

# Pallottine Mission, Tardun

1948 – 2004

**Other Names:**

- Pallottine Mission School, Tardun
- Tardun Hostel
- Wandalgu Hostel
- Pallottine Mission Geraldton
- Tardun Geraldton

## Details

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The Pallottine Mission, Tardun, run by The Pallottines, opened a boarding school in 1948, before establishing a hostel in 1960 to accommodate boys and girls in dormitories who went to school at the mission. In the 1960s the hostel was completely rebuilt to provide cottage-style care with house parents. In 1995, the Pallottine Mission, Tardun changed its name to Wandalgu Hostel.

The Pallottine Mission, Tardun first opened as a boarding school in 1948 with separate dormitories for boys and girls. Pallottine Fathers and Brothers looked after the boys' dormitory, while the girls' dormitory was run by the Presentation Sisters from 1948 to February 1949, Dominican Sisters from 1949 to 1951 and then the Schoenstatt Sisters from 1951 to 1960.

The Mission's boarding school changed to a hostel when the Government took over the running of the Mission's Primary School in 1960. From 1960, the girls' dormitory was staffed by 'lay missionaries' and the Pallottine Fathers and Brothers continued to run the boys' dormitory. The head of the Department, the Commissioner of Native Welfare, was the legal guardian of children at the Mission until 1963.

During the mid-to-late 1960s the hostel was completely rebuilt, moving away from dormitory-style accommodation to separate buildings for different groups of children. There were 'houses' for junior boys, senior boys, agriculture school boys, junior girls and senior girls. Each building had its own house parents. The senior children travelled to the Morawa Junior High School by the hostel bus.

The Pallottine website states: "From 1968 to 1980 the Government ran an Agricultural School on the Pallottine property whilst the Mission accommodated and looked after the students in out-of-school time and the Brothers on the Farm provided work experience for them." There was room for 24 boys to be enrolled at one time, many children placed at the Agricultural School were wards of the State.

When it was surveyed by Wilson and Robinson in 1971, (*Signposts* 2004, p.409) there were 79 primary school children, 8 high school children and 20 agricultural school students living at Tardun. Some of the children were transferred to the Pallottine Centre at Rossmoyne for further education. Reports from child welfare authorities in 1979 indicate that children were referred to Tardun until it closed. These may be the children referred to in the State Solicitor's Office in Western Australia (*Guide to Institutions Attended by Aboriginal People in Western Australia* 2005, p.132) which says that children who were deemed to be 'neglected' or 'deprived' were also admitted to the Mission, along with children who were boarding students.

By 1978, the Mission at Tardun had a swimming pool, church and recreation hall. In 1982, the Senior Girls' House was extended to include single bedrooms, new toilets and showers, a lounge room and small kitchen and

the Agriculture School Boys' House was converted to accommodate high school boys. In 1984, the Junior High School Girls' House was also renovated, with a large bedroom being converted into smaller rooms and a small kitchen installed.

An Aboriginal Parents' Council was appointed, and Aboriginal staff were sought to help run the hostel from 1984, with school instruction given in Wajarri language.

In 1995 The Pallottine Mission, Tardun was renamed Wandalgu Hostel.

Wandalgu Hostel closed in December 2004.

## Gallery

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### Girls' Dormitory, Pallottine Mission

**Description:** 'Girls' Dormitory, Pallottine Mission' is an image published on the Society of the Catholic Apostolate webpage 'Pallottine History - Pallottine Mission School'. It shows an internal view of the girls' dormitory in 1948, at the mission at Tardun.

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## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Run by

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

#### Related Glossary Terms

- [Commissioner for Native Affairs \(WA\) \(1936 - 1954\)](#)  
The Commissioner of Native Affairs was the legal guardian of children at Pallottine Mission, Tardun.
- [Commissioner of Native Welfare \(WA\) \(1954 - 1972\)](#)  
The Commissioner of Native Welfare was the legal guardian of children at Pallottine Mission, Tardun until 1963 when he could regulate the 'care' of those Aboriginal children.  
Date: 1954 - 1968?

#### Related Organisations

- [Pallottine Mission Centre \(1955 - 1991\)](#)  
The Pallottine Mission, Tardun transferred boys to the Pallottine Centre for education, training and residential support in Perth.
- [Department for Community Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1972 - 1985\)](#)  
The Chief Executive Officer of the Department for Community Welfare, State of Western Australia was the guardian of any children at Pallottine Mission, Tardun who were deemed to be 'native wards' or 'wards of the State'.  
Date: 1972 - 1984
- [Presentation Sisters, Society of Australian Congregations of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)  
Presentation Sisters, Society of Australian Congregations of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary established a primary school at the Pallottine Mission, Tardun.  
Date: 1948 - 1949
- [Department of Native Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1955 - 1972\)](#)  
The Department of Native Welfare, State of Western Australia could make regulations for the 'control, care and education of the children' at Pallottine Mission, Tardun.

## Resources

- [David Plowman interviewed by John Bannister in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project](#), 18 February 2010 - 25 February 2010
- 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
- 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
- [Society of the Catholic Apostolate \(Pallottine Fathers and Brothers\)](#), No date

## Records

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

### Records

- [Pallottine Mission, Tardun WA, student records 1948-2004 \(1948 - 2004\)](#)
  - [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
  - [Pallottines, Records \(1895? - 1993?\)](#)
  - [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 - Departmental \[Education Department\] \(1 January 1885 - 31 December 2000\)](#)
  - [Files - General \[Health Department\] \(1899 - 1987\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/pallottine-mission-tardun/>