

Independent Order of Oddfellows' Orphanage

1905 – 1940

Other Names:

- IOOF Home
- Oddfellows Orphanage
- IOOF Orphanage

Details

The Independent Order of Oddfellows (IOOF) Orphanage was established in Cottesloe in 1905, for the children of deceased members of the IOOF and, from 1919, children of deceased soldiers. The IOOF managed the orphanage and gave the children training in agriculture and domestic service. The IOOF Orphanage was closed by 1940.

The Independent Order of Oddfellows (IOOF) Orphanage was established in Cottesloe in 1905. It was the first orphanage to be built in Australia by an interational organisation which had established similar institutions elsewhere. The IOOF Orphanage opened on 13 August 1905, for the children of deceased members of the IOOF. By 1919, there were 36 children at the orphanage. A new wing was formally opened on 13 September 1919 that year to accommodate up to 50 children whose fathers were soldiers who had been killed in World War One.

The IOOF Orphanage was run by the IOOF, who appointed the first matron, Sarah Eakins from South Australia. Subsequent managers of the orphanage were married couples who were members of the IOOF.

Children were trained to become agricultural labourers or domestic servants, and a large part of the orphanage site was farmed with livestock and vegetables.

By the late 1930s, the orphanage was 'under utilised'. From 1935 to 1940, the annual reports of the Child Welfare Department recorded the private admissions for children aged under 6. These were: 1935, 1 child; 1936, 6 children; 1937, 3 children; 1938-40, 1 child in each year.

The IOOF sought to sell the orphanage buildings to the government. In August 1940, the buildings were requisitioned for use by the Red Cross as a convalescent home for soldiers, called the Lady Mitchell Convalescent Home. The building was purchased by the State Government in August 1946.

Gallery



IOOF orphanage (Wanslea)

Description: This is a copy of a digital image of the Independent Order of Oddfellows' Orphanage and children, around 1910. It is from the Marchant James collection and is included in the online Community History Images Collection held by The Grove Library.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Independent Order of Odd Fellows \(1819 - current\)](#)

Resources

- Western Australia. Child Welfare Department, [Annual Report of the Child Welfare Department](#), 1928 - 1972

Records

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

Records

- [Community History Images Collection \(1890s - current\)](#)

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/independent-order-of-oddfellows-orphanage/>