

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: IMP0093

Tucker, Margaret Elizabeth

(1904 - 1996)

Born 1 January, 1904, Warrangesda Mission New South Wales Australia

Died 31 December, 1996

Occupation Author, Campaigner, Community worker

Summary

Margaret Tucker was co-founder of the Australian Aborigines League and was the first Aboriginal woman appointed to the Aborigines Welfare Board.

Details

Margaret (Lilardia) Elizabeth Tucker was born on Warrangesda Mission and spent her early childhood on the Cummeragunja and Moonaculla Missions in New South Wales. Her father, William Clements, was Wiradjuri and her mother Teresa (Yarmuk) Clements, née Middleton, was Yulupna. At the age of thirteen, Tucker and her sister May were separated from their mother against her wishes and taken to the Cootamundra Girls' Home. Tucker has written of her harrowing experiences under the care and training of the Aborigines Protection Board and in domestic service for white families in Sydney in her 1977 autobiography, *If everyone cared*.

By the 1930s, Tucker had begun to campaign for Aboriginal rights alongside other legendary Koori campaigners including William Cooper, Bill and Eric Onus, and Doug Nicholls. In 1932, she was co-founder of the Australian Aborigines League and on 26 January 1938 was one of the Victorian representatives observing the first national Day of Mourning. She was also instrumental in founding the United Council of Aboriginal and Islander Women in the 1960s. Tucker was the first Aboriginal woman appointed to the Aborigines Welfare Board (Victoria), 1964, and the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, 1968.

She was appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire (Civil) on 1 January 1968 for services to the Aboriginal community.

Events

2001 - 2001

Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

Published resources

Book

If everyone cared : autobiography of Margaret Tucker., Margaret Tucker, 1977

If everyone cared : autobiography of Margaret Tucker M.B.E., Margaret Tucker, 1983

Another time/place [sound recording], Public Broadcasting Association of Australia

Talkin' up to the white woman : Aboriginal women and feminism, Moreton-Robinson, Aileen, 2000

Lousy little sixpence [videorecording], Alec Morgan, Gerald Bostock, c1984

Some Aboriginal women pathfinders : their difficulties and their achievements, Beeson, Margaret J (compiled by), [1980]

Stories of herself when young : autobiographies of childhood by Australian women, Hooton, Joy W. (Joy Wendy), 1935-, 1990

Videorecording

Sister, if you only knew, Isaac, Janet (Director) and Baker, Suzanne (Producer), 1975,
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/work/19007567>

Resource Section

Aunty Marge Tucker,
<http://www.kooriweb.org/bbm/aal/p10.html>

Edited Book

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

Newspaper Article

Honours for Aborigines, 1972

Details of pioneers in Aboriginal movement., Horner, Jack, 1972

Aboriginal Writers in Australia, Beston, John B., 1976

National Aborigines Day, 1981

Aborigines Advancement League, Jackomos, Alick, 1978

Princess Lillardia as Guest of Queen Salote of Tonga., Cust, Sylvia, 1963

As I Saw the World Abroad, Tucker, Margaret, 1958

Historic meeting of two great peoples : Aboriginal King honours Canadian Indian Party, 1960

Original protester had a role in many groups, 1996

Journal Article

Marge Tucker, MBE, Jackomos, Alick, 1979

Character Above Colour: Fast Track to Assimilation? Margaret Tucker M.B.E. and the Politics of Assimilation, Hennessy, Gail

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Site Exhibition

Faith, Hope and Charity Australian Women and Imperial Honours: 1901-1989, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2003,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/honours/honours.html>

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection

If everyone cared [197-] [manuscript]

National Library of Australia

[Biographical cuttings on Margaret Tucker, awarded M.B.E. for services to Aboriginal welfare in 1968, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals]

AIATSIS Books and Printed Material Collection

The Aussie image : the language of the image makers

Author Details

Clare Land

Created 3 September 2002

Last modified 12 September 2017