

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person

Entry ID: AWE1179

Naylon, Maudie Akawiljika

(1887 - 1980)

Born 18870101, Marrapardi, Simpson Desert South Australia Australia

Died 19801231, Birdsville Queensland Australia

Occupation Traditional Aboriginal custodian

Summary

Maudie Naylon was the last fluent speaker of the Ngamini and Yarluyandi languages.

Details

Maudie Naylon Akawiljika, of Wangkangurru and Arrernte descent, was born in the Simpson Desert in c1885 [plaque at Birdsville cemetery states her year of birth to be 1887]. Despite her exceptional traditional knowledge and the fact that among Wangkangurru and related groups women shared in practically all ceremonies, anthropologists never asked her for information – only men were asked to sing or relate traditional matters.

Although her main language was Wangkangurru, she also had a command of Yarluyandi, Lanima, Ngamini and Jauraworka. With her death in Birdsville in 1980, Ngamini became extinct and Yarluyandi lost its last fluent speaker.

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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