

Neville Bonner Biography

Neville Bonner was born in the small island of Ukerberg, Tweed Heads, on the 28/3/1922. His dad (Henry Kenneth Bonner) left him at a young age leaving his mother (Julia Rebecca Bonner) to care of him alone. When Neville was young his daily jobs included ring barker and cane cutter.

As Neville entered adulthood he moved to palm island, very near the coast of Queensland. Despite Neville having no form of education he was the first indigenous Australian to be in parliament. Neville worked for the Queensland Parliament as a senator for 11 years, between 1971 and 1982 In these years he fixed a lot of indigenous and Torres Strait Island problems. As well as being a senator he was a Jagera elder.

Neville Bonner married Mona Bonner in 1943 but she sadly passed away 26 years later in 1969. Neville remarried 2 years later in 1972 to Heather Bonner who would then go on to have 5 boys. Later on in October 2004 Heather Bonner.

Some people don't know but he was an author after he retired as well, writing an astonishing 5 books in 1 year and 1 the year before. Some of these books include Equal World, Equal Share and East Timor: The Guilty Men and two more books about about Aboriginal peoples.

Neville Bonner resigned in 1983. Bonner worked with a number of organisations to improve the welfare of First Nation people. He was appointed Officer of Order in 1984 and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Griffen University in 1993. Neville Bonner sadly passed away in 1999 and in 2004 The Queensland Federal made a electorate which was created in honour of him. His legacy will always be remembered.