

*My name is Lilliana Joinbee, aged 11 turning 12. I'm from the Jirrbal Tribe (Rainforest People). I currently live in Tolga, with my parents and 4 siblings. I'm in year 7 at Atherton State High School.*

*I've chosen to interview my Nanna, Marcelle Godden. She was born in 1947 (75 years of age) at the Herberton Hospital. She was raised in Millstream until the age of 5, then the family moved closer to where her father worked for Corney & Smith Sawmillers at Tully Falls.*

*Nanna Marcelle now resides in Innot Hot Springs on a farm with her family and animals. The Farm is surrounded by Big Pecan Trees and a beautiful River down over the bank where there is lots of Fishing to do. Number one rule is to catch a Fish for Nanna Marcelle as well.*



*Nanna Marcelle is one of the elders whom is loved and respected by many. She has a lot of knowledge about the traditions, tribes, lands and has many stories to tell.*

*Many things were learnt from the Elders telling Dreamtime stories. Even today they have small gatherings in the evenings around the campfires where they tell us stories. They have stuck with us as we have grown up about the dangers of what we can and can't do. Like where to walk, especially along where they lived on the ridge of Millstream.*

*Cedar trees were all around that area. It was their playground, where they grew up. Whilst their Mum and Dad went out to work, the children would go down to the river to catch their food and kept themselves entertained until the afternoon. When the sun started to set, they knew it was time to go do chores. They gathered wood for the fire and went down to the river to fetch water, ready for when Mum and Dad got home.*

*Growing up in the local community because of the Elders, mixing with the white people was very hard. When they would meet up with the white people, they knew they were in trouble for something. Going to school was very scary at first, not knowing what to expect or how we would blend in among the white children. But we all got along just fine.*

*Hunting for bushtucker, they had several dogs that would come along and help them chase down the bandicoots. They would chase the bandicoots up hollow logs and capture them. They also ate eels (Juban), fish (Bugal), turtle (Bungadoo). Our tribal totem is the white cockatoo, and my favourite traditional story is Blue Tongue Lizard.*

*Stolen generation story is very sad. A lot of them got sent away to work on Stations. It is still very sad for all the elderly aboriginal people.*

*Nanna Marcelle's advice for the younger generation of Aboriginal people of today is to go to school, get a good education than go out into the workforce and become someone. Just like my dad Nathan, his Aunty Marcelle and Uncle Bill took him under there wing and taught him many things on the farm. Nanna Marcelle said they had a good time bringing him up on the farm also making sure he*

*had a good education. He has worked very hard getting to where he is today, and they are very proud of him.*

*Growing up with our traditional Jirrbal language, we were allowed to speak it at home but when we went into town, we had to speak English in front of the white people and behave ourselves. Learning about cultural heritage our elder's history and the struggles of our tribes and what it took to get where they are today.*

*I thank my Nanna Marcelle for sharing her experience and stories with me and allowing me to write this essay to send in.*

*Written by Lilliana Joinbee*

