

Point McLeay Mission Station

1859 – 1974

Other Names: • Raukkan

Details

The Point McLeay Mission Station was established at lake Alexandrina by the Aborigines' Friends' Association in 1859. Dormitories were set up at the Mission for orphan Aboriginal children. When Poonindie Mission closed in 1894 some families were transferred to Point McLeay. The State Government took control of the Mission in 1916 and the dormitories were closed. The Point McLeay Mission Station was handed back to the Ngarrindjeri people in 1974 and was renamed Raukkan in 1982.

The Point McLeay Mission Station was established by the Aborigines' Friends' Association and the Reverend George Taplin in 1859 on the south banks of Lake Alexandrina in Ngarrindjeri country. It was established to provide assistance to the Aboriginal people of the Lower Lakes district. A school and cottages were constructed and a farm developed. Medical assistance and religious training were also supplied. Dormitories, referred to as boarding-houses or 'orphan houses' in the 1903-1904 Protector's Reports, were established at the Mission for 'orphan children'.

When Poonindie Mission closed in 1894 some families were transferred to Point McLeay Mission Station.

Poor land quality, lack of funding and competition from local farmers made it difficult for the Mission to be self sustaining. In 1916 the state government took over the Point McLeay Mission Station and it became a government reserve. At this time the dormitories for children were closed. However, the Mission continued to be referred to as a Mission Station well into the 1950s. In the 1923 Report suggestions were made that a training school and new dormitories for girls and 'orphan' boys be established, however, it appears new dormitories were not opened.

In 1974 Point McLeay was handed back to the Ngarrindjeri people, and in 1982 the settlement was renamed Raukkan.

Point McLeay Mission Station was mentioned in the Bringing Them Home Report (1997) as an institution that housed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children removed from their families.

Gallery



Point McLeay Mission Station

Description: The library description states: The Point McLeay Mission is a group of neat cottages and outbuildings with enclosures of clipped hedges. In the foreground an orchard can be seen. The Mission was founded in 1859 by the Aborigines' Friends Association but never really prospered due to lack of financial and community support. In 1974 Point McLeay (re-named Raukkan in 1984) was handed back to the Ngarrindjeri people. [On back of photograph] 'Reproduced in the Observer, Oct. 16, 1926 / Point McLeay Mission Station / 1926'.



Classroom, Point McLeay

Description: The library description states: Children sitting at desks in a classroom at Point McLeay Day School.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Department of Aboriginal Affairs, South Australian Government \(1963 - 1970\)](#)
Date: 1963 - 1970
- [Department of Social Welfare and Aboriginal Affairs, South Australian Government \(1970 - 1972\)](#)
Date: 1970 - 1972
- [Aborigines' Friends' Association \(1858 - 2000\)](#)
- [Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Federal Government \(1972 - 1990\)](#)
Date: 1972 - 1974
- [Aborigines Department, South Australian Government \(1912 - 1962\)](#)
Date: 1916 - 1962

Related Events

- [Royal Commission on the Aborigines, State of South Australia \(1913 - 1916\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Poonindie Mission \(1851 - 1894\)](#)
When the Poonindie Mission closed in 1894 some of the Aboriginal families were moved to the Point McLeay Mission Station

Related Concepts

- [Stolen Generations](#)

Resources

- Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, [Bringing Them Home: Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families](#), 1997. *Relevance:* Point McLeay Mission Station was mentioned in the Bringing Them Home Report (1997) as an institution that housed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children removed from their families
- [Aboriginal Missions in South Australia](#), State Library of South Australia - Library Guides, 2013

Records

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

Records

- [Records of Aboriginal Missions in South Australia \(1850s - 1970s\)](#)
 - [Records of the Aborigines' Office and Successor Agencies \(1866 - 2003\)](#)
 - [Records of Raukkan Aboriginal School, formerly Point McLeay Mission School, State Records of South Australia \(1887 - 1994\)](#)
 - [Records of the Aborigines' Friends' Association \(1925 - 1976\)](#)
 - [Correspondence files \('ED' files\) - Education Department \(1896 - 1959\)](#)
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