Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE1191

Schrieber, Lorna

(1923 - 1993)

Born	19230420, Yarrabah Mission Queensland Australia
Died	19930903, Cairns? Queensland Australia
Occupation	Aboriginal storyteller, Traditional Aboriginal custodian, Welfare worker

Summary

Lorna Schrieber (Balurr Wuppi), a descendant of the Gungganyji group of Yidinjdji people, was brought up in the girls dormitory between the ages of ten and sixteen, until 1942, when Yarrabah parents successfully appealed to the bishop of north Queensland to allow their children to live at home.

Lorna married Steven Schrieber, who became Yarrabah overseer while she worked in the welfare clinic. They moved to Cairns to give their children better schooling opportunities. They were given a large government house and fostered Aboriginal children from the outback who could then attend school.

In 1977, at the insistence of her people, Lorna was anointed Queen of Yarrabah a descendant of the Gungganyji group of Yidinjdji people by the bishop of north Queensland. She was one of the last Gungganyji speakers and custodians, and helped record traditional songs and stories. She paid regular visits to Yarrabah, encouraging children to speak the language and preserve the knowledge of their ancestors.

Published resources

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

Report
Transcripts of interviews with a group of people associated with Yarrabah, Nth. Qld. in mission days, Thomson, Judy, 1988

Sound recording
Oral History Interviews, Qld, Colless, Rose

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

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