

FORREST RIVER MISSION

The Anglican Forrest River Mission for Aborigines was founded in 1896 or 1897 by Harold Hale but was abandoned after only a few months. A more permanent mission was established on the site in 1913. Rev. E.R. Gribble took charge of the Mission in December 1913 and remained until the early 1930s.

The Mission finally closed in 1969.

MN	ACC	meterage / boxes	Date donated	CIU file	Notes
545	2389A		October 1974	BA/PA/00/0838	
545	3152A		September 1985		
545	3338A		Sept. 1982		
545	5816A		July 2002		
545	6185A		28 April 2005		
545	6686A		May 2006		
545	8669A		1 November 2013		
545	10062A	8 cm	31 October 2018		

SUMMARY OF CLASSES

ATTENDANCE REGISTERS
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES
DIARIES
FILES
LEGAL PAPERS

LETTERBOOKS
LETTERS
NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS
REPORTS
SPEECHES

REQUEST USING THIS NUMBER	DATE RANGE	DESCRIPTION
ACC		ATTENDANCE REGISTERS
2389A/84	1954-1956	November 1954 – August 1956 First column headed "Village People". Lists name possibly of head of household? Daily tally, possibly number of family members at the Mission on a particular day. Final column headed "Remarks", stating arrivals and departures of individuals, which corresponds to the daily tally figures
		BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES
5816A/17	1947	Biographical details of all inhabitants of the Forrest River Mission as at 11 September 1947
		DIARIES
2389A/1	1911-1912	June 1911 – January 1912 Superintendents' Diaries (believed written by Rev Gribble (Gosford NSW))

REQUEST USING THIS NUMBER	DATE RANGE	DESCRIPTION
2389A/2 Microfilm	1917-1918	November 1917 – May 1918 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/3 Microfilm	1917-1919	January 1917 – June 1919 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/4 Microfilm	1919-1921	May 1919 – August 1921 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/5 Microfilm	1921-1922	November 1921 – February 1922 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/6 Microfilm	1923	May 1923 – August 1923 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/7 Microfilm	1923	August 1923 – December 1923 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/8 Microfilm	1923-1924	December 1923 – April 1924 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/9 Microfilm	1924	April 1924 – September 1924 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/10 Microfilm	1924-1925	September 1924 – March 1925 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/11 Microfilm	1925	March 1925 – August 1925 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/12 Microfilm	1925	August 1925 – December 1925 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/13 Microfilm	1925-1926	December 1925 – March 1926 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/14 Microfilm	1927	January 1927 – August 1927 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/14a Microfilm	1927-1928	August 1927 – April 1928 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/15 Microfilm	1927-1928	November 1927 – December 1928 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/16	1930	January 1930 – March 1930 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/17	1930-1931	March 1930 – December 1930 January 1931 – March 1931 Superintendents' Diaries with list of bullock kills
2389A/18	1931	February 1931 – November 1931 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/19	1933	April 1933 – December 1933 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/20	1934	January 1934 – December 1934 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/21	1935	January 1935 – May 1935 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/22	1935	May 1935 – December 1935 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/23	1936	January 1936 – December 1936 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/24	1937	January 1937 – December 1937 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/25	1939	April and May (1939?) Superintendents' Diaries includes stock camp routes, 1939
2389A/26	1940	January 1940 – September 1940 Superintendents' Diaries

REQUEST USING THIS NUMBER	DATE RANGE	DESCRIPTION
2389A/27	1940-1941	October 1940 – January 1941 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/28	1942	January 1942 – December 1942 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/29	1943	January 1943 – March 1943 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/30	1943	March 1943 – March 1943 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/31	1944-1945	March 1944 – April 1945 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/32	1945-1946	April 1945 – July 1946 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/33	1948-1949	January 1948 – September 1949 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/34	1949-1950	October 1949 – December 1950 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/99	1951-1953	January 1951 – December 1953 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/35	1954-1955	January 1954 – September 1955 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/36	1955	October 1955 – December 1955 Superintendents' Diaries
2389A/37	1960-1961	January 1960 – December 1961 Superintendents' Diaries
		FILES
2389A/50 OSM	1951-1957	1951-1957 Correspondence Files. Superintendent's correspondence
2389A/51	1963-1964	1963-1964 Superintendent's Correspondence
2389A/52	1967	1967 Superintendent's Correspondence
2389A/53	1967	1967 Superintendent's Correspondence
2389A/54 OSM	1956-1958	1956-1958 Outward correspondence, mostly to the Forrest River Mission Committee, Perth
2389A/55	1957-1959	Inward correspondence mostly from the Forrest River Mission Committee, Perth 1957 – 1959
2389A/56	1947-1954	1947-1954 Correspondence with the Department of Native Affairs
2389A/57 OSM	1956-1958	1956-1958 Correspondence with the Department of Native Welfare
2389A/58	1955-1958	1955-1958 Correspondence with Police, Wyndham
2389A/59	1939-1960	1939-1960 Correspondence with the Royal Australian Navy
2389A/60	1933-1957	1933-1957 Letters of registration. Letters stating conditions of employment
2389A/61	1964-1964	1964-1964 Financial statements and reports to the Archbishop of Perth

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2389A/62	1955-1957	1955-1957 Correspondence with the Australian Board of Missions
2389A/63	1950-1957	1950-1957 File labelled school, also includes health matters
2389A/64	1961-1964	1961-1964 Correspondence relating to Health
2389A/65	1951-1957	1951-1957 Correspondence relating to stock
2389A/65	1951-1957	1951-1957 Correspondence relating to stock
2389A/66	1934-1958	1934-1958 Correspondence relating to air services
2389A/67		Native Welfare Department circulars
2389A/68	1950-1956	1950-1956 Correspondence with RJ Davies Pty Ltd, Building Contractors
2389A/69	1961-1964	1961-1964 Correspondence with Peerless Roller Flour Mills Pty Ltd
2389A/70	1961-1964	1961-1964 Correspondence with ANI Perkins
2389A/71	1961-1964	1961-1964 Correspondence with Master Butchers Co-Operative Ltd
2389A/72	1961-1965	1961-1965 Correspondence relating to films – projection and equipment
2389A/73	1962-1964	1962-1964 Correspondence with JR Manton & Co Pty Ltd
2389A/74		Miscellaneous correspondence
2389A/75	1949-1956	1949-1956 Subsidy claims (for persons at the Mission)
2389A/76	1957-1959	1957-1959 Subsidy claims
2389A/77	1950-1954	1950-1954 Endowments returns
2389A/78	1957-1958	1957-1958 Discharge forms
2389A/79	1961-1964	1961-1964 Admissions and discharge
2389A/80	1967-1968	1967-1968 Correspondence concerning pensions
2389A/81	1915	1915 Forrest River Mission Court
2389A/82	1920-1928	1920-1928 Marriages and baptisms (?)
2389A/83	1938-1939	1938-1939 Births, deaths, hospital patients
2389A/85	1919-1932	1919-1932 Stock book
2389A/86	1917-1921	1917-1921 Register of stock
2389A/87	1941-1955	1941-1955 Register of stock

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2389A/88	1967	1967 Stock camp costing ledger
2389A/89	1938-1944	1938-1944 Ledger
2389A/90	1948-1951	1948-1951 Issue of blankets and clothing etc
2389A/91		Accounts of individuals
2389A/92	1939-1948	1939-1948 Local sales and rations book
2389A/93	1956	1956 Launch log book
2389A/94	1966-1967	1966-1967 Launch register
2389A/95	1961-1962	1961-1962 Equipment log book
2389A/96		Order forms
2389A/97		Registration cards
2389A/98		Various plans for school buildings
		LEGAL PAPERS
5816A/1		Willful Murder, Brief for the Prosecution
		LETTERBOOKS
2389A/38	1939-1941	1939-1941
2389A/38a	1941-1942	1941 – 1942 (to Government Departments)
10062A/1	1941-1948	20 April 1941 – 31 January 1948 Letters written by RB Cranswick, Tennyson Thompson
2389A/39	1942-1943	1942-1943
2389A/40	1942-1943	1942-1943 (miscellaneous)
10062A/2	1947	2 February 1947 – 6 December 1947 Letters by Tennyson Thompson and Keith Coaldrake
2389A/41	1948	1948
2389A/42	1948	1948 Letters to Sydney Office
10062A/3	1948	7 July 1948 - November 1948 Letters by Keith Coaldrake
10062A/4	1948	May 1948 – August 1948 Letters by Keith Coaldrake
2389A/43	1956-1958	February 1956 – June 1958
2389A/44	1958	June – November 1958
2389A/45	1959	March – August 1959
2389A/46	1959-1960	August 1959 – February 1960
10062A/5	1960	19 February 1960 – 7 July 1960 Letters by ?Doord
2389A/47	1956-1957	1956 – 1957. Incoming telegrams 1956-1957. (Outgoing telegrams at back)
2389A/48	1954-1956	1954-1956. Outgoing telegrams 1954-1956. (Incoming telegrams at back)
2389A/49	1942-1945	1942-1945 Conversation Book

REQUEST USING THIS NUMBER	DATE RANGE	DESCRIPTION
		LETTERS
3338A/64	1936	<p>Folios written by Miss Lizbeth Richards to her relatives in Geraldton, Mullewa, Nannine and Kalgoorlie while she was working at the mission between April and October 1936.</p> <p>Miss Richards came from Mullewa where the then Superintendent of the Mission, Mr Dixon, had previously been Rector. The Bishop of the North-West had arranged for Miss Richards to work at the mission on a temporary basis.</p> <p>The folios include the following:</p> <p>1-5 To Father and brother Jim at Mullewa written on board MV Koolinda and at Wyndham; 3 & 4 April 1936. Met Mrs Stephens (Darwin), Mrs Durack and Mrs Cross on board. Mission launch broken down. Stayed in hospital as hotel full with recently arrived meat workers. Mrs Thompson from mission having baby in hospital. Mission head stockman Mr Lacy arranged for Miss Richards to fly to mission.</p> <p>6-17 and 18-22 - transcript of part of original letter which was for circulation to father, sister and brothers, 8-11 April 1936</p> <p>20 minute plane flight to Mission. Arrival and daily routine. Writing to Spanish fathers at Drysdale Mission for stamps for nephew. Describes quarters (formerly Sister May's room). Mr Dixon going to Wyndham with Mrs Dixon who is ill and then on to Nulla Nulla. Vegetables and salads arrive by launch. Mr and Mrs Thompson return.</p> <p>23-25. To sister Mrs Clar Boddington, Geraldton, 3 June 1936. "Mr D is sending a runner in the morning"...</p> <p>Mosquitoes are terrible they bite my hip right through my suspender belt and all"</p> <p>Family news;</p> <p>father going to brother at Nannine (?)</p> <p>26-30. To nephew Freddie Boddington, Geraldton. 10 July 1936. Takes the girls' clothes – washing party twice a week to Bremla Pool a 3-mile walk there and back as no other water available. Has to wade across river first. Miss Violet Cochrane arrived after 24-hour launch journey. Mr Dixon ill – colitis?</p> <p>Bishop says Mr Dixon to be relieved because of ill health – may return on October boat. Doctor flew out to see him - enteric fever or food poisoning?</p> <p>31-34. To Father at Nannine (?) 28 July 1936</p> <p>Experience teaching. Previous teacher Sister May "used to beat children. She was cruel. Mr Dixon asked the ABM to shift her." Mr Dixon ill in bed for 10 days with dengue fever. Mrs Dixon down with flu for 1 week. Bishop there for fortnight. Miss Richards makes own bread and prepares "all our staff food". Mr Davis (Government Doctor for aborigines) stayed for 5 days looking mostly at leprosy and VD. "One native sent away". Meatworks closed a month earlier than usual due to dry season (not cattle numbers)</p> <p>Mr and Mrs Thompson leaving on holiday next boat. Father now prospecting.</p> <p>35-40. To brother Jim, Mullewa. 1 August 1936. Affairs at Mullewa. Bishop worried about things at Mission generally. Little illness in summer; "but when there is a cold snap on top of the heat (June) people at Mission get "flu and fever". Photocopies</p>

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3338A/64	1936	41-42. To sister Clar, Geraldton. 5 August 1936. On Mission holiday went with children to Camera Pool, a 5-mile walk each way along very rocky or non-existent path. Wonderful cliffs with drawings on of crocodiles and "funny looking men". Boys caught 30 lb fish in river 47-51. To aunt Nan. 30 August 1936 Arrival of Sister Cochrane from Victoria. Mission 50 miles from Wyndham, no road, surrounded by very rough steep hills. Captain of mission launch Mr Haywood whose "mother is Lady Mitchells' sister." 52-53. To sister Clar 6 September 1936. Dixon leaving on next boat to go to Wiluna. Police gone to Deepdale and would be back in October. Constable Napier "going down on next boat to get married". 54-59. Descriptions by Miss Richards of her arrival at Mission and "Washing Day on Forrest River Mission" 60-64. James H Boddington, Class VI, Geraldton, Hymn written at school. Photocopies
5816A/2		n.d. Letter from Geo Johnson to the Bishop
5816A/3		Letter from Ivy to the Bishop
5816A/4	1929	22 March 1929. Letter from the Australian Board of Missions to Rev. Canon Frewer
5816A/5	1929	22 October 1929. Letter from Daffodil to the Bishop
5816A/6	1929	23 October 1929. Letter from Wilfred to the Bishop
5816A/7	1929	25 October 1929. Letter from Elsie to the Bishop
5816A/8	1931	6 July 1931. Letter from Stella to the Bishop
5816A/9		Letter from Lily to the Bishop
5816A/10	1931	15 December 1931. Letter from the Church Office to Johnson. Incomplete
5816A/11	1932	30 July 1932. Letter from Gerald Brisbane to the Archbishop
5816A/12	1932	20 October 1932. Letter from James Noble to the Bishop
5816A/13	1932	24 October 1932. Letter from A.S. Speer to the Rev Father
5816A/14	1933	1 March 1933. Letter from the Church Office to the Bishop
5816A/15	1934	9 March 1934. Letter from Ernest Gribble to Mr. Johnson
5816A/16	1944	24 July 1944. Letter from the Australian Board of Missions to the Bishop
6686A/1	1968?	1968? From Neville Green to Ted Doncaster re Forrest River Mission research.
8669A	1928-1929	1928-1929. Letters written as a class exercise by aboriginal children to Mr. Swift. The letters include drawings by the children. 17 letters.
		NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS
5816A/18		Newspaper cutting on Aboriginal Welfare
		REPORTS
3152A Microfilm	1932	Letter and report dated 4 August 1932 from Harry Smith to Bishop Frewer, written at Forrest River Mission regarding the search for missing German aviators Hans Bertram and Adolph Klausman. Mss 1932, 14 p
6686A/2	1968	Report of visit and inspection of Forrest River Mission by S H J Best, 15-22 March 1968.

REQUEST USING THIS NUMBER	DATE RANGE	DESCRIPTION
6185A	1932	1932. Copy of a letter sent to the Bishop of the North West regarding activities of personnel of Forrest River Mission during the search for the two lost German aviators Hans Bertram and Adolf Klausman, May-July 1932. Note that there are variations in the wording compared to the original. Typescript
		SPEECHES
6686A/3	1961	Ceremonial speech for the commissioning of Douglas Bayne Will as Superintendent of Forrest River Mission 5 March 1961.

Holdings = 1.64 m

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