



REID

Background

Construction of the Reid Home was completed in September 1922. Since the donors, Mr and Mrs Andrew Reid of James Hardie and Co Ltd were travelling overseas, its official opening was to be delayed until their return to Australia in 1923. However there does not appear to have ever been an official opening of Reid House.

Andrew Reid was born in Stirlingshire, Scotland in January 1867 and came to Australia in 1891. Mr Reid had joined the Burnside Board in 1916.

In October 1921 the Burnside Board received an offer from Mr Reid to build a Home for 30 Scottish war orphans. However these were difficult to obtain and later Mr Reid agreed instead to a scheme to bring 22 Irish Protestant orphans to Australia and to house them in the Reid Home. Those children arrived in Sydney in December 1922.

The architects of Reid Home were Wilson Neave and Berry. The builder was Mr A G Brown. The cost was £4,836.

The Home is described by the architect, Greg Nolan as:

“a colonial revival building...a two storey stuccoed brick structure with a terra cotta hipped roof. The south façade has an entry portico supported by six truscan columns, while the doorway features a six panelled door and a large lead lighted fanlight. The windows are six panelled and double hung throughout save for the bathrooms. The building features a large stair hall, a fine timber stair and some well built cupboards.”

War Years

Until the war years Reid housed approximately 32 boys. Then in January 1942 all the children at Burnside were evacuated to temporary homes in the Springwood and Woodford district in the Blue Mountains. The Second Australian Army occupied the whole of Burnside. Reid was used for the Intelligence Branch of the Army until the children returned in January 1945.

1945 - Present

After the Second World War Reid was remodelled as a third Kindergarten Home and was ready for occupation in 1949, but Burnside was unable to open it due to the shortage of staff.

Finally in September 1952, 22 boys and 6 girls with their matron were transferred from Blairgowrie.

By July 1964 after a total of 14 years service only 13 children were located at Reid. New philosophies of child care had been embraced by Burnside and the number of children in each Home had been reduced. The large dormitories were divided into smaller rooms creating greater privacy for each child.

By the end of 1977 there were only 8 children left at Reid and they, with their houseparents, moved to Ross Home. Reid was closed and not used again as a Home.

In 1985 Reid was leased to the Redeemer Baptist School together with Robertson, Ivanhoe, Sargood Hall, Blackwood Home and Son of the Rock. The buildings were sold to Redeemer Baptist School in July 1994.