

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE1255

## Buchanan, Cheryl

(1955 - )

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**Nationality** Australian

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**Born** 1 January, 1955, Cunnamulla Queensland Australia

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**Occupation** Aboriginal rights activist, Publisher, Writer

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### 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

### Author Details

Leonarda Kovacic and Barbara Lemon

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