

# Bloomfield River Mission

1887 – 1902

## Details

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The Bloomfield River Mission was situated on the Bloomfield River in the Daintree region, north of Cooktown. Formerly known as the Aboriginal Mission Station, the Lutheran Church took control from the government in 1887 and closed the Mission in 1902. Children were housed in dormitories on the Mission for educational purposes.

Problems plagued the Mission from the beginning. The Aboriginal people resisted settlement at the Mission and the government judged the management by the Lutheran Society in South Australia as unsatisfactory. Government funding for the Mission was gradually reduced until it was completely withdrawn in 1900.

An article in the *Brisbane Courier* in 1900 stated that the government was not happy with the management of the Mission and would not supply more funding until new management was put in place. The Mission was abandoned in 1902.

The Aboriginal people of the Bloomfield area continued to interact with Europeans, trading their labour for goods and tools. They maintained their traditional culture and remained independent until 1957 when the Wajul Wajul Mission was established at Bloomfield.

## Gallery

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**Bloomfield River Mission House, 1886**

**Description:** This description was supplied with the photograph and included in the library catalogue and has been edited: The Aboriginal Mission Station, Bloomfield River, was founded by the sons of Frederick Bauer (of Vilele Plantation). Louis G. Bauer became the first Superintendent, erected his own quarters and laid foundations to what he anticipated would become a prosperous experimental farm, with tea, coffee and tropical fruits being grown in commercial quantities. After one year, in 1887, the Mission was transferred by the Government to the Lutheran Church of South Australia.

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## More info

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### Chronology

- Aboriginal Mission Station, Bloomfield River (1886 - 1887)
  - **Bloomfield River Mission (1887 – 1902)**

### Related Entries

**Run by**

- [The Lutheran Church of Australia \(1838 - current\)](#)

**Related Organisations**

- [Lutheran Archives \(1838? - current\)](#)  
Lutheran Archives holds some records for Bloomfield River Mission.
- [Bloomfield River Mission \(1957 - 1980\)](#)

## Resources

- [Letters to the Editor: Our Aboriginals](#), Queenslander, 29 November 1890

## Records

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

### Records held by other organisations

- [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Records \(1880s - current\)](#)
  - [Miscellaneous Subject Batches \[Correspondence\] - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Files \(1886 - 1920\)](#)
  - [Correspondence - Alphanumeric Prefix - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs \(1909 - 1992\)](#)
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