

GLENDAS FAMILY STORY

GLENDAS MOTHER LETTY (PINKIE - KARPANY) NICHOLLS

Letty and her family were the first family to live at Wamba (NSW side of the Murray River) near Swan Hill:

"I must have been about three years old when we sneaked away from our home in Bordertown, South Australia. We lived in a hut my grandfather built out of kerosene tins. He used to go shearing and we would be left with Granny - mum and dad were away, travelling with the boxing troupes.

"The State nurses wanted to take us and put us in Homes because we were half-caste kids...so, in the early hours of the morning, my grandfather and grandmother sneaked us away in a horse and cart. There was my sister and myself and Auntie and her children - Micky, Bob, Gilbert, Lorraine and the one who died later at Dimboola. We left everything behind**."

**Excerpt from Letty Nicholls (They had to hide us) - Living Aboriginal History of Victoria, stories in the oral tradition Alick Jacomos/Derek Fowler-first published 1991.

GLENDAS FRIEND

MARGARET TUCKER

"The children were all standing. My sister May and another little girl, an orphan, started to cry. I was puzzled to know what they were crying for, until Mr Hill told all the children to leave the school, except for myself and May and Myrtle, who was the same age as May (11).

Myrtle was an orphan. She was very fair-skinned and pretty.

"All the children who had been dismissed must have run home and told their parents what was happening at school. When I looked out that schoolroom door, every Moonahculla Aboriginal mother, some with babies in arms - and a sprinkling of elderly men were standing in groups. Then I started to cry. There were 40 or 50 of our people standing silently grieving for us. They knew something treacherous was going on, something to break our way of life...

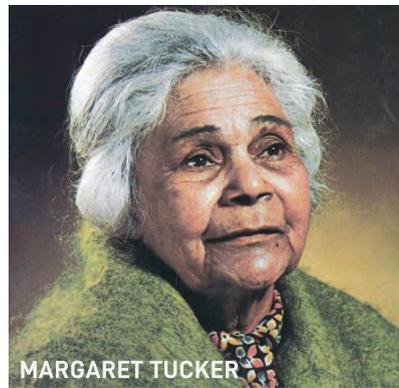
"Then we were taken to the police station. Mother followed him, thinking she could beg once more for us. My last memory of her for many years was her waving pathetically, as we waved back and called out goodbye to her, but we were too far away for her to hear us.

"I often wonder how many black children were taken like that?***"

***Aunt Marj wrote about her story in a book called If Everyone Cared, in 1967 and spoke about her life on a video titled "Lousy Little Sixpence"



LETTY PINKIE/KARPANY NICHOLLS (FIRST FROM LEFT)



MARGARET TUCKER



PASTOR SIR DOUGLAS NICHOLLS

GLENDAS GRANDFATHER

SIR PASTOR DOUGLAS NICHOLLS

"In 1915 I was eight years old when the police came and took my sister Hilda away from us.

She was taken 300 kilometres away to the Cootamundra Training Home for Girls. On that day, six girls were taken from their families.

I ran and hid under the schoolhouse floor. My mother cried.***"

***Excerpt from Pastor Doug, by Mavis Thorpe Clark published 1965

RECONCILIATION IS AN ONGOING JOURNEY

It reminds us that while generations of Australians have fought hard for meaningful change, future gains are likely to take just as much, if not more, effort.

Our vision of reconciliation is based and measured on five dimensions: historical acceptance; race relations; equality and equity; institutional integrity and unity.