

# Wotjulum

1934 – 1937

**Other Names:** • Wotjulun  
• Wodjulum Mission

## Details

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Wotjulum, near Yampi, was established by the United Aborigines Mission in 1934, with people transferred from Sunday Island. In 1937 Wotjulum closed and the mission returned to Sunday Island. Children at Wotjulum were under the guardianship of the heads of the departments responsible for Aboriginal welfare. In 1951, the Presbyterian Church opened a mission on the Wotjulum site, but the two missions were not related even though they shared the same name.

Wotjulum, near Yampi, was established by the United Aborigines Mission (UAM) in 1934, with people transferred from Sunday Island.

According to the Minister for the North-West in 1945, the Sunday Island Mission had moved from the island to Wotjulum on the mainland and back to Sunday Island again because the 'adult natives were not willing to stay at Wotjulum'.

Children at Wotjulum were under the guardianship of the heads of the departments responsible for Aboriginal welfare.

Young people from Wotjulum could be placed out at service. For some years, the government required reports about these placements. For example, the *Annual Report* of the Commissioner for Native Affairs in 1939 (p.34) reported that a 'quarter-caste' girl aged 15 had been placed at domestic service in Derby.

In 1937 Wotjulum closed and the mission returned to Sunday Island.

In 1951, the Presbyterian Church opened a mission on the Wotjulum site but this was not related to the previous Wotjulum mission, which had been run by the UAM.

## Gallery

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### Map West Kimberleys

**Description:** 'Map West Kimberleys' is an image published in *Mowanjum: 50 years community history* (p.23). It shows a map of the West Kimberley region, with names of communities and landmarks along the coast from Bigge Island to King Sound identified.

# More info

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## Chronology

- Sunday Island Mission (1899 - 1934)
- **Wotjulum (1934 – 1937)**
  - Sunday Island Mission (1937 - 1964)

## Related Entries

### Run by

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

### Related Organisations

- [Chief Protector of Aborigines \(1898 - 1936\)](#)

The Chief Protector of Aborigines was the legal guardian of children at Wotjulum.

## Resources

- [Bessie Ejai interviewed by Mary Anne Jebb in the Bringing Them Home after the Apology oral history project](#), 22 July 2010
- Western Australia. Department of Native Affairs, *Annual Report: Department of Native Affairs*, 1937 - 1954. *Relevance*: Annual Report of the Commissioner of Native Affairs 1939 p.34
- United Aborigines Mission, [The United Aborigines messenger](#), 1929 - 1987

## Records

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

### Records held by other organisations

- [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
- [Files - Aborigines Departments \(1 January 1926 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
- [Administration Files - Northern District Office \[N.D.G Sequence\] \(1950 - 1974\)](#)

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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/wotjulum/>