

# *Section 9*

## MISCELLANEOUS HOMES RUN BY OTHER AGENCIES

Aboriginal Womens Home, North Adelaide  
Drapers Hall, Crafers – Fairbridge Society Inc  
Estcourt House  
Junior Red Cross Homes  
Kurbingai/Suttons  
Mareeba Babies Hospital  
Minda Home  
Morialta Protestant Childrens Home  
Northcote Home  
Wanslea  
Warrawee, Grange  
Waverley, Legacy Childrens Home  
Wiltja Hostel

# *Aboriginal Women's Home, North Adelaide*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Period of operation:** 1926-1970s

**Also known as:** Boarding Home for Aboriginal Women

**Run by:** Adelaide Central Mission/Aborigines Friends Association

Department for Community Welfare, from 1972

**Address:** Sussex Street, North Adelaide

## HISTORY

This boarding home for Aboriginal women and children was opened in June 1926. The property was owned by the Adelaide Central Mission which initially proposed the establishment of the home. However, the home was also subsidised by the government. The Aborigines Friends Association was represented on the Advisory Board of the home. The initial purpose of the home was to provide accommodation for Aboriginal women and their families who were visiting Adelaide for medical treatment. Most came to the home from the far north and west. The home also provided shelter for local Aboriginal people in emergency situations. A full-time matron was employed as well as other domestic staff. The home was still operating in the early 1970s when it came under the control of the Department for Community Welfare. At that time up to twenty-two women and children and seven babies could stay in the home at one time.

*Drawn from GRG 52/1/1925/17 Correspondence docket titled 'Secretary. Adelaide Central Mission re Boarding home for Aboriginal women and children who visit Adelaide for medical attention, etc/Offer of property in Sussex Street, Lower North Adelaide' and 'Annual Report of the Department for Community Welfare', 1972 & 1974.*

## THE RECORDS

- State Records of SA

### **ADMISSION RECORDS**

No admission records yet located.

### **OTHER RECORDS - State Records of SA**

- **Archive reference** - GRG 52/1/1925/17
- **Title** - *Adelaide Central Mission re Boarding home for Aboriginal women and children who visit Adelaide for medical attention, etc/Offer of property in Sussex Street, Lower North Adelaide*
- **Date range** - 1925-1929
- **Contents** - Correspondence docket comprising miscellaneous letters and documents relating primarily to the purchase and opening of the home.

## *Drapers Hall, Crafers - Fairbridge Society Inc*

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Years of operation:** 1962 - 1981

**Also known as:** No other names

**Run by:** Fairbridge Society Inc (London)

**Address:** Drapers Hall, Piccadilly Road, Crafers

### **HISTORY**

This home was established to accommodate children from the ages of 6 to 16 who were sponsored by the Fairbridge Society in the United Kingdom to come to Australia. In some circumstances it also accommodated other British migrant children. The Hall provided accommodation for eligible children for as long as required. In the late 1960s and 1970s admission was arranged directly through the Warden of the Hall or through the South Australian Secretary of the Society.

*Drawn from 'Directory of Social Resources, South Australia (The South Australian Council of Social Services', The Department of Public Health and the Citizens Advice Bureau, 1976).*

### **THE RECORDS**

No records yet located.

### **BOOKS**

Geoffrey Sherington and Chris Jeffery, *Fairbridge: Empire and child migration* (University of WA Press, Nedlands, 1998)

## *Estcourt House*



*Estcourt House Grange 1910 SLSA: B15978  
Courtesy State Library of South Australia*

*I remember Estcourt House because Estcourt House was a place where I got really scared, in fact I've still got this phobia today where I'm scared of spiders....They used to have this room at Estcourt House where they used to put kids who were naughty. And I guess I spent a lot of time in that room because of, I guess, my behaviour. And there was a lot of spiders and cobwebs in this room and you'd just go in there and sit down and you know, you'd just let your imagination sometimes get the best of you and you're scared...Nine times out of ten it never solved the problem, especially the behaviour problem, sometimes it increased it...[The room] was kept that way purposely for any children...who were uncontrollable or needed to be, needed to have some punishment. But the bottom line is I'm still receiving that punishment. I'm fifty years old and I'm still in this fear of spiders today.*

*Interview with Sid Graham, 4 September 2000, TRC 5000/258, National Library of Australia. Quoted with permission from Sid Graham.*

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Years of operation:** 1894-1978

**Also known as:** No other names

**Run by:** James Brown Memorial Trust, 1894-1955  
Adelaide Childrens Hospital, 1955-1978

**Address:** Military Road, Tennyson

### HISTORY

Located near the beach at Grange [later Tennyson], Estcourt House was built in 1883 by successful Adelaide businessman, Mr Frederick Estcourt Bucknall. Financial problems leading to bankruptcy forced him to give up the property in 1886. It remained empty for many years because the owner, Australian Mutual Provident Society [AMP], was unable to find a purchaser for so large a mansion in such an isolated location.

Mrs Jessie Brown, the widow of wealthy SA pastoralist James Brown, bequeathed money into a trust in her husband's name for the establishment of a home for people in need. In 1892 Estcourt House was purchased by the James Brown Memorial Trust for that purpose.

In 1894 Estcourt House opened as a home for aged and/or visually impaired patients and crippled children. By December of that year eight children, aged between four and twelve, and 23 visually impaired elderly people were in residence. At the turn of the century the number of inmates had risen to 45. From its beginning schooling was provided for children in the home. Lessons were run by staff members until the Education Department provided a teacher in 1918. At this time many more children than adults were being admitted as Kalyra Hospital, also established as part of the Trust, provided care for the elderly.

During the 1920s and 1930s Estcourt House developed a closer association with the Adelaide Childrens Hospital and many children were referred to the convalescent home directly from the hospital. The hospital contributed funds for an open-air extension to be made to the home. From 1931 no more adult patients were admitted and Estcourt House became a convalescent home for children recovering from medical treatment. It also provided specialist care for survivors of tuberculosis, poliomyelitis and children with rheumatic fever or heart disease. It accommodated up to forty inmates at one time.

As the majority of patients at the home came from the Adelaide Childrens Hospital, it negotiated the purchase of Escourt House in 1955. A large sum of money was spent on renovations and additions to the premises, so that it could accommodate up to 100 children. Estcourt House continued to provide convalescent care for children until 1978 when it was bought by the South Australian government. It then became part of the Strathmont Centre, a community living unit for adults with intellectual disabilities. In 1981 the home was substantially upgraded and convalescing children were moved from the Ru Rua Nursing Home at North Adelaide into the premises. Estcourt House, as Ru Rua Nursing Home, continued to operate until 1989.

*Drawn from AG Peake, 'Estcourt House: a history' (Unpublished typescript, 1982); LeMessurier Architects, 'Conservation Policy for Estcourt House, Tennyson' (October 1989); Sister Botrill, 'Nursing in South Australia: First hundred years, 1837-1937' (The SA Trained Nurses Centenary Committee, Adelaide, 1939), p. 341-346 and State Records of SA, 'Ancestors in Archives: A guide for family historians to South Australia's government archives' (State Records of SA, 2000), p. 166.*

## THE RECORDS

- State Records of SA
- National Library of Australia

## ADMISSION RECORDS

No admission records have yet been located.

## OTHER RECORDS - State Records of SA

Only one item specifically related to Estcourt House, a visitors book, appears to have survived.

### Visitors book

- **Archive reference** - GRG 78/129
- **Title** - Visitors book
- **Date range** - 1896-1955
- **Contents** - Gives date, name, address, and remarks. Most visitors are official. Some may be parents of patients.

### Correspondence

- **Archive reference** - GRG 78/1
- **Title** - Correspondence Files of Colonial Surgeon's Office and successor agencies.
- **Date range** - 1852-1973
- **Contents** - This series comprises correspondence files of the Colonial Surgeon's office and its successors, including the Hospitals Department. The correspondence may include letters related to Estcourt House.
  
- **Archive reference** - GRG 78/5
- **Title** - Index to Correspondence Files
- **Date range** - 1895-1959
- **Contents** - This is an index to the above correspondence. A preliminary survey located one reference to correspondence related to Estcourt House dated 1952.

## Potential records

- **Archive reference** – GRG 90
- **Title** – *Adelaide Children's Hospital*
- **Contents** - As Estcourt House was purchased and controlled by the Adelaide Childrens Hospital from 1955, it is possible that further records related to the home may be held in records of the Hospital. A review of these records has not yet been conducted.

## **ORAL HISTORY – National Library of Australia**

Interviews conducted for the Bringing Them Home Oral History project include one with a former resident of Estcourt House:

ORAL TRC 5000/258: Interview with Sid Graham

## **BOOKS**

Sister Botrill, *Nursing in South Australia: First hundred years, 1837-1937* (The SA Trained Nurses Centenary Committee, Adelaide, 1939)

AG Peake, *Estcourt House: a history* (Unpublished typescript, 1982)

LeMessurier Architects, *Conservation Policy for Estcourt House, Tennyson* (October 1989)

## *Junior Red Cross Homes*

*My father left me in the small reception foyer of the Henley Beach Red Cross Home one Saturday morning. I had no idea why, other than the explanation he gave on the way there. It would be good for me, doctor said, to spend some weeks away from home, from him and from Mummy. It was April 1952. I would have my seventh birthday there. Waiting with me was an Aboriginal girl on a frame – a polio survivor. Sobbing I was taken to a dorm by ‘nurse’, an officious ‘sister’, who wore a veil splaying out to her shoulders. She said she would look after me till morning break when I would be taken to meet the other children. ‘Nurse’ unpacked my case – underpants, singlets, socks, two woolly jumpers, my grey pinafore and some white school shirts – and put them in a drawer of the chest which held the clothes of the other three in the cramped room. There were four beds with white iron bed heads. They almost touched. I think the bedclothes were covered by pale green over sheeting. And so the routine began. Morning play school of games and songs. There was a nudge in the direction of numbers and words and books were read aloud, some by the children who ranged from my age and a little younger, to eleven or twelve. Then afternoons were spent on the beach if it was fine which is usually was – walking and games taking up the hours till early tea, where as at all meals we sat at the starched white table until we had eaten every morsel placed in front of us. I was always the only one left when we were served a bowl of stewed tomatoes with toast. Crying didn’t achieve anything, just made it harder to force the stuff into your mouth. Vomiting let you off until the next time. Then baths and bed. Excepting Saturday when the routine altered to accommodate what seemed like a requirement on God’s part for extra cleanliness – for we had our baths on Sunday morning before Sunday School in the school room. Saturday nights we went to bed with sand between our toes. I still can’t believe my parents did this to me. Nothing – not even my father’s ‘anonymous’ weekly Sunday delivery of McRobertson’s chocolate frogs – a box of them and enough for everyone – consoled me for my abandonment. I will never forget it.*

*Anonymous*

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Years of operation:** 1933-1968

**Also known as:** Lady Hore-Ruthven Junior Red Cross Home  
Lady Norrie Junior Red Cross Home

**Run by:** The Australian Red Cross

**Addresses:** 255 The Esplanade, Henley Beach 1933-1958,  
Brig House, Grange 1945-1950 (previously home of Mrs FJ Fisher)  
10 Robert Street, Glenelg 1958-1969

### **HISTORY**

During the First World War the South Australian Division of the Australian Red Cross established a club house at Henley Beach for Returned Soldiers, known as the Lady Galway Convalescent Home. The first Junior Red Cross Childrens Home opened in September 1933 in the near vicinity of this soldier’s hostel. Intended as a holiday home for sick children, it also provided accommodation for country children with disabilities who were visiting Adelaide for treatment. The home was extended in 1937. During 1942-43 it briefly operated as a holiday house for AIF nurses before returning to its role as a home for children.

In 1944 the Convalescent Home for soldiers moved to new premises in Robert Street, Glenelg, and the children’s home took over the old building. The institution was renamed the Lady Hore-Ruthven Junior Red Cross Home and officially opened in June 1946.

In 1954 the girls' dormitory was named the May Willoughby in honour of Mrs FC Willoughby, Chairperson of the Home Committee since 1935. This home closed in 1958 and the children were transferred to the Lady Galway Home at Glenelg while the adults previously resident there were moved to Kapara Home, also at Glenelg.

In 1945 a third Junior Red Cross Home had been opened at Brig House, Grange. It catered specifically for children, aged between 18 months and 7 years of age, who were in need of care or who were outpatients of the Adelaide Childrens Hospital. This property had large grounds with trees and gardens and enough space for keeping cows and growing vegetables. It accommodated up to thirty children. In 1947 the home was officially named the Lady Norrie Junior Red Cross Childrens Home. It closed in 1950.

Once the three homes were consolidated into one site at Glenelg in 1959, the institution was simply called the Junior Red Cross Home and the names of Lady Hore-Ruthven, Lady Norrie and Mrs Willoughby were commemorated in the wards. This home was officially opened in August 1959. It closed, due to low occupancy, in December 1968 and was sold the following year. At the time it was to be demolished and the site used for flats.

*Drawn from extracts from Annual Reports and miscellaneous news clippings held in SRG 770/33/9, being a folder titled 'Red Cross Homes History' among Subject files in the Records of the South Australian Division of the Australian Red Cross, State Library of SA.*

## THE RECORDS

- State Library of SA

### **ADMISSION RECORDS – State Library of SA**

SRG 770 - Records of the Junior Red Cross Homes are held among general records of the South Australian Division of the Australian Red Cross.

#### Admission register

- **Archive reference** - SRG 770/32
- **Title** - *JRC Home Register 1933-1958*
- **Date range** – 1933-1958
- **Appearance** - Large hard cover landscape volume.
- **Contents** - Hand-drawn columns and entries on one page give: (1) Name, (2) Address, (3) Sex, (4) Age, (5) Date of Admission, (6) Recommended by, (7) Disability, (8) Date of discharge, (9) Payment. From 1939 the pages are divided into *Boys* and *Girls*.
- **Notes on contents** - Entries arranged by date of admission. Many children listed in register were undergoing treatment at the Adelaide Childrens Hospital. (7) Disability: sometimes records behavioural problems and reasons for admission. (8) Date of discharge: sometimes includes information about where child was transferred to.

#### Admission register

- **Archive reference** – SRG 770/32
- **Title** - *JRC Home Register 1961-1968*
- **Date range** – 1961-1968
- **Appearance** - Hard-cover A4 sized register.
- **Contents** - Entries appear in printed columns across two pages as follows. Left hand page: (1) Number, (2) Name of patient, (3) Born, (4) Parent/Guardian surname and initial, (5) Address. Right hand page: (6) Discharged, (7) Medical Officer, (8) Diagnosis, (9) Hospital Fund, (10) Gross Fees, (11) CW Benefits, (12) Nett.
- **Notes on contents** - Entries arranged in order of admission date. (10) Gross Fees column only filled in sporadically. As of 9/65 *Reason* is pencilled in and column records reasons for admission, such as desertion or illness of parents, as well as information about transfers to other homes.

## OTHER RECORDS – State Library of SA

### Minutes

- **Archive reference** - SRG 770/18/2
- **Title** - *Junior Red Cross Minute book*
- **Date range** - 1929-1935
- **Appearance** - Foolschap notebook with typed minutes pasted in.
- **Contents** - As well as entries regarding general running of home, this minute book includes reports and/or minutes of the Admission Committee. These provide lists of names of children under headings such as (1) Children present in the home, (2) Children requiring indefinite period, (3) Children to be discharged, (4) Children recommended by matron to have extended time in home, (5) Approvals made previously but not admitted, (6) Cases deferred, (7) Fresh applications. Often admission information includes an address, dates and some details of admission for each child. Matron's reports, also included in minutes, occasionally give details about medical treatment of individual children.
  
- **Archive reference** - SRG 770/20
- **Title** - *Junior Red Cross Minutes*
- **Date range** - 1935-1938
- **Appearance** - Repaired notebook with typed minutes pasted in.
- **Contents** - Minute book includes minutes of the Junior Red Cross Home Admission Committee. These minutes give names of children admitted, brief details regarding their situation and decisions made by the committee regarding them. Details are recorded under similar headings as minute book above. Some entries relate to specific named children and their cases.

### Junior Red Cross scrapbooks

- **Archive reference** - SRG 770/30
- **Date range** - 1930-1959
- **Appearance** - Two scrapbooks containing news clippings relating to the activities of the JRC.
- **Date range** - Volume 1, 1930-1937; Volume 2, 1938-1959
- **Contents** - This scrapbook may contain clippings related to the Junior Red Cross Home.
  
- **Archive reference** - SRG 770/41
- **Date range** - 1938-1984
- **Appearance** - Volumes of news clippings from South Australian newspapers
- **Contents** - This scrapbook may contain clippings related to the Junior Red Cross Home.

### Miscellaneous historical material

- **Archive reference** - SRG 770/9/9
- **Title** - *Red Cross Homes History*
- **Date range** - 1915-1971
- **Contents** - Miscellaneous papers including summary histories, reports and news clippings on homes run by the Red Cross including the Junior Red Cross Homes.

## PHOTOGRAPHS – State Library of SA

- **Archive reference** - SRG 770/40
- **Date range** - 1938-1984
- **Contents** - Collection of over 900 photographs including some of the Red Cross Homes.

## *Kurbingai Hostel*

*When I arrived at 'Kurbingai' I was scared out of my wits. Initially I didn't like the place one bit. Thankfully my brothers Lawrence and Rex helped me to settle in quite quickly. Other boys in the home also welcomed us and I will always feel indebted to them. I only hope one day a reunion will be held and we have a chance to catch up with as many of them as possible. Brother Lawrence has passed on and sadly he won't be able to join us. Whilst never a place I could call home, it is set in an idyllic location. I never loved it one bit, but I loved the fun things lots of us got up to. I miss all those brothers deeply and think of them constantly. 'Kurbingai' will live in my memory forever as far as the brothers are concerned but little else about it will.*

*Frank Lampard*

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Years of operation:** 1958-1962

**Also known as:** Kurbingai Hostel for Boys  
Suttons

**Run by:** Privately run by Mr WJL Sutton

**Address:** 128 The Esplanade, Semaphore

### HISTORY

This hostel was set up in 1958 by Mr WJL Sutton, a former superintendent of St Francis House. It operated as a private hostel for Aboriginal boys up to the age of sixteen. Most of the boys were placed there by the Aborigines Protection Board so that they could further their education at local schools. The Department paid board for the boys and collected child endowment on their behalf which also went towards paying for their accommodation. A small amount of pocket money was also provided by the Department. Parents were requested to send further pocket money to Mr Sutton who was to 'see that it is spent wisely for the boys'. Boys committed to the hostel were allowed to return to their homes for Christmas. Parents were permitted to take their child out of the home one weekend per month on condition that Mr Sutton was advised where the child would be staying. During the school holidays Mr Sutton, with the approval of the Board, took the boys on a camping trip, usually along the Murray River.

In 1958 fifteen boys were accommodated at the hostel. During that year Mr Sutton advised the Department that his sister and her husband would be taking up residence in a new addition to the existing building and would act as matron and assistant in the home. This did not occur and Mr Sutton continued to care for the boys himself with the assistance of a cook to provide meals. In 1959 the number of boys in the hostel had risen to twenty. Mr Sutton wrote a number of letters to the Protection Board reporting on the home and the educational achievements of the boys.

In September 1961 a number of complaints were made about the running of the home, and Mr Sutton's behaviour, by the parents and relatives of some of the boys resident there. These complaints were investigated by Departmental welfare officers who were concerned about the manner in which the home was run. It was suggested that a resident matron should be appointed. This did not happen. In May 1962, after further complaints were received, two boys were interviewed by departmental officers. Their testimony corroborated complaints regarding Mr Sutton's drinking and inappropriate behaviour. As a result of this the Aborigines Protection Board ordered the closure of the home and arranged foster care for the boys.

*Drawn from miscellaneous correspondence on Docket No 65/1958 'Kurbingai Boys Home, General Docket', GRG 52/1 Aborigines Department correspondence, State Records of SA.*

## THE RECORDS

- State Records of SA

## ADMISSION RECORDS

No admission records have been located.

## OTHER RECORDS - State Records of SA

### Correspondence

- **Archive Reference** - GRG 52/1
- **Title** - *Correspondence files of the Aborigines Office and its successor the Aborigines Department.*
- **Date range** - 1866-1969
- **Appearance** - Boxes containing files/dockets relating to many different subjects. These dockets contain letters and other documents received by the department and copies of, or notes relating to, letters sent.
- **Contents** - One correspondence docket No, 65/1958 relates to Kurbingai. Titled: '*Kurbingai*' *Boys Home General Docket - Prop: WJ Sutton, 128 Esplanade, Semaphore*, it contains incoming correspondence and reports from Mr Sutton and from Welfare officers, and copies of outgoing correspondence from the department. It includes requisitions for clothing and shoes which include names and ages of boys.

### Minutes

- **Archive reference** - GRG 52/16
- **Title** - *Aborigines Protection Board Minutes*
- **Date range** - 1940-1945, 1954-1957, 1960-1963
- **Appearance** - Four volumes of typed minutes.
- **Contents** - These minutes record discussion and decisions made by the Aborigines Protection Board. They include many references to named Aboriginal people, including children. Minutes refer to Kurbingai and provided the reference for the correspondence docket listed above.

# Mareeba Babies Hospital

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Years of operation:** 1917-1960s

**Also known as:** No other names known

**Run by:** The Babies Hospital Association 1912-1951,  
South Australian Government 1917-, Adelaide Children's  
Hospital Board 1951-

**Addresses:** Quambi, North Adelaide 1913-1915, 9  
Winchester Street, St Peters 1915-1917, Woodville 1917-

## HISTORY

Officially established by the Babies Hospital Association in 1915, the Mareeba Babies Hospital was founded to provide accommodation and care for infants under the age of two. Prior to Mareeba's establishment the Association had unsuccessfully lobbied the Adelaide Childrens Hospital to provide a special ward for babies. At that time sick babies were sent to a private hospital in North Adelaide, known as Quambi, where they were cared for by Mrs Bartels. Later they were also sent to two other homes run by other nursing sisters. The Association committee included a number of prominent Adelaide doctors and they provided medical care for the babies admitted to these private hospitals.

In 1915 the Babies Hospital Association leased its own cottage hospital in Winchester Street, St Peters. In 1917 the Government proposed that the hospital be placed under the control of the Inspector General of Hospitals, with the Association acting as an advisory body. In August of that year the babies hospital moved to Mareeba at Woodville, which had been a convalescent hospital for soldiers. From this time it became formally known as the Mareeba Babies Hospital. In 1921 Mareeba was also used as a part-time training hospital for nurses. During the 1920s additions were made to the premises so that it could accommodate up to seventy babies. Rooms for mothers with babies were also added.

The Babies Hospital Association continued its involvement with Mareeba until the Association disbanded in 1951. From that time Mareeba was under the control of the Adelaide Childrens Hospital Board. It continued to provide care for sick infants and premature babies until the 1960s.

*Drawn from Sister Botrill, 'Nursing in South Australia: First hundred years, 1837-1937' (The SA Trained Nurses Centenary Committee, Adelaide, 1939), p. 329-331; Joan Durdin, 'They became nurses: A history of nursing in South Australia', 1836-1980 (Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1991), p. 101 & historical summary accompanying series list for SRG 8, Records of the Babies Hospital Association, State Library of SA.*

## THE RECORDS

- State Library of SA
- State Records of SA

## ADMISSION RECORDS

No admission records have been located.



*Mareeba Babies Hospital Woodville Park 1921  
SLSA: B1802, Interior of ward for newborn babies,  
Mareeba Hospital 1957 SLSA: B58390  
Courtesy State Library of South Australia*

## OTHER RECORDS - State Library of SA

### Minutes

- **Archive reference** - SRG 8/1
- **Title** - *Minutes of the Babies Hospital Association*
- **Date range** - 1912-1951
- **Appearance** - Five volumes of minutes.
- **Contents** - Only volumes 1 and 2 contain entries relating to the establishment of the hospital and discussion regarding staffing and equipment.
  
- **Archive reference** - SRG 8/2
- **Title** - *Minutes of the Babies Hospital House Committee*
- **Date range** 1915-1939
- **Appearance** - Four volumes of minutes, one outside.
- **Contents** - Minutes mostly include discussion relating to staffing of hospital and purchase of equipment. Minutes also include matron's monthly reports with numbers of babies admitted, discharged and deceased. No names given. Some names appear in relation to grants of milk and food to certain babies.

### Correspondence

- **Archive reference** - SRG 8/6
- **Date range** - 1932-1945
- **Contents** - Most correspondence relates to staff and maintenance. Includes one list of admissions and discharges for 1932 with no names.

## OTHER RECORDS - State Records of SA

### Correspondence

- **Archive reference** - GRG 78/1
- **Title** - *Correspondence Files of Colonial Surgeon's Office and successor agencies*
- **Date range** - 1852-1973
- **Contents** - This series comprises correspondence files of the Colonial Surgeon's office and its successors, including the Hospitals Department. The correspondence may include letters related to Mareeba Babies Hospital.
  
- **Archive reference** - GRG 78/5
- **Title** - *Index to Correspondence Files*
- **Date range** - 1895-1959
- **Contents** - This is an index to the above correspondence. A preliminary survey noted that the index includes a tabbed section titled Mareeba Babies Hospital. References to correspondence related to the Hospital are listed in this section.

## REPORTS - State Library of SA

- **Archive reference** - SRG 8/4
- **Title** - *Annual Reports of the Babies Hospital Association*
- **Date range** - 1915-1951 with gaps
- **Contents** - Reports give numbers of children admitted to the home and details about the kind of work being done there. Some reports include photographs.

## PHOTOGRAPHS - State Library of SA

- **Archive reference** - SRG 8/12
- **Date range** - 1918-1954
- **Appearance** - Album of photographs.
- **Contents** - Contains many photographs of babies, including Aboriginal children. Some photographs are labelled with names, others are not.

## BOOKS

Sister Botrill, *Nursing in South Australia: First hundred years, 1837-1937* (The SA Trained Nurses Centenary Committee, Adelaide, 1939)

## *Minda Home*

*The great object of the institution was that such intelligence as the little ones had might be fanned by gentleness and care into brightness and the promise of a useful life. Hitherto there had been no facility to train those so afflicted...the home was to be conducted by a specially trained and experienced staff. There would be constant care and kindness and - what was even of more importance - associated with these things, discipline, orderliness and cleanliness.*

*From 'Minda Home SA, Fifty years of sympathetic care and practical service', (1948), p. 18*



*Fete at Minda Home 1920 SLSA: PRG 280/1/28/68,  
Children and staff at Minda Home 1907 SLSA: PRG  
280/1/3/103*

*Courtesy State Library of South Australia*

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Years of operation:** 1898-Present

**Also known as:** Home for Weakminded children (1898)

**Run by:** Independent committee of management

**Addresses:** Fullarton Road, Fullarton 1898-1911  
King George Avenue, Brighton 1911-Present

### HISTORY

Prior to the establishment of Minda Home, children with intellectual disabilities were placed in the Parkside Asylum along with adults. In 1894 a number of concerned citizens approached the Chief Secretary seeking to encourage the government to assist with establishing a better quality institution specifically for the benefit and training of these children. The government promised a sum of £500 on the condition that a similar amount was raised from public donations. This was done and in 1897 a home on Fullarton Road at Fullarton was purchased with the potential to accommodate twenty-two children. The home was officially registered as 'The home for weakminded children', but it was called 'Minda' an Aboriginal word meaning 'a place of shelter and protection'. The object of the institution was to provide 'maintenance, care, education and special training' for these children so that 'their lives may become happy and useful.' Ten children moved in during May 1898. They were cared for by Matron Elizabeth Barker and educated by a teacher, Miss Edna Fox, both of whom had been brought over from England. The small home was soon filled to capacity.

After a number of years seeking a suitable location for a larger institution, a property at Brighton was purchased in 1909. The government increased its support and a new home was erected. The institution was incorporated and officially named Minda Home in September 1911. The children from Fullarton were moved in two months later. Another building, the Verco Building, was added to the site in 1913 as demand for places exceeded capacity. Further cottage style buildings, named Lady Galway and Sir Charles Goode, were built in 1918. More additions were made in the 1920s and 1930s. By 1934 Minda was also operating a farm and dormitory at Craighburn farm in Blackwood.

In 1937 Minda was recognized as a part-time training school for mental health nurses. This training role continued until the 1970s. Minda Incorporated continues to operate today.

*Drawn from 'Minda Home SA, Fifty years of sympathetic care and practical service', (1948) and Joan Durdin, 'They became nurses: A history of nursing in South Australia, 1836-1980' (Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1991).*

## THE RECORDS

The records search for this institution has not yet been conducted. Further information will be provided in a *FYOW* update.

## *Morialta Protestant Children's Home*

*The babies missed out on motherly hugs and kisses. The nurses were caring people but they could not replace the kids' mums. This individual love is what I think the children missed the most.*

*Girl at Morialta 1930s*

*We loved the children as much as we were able, or allowed. We had to be careful not to have favourites.*

*Nurse at Morialta, 1940s*

*As quoted in Peter Scottney-Turbill, 'Morialta: Fire in the Mist' (Adelaide, 1994), p. 77*

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Years of operation:** 1924-1974

**Also known as:** Morialta Childrens Homes Incorporated

**Run by:** A board of management comprising representatives of the Independent Order of Oddfellows [IOOF], the Congregational Union, Churches of Christ, the SA Protestant Federation, the Baptist Union, the Presbyterian Church and Public Subscribers.

**Addresses:** Norton Summit

### HISTORY

*Morialta* was built in 1847 by pioneer pastoralist, John Baker and was a private family home and station for many years. The property was purchased by the South Australian Protestant Federation in June 1924. In May a public meeting had been held at the Adelaide Town Hall to raise funds for the establishment of a childrens home. Many prominent members of Adelaide society contributed to the project. The first eight children moved into the home shortly after it opened in October 1924. Six months later, on 30 April 1925, the home was incorporated. By 1928 the Board of Management was made up of representatives of a number of religious and philanthropic organizations including the Independent Order of Oddfellows [IOOF], the Congregational Union, Churches of Christ, the SA Protestant Federation, the Baptist Union and the Presbyterian Church.

At the time of its incorporation there were 25 children in the home aged between 4 and 13 years. By 1928, 43 boys and 22 girls were accommodated and in 1929 a new separate block of dormitories for the boys was erected. Once more beds were available the number of children admitted to the home increased. By 1930 the home was filled to capacity with 109 children, cared for by ten staff members. While resident at *Morialta*, school age children attended the local Norton Summit Primary School. During 1948-1949 a documentary film, called *The Open Door*, was filmed in order to make the work of *Morialta* more widely known.

In 1966 the Board became concerned that many boys leaving the home to start work had difficulty finding suitable accommodation. In 1967 it purchased a property at Toorak Gardens and opened a hostel for boys who were studying or working. A name change to *Morialta Childrens Homes Incorporated* followed in 1972. The early 1970s saw changes in the philosophy and operation of residential child care facilities and the general move from large institutions to smaller group homes. At the same time *Morialta* was also facing financial difficulties. In 1974 *Morialta* at Norton Summit closed. The hostel at Toorak Gardens continued for a time but it was not long until it too was sold and *Morialta Childrens Homes* was converted to the *Morialta Trust* (1976). This benevolent organisation continues to provide financial and other assistance to children and others in need.

*Drawn from Peter Scottney-Turbill, 'Morialta: Fire in the Mist' (Adelaide, 1994)*

## THE RECORDS

- State Records of SA

## ADMISSION RECORDS

No admission registers have been located.

## OTHER RECORDS - State Records of SA

### Children's files

- **Archive reference** - GRG 29/142
- **Title** - *Children's files*
- **Date range** - 1943-1973
- **Appearance** - Manila folders containing admission records and correspondence.
- **Contents** - Individual children's files comprising admission forms and correspondence. Admission forms give (1) Name, (2) Date of birth, (3) Religion, (4) Sex, (5) Eyes, (6) Hair, (7) Colouring, (8) Special marks, (9) Date of admission, (10) Father, (11) Address, (12) Mother, (13) Address, (14) Custody or guardianship, (15) Maintenance rate, (16) Responsibility, (17) Health record, (18) Immunised, (19) Medical/X-ray/Dental, (20) Education, (21) School attending on admission, (22) Grade, (23) Emergency contact. Correspondence relates to various matters.
- **Access** - These records are restricted for 80 years.

### Children's releases

- **Archive reference** - GRG 29/143
- **Title** - *Miscellaneous files including children's releases*
- **Date range** - 1960-1970
- **Appearance** - Manila folders filed by year containing admission information and release forms. Description drawn from sample files viewed.
- **Contents** - Admission forms give information described in Children's files above. Information forms are typed forms with same headings as above, but include further typed information regarding child's parents, background to child's situation and admission, and information about previous homes admitted to. Release forms are signed by the parent or guardian who removed the child from the home.
- **Access** - These records are restricted for 80 years.

### Minutes

- **Archive reference** - GRG 29/144
- **Date range** - 1942-1969
- **Title** - *Minutes of the Board of Governors of the Morialta Protestant Children's Homes*
- **Appearance** - Three large volumes with typed minutes pasted in.
- **Contents** - Minutes (1940s) include references to an Admission Committee Minute Book. Names of children are occasionally mentioned in this committee's report when seeking Board's approval for admission or for prospective adoption. Report generally only gives numbers of children admitted. Later minutes also refer to other reports including: Administration committee, Homes Control committee, Inside and outside control committees, matrons' reports and superintendents' reports. Summaries of reports provide general and statistical information. Other discussion in minutes relates to running of home, regulations, policies, maintenance, finance and staff matters. Volumes 2 and 3 include some full matron's and superintendent's reports from 1950s-1960s which include names and details of children.

- **Archive reference** - GRG 29/175
- **Date range** - 1946-1950
- **Title** - *Annual general meeting minutes and related correspondence*
- **Contents** - Not sighted.

### Miscellaneous records

There are a number of other records held within the Records of the Social Welfare Department GRG 29, which relate to Morialta Childrens Home. These include financial records, the constitution, regulations and correspondence re the purchase of the property.

### **PHOTOGRAPHS – State Records of SA**

- **Archive reference** - GRG 29/150
- **Date range** - 1924-1957
- **Contents** - Two albums of photographs comprising 159 items.

### **MOTION PICTURE FILM - State Records of SA**

- **Archive reference** - GRG 29/176
- **Title** - *The Open Door*
- **Date range** - 1949-1950
- **Contents** - Not viewed.

### **BOOKS**

Malcolm King, *The boy*, (Spindrift Publications, Brighton, 1981)

Peter Scottney-Turbill, *Morialta: Fire in the Mist* (Adelaide, 1994)

## *Northcote Home*

During the nine years the home has been open, it has cared for 1,018 patients, 537 mothers and convalescents, and 481 babies and small children. Although similar homes are well known in England, this is the only home of its kind in South Australia, and its existence is fully justified by the number of patients who have benefited by a stay there, and returned to their homes rested, refreshed, and helped to face the world again.

*From Sister Botrill, 'Nursing in South Australia: First hundred years, 1837-1937' (The SA Trained Nurses Centenary Committee, Adelaide, 1939), p. 337*

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Years of operation:** 1928-1973

**Also known as:** Northcote Home for Mothers and Babies  
Northcote Home Inc

**Run by:** Northcote Home management committee

**Address:** 113 The Esplanade, Grange

### HISTORY

Sir Josiah Symon and Misses M and E Symon donated funds for the building of this home. It was established as a rest home for mothers and their new born babies, but soon also took in pregnant women, convalescent mothers, and babies and small children requiring specialist care. Babies were sometimes admitted without their mothers. Initially the home could only accommodate six mothers and their children. In 1929 additions to the premises were made so that more women and children could be cared for. In 1941 the home became a Tuberculosis 'preventorium', a shelter for children whose parents were recovering from tuberculosis. It later cared for other children in need. The home closed on 24 December 1973 and the building was sold to the Mental Health Services department of the State government.

*Drawn from summary history accompanying series list, State Library of SA and Sister Botrill, 'Nursing in South Australia: First hundred years, 1837-1937' (The SA Trained Nurses Centenary Committee, Adelaide, 1939)*

### THE RECORDS

- State Library of SA

#### **ADMISSION RECORDS - State Library of SA**

- **Archive reference** - SRG 154/13
- **Title** - *Northcote Home Inc: Monthly register of children at the Home*
- **Date range** - 1969-1973
- **Appearance** - One volume.
- **Contents** - Not yet reviewed.
- **Access** - Restricted. Series not to be used without permission of the Archivist.

- **Archive reference** - SRG 154/14
- **Title** - *Northcote Home Inc: Daily register of admittance and discharge of children, number of children and TB cases*
- **Date range** - 1964-1973
- **Appearance** - One volume.
- **Contents** - Not yet reviewed.
- **Access** - Restricted. Series not to be used without permission of the Archivist.

## **OTHER RECORDS - State Library of SA**

### **Matron's reports**

- **Archive reference** - SRG 154/15
- **Date range** - 1972-1973
- **Appearance** - One folder.
- **Contents** - Not yet reviewed.
- **Access** - Restricted. Series not to be used without permission of the Archivist.

### **Minutes**

- **Archive reference** - SRG 154/1
- **Title** - *Northcote Home Inc: Minutes of the board of management*
- **Date range** - 1927-1940 & 1948-1974
- **Appearance** - Two volumes and two bundles.
- **Contents** - Not yet reviewed.

## *Wanslea Childrens Home*

*'Our service to children' is the motto on the Badge of the Wanslea Aids and that certainly is the primary object of the Home, but the two-fold purpose of 'Wanslea': (a) To provide a home for a short period for children aged from one to twelve years whose mothers are temporarily unable to look after them; and (b) To train young women to take charge of private homes during family emergencies and to act as mother to the children; includes more than a service to children. The comfort and relief to parents who can be confident of their children's happiness and safety while they themselves are ill, cannot be too strongly emphasized.*

*From Annual Report, Wanslea Inc: Emergency Home for Children, 1950-1951.*



Wanslea 1992  
Courtesy Anglican Archives

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Years of operation:** 1947-1980

**Also known as:** Wanslea Incorporated Emergency Home for Children  
Now known as Wanslea Incorporated - operates as a Day Care Centre for children

**Run by:** Women's Australian National Services

**Addresses:** 222 Payneham Road , Payneham 1947-1958  
51 Cross Road, Kingswood 1958-1980

### HISTORY

Wanslea was the 'dream' of members of the Women's Australian National Services [WANS]. This organization had been established in 1941 with the object of training women to undertake work which would assist Australia's war effort. Their motto was 'Pledged to Unity and Service'. After the war the group turned their efforts to another service project, the establishment of a home for children, particularly those whose mothers could not care for them due to illness or hospitalisation. At the same time the home was to operate as a training school for Wanslea aids. While working in the home trainee aids learned child care, first aid and cooking; skills which would allow them to take charge of a home and children in times of emergency.

The WANS purchased a property on Payneham Road which was formerly a private hospital. Public support and donations allowed the building to be substantially renovated and it was opened on 22 March 1947. During the first month of opening 66 children, aged between fourteen months and twelve years, were cared for. At any one time during that year there were at least eighteen children staying at the home. By the late 1950s over thirty children were accommodated under the care of six full-time staff members and up to sixteen Wanslea aids and trainee aids. Funding for the home was always tight. Minimal fees were charged for care of children in the home, but no child in need was turned away because parents could not afford the cost. In those cases fees were reduced or waived. Funds for renovations and maintenance were raised through badge days and through donations from businesses and the general public. During the late 1950s it became clear that to continue as a children's home, the Payneham property would require extensive renovation. Therefore, it was decided to purchase a new premises. In 1958 Wanslea moved to Kingswood.

During the early 1970s there was a great increase in the number of parents wishing to leave children at Wanslea for day care. By 1976-1977 residential care was gradually being phased out. However, Wanslea continued to offer an emergency service for a number of years in cases where no other suitable means of care was available. In 1990 Wanslea amalgamated with Anglican Community Services. Anglicare still runs the home today as a child care centre. The Women's Australian National Services Association ceased to operate in 1997.

*Drawn from A S Angas, 'History of the Women's Australian National Services, South Australia' (WANS, Kingswood, 1981) and 'Annual Reports of Wanslea Inc', 1940s-1990, held at Anglican Archives.*

## THE RECORDS

- Anglican Archives
- State Library of SA

## ADMISSION RECORDS

No admission registers have been located.

## OTHER RECORDS - Anglican Archives

Note: These records were salvaged after a fire at Wanslea on 20 July 1990. There is no definite documentation of other records stored on the premises that may have been destroyed.

### Minutes

- **Archive reference** - Box 139, Wanslea
- **Title** - *House minutes*
- **Date range** - 1955-1964
- **Contents** - Minutes include matron's and visitor's reports which provide information about numbers of children in the home and general happenings. No names of children are given.
  
- **Archive reference** - Box 155
- **Title** - *House Committee minutes*
- **Date range** - 1965-1966 & 1970s-1980s
- **Appearance** - Fire damaged minute book with pasted in typed minutes. Folders of loose minutes.
- **Contents** - Minutes include general information about numbers of children in the home. Some names of children are mentioned in relation to illness and hospital visits. Surnames of family are given in relation to payment of fees.

### Miscellaneous records and correspondence

- **Archive reference** - Boxes 137-156
- **Date range** - 1940s-1990s
- **Contents** - Miscellaneous records relating to WANS and Wanslea including general correspondence, minutes of various WANS committees, and financial documents. Few documents contain references to children and no names are mentioned.

## OTHER RECORDS - State Library of SA

### Minutes

- **Archive reference** - SRG 514/3
- **Title** - *General meeting minutes*
- **Date range** - 1941-1997
- **Appearance** - Bound volumes of minutes, handwritten and typed. Later minutes are loose typed pages held together in cardboard folders.
- **Contents** - Minutes variously include 'Wanslea reports', matron's reports and House Committee reports. These reports provide information about numbers of children in the home, discussion of maintenance and staffing issues.
- **Archive reference** - SRG 514/1
- **Title** - *Executive meeting minutes*
- **Date range** - 1945-1948
- **Contents** - Minutes include very little discussion relating to Wanslea.
  
- **Archive reference** - SRG 514/2
- **Title** - *Council meeting minutes*
- **Date range** - 1944-1946
- **Contents** - Minutes occasionally mention Wanslea, mainly in relation to fundraising.

### REPORTS - Anglican Archives

- **Title** - *Annual Reports Wanslea Incorporated*
- **Date range** - 1946-1991 with gaps
- **Contents** - Reports include information on general activities at the home and staff changes. They include a matron's report and training committee report with numbers of children and trainees. Some photographs are included.

### BOOKS

A S Angas, *History of the Women's Australian National Services, South Australia* (WANS, Kingswood, 1981)

## *Warrawee, Grange*

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Years of operation:** 1950-1975

**Also known as:** No other names

**Run by:** SA Council of the Australian Inland Mission and the Far North Children's Health Scheme

**Address:** Seaview Road, Grange (Tennyson)

### HISTORY

*Warrawee*, an Aboriginal word meaning 'camp here' or 'rest here', was named by the Goodwin family who previously owned the property. They named it after a small coastal steamer on which they had met. In 1931 Reverend FH Patterson, a Presbyterian minister and later Padre of the Southern Patrol of the Australian Inland Mission [AIM], decided that it would be beneficial for inland children, particularly Aboriginal children, to visit the seaside for a holiday. A committee was formed to plan how this could be achieved. The first camp was held at St Peter's Anglican Church Hall at Glenelg in 1933. Twenty five children came by train to Adelaide from as far north as Alice Springs. They spent three busy weeks in the city before returning home. The second camp was held at the Junior Red Cross Home at Henley Beach. The third and successive camps were held at *Kapara*, a convalescent Home at Glenelg. During the Second World War further camps were put on hold. One was held in 1949, but an epidemic of poliomyelitis caused the next annual camp to be cancelled. Finding accommodation for the campers had always been a problem. In April 1950 Reverend John Flynn and Mr Errol F Monk, secretary of the camp committee, walked along the beachfront from Northcote Home to Grange looking for a suitable site. They spotted *Warrawee* which at that time was a very old residence of eight main rooms. AIM purchased the building and land in July 1950 and carried out extensive renovations. The first group of children arrived there for a Christmas camp in 1950. Other camps followed in 1951 and 1952. The home was officially opened in May 1952. The following year it also began operating as a hostel for inland children coming to Adelaide to study.

In February 1957 the Far North Children's Health Scheme was formed. As it was part of the AIM, it made *Warrawee* its base. This health scheme provided a service for outback children aged between five and fifteen to come to Adelaide for specialist medical care. Parents paid the cost of treatment only if they could afford it. As a result of this scheme further land was purchased and a new wing added to accommodate a minimum of twenty children. The work of the health scheme replaced the children's camps as demand for the service increased. Most of the patients were young Aboriginal children and babies. In 1965 further additions were made to the home and numbers of staff increased to cater for the thirty children who could now be admitted.

*Warrawee* closed in 1975 as by that time the majority of children were being admitted directly to the Adelaide Childrens Hospital. AIM sold the property

*Drawn from Robert J Scrimgeour, 'Some Scots were here: A history of the Presbyterian Church In South Australia, 1839-1977' (Lutheran Publishing House, Adelaide, 1986), p. 201-202; E M Ferguson, 'From the inland to Warrawee: a memory, a tribute' (Hunkin, Ellis & King, Adelaide, 1954) and Errol F Monk, 'Notes on the establishment of Warrawee Hospital, Tennyson' (1969).*

## THE RECORDS

- National Library of Australia

### **ADMISSION RECORDS – National Library of Australia**

MS 5574: Records of the Uniting Church in Australia Frontier Services.

#### Hospital registers

- **Archive reference** – MS 5574, Box 260, Books 1 & 2
- **Title** – *Far North Children's Health Scheme – Warrawee Private Hospital Registers*
- **Date range** – 1967-1968
- **Contents** – Not sighted. May include names and admission/discharge records of children admitted to Warrawee.

### **OTHER RECORDS – National Library of Australia**

MS 5574: Records of the Uniting Church in Australia Frontier Services.

A guide to these records listing contents of boxes is available (147 pages).

#### Child endowment records

- **Archive reference** – MS 5574, Box 261, Folder 1
- **Title** – *Far North Children's Health Scheme – Child endowment returns*
- **Date range** – 1973-1974
- **Contents** – Not sighted. May include names and admission/discharge details of children at Warrawee for whom child endowment was claimed.

#### Patient records

- **Archive reference** – MS5574, Box 259, Folder 8
- **Title** – *Far North Children's Health Scheme – Aboriginal patients' records*
- **Date range** – 1970-1971
- **Contents** – Not sighted.

#### Miscellaneous correspondence and documents

- **Archive reference** – MS 5574, Boxes 150-154
- **Title** – *Far North Children's Health Scheme*
- **Date range** – 1947-1974
- **Contents** – Not sighted. Boxes contain miscellaneous correspondence and other documents relating to Warrawee. These include correspondence from matrons; reports on treatment of patients; correspondence about admissions and discharges; and correspondence regarding building, legal and financial matters. Some records may contain information about children in the home.
- **Archive reference** – MS 5574, Boxes 257-263
- **Title** – *Far North Children's Health Scheme*
- **Date range** – 1969-1974
- **Contents** – Not sighted. Boxes contain miscellaneous correspondence and other documents relating to Warrawee. These include general correspondence, staff records, a visitors' book, records relating to hospital equipment and medications, correspondence with the Department for Community Welfare and other reports. Boxes also include the registers, patient records and endowment forms listed above.

- **Archive reference** – MS 5574, Boxes 288, 304-305
- **Title** – *Office Administration Files and Warrawee Hospital*
- **Date range** – 1970s
- **Contents** – Correspondence relating to sale of the Warrawee property, hospital returns and booklet, 'From Inland to Warrawee', 1972-1975.

#### **PHOTOGRAPHS – National Library of Australia**

- **Archive reference** – MS 5574, Boxes 227-228
- **Title** - *Photographs of AIM Institutions and Miscellaneous*
- **Date range** – 1930s- 1950s
- **Contents** – Photographs of Children's Camps and of Warrawee Private Hospital.
- **Archive reference** – MS 5574, Boxes 286
- **Title** - *Photographs and albums*
- **Date range** – 1930s
- **Contents** – Photograph albums of Children's Camps and scrapbook of news clippings.

#### **BOOKS**

Robert J Scrimgeour. *Some Scots were here: A history of the Presbyterian Church In South Australia, 1839-1977* (Lutheran Publishing House, Adelaide, 1986)

E M Ferguson, *From the inland to Warrawee: a memory, a tribute* (Hunkin, Ellis & King, Adelaide, 1954)

## *Waverley, Legacy Childrens Home*

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Years of operation:** 1945-1964

**Also known as:** Wentworth Legacy Hostel

**Run by:** Legacy Club of Adelaide Inc

**Addresses:** Woodville 1945-1947  
South Terrace, Adelaide 1947-1964

### HISTORY

This hostel was originally established at Woodville in a building donated to the Legacy Club. It operated as a boarding home for country children studying in the city. The building was soon found to be unsuitable for the purpose and in 1947 a new property, *Waverley*, was purchased. Twenty teenagers could be accommodated in these large premises. Although by the late 1950s the hostel was mostly providing short-term care, it also provided longer term shelter for any Legacy children who were unable to be cared for by their mothers. Staffing of the home was always a problem and in 1964 the property was sold to the neighbouring St Andrews Hospital. Temporary hostel care continued for a short time in two cottages in Gurney Street, Dulwich, but changes in the philosophy of child-care led to their closure.

*Drawn from Brian Dickey, 'A generation of Legacy service: South Australia and Broken Hill since 1945', (Legacy Club of Adelaide Inc, Adelaide, 1997), p. 66-68*

### THE RECORDS

- State Library of SA

### **ADMISSION RECORDS**

No admission registers have been located.

### **OTHER RECORDS – State Library of SA**

SRG 445 – Records of the Legacy Club of Adelaide Incorporated

### Correspondence

- **Archive reference** – SRG 445, Boxes 12-38
- **Title** – *Correspondence filed by name of legatee*
- **Date range** – 1941-1979
- **Contents** – Correspondence is filed alphabetically by surname of legatee. These files may include correspondence relating to children accommodated at the hostel.
- **Access** – Restricted. Requires written permission from Legacy Club for access.

## Minutes

- **Archive reference** – SRG 445, Box 56
- **Title** – *Minutes of Hostel Committee*
- **Date range** – Not known
- **Contents** – Minutes may include information relating to Waverley Hostel.
- **Access** – Restricted. Requires written permission from Legacy Club for access.
  
- **Archive reference** – SRG 445, Box 62
- **Title** – *Minutes of Committee responsible for various Legacy properties including Wentworth House and Waverley House*
- **Date range** – Not known
- **Contents** – Minutes may include information relating to these homes.
- **Access** – *Restricted. Requires written permission from Legacy Club for access.*
  
- **Archive reference** – SRG 445, Box 71
- **Title** – *Minutes and papers of Waverley and Wentworth House Committee*
- **Date range** – Not known
- **Contents** – Minutes may include information relating to these homes.
- **Access** – Restricted. Requires written permission from Legacy Club for access.

## Miscellaneous Papers

- **Archive reference** – SRG 445, Box 70 & 78
- **Title** – *Papers re Waverley House/Hostel*
- **Date range** – Not known
- **Contents** – Papers may include information relating to children residing in the hostel.
- **Access** – Restricted. Requires written permission from Legacy Club for access.

## Individual Files

- **Archive reference** – SRG 445, Box 72 & 88
- **Title** – *Individual Files*
- **Date range** – Not known
- **Contents** – These may relate to children residing at the hostel.
- **Access** – Restricted. Requires written permission from Legacy Club for access.

## **PHOTOGRAPHS – State Library of SA**

- **Archive reference** – SRG 445, Box 91
- **Contents** – Not sighted. May contain photographs of the home.

## **BOOKS**

Brian Dickey, *A generation of Legacy service: South Australia and Broken Hill since 1945*, (Legacy Club of Adelaide Inc, Adelaide, 1997), p. 66-68

## *Wiltja Hostel*

Coming across a black and white photograph recently held both feelings of nostalgia and sadness. Nostalgia because I had not seen the photograph for 40 years and sadness because of the circumstances under which I originally had possession of it. The photograph was of my older sister, three of my brothers and myself taken at the Raukkan Primary School in October 1959. My Mother must have given us the photo to take with us when we left her to go to the Millswood Girls Home (Wiltja) in 1962. The reason for my three sisters and I and my three brothers ending up in homes was a breakdown in our family unit as a result of alcoholism and ongoing domestic violence.

Our Mum had no choice but to leave our Father and with the help of two uncles we escaped from Millicent in the South East and eventually ended up in Adelaide in early 1962. This was preceded by a bout of 'hiding out' on a friend's spare farm house at the back of Narrung as we knew that our Father would come back to Raukkan to look for us. When it was safe to leave we headed for the city and arrived here in early 1962 and were immediately given refuge at the North Adelaide Women's Home, Sussex Street, where my Mum secured a position as a domestic. Recently a co-worker visited the address of the ex Millswood Girls Home to photograph it for this directory. The owner of the home had been renovating and found some photos and handed them over hoping they could be returned to the relevant people. The envelope contained this precious photo of my family. The photograph also represents the fears and ongoing anxieties I experienced as a result of the breakdown and separation from my Mum. It also signifies the safe and secure haven in which I lived through some of the happiest experiences of my late childhood and early adolescence with my second 'family' of numerous 'sisters' who came and went for one reason or another. Fortunately all five of us in the photograph are still alive and now in our 50's and our plan is to be re-photographed sitting and standing in exactly the same positions as October 1959.

*Polly Sumner*

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Years of operation:** 1956-1982

**Also known as:** Aborigines Advancement League Hostel  
Millswood Girls Home

**Run by:** Aborigines Advancement League

**Addresses:** 17 East Avenue, Millswood

### HISTORY

This hostel for Aboriginal girls was opened in November 1956. Its purpose was to provide accommodation for girls who were attending secondary school in Adelaide. Many girls remained there during their first year of work after leaving school. In 1978 the hostel changed to a boarding home for Aboriginal people visiting the city. In 1980 the Aborigines Advancement League leased the property to the Education Department and two years later that department purchased the hostel.

*Drawn from miscellaneous papers and correspondence held in SRG 250 Records of the Aborigines Advancement League, State Library of SA.*



*Raukkan Primary School, October 1959 Front row: Basil Sumner, Major Sumner, Colin Sumner Back row: Polly Sumner, June Sumner, Courtesy Polly Sumner. Former Wiltja Hostel 2005, Courtesy Kay Goodman-Dodd*

## THE RECORDS

- State Library of SA

### ADMISSION RECORDS – State Library of SA

#### Admission Register

- **Archive reference** – SRG 250/16/1
- **Title** – *Wiltja Residents*
- **Date range** – 1973-1975
- **Appearance** – Quarto size exercise book.
- **Contents** – One page per girl with entries under (1) Name, (2) Birth date, (3) Religion, (4) Next of kin, (5) Home Address, (6) School, (7) Teacher, (8) Remarks.
- **Notes on contents** – (8) Remarks includes notes on schooling, work, medical issues, name of welfare officer and discharge information.

### OTHER RECORDS – State Library of SA

#### Minutes

- **Archive reference** – SRG 250/15
- **Title** – *Minute Book of the Board of Wiltja Hostel*
- **Date range** – 1970-1973
- **Contents** – Minutes include references to girls by name with regard to school results and holiday arrangements. Also includes references to behaviour of girls and consequences of 'misbehaviour', sometimes with names.

#### Miscellaneous Papers

- **Archive reference** - SRG 250/20
- **Date range** - Not known
- **Contents** - Includes monthly reports handwritten on typed form giving numbers of girls admitted and discharged, notes on illnesses, home repairs, visits and outings, gifts to the home and remarks. Remarks provides information about the girls and happenings at the home. Also includes a copy of Wiltja Hostel Rules.
- **Archive reference** - SRG 250/28
- **Date range** - 1969-1982
- **Contents** - Miscellaneous papers relating to the purpose of the hostel, additions and alterations to the building and its final sale to the Education department.

## ACCESS TO RECORDS OF HOMES

### STATE LIBRARY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

#### Access conditions

In most cases, records of homes held at the State Library may be researched and copies may be made for private research. Some collections, such as the records of Waverley, the Legacy Children's Home, are restricted and require permission from the donor for access. Other records, such as some relating to Northcote Home are restricted because they contain confidential information. Approval from the Archivist must be sought to obtain access to these records. No material drawn from any records can be published without written permission from the Mortlock Library. Records must be read in the Somerville Reading Room at the Library. A Reader's Ticket is required. This is available in the Reading Room. The State Library has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with SA Link-Up.

**Contact:** Research Services State Library of SA

GPO Box 419, Adelaide SA 5001

**Telephone:** (08) 8207 7200 **Country callers:** 1800 182 013

**Fax:** (08) 8207 7247

**Location:** North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000

**Website:** [www.slsa.sa.gov.au](http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au)

### STATE RECORDS OF SA

#### **Access conditions**

Although some early records relating to institutions for children in South Australia are open access, many later records are subject to restrictions. Records which contain personal information about individuals are usually restricted for at least sixty years from the date of their creation. More sensitive records, such as adoption files, are restricted for up to eighty years. Written permission must be obtained from the government agency which created the record in order to access restricted material. In the case of records relating to children, the agency responsible is the Adoption and Family Information Service of the Department for Families and Communities.

A Research Centre Members card, obtainable at the Archives, is required to research records held at State Records. State Records has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with SA Link-Up.

**Contact:** State Records of South Australia

GPO Box 1072, Adelaide SA 5001

**Telephone:** 8226 7750

**Email:** [srsageneralenquiries@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:srsageneralenquiries@saugov.sa.gov.au)

**Location:** *Gepps Cross Research Centre*

115 Cavan Road, Gepps Cross SA 5094

*City Research Centre*, Bickford North Building

26-28 Leigh Street, Adelaide SA 5000

**Website:** [www.archives.sa.gov.au](http://www.archives.sa.gov.au)

**Opening hours:** Closed on public holidays.

**Gepps Cross:** Tuesday - Friday 9.30 am - 3.30 pm, 1st Sunday each month 11 am - 5 pm.

**City:** Tuesday - Friday 9.30 am - 3.30 pm.

**Fees:** Photocopying 50 cents per A4, \$1.05 per A3. Researchers may take digital photographs of records subject to approval from staff.

## ANGLICAN ARCHIVES

### Access conditions

Records held in the Anglican Archives, including those related to former Church of England Childrens Homes and other institutions, contain confidential information. In order to maintain the confidentiality of other people, a written application for information is required, identification of the applicant established, and, where the request is about someone other than the applicant, permission from that person or other evidence of eligibility to access that information must be provided. The form *Request for access to personal information* states that while the Anglican Archives recognises and respects the need for individuals to seek information about themselves and will assist where possible, it also recognises the need to protect the confidentiality of other people's records.

**Contact:** The Archivist, Anglican Archives

18 King William Road, Adelaide SA 5006

**Telephone:** (08) 8239 1249

**Location:** 18 King William Road

Adelaide SA 5006 (Next to St Peter's Cathedral)

**Opening hours:** By appointment

**Fees:** No access charges for individual research or research in conjunction with SA Link-Up. An initial search fee of \$33 is charged where the Archivist conducts research on behalf of a client. Charges are made for photocopying.

## NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA (MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTION)

### Access conditions

To access manuscripts held in the National Library readers must register as a 'manuscripts reader' using the Library's online application form. Proof of identity is required before a reader's ticket is issued. Manuscripts can be called up by filling out a call slip in the Reading Room. Records are researched in the Manuscripts Reading Room during Library hours or by special arrangement in the Petherick Reading Room on evening and weekends. Some records are restricted. Limited photocopying can be requested and is carried out by staff.

**Contact:** Manuscript Librarian

National Library of Australia

Canberra ACT 2600

**Telephone:** (02) 6262 1259 or (02) 6262 1569

**Fax:** (02) 6262 1516

**Email:** mnscripts@nla.gov.au

**Location:** Parkes Place

Parkes, Canberra ACT 2600

**Website:** [www.nla.gov.au](http://www.nla.gov.au) Online enquiry form also available

## NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA (ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION)

### Access conditions

To access tapes and transcripts held in the Collection readers must fill in an Oral History Request form, available from the Petherick Reading Room. Access to tapes and transcripts is subject to the conditions

imposed by interviewees. In most cases access is available, but in some cases recordings are restricted. Sometimes written permission from the interviewee is required. In other cases the tapes and transcripts are subject to complete restriction for a long period of time. Tape recordings may be listened to and transcripts viewed in the Petherick Reading Room. Unrestricted tapes and transcripts can also be accessed through inter-library loan through another state or local library.

**Contact:** Oral History Collection

National Library of Australia, Canberra ACT 2600

**Telephone:** (02) 6262 1687 **Fax:** (02) 6273 5081

**Email:** [oralhist@nla.gov.au](mailto:oralhist@nla.gov.au)

**Location:** Parkes Place

Parkes, Canberra ACT 2600

**Website:** [www.nla.gov.au](http://www.nla.gov.au)