

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person

Entry ID: AWE0959

Parker, Catherine (Katie) Langloh

(1856 - 1940)

Born 1 May, 1856, Lullyl', Encounter Bay South Australia Australia

Died 27 March, 1940, Adelaide South Australia Australia

Occupation Author

Summary

Katie Langloh Parker grew up on her father's property, Marra Station, northern New South Wales. Married at the age of 18, she led an exciting social life in Australian colonial capitals until 1875, when she moved to her husband's property, Bangate Station, near Angledool, New South Wales. There, she started collecting stories and vocabularies from the local branch of Yularoi people, which she subsequently published in several collections between 1896 and 1930. In 1905, she published her only purely ethnographic work *The Euahlayi Tribe*, an account of her life at Bangate. Her second marriage to Percy Randolph Stow marked the end of her outback life.

Details

It is believed that Parker's appreciation of Aboriginal culture partly had its roots in an event of her childhood, when she was saved from drowning in a river by an Aboriginal girl at the age of six.

Parker's collections of Yularoi stories, *Australian Legendary Tales* (1896) and *More Australian Legendary Tales* (1898), were re-published in 1897, 1953, 1955, 1959, 1967 and 1978, respectively. The collections were illustrated by Elizabeth Durack, Nora Heysen and Marion Hart. Parker herself made sketches of Aboriginal children, which were published in 1901. She also wrote *Walkabouts of Wur-run-nah* (1918) and *Woggheeguy: Australian Aboriginal Legends* (1930).

Although Parker's work remains problematic in terms of Aboriginal research ethics (old Yularoi people did not welcome her making public the information that was to remain confidential), her collections are an invaluable source of information on Yularoi culture.

Published resources

Thesis

Cataloguing culture : in search of the origins of written records, material culture and oral histories of the Gamaroi, northern New South Wales, Kovacic, Leonarda, 2001

Journal Article

Representative Women, Cornstalk, Ann, 1912

Caring for Country: Yuwalaraay Women and Attachments to Land on an Australian Colonial Frontier, Evans, J., Grimshaw, P. and Standish, A., 2003

Book

My bush book : K. Langloh Parker's 1890s story of outback station life / with background and biography by Marcie Muir, Parker, K. Langloh (Katie Langloh), 1856-1940., 1982

Edited Book

200 Australian Women: A Redress Anthology, Radi, Heather, 1988

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Site Exhibition

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders>

Author Details

Leonarda Kovacic

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