

Cosmo Newbery Mission

1953 – 1973?

Other Names: • Cosmo Newberry Mission

Details

Cosmo Newbery Mission, north-east of Laverton, was the new name given to the Cosmo Newbery Native Settlement when it was transferred to the United Aborigines Mission (UAM) by the Department of Native Affairs in December 1953. Until 1963, the Commissioners of Native Affairs and Native Welfare were the guardians of children placed at Cosmo Newbery. Cosmo Newbery Mission was run by the UAM until about 1973 when its use as a mission ceased. The mission land was vested in the Aboriginal Lands Trust.

On 15 December 1953, Cosmo Newbery was transferred to the United Aborigines Mission from the Department of Native Affairs. The annual report of the Commissioner for Native Affairs (1954, p.15) shows that one young person described as a 'native delinquent' ward of the State and one other adult 'inmate' were resident at the 'institution' at the handover and it continued to serve as a 'depot for the issue of rations and clothing to indigent natives'.

The Commissioner of Native Welfare described Cosmo Newbery in his 1959 Annual Report (p.8), as a 'flourishing mission station'.

In the early 1960s a government school opened at Cosmo Newbery, so the children no longer had to travel to Mt Margaret Mission for schooling.

In the mid-1960s the UAM opened a pastoral training centre at Cosmo Newbery and some part-time employment for local Aboriginal people was offered. During the droughts of the 1970s, employment at the mission waned.

It is possible that Cosmo Newbery was transferred from the UAM to local Aboriginal control around 1973, as that is when the handover of the UAM's Mt Margaret mission occurred. Cosmo Newbery's land was vested in the Aboriginal Lands Trust.

Gallery



Cosmo Newbery Mission, 1956?

Description: This is a digitised copy of a negative and is part of the group of 29 images titled 'A Christmas visit to Cosmo Newbery Mission [picture]' held at the State Library of Western Australia. The image shows some of the buildings at the Cosmo Newbery Mission.



Cosmo huts, ie Cosmo Newbery 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 huts at Cosmo Newbery Mission.

More info

Chronology

- Cosmo Newbery Native Settlement (1951 - 1953)
 - **Cosmo Newbery Mission (1953 – 1973?)**

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 guardian of Aboriginal children placed at Cosmo Newbery Mission.
Date: 1953 - 1954
- [Commissioner of Native Welfare \(WA\) \(1954 - 1972\)](#)
The Commissioner of Native Welfare was the guardian of Aboriginal children placed at Cosmo Newbery Mission.
Date: 1955 - 1963

Related Organisations

- [Mount Margaret Mission \(1921 - 1975\)](#)
Children at Cosmo Newbery Mission were sent by the United Aborigines Mission to Mount Margaret Mission for their schooling until a government school was opened at Cosmo Newberry.
Date: 1954 - 1960s
- [Warburton Mission \(1933 - 1977\)](#)
Young people from Warburton Mission were sometimes sent to Cosmo Newbery Mission to attend the Pastoral Training Centre.
Date: 1960s - 1973?
- [Sunday Island Mission \(1899 - 1934\)](#)
Cosmo Newbery Mission was started by United Aborigines Mission personnel, Harry and Ethel Lupton, who had previously been at the Sunday Island Mission.
Date: 1954 -

Resources

- [Allan Rees interviewed by Colleen Hattersley in the Bringing them home oral history project \(2000\)](#), 25 August 2000
- Wilson, Katrin and Michael V. Robinson., *Aboriginal Hostels in Perth : A Comparative Survey*, 1971
- State Records Taskforce, Government of Western Australia, [Looking West: A Guide to Aboriginal Sources in Western Australia](#), 2004
- Western Australia. Department of Native Affairs, *Annual Report: Department of Native Affairs, 1937 - 1954. Relevance: Annual Report of the Commissioner of Native Affairs 1954*, p.15
- United Aborigines Mission, [The United Aborigines messenger](#), 1929 - 1987

Records

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 \(1929? - 1977?\)](#)
 - [Warburton Mission \(1958 - 1961\)](#)
 - [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
 - [Administration Files - Eastern District Office \[E.D.G. Sequence\] \(1945 - 1975\)](#)
 - [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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