

**FORMER KILDONAN CHILDREN'S HOME, ELGAR RD, BURWOOD**

Citation amended 20 April 2016

<b>Building:</b>	Former Kildonan Children's Home (also former Allambie State Reception Centre)	<b>HO No.</b>	<b>249</b>
<b>Address:</b>	70(?) Elgar Road Burwood	<b>Melway Map Ref:</b>	61 A5
<b>Building Type:</b>	Institutional	<b>Construction Date:</b>	1937, 1941 & 1946
<b>Architect:</b>	F Bruce Kemp, L Hume Sherrard & K Murray Forster (1937); Marcus Martin & Tribe (1941, 1946)	<b>Builder:</b>	unknown

**History**

A number of institutions to house children were established by individuals and religious denominations in the Burwood, Box Hill and East Burwood area. The Burwood Boys Home was established on 20 acres (8 hectares) of donated land in Boundary (Warrigal) Road in 1896; the Tally Ho Boys' Village was established in East Burwood by the Methodist Church in 1903; the Salvation Army Boys Home on the corner of Elgar and Canterbury Roads in 1913 and the Kildonan cottage homes by the Presbyterian Church relocated to a site on the east side of Elgar Road in 1937. The Orana Peace Memorial Homes were established on the opposite side of Elgar Road in 1950. Only remnants of some of these institutions remain.

A property named 'Kildonan' in North Melbourne was purchased in 1890 by the Presbyterian Church to house neglected children while waiting for more permanent accommodation.<sup>40</sup>

<sup>40</sup> M Robinson, *Kildonan One Hundred Years of Caring*, p 11

Large numbers of children were accommodated there over a period of 47 years, with various alterations made to the property in that time. Additions were made in 1902,<sup>41</sup> rebuilding occurred in 1914 and a kindergarten built on adjacent land in 1925.<sup>42</sup>

After World War One, the need for accommodation increased and it was felt that the fostering system was not ideal. As a result a property at Elgar Road, Burwood was purchased in 1929 and let to tenants, including a dairy farmer, until finance became available to build on the site.<sup>43</sup> A site plan for the new home at Burwood, drawn by architects Kemp, Sherrard and Forster in 1936, shows an administration building and three houses to accommodate up to 100 children, were first conceived for the Kildonan Children's Home.<sup>44</sup> By December 1937 the first children were moved to the new home, which consisted of two dormitories, a school and the administration block.<sup>45</sup> Architects Marcus Martin and Tribe designed a kindergarten cottage for 25 children, which was added to the Home in 1941, a sick bay which was added to the administrative block in 1944-45 and a cottage for teenage girls in 1946.<sup>46</sup> The latter was occupied by 1952.<sup>47</sup> A recreation hall, designed by Keith Reid in 1955,<sup>48</sup> was opened the following year. The kindergarten was extended to the north and east sometime prior to 1963-64, possibly in the late 1950s.<sup>49</sup>

Kildonan Children's Home developed into one of the premier children's homes in Victoria, however the concept of housing children in smaller houses became increasingly popular and Kildonan began to purchase individual homes rather than divide the existing Burwood buildings. As a consequence, Kildonan Homes were purchased by the State Government in December 1960, as a children's reception centre,<sup>50</sup> therefore enabling the Presbyterian Church to purchase more houses to be used as family group homes.

The Allambie Reception Centre was opened in 1961, accommodating children from all over Victoria before being placed in State care or reunited with families. Various additions and new buildings were constructed during this phase including the construction of the wing to the east of the kindergarten in the late 1960s.<sup>51</sup>

The growth of foster care programmes in the 1980s, resulted in the closing of the facility in June 1990 and the site is now part of Deakin University.

## Historical Themes

### *City of Whitehorse Themes*

#### 5 Institutions

##### 5.4 Welfare

### *Victoria's Themes*

#### 8 Building community life

##### 8.3 Providing health and welfare services

## Description

A number of buildings remain on the original Kildonan site. These include the administration

<sup>41</sup>*The Australasian*, 20 September 1902

<sup>42</sup> M Robinson, *Kildonan One Hundred Years of Caring*, p 16

<sup>43</sup> M Robinson, *Kildonan One Hundred Years of Caring*, p 21

<sup>44</sup> Public Buildings File, PROV

<sup>45</sup> M Robinson, *Kildonan One Hundred Years of Caring*, p 23

<sup>46</sup> Public Buildings File, VPRS 7882/P0001/985, Public Records Office Victoria

<sup>47</sup> M Robinson, *Kildonan One Hundred Years of Caring*, p 27

<sup>48</sup> Public Buildings File, , VPRS 7882/P0001/985, Public Records Office Victoria

<sup>49</sup>RBA Architects, Expert Witness statement to Amendment C157 panel Hearing, 16.3.15 p19, and aerial photo of 1963-64.

<sup>50</sup> Public Buildings File, , VPRS 7882/P0001/985, Public Records Office Victoria

<sup>51</sup>*Social Welfare Department - Annual Reports, Year ended June 30, 1969, pp14-16 and Year ended June 30, 1970, p15*

building (1937), the kindergarten and the home for girls. Three cottages, the school and hall have been demolished.

The 1937 brick administration building is moderne in style. The dominant central section of this building is composed of two adjacent geometric forms, the facades of which incorporate long vertical window elements and horizontal brick detailing. The main central block has a subtly curved facade and the adjacent recessed tower-like form contains the main entry. The overall composition of this dominant central section alludes to the design of a modern church building. Single storey wings to either side of this section are domestic in character, with matching brickwork, hipped glazed tile roofs and simple rectangular window openings.

The kindergarten (1941) and the home for girls (1946) were both designed by the same architect and display similar characteristics. They are built of red brick with hipped glazed tile roofs and large multi-paned windows. The kindergarten building is single storey and the home for girls is two storeys. These buildings are the only remaining purpose-built residential buildings out of the five children's welfare institutions in the municipality.

The original sweep of the front drive terminating in front of the administration building still remains. A landscaped lawn featuring a number of mature trees that appear to date from the early years of the institution is located between the Elgar Road frontage and the Administration building. Surviving trees planted between 1945 and 1963<sup>52</sup> include: a Box Elder (*Acer negundo*), an English Oak (*Quercus robur*), three Pinoaks (*Quercus palustris*), one Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) and one Desert Ash (*Fraxinus augustifolia*).

### Comparative Examples

#### *City of Whitehorse Comparisons*

A number of welfare institutions were established in the City of Whitehorse from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. All of these have ceased to operate as institutions; however buildings remain at three of the former institutions, namely Orana, Kildonan, Tally Ho and the Salvation Army Boys Home (HO108).

Together these institutions form an excellent group of welfare facilities which provided accommodation for large numbers of children. The remnants of these institutions illustrate an important theme in the Municipality of Whitehorse.

#### Orana Methodist Peace Memorial Homes

This welfare facility was established by the Methodist Church in Elgar Road, Burwood on a site opposite the already established Kildonan Children's Home. Largely constructed in the 1950s, it was innovatively designed on a cottage system, rather than a congregate system of care. At its peak, the home included six cottages, a preschool centre, clinic, craft and play centre, chapel, hall and administration centre. Children were housed in family groups and attended local schools.

In 1986 the site was sold to the State Government for the development of public housing. The following year a mixture of detached houses, town houses and flats designed for families and the elderly were constructed on the site. The Orana chapel, kindergarten and clinic, administration building and hall were retained and formed part of this redevelopment.

The name Orana, first used for the Burwood Homes, continues as Orana Unitingcare.

#### Salvation Army Boys Home (HO108)

This facility was established in 1913 in an existing house *Tyneholm*, which had been built in

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<sup>52</sup>As determined from site inspection and comparison with aerial photos of 1945 and 1963-65 appended to this report.

1891 in Elgar Road, near Canterbury Road, in Box Hill. This house is the only remnant of the Boys Home. Other buildings were constructed at this facility however none were retained in the more recent redevelopment of the site as a retirement village.

*Tyneholm* is a two storey rendered brick Victorian house which derives some significance from its association with the Salvation Army and its use as a children's welfare home.

#### Tally Ho Boys Village

This was established on an orchard property as a country home and training farm for boys by the Methodist Church in East Burwood in 1903. It accommodated a number of boys in dormitories on the 130 acre (52.6 hectare) property and was both self sufficient and commercially run at various times. Separate cottages were built from 1939 and other facilities added, including a school, swimming pool, gymnasium, clubrooms and chapel. A 1949 master plan of the property indicates that the village was extensive and further buildings were planned. Additional cottages were built in the 1950s.

Part of the property was sold in 1971, the farm was formally closed in 1976 and further land sales in 1985 enabled development of an industrial park, Tally Ho Technology Park. The cottage village site was sold and redeveloped as a residential area.

It appears that only one building remains from the Tally Ho Boys Village. This is the clubroom and chapel that was shown as already existing in the 1949 Master Plan and is located at 27 Carrington Court. It has been converted to residential use.

#### **Significance**

##### *What is significant?*

Kildonan Children's Homes were established as a residential care home by the Presbyterian Church in Elgar Road Burwood from 1937 and buildings remain from 1937, 1941 and 1946 to designs by architects, F Bruce Kemp, L Hume Sherrard and K Murray Forster (1937) and Marcus Martin & Tribe (1941, 1946). They were one of a number of similar homes established particularly by the church, in the City of Whitehorse. A number of significant elements are still extant including the Administrative Block (1937), the kindergarten building (1941), the home for girls (1946), the curved entrance drive, the extensive front lawn and seven (7) mature trees dating from the 1950s.

##### *How is it significant?*

The buildings that remain at the former Kildonan Children's Home site are of historical, aesthetic and social significance to the City of Whitehorse.

##### *Why is it significant?*

The buildings that remain at the former Kildonan Children's Home site are of historical significance as a visual reminder of the original purpose of this important site. Together with the buildings that remain at the former Orana Methodist Peace Memorial Homes, Tally Ho Boys Village and Salvation Army Boys Home, these buildings are illustrative of an important historical theme in the municipality. [Criterion A]

The Administrative Block is of aesthetic significance as a fine, distinctive and intact building designed in the moderne style of the 1930s. [Criteria D & E]

The former Kildonan Children's Homes are of social significance for their strong associations with a significant number of people who were accommodated at the facility over a period of time [Criterion G] and for their representation of children's welfare institutions in the municipality [Criterion B].

#### **Recommended Extent of Overlay**

To west and south title boundaries, to the south elevations of the recent building buildings to the north of the lawn, and to the east of the Administration extending to the north and south Building as outlined on map below. Tree controls to apply.



#### SIGNIFICANT ELEMENTS - LEGEND

##### BUILDINGS

- A Administration building  
 B Kindergarten  
 C Girl's Home

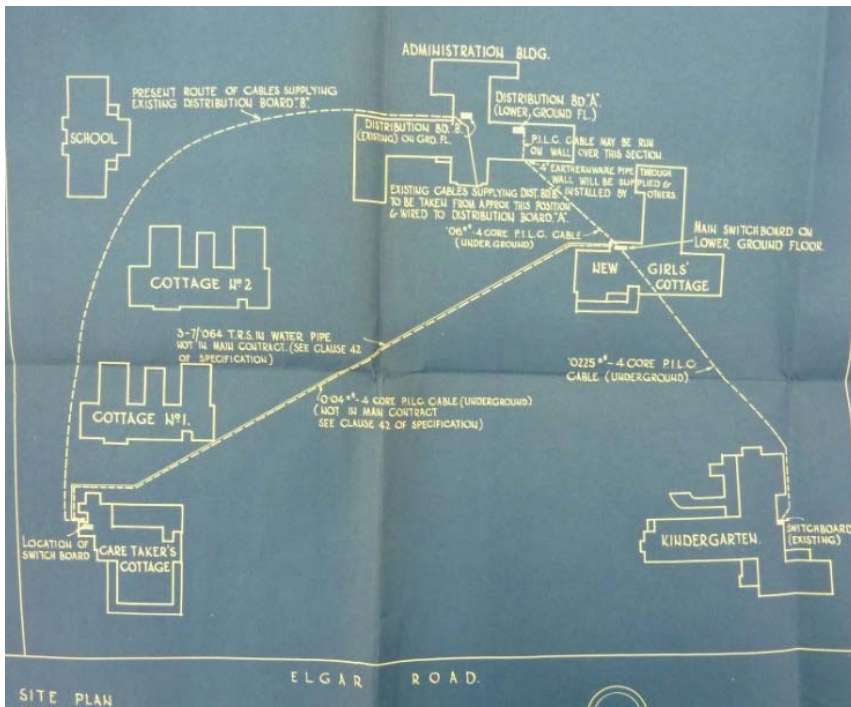
##### TREES

- |   |                 |                             |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Algerian Oak    | <i>Quercus canariensis</i>  |
| 2 | Box Elder maple | <i>Acer negundo</i>         |
| 3 | Pinoak          | <i>Quercus palustris</i>    |
| 4 | Pinoak          | <i>Quercus palustris</i>    |
| 5 | English oak     | <i>Quercus palustris</i>    |
| 6 | Crepe myrtle    | <i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> |
| 7 | Pinoak          | <i>Quercus palustris</i>    |
| 8 | Pinoak          | <i>Quercus palustris</i>    |

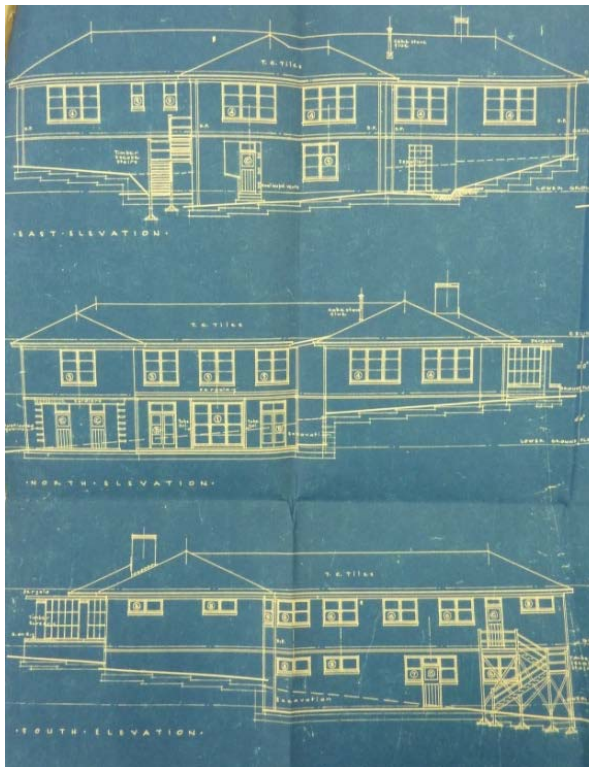
#### References

*The Argus*, 6 June 1936, p 32; 'New Children's Home', including illustration  
 Public Building File VPRS 7882/P0001/985, Public Records Office Victoria  
 M Robinson. *Kildonan One Hundred Years of Caring. A brief history of the work of Kildonan Homes for Children 1881-1981*. Camberwell 1981





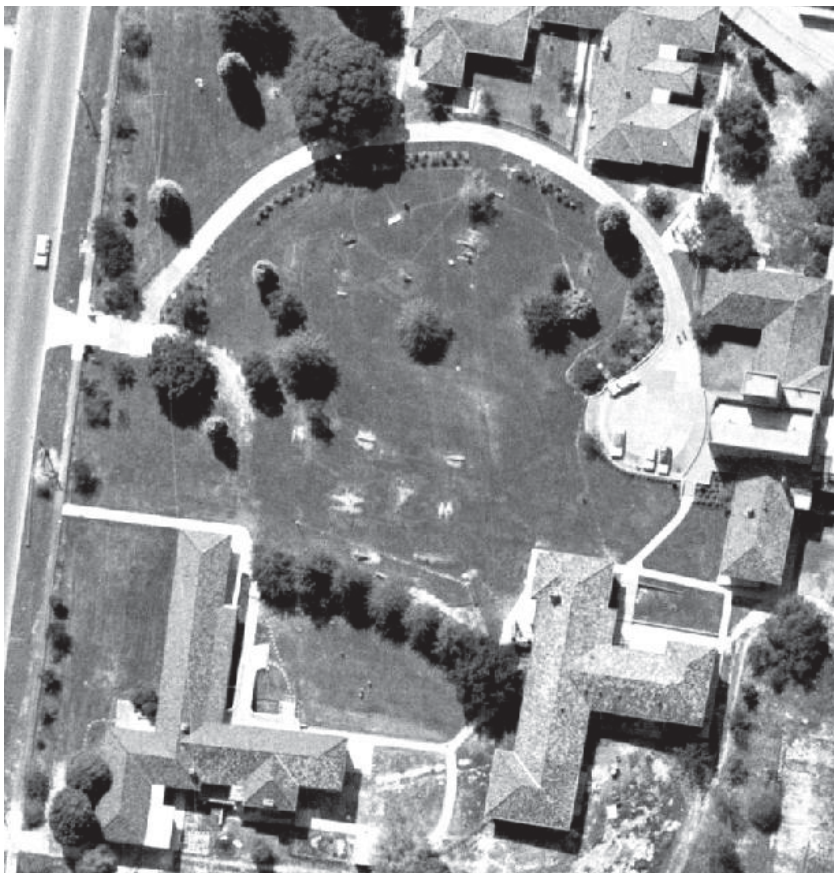
Site Plan of Kildonan Children's Home, 1946, from Public Building File VPRS 7882/P0001/985, Public Records Office Victoria



Cottage for teenage girls, 1946, from Public Building File VPRS 7882/P0001/985, Public Records Office Victoria



Kildonan site, 1945 (City of Whitehorse GIS)



Kildonan/Allambie site, 1963-64 (City of Whitehorse GIS)





Kildonan/Allambie site, 1975 (City of Whitehorse GIS)



Kildonan/Allambie/Deakin University site, 2014 (City of Whitehorse GIS)