

Rottnest Island Reformatory

1881 – 1902

Other Names:

- Boys' Reformatory, Rottnest
- Government Reformatory for Boys, Rottnest

Details

The Rottnest Island Reformatory was a government-run institution, established in 1881 as an alternative to sending boys younger than 16 to gaol. It closed in 1902 and boys were sent to the Salvation Army Reformatory School in Collie.

The Rottnest Island Reformatory opened in 1881 as an alternative to sending boys 'of European descent' who had been convicted of crimes to Perth or Fremantle gaol. It was located next to the adult Aboriginal prison. In 1882, the reformatory came under the *Industrial Schools Act 1874* which governed both orphanages and industrial schools. However, it was not until 1897 that the reformatory was made the responsibility of the Superintendent of Poor Relief and Inspector of Charitable Institutions. When the reformatory closed in 1902, the remaining boys were sent to the Salvation Army Reformatory School for Protestant Boys at Collie.

Gallery



Government Reformatory for Boys Rottnest

Description: 'Government Reformatory for Boys Rottnest' is an image included (p.27) in the *Report by the Superintendent of Public Charities and Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory Schools, etc.*, for the year ending 31 December 1900. This image shows the coast of Rottnest Island, with the reformatory buildings in the near distance, and what appear to be garden lots in the foreground. The reformatory site is partially obscured by trees, but looks to be made up of at least four large stone buildings, with a smaller cottage off to the left.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Superintendent of Poor Relief and Inspector of Charitable Institutions \(1874 - 1908\)](#)
Date: 1898 - 1902

Related Organisations

- [Salvation Army Industrial School for Boys \[Collie\] \(1901 - 1920\)](#)
When the Rottnest Island Reformatory closed the boys were sent to the Salvation Army Industrial School for

Boys [Collie]).
Date: 1901 - 1902

Related Legislation

- [Industrial Schools Act Amendment Act 1882, Western Australia \(1882 - 1907\)](#)

The *Industrial Schools Act Amendment Act 1882* made the Rottnest Island Reformatory an institution governed by the *Industrial Schools Act 1874*.

Resources

- Western Australia. Charities Department, *Report by the Superintendent of Public Charities and Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory Schools, 1899 - 1907. Relevance: 1899, 1900, 1902*
- Logne, IFA, [Sketches in the District \[Salvation Army Homes, Collie\]](#), Bunbury Herald, 22 June 1903
- [Report of a commission appointed by His Excellency the Governor to inquire into the treatment of Aboriginal native prisoners of the crown in this colony; and also in certain other matters relative to Aboriginal natives, 1884](#)

Records

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

Records

- [Correspondence Files, Colonial Secretary's Office, Chief Secretary's Department \(1883 - 1983\)](#)
- [Files - Chief Protector of Aborigines \(1898 - 1908\)](#)
- [Files - Departmental \[Education Department\] \(1 January 1885 - 31 December 2000\)](#)

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/rotnest-island-reformatory/>