

# SMASHING SERENDIPITY

by LOUISE HANSEN

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Lavinia Connell gathers her children and grandchildren around the fire on the banks of the river where she grew up to tell them the story of her life. She is a proud Bijareb Nyoongar, just one of many moorditj yorga – good, strong women – whose inner strength has helped them succeed in the face of discrimination and violence. In the course of her life, Lavinia will find herself a homeless young widow, stripped of hope when her four children are taken away. But she is resilient too, using education and determination to bring them all together again, finding love when she least expects it, and building for her family a better future.

This is a raw, gritty, inspiring, eye-opening true story of one woman's life that represents the lives of so many other Aboriginal women like her.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Louise Hansen was a Binjareb Nyoongar woman born in Pinjarra, Western Australia. She was a Traditional Owner of the Binjareb people and she had strong connections to the Palyku people from the Pilbara. Louise was the first Aboriginal person to be appointed to the federal Family Law Council of Australia. She was also previously employed by the Commonwealth Government as the State Coordinator for Women's Issues and later, senior policy officer responsible for several portfolios.

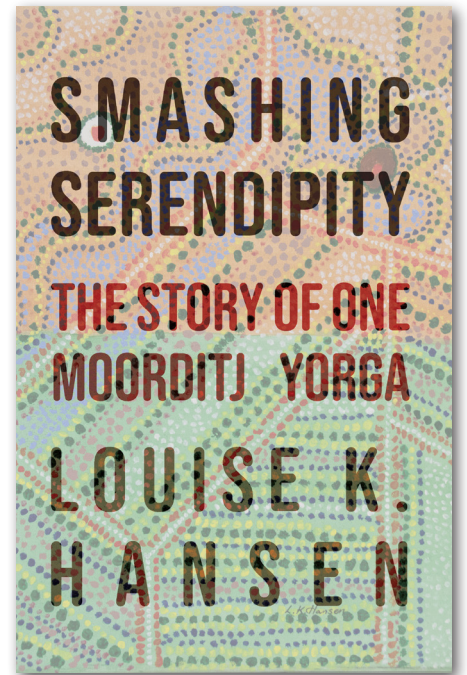


## KEY POINTS

- *Smashing Serendipity* is the life story of Louise Hansen, but all the names in this memoir have been changed to protect those around her, present and departed.
- Working with her husband, Louise set up the first WA Aboriginal Building Company to train young Aboriginal people to become qualified in the building trades. They also collaborated on music, writing, performing and producing two albums, *The Gate* and *Rainbow Country*.
- She also found time to share her ancient Aboriginal culture with her family and others through the Elders Yarning program at Curtin University.
- The cover art is by the author, depicting her mother's Nyoongar country and her father's Palyku country, with a circle each for her paternal grandparents.
- Louise Hansen passed away just as this book was going to print. Her daughter, playwright, performer and academic Alice Kearing is available for interviews and events. Alice has also recorded an online glossary of Nyoongar words, which will be available on the Fremantle Press website.

## PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

'This poignant memoir is a reminder that there are generations of Aboriginal women who, in addition to experiencing trauma and pain at the hands of settlers, also have stories of perseverance and strength.' *Books+Publishing*



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