

In 2003, Cornelius was appointed to a National Committee on Human Rights Education. In 2005, she was nominated among 1000 "peace women" for the Nobel Prize. In 2010, when she was awarded the UN Association of Australia Peace Award, she was arguing that Anzac Day should go beyond remembering sacrifice in war and could be "an annual reminder of our universal desire for peace".

Stella Cornelius is survived by her daughter, three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and nephew Peter Cornelius.

Sydney Morning Herald - January 8, 2011

reconciliation

Stella's Gifts to the WRN and NGO Sector:

WRN honours this gracious woman and will remember Stella for her vibrancy, compassion and friendship. Although there is no mention in the Obituary above, of Stella's work and influence, concern and passion for and inclusiveness of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of this country we call Australia, including the Women's Reconciliation Network, we would like reflect on Stella's rich legacy to many of us working at the coalface of equity and justice..

For many years Stella played an important role as one of the Guardians with the Institute of Cultural Affairs-Australia (an international NGO); particularly during the decades of the 70's and 80's; whose volunteers were working in Community Development , living at different times in the isolated Oombulgurri community in the Eastern Kimberleys and subsequently for several years with the small community located at Murrin Bridge in central western NSW. One particular visit which comes to mind is Stella arriving in a light plane accompanied by Peter Baume and others who were interested in the development of local industries as a part of the preventive health strategies at Murrin Bridge. Her knowledge and understanding of establishing realistic goals for economic ventures was invaluable.

In the 90's during the formal period of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation's programs Stella was one of the key members of the inaugural NSW State Reconciliation Committee(now Council) along with many distinguished members eg Stuart Rees, Linda Burney MP, Garth Netheim, Bob Faulkner, Sylvie Ellsmore, Aden Ridgeway and others.

Stella was one of the Founding Members of the Women's Reconciliation Network attending the watershed event held in the Dixon Room at the State Library of NSW, 1996 and was invaluable as a mentor to those with facilitation and writing skills, who often met in the Iguana Cafe in Newton. This group was known as the WRN Red Group. Most of these women were facilitators in various ways. This group included Deborah Wall, Lisa Jackson-Pulver, Judith Altman, Lyn Pollack, Ruth Layard.

In 1998 when the WRN developed and produced the 26 minute documentary "Around the Kitchen Table" Stella accepted the invitation to be one of the women who shared their experiences and wisdom related to the importance of embodying reconciliation practices in the workplace. Other women in this group representing leadership qualities and who were involved in policy making or learning institutions, included Judith Steanes, Susan Bradley, Trish Burns, Claire Dunne, Wendy McCarthy and Freyda Cooper.

Stella was one of our finest role models, mentor and guide, providing wise words, encouragement, and ensuring inclusive qualities to WRN members, in the various events and projects which we hosted. The Women's Reconciliation Network is privileged to have known Stella and proud to remember her as one of our Nation's Treasures. *ET Feb 2011*



First Anniversary Sorry Day Ceremony Kurnell, 1998
Sally Gray, Tracy De Geer & William, Stella, Judith Altman



1967 Referendum 40 years on Town Hall April 2007
Stella listening intently, sitting in front of Lizzie Landers.