



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 3618
2. **NAME** *Mogumber Mission (fmr) and Cemetery* (1917-22;
1929; 1935-38; 1946; 1948; 1951-68)
FORMER NAMES Moore River Native Settlement (1917-1951)
Mogumber Methodist Mission (1951-1968)
3. **LOCATION** Mogumber Road West, Mogumber
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
Swan Location 3023, being Crown Reserve 17702 and being the whole of the land comprised in Crown Land Record Volume 3044 Folio 474; and Swan Location 11373, being part of Crown Reserve 16833 and being part of the land comprised in Crown Land Record Volume 3101 Folio 253.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Dandaragan
6. **OWNER** Aboriginal Lands Trust.
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
 - Register of Heritage Places: Interim Entry 09/01/1998
Permanent Entry 07/04/1998
 - National Trust Classification: -----
 - Town Planning Scheme: -----
 - Municipal Inventory: -----
 - Register of the National Estate: -----
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**
Mogumber Mission (fmr) and Cemetery, a site containing the remains of buildings, structures and camping places relating to the *Moore River Native Settlement* (1917-1951) and to the *Mogumber Methodist Mission* (1951-1967), and including a gazetted cemetery, is of cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place is probably the most important site in Western Australia representing the physical embodiment of government policies,

social attitudes and racist theories towards Aboriginal people throughout the twentieth century;

the place represents the effects of the *Aborigines Act* 1905 on Aboriginal people from all over Western Australia;

the place was one of the main government settlements in Western Australia of Aboriginal children from all parts of the state, who were removed from their families, relocated and detained against their will between 1917 and 1951;

the place is a benchmark site for teaching the history of Aboriginal culture in Western Australia from the time before European settlement to the present; it has potential to provide valuable insights into the development of the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in the region and the state and to contribute to the process of reconciliation;

the place is important to a large section of the Aboriginal community in Western Australia for cultural, religious, social and educational associations;

the cemetery is an important social and spiritual centre for the high percentage of Aboriginal families in Western Australia who have relatives buried there, and is one of the largest Aboriginal burial grounds in Australia;

the place is important for the ways in which traditional Aboriginal culture and language were influenced by the bringing together of people of diverse Aboriginal backgrounds from across the state;

the place is important for its association, from the 1950s, with the phase of history influenced by missions for Aboriginal people run by religious organisations;

the place is important for associations with a number of prominent members of the Aboriginal community including a number of elders and notable Aboriginal spokespersons;

the place has historic value for its associations with A. O.. Neville, Chief Protector of Aborigines from 1915 to 1940;

the place is important because its aesthetic qualities evoke memories of the history of generations of Aboriginal children who lived there from 1917 to the late 1960s; the visual beauty of the setting including remnants of the settlement and mission give the place a peaceful quality which belies its history; and

the place is important for its integration of the physical remnants of the settlement with its landscape setting - the components together creating a significant cultural landscape. The aesthetic value of the setting is characterised by a feeling of the overall dominance of natural features; of particular importance is the proximity of the place to the river which also has spiritual significance for Aboriginal people.

In 1996, a new house was constructed on the northern side of the entrance to the mission area. This is clearly separate from the mission buildings and is of little significance. Prior to this, however, a new toilet block was constructed on the site. In itself the building is of little significance, however it has been located within the settlement area in the approximate location of the former chapel and hospital and is consequently an intrusive element. Water tanks sited within the location of the former staff quarters are also considered intrusive to the significance of the place.