

Church Missionary Society Home for Half-Castes, Mulgoa

1942 – c. 1947

Other Names:

- Mulgoa Mission
- Mulgoa Home
- Mulgoa Half-Caste Home

Details

The Church Missionary Society Home for Half-Castes at Mulgoa was established in 1942. It housed Aboriginal children who had been evacuated under military orders by the Commonwealth Department of Native Affairs. They were mainly from South Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland, though some were from New South Wales. They were aged 1 to 14 and some were accompanied by their mothers. The Church Missionary Society Home for Half-Castes closed around 1947.

The children at Mulgoa had been evacuated from Croker Island and Groote Eylandt (Emerald River), as well as from Queensland, South Australia and far western New South Wales.

At Mulgoa the children and their mothers were cared for by Mrs Port, Miss Dove and Miss Alder, who had travelled from Roper River, along with Aboriginal women. They lived in the old rectory of St Thomas's Church at Mulgoa, which had been converted in 1942 to accommodate them.

Some of the younger children and their mothers were sent to Milleewa, an Anglican children's home in Ashfield, for six months in 1942. Others were sent to private homes. Some fathers later joined their wives and children. According to John Harris, these families left Mulgoa to settle in Sydney.

After the end of World War II some of the people remained in Sydney and others returned to the Northern Territory and South Australia.

Mulgoa Mission was mentioned in the Bringing Them Home Report (1997) as an institution that housed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children removed from their families.

Gallery



Mission children, Mulgoa NSW

Description: This is a digital copy of an image from the Northern Territory Archives Service Collection EIM (May) Dove, NTRS 685, Personal records collected whilst a missionary in Northern Australia and in Victoria, 1923-1961.



Mission building, Mulgoa NSW

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More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Church Missionary Society of Australia \(1916 - current\)](#)

Date: 1942 - 1945?

Related Events

- [Interstate movement of Northern Territory children \(1930s - 1970s\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Roper River Mission \(1908 - 1988\)](#)
- [Milleewa Home for Boys \(1919 - 1966\)](#)

Part of Milleewa Home for Boys was leased for six months in 1942 by the Church Missionary Society as accommodation for the evacuees from Croker Island and the Northern Territory

Date: 1942 - 1943?

- [Crusaders Camp Mission Hostel \(1940? - 1946?\)](#)
- [Croker Island Mission \(1940 - 1968\)](#)
- [St Francis House \(1946 - c. 1961\)](#)

In 1949, a group of boys were transferred from the CMS Home at Mulgoa to St Francis House.

- [Sky Pilot Fellowship \(23 May 1949 - c. 1986\)](#)

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. *Relevance:* Mulgoa Mission was mentioned in the Bringing Them Home Report (1997) as an institution that housed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children removed from their families
- Mackett, J.P., [Church Missionary Society - Half-castes 1942 - 1947](#), No date
- Mackett, J.P., [Milleewa Half-caste home - Mulgoa, NSW](#), 2005
- Henty-Gebert, Claire, [Paint me black: memories of Croker Island and other journeys](#), 2011
- McGregor, Steven [director], *Croker Island exodus*, 2012
- [Half-Caste Children. From Croker Island. On Way to Sydney.](#), Cairns Post, 20 May 1942
- [Long journey for Aboriginal children](#), The Argus, 20 May 1942

Records

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

Records held by other organisations

- [Church Missionary Society of Australia, North Australia Committee \(1907 - 1989\)](#)
- [Church Missionary Society \(New South Wales\) - Records \(1893 - 2003\)](#)

- [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
Item B402 and B400 of the Child Endowment correspondence files relates to the Church Missionary Society Home for Half-Castes, Mulgoa.
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