

Ellimatta

1945 – 1982

Details

Ellimatta Home was established by the United Protestant Association of New South Wales at East Maitland in 1945. A girls' home, it was located next to Ellimeek, an adjoining house which was purchased at the same time. Ellimeek was initially used as flats and was later also turned into a girls home. Ellimatta closed in 1982.

Ellimatta was officially opened on 24 November 1945 after the United Protestant Association [UPA] purchased two adjoining properties on Victoria Street in East Maitland. When it was closed in 1982 the properties were leased to the Metford Baptist Church and then sold in 1985. The UPA set up aged persons' care on a remnant portion of land.

In 2013, Joanne McCarthy published an article in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, stating that former residents of Woodlands had given distressing testimony to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and stated that an organised ring of paedophiles, including members of the Anglican and Catholic clergy, had sexually abused boys during a Christian programme held on Sundays at Woodlands in the 1970s. Additionally, a girl from Ellimatta was allegedly abused by a gardener.

In the article, the UPA issued an unreserved apology to children abused while they were living in the Woodlands and Ellimatta Homes, and acknowledged it had paid compensation to victims.

The UPA Board has since issued a further and full apology stating:

We sought to be trusted by children, parents, and the State, but we freely acknowledge that in many of our homes we failed to provide the safe and nurturing environment that children need to thrive. Emotional, physical and sexual abuse did occur in those homes. We are ashamed of those failures and offer our sincere and deep apology for the harm caused.

Gallery



Maitland's two homes - 'Ellimatta' and 'Ellimeek', 1945.

Ellimatta and Ellimeek Girls' Homes

Description: This is an image showing Ellimatta and Ellimeek Girls' Homes in 1945. Ellimatta is on the left and Ellimeek is on the right.

Ellimatta and Ellimeek



Description: Ellimatta is on the left and Ellimeek is on the right.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [United Protestant Association of New South Wales Ltd \(1938 - current\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Woodlands Home \(1944 - 1981\)](#)

In 1945 girls were taken from Woodlands and placed in Ellimatta.

- [Ellimeek \(1945 - 1982\)](#)

Ellimeek and Ellimatta were adjoining properties and were both purchased by the UPA.

Resources

- United Protestant Association of N.S.W., *The Protestant world : official organ of the United Protestant Association of New South Wales.*, 1921 - 1980
- United Protestant Association of N.S.W., *Souvenir pictorial of homes for children and pensioners / United Protestant Association of N.S.W.*, 1956

Records

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

Records

- [United Protestant Association of New South Wales Records \(1932 - current\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/ellimatta/>