

KOORI • MURRI • GOORI AND PALAWA STORYLINES

CHALLENGES CONTINUE ...

1995–2000

Support for Reconciliation grows as Australians try to understand the past and build a better future together. The election of Pauline Hanson* and John Howard* in 1996 sees the beginning of the 'History Wars'. The optimism following the Mabo and Wik decisions is tempered by limits placed on Native Title claims.

Site of 1972 Aboriginal Tent Embassy, Canberra, listed on the National Estate.

Inaugural Deadly Awards celebrate national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander music, sport, entertainment and community achievements.

Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal flags are recognised and proclaimed.

Hindmarsh Island (Kumarangk) Royal Commission finds that Ngarrindjeri women's opposition to a new bridge due to 'secret women's business' is fabricated. (Overruled by Federal Court, 2001.)
1995

Emily Kame Kngwarreye dies at a time when she was one of Australia's most celebrated and sought-after painters. Of the Anmatyerre Nation, she worked in a remote corner of the Simpson Desert. By the mid-1990s, large collections of her paintings were in public galleries all over the world.

Wik Decision of the Federal Court recognises that co-existence on pastoral lands does not necessarily extinguish Native Title.

NSW NPWS Act Amendment (Aboriginal Ownership) allows co-management and leaseback arrangements with Aboriginal owners.
1996

LINDA BURNEY LIFE STORY

1995
Burney is appointed to the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation (CAR), which promoted 'grassroots' reconciliation. CAR also advised the Federal government on formal recommendations for legislative and social justice reform and a treaty.

Burney is an Aboriginal education representative at the United Nations meetings on Working Group on Indigenous Populations (WGIP), Geneva, and again in 1998.
1997

PAULINE McLEOD LIFE STORY

1996–2000
Pauline McLeod is a regular cultural educator/storyteller/performer at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney, and a poet/storyteller at reconciliation forums and schools throughout Sydney.

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) report, *Bringing Them Home: The Stolen Generations* is released.

State Parliaments (except Queensland and NT) and the ACT Assembly apologise for the removal of Indigenous children.

Australian Reconciliation Convention in Melbourne. Howard government's '10-point Plan' limits Native Title claims.

The Dughutti people at Crescent Head NSW win first consent determination of native title.

Mandatory sentencing is introduced in NT and WA. This removes judges' discretion in sentencing and increases imprisonment rates for Aboriginal people.
1997

Burney is appointed to the Australian Reconciliation Convention in Melbourne, a national forum to discuss Reconciliation, attended by over 2000 delegates from around Australia. People turned their backs to PM John Howard at this event in protest at his refusal to apologise to the Stolen Generations.
1998

Governments report that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's housing, health and economic status remain well below those of other Australians, despite numerous policies and programs. Debates continue on welfare dependency, genuine 'on-the-ground' improvements, and achieving self-determination.

Mum Shirl (Shirley Smith) dies. A Wiradjuri woman from Cowra, she was a founding member of the Aboriginal Legal Service, Aboriginal Medical Service, Aboriginal Tent Embassy, the Aboriginal Children's Service, and the Aboriginal Housing Company in Redfern, Sydney.

Sorry Day activities are commemorated in schools, councils and other organisations around Australia.

Mutawintji National Park 'handback' recognises Aboriginal ownership after a long struggle. Aboriginal people now run all park tours.
1998

Burney, who is central to organising the National Indigenous Constitutional Convention (ATSIC), claims that Reconciliation links the capacity to move forward with social justice.
2000

1998
Pauline McLeod helps organise *A Night of Reconciliation for the Peninsula*, a forum at which she is a teller of Dreaming stories.

'People's Walk for Reconciliation' across the Sydney Harbour Bridge by some 300 000 Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in support of Reconciliation. Similar walks held in other capital cities.

Indigenous opening ceremonies at Sydney Olympics broadcast worldwide, featuring over 1000 performers from around Australia. Cathy Freeman lights Olympic Flame and goes on to win gold medal in 400 m track event.
2000

A proposed Preamble to the Constitution recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as first peoples of Australia.

Australian Government criticised by UN Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) for its treatment of Aboriginal people.
1999

Burney plays a leading role as organiser of the massive 'People's Walk for Reconciliation' across the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Corroboree 2000 events.

She is appointed Director-General of Aboriginal Affairs NSW.