Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE1002

Simon, Ella

(1902 - 1981)

Born	19020101, Taree New South Wales Australia
Died	19810213, New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Community worker

Summary

Ella Simon went to school on Purfleet Aboriginal reserve, New South Wales, until the age of twelve. She then worked in Gloucester and Sydney, but returned to Purfleet in 1932 to nurse her sick grandmother, Kundaibark. She married Joe Simon in the mid-1930s, and they travelled around New South Wales, helping Aboriginal people. In 1957 Ella was granted her 'certificate of exemption' from the restrictions imposed by the Aborigines Welfare Board. In 1960 she formed a branch of the Country Women's Association on Purfleet reserve and became its president. She opened the Gillawarra gift shop selling Aboriginal artefacts. She improved the living conditions on Purfleet, by supplying new stoves and introducing electricity. She continued caring for Aboriginal children and the sick. In 1962 she was named Lady of Distinction by Quota and appointed a justice of the peace. She dictated her life story for the book *Through My Eyes* during 1976-78.

Published resources

Book
Through my eyes, Simon, Ella, 1902-1981, 1978

Aboriginal perspectives : resources for English, history, general studies, social sciences, women of the sun., [1987].

Custodians of the soil : a history of aboriginal-European relationships in the Manning Valley of New South Wales, Ramsland, John, 1942-, 2001

Stories of herself when young : autobiographies of childhood by Australian women, Hooton, Joy W. (Joy Wendy), 1935-, 1990

The Complete Book of Great Australian Women: Thirty-six women who changed the course of Australia, De Vries, Susanna, 2003

Journal Article
The dream of a shared society : on the borderlines, Mead, Jenna, 1987

Newspaper Article
Something that was shameful : two Aboriginal identities in a whole culture, Brady, Veronica, 1926-, 1987

Edited Book
200 Australian Women: A Redress Anthology, Radi, Heather, 1988,
https://webarchive.nla.gov.au/awa/20071105022623/http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/78644/20071105-1315/www.200australianwo

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

AIATSIS Pictorial Collection
Sports and community portraits from the north coast of New South Wales - Photographs reproduced in New Dawn Magazine

AIATSIS Books and Printed Material Collection
The Aussie image : the language of the image makers

Author Details
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Created 10 June 2004
Last modified 12 February 2019