

On weekends we went hunting kangaroos. There were lots of kangaroos around Woorabinda. The name comes from the words woora (kangaroo) and binda (sit down). These kangaroos were huge. They were so good to watch racing away, lifting up their tails and powering off. At a safe distance, they'd stop and watch you. We'd have our minds set to kill one for bush tucker, which would be a great change from the beef we so often ate. Their meat was used to make pies which were sold in the community.

We also used to go looking for goannas at Eight Mile. The goannas dug holes in the bank, and we went out looking for their tails. When you spotted a tail, you quickly pulled the goanna from its hole and broke its neck. Porcupine was another animal we hunted. The porcupine is considered a delicacy as its meat is tender. We also enjoyed going down the river and watching the Hereford cattle. At times, we were lucky enough to catch a bull fight. When this happened, we always climbed a tree to watch the fight from a safe distance.

There didn't seem to be a wet season at Woorabinda. When we had rain, it came from the west, instead of the east, and that would get the river running. Vegetables grew well and there were citrus fruits, even grapes and peaches. Watermelons and mulberries grew in abundance.

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We had many forms of entertainment. Sometimes there were English dances and we'd go there to watch. There were good mouth organ and accordion players who played the music. The men dressed up and the ladies wore pretty long dresses. It was a joy to watch them.

Boxing was on Saturday afternoons, and was very popular. There were good fighters from Woorabinda and Palm Island. I only saw one from Cherbourg, David Twaddle, a really good boxer. Sometimes the young boys used to fight in the boxing ring, but it never got out of control. There always was a good referee. George, one of the Sibley brothers from Palm Island, was the champion fighter. Some of our men like Bedford and Stanley Darkan, Phillip Wallace, and Walter and Bindi Jack were also