

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0977

Clayton, Iris

(1945 - 2009)

Born	19450215, Leeton New South Wales Australia
Died	20090705, Bega New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Author, Community worker, Health worker, Public servant, Researcher

Summary

Iris Clayton was taken to the Cootamundra Domestic Training Home for Aboriginal Girls in the 1950s, and from there sent to work as a servant in Canberra. At the age of 18 she was allowed to return home where she married. She returned to Canberra in 1977 to work at AIATSIS, first as a library assistant and later on the switchboard, where she stayed for a number of years. She was awarded a grant to research the Wiradjuri births, deaths and marriages, and her findings have been deposited at AIATSIS.

From 1991, Clayton worked as a health worker at the Winnanga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service in Canberra. She was involved in community issues and served as a council member of the ACT Cultural Council. She influenced a generation of Canberra school children by becoming a regular visitor to ACT schools, sharing her stories and explaining her culture.

Iris Clayton died on 5 July 2009 at Bega, New South Wales, after more than a decade of recurrent health problems.

Published resources

Edited Book

The Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia : Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, society and culture, Horton, David, 1994

Book

Wiradjuri of the rivers and plains, Clayton, Iris and Barlow, Alex, 1997

Newspaper Article

Problems with Aboriginal Genealogical Research, Clayton, Iris, 1989

Journal Article

Wiradjuri Identity, Clayton, Iris, 1988

Obituary: Iris Rose Clayton (1945 - 2009), Scarlett, Philippa, 2009

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

AIATSIS Film Collection

[Iris Clayton looks at Institute collections, and opening of community centre in Dubbo](#)

AIATSIS Pictorial Collection

[Portrait of Iris Clayton and other staff at the Australian National University](#)

AIATSIS Manuscript and Rare Books Collection

[\[Poems\]](#)

[\[Warengesda births, deaths and marriages\]](#)

AIATSIS Sound Collection

[Wiradjuri words](#)

[Family history](#)

[Interviews with Iris Clayton](#)

Author Details

Leonarda Kovacic and Nikki Henningham

Created 28 May 2004

Last modified 28 March 2014