The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE6412

Mabo, Bonita

(1943 - 2018)

Born	19430101, Ingham Queensland Australia
Died	20181126, Brisbane Queensland Australia
Occupation	Aboriginal rights activist, Human rights activist

Summary

Bonita Mabo was a prominent Indigenous and South Sea Islander activist. She was the wife of land rights campaigner Eddie Mabo.

Details

Bonita Neehow married Eddie Mabo in 1959 and together they had ten children. In 1973 she set up Australia's first Aboriginal community school in Townsville and there she worked as a teacher's aide.

In 2013 Bonita was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia 'for distinguished service to the Indigenous community and to human rights as an advocate for the Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Islander peoples.'

Bonita Mabo passed away just days after she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from James Cook University for her contribution to social justice and human rights, particularly for Indigenous Australians and South Sea Islanders.

Events

2013 - 2013
Officer of the Order of Australia (AO)

Published resources

Article
Bonita Mabo, prominent Indigenous rights activist, dies days after receiving accolade, Higgins, Isabella, 2018, https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-26/bonita-mabo-dies-days-after-human-rights-accolade/10555496

Aunty Bonita Mabo, wife of Eddie 'Koiki' Mabo: My reflections on the Mabo Decision 20 years on, Georgatos, Gerry, 2012, http://indymedia.org.au/2012/06/03/aunty-bonita-mabo-wife-of-eddie-%E2%2580%2598koiki%E2%2580%2599-mabo-my-reflect

Indigenous land rights activist Bonita Mabo dies, Noyes, Jenny, 2018, https://www.smh.com.au/national/indigenous-land-rights-activist-bonita-mabo-dies-20181126-p50ifu.html

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Oral History and Folklore Collection
Bonita Mabo interviewed by Doreen Mellor [sound recording]

National Library of Australia
[Biographical cuttings on Bonita Mabo, wife of former Eddie Mabo, political pariah, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals]

Author Details
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