

# Mona Mona Mission

1913 – 1962

**Other Names:** • Monamona

## Details

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Mona Mona Mission, at Kuranda, was run by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Mission opened in 1913 and children from the mission, aged 6 and up, were taken from their families and placed into single-sex dormitories. The last dormitory closed along with the Mission in 1962.

The Mona Mona Mission was established in 1913 at Kuranda, a town on the Atherton Tableland in Far North Queensland, 25 kilometres from Cairns. Most of the people moved onto the Mission were Djabuganjdji people.

A girls' home or dormitory, consisting of four rooms with a dining room capable of seating 200, was built at the same time as the Mission was established. The girls remained in the dormitory until they married.

Boys were trained in farming and saw-milling, with a saw mill on the Mission producing timber building products.

In February 1920 the girls' dormitory was destroyed when a cyclone levelled the Mission village and a new girls' dormitory was not built until 1926. It is thought that a boys' dormitory was erected sometime in the 1930s. Additionally, a Little Boys' dormitory for under ten year olds was in operation at Mona Mona Mission in the 1950s.

In 1951 a dormitory for the Senior Girls was completed and was still in use by 1955. Government reports indicate that the use of the dormitory system was being slowly phased out resulting in periods when the dormitory was temporarily empty.

The last dormitory closed on 31 December 1962. The Mona Mona Mission closed in 1962 and the majority of residents were forcibly removed to Palm Island or Woorabinda.

## Gallery

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**Mission conducted by Seventh Day Adventists, Mona Mona**

**Description:** This image shows a group of approximately 70 people standing in front of two cottages at the Mona Mona mission. The photo was taken during an inspection tour of Aboriginal Stations on Torres Strait Islands, Cape York Peninsula and the East Coast conducted by the Home Secretary Hon. J C. Peterson in June 1931



**Mona Mona Mission near Kuranda**

**Description:** This image of Mona Mona Mission was published on Ngadjonji History of the Rainforest People website.

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# More info

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## Related Entries

### Run by

- [Seventh-day Adventist Church, South Queensland Conference \(1890 - current\)](#)

## Resources

- Presenter: Browning, Daniel, [The Voices of Mona Mona](#), Radio National, 12 December 2009
- Kingston, Kent, [Bitter Sweet Centenary](#), Record: the official news magazine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, 10 October 2013

# 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 \(1880s - current\)](#)
  - [Correspondence Files - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs \(1916 - 1999\)](#)
  - [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 \(1909 - 1992\)](#)
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