

# Geelong and Western District Protestant Orphanage

1909 – 1955

## Details

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Geelong and Western District Protestant Orphanage was the new name given to the Geelong Protestant Orphan Asylum in 1909. There was no formal connection between the Orphanage and the church. It accommodated boys and girls, aged between 4 and 14. In 1934, the institution moved to Belmont. In 1955, the Orphanage changed its name to Glastonbury – Geelong Protestant Orphanage.

From 1910, the Education Department conducted a primary school in the home grounds; Glastonbury Primary School (no. 3656). By the mid 1950s children from outside the Home also attended the primary school. Secondary school aged children attended local state schools in Geelong

In 1934 the Geelong and Western District Protestant Orphanage moved to Belmont as a result of industrial pollution and building disrepair at Herne Hill. The new Orphanage in Belmont was designed to accommodate 85 boys and girls.

The home's eighty acres were used for dairying and farming.

In 1955, the institution became an approved children's home under Victorian legislation and changed its name to Glastonbury – Geelong Protestant Orphanage.

## Gallery

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**The old Protestant Orphanage, Geelong, Victoria**

**Description:** The building was situated at Herne Hill, Geelong. Built in 1885 and vacated in 1933, when the Orphanage moved to new premises at Belmont, Geelong.



**Old Geelong Orphanage Asylum and Common School**

**Description:** This building was first classified by the National Trust in 1975. The Statement of Significance reads: 'A substantial two storey bluestone orphanage with sandstone trim, built in 1855 in the Scottish style and significant as an important early social institution of the Geelong district'.

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## Glastonbury, 1934

**Description:** This is a copy of an image from page 31 of *Advancing This Good Work: a history of Glastonbury Child & Family Services* by Donella and Catherine Jaggs. It shows the Orphanage at Belmont.

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## More info

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### Chronology

- Geelong Orphan Asylum (c. 1854 - 1862)
  - Geelong Protestant Orphan Asylum (1862 - 1909)
- **Geelong and Western District Protestant Orphanage (1909 – 1955)**
  - Glastonbury - Geelong Protestant Orphanage (1955 - 1977)
  - Glastonbury Children's Home (1977 - 1984)
    - Glastonbury Child and Family Services (1984 - 2011)
      - Glastonbury Community Services (2011 - 2015)
      - Barwon Child, Youth & Family (2015 - 2023)

### Resources

- Glastonbury Community Services, [History of Glastonbury Community Services](#), Barwon Child, Youth and Family website, No date
- Jaggs, Donella, *Advancing This Good Work: a history of Glastonbury Child & Family Services*, 1988
- Swain, Shurlee, *Traces in the archives: evidence of institutional abuse in surviving child welfare records*, Children Australia, 2007
- [Geelong Orphan Asylum](#), Finding Records, No date. *Relevance:* See the 'List of records held by the department' section for information about records relating to Geelong and Western District Protestant Orphanage
- [Former Protestant Orphan Asylum and Common School, 150-220 McCurdy Road, Fyansford, Greater Geelong City](#), Victorian Heritage Database, No date
- Barnard, Jill, [Stronger together: a history of the founding agencies of Barwon Child, Youth & Family 1855-2018](#), 2018

## Records

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

### Records

- [Glastonbury & BCYF Records \(1853 - 2015\)](#)
  - [Glastonbury and Geelong Orphanage Records \(c. 1855 - 1992\)](#)
  - ['Closed' Agency and General Correspondence Files \[Charities Board of Victoria\] \(1923 - 1983\)](#)
  - [Voluntary Children's Homes Files \(1921 - 1989\)](#)
  - [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/geelong-and-western-district-protestant-orphanage/>