

Mogumber

1951 – 1974

Other Names:

- Mogumber Native Mission
- Moore River the Mogumber Mission

Details

Mogumber was run by the Methodist Overseas Mission from 1951 on the site of the Moore River Native Settlement. Aboriginal children and young people of all ages were placed there by parents, child welfare authorities or the Children's Court. In the 1970s, some children were moved from Mogumber to houses in Perth. In 1974, Mogumber became the Mogumber Training Centre which carried on programs and out of home care for Aboriginal children after Mogumber closed.

Mogumber was run by the Methodist Overseas Mission from 18 August 1951 when the Department of Native Affairs handed over the Moore River Native Settlement. Aboriginal children and young people of all ages were placed there by parents, child welfare authorities or the Children's Court. Until 1963, children at Mogumber were under the guardianship of the Commissioners of Native Affairs and Native Welfare.

In the 1970s, some children were moved from Mogumber to houses in Perth.

In 1974, Mogumber became the Mogumber Training Centre.

Gallery



Mission residents outside cottage

Description: This is an image of Mogumber (also known as Moore River Mission) showing several mission residents, including children, outside a cottage at the mission.



Chapel at Mogumber Methodist Mission, 1964

Description: This is a digitised copy of a slide and is part of the Robert McKeich collection of photographs held at the State Library of Western Australia. The image shows the chapel at Mogumber.



'The Boob' - 24 July 1936

Description: This is a photograph of 'The Boob' at Moore River Native Settlement/Mogumber. 'The Boob' was the colloquial name for the gaol or lock-up, where residents, including children, were confined as punishment. The photo shows 10 people standing in front of a medium-sized window-less building made out of corrugated metal sheets and timber. There is one tree next to the building, but the structure is otherwise in full sun. This photo is on page 80 of album 8 of the Wheatbelt Aboriginal Corporation collection of photographs relating to the Moore River Native Settlement, which is held by the State Library of Western Australia.



Kindergarten Building - Moore River Native Settlement

Description: This is a photograph of the kindergarten building at Moore River Native Settlement in around 1939. It shows a wide single-storey building with two wings and a central verandah. This photo is on page 67 of album 1 of the Wheatbelt Aboriginal Corporation collection of photographs relating to the Moore River Native Settlement, which is held by the State Library of Western Australia.



Kindergarten Dormitory

Description: This is a photograph of the dormitory within the Moore River kindergarten. It shows a long room with over 20 cots lining the walls. There is a woman holding a young Aboriginal child standing at the far end of the room. This photo is on page 103 of album 8 of the Wheatbelt Aboriginal Corporation collection of photographs relating to the Moore River Native Settlement, which is held by the State Library of Western Australia.



Moore River Hospital

Description: This is a photograph of the hospital at Moore River. It shows three adult women, a young child, and a nursing sister standing on the verandah of a medium-sized stone building. This photo is on page 10 of album 8 of the Wheatbelt Aboriginal Corporation collection of photographs relating to the Moore River Native Settlement, which is held by the State Library of Western Australia.



Boys' School

Description: This is a photograph of the newly opened boys school-room at Mogumber. It shows five boys in dark blue uniforms standing around a stack of hay bales at the entrance to a fibro building. This photo is on page 13 of album 7 of the Wheatbelt Aboriginal Corporation collection of photographs relating to the Moore River Native Settlement, which is held by the State Library of Western Australia.



Waratah Cottage

Description: This is a photograph of 'Waratah', one of the residential cottages at Mogumber. It shows three Aboriginal girls standing in front of the entrance to a blue fibro cottage. This photo is on page 37 of album 6 of the Wheatbelt Aboriginal Corporation collection of photographs relating to the Moore River Native Settlement, which is held by the State Library of Western Australia.



Main street looking towards Clarkes house

Description: This is a photograph of the main street at Mogumber. It shows a wide dirt street with weatherboard and fibro cottages on either side, shaded by large trees. This photo is on page 41 of album 6 of the Wheatbelt Aboriginal Corporation collection of photographs relating to the Moore River Native Settlement, which is held by the State Library of Western Australia.



The School

Description: This is a photo of the schoolhouse and church at Moore River Native Settlement. It shows a timber building with a steep pitched roof and crucifixes at each end. There are 12 children visibly standing at the front of the building. This photo is on page 15 of album 1 of the Wheatbelt Aboriginal Corporation collection of photographs relating to the Moore River Native Settlement, which is held by the State Library of Western Australia.

More info

Chronology

- Moore River Native Settlement (1918 - 1951)
 - **Mogumber (1951 – 1974)**
 - Mogumber Training Centre (1974 - 1980)

Related Entries

Ran

- [Nollamara Cottage \(1973? - 1985\)](#)
Date: 1973? - 1974

Run by

- [Methodist Overseas Mission \(c. 1930 - 1980\)](#)
Date: 1951 - 1974

Related Organisations

- [Applecross Cottage \(1970 - 1986?\)](#)
Applecross Cottage was set up as a 'scatter cottage' in the city for children from Mogumber.
Date: 1970 - 1974
- [Innaminka Hostel, Greenmount \(1972? - 2004?\)](#)
Innaminka Hostel, Greenmount was one of the Homes set up in the city to accommodate children from .
Date: 1972? - 1974
- [Marribank \(1952 - 1988\)](#)
Young Aboriginal women from were employed in childcare at Marribank.
Date: 1952 - 1974
- [Yokine Cottage \(1972 - 1988\)](#)
Yokine Cottage was one of the Homes set up in the city to accommodate children from Mogumber.
Date: 1972 - 1974
- [Sister Kate's Children's Cottage Home \(1934 - 1980\)](#)
Some children were transferred to Sister Kate's Children's Cottage from Mogumber.
Date: 1954 - 1974?
- [Ardross House \(1971 - 2004?\)](#)
Ardross House was set up as a 'scatter cottage' in the city for children from Mogumber.

Date: 1971 - 1974

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
- Stolen Generations' Testimonies Foundation, [*Stolen Generations' Testimonies*](#), 2009. Relevance: See testimony of Glen Ugle
- [*Cedric Jacobs interviewed by W. John E. Bannister in the Bringing them home oral history project \(1999\)*](#), 5 November 1999
- [*Eileen Heath interviewed by John Bannister in the Bringing them home oral history project \(2000\)*](#), 30 November 2000 - 8 December 2000
- [*Gerard Warber interviewed by W. John E. Bannister in the Bringing them home oral history project \(2000\)*](#), 26 March 2000
- [*Helen McMillan interviewed by John Bannister in the Bringing them home oral history project \(2001\)*](#), 24 March 2001 - 1 April 2001
- [*Jim Dawes interviewed by Karen George in the Bringing them home oral history project \(2001\)*](#), 1 January 1970 - current
- [*Sealin Garlett interviewed by John Bannister in the Bringing them home oral history project, National Library of Australia \(2001\)*](#), 14 February 2001
- Wilson, Katrin and Michael V. Robinson., *Aboriginal Hostels in Perth : A Comparative Survey*, 1971
- Western Australia. Department for Community Welfare, [*Annual Report: Department for Community Welfare*](#), 1973 - 1984
- [*Children at Mogumber Methodist Mission*](#), The West Australian, 23 April 1952
- Valadian, Margaret, *Report by Margaret Valadian*, 1968
- [*Remembering the Moore River Native Settlement*](#), Revive, 7 October 2018
- Nicolas Perpitch, [*The Moore River Aboriginal Settlement: A journey into 'hell on Earth'*](#), ABC News, 26 May 2018
- [*Moore River Native Settlement Burial Register*](#), 2018

Records

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

Records

- [Tuart Place Historical Photos Collection](#)
 - [Records of Mogumber Agricultural School \(1952 - 1979\)](#)
 - [Uniting Church \(Synod of Western Australia\) Archives, Records \(1918 - 1980s\)](#)
 - [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
 - [Records of Mogumber Methodist Mission, Methodist Church \(1918 - 1985\)](#)
 - [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
 - [Administration Files - South West District Office \[annual single number sequence\] \(1 January 1950 - 1 January 1972\)](#)
 - [Files - Community Welfare \("A" Series\), State Records Office of Western Australia \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)
 - [Files - Aborigines Departments \(1 January 1926 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
 - [Administration Files - South West District Office \[S.D. Sequence\] \(1949 - 1976\)](#)
 - [Files - Departmental \[Education Department\] \(1 January 1885 - 31 December 2000\)](#)
 - [Files - General \[Health Department\] \(1899 - 1987\)](#)
 - [Files - Aboriginal Affairs \(1908 - 1997\)](#)
 - [Baby's bath \[motion picture\], State Library of Western Australia \(1962 - 1962\)](#)
 - [Wheatbelt Aboriginal Corporation collection of photographs relating to the Moore River Native Settlement \(1933 - 1992\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/mogumber/>