

# *Ghost Child: a memoir*

by Noeline Kyle

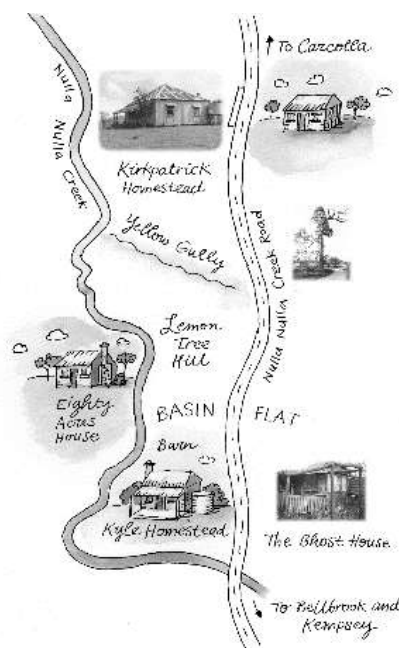
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See at: [Ghost Child](#)



Noeline has published two family histories, a biography of her great grandmother and many other stories about the men and women of rural Australia and now has written an insightful and powerful memoir of her childhood. This is a story of bush children growing up in 1940s rural poverty. The family moves often, there is constant upheaval and no safe haven from the misery of it all. But on the farm of her Grandfather Billy Kyle the child finds a brief sanctuary from the insecurity of her parent's unhappiness. Noeline had to trawl through family histories, school records, newspaper reports, oral histories, museum data, and library and archival material to fill in some of the blank spaces left by a childhood lived long ago; a childhood whose history was scattered, lost perhaps in the ghostly landscape scarcely able to be remembered at all. This childhood, her childhood, is partly a paean to the many myths, misunderstandings and misconceptions now clouding that past. It is also a story of how the history of childhood, any childhood, cannot be any

more than the sum of its many wavering, ghostly and almost unknowable events. Noeline Kyle lived all of her childhood in the shadow of mountains and trees along the banks of the Upper Macleay River and near the small gullies and creeks that snaked around and through them. Her childhood story begins as World War 11 looms and ends as she closes the school gate for the last time.



## The author:



Noeline Kyle 'went back to school' in 1976 as a mature-age student and fell in love with history, a research and writing journey she has continued ever since. Since her retirement from university teaching in 2001 Noeline has worked closely with local, national and international organisations to support, facilitate and promote the writing of family, community, regional and local histories. She is an Emeritus Professor at Queensland University of Technology and an Honorary Professor at the University of Sydney, see her website: [www.writingfamilyhistory.com.au](http://www.writingfamilyhistory.com.au)