

Shirley Colleen Smith

Shirley Colleen Smith is a proud and honest Wiradjuri descendant. She is also a very hard working person who has got a lot of medals and achieved lots of things through out her life.

Shirley was born into a family of 5 in Crowa on 22nd of November. Her parents Isabel and Joseph worked as drivers. Shirley had a very good relationship with her grandfather, Daniel Boney. He was a calm and wise man. Shirley had a normal childhood and went to school except she had epilepsy. After her grandfather was expelled from Erambie she went to go live with her grandparents in Crowa. When Shirley was younger there was no cure to epilepsy but now there is. Luckily lots of people helped Shirley get through the epilepsy.

Shirley went to a school called Erambie Mission School and sometimes went to St Bridget's School but because of her epilepsy her grandfather ended up teaching her. Daniel said that she had a "Prodigious memory and a lively wit". Shirley couldn't read or write in English but should have learned how to speak in 16 different aboriginal languages.

At the age of 16 Shirley met a professional boxer called Cecil Hazel, but his boxing name is Darcy Smith. A couple years later they got married and moved into a house in Surry Hills.

Sadly Shirley's first child died when she had a epileptic fit. When Shirley was pregnant again she moved to Kempsey on the North Coast to live with Cecil family. Cecil traveled a lot then later moved back to Kempsey. After that Shirley entered the parent hood after she gave birth to a girl. She called the baby Beatrice. Shirley raised Beatrice by herself until she was 3 years old. Shirley got her name mum Shirley after she visited people from jail and told the police officers that she was their mum.

Shirley won lots of metals like in 1970 she became Involved in land rights or 1972, the Aboriginal Black Theatre, Aboriginal Tent Embassy and Aboriginal Children. She has lots more but there is to many to say. Then later she died in 1998 on the 28th of April

When Shirley was young she had epilepsy but lots of people helped her get through it. Her grandfather taught her how to read and write. When Shirley was older she had a child called Beatrice. But the main thing is that she became a very successful person and won lots of awards and medals for all the nice things she did.