
**An interview with my
grandmother Margaret Anning
(nee Bong)**

Introduction

My name is Meda-Hope Caulfield, I am twelve years old and in year 8 at Atherton State High School. I live on Tableland Yidinji Country. I am a descendant of the Mbarbarrum, Jirrabal, Tableland & Coastal Yidinji, Warrgamay, Girramay, Kuku Yalanji, Kaantju, Guugu Yimithirr and Gunganydji peoples. I am a descendant of those that were stolen from their families and traditional lands. For my Yarning with Elders project, I interviewed my grandmother Margaret Anning (nee Bong). Grandma's Aboriginal heritage is Yidinji Tableland & Coastal, Kaanju, Kuku Yalanji, Gunganydji & Girramay, tribal peoples of Far North Queensland.



July 2020 My grandparents Margaret (nee Bong) and Sam Anning with four of their five children, spouses and children. I am seated next to my grandad in the horizontal striped shirt.

THE INTERVIEW

Meda-Hope: When were you born and where?

Grandma Marg: I was born in Cairns Base Hospital, in 1957 in November.

Meda-Hope: How many people are in your family? Are you the oldest or youngest?

Grandma M: There is eight children in our family. I'm the second, I've got a brother older than me. And yeah I'm the second and the rest are behind.

Meda-Hope: Whereabouts did you live? Did you live on your Country?

Grandma M: Yes, I did live on my Country. I used to live in Wrights Creek, and Edmonton; all over the place. Deeral. Yeah, mainly on the Coast.

Meda-Hope: Was it hard for you to grow up and learn because of your skin colour?

Grandma M: Yes it was, yeah. But learnt to live with that, but yeah. I didn't take much notice of it but when I got older you sort of noticed there was prejudice.

Meda-Hope: What foods did you mainly grow up on?

Grandma M: Fish, taro, yeah all different types of food. Mainly fish and rice. Saltwater and freshwater fish.

Meda-Hope: Where is your Country?

Grandma M: My Country is in Gordonvale, that's my Dad's side. And my Mum's is up on the Atherton Tablelands.

Meda-Hope: What is your Indigenous name?

Grandma M: My Indigenous name is "Marrii." That means the wife of a warrior.

Meda-Hope: What do you do in your free time?

Grandma M: I'm a housewife plus I do voluntary work at this time.

Meda-Hope: Do you think the racism has gotten better or worse?

Grandma M: Oh, sort of. It's sort of OK and there is still racism. So yeah, you still got it still around, but probably not as worse. But, its there, by the skin colour mainly.