

Drysdale River Mission

1908 – 1937

Other Names:

- Napier Broome Bay Mission
- Pago Mission

Details

The Drysdale River Mission was established by the Benedictines of New Norcia on 15 August 1908 in the Kimberleys in Western Australia. In 1937, the main 'mission station' was moved to Kalumburu, which had been an outstation of Drysdale River.

In 1926 it was reported that there were between 50 and 60 Indigenous people living permanently at the mission, including a number of children sent there by the Chief Protector of Aborigines, A. O. Neville.

By 1932 three Benedictine Sisters had arrived at the mission from New Norcia, their principle objectives being to run the hospital and provide education to the children of the mission. It was reported in 1934 that there were 10 children in attendance at the mission school.

Gallery



NATIVES BEING TAUGHT THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.

Aboriginal People Being Taught the Sign of the Cross [altered from original title]

Description: This is a photograph taken at Drysdale River Mission showing seven Aboriginal people seated on the ground in front of one of the Benedictine Fathers of the Mission. All have their hands up to their foreheads and appear to be making the sign of the cross. In the background some of the Mission buildings are visible. The image was one of several published in *The W.A. Record* in an article titled 'Drysdale River Mission. Some Interesting Facts'.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Benedictines, New Norcia \(c. 1846 - current\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Beagle Bay Mission \(1895 - 1976\)](#)

Children were transferred between Drysdale River Mission and Beagle Bay Mission.

- [Kalumburu Mission \(1931 - 1982\)](#)

The Drysdale River Mission and Kalumburu Mission were on different, but nearby sites. By 1937, Kalumburu Mission took over as the main site, and continued to be known as 'Drysdale River' in government reports until

1951.

Resources

- Battye, JS, [The Cyclopedia of Western Australia \(1912\)](#), 1912. *Relevance:* p.61
- [Drysdale River Mission \[altered from original title\]](#), The Advocate, 29 May 1909
- [The Drysdale River Mission](#), Southern Cross, 22 July 1932

Records

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

Records held by other organisations

- [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
 - [New Norcia Archives \(1846 - current\)](#)
 - [Files - Aborigines Departments \(1 January 1926 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
 - [Files - Department of Aborigines and Fisheries \(1909 - 1920\)](#)
 - [Reports - Aboriginal Missions \(1906 - 1918\)](#)
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