

KOORI • MURRI • GOORI AND PALAWA STORYLINES

SEPARATION 1914–1945

State governments harden attitudes towards Aboriginal families by forcibly removing more children, especially those of European appearance.

The Government's policy of breaking up communities and families is at its height. This includes attempts to clear Kooris away from towns.

Protest actions by many Aboriginal communities. Organisations are founded with all-Koori membership.

Parliamentary Inquiry into the massacre at Forrest River in the Kimberleys, WA. 1926

Fred Maynard founds 'Australian Aborigines Progressive Association' (AAPA). 1924

Amendment to 'Aborigines Protection Act' in NSW enacts forcible removal of Koori children. 1915

Reserves are taken away (revoked) when governments resume land for 'soldier settlers' and others; many Koori protesters had lost land in the decade before 1925. The Depression drives many people back to the remaining reserves.

A newspaper *Abo Call* is begun, a petition is sent to King George V, and a protest is organised by Kooris against the sesquicentenary (150 years since the British invasion of 1788).

Many Aboriginal people serve in the defence forces. They are not granted war pensions because they are denied citizenship.

Aboriginal Australia is affected by the Australian governments' 'assimilation policy' developed by the Native Welfare Conference of federal and state ministers. 1937

26 January, Day of Mourning. Hundreds of Kooris protest. Petition sent to Prime Minister demanding Aboriginal equality. 1938

Exemption Certificates, known to Kooris as 'dog tags', are brought in by most states. This means that Aboriginal people could apply to be exempted from the laws that controlled and excluded them from basic citizen rights. Those Kooris who are granted 'tags' have to cut themselves off from their communities. Many apply but few are granted. This system continues until the 1960s. 1940s

A petition is sent by the 'Australian Aborigines League' to King George V asking for better conditions for Aboriginal peoples and Aboriginal representation in parliament. The petition is never passed on to the King. 1936

Coniston Massacre. In this last 'documented massacre', approximately 60 Warlpiri people are killed in the area of the Coniston River, 200 kms northwest of Alice Springs, by police and civilians. 1928

'Australian Aborigines Progressive Association' calls for new laws in relation to Aboriginal land ownership and education. 1930

1919
Jimmy returns to Brewarrina Mission to see his family for the first time in four years.

1915
Jimmy's brother is killed at Gallipoli. He is sent to work on a property at Bogan Gate.

JIMMY BARKER LIFE STORY

1921
Death of Jimmy's mother. He decides to remain on the mission.
It was not possible for an Aboriginal to have any ambition or to make much progress in the world. My wish was for a little security and freedom from trouble with white people.

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

1922
Jimmy becomes the mission handyman and remains there for nearly 20 years.

1924
Jimmy marries Evelyn Wighton.

1930s
Jimmy and Evelyn live a quiet life on the mission. Four sons are born. Sometimes mission residents hold a corroboree – *nothing like those in the old days but we enjoyed them ... Sometimes we cooked emu in the traditional way ...*

1933
Jimmy builds himself a house on the mission. He is responsible for installing the electricity plant for the mission.

1941
Evelyn dies leaving Jimmy with six children, the eldest a boy of sixteen, the youngest a baby of six weeks.

1942
Another unsatisfactory and violent manager is appointed to the mission. *During the twenty-one years I was at the mission there was only one good and constructive manager.*