

# KOORI • MURRI • GOORI AND PALAWA STORYLINES

## REASSERTION 1945–1971

The momentum of the Koori protest movements is temporarily lost by the intervention of World War II.

Australian-Aboriginal Fellowship founded. First Federal Conference of Aboriginal Organisations held in Adelaide. 1958

Atomic bomb tests at Maralinga, SA. Many Yankatjatjara people are made ill and their country poisoned for generations. 1955–1963

Many Kooris live in poor conditions on missions. Obtaining good education is difficult, and Aboriginality is sometimes regarded as something to be forgotten as the pressures from non-Koori society increase. Hundreds apply for Exemption Certificates.

Legislation discriminating against Kooris is gradually repealed. Kooris come under Federal legislation and are counted in the Census; voting becomes compulsory. Kooris begin to enter tertiary education. Aboriginal artists, writers and sportspeople become better known. Most Kooris continue to suffer poor health, education and housing.

One in six Koori children in NSW are forcibly taken from their families by authorities [one in 300 white children]. Kooris re-establish their own organisations.

Remains of 'Lake Mungo Lady' uncovered. The Lake Mungo site provides evidence of the earliest cremations in human history. These remains are handed back to the local Koori community 22 years later. 1968

Lionel Rose from Drouin, Vic., holds World Bantamweight Boxing Title. 1968–69

Koori people hold a 'Day of Mourning' at Kurnell where Captain Cook came ashore. The Aboriginal Legal Service founded by Paul Coe and Hal Wootton\*. 1970

Commonwealth Electoral Act amended to give the vote to all Aboriginal people. States follow in 1962. 1961

Commonwealth referendum by record majority gives powers to Federal Government in Aboriginal affairs. Aboriginal people gain full citizen rights; this includes the right to vote and to be counted in the Census. 1967

Neville Bonner elected to the Senate in Federal Parliament as a Liberal MP representing Queensland. 1971

Muriel Stewart of La Perouse, Sydney, first Aboriginal JP. 1962

Charles Perkins and Margaret Valadian are first Aboriginal University graduates. 1966

'Freedom ride'. A busload of Sydney University students, led by fellow student and Arrente man Charles Perkins, travel through towns in northern NSW to protest against racist attitudes and apartheid practices. 1965

1960  
Pauline is born in Sydney.  
PAULINE McLEOD LIFE STORY

1957  
Linda Burney is born in Leeton, NSW. She lives with her great aunt and uncle, Nina and Billy Lang in Whitton.  
LINDA BURNEY LIFE STORY

1946–63  
Jimmy becomes handyman and wardsman at Brewarrina Hospital. *The years at the hospital settled into a routine. Usually I read at night and tried to learn about science, astronomy and other subjects of interest to me.*  
JIMMY BARKER LIFE STORY

1962  
Pauline is removed from her family. Lives in different institutions and with foster families.

1964  
Pauline comes to live with the family who are to bring her up. *I'd think, 'I've lost one family, I don't want to lose another' so I'd always do whatever they'd say.*

1968–72  
Janet Mathews\* asks Jimmy to record tapes of Muruwari language and culture. *I regret that so many of the Aboriginal languages have been lost. I feel that the people should know of our past beliefs.*

Text in italics from 'The Two Worlds of Jimmy Barker', by J. Barker, AIATSIS, 1977

1966  
Jimmy works in opal mining at Lightning Ridge. *I had always loved opals ... Those were wonderful years at the Ridge.*

1969  
Pauline realises for the first time that she is a Koori. *We'd moved to a different school and the kids asked us to eat witchetty grubs. Then it was obvious to me that I was Aboriginal.*

1970s  
Linda Burney attends Leeton High School and then Penrith High School.