

Section 8

HOMES RUN BY THE UNITED ABORIGINES MISSION

Colebrook Home

Gerard Mission Children's Dormitory

Kali Boys Hostel

Oodnadatta Children's Home

Ooldea Mission Children's Dormitory

Tanderra Girls Home

Records are held at the United Aborigines Mission Archives in Melbourne, State Library of SA and National Library of Australia. Access conditions and contact details appear at the end of the section.

Colebrook Home

See also Oodnadatta Children's Home

There was a lady who mainly looked after the girls. We could hear her coming towards the dormitories with her heels pit-a-patting on the verandah, going from room to room, checking on us. One of her duties was to settle us for the night. I can remember her at nights as she was kneeling and praying at the end of our beds, nodding off to sleep as she plucked her eyebrows with her fingers. She hardly had any eyebrows. It used to frighten me as she dozed off, nodding her head sitting in the dark, this shadow...Another one of her duties was to wake the girls in the early hours of the morning to use the 'chambers', potties, for us to avoid wetting the beds. I dreaded the cold wintry mornings, as the potties were cold and cruel on our mana [buttocks]. This was one of her ritual duties that was done every night and morning. I did have a soft spot for her and her 'God Bless Girls', as she left the room.

Reproduced with permission from the publisher. Extract from 'Kick the Tin' by Doris Kartinyeri, first published by Spinifex Press, Melbourne, 2000, p. 30-31.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Years of operation: 1927-1981

Also known as: Previously Oodnadatta Children's Home
Colebrook Children's Training Home, Quorn

Run by: United Aborigines Mission [UAM]

Address: Quorn 1927-1944
Shepherds Hill Road, Eden Hills 1944-1971
Blackwood 1971-1981

HISTORY

Colebrook Home, named for one of the founders of the United Aborigines Mission [UAM] in South Australia, first opened in Quorn in 1927 as an institution for Aboriginal children. The first Children's home run by the UAM had been established three years earlier in Oodnadatta by missionary, Miss Annie Lock. Initially housed in an iron shed, the children were then moved to a small cottage purchased by the UAM in 1926. The following year the twelve children resident in the home were brought to Quorn, along with Matron Ruby Hyde who had been caring for the children since 1925. The children were relocated in order to remove them from the influence of their families so that they could be more easily assimilated into white society. As missionary Violet Turner described in her history of Colebrook at Quorn, the UAM believed the children needed to be in a place where 'they could no longer see the [*sic*] natives or hear the sounds of corroboree'. It also aspired to raise children in a Christian environment. For many years Matron Hyde, a graduate of the Melbourne Bible Institute, ran the home with the assistance of Sister Rutter who had migrated from England.

The initial home site was plagued by inadequate water supply, so in 1933 it was moved to another location where the water situation was marginally better. In 1944, after drought caused further severe water restrictions, the Government gave permission for the UAM to establish a home in Adelaide.

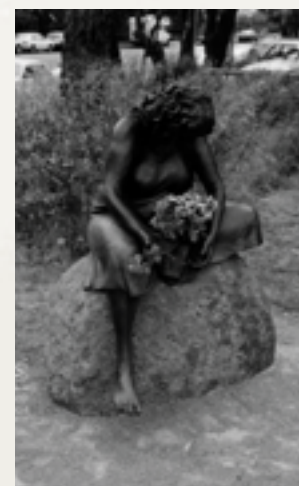


*Buildings at Colebrook Quorn 1930 SLSA: B49352,
Premises of the Colebrook Home for Aboriginal Children
1930 SLSA: B49356*

Courtesy of the State Library of South Australia

That same year the Mission took up a lease on a ten-acre (4 hectares) property at Eden Hills, a southern suburb of Adelaide. This property included a building which was transformed into children's dormitories. By 1950 more than fifty children were resident. Until 1953 they were schooled within the home. After that year they were accepted into the local Blackwood Primary School. In 1952, as a result of a split within the UAM, Sisters Hyde and Rutter left Colebrook to start their own hostel for girls, Tanderra. Colebrook, which had been under stable and constant management for 27 years, was then run by a succession of superintendents.

In 1972, because of low numbers, the home and the remaining children moved to a nearby cottage in Blackwood and the building at Eden Hills was demolished. In 1981 Colebrook was officially closed. During the fifty-four years of its existence Colebrook was 'home' to over 350 children. After the closure a number of former residents came together to form the Colebrook Tji Tji Tjuta. In conjunction with the Blackwood Reconciliation Group, this group secured funding to erect a memorial at the Eden Hills site. It serves as a monument to the many children who went through the home. The figure of a weeping mother serves as a testament to the many mothers whose children grew up without them.



Colebrook Home, Eden Hills 1957, Colebrook Home Eden Hills 1962, Photos by E Finck, Courtesy of Colebrook Tji Tji Tjuta. Colebrook Memorial 2005, Courtesy Kay Goodman-Dodd

Drawn from Christobel Mattingley & Ken Hampton, 'Survival in our own land: 'Aboriginal' experiences in 'South Australia' since 1836', (Wakefield Press, Adelaide 1988) p. 211-219; Violet Turner, 'Pearls from the deep: the story of Colebrook Home for Aboriginal children, Quorn SA', (UAM, Adelaide, 1936), p. 35 and David Hollinsworth and Janet Craig 2003, 'Aboriginal Missions in South Australia'. (Nunquarrin Yunti of SA, Adelaide), p. 17.

THE RECORDS

- United Aborigines Mission Archives, Melbourne
- Colebrook Tji Tji Tjuta
- National Library of Australia
- State Library of SA

ADMISSION RECORDS - United Aborigines Mission Archives, Melbourne

Admission register

- **Title** - *Colebrook Home Register, 1941*
- **Date range** - 1941-1948
- **Appearance** - Quarto size exercise book.
- **Contents** - Handwritten register initially divided into hand-ruled columns with registration number, surname and Christian names of child, date and place of birth, details of parents and column for additional information. Layout changes later, but similar information about each child is recorded.
- **Notes on contents** - Original format runs p.1-6. Additional information includes date of leaving, whom taken by and date when received at the home. A blank section after page six is followed by a new title page, *Register 1946*. Later entries are then divided into *Girls*, *Boys* and *New Arrivals*. Last half of register is blank.

Children's records

- **Title** - *Children's records and/or Old Colebrook Home records (previously held at the home)*
- **Date range** – 1920s-1980s
- **Appearance** – System cards filed alphabetically in small metal box labeled on outside and inside as above. Front two sheets of paper give list of names of children (1963) for Child Endowment. First two cards in box have 1974 admission dates. A divider marked *Oodnadatta* follows. Information on third and subsequent cards is referenced as 'copied from Oodnadatta Admissions and Discharges'. Box also includes a set of smaller typed cards for same children with brief health records and notes on home transfers. Box also contains polio immunisation record cards and clinic cards for the Adelaide Children's Hospital. Note dated 1958 at back of box relates to children brought from Gerard to Colebrook for a holiday but who, due to staff shortages at Gerard, stayed on longer.
- **Contents** - System cards have handwritten columns recording: (1) Surname, (2) Christian name, (3) Date of birth, (4) Place of birth, (5) Admitted, (6) From, (7) Mother's name, (8) Father's name, (9) Address, (10) Discharged, (11) Destination, (12) Other remarks.
- **Notes on contents** - (12) Other remarks - includes information relating to health, immunizations, death of parents, availability for adoption, holidays and transfers between homes, siblings, work, information on birth. Receipts, letters, and reports from Department of Community Welfare are sometimes attached to cards.

Admission cards - Colebrook Tji Tji Tjuta

- **Date range** – Primarily 1950s-1960s
- **Appearance** – Fifty-five small system cards, some typed, some handwritten.
- **Contents** – Cards include: (1) Surname, (2) Christian name, (3) Birthday, (4) Birth place, (5) Admission date, (6) Mother's name, (7) Father's name, (8) Address, (9) Remarks.
- **Notes on contents** – (9) Remarks: include admittances to hospital, information about x-rays, transfers to other homes, information about schooling, notes on health, information about adoption (with names of adoptive parents deleted), information about siblings, date of discharge and where discharged to. These cards were kept by Mr E Finck, Superintendent.

OTHER RECORDS – United Aborigines Mission Archives

Correspondence files, Colebrook

Three lever arch folders and two manila folders as follows:

- **Title** - *Colebrook Dec '47-Feb '58*
- **Archive reference** – Box 45, Colebrook
- **Date range** – 1947-1958
- **Appearance** - Lever arch folder containing mostly incoming correspondence and other miscellaneous documents.
- **Contents** – Incoming letters primarily addressed to Pastor Samuels, Secretary of the UAM. Most relate to children and mention names, activities, needs and children's behaviour. Correspondence and documents include: (1) Letters about children's holidays such as people offering to have children, letters confirming arrangements and correspondence from parents requesting permission to have children home for holidays; (2) Letters from foster parents about children in their care; (3) Letters to Pastor Samuels written by children, as well as letters written to children in the home from their parents and siblings; (4) List of children and their ages for 1947 and for December 1956; (5) Lists of children attending events; (6) Letters and reports dated 1950s from Superintendent Hill concerning conditions in home. Reports dated 1954, 1955 and 1956 include information about children, their health and activities.

- **Archive reference** - Box 45, Colebrook
 - **Title** - *Colebrook 1949-81*
 - **Date range** – 1949-1981
 - **Appearance** - Lever arch folder containing outgoing and incoming correspondence and other miscellaneous documents.
 - **Contents** - Copies of outgoing correspondence from Pastor Samuels and Superintendent Hill and some incoming correspondence, particularly from Superintendent Finck, 1950s. Correspondence and documents include: (1) 1951 letter re whereabouts of child, relating to regular transfers of children between Colebrook Home and Gerard Mission; (2) Copies of Minutes of UAM board; (3) Interview with Superintendent Finck (1957) about discipline of children and correspondence between Pastor Samuels and Superintendent Finck on this subject; (4) Reports from Superintendent Finck; (5) Letters from Pastor Samuels to various children; (6) Some individual school reports, 1960s; (7) Correspondence regarding appointments and resignations of staff and superintendents.
- **Archive reference** - Box 45, Colebrook
 - **Title** - *Colebrook Home, Inwards 1958-62*
 - **Date range** – 1958-1962
 - **Appearance** - Lever arch folder containing outgoing and incoming correspondence and other miscellaneous documents.
 - **Contents** - Correspondence and documents include: (1) Letters requesting children for holidays; (2) Letters from children to Pastor Samuels; (3) Lists of children in home, 1955, 1961 and 1962 with ages; (4) Letter from Superintendent Finck re allowed activities of children; (5) Letter from Superintendent Finck, 1962, outlining children's home routine; (6) Letters from parents to children; (7) Monthly reports from 1960s including comments about children.
- **Archive reference** - Box 45, Colebrook
 - **Title** - *SA Colebrook Home, 1947-1948*
 - **Date range** – 1947-1948
 - **Appearance** – Manila folder containing copies of outgoing correspondence.
 - **Contents** - Letters from Pastor Samuels, mostly to Brother Eaton who was in charge of the Home during this period. Includes list of children and ages for 1947.
- **Archive reference** - Box 45, Colebrook
 - **Title** - *Colebrook*
 - **Date range** – not known
 - **Appearance** – Manila folder of loose correspondence.
 - **Contents** - Correspondence relating to the 'Edwardstown Colebrook Home Landscape Scheme' fundraising appeal.

OTHER RECORDS – State Library of SA

- **Archive reference** - SRG 139/15
- **Title** – *Records of the Aborigines Friends Association/Reports*
- **Date range** – 1925-1962, 1976
- **Contents** – Reports of visits to institutions, northern areas and missions. This includes some reports on visits to Colebrook Home.

PHOTOGRAPHS – United Aborigines Mission Archives

- **Archive reference** – Box labelled *Finniss Springs/Colebrook/Nepabunna B*
- **Date range** – 1930s-1960s, many undated.
- **Appearance** – Two photograph albums and many loose black/white and colour photographs.
- **Contents** – (1) Album 1 contains photos of Colebrook Home at Quorn and at Eden Hills including buildings, children and staff. (2) Album 2 begins with potted history of Home then follows with individual pages for each child with details of child (including name, date and place of birth, admission date, parents' names, address, remarks re health and schooling) and photograph. Not all entries include photographs. Album then records details from School reports, 1969. (3) Loose photos include buildings, staff and children at Quorn and Eden Hills, school photos from Blackwood Primary School and miscellaneous unlabelled photos.

PHOTOGRAPHS – State Library of SA

- **Archive reference** – PRG 769
- **Title** – *Faith Thomas*
- **Date range** – 1929-1943, 1957
- **Appearance** – Four albums of photographs compiled by Sisters Hyde and Rutter, former matrons of Colebrook Home, and bequeathed to Faith Thomas.
- **Contents** – Typescript outline of whole collection at beginning of first volume. Names of some children and adults appear in captions, together with location and probable year. Includes photographs of Colebrook Home at Quorn.

MOTION PICTURES – State Library of SA

- **Archive reference** – PRG 764/10
- **Title** – *SA Places and Events (motion picture)*
- **Date range** – 1936
- **Appearance** – Cine film taken by Hubert A Gerard available on VHS video.
- **Contents** – Footage taken by Mr A E Gerard including views of Colebrook Home at Quorn and children and staff involved in various activities. Also includes footage of the children on a visit to Adelaide.

ORAL HISTORY – National Library of Australia

Interviews conducted for the Bringing Them Home Oral History project include some with former residents and staff of Colebrook Home at Quorn and at Eden Hills. For example:

Former residents:

- ORAL 5000/117: Interview with Irene James
- ORAL TRC 5000/128: Interview with Martin Dodd
- ORAL TRC 5000/167: Interview with Catherine Appleton
- ORAL TRC 5000/210: Interview with Clara Coulthard
- ORAL TRC 5000/223: Interview with Doris Kartinyeri
- ORAL TRC 5000/262: Interview with Avis Gale
- ORAL TRC 5000/286: Interview with Nancy Kemp-Howard

Former staff:

ORAL TRC 5000/253: Interview with Ngitji Ngitji Tur (Mona Kennedy) – former staff

ORAL TRC 5000/254: Interview with Eric and Minnie Finck – former superintendents

ORAL TRC 5000/255: Interview with Patricia Lear and Frances Shute

Other interviews held in the National Library Oral History Collection also concern Colebrook Home. Check the online catalogue, www.nla.gov.au, for details.

REPORTS – State Library of SA

Annual Reports of the Aborigines Protection Board [Aboriginal Affairs Board] *Parliamentary Papers, South Australia, 1939-1969*

Reports appearing in Parliamentary Papers include summaries of developments at missions, stations and homes where Aboriginal people, under the control of the government, were living. Each report includes a section on the United Aborigines Mission with information about Colebrook Home.

BOOKS

E R Finck, *God is faithful: A leaf in the life of Colebrook Home* (Unpublished typescript, 1988) Available from State Library of SA.

Doris Kartinyeri, *Kick the tin*, (Spinifex Press, Melbourne, 2000)

Christobel Mattingley & Ken Hampton, *Survival in our own land: 'Aboriginal' experiences in 'South Australia' since 1836*, (Wakefield Press, Adelaide 1988)

Violet Turner, *Pearls from the deep: the story of Colebrook Home for Aboriginal children*, Quorn, SA (United Aborigines Mission, Adelaide, 1936)

Gerard Mission Children's Dormitory

We are opening a new Mission Station on the river Murray known as Gerard and one of the conditions of residence is that all children shall be under our control...We will feed the children three times daily on the best food until our Dormitory is built and then the children will go into residence there. We will buy most of their clothing and they will be taught in school by our missionaries.

Letter from Secretary of the UAM to the Deputy commissioner of Child Endowment 7/1/1946 Box 51, UAM Archives, Melbourne.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Years of operation: 1946-1961

Also known as: No other names

Run by: United Aborigines Mission [UAM]

Address: Gerard Mission, near Loxton, SA

HISTORY

In April 1945 the United Aborigines Mission [UAM] purchased 5800 acres (2348 hectares) of land near Loxton with the intention of establishing a new mission station. The mission was named Gerard in honour of the South Australian President of the UAM. For some years the UAM had been seeking a new location to house children, particularly from their Swan Reach Mission which had been established in 1926. The secretary of the UAM had advised the Minister of Public Works in September 1942 that he believed 'the Dormitory system for the children in a different atmosphere is the only way to develop the moral and spiritual character of the child'. A children's dormitory was therefore an integral part of the new Gerard Mission. Fifteen children were initially accommodated in a temporary camp while the dormitory and other mission building were being constructed. All of these children came from Swan Reach except for five boys brought from Ooldea. The dormitory always housed a small number of children. In 1949 there were eleven children in the home. By the mid 1950s nine were accommodated. At that time the children attended the local Winkie school.

In 1961 control of the mission was handed over to the State Government and the dormitory was closed. The remaining children were moved to Colebrook Home in Adelaide. In 1974 the reserve came under the control of the Gerard Council run by Indigenous residents.

Drawn from Christobel Mattingley & Ken Hampton, 'Survival in our own land: 'Aboriginal' experiences in 'South Australia' since 1836', (Wakefield Press, Adelaide 1988) p. 221 & 225 and miscellaneous correspondence, UAM Archives.

THE RECORDS

- United Aborigines Mission Archives, Melbourne
- National Library of Australia

ADMISSION RECORDS

No specific admission records for the Gerard Mission children's dormitory have survived. Child endowment claim records give some admission details.

OTHER RECORDS - United Aborigines Mission Archives

Child endowment records

- **Archive reference** - Box A, Children and Aboriginal Reports, SA
- **Date range** – 1940s-1950s
- **Appearance** - Four manila folders with a series of types of claim form for child endowment and other related documents.
- **Contents** – Records concern children in all UAM homes, not just dormitory at Gerard. Forms provide (from sample Child Endowment Claim Form 1951): (1) Number, (2) Surname, (3) Christian name, (4) Date of birth, (5) Place of birth, (6) Father's full name, (7) Mother's maiden surname, (8) Mother's Christian name, (9) Additional information.
- **Notes on contents** - Box also contains some miscellaneous lists of dormitory children from the same period. These mostly provide only names and ages of children.

Correspondence files, Gerard

The main collection of records relating to Gerard Mission held at UAM Archives consists of two boxes containing a series of correspondence files.

- **Archive reference** - Box 72
- **Date range** – 1945-1987 (with gaps)
- **Appearance** – Ten folders of various sizes comprising incoming and outgoing correspondence.
- **Contents** - Letters, reports and other documents addressing many subjects including: (1) General running of the children's dormitory, (2) Repairs and maintenance, (3) Food and clothing requirements, (4) Children's health, (5) Staff changes and letters from staff to Secretary of the UAM, (6) Fortnightly, monthly and yearly reports from the Mission superintendent which include mention of the dormitory, (7) Correspondence relating to individual children. Correspondence on various subjects sometimes refers to children by name.

- **Archive reference** - Box 86
- **Date range** – 1947-1972
- **Appearance** – Nine folders of various sizes comprising incoming and outgoing correspondence.
- **Contents** - As above, documents relate to many different subjects. Regular reports from the Superintendent of the Mission, Mr Bateman (particularly from 1950s-1970s) include comments on named children being admitted or discharged from the dormitory.

- **Archive reference** - Box 51, Murray River Mission
- **Date range** – Not known
- **Appearance** - One lever arch folder of correspondence.
- **Contents** - Letters to and from Commonwealth Railways. A small number of documents relate to the establishment of the Gerard Mission and general claims for child endowment, not including names.

ORAL HISTORY – National Library of Australia

Interviews conducted for the Bringing Them Home Oral History project include some with former residents of Gerard Mission Children's Dormitory. These include:

ORAL TRC 5000/167: Interview with Catherine Appleton

ORAL TRC 5000/258: Interview with Sid Graham

REPORTS – State Library of SA

Annual Reports of the Aborigines Protection Board [Aboriginal Affairs Board] *Parliamentary Papers, South Australia, 1939-1969*

Reports appearing in Parliamentary Papers include summaries of developments at missions, stations and homes where Aboriginal people, under the control of the government, were living. Each report includes a section on the United Aborigines Mission with information about Gerard Mission.

BOOKS

Christobel Mattingley & Ken Hampton, *Survival in our own land: 'Aboriginal' experiences in 'South Australia' since 1836*, (Wakefield Press, Adelaide 1988)

Kali Boys Hostel

GENERAL INFORMATION

Period of operation: 1971-1977

Also known as: No other names

Run by: United Aborigines Mission [UAM] under the control of the Department for Social Welfare and Aboriginal Affairs and its successors

Address: Westbourne Park

HISTORY

This hostel opened on 24 May 1971 as accommodation for Aboriginal boys attending secondary school. The United Aborigines Mission (Federal) ran Kali under the control and supervision of the Department. The Hostel had been opened previously but closed at the end of 1970 because of lack of staff. When it reopened in 1971 four boys were admitted.

Kali closed on 7 February 1977.

Drawn from 'Annual Report of the Department of Social Welfare and Aboriginal Affairs', 1971 and 'Annual Report of the Department for Community Welfare', 1977.

THE RECORDS

Records yet to be located.

Oodnadatta Children's Home

When the Mission opened, my Mother and her relatives put their children in the Mission for safe-keeping. My mother had requested that the children should never be removed from the Oodnadatta Mission...My time in the Oodnadatta Mission was a happy one. No children in the home run by Tjilpi [old man] and Kunga [woman] Wiley were abused. We were treated as their own children. We were punished by doing work like peeling potatoes – doing work we didn't like – but we were never strapped or beaten. I remember three of us girls were very naughty, so we were told to scrub and polish the floor until it shone. We would stand on the polishing rags, then slide up and down the kitchen and dining room floor. I became a wonderful game rather than being punishment. The boys had to cut wood, water the trees and clean the yard. All the children loved Tjilpi and Kunga Wiley and we all cried when our dear missionaries left Oodnadatta through ill health. One dark cold morning I was awoken from my bed, told to get up and get dressed, and with my two brothers, was then taken to the Ghan to travel to Adelaide with one unknown person. We were left at Colebrook home unable to remember who took us or where we were. My Mother's request that was made in the beginning was broken.

Nancy J Howard 'Makayi'

GENERAL INFORMATION

Years of operation: 1924-1964

Also known as: No other names

Run by: United Aborigines Mission [UAM]

Address: Oodnadatta, SA

HISTORY

Oodnadatta was the first mission station established by the United Aborigines Mission in South Australia. Missionary Miss Annie Lock, started the children's home in 1924. Initially housed in an iron shed, the children were soon moved to a small cottage purchased by the South Australian Council of the UAM in 1926. The following year the twelve children resident in the home were moved to Quorn along with Matron Ruby Hyde who had been caring for the children since 1925. In 1948 a measles epidemic in the area aroused the concern of Dr Charles Duguid. He encouraged the establishment of a home to care for Aboriginal children who might be afflicted with the disease. That year the South Australian Council of the UAM, which in 1947 had legally separated from the Victorian-based Federal body, re-opened the Oodnadatta Children's Home. Mr Noel and Mrs Iris Wiley ran the home initially caring for twelve children. During 1949-1950 more children were admitted and the new superintendents, Mr and Mrs Turnbull, cared for fifteen residents with the assistance of two Aboriginal helpers. Reverend L Reece and his wife took charge from 1951. From the mid 1950s until the closure of the home, Ruth Bullpit (later Tuffin) was housemother. She cared for between thirteen and seventeen children, usually with the help of an assistant. Until 1956 Aboriginal children were prohibited from attending the Oodnadatta school. Children living in the home were therefore educated by missionaries at the Mission School. The home at Oodnadatta closed in 1964.

Drawn from A E Gerard, 'United Aborigines Mission (of Australia): an outline of the history of the mission particularly in South Australia' (Adelaide, 1950); John Dallwitz & Daniel Fazio, 'White to black: Oodnadatta School 1892-1992' (Oodnadatta Aboriginal School, 1992), p. 19 & 37; Bruce Shaw & Jen Gibson, 'Invasion and Succession: an Aboriginal history of the Oodnadatta region' (Department of Environment and Planning, Adelaide, 1988), p. 139-149 and information provided by former resident, Mona (Njiti Njiti) Tur.

THE RECORDS

- United Aborigines Mission Archives, Melbourne
- National Library of Australia

ADMISSION RECORDS - UNITED ABORIGINES MISSION ARCHIVES

Admission register

- **Archive reference** – None available
- **Title** - *Admissions and Discharges*. (Note: Name of home not included in title. Home was identified through entries)
- **Date range** – 1948-1963
- **Appearance** - Small, handwritten exercise book.
- **Contents** - One page for each child's entry. Entries include: (1) Name, (2) Admission date, (3) Relatives, (4) From, (5) Parents' names, (6) Discharged. Some entries provide additional information about health, hospital admissions, vaccinations, holidays, and background notes on parents or on child's situation.
- **Notes on contents** - Book includes a number of loose papers relating to various children. (2) Admission date sometimes includes from where admitted. (3) Relatives: 'Orphan' is sometimes entered here. Comments about Aboriginal descent, such as [sic] 'half-caste' or [sic] 'full blood' are sometimes included here. (6) Discharged: includes where discharged to.

OTHER RECORDS - United Aborigines Mission Archives

Child endowment records

- **Archive reference** - Box A, Children and Aboriginal Reports, SA
- **Date range** – 1949
- **Appearance** - Four manila folders with a number of types of claim form for child endowment and other related documents.
- **Contents** - Records concern children in all UAM homes, including Oodnadatta. Child Endowment Admission and Discharge forms for Oodnadatta only include the name and age of the child and his/her admission and/or discharge date. One loose, undated sheet titled *Oodnadatta* gives a list of children in the Oodnadatta home.

PHOTOGRAPHS - United Aborigines Mission Archives

- **Archive reference** - Box labelled *B, Finniss Springs, Colebrook, Nepabunna*
- **Date range** – Unknown
- **Contents** – A number of photograph albums and a collection of loose photographs. Some loose photographs relate to the Children's Home at Oodnadatta. Most photographs are undated.

PHOTOGRAPHS – State Library of SA

The State Library holds a collection of 27 photographs relating to the UAM mission and children's home at Oodnadatta, held under the subject heading 'Oodnadatta Mission (S Aust)'. These are held within the 'Oodnadatta Collection' which comprises 304 images. Mission photographs date mostly from 1949 and were placed in the Mortlock Library by missionaries, Mr Noel and Mrs Iris Wiley. Photos of children and staff are included in the collection.

ORAL HISTORY – National Library of Australia

Interviews conducted for the Bringing Them Home Oral History project include some with former residents and staff of the Oodnadatta Children's Home. For example:

Former residents:

ORAL 5000/117: Interview with Irene James

ORAL TRC 5000/118: Interview with Kunyi (June-Anne) McInerney

ORAL TRC 5000/210: Interview with Clara Coulthard

ORAL TRC 5000/253: Interview with Ngitji Ngitji Tur (Mona Kennedy)

ORAL TRC 5000/286: Interview with Nancy Kemp-Howard

Former staff:

ORAL TRC 5000/130: Interview with Ruth Natar (daughter of Mr and Mrs Wiley)

ORAL TRC 5000/272: Interview with Isabel Goldsmith (nee Kotz)

Police Officer:

ORAL TRC 5000/181: Interview with Bruce and Patricia Evans

Other interviews held in the National Library Oral History Collection may also concern Oodnadatta Home. Check the online catalogue, www.nla.gov.au, for details.

BOOKS

John Dallwitz & Daniel Fazio, *White to Black: Oodnadatta School 1892-1992* (Oodnadatta Aboriginal School, 1992)

A E Gerard, *United Aborigines Mission (of Australia): an outline of the history of the mission particularly in South Australia* (Adelaide, 1950).

Bruce Shaw & Jen Gibson, *Invasion and Succession: an Aboriginal history of the Oodnadatta region* (Department of Environment and Planning, Adelaide, 1988)

Ooldea Mission Children's Dormitory

The boys are short of blankets. The Boys' Dormitory is old but clean. The boys sleep on the floor, several together for warmth in cold weather, with two blankets covering several boys. There is a receptacle for urine in the middle of the room. The children have meals in this same room after it has been swept and cleaned in the morning. The girls' dormitory is a very nice room, with plenty of ventilation by louvre glass windows. There was no smell. It is very clean. The beds were nicely made. Most of the girls sleep on wire beds with two blankets (little enough in winter weather) one girl to a bed. 3 sleep on the floor (the floor would probably be warmer in winter). Several boys and 3 girls wet their beds at night. One of the girls is 12, and the other two younger. The girl of 12 was in the home when she was much younger. She was taken out by her people. On her return she continued to wet her bed. The children doing this may be deprived sometimes of cake, but are not otherwise punished.

From 'Visit to Ooldea by Professor JB Cleland accompanied by Mr NB Tindale of SA Museum', report dated 15/5/1951 in SRG 139/15 Reports of the Aborigines Friends Association, 1925-1962. State Library of SA

GENERAL INFORMATION

Years of operation: 1938-1952

Also known as: No other names

Run by: United Aborigines Mission [UAM], South Australian Council

Address: Ooldea, Nullabor Plain, 270 km east of SA-WA border

HISTORY

In 1933, missionary Annie Lock arrived at Ooldea Soak with a companion, Miss Marshall. Together they set up a mission, four miles from the Ooldea railway siding. In 1938 two thousand square miles (5200km) of country surrounding Ooldea Soak was made a government reserve. From this time the mission, run by the United Aborigines Mission [UAM], rapidly developed. Among other structures, a children's home was built consisting of two dormitories, one for boys and one for girls. This home could accommodate up to sixty children. By 1944 there were 44 children in the home. That year a new dormitory was added to house the girls. This was followed by a dining room, kitchen and hospital.

In 1951, when Professor JB Cleland of the University of Adelaide's Board for Anthropological Research visited the area, there were 31 boys and 24 girls in the dormitories. He reported that the children in the home received 'three good meals a day as well as clothing and housing'. He also wrote that Mr Harrie Green, the Mission Superintendent produced regular returns to his head office providing the names of all the children in the Home and noting new arrivals and departures.

In 1952, an internal dispute within the UAM led to a split between the Federal body which was based in Victoria and the South Australian Council. This schism resulted in the closure of the mission at Ooldea because all of the staff who were loyal to the Federal body moved out. This situation coincided with preparations for British nuclear testing north of Ooldea, at Maralinga. As a result, Lutheran missionaries from Koonibba were summoned to Ooldea to assist all the Aboriginal people there, including the children in the home, to move to the government's reserve, and new Lutheran mission, at Yalata.

Drawn from Christobel Mattingley & Ken Hampton, 'Survival in our own land: 'Aboriginal' experiences in 'South Australia' since 1836', (Wakefield Press, Adelaide 1988), p. 235-246 and 'Visit to Ooldea by Professor JB Cleland accompanied by Mr NB Tindale of SA Museum', report dated 15/5/1951 in SRG 139/15 Reports of the Aborigines Friends Association, 1925-1962. State Library of SA.

THE RECORDS

- United Aborigines Mission Archives
- State Library of SA

ADMISSION RECORDS

No admission records yet located.

OTHER RECORDS – United Aborigines Mission Archives

The United Aborigines Mission Archives holds some records relating to Ooldea Mission, including correspondence and reports which may contain references to the children's home. These records have not yet been sighted.

OTHER RECORDS – State Library of SA

- **Archive reference** - SRG 139/15
- **Title** – *Records of the Aborigines Friends Association/Reports*
- **Date range** – 1925-1962, 1976
- **Contents** – Reports of visits to institutions, northern areas and missions. This includes some reports on visits to Ooldea.

BOOKS

Christobel Mattingley & Ken Hampton, *Survival in our own land: 'Aboriginal' experiences in 'South Australia' since 1836*, (Wakefield Press, Adelaide 1988)

Tanderra Girls Home

I recall quite vividly the day I left home (1956) for the first time to travel to Adelaide. We lived on a small sheep grazing farm at a little place on the West Coast with a big name called Nunji Kompita. The only mode of transport in those days was by train to Port Lincoln and then by passenger ship to Adelaide. My eldest brother took me as my father was working.

I remember walking down the gang plank and Sister Hyde was on the wharf to meet us. I was so excited to see Adelaide. When we arrived at Tanderra, there was already two girls there, I was the third. My first year was doing grade 7 at Parkside Primary School and the other 3 years was attending Unley Girls Technical High School with the other girls who came to stay. There were happy time we spent there, we attended Church on Sundays and joined a local netball club which we all enjoyed playing... I will always remember the wonderful years I spent at Tanderra with no regrets.

Elizabeth (Lawrie) Larkins

I consider myself one of the fortunate ones as I was actually asked if I would like to come to Adelaide from Raukkan for further education. I arrived at Tanderra, Parkside accompanied by my mother and Veronica Brodie nee Wilson. I was very nervous because I had never left my mother's side before. Veronica like me was given a chance to make something of our lives. When we arrived at Tanderra Sisters Hyde and Rutter met us at the door and introduced us to the other girls. If I am asked to discuss my stay at Tanderra, which turned out to be nearly three years, I would have to say I felt very much protected, sheltered and given a wonderful opportunity to learn more. My memories are of having lots of fun, if you can imagine seven to ten teenage girls living together and some of the pranks we got up to...I would like to be able to say to Sister Hyde and Rutter, 'Thank you very much and God Bless you both, you raised so many talented and good people'.

Pam Keefe (nee Dodd)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Years of operation: 1952-1973

Also known as: No other names

Run by: United Aborigines Mission [UAM], South Australian Council

Address: 221 Henley Beach Road, Torrensville
4 Stamford Street, Parkside



Former Tanderra Home, Parkside 2005
Courtesy Kay Goodman-Dodd

HISTORY

This hostel for Aboriginal girls was opened in 1952 by Sister Ruby Hyde and Sister Rutter, former matrons of Colebrook Home at Quorn and Eden Hills. It was established because many of the older working girls who had left Colebrook Home turned to the two sisters for assistance and often stayed with them in their own home. Realising the need for a hostel for such girls, the two sisters arranged for the purchase of a building at Parkside. Prior to the establishment of the home, Sisters Hyde and Rutter, along with other UAM missionaries, had split from the Victorian based Federal body of the UAM. Tanderra was maintained by the legally separate South Australian Council of the UAM.

Sisters Hyde and Rutter ran Tanderra until 1963 when Mr Noel and Mrs Iris Wiley, who had been missionaries at Oodnadatta in the 1950s, took over for eighteen months. After the Wiley's left the home was run by Mr and Mrs Gronow until its closure. In its last years Tanderra moved to a new location at Torrensville. When the home closed, the remaining girls moved to a hostel in Norwood.

Drawn from information provided by Ruth Natar (nee Wiley)

THE RECORDS

- United Aborigines Mission Archives, Melbourne
- National Library of Australia

ADMISSION RECORDS - United Aborigines Mission Archives

Admission register

- **Archive reference** – None available
- **Title** - *Register Jan 1964*
- **Date range** – 1964-1973
- **Appearance** - Small exercise book with *Tanderra Girls' Home* written on inside cover.
- **Contents** - Each left hand page gives name of a girl, birth date and notes on the following subjects: (1) Schooling- including some reports, (2) Holidays, (3) Behaviour, (4) Admission and Discharge dates, (5) Information about parents, (6) Health and hospital admissions, (7) Studies and commencing work, (8) Religion, (9) Previous homes transferred from, (10) Incidents (such as absconding from the home), (11) Pregnancy and birth of children.
- **Notes on contents** - Entries for each girl are different. Later entries are less detailed. Back pages of register provide details about the girls' daily routine and a list of rules and three pages comprising lists of names of some girls with admission and discharge dates.

OTHER RECORDS

No other records have been located.

BOOKS

Veronica Brodie, *My side of the bridge: the life story of Veronica Brodie as told to Mary-Anne Gale* (Wakefield Press, Adelaide, 2002)

ACCESS TO RECORDS OF HOMES RUN BY THE UNITED ABORIGINES MISSION

UNITED ABORIGINES MISSION ARCHIVES

Access conditions

To make an enquiry with regard to personal records which may be held by the UAM Archives, you will need to fill out a form entitled 'Request for details of personal information held by the United Aborigines Mission'. This form requires the provision of personal details and as much information as possible with regard to the home in which they were resident. Dates of admission and discharge are also required. The UAM will search records free of charge subject to the researcher signing the following agreement, included on the form:

1. That the UAM has no obligation to ensure that any information which it has in its records is found;
2. That you release UAM from any action, suit, claim or demand in respect of any act or omission of UAM and its servants and agents in respect of the subject of your inquiry.

Contact: Archives UAM

PO Box 1071, Doncaster East, Victoria 3109

Telephone: (03) 9841 6029 or (03) 9841 6029

Fax: (03) 9841 6033

Email: cjones@uam.org.au

Location: 23 Pine Way, Doncaster East, Victoria 3109

Website: www.uam.org.au

Opening hours: By appointment

Fees: No access charges for individual research on signing of the agreement.

COLEBROOK *TJI TJI TJUTA*

Contact: Colebrook *Tji Tji Tjuta*

C/o Doris Kartinyeri

103 Valiant Rd, Holden Hill, SA 5088

STATE LIBRARY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Access conditions

Researchers can have access to documents and photographs held at the State Library on presenting their Readers Ticket. The ticket is available from the Somerville Reading Room. Records must be read in the Reading Room at the Library. The State Library of South Australia has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with SA Link-Up.

Contact: Research Services, State Library of SA

GPO Box 419, Adelaide, SA 5001

Telephone: (08) 8207 7200 Country callers: 1800 182 013

Fax: (08) 8207 7247

Location: North Terrace, Adelaide, SA 5000

Website: www.slsa.sa.gov.au

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA (ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION)

Access conditions

To access tapes and transcripts held in the Collection readers must fill in an Oral History Request form, available from the Petherick Reading Room. Access to tapes and transcripts is subject to the conditions imposed by interviewees. In most cases access is available, but in some cases recordings are restricted. Sometimes written permission from the interviewee is required. In other cases the tapes and transcripts are subject to complete restriction for a long period of time. Tape recordings may be listened to and transcripts viewed in the Petherick Reading Room. Unrestricted tapes and transcripts can also be accessed through inter-library loan through another state or local library.

Contact: Oral History Collection

National Library of Australia

Canberra ACT 2600

Telephone: (02) 6262 1687 **Fax:** (02) 6273 5081

Email: oralhist@nla.gov.au

Location: Parkes Place

Parkes, Canberra ACT 2600

Website: www.nla.gov.au