

The Kanak women in Kanaky - New Caledonia



The Kanak woman

Kanak woman, at the same level with the Kanak man, is one of the two pillars of the Kanak society.

In a traditional house :

- The main (central post) is the chief,
- Each lateral post represents one of the clans that constitute the group,
- The Kanak woman is the cover of the house that protect the people beneath the roof.

So it is the role of the women to cut the hatch that will go onto the roof.

The Kanak woman

Kanak women are in charge
of :

- education their children,
children and elderly's
health
- taking care of the
plantations of crops that
belong to women to grow .
And since men are working
else for salaries, women
must also take care of men's
crops;
- and what, in the every-day
of life, respond to the need
of the family.

The Kanak woman

Kanak women also have occupations in the western world :

They work for public services or for the private sector.

Some women are active members of political parties, and some have been elected to local governments, to the Provincial Assembly and Government, to the New Caledonia Congress (Parliament) and to the Government.

> Tiébaghi

Polo

Dix conductrices de choc sur mine

Women truck drivers

Et de dix conductrices d'engins à Tiébaghi. Pour elles, c'est un boulot comme un autre. Pour eux, c'est agréable de côtoyer des « filles » dans ce milieu traditionnellement masculin. À Tiébaghi, l'arrivée

de conductrices d'engins s'est faite en douceur. Facilitée là-haut comme partout sur mine par une évolution considérable des canions, ces dernières arrivées, si bien que conduire un 100 tonnes est un jeu... de jeu-

nes femmes. Sandra Marowitzh, originaire de Tenala (Voh), Haudrey Cagne, de Pouri, et Kedja Brown, elle aussi de Pouri, sont les trois nouvelles recrues de choc depuis le mois d'avril.

La photo page 22 a été prise le 22 février 2012.



Ces dix nouvelles conductrices d'engins sont venues à la rencontre de leurs collègues masculins et féminins à Tiébaghi. Les photos ont été prises le 22 février 2012.

Marie-France Mandaoué comes from the Tiari tribe in the Ouégoa Village. She began her mining career with training on “heavy vehicle driver” at the Poro School before being recruited in 1998 by the SMSP, to participate in the Koniambo massif’s prospection campaign team. Five years later, sound of her experience, she applied to be transferred to the Kouaoua center on the East coast. Persuasive to bore the secrecies of the mine, until then held by the men, Maité left in February 2005 for a new training at the Poro School and got a Certificate in mining before returning to Kouaoua and to becoming Assistant of the Operating Supervisor.



Dewe Gorodey is from the Embouchure tribe in the Ponerihouen region.

Well known writer, she took part in the Pacific Nuclear-Free and Independent movement in the 1970s. Since 1999, he has been elected to Congress and Vice-President of the Government of New Caledonia.

The Kanak woman in the struggle for independence

Kanak women have always taken their share in the struggle, along side with the men.

They maintain alive the structure of the traditional society;

They hold important positions in the public sector;

They are elected to represent their people in western type of institutions;

They are on the side Kanak traditional authorities, giving the men all needed advices;

And when the struggle became violent, they were on the front line, as well as caring for those injured on the rear lines.

Some changes

“Today, people come back home after spending 5 days living on the mine site, and once back home, they have other leisure granted by that international culture, one wonders whom ancestors could have thought of creating, for it is so vile and venal.

Sunday evening, young mothers lock themselves in that life that is waiting for them on the factory site, in barracks where no traditional life is admitted. Soon they will leave home, the traditional surroundings and all what makes up our society, without wondering if their children will have clean clothes for school and home works done, if the grandmother who will look after them does not deserve another fate.

Outside the house, awaits a brand new shinning four-wheel drive car, made as best in all-terrain vehicle. The former one died in a crash and the employer had to run quickly to tell the bank to open a new credit line to his employee.”

Régina Nonmoira, from the mining town of Thio.

The Kanak woman source of life

The Kanak woman is the source of life.

The way, Mother Earth, Land and Sea, is source of life.

One must protect the land,

One must protect the sea.

A dead sea, a destroy land, will never feed the life Mother Earth offered.

One should always protect the women, since they are our source of life.

Cokwa

Thank you for your attention