Inside: Life in Children’s Homes
Opens November 16, 2011
National Museum of Australia
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Where our stories live
Inside: Life in Children’s Homes

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• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture

• Australia's history and society since 1788

• the interaction of people with the environment.
Informed by three reports:

Informed by three reports:

2. *Lost Innocents* (Senate Community Affairs References Committee, 2001)
Informed by three reports:
Informed by three reports:

3. *Forgotten Australians* (Senate Community Affairs References Committee, 2004)
Informed by three reports:

St Vincent’s Orphanage, Nudgee, QLD
Statistics

• 50,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, some of whom belong to the Stolen Generations

• 7,000 Child Migrants

• 500,000 Forgotten Australians
What did they experience?

- Separation from and loss of family

Nun from the order of Sister of the Good Shepherd escorting a girl, Children's Court Albion Street, Sydney, 25 October, 1963
What did they experience?

- Deception (lied to about family members – e.g. “They’re dead” or “They don’t want you”)

- Neglect and exploitation (poor nutrition, slave labour)

- Assault (criminal, not simply the use of controlled corporal punishment)
What did they experience?

- Poor health care
- Lack of education (illiteracy is an issue for survivors)
- Loss of identity (named changed)
- Medical testing
- No post-care transition education
Join in!

The National Museum of Australia is putting together an exhibition based on personal histories of those who were placed in Children’s Homes – a voice for those who were inside and a chance for others to understand.

Here we are sharing stories, photos, artwork, poems, songs and articles. Feel free to comment. Or contact us if you want to contribute.

Warning: some people may find this material and the associated memories
Note to contributors

We welcome your thoughts, ideas, experiences and whatever else you have to share in relation to children’s homes. If you decide to contribute, be mindful that whatever you share here is on the public record, and will be available to all users of the internet. To be clear: your words, photos and so on might be distributed widely, and we will have no control over that. You might choose to use your real name for contributions, but you don’t have to – you are welcome to use a nickname instead.

If you are considering taking legal action relating to your time in ‘care’, you might seek legal advice before sharing your story on this website.

Like all communities we have expectations for participation and we think that it is important to be clear and transparent about our expectations. We ask that you:

- use language that is respectful, courteous and mindful of others’ feelings
- respect people’s privacy – you should not reveal information about yourself or others that may intrude upon their (or your!) privacy (for example, you might remember someone from a home and want to mention them here, using just their first name or their initials will protect their privacy)
apology Australian Capital
Territory autobiography child
labour Christian Brothers Clontarf
Stigmata: The Indelible Stain

There was, in the city of churches, a Convent of the Good Shepherd run by nuns who had consecrated their pure and blemish-less bosoms to the beneficent ‘rescue’ of girls deemed ‘delinquent.’

An abused young woman who had fled her home in 1967, was sent to this prison-like convent. Here, she worked unpaid alongside other unwanted young women in the Convent’s commercial Magdalene laundry, an antiquated facility run like a Dickensian work-house. Stripped of their names and identities and stigmatized evermore as Magdalenes, many of the girls, upon their release, spent the rest of their lives trying to live with this indelible stain.

Recent comments

- Christine Waite on St Vincent’s, Westmead
- ian caldwell on St Vincent’s, Westmead
- maureen redding on Message board
- trish on Photos
- Christine Waite on Shock treatment
- Lawrie higgins on St Vincent’s, Westmead
- Lawrie higgins on Message board
- maureen redding on Message board
- ian caldwell on Shock treatment

Browse by category

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  - drawing (4)
  - film (15)
  - music (17)
  - painting (14)
  - photography (9)
  - poetry (9)
Winlaton reunion notice

WINLATON REUNION
To be held
Date: October 29th
Time: 11am-3pm
Venue: Open Place
   suite 1/8 Bronham Place
   Richmond Vic
RSVP by September 29th contact
   Gabbi 0419320677
   Krissy 0423001794

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Forgotten Australians & Women and Prisons (WAP) present
The Anniversary of the Apology to the Forgotten Australians

When: 16 November 2010 at 9:30 am (10:00 am march to Parliament House)
Where: Meet on the lawns next to Commonwealth Avenue Bridge (Civic side of the bridge)

Who are the Forgotten Australians?
Forgotten Australians are the survivors of the roughly 500,000 indigenous, non-indigenous and migrant children who were put into church and state-run orphanages, institutions and out-of-homecare in the 20th century. Many of these individuals are still suffering from the adverse health effects of the abuse and neglect they experienced during their incarceration.

Why are we marching?

Browse posts from...

- September 2011 (10)
Is justice yet to come?

by Rhonda Trivett (guest author) on 2 March, 2011

In these videos, Rhonda Trivett details some of her experiences from the age of 13, from 1974 – 1981, when she was interned in the maximum security adult ward (Osler House), in Wolston Park Hospital and her call for current reforms.
Child labour site, Clontarf Boys Town, c. 1956

Child labour site, Clontarf Boys Town, Waterford, Perth, Western Australia, c. 1956. Photo by Mike O’Donoghue, taken with his box Brownie camera.
Inside: Life in Children’s Homes

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Inside: Life in Children’s Homes

Website

- protests