

# Carrolup Native Settlement

1939 – 1951

**Other Names:** • Carrolup

## Details

---

Carrolup, near Katanning, was a government-run 'native settlement' which had been closed in 1922 and was and re-opened by the Department of Native Affairs in 1939. By 1944, there were 129 boys, girls and older children in government 'care' at Carrolup. In 1951, the government withdrew most of the children from Carrolup and it was re-opened as a Murrumbidgee Farm School.

Carrolup, near Katanning, was a government-run 'native settlement' which had been closed in 1922 and was and re-opened by the Department of Native Affairs in 1939. By 1944, there were 129 boys, girls and older children in government 'care' at Carrolup. Children at Carrolup were under the guardianship of the Commissioner for Native Affairs.

The *Sunday Times* reported in 1947 that Native Affairs Minister Ross McDonald said 'much interest was evidenced in the recent exhibition of drawings of children of Carrolup school for natives exhibited in Perth. All the pictures were purchased and realised £74, which will be expended in the interests of the children.'

In 1949, the school at Carrolup closed and school-age children were transferred to other missions according to their religious denominations.

In September 1949, former Carrolup schoolboys Barry Loo and Mervyn Smith became the first Aboriginal people to be employed in the Western Australian public service. They were engaged as clerical assistants at the Department of Native Affairs in Perth.

On 17 June 1951, Carrolup Native Settlement was closed and the Department of Native Affairs reported that the adults were 'dispersed' but that teenage boys were kept there to establish Murrumbidgee Farm Training School.

## Gallery

---



**Stone Cottages, Carrolup Native Settlement, Western Australia**

**Description:** This is an image of Carrolup in Western Australia. It shows a group of women and children standing in front of a large stone and brick cottage. Smaller timber buildings are visible in the background.

---



### Rabbits enemies, 1950

**Description:** This is a digitised copy of a photographic print and is part of the Carrolup Aboriginal Settlement children's art collection held at the State Library of Western Australia. The image shows a copy of a drawing in the school book of Revel Cooper, who was a child at Carrolup.



### Children at Carrolup, 194-?

**Description:** This is a digitised copy of negative and is part of the Aboriginal people of Western Australia series held at the State Library of Western Australia. The image shows a large group of children, some holding small parcels. Most of the girls wear matching spotted dresses.



### Buildings of Carolup

**Description:** This is a photograph of some of the buildings at the Carrolup Native Settlement. It shows a timber-clad building in front of a stone building in a similar style, with a small cottage visible in the background. This photo is on page 61 of album 1 of the Wheatbelt Aboriginal Corporation collection of photographs relating to the Moore River Native Settlement, which is held by the State Library of Western Australia.

## More info

### Chronology

- Carrolup (1915 - 1922)
  - **Carrolup Native Settlement (1939 – 1951)**
    - Marribank Farm Training School (1951 - 1952)
    - Marribank (1952 - 1988)

### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Department of Native Affairs, State of Western Australia \(1936 - 1954\)](#)  
Date: 1939 - 1951

#### Related Events

- [Stolen Wages Taskforce, Western Australia \(May 2007 - June 2008\)](#)
- [Stolen Wages Reparation Scheme WA, State of Western Australia \(6 March 2012 - 30 November 2012\)](#)  
Aboriginal people born before 1958 who earned unpaid wages at Carrolup [II] were eligible to apply for the Stolen Wages Reparation Scheme WA.

#### Related Organisations

- [Roelands Native Mission Farm \(1938 - 1975\)](#)  
Carrolup Native Settlement sometimes transferred children to Roelands Native Mission Farm.  
Date: 1939 - 1951

- [Wandering Mission \(1944 - 1979\)](#)

When Carrolup was discontinued as a 'native settlement', some children were sent to Wandering Mission.

Date: 1951 -

- [Moore River Native Settlement \(1918 - 1951\)](#)

Moore River Native Settlement sometimes transferred children to Carrolup Native Settlement

Date: 1939 - 1951

## Resources

- [Marie Hart interviewed by Lilly Kauler in the Bringing them home oral history project \(2001\)](#), 22 October 2001
- Western Australia. Department of Native Affairs, *Annual Report: Department of Native Affairs*, 1937 - 1954.  
*Relevance:* Annual Reports of the Commissioner of Native Affairs 1939: p.16; 1944, p.25; 1951, p17

## Records

---

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

### Records

- [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
  - [Show us a light \[videorecording\]: the art of Carrolup \(1980s - 1980s\)](#)
  - [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
  - [Files - Aborigines Departments \(1 January 1926 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
- 

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/carrolup-native-settlement/>