

Finke River Mission

1877 – c. 1982

Details

The Finke River Mission was an alternative name for the Hermannsburg Mission on the Finke River from 1877. After the establishment of government settlements at Haasts Bluff, Areyonga and later, Papunya, the term Finke River Mission was often used to refer to all these stations collectively. In 2014, the Lutheran Church of Australia retrospectively used the term Finke River Mission to refer to all Lutheran Missionary activity in the Northern Territory from 1877 onwards.

The Notice of Incorporation for the 'Evangelical Lutheran Mission on the Finke River' from c.1887 states that the purpose of the Mission was the 'civilisation and evangelism of the Aborigines of Central Australia', and covered an area of 900 square miles on and between the Krichauff and MacDonnell Ranges.

As well as Hermannsburg, the missions at Haast's Bluff (1941 to 1954) and Papunya (c.1975 to c.1984) were under the control of the Finke River Mission Board (source: correspondence with Lutheran Archives, August 2019).

More info

Related Entries

Related Organisations

- [The Lutheran Church of Australia \(1838 - current\)](#)
The Lutheran Church of Australia retrospectively refers to all Lutheran missionary activity in the Northern Territory as the Finke River Mission.
- [Hermannsburg Mission \(1877 - 1982\)](#)
Hermannsburg Mission and its outposts at Haast's Bluff, Areyonga and Papunya Native Settlements were often referred to as the Finke River Mission
- [Areyonga Native Settlement \(1920s - 1990\)](#)
Areyonga, Haast's Bluff, and Papunya Native Settlements along with the Hermannsburg Mission were often referred to collectively as the Finke River Mission
- [Haasts Bluff Native Settlement \(1940s - 1959\)](#)
Haast's Bluff, Areyonga and Papunya Native Settlements along with the Hermannsburg Mission were often referred to collectively as the Finke River Mission
- [Papunya Native Settlement \(1958 - 1978\)](#)
Papunya and Areyonga Native Settlements along with the Hermannsburg Mission were often referred to collectively as the Finke River Mission
- [Lutheran Mission Block, Alice Springs \(1963 - 1982\)](#)
The Lutheran Mission Block, as an extension of the Hermannsburg Mission, was sometimes referred to as being part of the Finke River Mission
- [Yirara College \(1973 - current\)](#)

Related Archival Collections

- [Records held by the Lutheran Archives \(1838 - current\)](#)

The term Finke River Mission is sometimes used in this collection to refer to Lutheran missionary activities in Central Australia

- [Family database for Aboriginal Lutherans of Central Australia \(1900s - 1980s\)](#)

Related Archival Items

- [Copies of review inspection reports - Hermannsberg \[Hermannsburg\], Oenpelli, Yirrkala, Elcho Island, Groote Eylandt, Finke River, Roper River, Milingimbi and Port Keats \(1959\)](#)

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