

# Werribee Farm School

1928 – 1962

**Other Names:**

- Tom Allan Memorial Home for Boys
- Allandale
- Werribee Boys' Home
- Werribee

## Details

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Werribee Farm School, near Wundowie, was established by the Methodist Church in 1928 to train boys aged 10 to 14 years in farm work. By 1953, girls were admitted to Werribee (then called 'Allandale') with their brothers. The property was sold in 1962.

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In 1938, the objectives of the Werribee Boys' Home (Farm School) were described in the *Report by the Royal Commissioner on Youth Employment and the Apprenticeship System* (p.lxix) as 'housing and training boys in farm pursuits' and accommodating 'boys who, on prospects, appear to have less opportunity than the average boy (e.g., boys from poor homes) and destitute orphan boys.'

The Royal Commissioner recommended (p.lxx) that the Government pay a maintenance allowance of 10 shillings per week for each 'destitute orphan boy' at Werribee provided the school undertook vocational and general education and training to the satisfaction of the Education Department. By 1940, this recommendation had not been implemented.

In *The Barefoot Boys of Werribee*, pg. 105, Harry Lucas shares "The Werribee Song" written by Superintendent Cyril Palmer, with his reflections beneath:

*The Werribee boys are happy,  
The Werribee boys are we  
The Werribee boys are very fine boys  
At work and play, you see.  
They never, never quarrel  
And they never disagree,  
For the motto of these Werribee boys,  
Is one for all, you see.  
C.B. Palmer*

*Fine sentiments, but as you can guess, not all that close to reality, I'm afraid. Nevertheless, we did sing it at the sports meet and other occasions when opportunity presented itself. After all, the positive word is more effective than the negative put-down.*

By 1953, girls were admitted to Werribee (by then called 'Allandale') with their brothers. The property was sold in 1962.

## Gallery

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### The homestead at the Werribee Boys' Farm

**Description:** This is an image of the Werribee Boys' Farm. It shows a house with an adjoining small cottage or outbuildings situated on a slight hill and surrounded by trees. This image was published in *The West Australian* on 17 October 1932 alongside an article about the Werribee Boys' Home.

## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Methodist Homes for Children \(1922 - 1977\)](#)  
Date: 1928 - 1962

#### Related Events

- [Royal Commission on Youth Employment and the Apprenticeship System, State of Western Australia \(1937 - 1938\)](#)

Werribee Farm School (Werribee Boys' Home) was reviewed by the Royal Commission on Youth Employment and the Apprenticeship System.

Date: 1937 -

#### Related Organisations

- [Methodist Children's Home \(1922 - 1959\)](#)

Werribee Farm School and the Methodist Children's Home were run by the Methodist Homes for Children. At times, there was quite a lot of contact between them and children (particularly boys) often lived in both Homes.

Date: 1928 - 1959

- [Mofflyn \(1959 - 1984\)](#)

Allandale (also known as the Werribee Farm School) and Mofflyn were run by the Methodist Homes for Children. At times, there was quite a lot of contact between them and children often lived in both Homes until Allandale closed.

Date: 1959 - 1962

## Resources

- [Werribee Boys' Farm](#), The West Australian, 17 October 1932
- Methodist Homes for Children, Western Australia, *The 'Homes' Herald*, 1964 - 1978
- Uniting Church in Australia (WA Synod), Department of Media, *Western Impact*, 1977 - 2007
- Mofflyn, [Submission No 160 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), August 2003

## Records

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

### Records held by other organisations

- [Uniting WA Records \(1920s - current\)](#)
- [Uniting Church \(Synod of Western Australia\) Archives, Records \(1918 - 1980s\)](#)
- [Files - Child Welfare, State Records Office of Western Australia \(1 January 1917 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
- [Inspector's books - Werribee \(1930 - 1951\)](#)
- [Files - Community Welfare \("A" Series\), State Records Office of Western Australia \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)

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