years away, Fraser retired to his home country in 1968. He had remained single, and lived in Charleville with members of the family of his elder brother John (Reg, Nell, Ben and Bruce) or sometimes in Augathella with Mick Tatten. Although suffering greatly from arthritis, Fraser was one of the two major contributors to work on his language, carried out in the late 1960s and early 70s. He died in Charleville at the end of 1973.

PGWF and JGB

Fraser Island

SEE ALSO: Badtjala; Cherbourg; Foley, F; Gubbi Gubbi; Northeast Region; Palm Island; Queensland History; Whales; Wybalenna; Yarrabah

Named for Eliza Fraser, shipwrecked on the island in the Stirling Castle in 1836. Fraser Island deserves fame both as a setting for one of the many wars in the conquest of Australia which whites denied happened, and as a stage where the prisoners of that war ended their days. During the 1840s the Gubbi Gubbi and Badtjala peoples were winning the war against the settlers, launching guerrilla raids from the island. In 1851 the Native Police, somewhat reluctantly (in view of the strength of resistance), launched an attack on the island. Details of the events were kept secret, probably because, even in a war full of atrocities, the Fraser Island campaign was particularly brutal. In the 1860s a newspaper said that Aborigines should be put on the island and 'placed under strict surveillance and strong guard...and compelled, if necessary, by the infliction of corporal punishment to cultivate the ground'.

In the late 1890s a reserve was established on Fraser Island. The Gubbi Gubbi and the Badtjala were moved there, followed by people from all over the mainland, for as Archie Meston (southern Qld Protector of Aborigines) thought, 'Blacks profess to be much attached to the locality as their mothers and fathers were born there...but this is not to be accepted as an argument against collecting them together for their own benefit in some central reserve...It is too late in the day to humour these caprices and sentimentalisms.' In 1901 Meston noted proudly that 'Fraser Island is especially adapted for a station to receive all blacks over whom effective control is a stern necessity'. By 1903 the adaptation had clearly failed. Meston sadly observed that it was 'drifting into chaos...the result of incompetent people being in charge'. In 1904, 117 Fraser Island residents were shipped to Yarrabah on the north Qld coast. Recently, Badtjala people have established a cultural centre on the island.

DRH

FURTHER READING: Lauer 1977

Freedom Riders

SEE ALSO: History; Munro, L; Perkins, C; Politics; Racism; Referendum 1967

A group of about 30 Sydney University students (including two Aboriginal people) who, in February 1965, undertook a 3,200 km bus tour of northern NSW towns investigating and protesting discrimination against Aborigines. Considered by some to be the most significant act in Aboriginal–European relations in the twentieth century, this tour marked the beginning of substantial European awareness of the problems of Aboriginal people. It was led by Charles Perkins and Jim Spigelman, with help from Ted Noffs and Bill Ford.

They planned to survey race relations and conditions of Aboriginal housing, education and employment in towns with large Aboriginal communities. In most towns the students uncovered an informal but effective colour bar: Aboriginal people were refused service in shops, confined to separate sections of cinemas, banned from hotels and clubs, excluded from public swimming pools and socially ostracised.

At two towns in particular – Walgett and Moree — the tour achieved notoriety
as clashes with crowds of antagonistic residents attracted national media attention. In Walgett the students demonstrated outside the Returned Services League (RSL) club, which barred Aboriginal ex-service personnel from membership. In Moree, they picketed the town swimming pool, where only Aboriginal children attending with school parties were admitted. After an hour's angry debate with the pool manager and the mayor before a large crowd, six Aboriginal children with the students were allowed into the pool. The students returned to Moree several days later and were again confronted by a crowd of irate townspeople, who spat on them and pelted them with eggs and fruit as police escorted them from the town.

Both Walgett and Moree experienced racial disturbances during the mid-1980s,

Charles Perkins (centre left) who participated in the Freedom Ride to Moree in 1965 that produced this happy occasion (photograph courtesy News Limited)
but the tour had focused attention on the gross discrimination suffered by many Aboriginal people. It also educated Aboriginal people in the towns it visited, many of whom had previously resigned themselves to accepting discrimination. Lyall Munro's active political involvements began in Moree, where he had been one of the six children the freedom riders had escorted into the town swimming pool.

IH-W

FURTHER READING: Perkins 1975; Read 1988A

Freeman, C

SEE ALSO: Cooper, A; Feifer, K; Green, C; Samuels, C; Sport

Catherine Freeman (b 1973), born in Mackay, Qld. Since the age of eight she has won every Qld state under-age sprint championship except one — and that was when she had glandular fever. Freeman was placed in the charge of coach Mike Danila in 1989 when her family moved to Brisbane. In less than a year she had won a Commonwealth Games gold medal as a member of the women's 4 x 100 m relay team in New Zealand, taken the national women's open 200 m sprint title and represented Australia in the World Junior Games in Bulgaria. She went to Japan in 1990 as part of Melbourne's bid to host the 1996 Olympic Games. Freeman was named Young Australian of the Year for 1990. She was Aboriginal Sportswoman of the Year in 1991 and represented Australia in the 4 x 400 m relay at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. She subsequently ran the third-fastest 200 m ever run in Australia.

DdeB

FURTHER READING: Flynn 1991

Fregon

SEE ALSO: Enterprises; Ernabella; Medical Services; Cutstations; Pitjantjatjara; Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act; Police Aides Scheme

A former outstation of Ernabella mission, SA. It was established in 1961 on what had earlier been a 1,300 sq km lease called Shirley Well. On the bank of the Officer Creek, the main watercourse from the southern side of the Musgrave Ranges in northwest SA, the former lease had been added to the North-West Aboriginal Reserve in 1949 and Ernabella mission had been given grazing rights over it. As the permanent population at Ernabella grew, mission authorities discussed the possibility of opening a new settlement with people who had traditional links with the sandhill country. Assisted by a bequest from A Fregon, the settlement opened in 1961 at a site 6 km south of Shirley Well. The settlement, administered from Ernabella, envisaged a population of about 100 supported by a cattle business. Bores were put down for water, a central stockyard erected and 200 cattle purchased. Women were employed through a branch of the Ernabella Craftroom.

In 1974, the community became