

# Wirrumanu

1939 – 1975

**Other Names:**

- Pallottine Mission, Balgo
- Balgo Hills Mission
- Rockhole

## Details

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Wirrumanu, which was also known as Balgo Mission, was a Catholic mission south of Halls Creek that was run by the Pallottines (Society of the Catholic Apostolates) from 1939, with assistance from the Sisters of St John of God from 1956. Boys and girls aged 4 to 18 years were accommodated in dormitories and went to school at the mission. Wirrumanu closed in 1975.

## Gallery

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### A big photo album: the archive of the Sisters of St John of God

**Description:** 'A big photo album: the archive of the Sisters of St John of God' is an online news item from *ABC Kimberley*. It shows pictures of Aboriginal children and adults at communities in the Kimberley, and is about the collection of 34,000 photographs held by the Sisters of St John of God at the Heritage Centre in Broome, Western Australia.

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## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Pallottines \(Society of the Catholic Apostolates\) \(1901 - current\)](#)

#### Related Organisations

- [Catholic Diocese of Broome \(1897? - current\)](#)  
Wirrumanu was administered by the Catholic Diocese of Broome.
- [Sisters of St John of God \(1895 - current\)](#)  
The Sisters of St John of God ran the school at Wirrumanu (Balgo Hills).  
Date: 1956 - 1962

## Resources

- State Records Taskforce, Government of Western Australia, [Looking West: A Guide to Aboriginal Sources in Western Australia](#), 2004

- Western Australia. Department for Community Welfare, [Annual Report: Department for Community Welfare](#), 1973 - 1984
- Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission and the Australian Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes, *A piece of the story : national directory of records of Catholic organisations caring for children separated from families*, November 1999
- Catholic Church, [Catholic Diocese of Broome - Our History](#), No date
- [Society of the Catholic Apostolate \(Pallottine Fathers and Brothers\)](#), No date
- Heritage Council of Western Australia, [St John of God Convent \(fmr\), Broome](#), inHerit: our heritage places, 8 February 2015. *Relevance*: There is some history of the Sisters of St John of God's activities in the Kimberleys in the 'Register of Heritage Places' (pp.4-10) including work at Beagle Bay, Bidyadanga and Wirrumanu Missions and the Holy Child Orphanage
- [Hall's Creek Mission](#), Dungog Chronicle: Durham and Gloucester Advertiser, 7 October 1953

## Records

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

### Records

- [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
  - [Sisters of St John of God, Kimberley, Records \(1895 - current\)](#)
  - [Files - General \[Health Department\] \(1899 - 1987\)](#)
  - [Administration Files - Northern District Office \[N.D.G Sequence\] \(1950 - 1974\)](#)
  - [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 \(1 January 1926 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
  - [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/wirrumanu/>