

# Roelands Village

1975 – 1984

**Other Names:** • Roelands Mission

## Details

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Roelands Village was run by the Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Mission Board Inc from 1975, as cottage homes for school-age Aboriginal children from all around the State. Children and young people at Roelands included those placed privately by parents and those who were state wards. Roelands closed in 1984.

Children and young people from Roelands Village went to primary schools in Roelands, Brunswick and Bunbury; and high schools in Bunbury and Harvey. During the school holidays, children who could not go home to family accompanied missionaries to the Roelands Campsite, on Caves Road between Busselton and Dunsborough. Weekend camps were also held there. This campsite was part of the Roelands assets. Eventually, the campsite was released by the Shire of Busselton to a local Aboriginal consortium.

Churches of Christ historians have advised that there were some young men living and working at Roelands Village who were known as 'working boys'. Some of these young people may have been at Roelands before the Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Mission Board (Inc) took over. Their placement at Roelands Village was organised by government authorities.

Government records sometimes refer to children being placed at "Roelands Mission" even after its ownership and name changed in 1975.

In 2013, the Roelands Village site was undergoing renovation, to re-open as a place of healing.

## Gallery

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**Roelands Village, sign**

**Description:** 'Roelands Village, sign' is a digital copy of an image held by Global Mission Partners in the Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Mission Board Photographs collection. As described by historian Deslee Moyle, the image dates from 1978 and shows the sign into Roelands Village, with the Village itself in the background.



**Roelands Village, view**

**Description:** 'Roelands Village, view' is a digital copy of an image held by Global Mission Partners in the Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Mission Board Photographs collection. As described by historian Deslee Moyle, the image dates from 1978 and shows the blue dining room on the right and the church in the middle. At the back, in the centre of the photograph in front of the hill, is the schoolhouse that had been used during when the property held the Roelands Native Mission Farm.

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## Roelands Campsite, Busselton

**Description:** 'Roelands Campsite, Busselton' is a digital copy of an image held by Global Mission Partners in the Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Mission Board Photographs collection. As described by historian Deslee Moyle, the image dates from 1983 and shows the campsite that was part of Roelands, on Caves Road between Busselton and Dunsborough. Camps were held on weekends and during school holidays for children who couldn't go home to family. Eventually, the campsite was released by the Shire Council to a local Aboriginal consortium.

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## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Mission Board \(Inc\) \(1942 - 2009\)](#)  
Date: 1975 - 1984

#### Related Organisations

- [Roelands Native Mission Farm \(1938 - 1975\)](#)  
Roelands Village was on land previously occupied by the Roelands Native Mission Farm, but the two organisations were not connected.
- [Wandering Mission \(1944 - 1979\)](#)  
Children whose parents were participating in rehabilitation programs at Wandering Mission were sometimes sent to Roelands Village.  
Date: 1975? - 1977?
- [Wollaston \(1973 - 1995?\)](#)  
Wollaston operated as part of the Roelands Village.  
Date: 1975 - 1984
- [Department for Community Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1972 - 1985\)](#)  
The Chief Executive Officer of the Department for Community Welfare was the guardian of any children at Roelands Village who were deemed to be 'native wards' or 'wards of the State'.  
Date: 1975 - 1984

### Resources

- Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, [Bringing Them Home: Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families](#), 1997
- [Avon Moyle and Deslee Moyle interviewed by W.J.E. Bannister in the Bringing them home oral history project \(2000\)](#), 17 October 2000
- [Peg Eaton interviewed by John Bannister in the Bringing them home oral history project \(1999\)](#), 24 October 1999
- [Ryan Kelly interviewed by John Maynard in the Bringing them home oral history project \(2001\)](#), 1 April 2001
- Churches of Christ Ingada Village, *Ingada news*, 1975 - 1981. *Relevance:* Ingada news' is a collection of newsletters held at the State Library of Western Australia. A series of the 'Roelands news' (February 1976-March 1981) is held in the collection

## Records

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

## Records

- [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
  - [Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Mission Board Photographs, Western Australia](#)
  - [Files - Community Welfare \("A" Series\), State Records Office of Western Australia \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/roelands-village/>