Part 4
BIOGRAPHIES

JOSEPH BANCROFT[1]

Joseph Bancroft was born on 21st February, 1836 in Manchester, England. He began his medical education with a five year apprenticeship, and then studied at the Manchester Royal School of Medicine and Surgery, winning many prizes. Due to his poor health while residing in England, Joseph decided to settle in Queensland, Australia.

Joseph arrived in Brisbane, Queensland on 29th October, 1864. On arrival, near Enoggera Creek he built a house which he called Kelvin Grove.

He was keenly interested in natural history, and on the voyage to Queensland he dissected flying fish, caught albatrosses, and collected plants and marine animals during their visits to St Vincent and St Helena.

Joseph commenced his practice in Eagle Street, Brisbane and later from Wickham Terrace. He later built a house on the corner of Ann and Wharf Streets in Brisbane, from where he practiced until his death.

He showed a keen interest not only in the medical problems besetting the young colony but also in those affecting livestock and agriculture.

Joseph was the first to recognise leprosy in the colony, and sought to find remedies for typhoid which was prevalent at that time. His investigation into cases of hydrocele and lymphatic abscess, then common in Brisbane, Queensland led to the discovery of a worm which caused filariasis. He was one of the first to acknowledge that mosquitoes transmitted the disease.

Dr. Joseph Bancroft
John Oxley Library
State Library of Queensland
No. 92812

He also experimented with wheats, grapes and rice, endeavouring to find suitable varieties for the Queensland climate, and he prepared reports on diseases that affected sugar cane and bananas.

Joseph participated in many public activities of a medical or scientific nature. In 1888, he reluctantly joined the royal commission into the rabbit problems, and investigated a number of suggested remedies to treat the rabbit plague.

He developed a process of drying and canning beef for export, and erected a workshop at his property at Deception Bay, Queensland. The product was a palatable fine powder known as 'pemmican' - but the venture was not commercially successful.

He published in all, thirty-eight scientific papers between 1866 and 1894.

Joseph Bancroft passed away on 16th June, 1894 at Ann Street, Brisbane.

1.This short history is based principally on an article by M. Josephine Mackerras published in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol. 3, 84- 85.

MAUDE 'LORES' BONNEY

Maude Rose Bonney (née Rubens) was born in Pretoria, South Africa, in 1897. She never liked her given names, and she adopted 'Lores' as her preferred name later in life.

In 1906, after a short sojourn in England, her family moved to Australia and attended a school in Melbourne. As a youngster she loved the piano and was rebellious. In an attempt to address her rebelliousness her parents sent her to a 'spit and polish' finishing school in Germany.[2] She returned home fluent in French and German and an accomplished pianist.

In 1917, while working for the Red Cross she married Harry Barrington Bonney, a wealthy leather goods manufacturer and she moved to his home in Brisbane, Queensland. Bert Hinkler was a cousin of Harry Bonney, and took Lores for her first flight in 1928.

Concerned that her husband would not approve, Lores learnt to fly in secret. While Harry was playing golf, she would hitch a ride with her milkman to the nearby Eagle Farm airport, where she took lessons in a de Havilland DH-60G Gipsy Moth biplane. Her husband turned out to be more supportive than she had anticipated, purchasing her a Tiger Moth of her own.[3]

In 1932, Lores became the first Australian woman to hold a commercial pilot's licence.

On 15th August, 1932 Lores set out to circumnavigate Australia and she flew the 8,200 miles in 95 hours over a six week period. For this flight she was awarded the Qantas Trophy for 'the most meritorious performance by an Australian pilot during 1932.'[4]

On 10th April, 1933 Lores set off to fly to England in her Gipsy Moth. The aeroplane had no wireless, and she had only sketchy maps. She landed in Croydon, England, on 21st June 1933, having flown the 12,300 miles in 157 hours. She was stranded for days on an island south of Ranong (Thailand) when confronted by a violent storm to land on the beach.

Bonney boarding her Gypsy Moth
John Oxley Library
State Library of Queensland
No. 76665

Lores was thus the first person to fly solo from Australia to England. She was awarded the MBE by George V, but her achievement attracted little publicity back in Australia.

In 1937, she became the first woman to fly from Australia to South Africa, a flight of 18,200 miles across Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

The outbreak of World War II essentially ended her flying career. Lores offered her services to the government as a flight instructor or ferry pilot, but after making just one delivery flight to a Royal Australian Air Force flying school she was told that the military had no use for female pilots.

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2. Quoted by Terry Gwynn-Jones from an article originally published in *Aviation History* and published in the May, 2000 issue. It is available at *www.historynet.com/lores-bonney-australian-female-pilot.htm.* Her biography of Bonney, *Pioneer Aviator: The Remarkable Life of Lores Bonney* was published in 1988.
3. *Ibid.*
4. *Ibid.*

In her later years, Lores Bonney lived on the Gold Coast where she passed away on 24th February 1994, aged 96.

Recognition

Lores was awarded a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) by George V after her flight to England in 1934.

The Bonney Trophy is still presented annually to outstanding women pilots in England.

Her name has been inscribed on the Wall of the Flyers' Chapel in California (along with such names as Kingsford-Smith, Lindbergh, and Amelia Earhart.)

Griffith University awarded Bonney with an honorary doctorate.

In 1991, Maude 'Lores' Bonney was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

LILIAN COOPER[5]

Dr. Lilian Violet Cooper
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Queensland No. 196203

Doctor Lilian Violet Cooper was born on 11th August, 1861 at Luton, Kent, England. She was educated privately, and early in her life decided to dedicate her life to medicine. She entered the London School of Medicine for Women (despite her parents' objections) in 1886 and completed the course four years later.

She came to Brisbane in May, 1891 with her lifelong friend Josephine Bedford and in June of that same year, became the first female doctor registered in Queensland. She specialised in diseases of women and children.

Lilian was allowed to join the Medical Society of Queensland in 1893, and later became an honorary of the Hospital for Sick Children and the Lady Lamington Hospital for Women. In 1905 she became associated with the Mater Misericordiae Hospital and remained with it for the rest of her life.

In 1911 she returned to England, and in 1912 was awarded a doctorate of medicine from the University of Durham. On the outbreak of war she offered her services to the Australian Army, but was told female doctors were not required at the front and that she should stay home and knit for the soldiers.

In 1915, Lilian and Miss Bedford joined the Scottish Women's Hospitals, serving for twelve months in France and Macedonia. She was in charge of the ambulance division, with all women drivers. She operated in tents very close to the fighting and her efforts were recognised by the Serbian King, who awarded her the Serbian Order of St. Sava.

After the war Lilian returned to Brisbane and developed a large and successful practice out of rooms in the Mansions in George Street, Brisbane, Queensland.

She was described as a tall, angular, brusque woman, "prone to bad language," who initially traveled by bicycle. In time she became one of the earliest motorists in the State, and did most of her own running repairs.

In 1926, Lilian bought a house called "Old St Mary's" in Main Street, Kangaroo Point, and settled there in semi-retirement. In 1928 she became a foundation fellow of the Royal Australian College of Surgeons. She retired in 1941 and passed away in her home on 18th August, 1947. She is buried in the Toowong Cemetery.

Miss Bedford (left) and Dr. Cooper
John Oxley Library
State Library of Queensland No. 250470

After Lilian's death, Miss Bedford donated the site for the Mount Olivet Hospital of the Sisters of Charity, part of which was named 'the Lilian Cooper Nursing Home.' St Mary's Church at Kangaroo Point has memorial windows dedicated to Dr Lilian Cooper, and has embroidered her medal of St. Sava at the altar.

5.This short biography is largely taken from an article by C. A. C. Leggett in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol. 8, p.105.

DOROTHY HILL[6]

Dorothy Hill
Fryer Library, University of Queensland, image UQFL466_b18_AL_P_1 1

Professor Dorothy Hill was born in Taringa, Brisbane on 10th September, 1907, and later attended the Brisbane Girls' Grammar School where she won the school's prestigious academic prize, the Lady Lilley Gold Medal.

Dorothy wished to study medicine, but at that time the Queensland University did not have a Medical Faculty. Instead she entered the Science Faculty majoring in chemistry, studying mathematics, chemistry, physics, and geology. She graduated in 1928 with First Class Honours in Geology and a Gold Medal for Outstanding Merit, and was the first woman to obtain this honour from the University.

She also won a Foundation Travelling Scholarship to study at Cambridge for the years 1930-1932. Whilst in England she obtained a pilot's license and also developed an interest in car rallying. After seven years at Cambridge, Dorothyl returned to Brisbane where CSIR grants funded her work for a number of years. She published many papers on coral faunas and delivered lectures in paleontology and stratigraphy.

Two years after her return to Queensland, war broke out. Dorothy and her sister, Edna, participated with the navy serving in a mine watching role in Moreton Bay and the lower Brisbane River. She then joined a group of civilian women working on ciphers in General Macarthur's headquarters. In time, she enlisted in the WRANS, working in communications, coding and deciphering messages.

Between 1945 and 1955, Dorothy was the Secretary of the Great Barrier Reef Committee, actively supporting direct research work on the Reef. Her research led to significant discoveries while she helped to establish the Heron Island Marine Biological Station.

From 1958 to 1964, Dorothy was the editor of the Journal of the Geological Society of Australia and in 1960 was appointed a Professor at the University of Queensland and was President of the Professorial Board of the University from 1971-1972.

Dorothy Hill during a geological excursion
Fryer Library, University of Queensland, image UQFL466_AL_P_12a

In 1956, she was elected a 'Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science', becoming President of the Academy in 1970, the only woman to have occupied that position. The Royal Society of London elected her a Fellow in 1965 and she received the civil honours of CBE and AC. The University of Queensland awarded Dorothy an Honorary Doctorate of Laws in 1974. These were but a few of many honours conferred upon her. Professor Dorothy Hill retired from the University in 1972 and passed away on 23rd April, 1997.

ELLEN VIOLET 'VI' JORDAN[7]

Ellen Violet 'Vi' Jordan (née Perrett) was born on 29th June, 1913 in Ipswich, Queensland. The eldest of her railway fitter father's three children, she was educated at Brassall State School, then at Ipswich Girls Grammar School.

She was an accomplished musician, and became an associate of the London College of Music and the Trinity College of Music.

Vi was described as being headstrong and determined, and at the age of eighteen she married David Jordan, a railway porter. He shared her love of music, and was a member of one of Ipswich's brass bands.

When World War II broke out she fiercely opposed conscription, and was strongly critical of Australia's support for Britain.

Notwithstanding these attitudes, Vi became secretary of a first aid and air raid precautions committee, and was also President of the Ipswich Civilian Welfare Committee which sought to aid servicewomen serving at the RAAF Base at Amberley. She devoted a lot of time to the servicewomen's hostel in Ipswich.

Vi was a member of the Australian Labor Party (ALP) from the late 1940s, and remained loyal to the party during the split of 1957.

Ellen Violet Jordan
Used with permission from the Whitehead Historical Collection, Picture Ipswich, Ipswich City Council

At the Labor-in-Politics Convention in Brisbane in 1960, she successfully moved the resolution to allow women direct representation on the Queensland central executive. Vi was chosen to act as that representative and was the first woman, other than a union delegate, on the executive.

In 1961, she became the first woman elected to the Ipswich City Council, and remained on the Council until 1967.

In 1966, Vi was nominated as the ALP's candidate for the State electorate of Ipswich West, and was successful in winning the seat and went on to win it a further two times. She was only the second woman to be elected to the Queensland Legislative Assembly, and the first woman from the ALP to win a seat.

As a member of the Legislative Assembly she struggled for the rights of the working classes, and sought political, economic, and social equality for women. In 1966 she was a strong advocate for equal pay for women.

In 1976 she was awarded the AM, and the following year the Queen's Jubilee Medal.

Vi Jordan passed away on 7th May, 1982, and is buried in the Ipswich General Cemetery.

7.This short history is taken largely from an article by Patricia Fallon in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol. 17, pp 596-597. See also the *Former Members' Biography* published by the Queensland Parliament, and available at *parliament.qld.gov.au/members/former/bio?id=924323316&p=1*

ARTHUR MACALISTER[8]

Arthur Macalister was born in 1918 in Glasgow, Scotland.   He was educated in Glasgow, and qualified as a writer to the signet (a member of an ancient society of solicitors). Arthur married Elizabeth Wallace Tassie, and they immigrated to Sydney, Australia in 1839.

Arthur was appointed clerk of Petty Sessions and post master at Scone in June, 1840.

By 1846 he was working for a Sydney solicitor, and four years later was admitted as a solicitor, attorney, and proctor of the Supreme Court. He then began practising in Ipswich, Queensland.

He was active in the separationist movement and stood several times for election to various seats, eventually succeeding in winning the new seat of Ipswich on 14th June, 1859.

Arthur won one of the three seats for Ipswich in Queensland's first Legislative Assembly.

In March, 1862, he joined Sir Robert George W. Herbert's government ministry as secretary for lands and works and was temporarily appointed colonial secretary whilst Herbert was in England.

When Herbert resigned in February, 1866, Arthur formed an administration. He led the Queensland parliament on three occasions.

Premier Arthur Macalister, 1866
John Oxley Library
State Library of Queensland
No. 115356

Arthur frequently changed his attitudes, alliances, allegiances, and colleagues - earning him the nickname 'Slippery Mac.'

In 1875, he was appointed the Companion of St. Michael and St George (C.M.G).

As secretary for lands and works, Arthur was an enthusiastic supporter of the narrow gauge railway between Toowoomba and Ipswich – which later extended to Brisbane.

Arthur Macalister passed away near Glasgow on 23rd March, 1883.

8.This short note is largely derived from an article by Paul D. Wilson in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol. 5, p 118- 120.

MARY McCONNEL[9]

David and Mary McConnel
John Oxley Library
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No. 110184

Mary McConnel (née McLeod) was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1824 and later migrated to Brisbane, Queensland with her husband David McConnel in 1848.

The couple settled near Brisbane, building a large house at Bulimba and also ran a sheep and cattle station in the west of Brisbane, named Cressbrook.

The McConnel's had six children, but suffered the loss of two infant sons, which led Mary to consider child health and welfare issues. At that time, children were denied beds in adult hospitals and were often deprived of medical care and treatment.

Mary campaigned and fundraised for 15 years to raise the capital to establish a children's hospital. Once on a trip home, she visited the Sick Children's Hospital in Edinburgh and the Great Ormond Hospital for Sick Children in London, observing their methods.

In 1878, Mary was able to oversee the opening of the first children's hospital in Queensland at Spring Hill, Brisbane. It was the second such institution to open in Australia, with the first being the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne.

Mary enlisted the help of a matron and nurse from England to work in the hospital and train local women to staff the facility and meet the communities growing demands for their services.

The first year saw 105 children treated in the small 15 bed hospital. The facility was later transferred to a larger site in Herston, Brisbane using land provided by the Queensland government. In time this became the Royal Children's Hospital.

Nursing staff at Royal Children's Hospital, ca. 1899
John Oxley Library
State Library of Queensland No. 16206
The young women…worked long hours and had to cope with such complaints as lead poisoning, typhoid and diphtheria. Probationers had to be at least 19 years of age and were paid around 5 shillings a week.

Mary also notably founded the first public school in Queensland at the family's Cressbrook estate, prior to government public schools becoming operational. In honour of this legacy, the Mary McConnel School of Early Childhood was opened in June 2015 at the historic Shafston House in Brisbane.

Mary McConnel passed away in 1910.

9.This short biography is based in part upon an article by H. J. Gibney in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography,* Vol. 5, pp.133-134. See also *https://www.qld.gov.au/about/about-queensland/history/women/assets/mary-mcconnel-biography.pdf* and: *http://www.mmsec.edu.au/mary-mcconnel/*

Sir FERGUS McMASTER[10]

Sir Fergus McMaster was born on 3rd May, 1879 at Morinish near Rockhampton, Queensland and was the youngest of six sons born to Scottish parents. He attended the Morinish Provisional School, but was largely self-educated. His father was killed in a mining accident when he was six, and he lost a brother who drowned three years later.

In 1891, the McMaster brothers took up the Kelso grazing lease near Longreach. As a twelve year old he helped his brothers drove 4,000 sheep from near Clermont to Kelso. This was the first of a number of grazing leases which the brothers selected - several were waterless, and they had to build dams and sink wells.

Fergus married Edith May Scougall on 29th August, 1911, but she passed away in 1913. He enlisted in the AIF and served as a gunner and dispatch rider in France during World War I.

A chance meeting with Paul Joseph McGinness, a pilot in Cloncurry, led to his being invited to assist him and Sir Wilmot Hudson Fysh, another Australian aviator, to secure aircraft for operation in the bush areas of Queensland.

This led to the formation of the Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Service (QANTAS) in 1920, with McMaster as the first chairman of directors. Two months later, in January, 1921, the company took delivery of its first aeroplane.

In November, 1921, Fergus led a deputation to Prime Minister William Morris Hughes seeking support for the Charleville to Cloncurry air service, but was told to "come back in ten years." Notwithstanding this Fergus, as the company chairman, issued a prospectus offering 15,000 ordinary shares at £1 to shires, western towns, businessmen and graziers.

Sir Fergus McMaster
John Oxley Library
State Library of Queensland
No. 201307

On 21st June, 1922, Fergus married Edna Faulkner in Brisbane, Queensland. That year he was able to announce that QANTAS had secured the Federal government contract for the Charleville to Cloncurry air service, and the inaugural flight left Charleville on 2nd November, 1922. This was the first regular air mail service in Queensland, and the second in Australia.

McMaster's leadership between 1929 and 1933 led to successful outcomes for QANTAS in its bid to provide an airmail service between Australia and Singapore. Qantas Empire Airways was registered in Brisbane on 18th January, 1934 with Fergus as chairman of directors, a position which he retained until the company was acquired by the Commonwealth in 1947.

In 1941, Fergus McMaster was knighted and he was also a director of several companies. He was a foundation member in 1936 and later treasurer of the Queensland Country Party.

Sir Fergus McMaster passed away in Brisbane on 8th August, 1950.

10.This short history is largely taken from an article by Lorna L. McDonald in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol. 10, pp 338-339.

EMMA MILLER[11]

Emma Miller (née Holmes) was born on 26th June, 1839 at Chesterfield, Derbyshire, England. As a child she was much influenced by her Unitarian Chartist father and would walk for miles with him to political meetings, where he taught her to rebel against the existing social order. (Two of the Chartist's demands were that all men over 21 years should be entitled to vote, and that voting should be secret.)

Emma married in 1857 and was the mother of four children, whom she supported by sewing twelve hours a day, six days a week in Manchester, England.

She was widowed three times over the course of her life, immigrating to Brisbane, Queensland in 1879 with her second husband and her children. She later wed her third husband, Andrew Miller, on 21st October, 1886, who later passed away in 1897.

In 1880, Emma was working as a shirtmaker and helped to form a female workers' union, mainly consisting of tailoresses.

In 1891, she gave evidence to the royal commission into shops, factories and workshops and marched with the shearers' strike prisoners when they were released.

Emma was the first woman to travel west organising for the Australian Workers Union (AWU) and was the first female member (and a life member) of the Brisbane Workers Political Organisation.

Emma Miller stood for workers' rights, as well as the vote for women. At a meeting in Brisbane in 1894, she objected to women getting the vote on the same, unequal terms as men, because the franchise for the Queensland Parliament at that time gave men who owned property an unfair advantage over men who did not.

She championed equal pay and equal opportunity for women and was foundation president of the Women's Equal Franchise Association (1894 - 1905), urging legislation to grant women the franchise on the principle of 'one person, one vote'.

Emma Miller
John Oxley Library
State Library of Queensland
No 64319

Emma became president of the Women Workers Political Organisation (Qld) after 1903 and in 1908 was one of two women to attend a Commonwealth Labor conference, which was only the second time a woman had been a delegate.

On 'Black Friday' of the 1912 strike, Emma led a large contingent of women to Parliament House, braving the batons of foot and mounted police. Armed with only handbags and hatpins, it is alleged she stuck a hat pin into the horse of Police Commissioner Cahill who was thrown and injured.

11.This short note is taken largely from an article by Pam Young in the *Australian Biographical Dictionary,* Vol. 10, p. 509 and also: *https://www.qld.gov.au/about/about-queensland/history/women/assets/emma-miller.pdf*

A formidable activist, Emma was also a pacifist, opposing conscription during World War I. She was Vice-President of the Women's Peace Army during the war and at 76 years old, was President of the Queensland Anti-Conscription Campaign Executive Women's Auxiliary, playing a role in the defeat of the 1916 referendum on conscription.

Her steadfast position as a Labor agitator earned her the proud title of 'Mother Miller' and 'the grand old labor woman of Queensland.'

Although very frail she campaigned for Joseph Silver Collings in the Murilla State electorate during the 1915 election. She believed that the basis of the labor movement was industrial, and stressed that it was of equal importance to men and women.

Women marching in a strike procession in Brisbane, 1912
John Oxley Library
State Library of Queensland No. 93092

Emma Miller passed away on 22nd January, 1917, and was buried in the Toowong cemetery in Queensland.

On that day the flag on the Brisbane Trades Hall flew at half mast, and the Australian Meat Employees' Union conference was adjourned.

Upon her death in in 1917, *The Worker* newspaper described her as:

"… *only a little handful - so frail in body - but she had the courage of a lion and her energy was marvellous … Her keen intellect, her magnetic personality and above all her wonderful devotion to the cause were a continual source of inspiration … as a champion of the rights of women she was without equal …*" (25 January 1917).

On the 22nd October, 1922 a publicly funded marble bust of her was unveiled in the Trades Hall. There now stands a statue of Emma Miller in King George Square, Brisbane, Queensland.

OODGEROO NOONUCCAL[12]

Oodgeroo Noonuccal was born on North Stradbroke Island (Minjerribah), Queensland on 3rd November, 1920 as Kathleen Mary Jean Ruska.

One of seven children, her father was of the Noonuccal tribe, the traditional inhabitants of Minjerribah, and campaigned for improvement to the conditions of Aboriginal workers.

Oodgeroo attended the Dunwich State School until she was thirteen, when she left to go into domestic service. She worked for a number of families and was poorly paid, but remained in service because of the strong prejudices against, and lack of opportunities for Aboriginal women.

In 1941, Oodgeroo enlisted in the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) working on a switchboard and later working in the pay office and she became a corporal in the Service.

Oodgeroo Noonuccal
Published with the permission of
PetrinaWalker, on behalf of
Oodgeroo's family

In 1942 she married Bruce Raymond Walker, a member of the Gugingin people. The following year she was medically discharged from the AWAS because of a serious ear infection which left her with an impairment of her hearing. Under the Army's rehabilitation scheme she was able to study secretarial and bookkeeping skills at the Brisbane Commercial College.

She and her husband were able to purchase a house at Buranda in Queensland and she found work with a smallgoods manufacturer at Murarrie. The couple became involved with the Communist Party, the only party at that time which did not support the White Australia Policy.

In the 1950s, Oodgeroo became interested in writing poetry and in 1963 a collection of her poems was published in *'We are Going'*. The work, the first by an Aboriginal woman, was a commercial success, selling over 10,000 copies, making her the bestselling Australian poet since C. J. Dennis.

In the 1960s, as her poetry was becoming widely known, Oodgeroo became increasingly engaged in political activism in favour of Aboriginal rights, social justice, and conservation. She was prominent in the fight for Aboriginal voting rights and citizenship.

In 1970, Oodgeroo was awarded the MBE and in 1971, she returned to Stradbroke Island, and took on the roles of educator, cultural guardian, and ambassador for her people.

Notwithstanding considerable opposition from the Queensland government, Oodgeroo established the Noonuccal-Nughie Education and Cultural Centre at Moongalba, near Amity Point on Stradbroke Island, Queensland.

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12. This short history is taken largely from the "Australian Poetry Library" site at
poetrylibrary.edu.au/poets/noonuccal-oodgeroo.
Image: Published with the permission of the family of Oodgeroo Noonuccal

In 1978 she was the poet in residence at Bloomsburg State College in Pennsylvania, USA. Oodgeroo continued to write and publish poems and also a number of books on Aboriginal legends.

In 1988, as a protest against continuing Aboriginal disadvantage she returned her MBE and adopted a traditional name, Oodgeroo (meaning paper bark tree) and Noonuccal (her tribe's name.)

Oodgeroo continued to receive honours in recognition of her literary, educational, and political achievements and was awarded honorary doctorates by the Macquarie University, Griffith University, Monash University, and the Queensland University of Technology.

Oodgeroo Noonuccal passed away on 16th September, 1993.

EDWARD THEODORE[13]

Edward Granville Theodore was born on 29th December, 1884 at Port Adelaide, South Australia, the second son of six children. He was at school to the age of twelve, and found jobs as a gardener, farm-hand and timber getter, before heading to Murchison in the West Australian gold fields in 1900.

In 1903, Edward returned east and found employment in the mines at Broken Hill. This time has been described as his apprenticeship in labor politics. In 1906, he departed for the Chillagoe-Irvinebank hinterland of Cairns, Queensland, mixing mine labouring with prospecting for wolfram and tin. With the help of others, Edward formed in 1907, the Amalgamated Workers Association of North Queensland and was its first secretary. In 1913, it amalgamated with the Australian Workers' Union and Theodore became its first president.

In 1909, Edward won the seat of Woothakata for Labor, and later that year he married Toowoomba born Esther Mahoney. When the Ryan Labor government was formed in 1915 Theodore was its first deputy premier, treasurer, and secretary for public works. He became premier in October, 1919 when Thomas Ryan resigned.

During his political career in Queensland, there were numerous controversial issues, including the anti-conscription campaigns and a conspiracy charge arising from attempts to avoid the censorship of Theodore's pamphlets in 1916 -17. He clashed with strikers and radical elements in the labor movement, and promoted government intervention in the State economy.

In 1922, Edward secured the abolition of the Legislative Council, and in the previous year he introduced legislation to govern the retirement age of judges.

Edward Granville Theodore
John Oxley Library
State Library of Queensland
No. 68155

Edward surrendered the premiership in 1925 to contest the Federal election, but did not succeed in securing the federal seat of Herbert in the election. He was however elected to the Federal Parliament in 1927 for the Federal New South Wales seat of Dalley. His relationship with John Wren, and allegations of bribery, clouded his entry into the federal parliament.

In 1929, he became deputy leader of the Federal Labor Party, and when Labor won the General Election he became deputy prime minister and treasurer in the Scullin government.

On 4th July, 1930 the Mungana Commission found Theodore guilty of fraud and dishonesty, and the following day he resigned from the cabinet. On 26th January, 1931 Prime Minister Scullin restored Edward to his former cabinet positions in federal parliament.

In December, 1931 Edward lost his seat, and did not participate in federal politics again. He subsequently engaged in publishing, gold-mining, and war-time public service.

Edward Granville Theodore passed away on 9th February, 1950 in Sydney, Australia and is buried in the South Head Cemetery in New South Wales.

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13. This short history is based upon an article by Neville Cain in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol. 12, p.197-202.

ALFRED TRAEGER [14]

Alfred Traeger at Old Timers
John Blakeman Collection
Northern Territory Library

Alfred Hermann Traeger was born on 2nd August, 1895 at Glenlee, Dimboola, Victoria. Described as a "curious, patient, precise child", he made a telephone receiver and transmitted between the tool-shed and his house when he was twelve.

From 1912, he studied mechanical and electrical engineering at the South Australian School of Mines and Industries. He worked for the Metropolitan Tramways Trust and then the Postmaster-General's Department.

During World War I he sought to join the Australian Flying Corps, but was rejected, apparently because of his German ancestry.

Around 1923, Alfred joined Hannan Bros. Ltd. in Adelaide, handling their car generator and electrical repairs. He was intrigued by radio, and obtained an amateur operator's licence. He went on to build his first pedal transmitter receiver.

From 1926, Alfred worked for John Flynn, who was then planning his Australian Inland Mission Aerial Medical Service for remote communities. After an outback tour of duty, Alfred started working on a transceiver for the flying doctor network.

The transceiver sets had to be cheap, durable, small, and easy to operate. "Using bicycle pedals to drive the generator, he found that a person could comfortably achieve 20 watts at a pressure of about 300 volts."

His famous pedal wireless was in fact a pedal operated generator which provided power for a transceiver. He divided his time between his workshop and the field where he taught radio operating and Morse code.

Mr. Alfred Traeger transmitting by a pedal-powered wireless, ca. 1929
National Library of Australia
nla.obj-137929073

The introduction of the first pedal sets in Queensland in 1929 created a communications revolution by diminishing the loneliness of the inland world. In 1933, he invented a typewriter Morse keyboard as an accessory to the pedal set. Emergency call systems linked inlanders with hospitals, and sets were used by the School of the Air, doctors, ambulances, councils, taxis, airways and ships.

In 1944, his work was recognised by the award of an O.B.E and in 1962 transceiver pedal sets were sold to Nigeria. In 1970 Alfred's firm provided an educational network for Canada and he later designed a turbine-driven car and used solar power to convert salt water to fresh water. Alfred Hermann Traeger passed away on 31st July, 1980 and is buried in the Centennial Park cemetery, Adelaide, Australia.

14. This short note is taken principally from an article by John Behr in the Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol. 12, 251-252. See also Traeger: The Pedal Radio Man, Fred MaKay, Boolarong Press, 1995; and also The Flying Doctor Story, George Wilson, Cyan Press Pty. Ltd., 1993.