

Seaside House, Coogee

1931 – 1968

Other Names:

- Anglican Children's Home, Coogee
- Seaside Home
- William A. Saw Seaside Home
- Willie A. Saw Seaside Home
- Coogee

Details

Seaside House, Coogee was established in 1931 by the Orphanages Committee of the Anglican Diocese of Perth as a holiday home for children from Homes run by the committee. In 1946 it also became a full-time residential facility for up to 30 primary-school aged children, run as a branch of the Swan Homes and then Swanleigh until Seaside House, Coogee closed at the end of 1968.

The Seaside House at Coogee was purchased for £641 by the Orphanages Committee of the Anglican Diocese of Perth in 1931. The building had previously been the Coogee Hotel, situated on 1.6 hectares of land 100 metres from the safe swimming beach at Coogee. It was a brick and stone building, with fourteen rooms, verandahs, a fresh water well, pumping plant and some outbuildings. A small shop, leased by a shopkeeper, was included in the sale. Staff and boys from the Swan Boys' Orphanage worked on renovations and it was first used for holidays by the Perth Girls' Orphanage in December 1931. Boys from the Swan Boys' Orphanage slept in the sandhills during that holiday period but in following years the girls' and boys' orphanages each had a three-week period in the Seaside House. This continued annually until 1959. Around 1950, the facility was re-named the 'Willie A. Saw Seaside Home' after the death of a long-standing member of the Anglican Orphanages Committee, William Saw. Generally, however, this long title was not used.

On 28 March 1946, the Seaside House became a full-time residential facility, operating as a branch of the Swan Homes. The 'elderly' Mrs Ellen Logan, Miss Beatrice Fletcher, two 'trainee girls' and 25 children were the first residents. Children from Coogee who could not be privately accommodated during the summer holiday period were sent to the Swan Homes in Midvale so that the Swan Homes children could continue to have their summer holiday at Coogee.

The Seaside House underwent renovations in 1946-1948, with a new ablution block and laundry wing, play-shed and storeroom added; the kitchen and dining rooms upgraded; and new stove and hot water systems installed.

In the 1950s, 20-25 children lived at the Seaside House which, after the death of Mrs Logan in 1951, had been managed by husband-and-wife couples.

In 1960, Coogee became a branch of the newly-named Swanleigh. In that year, three child migrants from the UK were sent from Swanleigh to Coogee. In 1963 a group of primary-school boys from Swanleigh were sent to Coogee, making more space on the Swanleigh campus for teenage girls .

Admissions to Coogee were falling by the 1960s and when the Main Roads Department indicated that it would need to reclaim the land for the Kwinana Freeway, a decision was made to close Coogee, rather than rebuild or relocate, at the end of 1968. The children were transferred to Parkerville Children's Home and Swanleigh.

During the years at Coogee, there were accidents and deaths. *Noisy Mansions*, a history of the Anglican Homes, records that a boy died from burns when he fell into an ash pit at the nearby meatworks, and a girl was run over and killed by a car.

Gallery



Coogee Home [I]

Description: 'Coogee Home [I]' is a digital copy of an item held in the Anglican Diocese of Perth, Western Australia, Archives. Written on the back of the image are the words: 'Our Seaside Home. Coogee. 9/42. Holidays - Coogee.' From 1931 to 1959 the children from Swan Boys' Orphanage (to 1942) and Perth Girls' Orphanage (to 1942), and then the Swan Homes (from 1943) and Padbury Boys' Farm School (from 1946), came to Coogee for an annual summer holiday. From 1946, there were children living at the Home all year.



Coogee Home [II]

Description: 'Coogee Home [II]' is a digital copy of an item held in the Anglican Diocese of Perth, Western Australia, Archives. Written on the back of the image are the words: 'Barbeque area at Coogee - note new wing - bathroom and laundry. 9/33. Holidays - Coogee.' From 1931 to 1959 the children from Swan Boys' Orphanage (to 1942) and Perth Girls' Orphanage (to 1942), and then the Swan Homes (from 1943) and Padbury Boys' Farm School (from 1946), came to Coogee for an annual summer holiday. From 1946, there were children living at the Home all year and in 1948 a new ablution block and laundry had been built, giving an approximate date for this image.



Coogee Seaside Home

Description: This is a photograph of the Coogee Seaside House taken by former resident Margaret Chomel. Margaret provided information that the area running along the side of the house was previously enclosed and this is where the girls slept.



Coogee Beach Home

Description: This is a photograph of the Coogee Seaside House taken in 2001 by former resident Margaret Chomel.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Orphanages' Committee \(1889 - 1939\)](#)
 - [Anglican Orphanages Board of Management \(1940 - 1954\)](#)
- Date: 1940 - 1945

Related Events

- [Fact-Finding Mission on Child Migration \(1956\)](#)
- Seaside House at Coogee was one of the facilities of interest to the Ross Fact-Finding Mission.

Date: 1956 -

Related Organisations

- [Padbury Boys' Farm School \(1946 - 1955\)](#)
Children and young people from Padbury Boys' Farm School came to the Seaside House at Coogee for annual summer holidays.
Date: 1946 - 1954
- [Parkerville Children's Home \(1909 - 2005\)](#)
Some children were transferred to Parkerville Children's Home when the Seaside House at Coogee closed.
Date: 1968 -
- [Swan Homes \(1943 - 1959\)](#)
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
- [Swan Boys' Orphanage \(1876 - 1942\)](#)
Children from the Swan Boys' Orphanage came to the Seaside House at Coogee for annual summer holidays.
Date: 1931 - 1942
- [Swanleigh \(1960 - 2010\)](#)
Seaside House, Coogee was run as a branch of Swanleigh. Annual summer holidays at Coogee for children from Swanleigh continued until Coogee closed, and the children there were transferred to Swanleigh.
Date: 1960 - 1968
- [Perth Girls' Orphanage \(1868 - 1942\)](#)
Children and young people from the Perth Girls' Orphanage came to the Seaside House at Coogee for annual summer holidays.
Date: 1931 - 1942

Related Concepts

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

Records

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

Records

- [Anglican Diocese of Perth, Western Australia, Records \(1880s - 2010\)](#)
 - [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 \(1951 - 1952\)](#)
 - [Canon Richard Hamilton personal film \[videorecording\]: Swanleigh Anglican Hostel: Coogee Beach, State Library of Western Australia \(1940s - 1940s\)](#)
 - [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 \(1 January 1917 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/seaside-house-coogee/>