

Industrial School, Mapoon Mission Station

1901 – 1963

Details

The Industrial School at the Mapoon Mission Station on western Cape York in Far North Queensland, was operated by the Presbyterian Church. In October 1901, Mapoon was gazetted as an industrial school under the Queensland *Industrial and Reformatory Schools Act* 1865 and then licensed in 1937 under the *State Children Act* 1911. It had closed by the 1960s.

The Mapoon Presbyterian Mission, situated on the traditional lands of the Tjungundji people, was established in 1891. Originally established under the name Batavia River Mission, by Moravian missionaries on behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, it soon became known as Mapoon or Marpuna Mission.

At a conference of church and government officials held at Mapoon in April 1954 a policy decision was made to close Mapoon. The Government commenced building a replacement community at Hidden Valley near Bamaga in 1961 and by mid-1962 nearly 100 people had moved to the community which became known as New Mapoon. On 14 November 1963, the Officer-in-Charge of Police at Thursday Island received official instructions from the Director of Native Affairs, Pat Killoran, to remove the remaining twenty-three Aboriginal residents from Mapoon to Bamaga. All but two buildings were then burned to prevent the residents returning to the mission.

Records

According to the *Missing Pieces* publication (2001), no records in relation to this Industrial School have been located.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Presbyterian Church of Queensland \(1849 - current\)](#)
Date: 1901 - 1963

Related Legislation

- [Industrial and Reformatory Schools Act 1865, Queensland \(1865 - 1911\)](#)
- [State Children Act 1911, Queensland \(1911 - 1966\)](#)

Resources

- Wharton, Geoff, *The Day They Burned Mapoon: A Study of the Closure of a Queensland Presbyterian Mission*, 1996

- Ganter, Regina, [German Missionaries in Queensland - Mapoon \(1891-1919\)](#), 2009

Records

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

Records held by other organisations

- [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Records \(1880s - current\)](#)
 - [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
Item B235 of the Child Endowment correspondence files relates to Mapoon Mission Station.
 - [General Correspondence - Torres Strait Islands \(1922 - 1994\)](#)
 - [Miscellaneous Items and Correspondence - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander files \(1859 - 1997\)](#)
 - [Health & Home Affairs/Education Department Batch Files \[Correspondence\] - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander files \(1884 - 1970\)](#)
 - [Correspondence Files \[Offices of the Chief Protector of Aboriginals and Director of Native Affairs\] \(1901 - 1944\)](#)
 - [Correspondence - Alphanumeric Prefix - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs \(1909 - 1992\)](#)
-

You can view this page online by visiting <https://findconnect.efront.digital/entity/industrial-school-mapoon-mission-station/>