

## Mission Records held at the Northern Territory Archives Service

The Northern Territory Archives Service holds many records relating to churches and missions including the collections of the missionary organisations themselves. The Uniting Church in Australia and the Church Missionary Society have donated a large quantity of material to the Northern Territory Archives Service. The Archives holdings do not include any records from the Roman Catholic Church although some prominent missionaries and members of the Catholic Church have lodged their collections with the Northern Territory Archives Service. This leaflet details the records of the Church Missionary Society and the Uniting Church in Australia. Both these organisations ran homes and missions in various centres across the Northern Territory.

### Church Missionary Society

The Church Missionary Society of Australia was formed in 1916 from several Church Missionary Associations in Australian States. See the Church Missionary Society of Australia Website for more information: <http://www.cms.org.au/about/history>

The Church Missionary Society ran missions or homes in the Northern Territory at the following locations: Angurugu, Emerald River, Umbakumba on Groote Eylandt; Oenpelli (Gunbalanya); Roper River (Ngukurr); Rose River (Numbulwar); Retta Dixon Home, Darwin; Phillip Creek and St Mary's Hostel, Alice Springs.

#### Holdings relating to the Church Missionary Society

From the Northern Territory Archives Service List of Holdings, the following series have been identified as coming under the control of the Church Missionary Society. It must be noted that the following list does include a number of personal collections of Church Missionary Society missionaries.

#### CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA, NORTH AUSTRALIA COMMITTEE

NTRS 599	General correspondence files 1970-1973
NTRS 605	Training allowance for Aborigines, correspondence and circulars 1966-1971
NTRS 704	Journals and diaries of the Angurugu Community 1942-1987
NTRS 864	General records of the Oenpelli Community 1926-1981
NTRS 865	Journals and diaries of the Oenpelli Community 1944-1981
NTRS 868	General records of the Angurugu Community 1921-1985
NTRS 869	General records of the Umbakumba Community 1956-1981
NTRS 870	General records of the Roper River (Ngukurr) Community 1944-1982
NTRS 871	General records of the Numbulwar (Rose River) Community 1942-1984
NTRS 872	Journals of the Numbulwar (Rose River) Community 1952-1984
NTRS 873	General mission and administration records, Darwin 1937-1989
NTRS 1098	Mission reports and station council minutes of the Angurugu Community 1939-1979
NTRS 1099	Mission reports and station council minutes of the Oenpelli Community 1925-1977
NTRS 1100	Mission reports and station council minutes of the Numbulwar (Rose River) Community 1963-1978
NTRS 1101	Mission reports and station council minutes of the Umbakumba Community 1958-1970
NTRS 1102	Mission reports and station council minutes of the Roper River (Ngukurr) Community 1936-1973
NTRS 1104	Theological books and publications 1907-1988
NTRS 1105	Publications featuring Arnhem Land missions 1953-1981
NTRS 1106	Linguistic teaching records and publications 1947-1986

- NTRS 1342 Financial records and correspondence of Emmanuel Church 1969-1978  
 NTRS 1343 Religious instruction and school syllabuses for grades 2-7, Oenpelli and Angurugu 1969-ca1969  
 NTRS 1344 Correspondence of Church Missionary Society A-W 1974-1978  
 NTRS 1345 Correspondence, committee and Diocesan papers of the Church Missionary Society, Oenpelli and Angurugu 1969-1981  
 NTRS 1346 Records of Christian Women's Convention International 1974-1983  
 NTRS 604 Radio Sked books 1960-1982

**COLE, KEITH (DR)**

- NTRS 694 Records, photographs and research material about mission life in Northern Australia 1915 1985

**DOVE, E.I.M. (MAY)**

- NTRS 685 Personal records collected whilst a missionary in Northern Australian and in Victoria 1923-1961

**DYER, ALFRED J. (REV.)**

- NTRS 693 Records relating to mission life in Northern Australia 1907-1966

**PERRIMAN, H.L. (LES)**

- NTRS 337 Personal records and photographs relating to Groote Eylandt Mission and Aborigines in Northern Australia 1921-1972

**WARREN, HUBERT ERNEST (REV.)**

- NTRS 690 Photographs relating to Roper River Mission Station and Darwin 1913-1915

**HART, K.W.**

- NTRS 703 Papers relating to the Church Missionary Society including baptism lists, Correspondence, photographs and church newsletters 1918-1985

**MOORE, CALLON (MRS)**

- NTRS 691 Photographs of Groote Eylandt missions 1963-1969

**Obtaining access to Church Missionary Society records**

The archives listed above are all under the control of the Church Missionary Society. Once the series of archives or individual files have been identified by a researcher, using series lists available at Northern Territory Archives Service, it is necessary to obtain permission for access to the records from the Society. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain permission from the Society directly. Access application forms are available at Northern Territory Archives Service. The address for correspondence is as follows:

**Church Missionary Society (CMS)**

**Rev Canon John Thew**

**Federal Secretary**

93 Bathurst Street

SYDNEY NSW 2000

Phone: (02) 9284 6777

E-mail: federal@cms.org.au

Website: [www.anglican.org.au](http://www.anglican.org.au)

Once the application has been lodged with the Church Missionary Society, Sydney Office, they will contact the Darwin based Honorary Church Missionary Society Archives Officer, who will then make contact with the applicant and with the Northern Territory Archives Service to advise whether access to the selected archives has been granted or not. If approval is given, the researcher should contact Northern Territory Archives Service to arrange a time to examine the records.

Please note that not all Church Missionary Society records are held in the Northern Territory. Some records are held in Sydney. Check with the CMS Sydney office for more details.

# Uniting Church in Australia

The Uniting Church in Australia was formed in 1977 and was made from a union of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, the Methodist Church of Australasia and the Congregational Union of Australia. The Northern Synod covers a region that includes Darwin extending to Broome in Western Australia, Gove in the Northern Territory, and Pitjantjara lands in South Australia. Archives under the control of the Uniting Church in Australia include records of the predecessor churches.

## Holdings relating to the Uniting Church in Australia

From the Northern Territory Archives Service List of Holdings the following series have been identified as coming under the control of the Uniting Church in Australia.

### UNITING CHURCH

- NTRS 2403 Slides of Croker Island mission ca1960-1962
- NTRS 2404 Black and white photographs of Croker Island mission ca1960-1962

### UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA, NORTHERN SYNOD

- NTRS 37 Records relating to Minijilang Township 1952-1982
- NTRS 38 Records relating to Warruwi Township 1940-1981
- NTRS 39 Records relating to Maningrida Township 1971-1981
- NTRS 40 Records relating to Milingimbi Township 1945-1983
- NTRS 41 Records relating to Galiwinku (Elcho Island) Township 1969-1983
- NTRS 42 Records relating to Gapuwiyak (Lake Ewalla) Township 1973-1983
- NTRS 43 Records relating to Yirkala Township 1963-1980
- NTRS 44 Records relating to Nhulunbuy Parish 1969-1980
- NTRS 45 Records relating to Arnhem Land 1962-1975
- NTRS 46 Records relating to the Arafura Presbytery 1947-1983
- NTRS 47 Records relating to the Centre Presbytery, including Alice Springs and Tennant Creek n.d.
- NTRS 48 Records relating to the Kimberley Presbytery n.d.
- NTRS 49 Records relating to Nungalinga College, Darwin 1971-1982
- NTRS 50 Records relating to child care, Somerville Homes, Darwin 1964-1979
- NTRS 51 Records relating to Central Australian Institutions n.d.
- NTRS 52 Records relating to the Aboriginal Advisory Development Services and Civic Economic Development Committee 1945-1983
- NTRS 53 Records relating to the Methodist Overseas Mission 1961-1978
- NTRS 54 Records relating to the Arnhem Land Progress Association 1974-1976
- NTRS 55 Records relating to the Northern Synod and Joint Planning Committee 1966-1983
- NTRS 56 Records relating to Aboriginal affairs 1959-1981
- NTRS 57 Records relating to land rights and land councils 1976-1980
- NTRS 58 Records relating to education and health 1970-1984
- NTRS 59 Records relating to mining 1970-1983
- NTRS 60 Records relating to religious organisations 1970-1982
- NTRS 61 Records relating to government organisations 1963-1983
- NTRS 62 Accounting and administrative records 1955-n.d.
- NTRS 63 List of records received by the Northern Territory Archives Service from Uniting Church, Northern Synod 1984-1984
- NTRS 781 General correspondence and administration records 1956-1986

### Obtaining access to Uniting Church records

Permission is required from the Uniting Church to access their archives which are less than 30 years old.

Once the records are wholly within the open period, i.e. completely over 30 years old, they are available for public access to researchers registered with the Northern Territory Archives Service.

It is common, however, for records controlled by the Uniting Church to span the open and closed periods and therefore if there is any doubt as to the date range of the items, permission must be sought prior to access.

To apply for permission the researcher needs to write to the address provided below, stating the purpose of their research, and including a listing of the series and items that they wish to access. Item listing for each series are available through the Northern Territory Archives Service.

**Uniting Church in Australia**

**Northern Synod Office**

**Rev John F. Rowland**

PO Box 38221

Winnellie NT 0821

Phone: (08)8982 3400

e-mail: [admin@ns.uca.org.au](mailto:admin@ns.uca.org.au)

Once authorisation has been granted the Uniting Church will contact the researcher and the Northern Territory Archives Service. The researcher should then contact Northern Territory Archives Service to arrange a time to visit the search room and view the records.

Please note that Uniting Church records can also be found at the State Reference Library of NSW (Mitchell Library), the National Library of Australia, and the National Film and Sound Archive.

## Further information

The Northern Territory Archives Service holds many other records relating to missions and churches. Please ask for our *Guide to Religious Archives* or visit the Northern Territory Archives Service website and search the List of Holdings: <http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/ntas/index.html>

Our collection of oral histories is also rich in recollections relating to the missions and all church denominations. This material can be identified in the search room of the Northern Territory Archives Service using ISYS search software.

For other sources of information visit the churches' websites. Also for detailed information about where records are held according to the location of a particular mission or home, see "Tracking Family, a guide to Aboriginal Records Relating to the Northern Territory published by the National Archives of Australia. This guide is available at the following web address: [http://www.naa.gov.au/naaresources/publications/research\\_guides/pdf/tracking\\_family.pdf](http://www.naa.gov.au/naaresources/publications/research_guides/pdf/tracking_family.pdf)

## Contacts

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Telephone (08) 8924 7677 Fax (08) 8924 7660	Telephone (08) 8951 5669 Fax (08) 8951 5232
Website address: <a href="http://www.nt.gov.au/ntas/">http://www.nt.gov.au/ntas/</a>	
E-mail: <a href="mailto:nt.archives@nt.gov.au">nt.archives@nt.gov.au</a>	