

# Morialta Protestant Children's Home

1924 – 1972

## Details

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The Morialta Protestant Children's Home was established in 1924 at Norton Summit. It was run by an independent Board of Management. In 1930 the Home accommodated 109 children under the supervision of 10 staff. School aged children at Morialta attended the Norton Summit Primary School. The Board of Management opened the Toorak Gardens Boys' Hostel in 1967. The Hostel and the Children's Home were together renamed Morialta Children's Homes Incorporated in 1972.

The Morialta Protestant Children's Home opened in 1924 at Norton Summit in the Adelaide Hills. The building was the former family home and station of a pioneer pastoralist, John Baker. Known as Morialta, it had been built in 1847. In May 1924 a public meeting was held at the Adelaide Town Hall to raise funds for the establishment of a children's home. Many prominent members of Adelaide society made contributions. As a result, the South Australian Protestant Federation purchased Morialta in June 1924.

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 a Board of Management was in charge of the institution, comprising representatives of a number of religious and philanthropic organizations including the Independent Order of Oddfellows (IOOF), the Congregational Union, Churches of Christ, the South Australian Protestant Federation, the Baptist Union and the Presbyterian Church.

At the time of incorporation 25 children aged between 4 and 13 years were residing in the Home. School aged children attended the local Norton Summit Primary School. By 1928, 43 boys and 22 girls were accommodated at the Home 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 full with 109 children living under the supervision of ten staff members.

During 1948-1949 a documentary film, called *The Open Door*, was filmed at the Home 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. The addition of this Home to the work of Morialta led to a name change. From 1972 the two Homes together became known as the Morialta Children's Homes Incorporated.

## Gallery

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**"Morialta", Norton Summit**

**Description:** This image shows the building where the Morialta Protestant Children's Home was later run.

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## Protestant Children's Home

**Description:** The library description includes: Protestant Children's Home, Morialta Estate, Norton Summit on Opening Day October 1924.

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## More info

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### Chronology

- **Morialta Protestant Children's Home (1924 – 1972)**
  - Morialta Children's Homes Incorporated (1972 - 1974)

### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Morialta Protestant Children's Home, Board of Management \(1924 - 1974\)](#)

Morialta Protestant Children's Home was 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.

Date: 1924 - 1974

#### Related Organisations

- [Presbyterian Church of Australia \(1901 - current\)](#)

Representatives of the Presbyterian Church formed part of the Board of Management of Morialta Protestant Children's Home.
- [Congregational Union of South Australia \(1837 - 1977\)](#)

Representatives of the Congregational Union formed part of the Board of Management of Morialta Protestant Children's Home.

Date: 1924 - 1974
- [Churches of Christ in South Australia and the Northern Territory \(1840s - current\)](#)

Representatives of the Churches of Christ formed part of the Board of Management of Morialta Protestant Children's Home.

Date: 1924 - 1974
- [SA Protestant Federation \(c. 1920 - current\)](#)

Representatives of the SA Protestant Federation formed part of the Board of Management of Morialta Protestant Children's Home.

Date: 1924 - 1974
- [Baptist Union of South Australia \(1863 - current\)](#)

Representatives of the Baptist Union of South Australia formed part of the Board of Management of Morialta Protestant Children's Home.

Date: 1924 - 1974
- [Toorak Gardens Boys' Hostel \(1967 - 1972\)](#)

The Toorak Gardens Boys' Hostel was run by the Board of Management of the Morialta Protestant Children's Home and together they were renamed the Morialta Children's Homes Inc in 1972

#### Related Concepts

- [Stolen Generations](#)

### Resources

- [Jim Dawes interviewed by Karen George in the Bringing them home oral history project \(2001\)](#), 1 January 1970 - current
- King, Malcolm, *The boy*, 1981
- Scottney-Turbill, Peter, *Morialta: Fire in the Mist*, 1994

## Records

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

### Records

- [Records of the Social Welfare Department and predecessors \(1849 - c. 1987\)](#)
  - [Annual Reports - Morialta Protestant Children's Home \(1925 - 1976\)](#)
  - [Children's files - Morialta Protestant Children's Home \(1943 - 1973\)](#)
  - [Miscellaneous files including children's releases - Morialta Protestant Children's Home \(1960 - 1970\)](#)
  - [Minutes of the Board of Governors - Morialta Protestant Children's Homes \(1942 - 1969\)](#)
  - [Annual general meetings minutes and related correspondence - Morialta Protestant Children's Home \(1946 - 1950\)](#)
  - [Photographs - Morialta Protestant Children's Home \(1924 - 1957\)](#)
  - [The Open Door \[Motion Picture\], Morialta Protestant Children's Home \(1949 - 1950\)](#)
  - [Morialta Children's Home Miscellaneous Records, Social Welfare Department \(1924? - 1974?\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/morialta-protestant-childrens-home/>