



Section 5

HOMES RUN BY THE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Koonibba Children's Home, Koonibba Mission Station

Lutheran Emergency Home, Unley

Records for Koonibba are held at the Lutheran Archives, the official repository for all historical material relating to the Lutheran Church of Australia. Some copies of records are held locally. Limited historical records for the Emergency Home are held by the Lutheran Church of Australia, South Australia and Northern Territory District Inc. Access conditions and contact details appear at the end of the section.

Koonibba Childrens Home

The two girls about fifteen or sixteen years old, we had to bring in by persuasion that they were not given a chance to resist. We found them wandering about the bush and it was quite evident that it was our duty to bring them in and save their souls. They have made excellent progress both in school and at the domestic work they are asked to do in the Home.

Superintendent's report, from 'Synodical report: Proceedings of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod in Australia,' 1931, p. 94.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Years of operation: 1913–1963

Run By: The Lutheran Church of Australia as part of the Koonibba Mission Station

Address: Koonibba, approximately 40 km west of Ceduna on the West Coast of South Australia

HISTORY

In 1899 the Lutheran Church leased an area of 16,000 acres (6477 hectares) west of Ceduna from the South Australian Government with the aim of establishing a mission. In December 1901 the first missionary, Pastor C A Wiebusch, arrived in the area and commenced duties. In late 1913 the Mission turned its focus to children, officially opening a Children's Home on 9 November under the supervision of Matron Miss A von Einem. The establishment of the home allowed Aboriginal children to be 'removed from the camp atmosphere, and brought up in a Christian atmosphere'. The fourteen room stone building on five acres (2 hectares) provided accommodation for the matron and staff of the home, and two large bedrooms and several smaller rooms for children. As well as kitchen, bathroom, pantry and cellar, the home had a large dining room and assembly hall/kindergarten. The home initially accommodated 28 children. Over the years numbers increased to as many as 70, necessitating numerous additions and improvements to the building.

The home closed in July 1963 when the South Australian Government took over the control of the Mission. In 1975 Koonibba passed into Aboriginal hands and since then has been run by a Community Council.

Drawn from Rev E Harms & Rev C Hoff (ed) 'Koonibba: a record of 50 years work among the Australian Aborigines by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Australia,' 1901-1951.

THE RECORDS

- Lutheran Archives
- Copies of some records are held by the Lutheran pastor at Ceduna



Koonibba Children's Home staff and children pre 1916, Mealtime at the Home pre 1916, Courtesy Lutheran Archives. Plaque commemorating the site of the Koonibba Children's Home Courtesy Kay Goodman-Dodd

ADMISSION RECORDS – Lutheran Archives

Note: Original records are preserved at the Archives. Photocopies are available for research.

Admission Register

- **Archive reference** – KNBBA Vol 4
- **Title** - *Koonibba Childrens' Home Record Book 1938-1953*
- **Date range** – 1938-1953
- **Appearance** - Photocopy of original register.
- **Contents** – Volume begins with index to surnames giving page reference. Kinds and amounts of information provided under each entry vary but generally include: (1) Name, (2) Date when entered, (3) Father's name, (4) Mother's name, (5) Born, (6) Went for holidays (with dates). Sometimes entries include discharge date, information on where the child went on discharge, health information, comments on behaviour, marriage etc.

OTHER RECORDS – Lutheran Archives

Personal Records

- **Archive reference** – KNBBA Vol 1
- **Title** – *Koonibba Church Register*
- **Date range** – 1902-1988
- **Contents** - Includes Baptisms 1902-1975, Confirmations 1904-1964, Marriages 1913-1988, Burials 1917-1971.

- **Archive reference** – KNBBA Vol 2
- **Title** - *Koonibba SA Personal Records Volume 2*
- **Date range** –
- **Contents** - Copies of record cards giving name, date of birth, baptism, confirmation, marriage, death and burial. Includes index to names in front. Back of the cards sometimes provides further information and comments.

- **Archive reference** – KNBBA Vol 3
- **Title** - *Koonibba SA Personal Records Volume 3*
- **Date range** -
- **Contents** - As per volume 2.

Note: These three volumes of personal records are indexed in *Records of National Cultural Significance: A guide to records of Indigenous Australians in the Lutheran Archives, Adelaide SA*. (Commonwealth of Australia, 1999)

REPORTS – Lutheran Archives

Synodical Reports Proceedings of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Australia [ELSA], SA District

- **Date range** – 1900-1966
- **Contents** - These reports provide a summary of developments at Koonibba each year. They include a section on the Children's Home. Numbers of children, staff changes and occurrences at the home, (including general maintenance, health issues and problems) are recorded. No names of children are given.

PERIODICALS – Lutheran Archives

The Australia Lutheran

- **Date range** – 1913-1966
- **Contents** - A monthly magazine which includes regular articles and reports relating to Koonibba Mission and the Children's Home. These contain general information about happenings at the home. Many are designed to encourage financial and other forms of support from readers.

PHOTOGRAPHS – Lutheran Archives

The Archives holds a number of photographs relating to the Koonibba Mission including photographs of buildings, children and staff.

BOOKS

Commonwealth of Australia, *Records of National Cultural Significance: A guide to records of Indigenous Australians in the Lutheran Archives*, Adelaide SA, 1999.

Rev E Harms & Rev C Hoff (ed) *Koonibba: a record of 50 years work among the Australian Aborigines by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Australia, 1901-1951*.

Koonibba, 25 years of Mission work among Australian Aborigines (Lutheran Publishing Co Ltd, Adelaide, 1926).

Neva Wilson, *Our identity is our history and our future: A brief history of the West Coast Aboriginal peoples, an extended research of the Tindale and Birdsell collections of genealogies of Indigenous peoples of the West Coast of South Australia, 1928, 1939 and 1952*. (Aboriginal Family History Project, South Australian Museum, 2003)

Lutheran Emergency Home for Children

A big freestone and brick house on a corner block in Unley will be 'home' to children whose parents have abandoned them, who cannot look after them, or are sick for a time. It is the Lutheran Emergency Home for Children, the result of many years of planning and house hunting. The Rev G O Minge, a member of the home's committee of management, said yesterday that the home had been urgently needed for use in emergencies. 'It is not an orphanage or a large institution', he said. 'Children under 12 will stay generally up to six weeks, then be taken home by their parents or found foster homes.'

'The Advertiser' 7 April 1966



*Lutheran Emergency Home, now Amandus, 2005
Courtesy Kay Goodman-Dodd*

GENERAL INFORMATION

Years of operation: 1966-1984

Run By: The Lutheran Church of Australia

Address: 1 Edmund Street, Unley

HISTORY

This emergency home for children began operation in early in 1966. The Lutheran Church purchased the home for \$10,000 and renovated and remodelled it to make it suitable for accommodating children in need of short term emergency accommodation. At its commencement, the home accommodated eight children, one was a sixteen month old baby and another a toddler of two years of age. The building had seven rooms, plus laundry, storeroom and bathrooms. The children slept in two bedrooms, one with two single beds and another with four beds and a cot. A common room or play room was provided and an outdoor play area. School-age children attended St Johns Day School or the Unley Primary School and on Sundays went to the St John's Church and Sunday School.

The first house parents of the home were Mr and Mrs Gogel of Waikerie. In 1968 they were joined by an assistant housemother who had been trained at the Wanslea Children's Home. By 1971 a new matron was in charge, Matron Kumnick. Additions were made to the premises so that she lived in a separate self-contained flat. Further additions to the home were made in 1975. The home was licensed by the Department for Community Welfare as an institution for children aged from 12 months to 12 years. They could remain for up to 12 weeks, with extensions allowed with the approval of the home management committee. In 1978 the home reported to the government's Residential Child Care Advisory Committee that during the month of August, it had cared for sixteen children from seven different families and the average length of care was twenty-two days. The home continued to operate in the same manner until late in 1984. The property is still owned by the Lutheran Church and is now known as Amandus. It operates as a home for people with disabilities.

Drawn from GRS 4164/4 Departmental File 14/13/2: 'Lutheran Children's Emergency Home', 1966-1984 including news clipping from 'The Advertiser,' 7 April 1966 and various other reports, licences and correspondence.

THE RECORDS

- State Records of SA

ADMISSION RECORDS

No admission records have yet been located.

OTHER RECORDS - State Records of SA

- **Archive reference** - GRS 4164/4. File no 14/13/2
- **Title** - *Correspondence files and control cards*
- **Appearance** - Department for Community Welfare administrative file, titled *Lutheran Children's Emergency Home*.
- **Date range** - 1966-1984
- **Contents** - General administrative file with reports, licensing agreements and correspondence between the Department and the home management committee. The file contains one news clipping regarding the opening of the home. No children's names or information appear in this file.

REPORTS - Lutheran Church of Australia, South Australia and Northern Territory District Inc.

- **Title** - *Annual Reports to the District Convention, Lutheran Church South Australia District*
- **Date range** - 1967-1983
- **Contents** - These reports contain yearly updates on the home providing information about numbers of children admitted, staff changes and building developments. No names of children are mentioned.

ACCESS TO RECORDS OF HOMES RUN BY THE LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHERAN ARCHIVES

Access Conditions

Most records are available for inspection. Some records have closed or restricted access. The Lutheran Archives has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with SA Link-up.

Contact: Mr Lyall Kupke, The Archivist, Lutheran Archives

27 Fourth Street Bowden SA 5007

Telephone: (08) 8340 4009

Email: lutheran.archives@lca.org.au

Location: 27 Fourth Street, Bowden SA 5007

Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9.30 am-4.30pm.

Closed Wednesdays, weekends and public holidays.

Fees: Individual research \$11 per half day, concession \$7.70 per half day. Short visit (less than one hour) \$5.50. Archives Staff research (eg written enquiries) \$44 per hour.

Photocopying @ 40 cents per A4 page.

STATE RECORDS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Access conditions

Although some early records relating to institutions for children in South Australia are open access, many later records are subject to restrictions. Records which contain personal information about individuals are usually restricted for at least sixty years from the date of their creation. More sensitive records, such as adoption files, are restricted for at least seventy five years. Written permission must be obtained from the government agency which created the record in order to access restricted material. In the case of records relating to children, the agency responsible is, in most cases, Family and Youth Services.

A Research Centre Members card, obtainable at the Archives, is required. State Records has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with SA Link-Up.

Contact: State Records of South Australia

GPO Box 1072, Adelaide SA 5001

Telephone: (08) 8226 7750

Email: srsageneralenquiries@saugov.sa.gov.au

Location: *Gepps Cross Research Centre*

115 Cavan Road, Gepps Cross SA 5094

City Research Centre, Bickford North Building

26-28 Leigh Street, Adelaide SA 5000

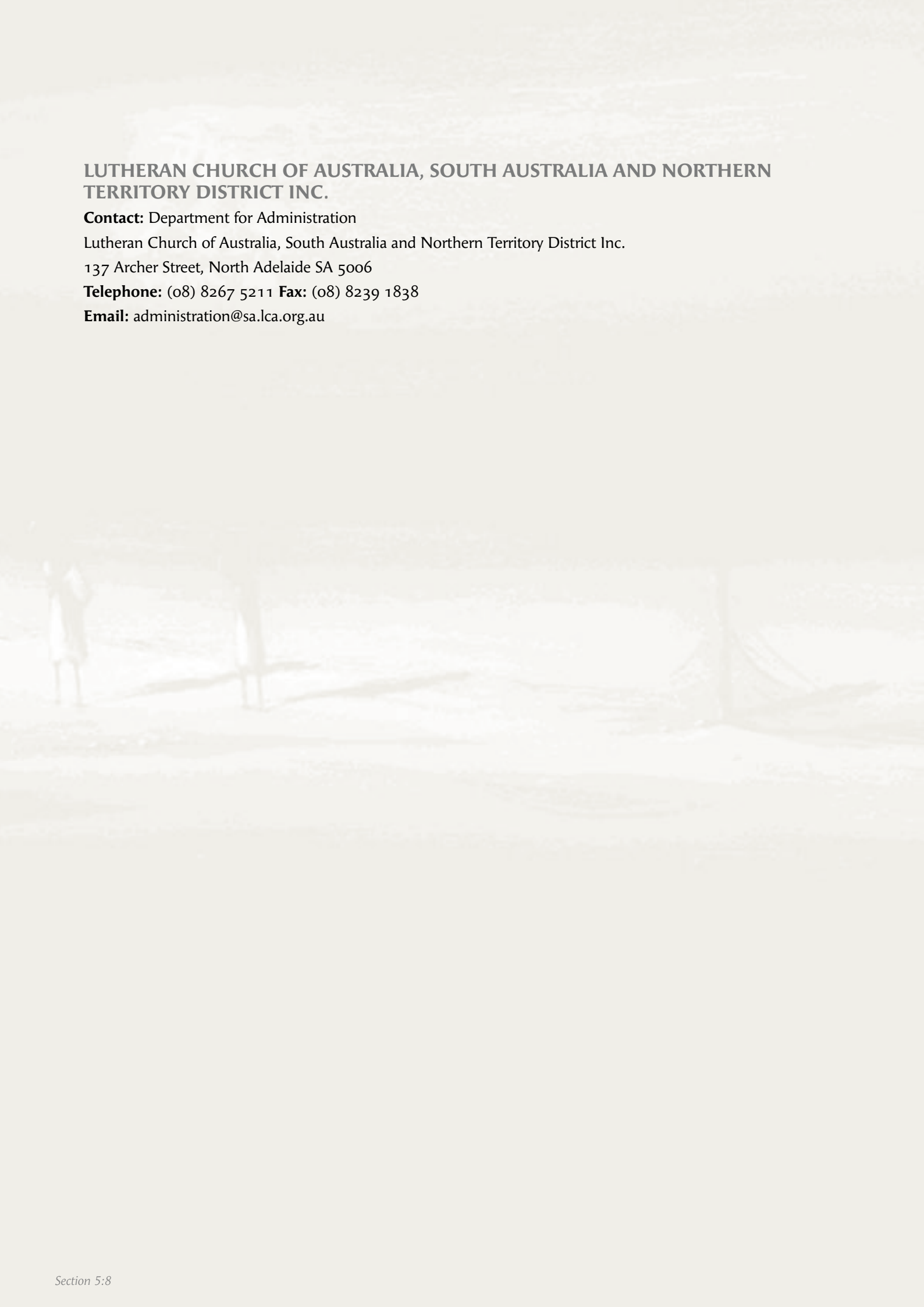
Website: www.archives.sa.gov.au

Opening hours: Closed on public holidays.

Gepps Cross: Tuesday-Friday 9.30 am-3.30 pm, 1st Sunday each month 11 am – 5 pm.

City: Tuesday-Friday 9.30 am – 3.30 pm.

Fees: Photocopying 50 cents per A4, \$1.05 per A3. Researchers may take digital photographs of records subject to approval from staff.

A faded background image of a beach scene. In the foreground, there is a sandy beach. In the middle ground, several people are visible, some standing and some sitting. A large net or structure is partially visible on the right side. The background shows the ocean and a hazy sky.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND NORTHERN TERRITORY DISTRICT INC.

Contact: Department for Administration

Lutheran Church of Australia, South Australia and Northern Territory District Inc.

137 Archer Street, North Adelaide SA 5006

Telephone: (08) 8267 5211 **Fax:** (08) 8239 1838

Email: administration@sa.lca.org.au