

## Thunduyingathui Bangaa Dolly Loogatha

*Bindilka, Kunbulka, Yarbuda  
(Kayardild for Bird, Sea Creature, Land Animal)*



Dolly Loogatha is the name given to me by the then missionary Mr Macartney of Mornington Island and all surrounding islands, a brand-new English name and a mispronounced of my surname Loogatha, in 1946. Originally was Rukuthingathi – Rukuthi (Oaktree) ngathi (belonging to named place), the name of my father's people's homeland. My proper name is Thundyingathi Bangaa (Turtle) and my birthplace sits on my father's country.

Rukuthi and Thundi is where I watched wild life especially bird and sea life. Rukuthi has a fresh water soak and during the wet season the different birds come to nest and find mates. The soak becomes like a swamp and tall grass grow there giving shelter. Living on country let me and my sisters see how important animals were and how they provided food for our people as well. My elder sisters and aunties would tell stories of my father king Alfred and his brothers dugong hunts, at Makarrki river my father's country.

I was removed from family and placed into a dormitory with all the other children. I saw horses, chickens, bullock for the first time I was only child 4-5 yrs (My sisters took care of me). I made friends for life there. After working for the missionaries, I left to work on sheep and cattle stations in Queensland I was also a nanny for the children and did domestic work. I saw many animals more horses, sheep, goats, pigs and native birds and animals which I spoke Kaiadilt language to.

After working I went to Darwin met my husband and got married in a pub in Kununurra Western Australia. We spent time in Darwin and travelled all over visiting people and working. We returned to Mornington and Bentinck Island for holidays occasionally to see country and family. We helped to build the airport with the back to country movement.

On our journeys we saw so much wild life and hunted and gathered bush tucker. However, on the mainland weren't allowed to kill Kangaroos or other animals. We would stay awhile camping enjoying the big country away from people. Animals specially birds have a special place in my life it's something my husband and I shared together. It's the reason I paint birds it brings back memories of our time together. I hope you see animals the way I do.

*Dolly Loogatha 2025*



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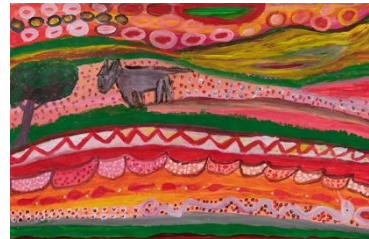
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*Dolly's Birds & Other Animals 2025*  
 Acrylic on paper, 60.5 x 100 cm  
 \$1,750 (unframed)  
 \$2,050 (framed)