

Reference Guide

Orphanages and Children's Homes in Otago and Southland



Anglican Memorial Home, Dunedin, date unknown. Collins & Sons postcard, reader access file (Dunedin – Andersons Bay), pictorial collections [S09-404b].

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Introduction

There have been numerous orphanages and children's homes in Otago and Southland, with some of them moving location or changing name. This guide gives a brief history of the homes and information on where further records can be located (most archives are not at the Hocken, but all of the books listed are held here). Access to personal records is often restricted – check with the relevant archive or their catalogue for details of any restrictions. Dates refer to the period during which the institution served as a children's home.

The majority of the children housed in 'orphanages' were not orphans, but children from families with difficulties. Some were illegitimate and their mothers were unable to both work and care for them, others had parents in prison or with alcohol problems, some were removed from 'immoral' situations (living with prostitutes), some were simply neglected by their parents, while others had behavioural problems and their parents could not manage them, or had them removed by the courts. Some children lived in homes temporarily until family problems had been solved, while others lived there until they reached adulthood.

The region's first children's homes were not purpose-built facilities but 'benevolent' or 'charitable' institutions which housed both adults and children. Later the government developed 'industrial schools' for neglected and criminal children, but in the late nineteenth century government policy shifted in favour of the 'boarding out' (fostering) of neglected or orphaned children. The late nineteenth century also saw controversy over 'baby farming' and other issues relating to the fostering of babies. As government institutions for children became smaller, churches and other charitable organisations began to open orphanages and children's homes. Eventually these also fell out of favour, and larger institutions became smaller 'cottage' homes, with the majority of children being housed in foster care.

General references:

Tennant, Margaret (1989). *Paupers & providers: charitable aid in New Zealand*. Wellington: Allen & Unwin. An excellent general history of welfare from the colonial period until the early twentieth century, with a chapter devoted to children.

Dalley, Bronwyn (1998). *Family matters: child welfare in twentieth-century New Zealand*. Auckland University Press and Historical Branch, Department of Internal Affairs. A book commissioned by the Department of Social Welfare. Gives a detailed history of changing child welfare policy over the century and includes references to numerous different children's homes.

Tim Garlick (c2012). *Social developments: an organisational history of the Ministry of Social Development and its predecessors, 1860-2011*. Wellington, N.Z.: Steele Roberts. This history of the Ministry of Social Development is also viewable online at <https://goo.gl/EeZAvx>.

Hospital and Charitable Aid Board Homes

Otago Benevolent Institution, Caversham, Dunedin (1866-1896)

The Institution was founded in 1852, funded by a combination of public support and government subsidies. It initially provided only 'outdoor relief' (grants to the needy) but in 1866 it opened a home for those in need. It took in both children and the elderly – children formed the majority of residents until the 1870s. The Institution had its own school, with a teacher provided by the Otago Education Board. The school closed in 1893.

When the government opened the Caversham Industrial School in 1869, a few children were transferred there, but the Otago Benevolent Institution did continue to admit children and numbers remained high through the 1880s. In the 1890s, a policy change led to most of the children moving into foster care. After 1896 only the occasional child stayed short-term at the Benevolent Institution, which became a home for the elderly alone. The Institution seems to have admitted children from Southland as well as Otago, until the opening of the Bowmont Street Home in Invercargill.

Location of records:

Archives New Zealand Dunedin Regional Office holds records, including a Register of Inmates 1887-1897. They also have correspondence from the Southland Provincial Government which includes returns of neglected and criminal children for the period 1863-1870. See the Archway catalogue for details of holdings.

The Otago Education Board Class Lists, held in the Hocken archives, include the Benevolent Institution School for the years 1882-1892.

References:

Archives New Zealand Archway catalogue history and notes:
<https://archway.archives.govt.nz/ViewEntity.do?code=DAKF>

Angus, John (1984). *A history of the Otago Hospital Board and its predecessors*. Dunedin: Otago Hospital Board.

Tennant, Margaret (1989). *Paupers & providers: charitable aid in New Zealand*. Wellington: Allen & Unwin.

Bowmont Street Home, Invercargill (1886-1902)

The Bowmont Street Home opened in 1886, and although it was intended as a home for the elderly it also admitted children. In 1901 residents of the home included 36 men, 11 women, 8 boys and 9 girls. When the special children's wing at Lorne Farm opened in 1902, the children from Bowmont Street Home moved there.

Location of records:

Unknown; possibly still held by the Southland District Health Board.

References:

History of the Southland Hospitals and Boards 1861-1968. (1968). [Invercargill: Southland Hospital Board].

Tennant, Margaret (1989). *Paupers & providers: charitable aid in New Zealand.* Wellington: Allen & Unwin.

Cyclopedia of New Zealand, Vol. 4, Otago and Southland. (1905). Christchurch: Cyclopedia Company, p.818. Available online via the New Zealand Electronic Text Centre <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc04Cycl.html>

Lorne Farm, Makarewa, Southland (1902-1926)

Lorne Farm (sometimes known as Lorne Home) opened in 1899, although initially it housed only elderly men. In 1902 a new wing for children opened, and the children from Bowmont Street Home moved in (a few boys seem to have been admitted to Lorne Farm prior to that date). The home was located on 95 acres of land, and residents worked on its farm. In 1908 an Education Department official complained of the "workhouse atmosphere" of the place.

There were 41 children living at Lorne Farm in November 1903. By 1921 the number had dropped to 31 (27 of them boys). Of these 31, only 3 were orphans, but none had two parents living together – 12 were illegitimate and 8 had only one parent living. Numbers declined with pressure from the Government and Education Department for children to be fostered. The children's department closed in 1926 with the last seven boys in residence moving into foster care.

Location of records:

Archives New Zealand, National Office, Wellington, holds some limited records, including a list of inmates. See their Archway catalogue for details of holdings.

References:

History of the Southland Hospitals and Boards 1861-1968. (1968). [Invercargill: Southland Hospital Board].

Tennant, Margaret (1989). *Paupers & providers: charitable aid in New Zealand*. Wellington: Allen & Unwin.

Cyclopedia of New Zealand, Vol. 4, Otago and Southland. (1905). Christchurch: Cyclopedia Company, p.818. Available online via the New Zealand Electronic Text Centre <https://goo.gl/rgD1Am> or Ancestry database.

Government Institutions

Industrial School, Caversham, Dunedin (1869-1927)

The Industrial School opened in January 1869 on a 21 acre site at Lookout Point. Children from Southland were admitted from 1871. Most of the children in the home were 2 years of age or over, although babies and toddlers could be admitted for a short period before being fostered or adopted out. Children often stayed long-term. Those over 12 years could take up trades apprenticeships, while 14 year olds became eligible for farm or domestic work. The school catered for children who were either in need or had committed offences (those committing more serious offences were admitted instead to a reformatory).

The school was managed by the Police Department of the Otago Provincial Government. Following the abolition of the provinces in 1876, the national Department of Justice took over. The school became the responsibility of the Education Department from around 1880.

By April 1869 the school housed 47 children, including 15 who had transferred from the Otago Benevolent Institution. By 1876, numbers had reached 166 and the building was seriously overcrowded, but the school continued to grow. In 1886, a change of government policy saw an increasing number of children boarded out. By January 1904 the school was responsible for 539 children, but only 141 lived in. Of the remainder, 183 were boarded out, 27 "licensed to friends", and 188 in service.

By 1920 the term 'industrial school' had been phased out, although the home seems to still have been known as such by the public. It was now one of only two long-term residential homes in New Zealand, housing girls, young women and young boys (older boys went to Weraroa, Levin). It was a central institution "for those who were believed to require special training before being placed out to service or with foster parents" (Dalley, p.77). This

included 'delinquent' girls, who had been housed at Te Oranga Reformatory in Christchurch until it closed in 1918.

The school finally closed in 1927 (and Te Oranga re-opened as the Burwood Home for older delinquent girls). The following year the Dunedin Boys' Receiving Home opened on the same site.

Location of records:

Archives New Zealand Dunedin Regional Office holds some records including two committal books that cover the period 1886-1897 – these have been digitised and can be viewed online via Archway.

Archives New Zealand Wellington National Office holds annual Nominal Rolls of Industrial Schools, arranged geographically, from 1882-1910 [series CW 14]. See their Archway catalogue for details of holdings.

For further information about researching Industrial School records, see the article by Heidi Kuglin of Archives New Zealand – 'Child welfare in the 19th and early 20th centuries', *New Zealand Genealogist* 37 (2006), pp. 232-235.

References:

Archives New Zealand Archway catalogue history and notes:
<https://archway.archives.govt.nz/ViewEntity.do?code=AAHS>

Archives New Zealand Education Research Guide: <http://archives.govt.nz/education> and Welfare Research Guide <http://archives.govt.nz/welfare>

Cyclopedia of New Zealand, Vol. 4, Otago and Southland. (1905). Christchurch: Cyclopedia Company, pp.148-149: <https://goo.gl/rgD1Am> or Ancestry database.

Annual reports are included in the *Votes and proceedings of the Provincial Council of the Province of Otago* for the period 1871 to 1875; and in the *Appendices to the Journal of the House of Representatives* (AJHR) from 1881 onwards (generally in sections E-3 or E-4). The AJHR for 1880, section H-1H, has the report of a commission appointed to inquire into the working and management of the Caversham Industrial School (this mentions a handful of specific cases, but not the full names of the children concerned). Some reports are now available at <https://atojs.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/atojs>.

The report on the school for 1873-4 in *Votes and proceedings of the Provincial Council of the Province of Otago*, Session 33, 1874, Appendix, pp.32-39, includes, alongside the usual statistical information and general comments, detailed accounts of 15 cases (clearly aimed at showing the institution's "success"). Although the children's full names are not included, other identifying information is given, such as their first name, age, date of admission.

Angus, John (1984). *A history of the Otago Hospital Board and its predecessors*. Dunedin: Otago Hospital Board.

Tennant, Margaret (1989). *Paupers & providers: charitable aid in New Zealand*. Wellington: Allen & Unwin.

Dalley, Bronwyn (1998). *Family matters: child welfare in twentieth-century New Zealand*. Auckland University Press and Historical Branch, Department of Internal Affairs.

Archives New Zealand Archway catalogue history and notes:
<https://archway.archives.govt.nz/ViewEntity.do?code=AAHS>

Dunedin Boys' Home, Lookout Point (1928-1991)

This home opened in 1928 on the site of the former Industrial School. It was originally known as the Boys' Receiving Home – Receiving Homes admitted children and screened them for further suitable placement. The Boys' Home closed in 1991 when Elliot Street became a mixed-sex home.

Location of records:

Records are held by the Dunedin Regional Office of Archives New Zealand (some of their Boys' Home holdings came via the Elliot Street Residential Centre and are currently catalogued under Elliot Street). The Child Welfare Division and Social Welfare Department case records may also include information about the residents.

References:

Dalley, Bronwyn (1998). *Family matters: child welfare in twentieth-century New Zealand*. Auckland University Press and Historical Branch, Department of Internal Affairs.

Elliot Street Home, Andersons Bay, Dunedin (1921-)

This home, at 40 Elliot Street, has served a variety of purposes. It started out as a Boys' Probation Home, which ran from 1921 to 1929. It then became the Dunedin Girls' Receiving Home. Like the equivalent Dunedin Boys' Receiving Home at Lookout Point, it admitted children and screened them for further suitable placement.

In 1972 the newly-formed Department of Social Welfare took over responsibility for child welfare from the Department of Education. Elliot Street Home then provided remand facilities and short term training for girls aged 10 to 17 years. The home closed in 1989, but reopened in 1991 as a new mixed-sex home. The site also housed an administration block and Highcliff High School.

Location of records:

Records are held by the Dunedin Regional Office of Archives New Zealand.

References:

Archives New Zealand Archway catalogue history and notes:

<https://archway.archives.govt.nz/ViewEntity.do?code=DAGN>

Dalley, Bronwyn (1998). *Family matters: child welfare in twentieth-century New Zealand*. Auckland University Press and Historical Branch, Department of Internal Affairs.

Dunedin Family Home

In the 1950s the government started a new policy of family homes. The Child Welfare Division purchased large houses which were run by married couples who cared for several children. Family homes were seen as an intermediate step before discharge back into the community. The history and location of the Dunedin Family Home is unclear. In 1963 it was being run by Mr and Mrs Croucher, who had then been there for four years. Around 1990, when services were being reorganised, the Dunedin Family Home became the Youth Justice Whare, centre for youth justice activities in the district and providing short-term care as an alternative to sending young people to Kingslea in Christchurch.

Location of records:

Contact Archives New Zealand Dunedin Regional Office.

References:

Dalley, Bronwyn (1998). *Family matters: child welfare in twentieth-century New Zealand*. Auckland University Press and Historical Branch, Department of Internal Affairs.

Otekaike Special School/Campbell Park School (1908-1987)

This residential school for 'feeble-minded' boys opened in 1908. It was located on 342 acres of land, plus homestead, in the Waitaki Valley. It was formerly part of the large estate of Robert Campbell, which had been purchased by the government and divided into sixty smaller farms. The portion which became Otekaike Special School was handed over to the Education Department. In 1925 it moved to the jurisdiction of the newly-formed Child Welfare Division. It was renamed Campbell Park School in 1964. When the Department of Social Welfare was formed in 1972, Otekaike remained with the Department of Education.

This was a national institution, and was the first measure taken by the government to cater for the special education of developmentally delayed children. An equivalent school for girls

opened at Richmond in 1916. In 1917 the Otekaike School was divided into two sections – boys 14 years and over remained at the school for vocational training while younger boys went to a separate institution in Nelson. This proved unsuccessful, and in 1921 the younger boys returned to Otekaike.

Other national institutions for children with developmental problems opened in the 1920s - boys with more severe problems were moved to Templeton Farm School (established in 1929) while Nelson had a home for the most seriously disabled. Otekaike catered for those considered most 'educable'. There were about 200 boys living at the school in the 1930s, but by the 1940s numbers dropped to just over 100. When the government departments reorganised in 1972 the farm training area of the school was closed. By the 1980s most boys at the school were aged between 9 and 16 years, and had an average stay of about two years. Most came from the North Island. The school closed in 1995.

Location of records:

Archives New Zealand Dunedin Regional Office.

References:

Archives New Zealand Archway catalogue history and notes:
<https://archway.archives.govt.nz/ViewEntity.do?code=CAIG>

Archives New Zealand Education Research Guide: <http://archives.govt.nz/education> and
Welfare Research Guide <http://archives.govt.nz/welfare>

Aspden, P.G. (Ed.). (1983). *75 years service: a review of Campbell Park School 1908-1983*.
Otekaike: Campbell Park School.

Bardsley, S. (1991). *The functions of an institution: the Otekaieke Special School for Boys 1908-1950*. Unpublished BA (Hons) dissertation, University of Otago, Dunedin. Available online at <https://ourarchive.otago.ac.nz/handle/10523/2819>.

Dalley, Bronwyn (1998). *Family matters: child welfare in twentieth-century New Zealand*.
Auckland University Press and Historical Branch, Department of Internal Affairs.

Anglican Homes

St Mary's Orphanage, Dunedin (1883-1933)

St Mary's Orphan Home opened in 1883. Mary Nevill, the wife of the Anglican Bishop and a woman of substantial wealth, was largely responsible for its establishment. It started out in a home close to the Bishop's residence in Leith Valley, with facilities for up to 14 children. The

home was run by a series of matrons until 1904 when the Anglican Deaconess Institute took charge. At this time the 11 children moved to new premises, The Grange, in Leith Street, under the care of Sister Ernestine. There was now room for up to 24 children. In 1912 the home moved again, this time to another property in Kenmure Road, Mornington. The home was funded by voluntary subscriptions and grants from the Charitable Aid Board until 1913, when the Anglican Diocese of Dunedin took over its management. In 1914 there were 31 children living in St Mary's. Most of the residents were girls, although there were a few boys living there; the home did not take infants, but children from 2 to 3 years and upwards. A few were admitted temporarily while their parents were ill. The home closed in 1933 and the children transferred to the Memorial Home at Vauxhall.

Location of records:

The Hocken archives have administrative records of the home, such as the annual reports, but there are no known surviving records which identify the residents.

References:

Evans, John H. (1968). *Southern See: the Anglican Diocese of Dunedin New Zealand*. Dunedin: Standing Committee of the Diocese of Dunedin.

Anglican Memorial Home, Vauxhall, Dunedin (1918-1972)

Money for this home, which opened in November 1918, was raised as an Anglican war memorial project. It was originally for boys only, but in 1933 St Mary's Orphanage closed and the children combined together at the Memorial Home. By the 1960s the home was falling into disrepair and plans were made for its reconstruction. This did not, however, go ahead – partly because of escalating building costs, but chiefly because the Child Care Committee now favoured placing children in foster homes. By 1971 there were about 10 children living in the home. It closed in 1972 with the remaining children moving into foster care.

Location of records:

Records are held by the Hocken archives. These include a register of entry for 1919-1934 (PC-0266). The minutes of the Anglican Orphanage Committee (from 1969 known as the Child Care Committee) include references to the cases of specific children.

References:

Evans, John H. (1968). *Southern See: the Anglican Diocese of Dunedin New Zealand*. Dunedin: Standing Committee of the Diocese of Dunedin.

Children's Rest Home / Dunkley Children's Temporary Homes, Dunedin (c.1918-1944)

The Children's Rest Home was founded in 1918-1919 by Mr Sidney Dunkley to provide a temporary home for children of sick mothers. It started out as an emergency measure to cope with the influenza epidemic, housed in the soon to be opened Memorial Home at Vauxhall. Its first building, with accommodation for about 30 children, was at Andersons Bay. In about 1921 Dunkley sold his business to concentrate on the children's rest home, purchasing a home in 253 Kenmure Road, Mornington and later at 400 Cumberland Street.

Mrs Archibald Hill Jack bequeathed (possibly in 1930) a large home in Highgate, Roslyn, for a home for incurable and crippled children. There did not seem to be a need for such a home and after various legal manoeuvres, the home was placed in the hands of Mr Dunkley and the Children's Rest Home, then in need of a larger property. New buildings were built on the site, and opened in 1933 as Hill Jack Memorial Home.

In 1944 the government took over the home for the Otago Hospital Board as a returned soldiers' hospital. Dunkley and his committee then ran a foster parent scheme. The organisation apparently came under the auspices of the Anglican Church, which holds its archives.

Location of records:

Hocken holds financial records, but no records relating to the children.

References:

Simpson, F.A. (1944). *Mothers and children first: a brief account of the establishment and ultimate history of the Children's Rest Home, Dunedin, New Zealand*. Dunedin: Coulls, Somerville, Wilkie.

Evans, John H. (1968). *Southern See: the Anglican Diocese of Dunedin New Zealand*. Dunedin: Standing Committee of the Diocese of Dunedin.

Catholic Homes

St Vincent de Paul Orphanage for Girls, Dunedin (1898-1955)

The St Vincent de Paul Orphanage, located next to St Patrick's Basilica in South Dunedin, was founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1898. In 1905 there were about 70 girls living at St Vincent's. Initially it only took girls, with Catholic boys sent to the orphanage at Stoke or the

Caversham Industrial School. It later accepted boys to the age of six or seven, at which age they moved to the St Joseph's Orphanage for boys at Waverley.

Children attended the local parish school – St Patrick's, also run by Sisters of Mercy. The sisters also ran St Philomena's High School which had boarders – a few of the older girls boarded there, or attended the school without boarding there. Some of the orphanage girls waited at table for the boarders, along with other domestic chores in the orphanage. The orphanage closed in 1955 when it merged with St Joseph's. The orphanage buildings were used for many years as a boarding hostel for girls at St Philomena's.

Location of records:

A complete set of records are held by the Sisters of Mercy.

McLeod's dissertation (see details under references) includes a transcript of the admission register for 1898 to 1924 – this does not include surnames but does give other details of the child and family background.

References:

Cyclopedia of New Zealand, Vol. 4, Otago and Southland. (1905). Christchurch: Cyclopedia Company, p.185. Available online via the New Zealand Electronic Text Centre <https://goo.gl/rgD1Am> or Ancestry database.

McLeod, Billie (1992). *"A silent testimony": St Vincent de Paul Catholic Orphanage for Girls, South Dunedin.* Unpublished PGDipArts dissertation, University of Otago, Dunedin. Available online at <https://otago.ourarchive.ac.nz/handle/10523/5244>.

Glen, Sister Mary Stephanie (1997). *Divide and share: the story of Mercy in the south 1897-1997.* Dunedin: Sisters of Mercy.

St Joseph's Boys' Home, Dunedin (1920-1982)

St Joseph's Boys' Home in Doon Street, Waverley was opened by the Sisters of Mercy in 1920 in the former home of politician Scobie Mackenzie. In 1937, with demand for its services growing, a new building was erected. The boys attended St Joseph's School, with some going on to further education at Christian Brothers High School. When the Christian Brothers commenced St Edmund's School in South Dunedin in 1949, the St Joseph's Home boys started to attend primary school there.

In 1955 St Vincent's closed and the girls there moved to St Joseph's. It continued as a mixed home until its closure in 1982. From 1983 until 1988 the buildings were used to provide emergency accommodation for women and children.

Location of records:

The records are held by the Sisters of Mercy, but they are incomplete. Few records from the early years have survived, but there are good records from the 1960s onwards.

References:

Glen, Sister Mary Stephanie (1997). *Divide and share: the story of Mercy in the south 1897-1997*. Dunedin: Sisters of Mercy.

Presbyterian Homes - Otago

Presbyterian Orphanage and Children's Home/Grants Braes Home, Dunedin (1907-1929)

This home opened in July 1907 in an eleven-roomed house on a quarter acre section, at 41 Clyde Street, with accommodation for 20 children. Run by the Presbyterian Support Services Association (PSSA), it was open to all needy children, although preference was given to children from Presbyterian families and children who had lost both parents. Before this date, deaconesses Sister Mary McQueen of Knox Church and Sister Evelyn McAdam of First Church had taken some children into their own home at 100 George Street because of a lack of alternatives; and when PSSA was founded in 1906 the superintendent, Edward Axelsen, had also taken children into his own home.

By 1908 the home was crowded, with about 30 children living in and others boarded out. Late that year it moved to new premises at Grants Braes, formerly the residence of Mr T. Burt. When Glendining Home opened in 1913 all the girls, and boys under 10 years, moved to the new home – older boys still attending school remained at Grants Braes. In 1920-21 the homes were reorganised – the children from Glendining moved to Grants Braes and Nisbet homes, and the boys from Grants Braes moved to Glendining. The Grants Braes home closed in 1930 when the children moved to the new complex at Glendining.

Location of records:

Presbyterian Support (Otago).

References:

Dougherty, Ian and Jane Thomson (2006). *Making a difference: a centennial history of Presbyterian Support Otago, 1906-2006*. Dunedin: Presbyterian Support Otago.

Rae, Simon (1981). *From relief to social service: a history of the Presbyterian Social Service Association Otago 1906-1981*. Dunedin: PSSA (Otago).

Stewart, P.J. (1958). *Challenge and response: the history of the Otago Presbyterian Social Service Association*. Dunedin: Otago Presbyterian Social Service Association.

Broadhurst, Michelle (2002). *Dunedin Presbyterian children's homes, 1907-1939*. Unpublished BA(Hons) dissertation, University of Otago, Dunedin.

Presbyterian Boys' Home/Hostel, Dunedin (1907-1921)

When the Presbyterian Orphanage opened in 1907, boys over 10 years were housed over the bridge in the Axelsens' home at 64 Clyde Street "to meet Government regulations". The Boys' Home moved into the 41 Clyde Street premises when the other home moved to Grants Braes. From about the time of the opening of Glendining Home (1913) it became a hostel for working boys. In 1916 there were about 20 boys living there. It closed in 1921.

Location of records:

Presbyterian Support (Otago).

References:

Dougherty, Ian and Jane Thomson (2006). *Making a difference: a centennial history of Presbyterian Support Otago, 1906-2006*. Dunedin: Presbyterian Support Otago.

Rae, Simon (1981). *From relief to social service: a history of the Presbyterian Social Service Association Otago 1906-1981*. Dunedin: PSSA (Otago).

Stewart, P.J. (1958). *Challenge and response: the history of the Otago Presbyterian Social Service Association*. Dunedin: Otago Presbyterian Social Service Association.

Broadhurst, Michelle (2002). *Dunedin Presbyterian children's homes, 1907-1939*. Unpublished BA(Hons) dissertation, University of Otago, Dunedin.

Glendining Home/Complex, Dunedin (1913-1991)

This home was opened in 1913, in a new building in Andersons Bay donated by Robert Glendining, who had also given the land. The home had a farm, which supplied milk for all the Presbyterian children's homes. It initially provided a home for girls, and for boys under 10 years. There were about 70 children living there in 1916. In 1921 the homes were

reorganised – the children from Glendining Home moved to Grants Braes and Nisbet homes, and the boys from Grants Braes moved to Glendining.

In 1931 the PSSA officially opened a new complex known as Glendining Presbyterian Children's Homes – this was a move away from the large homes to 'cottage homes' with a mixture of girls and boys in smaller groups of about 16. Three cottages were built, named **Nisbet**, **Cameron** and **Somerville**. A fourth group was located in the original Glendining Home which also accommodated the older working boys.

By 1931 there were about 60 children in the four children's homes, with 15 working and school boys at Glendining. With increasing moves to place children in smaller family homes, the number of children living in the complex gradually decreased. From 1964 the older boys previously living in the original Glendining Home were boarded out (the building was demolished in 1976). The cottages were then re-developed into two family home units and an initial receiving home. In 1967 Cameron Cottage became a hostel for working girls from rural areas. Nisbet Cottage became an Adolescent Group Home for up to 10 children in 1976. **Taumata** Cottage, originally built in 1950 as a residence for the manager, was established as a cottage home in 1965. It later became an emergency house, and finally a family group home. After Cameron Cottage was extensively damaged in a 1977 fire, it was redeveloped to provide a more flexible home – in 1981 it housed a family of 15 including staff, residents and children of staff. While Cameron Cottage provided short-term care, Somerville Cottage was upgraded in 1980 to provide longer-term care. The homes eventually all closed – first Somerville, then Taumata in 1990, and finally Cameron and Nisbet in 1991.

Location of records:

Presbyterian Support (Otago).

References:

Dougherty, Ian and Jane Thomson (2006). *Making a difference: a centennial history of Presbyterian Support Otago, 1906-2006*. Dunedin: Presbyterian Support Otago.

Rae, Simon (1981). *From relief to social service: a history of the Presbyterian Social Service Association Otago 1906-1981*. Dunedin: PSSA (Otago).

Stewart, P.J. (1958). *Challenge and response: the history of the Otago Presbyterian Social Service Association*. Dunedin: Otago Presbyterian Social Service Association.

Broadhurst, Michelle (2002). *Dunedin Presbyterian children's homes, 1907-1939*. Unpublished BA(Hons) dissertation, University of Otago, Dunedin.

Campbell, Alistair Te Ariki (1984). *Island to island*. Christchurch: Whitcoulls. Includes the poet's memories of his years living in one of the Glendining Homes cottages and latter in the 'big' home during the 1930s.

Nisbet Home, Dunedin (1920-1928)

Nisbet Home opened in 1920 on a property near the Grants Braes' Home and was run from Grants Braes – in 1921 it housed about 10 younger children. It closed in 1928 with the development of the new complex at Glendining – one of the new cottages there was named Nisbet Cottage (see the entry for Glendining Home for further details of the cottage).

Location of records:

Presbyterian Support (Otago).

References:

Dougherty, Ian and Jane Thomson (2006). *Making a difference: a centennial history of Presbyterian Support Otago, 1906-2006*. Dunedin: Presbyterian Support Otago.

Rae, Simon (1981). *From relief to social service: a history of the Presbyterian Social Service Association Otago 1906-1981*. Dunedin: PSSA (Otago).

Stewart, P.J. (1958). *Challenge and response: the history of the Otago Presbyterian Social Service Association*. Dunedin: Otago Presbyterian Social Service Association.

Broadhurst, Michelle (2002). *Dunedin Presbyterian children's homes, 1907-1939*. Unpublished BA(Hons) dissertation, University of Otago, Dunedin.

Marama Home, Lawrence (1942-1973)

Marama Home opened in 1942 in a 9-roomed house on a 10 ½ acre property near Lawrence. It was extended to provide accommodation for 20-24 children. It was used as a holiday home for Dunedin children, and was also intended to provide back up should the Dunedin homes need to be evacuated. In 1964 it was converted into a family home with Mr and Mrs Walsh as foster parents. It closed in 1973 when the Walshes retired.

Location of records:

Presbyterian Support (Otago).

References:

Dougherty, Ian and Jane Thomson (2006). *Making a difference: a centennial history of Presbyterian Support Otago, 1906-2006*. Dunedin: Presbyterian Support Otago.

Rae, Simon (1981). *From relief to social service: a history of the Presbyterian Social Service Association Otago 1906-1981*. Dunedin: PSSA (Otago).

Stewart, P.J. (1958). *Challenge and response: the history of the Otago Presbyterian Social Service Association*. Dunedin: Otago Presbyterian Social Service Association.

Presbyterian Homes – Southland

Victoria Memorial Home, Invercargill (1897-1940s)

Victoria Home opened in 1897 at a cottage in Mary Street. It was founded by the Association for the Help of Friendless Girls, which had an association with the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and was run by a trust board. It later moved into a large rented cottage in Tweed Street and in 1903 into a purpose built home in Tweed Street, named Victoria Memorial Home. The board aimed to provide "a home and situation for friendless girls where possible, to assist unfortunate and fallen girls in trouble, to provide a home where necessary for police and charitable aid cases, and to provide a home for children where no others is available." Most of the residents were adult women, and the children in care may have been theirs. In the 1940s, with the advent of social security provision in public hospitals for maternity care, the home changed to concentrate on the care of elderly. It was taken over by Presbyterian Support in 1976.

Location of records:

There are no known surviving records of children living in Victoria Home.

References:

Muller, Peter (1994). *For young and old: the story of the first 75 years of Presbyterian Support Services Southland 1919-1994*. Invercargill: Presbyterian Support Services.

Cameron Home, Invercargill (1917-1948)

Located in Gordon Street, Enwood, Invercargill, this opened in 1917 with accommodation for 22 Southland children, who had previously been sent to Dunedin homes. In 1919, when Gladstone Home for boys opened, Cameron became a home for girls only. When Allison Home later became overcrowded, some of the smaller boys moved to Cameron Home. Cameron Home itself had become overcrowded and run down by the 1940s – in 1948 it

closed and the children moved to Inglenook Home. Cameron continued for a short time as a home for “elderly ladies” until the new Peacehaven opened in February 1954.

Location of records:

Presbyterian Support Southland holds limited records.

References:

Muller, Peter (1994). *For young and old: the story of the first 75 years of Presbyterian Support Services Southland 1919-1994*. Invercargill: Presbyterian Support Services.

Gladstone Home, Invercargill (1919-1934)

A home for boys, opened 1919, in Grey Street, Invercargill. It closed in 1934 when the boys moved to the new Allison Home.

Location of records:

Presbyterian Support Southland holds limited records.

References:

Muller, Peter (1994). *For young and old: the story of the first 75 years of Presbyterian Support Services Southland 1919-1994*. Invercargill: Presbyterian Support Services.

Allison Home, Invercargill (1934-1961)

This home for boys was located in Bainfield Road, with a farmlet of 16 ½ acres. It was a replacement for Gladstone Home. Allison Home closed in 1961, when the 7 remaining boys transferred to the Tweed Street Boys’ Home.

Location of records:

Presbyterian Support Southland holds limited records.

References:

Muller, Peter (1994). *For young and old: the story of the first 75 years of Presbyterian Support Services Southland 1919-1994*. Invercargill: Presbyterian Support Services.

Inglenook Home, Gore (1948-1980)

This home opened in 1948 as a replacement for Invercargill’s Cameron Home. It was initially located in a two-storied property, formerly the home of the MacGibbon family, in Huron Street, East Gore. In 1964 this was replaced by a more modern building in Ardwick Street, Gore. The home closed in 1980 and the building was then leased to the NZ Society for the Intellectually Handicapped.

Location of records:

Presbyterian Support Southland holds limited records.

References:

Muller, Peter (1994). *For young and old: the story of the first 75 years of Presbyterian Support Services Southland 1919-1994*. Invercargill: Presbyterian Support Services.

Sutherland Home, Invercargill (1957-1989)

Opened in 1957 in Oteramika Road, Invercargill, in a home and 5 acres of land donated by the Sutherland family. A new wing was added to the original homestead. It closed in 1989.

Location of records:

Presbyterian Support Southland holds limited records.

References:

Muller, Peter (1994). *For young and old: the story of the first 75 years of Presbyterian Support Services Southland 1919-1994*. Invercargill: Presbyterian Support Services.

Tweed Street Boys' Home, Invercargill (1961-1964)

This smaller family home opened in 1961 to replace the Allison Home. It was located at 225 Tweed Street. It closed in 1964 with most of the boys going to Highfield.

Location of records:

Presbyterian Support Southland holds limited records.

References:

Muller, Peter (1994). *For young and old: the story of the first 75 years of Presbyterian Support Services Southland 1919-1994*. Invercargill: Presbyterian Support Services.

Highfield Home, Invercargill (1961-1975)

Opened in a new building next to Peacehaven, the Presbyterian Support Southland home for the elderly, in 1961. It had accommodation for 14 children in 5 bedrooms. Highfield closed in 1975 and the last children were transferred to Sutherland Home. By then there was a lack of demand for institutional care. In 1977 it was converted into a home for physically disabled people, run in conjunction with the Crippled Children Society.

Location of records:

Presbyterian Support Southland holds limited records.

References:

Muller, Peter (1994). *For young and old: the story of the first 75 years of Presbyterian Support Services Southland 1919-1994*. Invercargill: Presbyterian Support Services.

Salvation Army Homes

Girls' Home, Middlemarch (1908-1921)

This home provided accommodation for 36 girls, who significantly boosted the roll of Strath Taieri School. The home closed in 1921 – it later became the Louisa Roberts Hospital (a maternity hospital and doctors' residence) before reverting to private ownership.

Location of records:

Salvation Army Territorial Archives, Wellington.

References:

Matheson, E.H. (1980). *The first hundred years 1880-1980: a history of Strath Taieri, Ngapuna and Sutton Schools*. Dunedin: Centennial Committee. This includes a photograph of the home.

Anderson's Bay Orphanage and Day School, Dunedin (1919-1941)

This home was opened in 1919, part of a larger 16 acre site at Vauxhall known as the Anchorage. It included an orphanage and day school. In 1929 the baby section closed, and the boys were moved to the Temuka Boys' Home. It continued as a Girls' Home until 1941. The Anchorage also had a Girls' Industrial Home around the same time. This was similar to a probation hostel, with most of the girls referred by the courts.

Location of records:

Salvation Army Territorial Archives, Wellington.

The Otago Education Board records held at the Hocken include two items relating to the Salvation Army Girls' Home school – lists of candidates for certificates of proficiency or competency 1919-1921, 1923 (AG-294-36/561); and private school class lists December 1921-December 1922 (AG-294-36/563).

Young Women's Industrial Home, Dunedin (1912-1937)

This home for young women, originally known as the Rescue Home, was located at 28 Lindsay Road, Caversham. It closed in 1937 and the building became a Women's Eventide Home known as Resthaven.

Location of records:

Salvation Army Territorial Archives, Wellington.

Contact details for archives

Please note that access to some personal records relating to the homes is restricted, and you may need to apply for permission to view these.

Archives New Zealand Dunedin Regional Office

556 George Street, PO Box 6183, Dunedin North

<http://www.archives.govt.nz>

Email – dunedin@archives.govt.nz

Archway catalogue – <https://www.archway.archives.govt.nz>

Archives New Zealand Wellington National Office

10 Mulgrave Street, PO Box 12050, Wellington 6144

<http://www.archives.govt.nz>

Email – reference@archives.govt.nz

Archway catalogue – <https://www.archway.archives.govt.nz>

Hocken Collections

Corner of Anzac Ave & Parry St, PO Box 56, Dunedin 9058

<https://www.library.otago.ac.nz/hocken/index.html>

Email – archives.hocken@otago.ac.nz

Hākēna pictures, photographs, archives and manuscripts catalogue -

<https://hakena.otago.ac.nz>

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15 Guildford Tce, Thorndon, Wellington 6011

<http://www.sistersofmercy.org.nz>

Email - archives@mercy.org.nz

Presbyterian Support Southland

PO Box 314, Invercargill

<https://ps.org.nz/>

Email - enquiry@pss.org.nz

Presbyterian Support Otago

407 Moray Place, PO Box 374, Dunedin

<https://ps.org.nz/>

Email – enquiries@psotago.org.nz

Salvation Army Territorial Archives

PO Box 6015, Wellington 6141

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/>

Email - archives@nzf.salvationarmy.org



Industrial School, Caversham, 1883. Misc-MS-1614, archives collection; reader access file (Dunedin – Industrial School), pictorial collections [S09-404a].

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