

Gerald Mission

1851 – 1855

Other Names:

- Gerald's Native School
- Gerald Native Institution

Details

Gerald Mission was established in 1851 when the government granted the Wesleyan Reverend John Smithies land to relocate the Wanneroo Native School to more arable land in York. Aboriginal adults and children from Wanneroo relocated there. In 1854 the government took over the administration, and in 1855 Gerald Mission closed.

The Wanneroo Native School had struggled with sickness and poor farming land, which prompted Governor Fitzgerald to grant more arable land in York. However, illness and deaths persisted there in 1851 and Aboriginal parents removed their children. Abscondings were common as many children ran away to rejoin their families in the Perth and Fremantle areas. In 1854, the government took over the administration of the mission but illnesses and poor economic outcomes resulted in its closure in 1855.

More info

Chronology

- Perth Native School (1840 - 1845)
 - Wanneroo Native School (1844 - 1851)
- **Gerald Mission (1851 – 1855)**

Related Entries

Run by

- [Colonial Secretary's Office, Crown Colony of Western Australia \(30 December 1828 - 1890\)](#)
Date: 1854 - 1855
- [Methodist Church of Western Australia \(1829 - 1977\)](#)
Date: 1851 - 1854

Resources

- State Solicitor's Office of Western Australia, [Guide to Institutions Attended by Aboriginal People in Western Australia](#), 2005. *Relevance*: p.52
- United Aborigines Mission, [The United Aborigines messenger](#), 1929 - 1987
- [Report of the York Protector of Aborigines](#), The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 11 March 1853

- [*Report of the York Guardian of Aborigines*](#), The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 10 February 1854
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