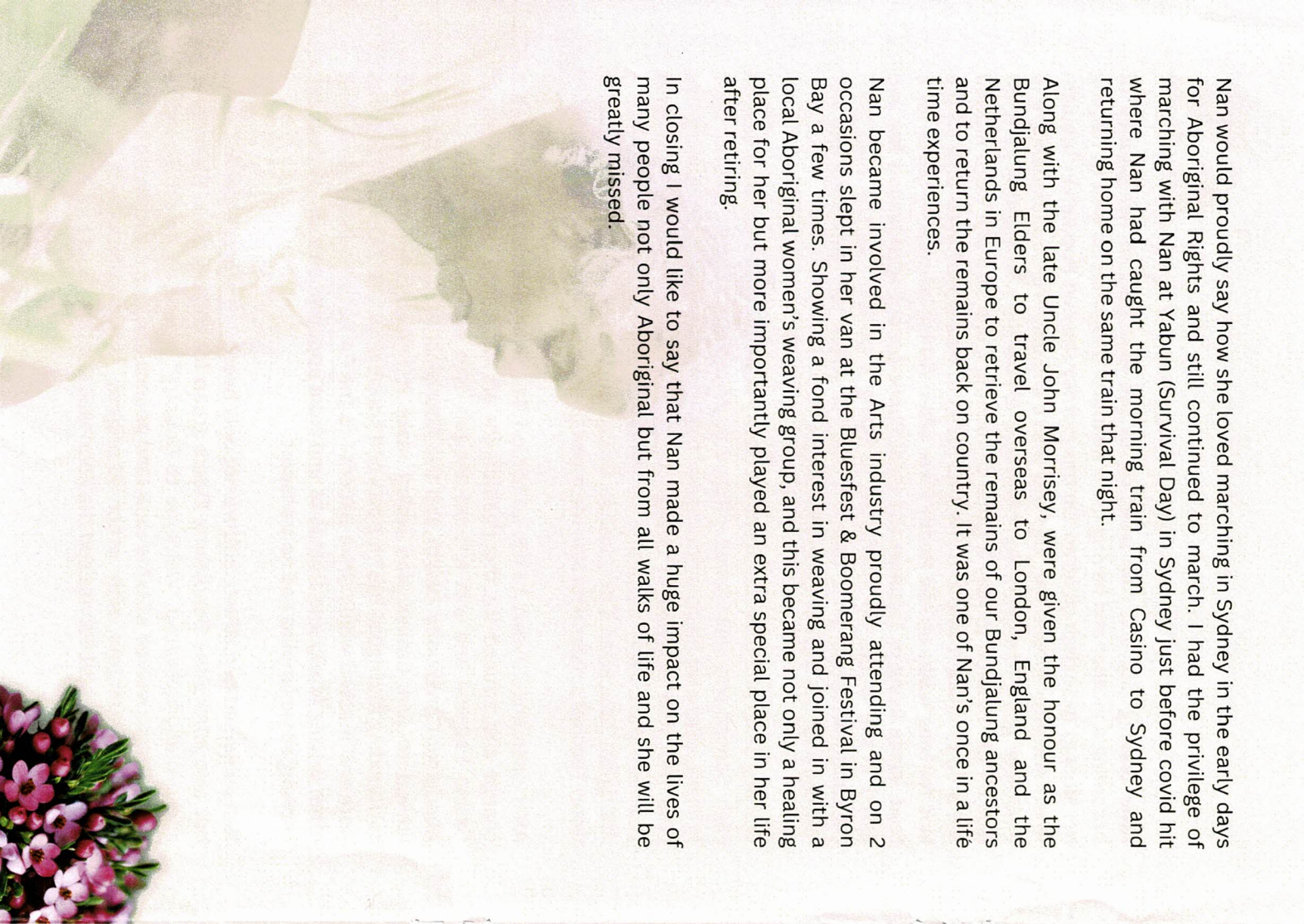
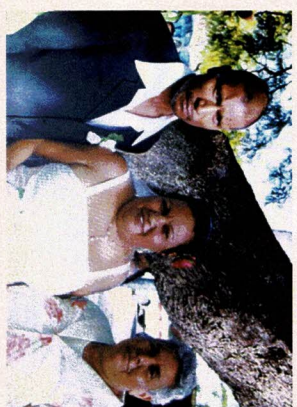
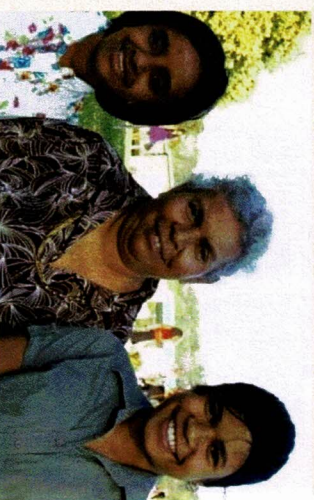
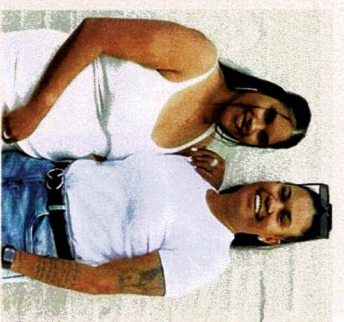
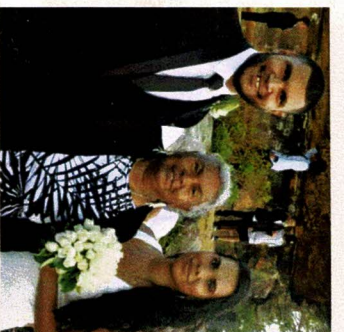


Nan would proudly say how she loved marching in Sydney in the early days for Aboriginal Rights and still continued to march. I had the privilege of marching with Nan at Yabun (Survival Day) in Sydney just before covid hit where Nan had caught the morning train from Casino to Sydney and returning home on the same train that night.

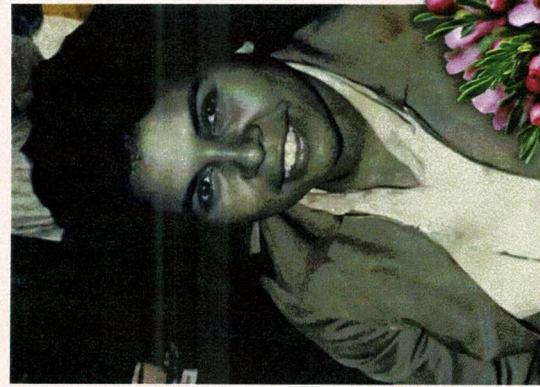
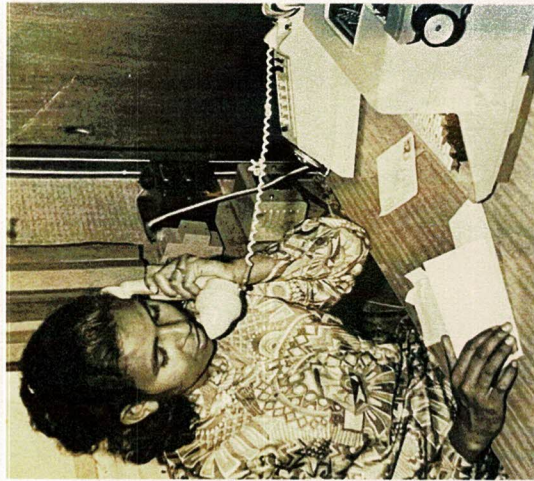
Along with the late Uncle John Morrissey, were given the honour as the Bundjalung Elders to travel overseas to London, England and the Netherlands in Europe to retrieve the remains of our Bundjalung ancestors and to return the remains back on country. It was one of Nan's once in a life time experiences.

Nan became involved in the Arts industry proudly attending and on 2 occasions slept in her van at the Bluesfest & Boomerang Festival in Byron Bay a few times. Showing a fond interest in weaving and joined in with a local Aboriginal women's weaving group, and this became not only a healing place for her but more importantly played an extra special place in her life after retiring.

In closing I would like to say that Nan made a huge impact on the lives of many people not only Aboriginal but from all walks of life and she will be greatly missed.







After leaving city life, Nan went on to the next part of her journey of becoming a mother and having her 5 beautiful daughters as well as helping her siblings raise their children. On this journey she met Pop Ken in Tabulam where she later moved too. This was where she discovered Christianity and embraced going to church. Nan often told us how she would gather up to 30 kids on the mission to play a game of rounders, she said she even mowed the area to make it safe and the kids loved it, Nan would even take all the kids for long walks up the Rocky River often fishing or cooking yams for a feed. While living in Tabulam the local Public school approached her and asked if she would be interested in filling a position as the Aboriginal Education Assistant on a casual basis, for which she accepted and her journey with the Dept of Education began.

Working as an AEA took Nan from Tabulam Public School to Bonalbo Central High School and later being offered a permanent role at Casino West Primary, where we had the privilege of being with Nan every day. During this time Nan had enrolled in college to get her diploma as an Aboriginal Teacher's Aide. Later becoming involved with putting together the AECG - Aboriginal Education Consultative Group on the North Coast with other Goori Teacher's Aides who Nan remained lifelong friends with.

After spending 20 years in the education field, Nan decided she needed a change and applied for the position for an Aboriginal Liaison officer at Casino Hospital and was offered the job. Nan worked very closely with Aboriginal Community Health and the Aboriginal Medical Service but not limited to just Casino. Nan would make it her business to often visit surrounding Aboriginal health posts and hospitals where any Goori patients were and if asked would drive patients to the PA hospital in Brisbane. And often driving family and friends to and from appointments in her own car, knowing some families had no transport.

Nan immersed herself into culture not only becoming a local Elder in Casino but also joining the Bundjalung Elders group for the Northern Rivers area and proudly delivered "Welcome to Country" whenever asked. Spending many years involved with the local land council and was often found on the board of directors with other Aboriginal organisations such as the Aboriginal Medical Service and the Koori Mail just to name a few.





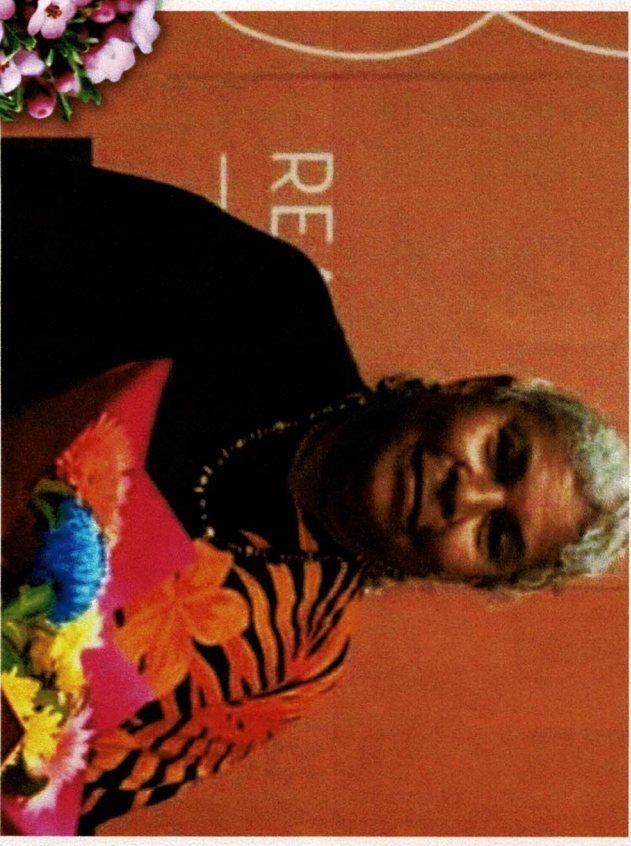
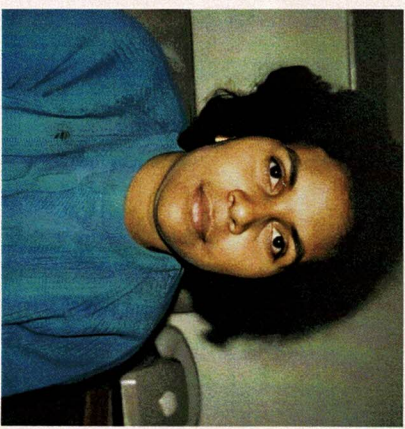
# Eulogy



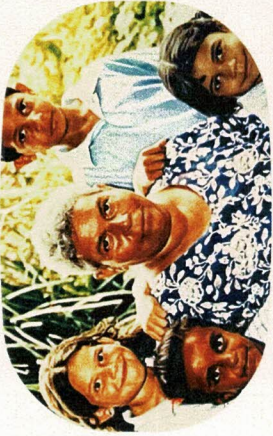
Much of how Nan loved us is encapsulated by a verse in Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: And when he is old, he will not depart from it". This verse reflects the values instilled in us, and always reminding us that "Education is the key". Nan was always about seeing the glass half full. Her passion for our culture truly ran deep. I am proud to be delivering my grandmothers eulogy on behalf of her grandchildren, and it is an honour to speak to you all about the wonderful grassroots lady she was, and the beautiful legacy she leaves behind.

Born in Casino NSW, on the 20th February 1949 to Clive and Ida Williams (nee Drew) at Casino Memorial Hospital. Nan was 1 of 9 children having 4 older siblings and 4 younger siblings. As a young child Nan grew up on the riverbanks of Casino in area called Greys Lane and lived in tin shacks along with other Goori families before moving on to Box Ridge near Coraki during her early teenage days. Nan spoke fondly about growing up in Box Ridge often telling us that her childhood was filled with many great memories, like enjoying spending time with her Aunties, going swimming, eating bush tucker and hearing the old people speaking in language.

By the time Nan was almost 16yrs old, Grandfather Clive made the decision to move the family to Sydney in scope of better employment opportunities. The 1960's would see Nan experiencing the city life and getting jobs wherever possible from making tents in Balmain, to working in dry cleaning in Redfern, Nan would even share that there were times she had to walk to and from Rozelle to Woolloomooloo whenever she had no bus fare. One of Nan's favourite past time stories, was when she became the secretary for the late honourable Charles Perkins and that she had worked for him for 5 years at the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs where she had met famous people, namely King Charles former Prince Charles. Nan told us of being a debutante in the first Aboriginal Deb Ball in Sydney held in the Grand Ballroom at the Chevron Hotel. Nan also shared stories about her love for basketball and how she played for teams in Sydney in particular for a team in Randwick.







# Gwendas Family

Beloved  
Daughter of

Clive and Ida Williams (both dec.)

Beloved  
Granddaughter of

Walter Williams & Violet Collins, and  
William Drew & Agnes Drew (nee  
Cavanough)

Dearest sister and  
sister in law of

Violet, Gavin (dec.) & Charlotte, Tooney,  
Ian & Merle (both dec.), Kathleen & Robert  
(both dec.), Warren & Lana, Jacqueline &  
Steven, and Rhonda & Kenny.

Shared a life with

Kenneth Hickling

Cherished mother &  
mother in law of

Elizabeth, Megan & Bruce, Deirdre,  
Boronia (dec.), and Syvannah

Adored  
Grandmother of

Joshua & Hayzel, Curtly & Talia, Tylah,  
Chloe & Bianca, Gabrielle, and Isaac

Adored Great-  
grandmother of

Curtly Jnr, Iya, Zoey, Joshua Jnr, Luke,  
Dahlia.

Special mention of

Aunty Irene Cavanough & Aunty Blondie  
Fraser

## Extended Family

Williams, Cavanough, Drew, Hickling, Caldwell, Torrens, Jacky, Avery,  
Anderson, Bolt, Ferguson, Cavanagh, Yuke, Morgan, Chapmans,  
Skinner, Collins, Fraser, Close, Roberts, Daley, Robinson, King, Lord,  
Moran, Walker, Payden, Rhodes, Purcell, Laurie, Cameron, Smith,  
Dalley, Quinlan, Breckenridge, Randall, Davis, Exton, Mundine &  
Donnelly families.

## A Poem to Nan

God saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be,  
So He put his arms around you and whispered, Come with me,  
With tearful eyes we watched you suffer and saw you fade away,  
Although we LOVED YOU DEARLY we could not make you stay,  
A GOLDEN HEART stopped beating hard working hands at rest,  
Even though it broke our hearts.....God only takes the best

Sincere apologies for any Families that we missed.



# Order of Service

Church Welcome

St Andrews, Anglican Church - Reverend,  
Dr David Craig

Opening Prayer

Pastor Craig Fraser - Arise Shine Church

Welcome to Country

Uncle Gilbert Laurie

Opening Song

Arise Shine Church Choir -  
What a friend we have in Jesus

Eulogy

Curtly Caldwell

Tributes

Virginia Paden & Laurel Rodgers  
Auntly Kris  
Jenny Dowell  
Naomi Moran-Ragamate  
Auntly Sandra  
Tina Williams

Reflections

Photo Slideshow

Scripture Reading

Pastor Craig Fraser - Arise Shine Church

Closing Blessing

St Andrews, Anglican Church - Reverend,  
Dr David Craig

Departure Song

Tears by, The Muli Muli Choir

Pallbearers

**Church:**  
Curtly, Bruce, Warren Jnr,  
Gary, Rhys, Solomon

**Cemetery:**

Curtly, Kevin, Troy,  
Warren Snr, Stephen Jnr, Aden

Graveside songs  
by

Arise shine church - On the  
wings of a dove  
Parkview to play - Alan Jackson  
Amazing Grace





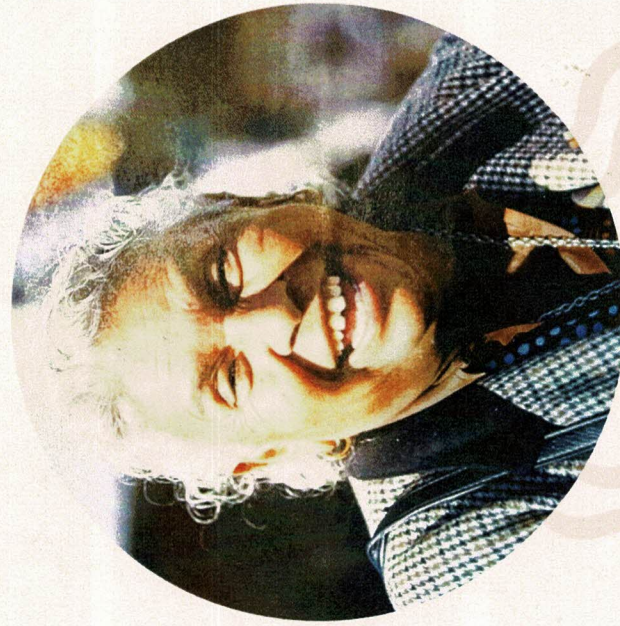


Special thanks to St. Andrews Anglican Church, Arise Shine Church, The Koori Mail, Gnibi College SCU, Boolangle LALC and Fire of God Church.

Celebrating the Life of  
Distinguished Bundjalung Elder

# Gwendolyn WILLIAMS

(20th February 1949 - 7th October 2023)



Family & friends  
are welcomed to gather at the  
St. Andrews Anglican Church Hall  
for light refreshments following  
the service.



*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; Not as the world gives...*

**John 14:27**