Summary

Creator: Bandler, Faith, 1920-

Title: Papers of Faith Bandler, 1968 - 1992

Date range: 1968-1992

Reference number: MLMSS 6243

Extent: 1 box (0.18 m.) of Ms., typescript, sound recordings and video recordings.

Repository: Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales

Abstract: The collection comprises manuscripts, oral history interviews with Faith Bandler, and a documentary film including Faith Bandler.

Biographical Note

Faith Bandler, activist and author, was born in 1920 at Tumbulgum, Murwillimbah, N.S.W., the daughter of Peter Mussing a Hebridean Islander brought to Australia by slave traders in 1882. In 1956 Faith Bandler and Pearl Gibbs founded the Aboriginal-Australian Fellowship. Bandler was elected N.S.W. State Secretary of the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Straight Islanders (F.C.A.A.T.S.I.) in 1959, was National General Secretary from 1970 to 1973, and later Vice-President. Bandler directed the campaign for a Federal referendum on the issue of Aboriginal rights and citizenship. The 1967 Federal referendum resulted in alteration to the Australian Constitution giving equal rights of citizenship to Aborigines and Torres Straight Islanders. From the early 1970s Bandler has made representations and submissions on behalf of Australians of South Sea Island descent not eligible for benefits available to Australian Aborigines. Faith Bandler has written her father’s story in Wacvie (1977) and Marani in Australia with Len Fox (1980), and her brother’s story in Welou, my brother (1984). She has written the history of the Aboriginal-Australian Fellowship with Len Fox in The time was ripe (1983), and a history of F.C.A.A.T.S.I. in Turning the tide (1989).
Administrative Information

Access
Restricted. For reasons of privacy correspondence of the last 10 years is restricted.

Restrictions on Use
Copyright of materials described in this guide is governed by copyright law in Australia.

Preferred Citation

Provenance
Presented by Faith Bandler in 1996.

Access Terms

Names
• Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders

Subjects
• Aborigines, Australian -- Women.
• Authors, Australian -- 20th century.
• Pacific Islanders -- Australia.
• Women authors, Australian -- 20th century.
• Women civil rights workers -- Australia.

Series List and Descriptions

A. Literary manuscripts, 1977-1989

i. Wacvie, 1977
   Photocopied typescript (Box MLMSS 6243)

ii. Welou, my brother, 1984
   Photocopied typescript (Box MLMSS 6243)
iii. *Turning the tide*, 1989
Typescript (Box MLMSS 6243)

Two typescript versions

B. Film, 1968

16mm film; VHS videotape (Reel VT 522/1-2)

“This land of theirs”, 1968

A documentary film account of “Walkathon City” La Perouse recording the celebration of the 1967 referendum which ended Constitutional discrimination against Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. The event was also to raise money for Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. One 16mm film, and one copy of film on VHS video tape.

C. Sound recordings, ca.1986-1992
(Reel MLOH 242/1-12)

Twelve audio tapes of interviews with Faith Bandler. Interviews include:

D. Pictorial material, ca.1957, 1993
(Box ML 1174- ML 1175)

The collection includes two portraits of Faith Bandler.