

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** IMP0081

## Bandler, Faith Ida Lessing

(1920 - 2015)

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<b>Born</b>	27 September, 1920, Tumbulgum New South Wales Australia
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<b>Died</b>	13 February, 2015
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<b>Occupation</b>	Author, Campaigner
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### Summary

Faith Bandler has campaigned for Aboriginal and Islander rights throughout her life, firstly through the Aboriginal-Australian Fellowship and later through the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders (FCAATSI). She has written novels and children's literature as well as many non-fiction works relating to Aboriginal rights. Her biography, *Faith: Faith Bandler, gentle activist*, written by Marilyn Lake, was published in 2002.

### Details

Faith Bandler and her sister enlisted in the Australian Women's Land Army during World War II. She was employed at Young, picking cherries and also the farming districts of Bathurst and Griffith. She was discharged on the 11 October 1945.

Bandler was offered an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) for her services to the community in 1976, but declined it in protest against the dismissal of Prime Minister Gough Whitlam by the Governor-General, Sir John Kerr. She later accepted a nomination as Member of the Order of Australia (AM) and received the honour on 11 June 1984. This was for service to Aboriginal welfare.

### Events

#### 2001 - 2001

Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

### Published resources

#### Edited Book

The Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia : Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, society and culture, Horton, David, 1994

Who's Who in Australia 2002, Herd, Margaret, 2002

As a woman: writing women's lives, Scutt, Jocelyne A., 1992

#### Resource Section

FAITH BANDLER, 2002,  
<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/australians/f.bandler.htm>

Great moments in Indigenous history: Have Faith in Nelson!, Foley, Gary, 2002,  
<http://www.kooriweb.org/foley/great/grt11.html>

Guide to the Papers of Faith Bandler, Hirst, Warwick, 2000,  
[http://findaid.library.uwa.edu.au/cgi-bin/nph-dweb/dynaweb/findaid/bandler/@Generic\\_BookView:cs=default:ts=default](http://findaid.library.uwa.edu.au/cgi-bin/nph-dweb/dynaweb/findaid/bandler/@Generic_BookView:cs=default:ts=default)

#### Book

Faith : Faith Bandler, gentle activist, Lake, Marilyn, 2002

The black Diggers : Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders in the Second World War, Hall, Robert A., 1997

Turning the tide : a personal history of the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, Bandler, Faith, 1989

Faith Bandler [videorecording] : born 1920 : civil rights activist, Heimans, Frank, 1993c

Marani in Australia, Bandler, Faith; Fox, Len, 1980

The Time was ripe : a history of the Aboriginal-Australian Fellowship (1956-69), Bandler, Faith; Fox, Len, 1983

Wacvie, Bandler, Faith, 1977

Welou, my brother, Bandler, Faith, 1984c

Australian literature : an historical introduction, McLaren, John, 1989

Australian women writers : a bibliographic guide, Adelaide, Debra, 1988

Talkin' up to the white woman : Aboriginal women and feminism, Moreton-Robinson, Aileen, 2000

### **Newspaper Article**

Betrayal [White attitudes to Indigenous people], Marr, David, 2000

Keeping the faith [Although she has faith in youth and the future, Faith Bandler grieves for the life she has lost in the battle for rights], Hope, Deborah, 1998

Faith -Bandler-, a vision splendid, Stephens, Tony, 1991

A lifetimes accomplishment [Faith Bandler], Secord, Walt, 1989

Details of pioneers in Aboriginal movement., Horner, Jack, 1972

Faith lives in world Bandler touched, Robinson, Natasha, 2015

### **Journal Article**

Paving the way : a tribute to black Australian writers. [Keynote speech given at the presentation of the New South Wales Premier's Literary Awards (1993)], Bandler, Faith, 1999

They spoke out pretty good: the leadership of women in the Brisbane Aboriginal rights movement, 1958/ 1962, Darling, Elaine, 1996

2001 Eldershaw Memorial Lecture : founding fathers, dutiful wives and rebellious daughters.[Lecture presented to a Tasmanian Historical Research Association meeting on 10 Apr 2001.], Lake, Marilyn, 2001

Citizenship as Non-discrimination: Acceptance or Assimilation? Political Logic and Emotional Investment in Campaigns for Indigenous Rights in Australia, 1940 TO 1970, Lake, Marilyn, 2001

### **Book Section**

Aboriginal women, Richards, Michaela, 1988

Australian land rights policy, Bandler, Faith, 1987

### **Conference Proceedings**

Reports and resolutions, Conference on Aboriginal Affairs (8th : 1965 : Canberra, A.C.T.), 1965

### **Resource**

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

### **Site Exhibition**

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders>

## Archival resources

### **National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection**

Papers of Jack and Jean Horner, 1956-2003 [manuscript]

### **AIATSIS Film Collection**

Aboriginal women farm workers during World War II - three archival film interviews

### **AIATSIS Manuscript and Rare Books Collection**

Annual report by N.S.W. State Secretary

### **Mitchell and Dixson Libraries Manuscripts Collection**

Aboriginal National Theatre Trust Limited - files, 1902-1991

Women's Redress Press - book files, 1976-1996, including correspondence, contracts, readers' reports, reviews and photographs

Collection 01: Faith Bandler papers, 1968-1992

Series 04: Faith Bandler interviewed by Carolyn Craig, 1997

Collection 02: Faith Bandler further papers, 1875, 1945-1997

Ros Bowden - interviews conducted for radio programs and documentaries, ca.1975 - 1989

### **Author Details**

Clare Land

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