 1959

Other Names: • Swan Homes (Boys and Girls)

Details

Swan Homes, in Middle Swan was created from a merger of two Anglican children's homes in 1943. The Perth Girls' Orphanage was evacuated to Swan Boys' Orphanage at Middle Swan during World War II, and the two children's homes merged into one institution. During this time, the type of accommodation changed from dormitories to large houses on the Middle Swan site. Swan Homes admitted children who were wards of the State, child migrants from Britain, and children placed privately by family or others. In 1960, Swan Homes became Swanleigh.

Gallery



Lee Steere House 1953

Description: This is a photograph of Lee Steere House at Swan Homes, later known as Swanleigh. It shows a large two-storey brick building with 'Lee Steere House' written on the top of the front awning. In front of the house is a circular driveway lined with rose bushes.



Freeman House, Swanleigh orphanage, 1955

Description: This is a photograph of the dining room of Freeman House at Swan Homes, later known as Swanleigh. It shows a portion of the room which is furnished with 4-seater tables, cabinets, and extra seating, and has a serving hatch on one wall. Freeman House was opened in 1955 to accommodate child migrants from the UK and Europe. This photo is one of three taken of Freeman House on 3 August 1955 available at the State Library of Western Australia.



Freeman House, Swanleigh orphanage, 1955

Description: This is a photograph of Freeman House at Swan Homes, later known as Swanleigh. It shows a large two-storey brick building. Freeman House was opened in 1955 to accommodate child migrants from the UK and Europe. This photo is one of three taken of Freeman House on 3 August 1955 available at the State Library of Western Australia.



Main Building - Swan Orphanage Industrial School for Protestant Boys, 1906

Description: 'Main Building - Swan Orphanage Industrial School for Protestant Boys, 1906' is an image included (after p.18) in the *Report by the Superintendent of Public Charities and Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory Schools* for the year ending 31 December 1906. This image shows a large two-storey brick building with a large main entrance and one wing on the right hand side, and a church in the background. A person can be seen standing on the upper verandah of the building.

More info

Chronology

- Swan Boys' Orphanage (1876 - 1942)
- Perth Girls' Orphanage (1868 - 1942)
 - **Swan Homes (1943 – 1959)**
 - Swanleigh (1960 - 2010)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Anglican Orphanages Board of Management \(1940 - 1954\)](#)
- [The Anglican Homes Board \(1955 - 1970\)](#)

Related Events

- [Investigation into the Administration of the Child Welfare Department, State of Western Australia \(1953\)](#)
The Investigation into the Administration of the Child Welfare Department of Western Australia by RH Hicks reviewed conditions at Swan Homes in 1953.
Date: 1953 -
- [Royal Commission appointed to Inquire into the Care and Reform of Youthful Delinquents, State of Western Australia \(1943\)](#)
Swan Homes was inspected by members of the Royal Commission appointed to Inquire into the Care and Reform of Youthful Delinquents.
Date: 1943 -
- [Fact-Finding Mission on Child Migration \(1956\)](#)
Ross Fact-Finding Mission [British child migration] was interested in the welfare of children at Swan Homes.
Date: 1956 -

Related Organisations

- [Girls' Friendly Society \(Western Australia\) \(1888 - current\)](#)
Girls' Friendly Society was actively involved with fundraising for Swan Homes.
- [Padbury Boys' Farm School \(1946 - 1955\)](#)
Padbury Boys' Farm School operated as a branch of Swan Homes.
Date: 1946 - 1955
- [Seaside House, Coogee \(1931 - 1968\)](#)
Children and young people from Swan Homes came to the Seaside House at Coogee for annual summer holidays, and from 1946 it was run as a branch of Swan Homes, with children permanently placed there.
Date: 1943 - 1959
- [The Children's Society, United Kingdom \(1881 - current\)](#)
The Children's Society sent child migrants from Britain to Swan Homes in Western Australia.
Date: 1949 -
- [Advisory Council of Empire Settlement, United Kingdom \(1925 - 1981\)](#)

Related Concepts

- [Child Migration \(1800s - 1970s\)](#)

Resources

- 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
- [Ken Pound interviewed by Gwenda Davey in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project](#), 29 November 2010 - 13 December 2010
- [Child Migrants Trust \[website\]](#), 2011
- Department for Community Development, State of Western Australia, [Submission No 55 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), July 2003
- The International Association of Former Child Migrants and Their Families, [Submission No 129 to the Senate Inquiry into Child Migration](#), 2001
- The Children's Society, [Memorandum by The Children's Society](#), Minutes of Evidence Taken Before the Health Committee on 11 June 1998, 11 June 1998
- The Children's Society, [Hidden Lives Revealed](#), No date
- Foster, Darren J, [She called her coral because it was 'a perfect pink day': The neglecting of Coral Suzanne Dickerson](#), Journal of Australian Studies, 1998
- Davis, Syd, [Submission No 414 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 15 July 2004
- Heritage Council of Western Australia, [Swanleigh Precinct](#), inHerit: our heritage places, 8 February 2015
- [Motion - Child Welfare Department. Maintenance of Children](#), Hansard Archive 1870 to 1995, 4 December 1940. Relevance: pp.2564-2565

Other Resources

Title: Moss Report Implementation [Excerpt] - Case Histories

Type: Image

Date: 18 March 1955

[Details](#)

Title: Moss Report [Excerpt] - Pocket Money

Type: Image

Date: 23 February 1955

[Details](#)

Title: Moss Report Implementation [Excerpt] - Health Examinations

Type: Image

Date: 21 April 1955

[Details](#)



Title: Moss Report Implementation [Excerpt] - Swan Homes

Type: Image

Date: 20 April 1954

[Details](#)

Records

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

Records

- [Anglican Diocese of Perth, Western Australia, Records \(1880s - 2010\)](#)
 - [Tuart Place Historical Photos Collection](#)
 - [Records of the Church of England Council for Empire Settlement \[Council for Overseas Settlement\] \(1925 - 1981\)](#)
 - [Commonwealth Child and Youth Migration Records \(1901 - 1983\)](#)
 - [John Moss C.B.E. U.K. Child Welfare Expert. Visit to Australia. Part II, National Archives of Australia \(1951 - 1952\)](#)
 - [UK fact finding mission 1956 part 2, National Archives of Australia \(1955 - 1956\)](#)
 - [Raymond O. Davidson personal film \[motion picture\]: Swan Homes field day, official opening of Lee-Steere House Oct. 2nd., 1949 \(1949 - 1949\)](#)
 - [Canon Richard Hamilton personal film \[videorecording\]: Swanleigh Anglican Hostel: Coogee Beach, State Library of Western Australia \(1940s - 1940s\)](#)
 - [Canon Richard Hamilton personal film \[videorecording\]: Swanleigh Anglican Hostel: Hudleston House, State Library of Western Australia \(1944 - 1946\)](#)
 - [Canon Richard Hamilton personal film \[videorecording\]: Swanleigh Anglican Hostel: physical education, State Library of Western Australia \(1940s - 1940s\)](#)
 - [Canon Richard Hamilton personal film \[videorecording\]: Swanleigh Anglican Hostel: Swan Boys' Home \(1943? - 1943?\)](#)
 - [Correspondence files, multiple number series \(policy matters\) \(1922 - 1968\)](#)
 - [Files - Aborigines Departments \(1 January 1926 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
 - [Files - Child Welfare, State Records Office of Western Australia \(1 January 1917 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
 - [Indentures \(Guardianship\) \(1947 - 1960\)](#)
 - [Files - Departmental \[Education Department\] \(1 January 1885 - 31 December 2000\)](#)
 - [Former Child Migrants Referral Index \(1913 - 1968\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/swan-homes/>