

Girls Who Grew Up to Change the World



Evonne Goolagong Cawley
(Born 1951)



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As a child, Evonne would spend hours and hours hitting a ball against a water tank with a piece of wood. She was told to join the tennis club and she did, signing up with a coach and even moving in with his family.



Evonnie is a Wiradjuri Indigenous Australian. Her people had lived in Australia for thousands of years before white settlers arrived from England, taking their lands and killing them, until their numbers dwindled, and their lives were uprooted.



The Indigenous Australian people believe that everything in existence – from rivers to mountains and people to kangaroos – was created by their ancestors during the Dreaming, at the very beginning of everything.



They play music using didgeridoos and clapsticks, two of the oldest musical instruments ever to be invented, and create intricate artworks, once on the walls of caves or rock, now in an array of different ways.



Despite the legacy of discrimination that faces Indigenous Australians in modern Australia, Evonne triumphed as an athlete representing the Wiradjuri Nation and Australia.



She moved to America and excelled at tennis, being crowned the number one player in the world on two occasions. She won fourteen Grand Slams, was named Australian of the Year, and even had her face appear on a postage stamp.



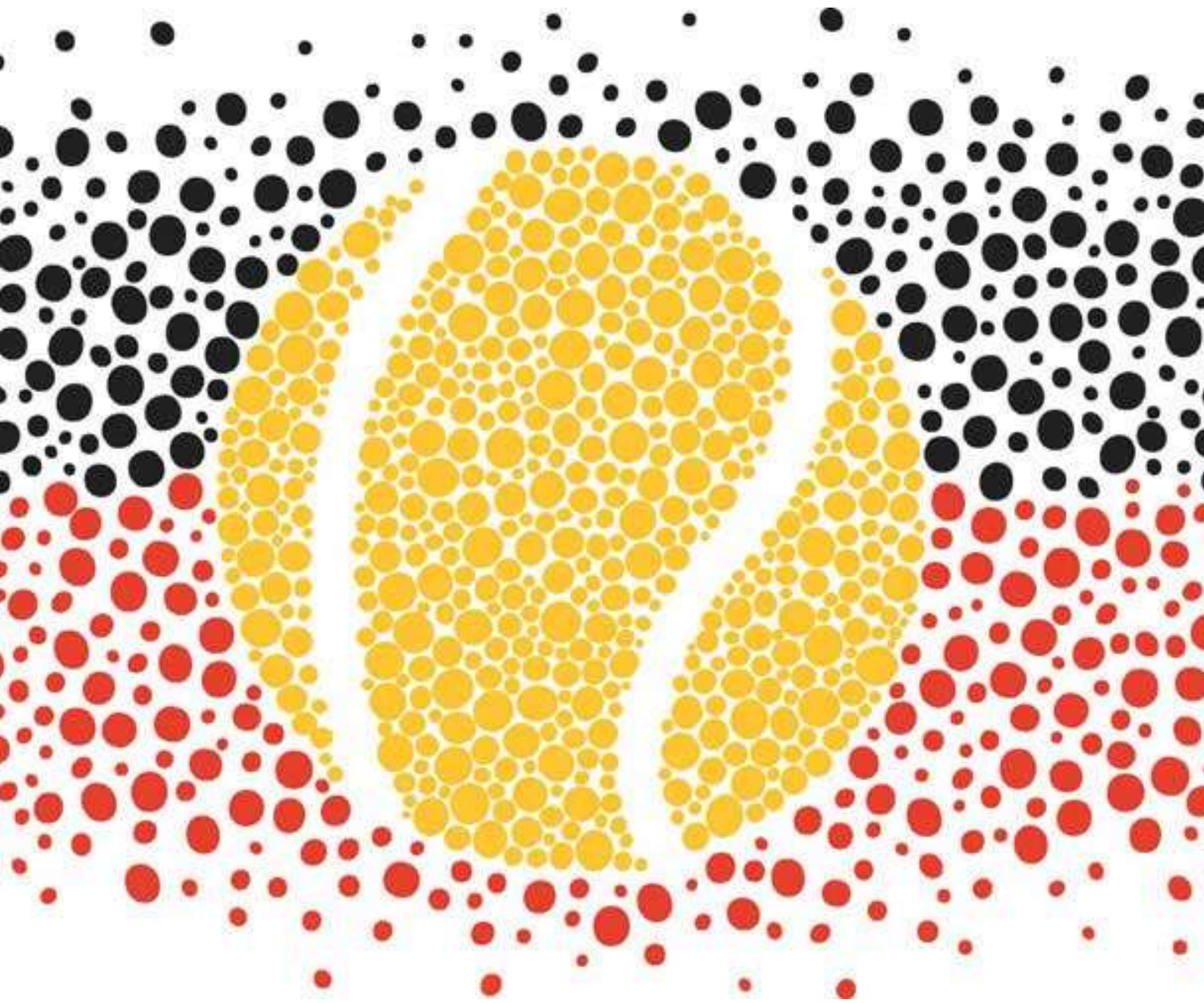
For nine years, she was ranked in the top ten players in the world. She became only the second woman ever to win Wimbledon as a mother.



Ater her own mother died, Evonne went home to Australia, wanting to explore her Indigenous Australian heritage.



She set up the Evonne Goolagong Foundation, which aims to sue tennis camps as a way of improving education, health and create opportunities for Indigenous Australian kids.



For twenty-two years now, the foundation has helped kids achieve their potential, just the way Evonni did.





THINK

DIGITAL ACADEMY

