Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE1255

Buchanan, Cheryl

(1955 -)

Born	19550101, Cunnamulla Queensland Australia
Occupation	Aboriginal rights activist, Publisher, Writer

Summary

Cheryl Buchanan studied at the University of Hawaii as a scholarship-holder. Upon her return to Australia she became involved in the Brisbane Tribal Council, and attended the University of Queensland.

During 1974 Buchanan worked as the race relations field director for the Australian Union of Students and spent several months visiting communities in the Northern Territory and Western Australia, encouraging their struggle for land rights. In 1975 she moved to Melbourne, Victoria, where she became director of the Black Resources Centre (BRC). The Centre later moved to Brisbane, and Cheryl became one of the principal campaigners for the acquittal of ‘The Brisbane Three’, two Aboriginal men and a Chilean charged with conspiracy over an alleged extortion attempt. The three were acquitted due partly to the support of BRC periodical *Black Liberation* from 1975 to 1977. Buchanan was one of the main contributors to this publication, writing articles on a range of issues including history, politics, education, land rights, prisons and welfare.

In 1980 she published *Kargun*, the first of a series of poetry volumes by Lionel Fogarty. This publication led to the development of Murrie Coo-ee, an Aboriginal publishing firm at Coominya which continues to operate under Buchanan’s directorship.

Published resources

Report
Responding to custody levels: a greater community response to addressing the underlying causes, Buchanan, Cheryl, 1994

Journal Article
Communication (oral tradition, telepathy, and sign language), Buchanan, Cheryl, 1977

Booklet
The true history of Australia, Buchanan, Cheryl, 1975

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

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