

KOORI • MURRI • GOORI AND PALAWA STORYLINES

'WE ARE STRONG' 1971–1994

Positive changes enable Kooris to take part in managing their own countries. The concept of some kind of land rights, the acknowledgement of Aboriginal art, music, dance and sporting achievements, and the celebration of Aboriginality has cast away the shadow of ethnocide from south-eastern Australia.

Kevin Gilbert publishes his influential work *Because a white man'll never do it*. 1973

Aboriginal Tent Embassy. A tent in front of Parliament House in Canberra is forcibly removed by police. It is re-established on the same site 20 years later. 1972

Harold Thomas designs Aboriginal flag, first flown in Adelaide. Evonne Goolagong wins Wimbledon. Aboriginal Medical Service founded by Gordon Briscoe, Fred Hollows* and others. 1971

1972
Jimmy dies in Brewarrina and is buried on the mission.

1979–81
Burney is a teacher at Lethbridge Park and Mt Druitt public schools in Sydney's western suburbs.

1978
Burney is the first Aboriginal graduate from Mitchell College of Advanced Education (now Charles Sturt University, Bathurst), with a Diploma of Education.

For my spirit and culture to be as one
I must go back to where it all begun.
The child of one must be taken in hand
And shown through her ancestral land,
Where the old people will heal her heart
As her culture she becomes a part.
— from 'Never More' by Pauline McLeod
(in 'The Lost Children', C. Edwards and
P. Read (eds), 1989)

Truganinni's remains cremated and her ashes scattered at sea. 1976

PAULINE McLEOD LIFE STORY 1975

Pauline's adoptive parents won't allow her to continue her schooling.

1980s
Pauline works as an Aboriginal District Officer. *I found I was fighting for my own identity, to be accepted by Aboriginal people.*

1983
Pauline completes an Associate Diploma of Welfare Studies. *I studied up about my Aboriginality ... the whole history of Aboriginal culture ...*

1985
Pauline's government file reveals she was taken away because her family had 'no fixed place of abode'; she had been told that her family neglected and abused her.

1986
Pauline contacts Link Up to find her family. Her father has died. She is reunited with her mother, brother and sister. *They accepted me for what I was ... I didn't have to fight for love. I was home.*

1981–83
Burney joins the first Aboriginal Education Unit at the NSW Department of Education. She is a major contributor to the Department's first Aboriginal Education Policy to involve Aboriginal communities in education, improve Aboriginal students' self-esteem and teach all students about Aboriginal cultures.

1980s
Burney is a central figure in the Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Inc. (AECG), a key Aboriginal community organisation that provides advice on education and training to governments, schools and other groups.

Aboriginal peoples are respected figures in law, culture, education, the arts. Many non-Aborigines wish to learn about Aboriginal law, culture, land management and relationship with the country.

Kooris take action to control cultural relics and the return of the remains of Aboriginal people taken to overseas museums. Many of the 'stolen generations' come home.

Coral Edwards and Peter Read* found Link Up to reunite removed Koori children and families. Bill Jonas first Aboriginal PhD. 1980

Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NSW). Land Councils can claim existing reserves and buy land. 1983

Uluru handed back to traditional owners of this sacred place. 1985

Pat O'Shane becomes the first Aboriginal magistrate in NSW. 1986

Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. 1987–1991

1984
Burney's son Binni is born. Burney meets her Wiradjuri father, Lawrence 'Noddy' Ingram, and her 10 brothers and sisters in Sydney for the first time.

1985
Burney's daughter Willurei is born.

1988–98
Burney begins 10 years as President of the NSW AECG, who work with the Board of Studies NSW to develop Aboriginal Studies and Aboriginal perspectives in NSW school curricula, and promote teacher training.

Aboriginal Australians have achieved increased social and economic status and political recognition over many years, but there are still problems including the loss of language, violence and racism which makes the lives of many Kooris more difficult than for many non-Aboriginal Australians.

Joy Williams, a Wiradjuri woman, begins legal action against NSW Government concerning her forced removal as a child from her family and culture.

Torres Strait Regional Authority established to develop and deliver programs for Torres Strait people, maintain *ailan kustom* and advise Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister. 1994

'Native Title' legislation passed in Federal Parliament. 1993

The High Court decision in the 'Mabo case' rejects the concept of *terra nullius* and recognises native title. 1992

The Koori Mail, a fortnightly national paper owned and operated by Aboriginal people, is launched. 1991

Invasion Day, 26 January. Thousands of Aboriginal people march to remember the invasion of their countries. This protest is supported by many non-Aboriginal people. 1988

1992–98
Burney appointed to the Anti-Discrimination Board, which educates service providers, the community and public about the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977* (NSW).

1994
Burney is Chair of NSW Reconciliation Committee. They organise travelling roadshows across NSW to discuss reconciliation, run education programs and to ensure community participation in conventions such as 'Talkin' Up Reconciliation' (1999) and 'Yarn Up' (2000). She is also on the National Social Justice Task Force (ATSIC) and the Board of SBS (Australia's multicultural broadcaster) until 1998.