



Born 1980
Adnyamathanha
and Narungga Nations

Adam Goodes

Adam Goodes is a champion AFL player. During his career Goodes won several sports medals, represented Australia and was named Australian of the Year. Goodes has always been a strong advocate against racism.

Since his retirement from AFL in 2015, he has been involved in several Aboriginal Australian sports and community programs and established a foundation to promote education, employment and healthy lifestyles for young Aboriginal Australians.

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Born 1956
Yorta Yorta Nation

Archie Roach



Archie Roach is a well-known Australian singer/songwriter. His most famous song, *Took the Children Away*, tells his story of being stolen from his family and placed in state care.

Archie has worked throughout his life to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians affected by the Stolen Generation.



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Born 1956

Western Arrernte Nation,
Central Australia

Albert Namatjira



Albert Namatjira is one of Australia's best-known Aboriginal Australian artists. He is known for his water colour paintings of Australian landscapes. Despite his fame and fortune, for most of his life, Namatjira was unable to own property due to property laws that excluded Aboriginal Australians from land ownership.

His fame brought attention to the injustices of how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians were treated. As a result, in 1957, Namatjira and his wife became the first Indigenous Australians to be granted Australian Citizenship. It was only then that he was able to buy a property of his own.

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Born 1951
Griffith, NSW
Wiradjuri Nation

Evonne Goolagong -Cawley

Evonne Goolagong-Cawley was the first Aboriginal Australian woman to win a Wimbledon Tennis Championship. During the 1970's and 1980's, she was one of the greatest tennis players in the world.

Among her many achievements, Goolagong-Cawley was named Australian of the Year and entered the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

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Born 1953

Maningida, Arnhem
Land Yolngu Nation

David Gulpilil

David Gulpilil is an actor and dancer whose film career spanned a period of 40 years. During his career he starred in many well-known Australian films, like Rabbit-Proof Fence, Crocodile Dundee and Storm Boy.

Gulpilil's performances changed the way Indigenous Australians were represented on screen and he won numerous film and television awards for his work. Gulpilil was born in Arnhem Land where he had a traditional Yolngu upbringing.

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Born 1990
Tweed Heads, NSW
Dunghutti Nation

Samantha Harris



Samantha Harris is a model who shot to fame at the age of 11 when she won the Girlfriend Covergirl competition. Harris works alongside other famous models like Miranda Kerr and Megan Gale.

She is a role model for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

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1908 - 1988

Gurindji Nation

Vincent Lingiari



Vincent Lingiari was an Indigenous Australian rights activist who, in 1966, led a peaceful protest of 200 stockmen to demand fair pay and better working conditions. He continued to protest for nine years. Lingiari's protests eventually led to the Aboriginal Land Rights Act in 1976, which recognised traditional ownership of land and for the first time gave Aboriginal Australian people power to negotiate how their land was used.

Lingiari has been named a member of the Order of Australia for his services to Aboriginal Australians. His story was made famous by the song 'From Little Things Big Things Grow', by Kev Carmody and Pall Kelly.

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Born 1989

Darwin, NT

Jessica Mauboy



Jessica Mauboy is a singer and actor who shot to fame in 2006 when she was a contestant on Australian Idol. Mauboy has released four albums, for which she has won two ARIA awards and received 25 nominations.

She has worked as an actress in Australian film and television and won an award for best actress in a supporting role. Mauboy is a strong advocate for Indigenous Australian education and an ambassador for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

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1920 - 1993

Minjerribah Island,
QLD Noonuccal Nation

Oodgeroo Noonuccal

(Kath Walker)



Oodgeroo Noonuccal was a bestselling poet and author who won several awards for her poetry. During the 1960's, Noonuccal became a political activist fighting the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians to be recognised as Australian citizens.

In 1970 she was awarded a Medal of the Order of the British Empire for her services to the community, which she returned in 1987 as a protest against the Australian Governments treatment of Aboriginal people.

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1922 - 1999

Jagera Nation

Neville Bonner



Neville Bonner was Australia's first Aboriginal Australian politician. He served as a Queensland senator for twelve years and was the first Aboriginal Australian to sit in federal parliament.

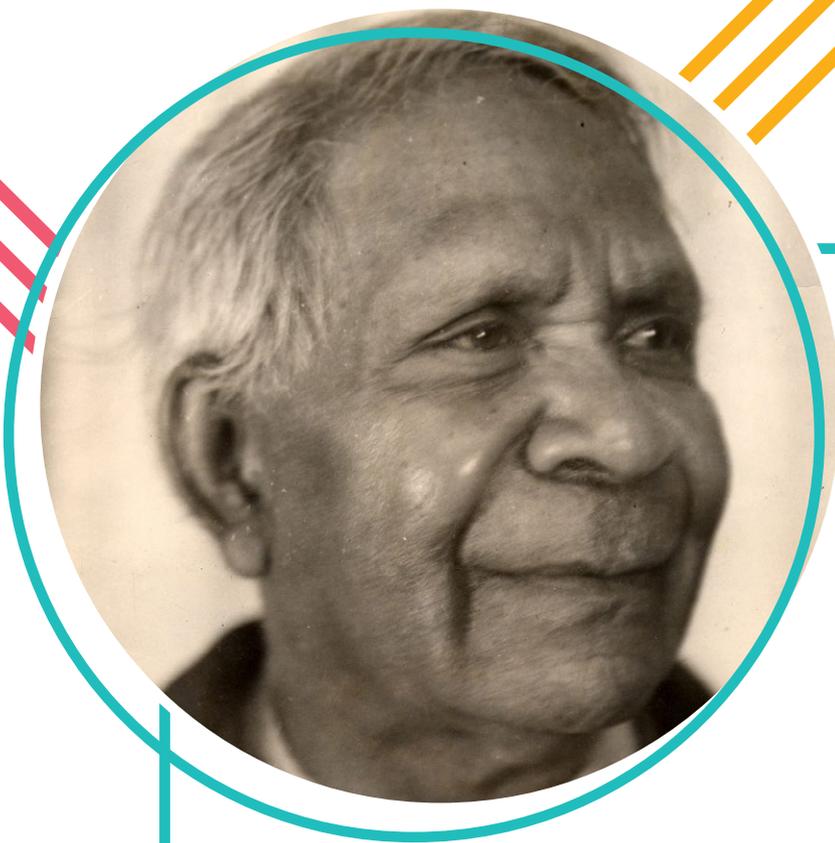
After retiring from politics, Bonner continued to support and campaign for Indigenous Australian rights in Australia.

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1872 - 1967
Ngarrindjeri Nation

David Unaipon



David Unaipon was an inventor and writer. His inventions included a sheep shearing tool and a helicopter based on the principles of the boomerang.

Unaipon received prestigious medals for his writings and he is featured on the Australian \$50 note.

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"David Unaipon, 1938" by [State Library of South Australia](#)

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Born: 1973

Mackay, QLD
Kuku Yalanji Nation

Cathy Freeman

Cathy Freeman was the first Aboriginal Australian person to win an Olympic gold medal, which she won for the 400m sprint at the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000. After her win, Freeman made a victory lap of the oval carrying both the Australian and Aboriginal Australian flags, which sparked much debate about the treatment of Aboriginal Australian people in Australia.

Since retiring from athletics, Freeman has been involved in a range of community organisations that work to close the gap in education between Indigenous Australian and non-Indigenous Australian children.

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1971 - 2017

Yolngu Nation of the
Gumatj clan, Arnhem Land

Gurrumul Yunupingu



Gurrumul Yunupingu is a world-renowned Indigenous Australian singer/songwriter. He has won music awards for each of his albums and played for many famous people, including the Queen of England. Gurrumul wrote songs in both his Yolngu languages and in English.

His songs are about identity, spirit and connection with the land and the stories of his people. Gurrumul was born blind and taught himself to play the piano, guitar and drums.

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1936 - 1992

Meriam Mer Nation,
Torres Strait

Eddie Mabo



Eddie Mabo is known for his role in campaigning for Indigenous Australian land rights in Australia. He fought against the Australian legal system on the laws of land ownership. Mabo proved that land taken by the British during the colonisation of Australia was previously occupied by Indigenous Australian people.

Mabo's campaign led to recognition that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have rights to Australian land. In 1992 laws were changed as a result of Mabo's campaign, which paved the way for future land rights cases for Indigenous Australian people across Australia.

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