

Lyn Lovegrove-Niemz

Respect is a two way process

Lyn is a talented artist and proud Ngarrindjeri woman who was born in Swan Hill Victoria. Her father, a Ngarrindjeri man was from Raukkan (Point McLeay Mission) and her mother Fremantle WA, where they met when he was working with a travelling show. Aboriginal language and culture were discouraged in her childhood, but Lyn could understand and speak some Ngarrindjeri. Lyn is the eldest of 5 and when her father joined the railways they moved to Tailem Bend until Lyn was 10. Lyn spent happy times at 3 Mile Camp with her Nanna Laura, a Ngarrindjeri midwife, and her Nanna Ellen on their homeland Murrangoong. Both Nanna's were the sisters of Lyn's Grandmother Rose, her father's mother (traditional Ngarrindjeri relationship).

Lyn's father's job at Weapons Research meant that as an Aboriginal person he had to get an exemption to move to Adelaide and be considered a 'white man' no longer under the Aboriginal Protection Act. This meant that the children, despite having a white mother, were exempted, and deemed 'white'; this certificate was abolished in the 1967 referendum. Once the family moved to Adelaide and her parents separated Lyn never settled in school and stayed home to look after her brother. Lyn moved between her parents with jobs in a Kalgoorlie deli, a 4-Square store, a children's nursery and a Hindmarsh box factory.

Lyn moved to Campbelltown when she married, as her husband worked at the Campbelltown Post Office. Lyn and her husband had three children when they moved to Newton where she still lives. Lyn's youngest son was born there and the children did their schooling in Campbelltown. Lyn worked at the Paradise Hotel for 23 years; at one stage juggling 3 jobs with bringing up her children.

Lyn is concerned with overcrowding eroding the character of the area and single homes being replaced by many; her home is now tightly surrounded, creating concerns with roads and parking. She is pleased Council consult with Ivan Copley, their Reconciliation Advisory Committee and recognise Kaurna Lands, and hopes that Council continue to promote Aboriginal heritage and address racism.

Lyn's second husband encouraged her art, but tragically died after 2.5 years of marriage not long after her father's death, making this the most difficult time of her life. She took time off to grieve, joined an arts group and studied TAFE qualifications to work as a school ACEO, in the SA Museum holiday program and teaching pottery. Lyn worked with Aboriginal Family Support Services in "The Strengthening Nunga Families Program" and at Centacare until she retired supporting people at risk of homelessness, aboriginal suicide prevention and with foster children to provide cultural awareness.

Lyn's proudest moment was selling her first painting at Tandanya and her second proudest moment was being judged in the general prize category, winning the Watershed exhibition. Having won the Campbelltown art exhibition about 8 times, with two paintings at Council, it is obvious that she is a talented artist. Lyn believes that it is vital to represent her culture in positive ways and is exploring sculptures, blending pottery, traditional designs and cultural weaving to create unique pieces.

Lyn believes that success changes with your life situations; being a good mother, having a happy family and seeing her children and grandchildren happy, are her joy.

**"Do not be intimidated by the world,
be brave and daring despite what
life brings to your door."**

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– inspiring stories of local women, their achievements and contributions to the Community.

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Thank you to the women who participated and volunteer interviewers Di Booker and Katrina Spencer.