



# Aboriginal Peoples' Stories

## Fiction for students in Years 7-9

### **Find me a river** by Bronwyn Blake

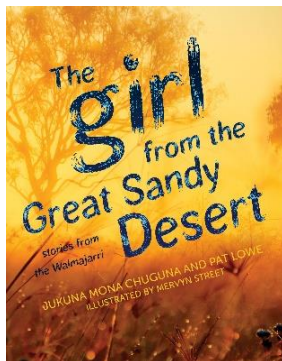
Kes is facing the unthinkable. As drought and bushfire threatens their lives, their homes, and wipes out their cattle, the unthinkable is becoming a reality - her family will have to abandon the mountain property of her great-grandparents. Kes is torn by her search for her own identity and that of her Aboriginal grandmother.



### **Mathinna's people** by Nan Chauncy

The Toogee were an Aboriginal tribe living on the west coast of Tasmania and Mathinna was the daughter of their last leader. They lived an idyllic life until the advent of the white man.

### **The Girl from the Great Sandy Desert** by Jukuna Mona Chuguna and Pat Lowe illustrated by Mervyn Street

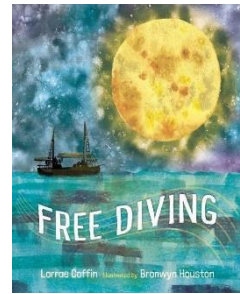


A charming account of the life of Mana, a young Walmajarri girl, and her family, in the desert country of north-west Australia. Simultaneously delightful tales of children growing up and a social and cultural history of a way of life, Mona Chuguna's semi-autobiographical stories are set before European settlement impacted on the lives of the people of the Great Sandy Desert, and before they left their homelands. With gentle humour, the stories show the daily life of hunting and gathering, kinship obligations, the never-ending search for water, and the exploits of the young children.

Acclaimed Gooniyandi (Fitzroy River) artist Mervyn Street captures the subtle nuances of the stories and the Walmajarri way of life with beautiful black and white illustrations.

### **Free Diving** by Lorrae Coffin illustrated by Bronwyn Houston

*Free Diving* is a poignant tribute to the Indigenous men and women who worked in the pearling industry as 'free divers' in the late nineteenth century in Western Australia. It sensitively reflects the emotional journey of a young man who leaves family and country to work on a lugger with Japanese and Malay divers by his side. In a practice known as 'blackbirding' (forced unpaid labour), European pearl lugger owners used Indigenous people to dive for pearl shell. Free diving with no protective suit, he risks his life with every descent.



### **Mazin Grace** by Dylan Coleman

Growing up on the Mission isn't easy for clever Grace Oldman. When her classmates tease her for not having a father, she doesn't know what to say. As Grace slowly pieces together clues that might lead to answers, she struggles to find a place in a community that rejects her for reasons she doesn't understand.

### **The Drover's Boy** by Ted Egan illustrated by Robert Ingpen 1997 **Picture Book**

Based on a popular Australian song that tells of the time when it was illegal for whites and Aborigines to marry, and how such relationships were hidden by Aboriginal women dressing as boys. This book is a tribute to Aboriginal stockwomen, in the hope that one day their huge contribution to the Australian pastoral industry might be recognized.



### **Fair Skin Black Fella** by Renee Fogarty

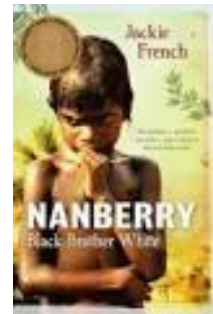
The story of Mary, a young girl who lives on a dusty cattle station. When she is shunned by the other girls because of her fair skin, Old Ned, one of the community Elders, speaks up for her. With words of wisdom, he teaches the girls that Aboriginal identity transcends skin colour and that family, community, country, and culture is what being Aboriginal is really about.

### **Birrung: The Secret Friend** by Jackie French

Birrung, a young indigenous girl, befriends orphaned Barney and his friend Elsie. Birrung is living with Mr Johnson, chaplain to the Australian colony in 1790, and his family. Generous in spirit, the Johnson family also take in Barney and Elsie. When Mr and Mrs Johnson see how Barney's feelings for Birrung are growing, they gently explain that his friendship with a 'native' girl and all that she taught him about her language and lore must remain a secret - forever. Based on the true story of Birrung and the Johnsons.

### **Nanberry: Black Brother White** by Jackie French

It's 1789, and as the new colony in Sydney Cove is established, Surgeon John White defies convention and adopts Nanberry, an aboriginal boy, to raise as his son. Nanberry is clever and uses his unique gifts as an interpreter to bridge the two worlds he lives in. With his white brother, Andrew, he witnesses the struggles of the colonists to keep their precarious grip on a hostile wilderness.



### **Digger J. Jones** by Richard J. Frankland

Digger is keeping a diary about the things that matter to him: piffing yonnies at the meatworks, fishing with his cousins and brawling with the school bully. It's 1967, and bigger things keep getting in the way. Digger is finding out who he is, what he believes and what's worth fighting for.

### **Roughtail: the dreaming of a Roughtail lizard and other stories told by the Kukatja** by Gracie Greene et al **Picture Book**

Tjarany Roughtail contains eight Dreamtime stories from the Kukatja people of Western Australia's remote Kimberley Region. Each story is complemented by beautiful artworks painted by Aboriginal artist Lucille Gill that visually explain each story using traditional dot paintings. Told in English and Kukatja, the book also includes, maps, kinship diagrams, exercises and language notes.

### **My story: Who Am I? The Diary of Mary Talence Sydney, 1937** by Anita Heiss

Part of the "My Story" series. Set in Sydney, 1937, this is the fictional diary of a young Aboriginal girl, a member of the Stolen Generation.

### **The Burnt Stick** by Anthony Hill

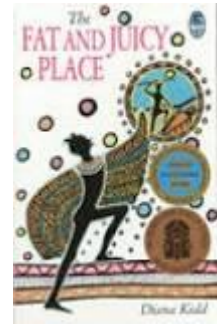
John Jagamarra grew up at the Pearl Bay Mission for Aboriginal Children by the coast in the far north-west. This is his story. It is a tale for everyone who has wondered about the pain of separation, and the strength of the human spirit.

### **Two Hands Together** by Diana Kidd

Two families - one white, one Aboriginal live next door to each other. The main characters are Lili, from the white family and Ella, from the Aboriginal family. Together they form a relationship as best friends; however, when Lili's dad sees Ella and realises that she is Aboriginal, he tells her not to get involved with their next- door neighbours.

### **The Fat and Juicy Place** by Diana Kidd

At the back of Jack's school there's a special place. Not even his mum or gran or friends Splinter or Fleabag, or his little sister Susie know about all the things that happen there. When Jack meets the mysterious Birdman, he finds out secrets about the past. The story of a young Aboriginal boy living in the city and making connections to his ancestors' stories of the land.



### **When I was little Like you** by Mary Malbunka **Picture Book**

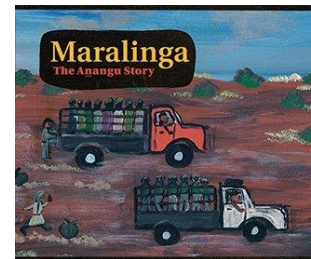
The story of one woman's Aboriginal childhood, this autobiographical children's tale explores Australia's indigenous culture through vivid text and pictures. A glossary of Luritja words used in the book is included.

### **The Binna Binna Man** by Meme McDonald and Boori Monty Pryor

In Binna Binna country you should watch where you go, even on a night when life is so stuffed up that nothing matters anymore. You go wandering too far and you might come face to face with your worst nightmare - the Binna Binna man. This is the powerful story of a boy who is learning that if you forget where you come from you get weak. To stay strong, you must listen to the old people with your eyes and your ears - and your heart.

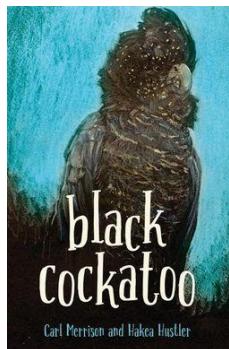
### **Maralinga: the Anangu Story** **Picture Book**

'Maralinga - the Anangu Story' is our story. We have told it for our children, our grandchildren and their children. We have told it for you.' In words and pictures Yalata and Oak Valley community members, with author Christobel Mattingley, describe what happened in the Maralinga Tjarutja lands of South Australia before the nuclear bombs, and after.



### **The Rabbits** by John Marsden and Shaun Tan **Picture Book**

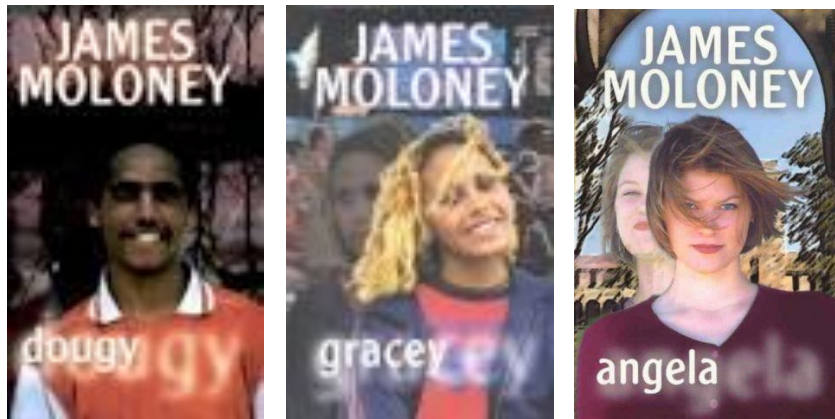
Uses rabbits, a species introduced to Australia, in an allegory of the arrival of Europeans in Australia and the widespread environmental destruction caused by man throughout the continent.



### **Black Cockatoo** by Carl Merrison and Hakea Hustler

Black Cockatoo is a vignette that follows Mia, a young Aboriginal girl as she explores the fragile connections of family and culture. Mia is a 13-year-old girl from a remote community in the Kimberley. She is saddened by the loss of her brother as he distances himself from the family. She feels powerless to change the things she sees around her... until one day she rescues her totem animal, the Dirran black cockatoo, and soon discovers her own inner strength. A wonderful tale on the power of standing up for yourself, your culture and ever-present family ties.





### **Douggy** by James Moloney

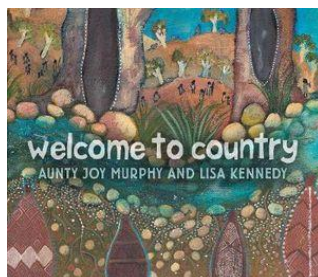
The first novel in a trilogy dealing with issues including racism, racial tensions, alienation and prejudice in an Australian outback community ... Douggy reveals to readers the surface layers of fear and misunderstanding between black and white Australia that has existed for decades. The history and depth of such unrest is explored further in Gracey and Angela. Douggy is a thirteen- year old Aborigine living in a remote outback town comprised of both black and white communities. The blacks live mainly in government subsidised housing which causes some angst amongst the whites. Although there is an uneasy concord in place, there is obvious division between the two cultures. This tension is heightened when Douggy's talented sister Gracey is offered a sporting scholarship at an exclusive private school in Brisbane. Local whites see this as biased and yet another example of 'handouts' to the blacks. They ignore the fact that Gracey has immense talent as a sprinter.

### **Gracey** by James Moloney

Gracey's come home to Cunningham on holidays. But now she's a state athletics champion and a private school student, and everything looks different—even frightening... 'Angela'.

### **Angela** by James Moloney

Angela and Grace were going to be best friends forever and make it into the same university as carefree first year students. But for Gracey, her Aboriginal heritage takes on a new significance.

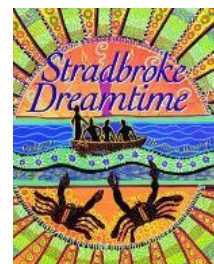


### **Welcome to Country** by Aunty Joy Murphy and Lisa Kennedy **Picture Book**

Welcome to the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri People. We are part of this land and the land is part of us. This is where we come from. Wominjeka Wurundjeri balluk yearmenn koondee bik. Welcome to Country.

### **Stradbroke Dreamtime** by Oodgeroo Noonuccal

Stories from the old and new Dreamtime, made up of Aboriginal folklore which Oodgeroo recalls hearing as a child.



### **The Spirit of Barrumbi** by Leonie Norrington

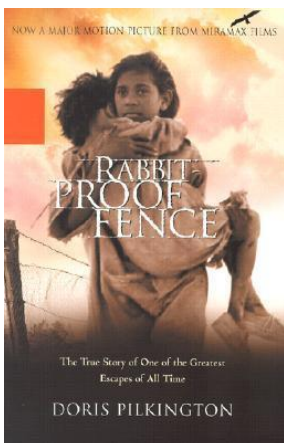
At the end of the long Dry season most of the Long Hole community has travelled to Barrumbi, the place of water, to give the country a message—to let it know that the people are waiting for rain. Fifteen-year-old Sean Murphy climbs up to Death Adder Ridge, a prohibited place, a spirit place. The Wet becomes a flood that overtakes their lives as the spirit of Barrumbi seeks appeasement. With warmth and humour Norrington summons up a powerful spirituality and sensitively explores relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultures.

### **Leaving Barrumbi** by Leonie Norrington

An inspirational tale of two boys' friendship as they continue their journeys into adulthood. The nine-hour trip to his new school is just the beginning of the worst time in Dale Murphy's life. He has to deal with assemblies and detentions, strange food, new enemies, and more white kids than he's ever seen in his life. He feels caught between two cultures and he struggles to make the school staff understand that he belongs with the Aboriginal kids.

### **Mrs Whitlam** by Bruce Pascoe

Marnie Clark of Curdie Vale can ride but she doesn't have a horse. Then Marnie is given Mrs Margaret 'Maggie' Whitlam, a beautiful, big Clydesdale - bold, fearless and able to jump anything. From the very first ride, Marnie and Maggie get more adventure than they bargained for. Soon Marnie is learning to negotiate newfound friendships, pony club and how to stand up for what she believes in. Great for lovers of horse stories, but also deftly handles issues of race and privilege.



### **Rabbit Proof Fence** by Doris Pilkington

Aunt Doris had an amazing mother who undertook the most incredible journey of her life against every single adversity - both natural and man-made - and still ended up losing her own precious children to the same government policy she thought she had conquered.

### **Shake a Leg** by Monty Boori Pryor and Jan Ormerod **Picture Book**

A unique picture book collaboration about having fun, sharing culture, and the power of story and dance. From pizza shop to Bora ground, here is a joyous celebration of food, dance, and cultural understanding. When three young boys go to a pizza parlour and meet an Aboriginal chef who can speak Italian and make a deadly pizza, they're in for a surprise!

## **Manganinnie** by Beth Roberts

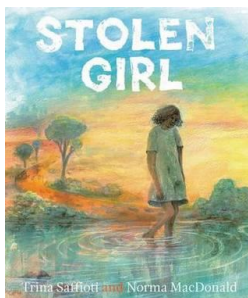
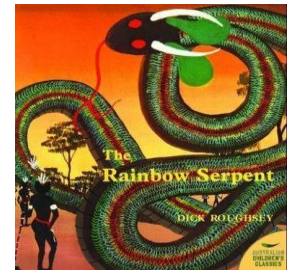
Set last century, this is a story about an old Aboriginal woman, Manganinnie, who takes a two-year-old child from a white family. For three years she travels with the girl through the Tasmanian bush, teaching her the ways and beliefs of the Aboriginal people. Jo-Jo is taken from her settler family and taught the knowledge of the Aboriginal People and the ways of the Land. Manganinnie takes Jo-Jo into a world of spirits that teems with life, a world of adventure and discovery. For Manganinnie the journey is a desperate search to find her lost People and Jo-Jo becomes her only hope for the future.

## **Tiddalick: The Frog who caused a flood** by Robert Roennfeldt **Picture Book**

The tale of Tiddalick the Frog is a legend from Australian Aboriginal mythology. In the telling of the myth, Tiddalick awoke one morning with an unquenchable thirst, and began to drink until all the fresh water was greedily consumed. Creatures and plant life everywhere began to die due to lack of moisture.

## **The Rainbow Serpent** by Dick Roughsey **Picture Book**

Recounts the Dreamtime story of creation featuring Goorialla, the great Rainbow Serpent.



## **Stolen Girl** by Trina Saffioti **Picture Book**

A fictionalised account of the now universally known story of the Stolen Generation which tells of an Aboriginal girl taken from her family and sent to a children's home. Each night she sings, and dreams of her mother and the life they once shared of sitting on the verandah of their corrugated-iron home, cooking damper and hunting goanna. But each morning she is woken by the bell to the harsh reality of the children's home, until finally one day she puts into action her carefully crafted

plan, unlocking the door and taking her first step back toward home.

## **Boori** by Bill Scott

The Dreamtime had ended in Australia, and no white man had yet found the great land of the south.....This book traces the early years of an Australian Aboriginal boy as he grows to be both a hero of the people and a skilled magician.



## **Jasper Jones** by Craig Silvey

13- year old Charlie Bucktin is already wise beyond his years in many ways. Some of Charlie's decisions may be rash but his motives are always above reproach. Charlie befriends Jasper Jones, a mixed -race Aboriginal boy whose reputation as a trouble maker and a thief, and who is blamed for anything else bad that happens in Corrigan, is based more on prejudice than truth. Charlie, recognizing that Jasper would not be treated fairly, decides to help him keep a horrific secret. And thus, the tangled web of secrets begins.

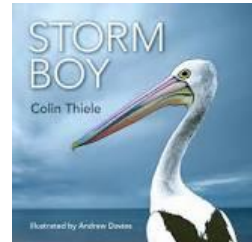


**Us Mob Walawurru** by David Spillman and Lisa Wilyuka

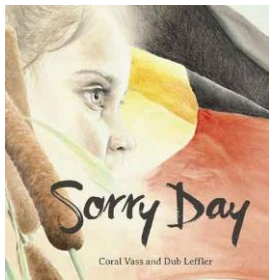
Ruby lives on a cattle station and goes to the 'Silver Bullet' school, where she comes across Mr Duncan, her well-meaning teacher. With curiosity and wry humour, Ruby begins to question Mr Duncan's unusual ways. The book takes place in the 1960s in an Aboriginal community in Central Australia. Told through the eyes of Ruby, a Luritja girl, the story revolves around the new school and the cultural challenges faced by both the community members and the new schoolteacher.

**Storm Boy** by Colin Thiele

A 1964 Australian children's book about a boy and his pelican. The book concentrates on the relationships he has with his father, Hide-Away Tom, the pelican, Mr Percival and an outcast Aboriginal man called Fingerbone.

**Side by Side** by Alan Tucker **Picture Book**

This book considers the injustices done to the Aboriginal people during the colonial era by the European settlers. Documents fourteen stories which illustrate the diversity of race relations.

**Sorry Day** by Coral Vass and Dub Leffler

In a time 'long ago and not so long ago' Aboriginal children were taken from their parents, their 'sorrow echoing across the land'. On this Sorry Day the faces and memories of the stolen generation are all around. Two stories entwine in this captivating retelling of the momentous day when the then Prime Minister of Australia, Kevin Rudd, acknowledged the sorrows of past and said 'Sorry' to the generation of children who were taken from their homes.

**Malanbarra** by Romaine Weare

In the rugged terrain of North Queensland Rosa and Cally are on the run from police who want to take them from their mother. Based on a true story.

**Papunya** by Nadia Wheatley **Picture Book**

Papunya is a compilation of drawings, paintings, time-line and information boxes, providing a comprehensive understanding of the history of Aboriginal Papunya people since the first Tjulkura (white people) appeared in their Ngurra (country).







### **Inheritance** by Carole Wilkinson 2018

Nic is left in the care of her grandfather at the remote family property that was once her mother's childhood home; a place with thirty rooms, three dogs and no mobile reception. Left to her own devices, Nic searches for clues about her mother – who died the day Nic was born. But what Nic discovers is so much more than she could have imagined. A dark and shocking secret that haunts the land and the people who live there.

### **The Rocks of Honey** by Patricia Wrightson

A story about life in the Australian bush, about Aboriginal legends, and about friendship. The chief characters are a farmer's son called Barney, Eustace Gordon and the 'Abo' boy who becomes their friend..

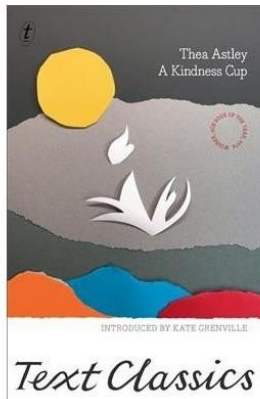
### **The Nargun and the Stars** by Patricia Wrightson

A wonderful book about a young boy named Simon Brent who, having been orphaned, is taken to live with relatives in a remote area of Australia called Wongadilla. There he encounters a magical world inhabited by ancient creatures. A remarkable blending of Australian Aboriginal mythology and 20th Century Australian culture.



# Aboriginal Peoples' Stories

## Fiction for students in Years 10-12



### **A Kindness Cup** by Thea Astley

In Queensland last century, 'disperse' meant 'slaughter'. Terrified at seeing her companions murdered. Kohawa jumped from the cliff called The Leap, clutching her baby....

### **Home** by Larissa Behrendt 2004

Candice, an Aboriginal land rights lawyer, returns to the small New South Wales country town with her father, Bob Brecht. It is the place where her grandmother Elizabeth Boney Garibooli was stolen from her Aboriginal family.

### **Legacy** by Larissa Behrendt

Simone Harlowe is young and clever, an Aboriginal lawyer straddling two lives and two cultures while studying at Harvard. Her family life back in Sydney is defined by the complex relationship she has with her father Tony, a prominent Aboriginal rights activist. As Simone juggles the challenges of a modern woman's life -- career, family, friends and relationships -- her father is confronting his own uncomfortable truths as his secret double life implodes. Can Simone accept her father for the man he is and forgive him for the man he's not?

### **The Fringe Dwellers** by Nene Gare

Two sisters, Noonan and Trilby, are young, beautiful and part Aboriginal. The grim alternatives before them are those that most white Australians do not even know about, let alone have to face.



### **Secret River** by Kate Grenville

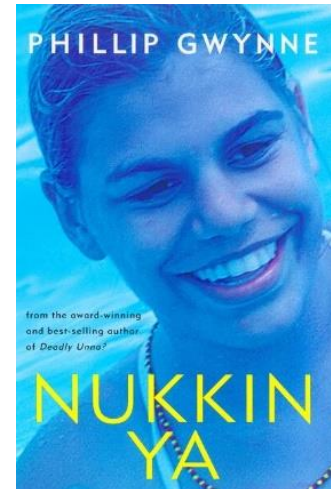
In 1806 William Thornhill, an illiterate English bargeman and a man of quick temper but deep compassion, steals a load of wood and, as a part of his lenient sentence, is deported, along with his beloved wife, Sal, to the New South Wales colony in what would become Australia.

*The Secret River* is the tale of William and Sal's deep love for their small, exotic corner of the new world, and William's gradual realization that if he wants to make a home for his family, he must forcibly take the land from the people who came before him.

Sequels are **The Lieutenant** and **Sarah Thornhill** **Graphic content**

## **Nukkin Ya** by Phillip Gwynne

Blacky and Clarence are falling for each other. Nothing complicated about that. But Blacky's starting to feel like he's playing Romeo to Clarence's Juliet – the whole town has a problem with them getting together.



## **Becoming Kirrali Lewis** by Jane Harrison

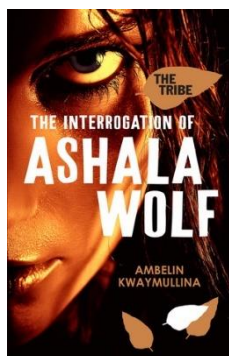
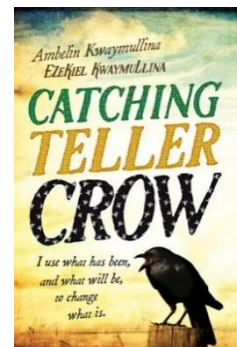
For Kirrali, life in 1985 was pretty chill. When Kirrali moves to the city to start university, a whole lot of life-changing events spark an awakening that no one sees coming, least of all herself. Story flashes back to the 1960s, where her birth mother is desperately trying to escape conservative parents, give meaning to Kirrali's own search for identity nearly twenty years later. Then she meets her father...

## **The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith** by Thomas Keneally

Jimmie Blacksmith is the son of an Aboriginal mother and a white father. A missionary shows him what it means to be white - already he is only too aware of what it means to be black. Exploited by his white employers and betrayed by his white wife Jimmie cannot take any more. He must find a way to express his rage. **Graphic content**

## **Catching Teller Crow** by Ambelin Kwaymullina and Ezekiel Kwaymullina

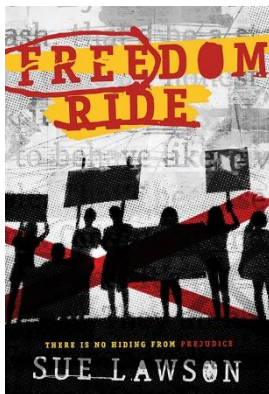
Nothing's been the same for Beth Teller since she died. Her dad, a detective, is the only one who can see and hear her - and he's drowning in grief. But now they have a mystery to solve together. Who is Isobel Catching, and what's her connection to the fire that killed a man? What happened to the people who haven't been seen since the fire? As Beth unravels the mystery, she finds a shocking story lurking beneath the surface of a small town, and a friendship that lasts beyond one life and into another. Told in two unforgettable voices, this gripping novel weaves together themes of grief, Aboriginal and colonial history, violence, love and family.



## **The Interrogation of Ashala Wolf** **The Tribe Series #1** by Ambelin Kwaymullina

In a post-apocalyptic world proud Aboriginal girl Ashala Wolf has been captured by Chief Administrator Neville Rose. He is intent on destroying Ashala's Tribe — the runaway Illegals hiding in the Firstwood. Injured and vulnerable and with her Sleepwalker ability blocked, Ashala is forced to succumb to the machine that will pull secrets from her mind. And right beside her is Justin Connor, her betrayer, watching her every move. Will the Tribe survive the interrogation of Ashala Wolf? Sequels are *The*

*Disappearance of Ember Crow* The Tribe #2 and *The Foretelling of Georgie Spider* The Tribe, #3.

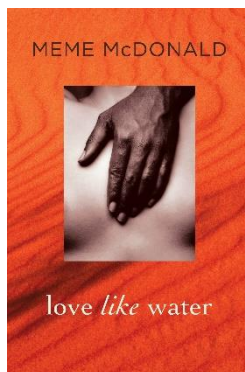


### **Freedom Ride** by Sue Lawson

Robbie knows bad things happen in Walgaree. But it's nothing to do with him. That's just the way the Aborigines have always been treated. In the summer of 1965 racial tensions in the town are at boiling point, and something headed Walgaree's way will blow things apart. It's time for Robbie to take a stand. Nothing will ever be the same.

### **Women of the Sun** by H. Maris and Sonia Borg

Presents the stories of four Aboriginal women, widely separated in time, to illustrate the changing status of Aboriginal people within Australian society.



### **Love like Water** by Meme McDonald

Cathy arrives in Alice Springs from cattle country, looking for a new way to live. Jay is working for the local radio station, far from his own Saltwater people, wary of this no-water country. Margie is a wild city girl, up for a good time, confronted by a world she's never known and a friend she can't always understand. When lives collide at the heart of the country no one stays unchanged. More than a love story, this is a bold, confronting book about friendship, love, sex and identity at the heart of Australia, where black and white, bush and city collide.

**Graphic content**

### **Grace Beside Me** by Sue McPherson

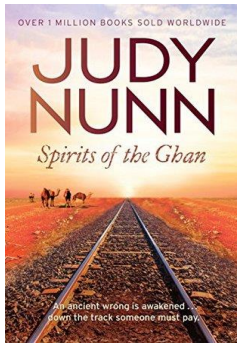
Life is not ordinary for indigenous girl Fuzzy Mac, but it should be. What could possibly be exciting about growing up with her Nan and Pop in a small country town? Rivalry, romance, Nan's mysterious premonitions, an encounter with a particularly unusual kind of ghost and the mix of characters who live in this high-country town make Fuzzy's life far from boring.

### **Maralinga** by Judy Nunn

*Maralinga* is a story of heartbreak; heartbreak brought to the innocent First Australians who had walked their land unhindered for 40,000 years...They and the men who came to test them all find themselves in a violent and unforgiving landscape, infected with the unique madness and excitement that only nuclear testing creates.







### **Spirits of the Ghan** by Judy Nunn

It is 2001 and as the world charges into the new Millennium, a century-old dream is about to be realised in the Red Centre of Australia: the completion of the mighty Ghan railway, a long-lived vision to create the 'backbone of the continent', a line that will finally link Adelaide with the Top End. But construction of the final leg between Alice Springs and Darwin will not be without its complications, for much of the desert it will cross is Aboriginal land. Hired as a negotiator, Jessica Manning must walk a delicate line to reassure the Elders their sacred sites will be

protected. It's not easy to keep the peace when Matthew Witherton and his survey team are quite literally blasting a rail corridor through the timeless land of the Never-Never. An ancient wrong is awakened and calls hauntingly across the vastness of the outback.

### **Coonardoo** by Katherine Prichard

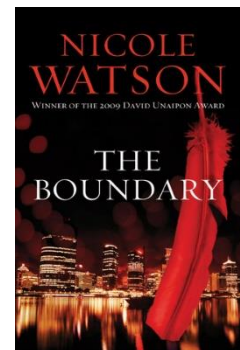
The moving story of a young Aboriginal woman trained from childhood to be the housekeeper at Wyalaliba station and, as such, destined to look after its owner, Hugh Watt. The love between Coonardoo and Hugh, which so shocked its readers when the book was first published in 1929, is never acknowledged and so, degraded and twisted in on itself, destroys not only Coonardoo, but also a community that was once peaceful. Daring for its time, this tough, uncompromising novel still raises difficult questions about the history of contact between blacks and whites, and its representation in Australian writing.

### **Benang: from the heart** by Kim Scott

Harley, a man of Nyoongar ancestry, finds himself at a difficult point in the history of his country, family and self. As the apparently successful outcome of his white grandfather's enthusiastic attempts to isolate and breed the 'first white man born', he wants to be a failure.

### **The Boundary** by Nicole Watson

When a multi- million-dollar development threatens their sacred site the Corrowa people file a native claim over the site. Hours after Justice Brosnan rejects the claim, he is dead. Days later, the developer's lawyer is also killed. As the body count rises, it becomes clear that the key to unlocking the murderer's identity is the single red feather left behind at each crime scene.



### **The Oldest Song in the World** by Sue Woolfe

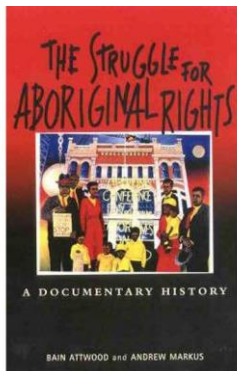
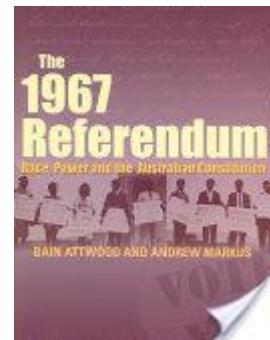
Kate, a lonely city woman and reluctant student, is asked by her teachers to travel to the middle of the Australian desert to record a dying Aboriginal woman singing an ancient song. She accepts because she believes that she might be able to reunite with a childhood love and solve the mystery of her past. But once there, she's confronted by an Aboriginal culture vastly different to her own and also by the forceful personality of the man who is supposed to help her find the singer. Very soon she is questioning everything she has ever felt about her own country and about her childhood.

# Aboriginal Peoples' Stories

## Non-Fiction for students in Years 7-12

### **The 1967 Referendum: Race, Power and the Australian Constitution** by Bain Atwood

On 27 May 1967 a remarkable event occurred. An overwhelming majority of electors voted in a national referendum to amend clauses of the Australian Constitution concerning Aboriginal people. Today it is commonly regarded as a turning point in the history of relations between Indigenous and white Australians: a historic moment when citizenship rights -- including the vote -- were granted and the Commonwealth at long last assumed responsibility for Aboriginal affairs.



### **The Struggle for Aboriginal Rights** by Bain Atwood and Andrew Marcus

Tells the history of the political struggle for Aboriginal rights in all parts of Australia; it does so almost entirely through a selection of historical documents created by the Aboriginal campaigners themselves, many of which have never been published. It presents Aboriginal perspectives of their dispossession and their long and continuing fight to overcome this.

### **Rights for Aborigines** by Bain Atwood

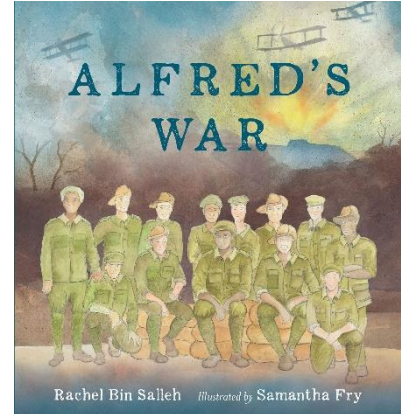
Aboriginal people were the original landowners in Australia, yet this was easily forgotten by Europeans settling this old continent. Labelled as a primitive and dying race, by the end of the nineteenth century most Aborigines were denied the right to vote, to determine where their families would live and to maintain their cultural traditions. In this ground-breaking work, Bain Atwood charts a century-long struggle for rights for Aborigines in Australia. He tracks the ever-shifting perceptions of race and history and how these impacted on the ideals and goals of campaigners for rights for indigenous people. He looks at prominent Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal campaigners and what motivated their involvement in key incidents and movements. Drawing on oral and documentary sources, he investigates how they found enough common ground to fight together for justice and equality for Aboriginal people.

## Talking About Celia by Jeannie Bell

A montage of memories and pictures taking the reader inside an Aboriginal community and inside the life of an extraordinary Murri woman.

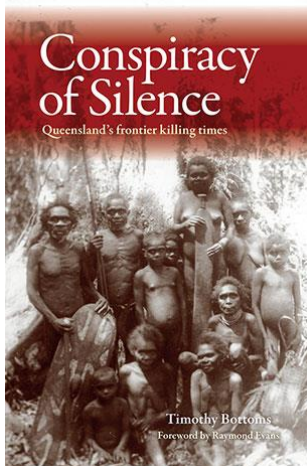
## Alfred's War by Rachel Bin Salleh and Samantha Fry

*Alfred's War* is a powerful story that unmask the lack of recognition given to Australian Indigenous servicemen who returned from the WWI battle lines.



## Conspiracy of Silence: Queensland's Frontier Killing Times

by Timothy Bottoms



The Queensland frontier was more violent than any other Australian colony. Starting with the penal settlement of Moreton Bay in 1824, as white pastoralists moved into new parts of country, violence invariably followed. Over 50,000 Aboriginals were killed on the Queensland frontier, a quarter of the original population. Europeans were killed too, but not in anything like the same numbers. The numbers are truly horrifying, but why isn't this common knowledge? The cover-up began from the start: the authorities in Sydney and Brisbane didn't want to know, the Native Police did their deadly work without hindrance, and the pastoralists had every reason to keep it to themselves. Even today, what we know about the killing times is swept aside again and again in favour of the pioneer myth. *Conspiracy of Silence* is the

first systematic account of frontier violence in Queensland. Following in the tracks of the pastoralists as they moved into new lands across the state in the 19th century, Timothy Bottoms identifies the sites and the dates of the massacres, poisonings, and other incidents, including many that no one has documented in print before. Drawing on extensive research and oral history, he explores the colonial mindset and explains how the brutal dispossession of Aboriginal landowners continued over decades.

## Welcome to My Country by Laklak Burarrwanga

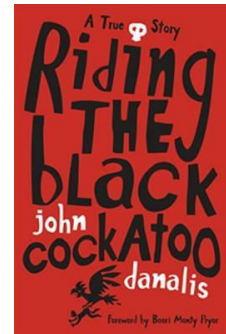
A wonderfully engaging and heartening account of a successful Aboriginal community based at a beautiful beach site in Arnhem Land.

## Oodgeroo by Kathie Cochrane

Oodgeroo— poet, human rights activist, educator, conservationist, artist—proudly saluted her people's heritage and gladly beckoned a brighter future.

### **Riding the Black Cockatoo** by John Danalis

The compelling story of how the skull of an Aboriginal man, found on the banks of the Murray River over 40 years ago, came to be returned to his Wamba Wamba descendants. It is a story of awakening, atonement, forgiveness and friendship. Part history, part detective story, part cultural discovery and emotional journey, this is a book for young and old, showing the transformative and healing power of true reconciliation.



### **Dingo** by Sally Dingo

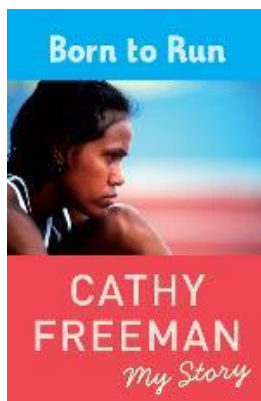
Emerging from her middle-class existence in a sleepy Tasmanian town, a young white woman marries a charismatic actor and the turbulent Dingo tribe. Lovingly embraced by her new Aboriginal family, they begin to yarn to her and she begins to write their memories down.

### **Blood on the Wattle** by Bruce Elder

Records the massacres, maltreatment and spread of the white men's disease that resulted in the deaths of many thousands of Australian Aborigines.

### **Fighting Words** by Raymond Evans

Deals with the long period of repressive government control of Aboriginal lives which has prevailed until recent times.



### **Born to Run** by Cathy Freeman

When I was growing up, I felt no different to anyone else. I loved having fun with my brothers, sleeping over at Nanna's and going horse riding with my dad. But I especially loved to run. With the help of my family, coaches and teachers, I became the best female 400-metre runner in the world.

### **Inside Black Australia** by Kevin Gilbert

From the campfires and 'reserves' of the desert, from riverbanks and prison cells, from universities and urban ghettos come the inside voices of Aboriginal Australia.

### **Evonne** by Evonne Goolagong Cawley

Evonne Fay Goolagong Cawley, AC, MBE is an Australian former world No. 1 tennis player. She was one of the world's leading players in the 1970s and early 1980s, the number one Australian pro on tour after the retirement of Margaret Court.

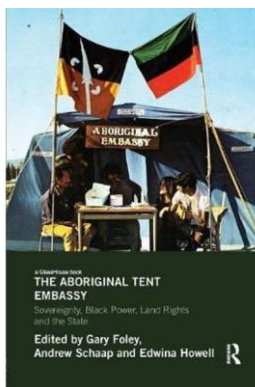


## **Home** by Evonne Goolagong Cawley

This is the story of a young Aboriginal girl who left her family at age 12 to pursue a dream. From the dusty back blocks of New South Wales to the Wimbledon Centre Court, 'Home' describes the extraordinary life and tennis career of Evonne who won Wimbledon twice.



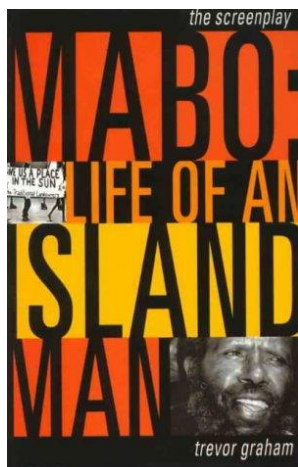
## **The Aboriginal Tent Embassy: Sovereignty, Black Power, Land Rights and the State** by Gary Foley, Andrew Schaap and Edwina Howell Routledge



The 1972 Aboriginal Embassy was one of the most significant indigenous political demonstrations of the twentieth century. What began as a simple response to a Prime Ministerial statement on Australia Day 1972, evolved into a six-month political stand-off between radical Aboriginal activists and a conservative Australian government. The dramatic scenes in July 1972 when police forcibly removed the Embassy from the lawns of the Australian Houses of Parliament were transmitted around the world. The demonstration increased international awareness of the

struggle for justice by Aboriginal people, brought an end to the national government policy of assimilation and put Aboriginal issues firmly onto the national political agenda. The Embassy remains today and on Australia Day 2012 was again the focal point for national and international attention, demonstrating the intensity that the Embassy can still provoke after forty years of just sitting there. If, as some suggest, the Embassy can only ever be removed by Aboriginal people achieving their goals of Land Rights, Self-Determination and economic independence then it is likely to remain for some time yet.

## **Mabo: Life of an Island Man** by Trevor Graham



Almost single-handedly Eddie Koiki Mabo overturned a 200-year legal fiction – that Australia was uninhabited before European settlement. In doing so he won for Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders the right to claim for themselves all remaining crown land in Australia, providing they could prove an unbroken chain of traditional ownership.

## **Talking To My Country** by Stan Grant

A very personal meditation on what it means to be Australian, what it means to be indigenous, and what racism really means in this country.

## **The Black Diggers** by Robert Hall

Explores the war effort of Aboriginal and Islander Australians during the Second World War and the reasons their contribution has gone unrecognised for so long.

### **Is That you Ruthie?** by Ruth Hegarty

Memories of growing up a mission girl in Cherbourg, QLD.

### **The Way We Civilise** by Rosalind Kidd

This book deals with inter-racial affairs in Australia. Using previously restricted archival material dating back 150 years, it provides a chilling narrative of maladministration and systemic corruption.

### **Edward Koiki Mabo: His Life and Struggle for Land Rights** by Noel Loos and Eddie Koiki Mabo

Here, largely in his own words, is the incredible story of Edward Koiki Mabo, from his childhood on the Island of Mer through to his struggle within the union cause and the black rights movement. Tragically, Mabo died just months before the historic High Court native-title decision that destroyed forever the concept of terra nullius. Originally published by UQP in 1996, this new edition has been updated by Mabo's long-time friend historian Noel Loos. New photographs and a preface by esteemed film director Rachel Perkins give this book the new life it deserves. 'He was in the best sense a fighter for equal rights, a rebel, a free-thinker, a restless spirit, a reformer who saw far into the future and far into the past.'

Dr Bryan Keon-Cohen AM QC

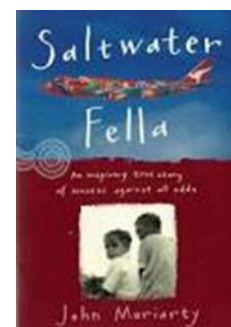
### **Australian Race Relations: 1788-1993** by Andrew Markus

Australian Race Relations has been a subject of continuing controversy, whether focused on Aboriginal issues such as the High Court's Mabo decision, or the latest wave of immigrants. This book provides the historical context necessary for an understanding of contemporary issues in a society coming to terms with native title and multiculturalism.

Based on over twenty years of research, Australian Race Relations is the first history of the subject that gives detailed consideration to both nineteenth and twentieth century developments. The book is particularly concerned with the broad patterns of race relations. It deals with the nature of racial consciousness, the dispossession of Aboriginal people, the role of racial minorities in the workforce, the eras of White Australia and assimilation, and contemporary society.

### **Saltwater Fella** by John Moriarty

Stolen from his family at four years of age, John was placed in a children's home, where he struggled with harsh routines and poverty. A love of sport illuminates the young John's life, leading him into a career as a promising soccer player. Memoir.



### **My Place** by Sally Morgan

An analysis of My Place as a 'counter-memory' of the violence and deculturation to which Aboriginal people have been subjected, but which

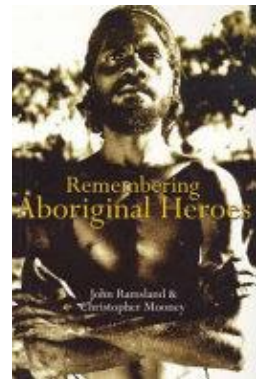
has been omitted from official white Australian histories.

### **First Australians** by Rachel Perkins and Marcia Langton

This book is the dramatic story of the collision of two worlds that created contemporary Australia. Told from the perspective of Australia's first people, it vividly brings to life the events that unfolded when the oldest living culture in the world was overrun by the world's greatest empire. Seven of Australia's leading historians reveal the true stories of individuals—both black and white—caught in an epic drama of friendship, revenge, loss and victory in Australia's most transformative period of history. Their story begins in 1788 in Warrane, now known as Sydney, with the friendship between an Englishman, Governor Phillip, and the kidnapped warrior Bennelong. It ends in 1993 with Koiki Mabo's legal challenge to the foundation of Australia.

### **Remembering Aboriginal Heroes: Struggle, Identity and the Media** by John Ramsland and Christopher Gerald Mooney

During the 1940s and '50s in Australia there rose to prominence many icons of Aboriginal descent, representative of the culture of the day and of their own people. Some permanently influenced the minds of Australians and remain famous to this day. Others have been unjustly forgotten. Albert Namatjira was a great watercolour landscape artist. Harold Blair was an outstandingly charismatic concert tenor of vast audience appeal. Robert Tudawali and Ngarla Kunoth were the famous stars of Charles Chauvel's ground-breaking Australian movie, *Jedda*. Reg Saunders was a highly decorated war hero and the first Aboriginal commissioned officer in the permanent Australian armed forces. Harry Penrith (later known as Burnum Burnum) was a brilliant and versatile teenage sporting star and later a public figure of charisma and controversy. *Aboriginal Heroes* offers an unparalleled biographical exploration of their lives, providing a prism through which the reader can view and come to a better understanding of significant aspects of resilient Aboriginal culture and its place in Australian history.



### **Charles Perkins** by Peter Read

Charles Perkins was a fighter all his life; a fighter for his people's right to determine their own lives; a fighter against the countless forms of racism that day to day life for an indigenous person brought.

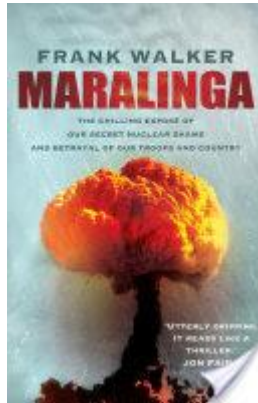
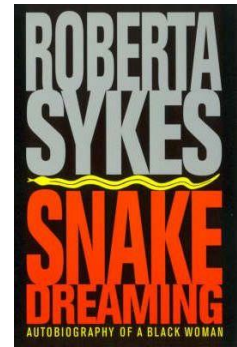
### **The Stolen Children: Their Stories**

These stories rise out of the pain of separation and displacement. Showing hope and forgiveness, the writers give an insight into the strength of the human spirit.

## Snake Dreaming Series by Roberta Sykes

### Snake Cradle; Snake Dancing; Snake Circle

Roberta "Bobbi" Sykes was an Australian poet and author. She was a lifelong campaigner for indigenous land rights, as well as human rights and women's rights. These three books relate her life story.



### Maralinga: The chilling expose of our secret nuclear shame and betrayal of our troops and country by Frank Walker

Investigative journalist Frank Walker's *Maralinga* is a must-read true story of the abuse of our servicemen, scientists treating the Australian population as lab rats and politicians sacrificing their own people in the pursuit of power. During the Menzies era, with the blessing of the Prime Minister, the British government exploded twelve atomic bombs on Australian soil. RAAF pilots were ordered to fly into nuclear mushroom clouds, soldiers told to walk into radioactive ground zero, sailors retrieved highly contaminated debris - none of them aware of the dangers they faced. But the betrayal didn't end with these servicemen. Secret monitoring stations were set up around the country to measure radiation levels and a clandestine, decades-long project stole bones from dead Aboriginal babies to see how much fallout had contaminated their bodies - their grieving parents were never told. This chilling exposé drawn from extensive research and interviews with surviving veterans reveals the betrayal of our troops and our country.

## Unna You Fullas by Glenyse Ward

Describes the author's childhood on an Aboriginal mission in Western Australia in the 1950s and 60s and, in a poignantly humorous style, the lives of the children on the mission, away from their families and homes, being taught to be good Christians.

