

Our History

Hawkes' Bay Children's Holding Trust has roots that run deep in the Hawke's Bay community. It exists to preserve and put to use resources that good hearted people have set aside for our vulnerable children and families.

The Trust resulted from the merger in 2004 of 3 organizations – Hawke's Bay Children's Home, Family Care Hawke's Bay and Birthright Napier. Each of those organisations had a unique history but shared a kaupapa of care and support for our tamariki and whānau.

— Hawkes Bay Children's Home

Hawke's Bay Children's Home was formed in the late 1800's to provide support for families in crisis. Destitution, the effects of alcohol addiction and other difficult circumstances were seen as ills that

children needed protection from.

Amelia Randall, a niece of Napier entrepreneur Henry Tiffen and a highly capable businesswoman in her own right – helped found the first Hawke's Bay Children's Home in 1892 and left a substantial bequest to continue that charitable work.

Over the years, the institutions operated by Hawke's Bay Children's home were:

- Bethany Receiving Home (1896-1978), Napier
- St Mary's Receiving Home,(1915-1940) Napier
- St Hilda's Orphanage (1918-1958), Otane
- Abbotsford Home (1926-1961), Waipawa
- Hawke's Bay Children's Home – Randall House and Gordon House (1892-1966), Napier
- France House (1924-1973), Eskdale
- Hillsbrook Children's Home (1947-1988), Havelock North

These homes provided a short- or sometimes long-term home for thousands of children and young people who were orphaned, illegitimate, abandoned, or in other serious need.

The experiences of some of those children and young people are chronicled in *Who Cared? Childhoods within Hawke's Bay Children's Homes and Orphanages 1892-1988* a book by academic historian and Eastern Institute of Technology research professor Kay Morris Matthews.

Changing social attitudes and government policies meant that by 2004 there was little demand for the kind of institutional care that Hawke's Bay Children's Homes had been established to provide. The homes had been sold and the Trust's resources comprised an early childhood centre – Swinburn House, which continues to be operated by Birthright Hawke's Bay Child and Family Care and investments which the Trustees managed.

+ Family Care and Birthright Napier

+ The Merger

+ Annual Reports



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