

# Warburton Mission

1933 – 1977

**Other Names:** • Warburton Ranges Mission

## Details

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Warburton Mission, 579 kilometres north-east of Laverton, was established in 1933 as an outstation of Mount Margaret Mission until it became a separate facility in 1937. Aboriginal children either lived at the mission with families or were sent there for schooling. The head of the government departments responsible for Aboriginal welfare was the guardian of these children until 1963. In 1968, 211 children lived at the mission. In 1971 there were 136 children attending a Government school on Warburton Mission. It closed in 1977.

According to the State Solicitor's Office in Western Australia (*Guide to Institutions Attended by Aboriginal People in Western Australia* 2005, p.140) R. Schenk, who was the Manager of Mount Margaret Mission, established the Warburton Mission as an outpost of Mount Margaret. In 1937, Warburton was recognised by government authorities as a separate mission. Both Mount Margaret and Warburton Missions were run by the United Aborigines Mission.

In its early days the mission had few adults living there but the *Guide* (p.140) states that children were sent there for schooling. By 1949, there were 45 children living at the mission, with a total population of 64 people. Through the 1950s and 1960s, the mission population grew enormously and by 1968 (p.149) there were 211 children and a total population of more than 400 people. At that time, the mission had a 'small hospital staffed' staffed by two nursing sisters and '118 children attended a four teacher government school'.

By 1971 (Wilson and Robinson, quoted in *Signposts* 2004, p.549) there were 136 children enrolled at the mission school.

## Gallery

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**Warburton Mission, 1958-1961**

**Description:** This is a digitised copy of a slide and is part of the group of 40 images titled 'Warburton Range missions, missionaries and Aboriginal people : part one [picture]' held at the State Library of Western Australia. The image shows some of the buildings, people and land that Warburton Mission was on.



**Milking, Warburton Mission, 1958-1961**

**Description:** This is a digitised copy of a slide and is part of the group of 40 images titled 'Warburton Range missions, missionaries and Aboriginal people : part two [picture]' held at the State Library of Western Australia. The image shows children standing in a line holding milk pails in front of goats.

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### Hospital, Warburton Mission, 1958-1961

**Description:** This is a digitised copy of a slide and is part of the group of 40 images titled 'Warburton Range missions, missionaries and Aboriginal people : part three [picture]' held at the State Library of Western Australia. The image shows the hospital at Warburton Mission.

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### Arriving, Warburton Mission, 1958-1961

**Description:** This is a digitised copy of a slide and is part of the group of 40 images titled 'Warburton Range missions, missionaries and Aboriginal people : part three [picture]' held at the State Library of Western Australia. The image shows United Aborigines missionaries arriving at Warburton Mission.

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## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [United Aborigines Mission \(1929 - 2020\)](#)

#### Related Glossary Terms

- [Commissioner for Native Affairs \(WA\) \(1936 - 1954\)](#)  
The Commissioner of Native Affairs was the legal guardian of children at Warburton Mission.
- [Commissioner of Native Welfare \(WA\) \(1954 - 1972\)](#)  
The Commissioner of Native Welfare was the legal guardian of children at Warburton Mission until 1963 when he could regulate the 'care' of those Aboriginal children.  
Date: 1954 - 1972

#### Related Organisations

- [Cosmo Newbery Mission \(1953 - 1973?\)](#)  
Young people from Warburton Mission were sometimes sent to Cosmo Newbery Mission to attend the Pastoral Training Centre.  
Date: 1960s - 1973?
- [Mount Margaret Mission \(1921 - 1975\)](#)  
Warburton Mission was established it as an outstation of Mount Margaret Mission until it became governed as a separate facility in 1937.  
Date: 1933 - 1937
- [Department for Community Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1972 - 1985\)](#)  
The Chief Executive Officer of the Department for Community Welfare was the guardian of children at Warburton Mission who were deemed to be 'native wards' or 'wards of the State'.  
Date: 1972 - 1977
- [Chief Protector of Aborigines \(1898 - 1936\)](#)  
The Chief Protector of Aborigines was the legal guardian of children at Warburton Mission.

## 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
- Brain, Caddie, [Recording the Warburton Mission](#), ABC news, 10 September 2012
- [Kathleen Mack interviewed by John Bannister in the Bringing them home oral history project \(2001\)](#), 16 January 2001 - 18 January 2001

- [\*Neville Green interviewed by John Bannister in the Bringing them home oral history project \(1999\)\*](#), 13 September 1999 - 14 September 1999
- State Records Taskforce, Government of Western Australia, [\*Looking West: A Guide to Aboriginal Sources in Western Australia\*](#), 2004
- State Solicitor's Office of Western Australia, [\*Guide to Institutions Attended by Aboriginal People in Western Australia\*](#), 2005. *Relevance*: p. 140
- United Aborigines Mission, [\*The United Aborigines messenger\*](#), 1929 - 1987
- Morgan, Margaret R, *Mt Margaret: a drop in a bucket*, 2007

## Records

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

### Records

- [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
  - [United Aborigines Mission, Records of activities in Western Australia \(1929? - 1977?\)](#)
  - [Records of Warburton Mission: 1949-1967 \(incomplete\) \[manuscript\] \(1949 - 1967\)](#)
  - [Warburton Mission \(1958 - 1961\)](#)
  - [Administration Files - Eastern District Office \[E.D.G. Sequence\] \(1945 - 1975\)](#)
  - [Files - Departmental \[Education Department\] \(1 January 1885 - 31 December 2000\)](#)
  - [Files - Community Welfare \("A" Series\), State Records Office of Western Australia \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)
  - [Files - Aborigines Departments \(1 January 1926 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
  - [Files - General \[Health Department\] \(1899 - 1987\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/warburton-mission/>