

Life Stories Library Collection: Preserving the Voices of Forgotten Australians



The Alliance for Forgotten Australians is proud to share an important milestone in the ongoing effort to honour, preserve and amplify the lived experiences of Forgotten Australians. Through the Life Stories Project, sixty participants were supported to tell their personal stories, stories of courage, resilience, identity and reconnection.

Each story was carefully crafted with the help of a dedicated team of writers who have extensive experience working alongside Forgotten Australians. Every participant received twenty printed copies of their completed story, including photos and personal documents. Importantly, each contributor retains ownership of their story and decides how it may be shared.

A Project with Purpose

The Life Stories Project was established to provide a safe, supported space for participants to:

- Reclaim identity through the power of personal storytelling
- Foster emotional and psychological healing
- Reconnect with family members and strengthen personal relationships

A structured storytelling model ensured participants' wellbeing remained central throughout the entire process.

Now Available at the State Library of Victoria



We are deeply grateful to the 30 participants who generously agreed to make their stories part of a publicly accessible collection. These life stories now form part of the Manuscript Collection at the State Library of Victoria, ensuring their voices will be preserved for generations to come.

To explore the collection:

1. Visit the State Library of Victoria website:
<https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/>
2. Search for "Forgotten Australian Life Stories"
3. Access is available on site at the library only. For assistance contact the library on 03 8664 7002

Contributors to the Collection



The 30 individuals who consented to make their stories available include Bernadette Allison, Dianne Berechree, Alan Bowles, Robert Cox, Douglas Goulter, David Hall, Robin Henwood, Daryl Higgins, Barry Jacobsen, Brett Kersten, Brian Laing, Helen Laing, Lois Harper, Therese Williams, Raymond Edward McDermott, Maureen Redpath, Mr Rev Comrade Rowley, Lana Syed (Bambi), Priscilla Taylor, Ken Waldron, Suzanne Dickerson (Burke), Mary Brownlee, Eve Warren, Heather Meachem, Sandi Ridge, Lesley Walkerden, Geoff Steele, Terence-Paul Mackenzie Copley, Dwayne Mussared, and Barry Bourke.

Suzanne Burke, Chair of the Alliance, said it's wonderful to see so many stories of Forgotten Australians published and the Life Stories Library Collection completed and available in the library. I believe that sharing our stories

with the public helps people gain a better understanding of the lives of Forgotten Australians. Everyone involved played a crucial role in delivering these sensitive stories.

For enquiries about the Life Stories Project or the Library Collection, please contact our Executive Officer, Cathy, at admin@forgottenastralians.com.