

# Maylands Salvation Army Home for Girls

1945 – 1981

**Other Names:** • Salvation Army Girls' Home

## Details

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Maylands Salvation Army Home for Girls in New Town was formerly the Hobart Girls' Industrial School. The Trustees of the School handed it over to the Salvation Army on 31 January 1945. The Home accepted girls aged between two and 16 and boys between two and five. About half were wards of state. Maylands closed in 1981.

The Trustees of the Hobart Girls' Industrial School handed it over to the Salvation Army on 31 January 1945.

At the time, the Home announced that it would take girls temporarily, especially if their mothers were ill.

In her 1967 thesis, 'The correctional agencies of Tasmania', Mary Daunton-Fear included Maylands in her descriptions of juvenile institutions. She described its exterior as 'a depressing example of Victorian architecture'. Inside there were 'lofty rooms and long draughty passages'. The Home was 'neatly furnished and well maintained'.

It had room for 36 children. Some of the girls had brothers at nearby Barrington Boys' Home, also run by the Salvation Army. Boys at Maylands were transferred to Barrington when they reached the age of six. The contact between the institutions was fairly close.

A Matron and two Assistant Matrons, both Salvation Army Officers, ran the Home with the help of two resident staff members, who did the housework and laundry, and three non-resident domestic workers.

The children attended New Town Primary School or if older, a high school. Some were studying for the Schools Board Certificate but, by 1967, none had matriculated. Those with an intellectual disability went to a special school.

According to Daunton-Fear, the daily routine was as follows:

- 6:30 am – The children got up, washed, and made their beds.
- 7:00 – The older girls carried out household tasks according to a roster.
- 7:30 – Breakfast time.
- 8:00 – Prayers and a Bible story.
- 8:15 – Children went to school.
- 3:00 – Children returned from school (according to a submission made to the Senate's Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care, the children also came home for lunch).
- 5:00 – Tea time.
- 6:00 onwards – Children did homework, had some recreation time, and went to bed, at different times according to their ages.

At weekends, some of the older girls did paid part time work outside the Home, usually housework or ironing. The Matron placed their wages in a trust account for them to withdraw as they pleased. They also received two shillings a week pocket money. On Sundays, they went to the Salvation Army Citadel unless they belonged to another church. Parents were allowed to see their children every Saturday and take them out on alternate Saturdays. On the first weekend of every month, the children could stay with their parents on Saturday night and return to Maylands on the Sunday.

The children could play basket ball and battington (a type of racquet game) at the Home. One evening a month, they did handwork and received help with their knitting and sewing. Older girls could belong to the Police Girls' Club and occasionally go to the cinema.

The girls were not allowed to smoke or wear makeup.

Daunton-Fear states that corporal punishment was not used at Maylands, except as a 'last resort'. Girls who presented persistent challenging behaviours could be sent to Weeroona Girls Training Centre or the Magdalen Home. She writes that, for minor misdemeanours, a girl might have privileges withdrawn or receive 'uncongenial' jobs to do.

This is in contrast to a former resident's submission to the Senate's Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care. She listed a number of severe punishments for wetting the bed, taking food without permission, and running away, including slaps on the face and a beating with a 'large strap'. The former resident also remembers having to scrub a long verandah. If it was not done well enough, she had to do it again. After meals, the girls had to wash up the dishes. This made them late getting to school, especially after lunch, which meant a caning when they got there. There was no privacy at bath time.

Another child was fed liver for her first evening meal at Maylands and refused to eat it. The staff continued to serve her the liver until it became mouldy. They did not give her anything else to eat.

Claims made to the Tasmanian Ombudsman's inquiry into abuse in state care support these statements. The initial inquiry received claims of either physical or sexual abuse from seven former residents. The *Listen to the children* report (2004) states that:

*During the 1960s and early 1970s, claimants placed at Maylands described a regime of rigid rules and a harsh punishment routine. They allege that they were neglected in their general care and were deprived of decent food, clothes and medical attention. For the older girls lack of privacy included having to bathe with other girls. According to one claimant they only bathed once a week, two girls in the bath at the same time, with the water usually changed after seven pairs of girls had used it. There were no concessions to privacy or when a girl was menstruating. This claimant claimed that she made numerous complaints to schoolteachers about mistreatment and was always told 'not to tell tales'.*

Maylands closed in 1981. Two years later, Maylands Girls Unit opened in the same building. In 2011, it is the home of the Divisional Headquarters of the Salvation Army in Tasmania.

## Gallery



**Henry Hunter's design for Maylands, later the Industrial School for Girls - Hobart, Maylands Salvation Army Home for Girls, and Maylands Girls' Unit**

**Description:** A photograph of Henry Hunter's design for Maylands taken by Albert Sargeant.



**Maylands, formerly the Industrial School for Girls - Hobart, Maylands Salvation Army Home for Girls, and Maylands Girls' Unit**

**Description:** Heritage Tasmania supplied this photograph

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**Description:** Heritage Tasmania supplied this photograph.

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**Maylands Girls' Home**



**Children at Maylands Salvation Army Girls Home**

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## More info

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### Chronology

- Hobart Girls' Industrial School (1862 - 1945)
  - **Maylands Salvation Army Home for Girls (1945 – 1981)**
    - Maylands Girls' Unit (1983 - 1998)

### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territory \(1921 - 2018\)](#)

#### Related Events

- [Listen to the children: review of claims of abuse from adults in state care as children, Ombudsman Tasmania \(2003 - 2006\)](#)

#### Related Organisations

- [Barrington Boys' Home \(1946 - 1981\)](#)  
Barrington Boys' Home was, like Maylands Salvation Army Home for Girls, run by the Salvation Army. Brothers and sisters tended to be placed in these two institutions.
- [Weeroona Girls' Training Centre \(1959 - 1979\)](#)  
Girls at Maylands Salvation Army Home for Girls who presented discipline problems might be transferred to Weeroona Girls' Training Centre.
- [Magdalen Home \(1893 - 1974\)](#)  
Girls at Maylands Salvation Army Home for Girls who presented discipline problems might be transferred to the Magdalen Home.

#### Related Concepts

- [Stolen Generations](#)

## Resources

- [Joy Stewart interviewed by Caroline Evans for the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project](#), 18 April 2012
- [Victoria Stuart interviewed by Rob Willis for the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project](#), 15 October 2011
- Cleland, Sharon, [Caring for the Children: A history of institutional care provided by The Salvation Army for Australian children and youth \(1893-1995\)](#), August 2012
- Hanson, Dallas, *Why are they in children's homes : report of the ACOSS children's home intake study*, 1979
- [Salvation Army peace fair](#), The Mercury, 10 September 1946
- Kirkham, John C, *Southern Soup-Soap-Salvation, a compendium of Salvation Army Social Services in the Australian Southern Territory*, 2003
- The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territorial Headquarters (Vic), [Submission No. 46 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care: Appendix A: Children's Homes - A list of openings, closings and function](#), July 2003

## Records

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

### Records

- [Salvation Army Australia, Records of Homes in the former Southern Territory \(c. 1889 - c. 1988\)](#)
  - [Correspondence Files \(1919 - 1998\)](#)
  - [General Correspondence-Hospital and Health Administration \(1932 - 1987\)](#)
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