

DOREEN MAUDE KARTINYERI

DOREEN MAUDE KARTINYERI is a Ngarrindjeri woman from the Coorong. A Ngarrindjeri mimini. She was born at Raukkan, commonly known as Point McLeay Mission on Lake Alexandrina in 1935 to Oscar and Thelma Kartinyeri. Like so many other Aboriginal girls of that time she was educated to grade three primary at the Mission School and later put out to domestic service at the age of 13 years.

Doreen did not see the discontinuation of her formal western education as being a disadvantage. It gave her more time to spend with her elders who from her earliest memories had been teaching her the stories, lores, legends and traditions of the clan. Now she too is a Ngarrindjeri elder, highly respected and sought out by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal scholars alike for her wisdom and opinions, and to validate their own work.

Despite her lack of appropriate formal qualifications, but well grounded in her Ngarrindjeri traditions, she commenced her academic career in the Geography Department of the University of Adelaide in 1979. She has been employed by the South Australian Museum for the past seven years heading up its Aboriginal History section which she set up.

Doreen is an authority on South Australian Aboriginal genealogy. To date she has published four books relating to families from Point McLeay on the Coorong and Point Pearce on the Yorke Peninsula. She has another five ready for print and 46 more in the pipeline. She has also published on historical matters.

There is another side of Aunty Dodo as she is affectionately and respectfully referred to by those who are privileged to share a part of her life. She is a mother of seven, grandmother of twenty seven, and foster mother of twenty three Aboriginal people whom she refused to allow to be institutionalised as children, and of course she is Aunty Dodo to her large extended family of biological, affinal and classificatory kin.

We have here in our midst a woman who is a true humanitarian, scholar, Aboriginal elder, aunt and super mum. She is an excellent role model for all Australians and especially women, having so artfully eluded the proverbial "glass ceiling".

Mr Chancellor, I now present Doreen Maude Kartinyeri for the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University.

by: Dr Mary Ann Bin-Sallik.