

Background information on Dorothy Victor (nee Deegan)



Grandkids at Billard Aboriginal Community (2008) [Photo credit - Kevin Hall]

MY BEAUTIFUL GRANDMOTHER'S STORY ¹

**Written by Ta'Marrah O'Reeri, daughter of Nelson and Mary O'Reeri (nee Victor)
as an 11 year old student at Sacred Heart School, Beagle Bay WA**

My grandmother was born Dorothy Anne Paddawala.

She was born on the 1st of June 1948 on a small cattle station called Kimberley Downs. Kimberley Downs is on the Gibb River road.

My nana's mother was a full blood Nykina woman. Her name was Anita. My nana's father was a Non-Indigenous man.

Nana was the third eldest in her family. My nana had 3 brothers and 5 sisters. Nana Kathleen Shadforth is the oldest in her family.

When my nana was born, my great grandmother Anita gave her up to her sister Ethel Banks. My great grandmother Ethel looked after her and raised her up at Kimberley Downs Station.

Nana learnt from the old people there, the Law and Custom of the land. She would go hunting and gathering food enjoying her carefree life style with her people.

All of my nana's brothers and sisters had been taken away long before her. When the Welfare came for her, the old people ran away from the Welfare with her. The Welfare and the Police caught up to them months later unexpectedly at the station.

My great grandmother Ethel covered and rubbed black ashes all over her body. Just so that the Welfare and the Police thought that she was one of the full blood children. The Kimberley heat was to hot. She started to sweat.

They took her away at the age of 12. My nana was taken to Broome and was placed in the Holy Orphanage Convent, which was run by the Sisters of Saint John of Gods. There she met her other sisters and brothers. Some years later, my nana and her sisters and brothers was then taken to Beagle Bay for education.

In Beagle Bay she fell in love with my Grandfather (Lulu) Stephen Victor who is a Nyul Nyul man. They got married on the 28th of November 1964.

My nana gave birth to 9 children. My grandparents have 47 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren.

They live in our block called 'Billard'. That's our home and we love being there with them.

¹ Nana doesn't like getting her photograph taken!