

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE1167

Mack, Maggy Pinkie

(1867 - 1954)

Born 1 January, 1867, Lower Murray River South Australia Australia

Died 21 February, 1954, Eastwood South Australia Australia

Occupation Aboriginal storyteller, Linguist

Summary

Maggy Pinkie Mack (Katipelvild), of Ngarrindjeri descent, was born on the lower Murray River in South Australia, probably around 1867. At the age of 16, she was given in marriage to an up-river man, John Mack (Telwara). She took part in ceremonies and learnt new songs and stories. After he died, she went back to her own country, and her second husband.

Pinkie Mack was a song-woman, and she recorded some of her songs on an Edison wax cylinder. She was nostalgic about the past and her people. After the death of Albert Karloan, she was the only remaining fluent Yaraldi speaker.

In later years, Mack lived in a small cottage near the river and not far from Taillem Bend, where she sometimes sold freshly caught fish to a local shop. Children, grandchildren and various relatives called in to see her on the way to other places.

Published resources

Edited Book

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

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Author Details

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