

Melrose Training Farm for Boys

1938 – 1957

Details

The Melrose Training Farm for Boys was established by the Try Society in 1938 at Harkaway, near Berwick. Previously, the Try Society ran the Clifden Farm and Try Boys' Home at St Andrew's North, but decided to move the institution to the new site where there were "better facilities for teaching agriculture and better housing accommodation" (*Hurstbridge Advertiser* 26 August 1938). The farm housed around 30 boys aged between 8 and 14. When it closed in August 1957, the boys were mostly transferred to other Homes including Tally Ho, Burwood Boys' Home and Box Hill Boys' Home.

The Melrose Training Farm for Boys was established by the Try Society in 1938 at a property near Berwick (the location was also sometimes referred to as Harkaway). The farm aimed to 'provide a healthy home environment for 30 boys and youths and ... to train boys in farming and other agricultural pursuits'. The first boys at the home had been moved there from the Try Society's Clifden Home at St Andrews.

In the early 1950s, it was described as catering for boys aged between 8 and 14.

Changes to the Children's Welfare Act in 1956 led to inspections of the Farm by the Children's Welfare Department, so that Melrose Training Farm could be registered as an 'approved children's home'. These inspections led to concerns being raised by the Department about poor conditions at Melrose.

The Farm was closed in 1957 when the Try Society advised the Children's Welfare Department that it was no longer able to finance the institution.

Records show that boys still living at Melrose in August 1957 were transferred to other homes, including Tally Ho, Burwood Boys' Home and Box Hill Boys' Home. Some boys returned to their homes when Melrose closed.

Gallery



Looking south from "Melrose" over Western Port Bay

Description: This is a copy of page 9 of the William Forster Try Boys' Society and Melrose Boys' Home, Annual Report and Hand Book, 1944-1945.



Melrose Boys' Home

Description: This is a copy of an image published on page 10 of the William Forster Try Boys' Society and Melrose Boys' Home, Annual Report and Hand Book, 1944-1945.



A Scene at Melrose Country Home

Description: This is a copy of an image published on page 5 of the William Forster Try Boys' Society, annual report, 1940-41

More info

Chronology

- Clifden Children's Home (1891 - 1923)
 - Clifden Farm and Try Boys Home (1923 - 1938)

- **Melrose Training Farm for Boys (1938 – 1957)**

Related Entries

Run by

- [The Try Society \(c. 1883 - current\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Tally Ho Boys' Training Farm \(1903 - 1986\)](#)
Some residents of Melrose Training Farm were transferred to Tally Ho when Melrose was closed in August 1957.
- [Box Hill Boys' Home \(1913 - 1984\)](#)
Some residents of Melrose Training Farm were transferred to Box Hill when Melrose was closed in August 1957.
- [Burwood Boys' Home \(1895 - c. 1972\)](#)
Some residents of Melrose Training Farm were transferred to Burwood when Melrose was closed in August 1957.

Resources

- [Melrose Training Farm for Boys](#), Finding Records, No date. *Relevance:* See the 'List of records held by the department' section for information about records relating to Melrose Training Farm for Boys

Records

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

Records

- [William Forster Try Boys' Society Records \(1887 - 1986\)](#)
- [Voluntary Children's Homes Files \(1921 - 1989\)](#)

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/melrose-training-farm-for-boys/>