

National Reconciliation Week

Let's walk the talk!



Reconciliation
AUSTRALIA

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27 May – 3 June

Aboriginal Sydney: A guide to important places of the past and present, 2nd Edition

Melinda HINKSON and Alana HARRIS

Sydney has a rich and complex Aboriginal heritage. Hidden within its burgeoning city landscape lie layers of a vibrant culture and a turbulent history. But, you need to know where to look. *Aboriginal Sydney* supplies the information.

Aboriginal Sydney is both a guide book and an alternative social history told through an array of places of significance to the city's Indigenous people. The sites, and their accompanying stories and photographs, evoke Sydney's ancient past and celebrate the living Aboriginal culture of today.

Back on The Block: Bill Simon's Story

Bill SIMON, Des MONTGOMERIE and Jo TUSCANO

Stolen, beaten, deprived of his liberty and used as child labour, Bill Simon's was not a normal childhood. He was told his mother didn't want him, that he was 'the scum of the earth' and was locked up in the notorious Kinchela Boys Home for eight years. His experiences there would shape his life forever. Bill Simon got angry, something which poisoned his life for the next two decades. A life of self abuse and crime finally saw him imprisoned. But Bill Simon has turned his life around and in *Back on the Block*, he hopes to help others to do the same.

These days Bill works on the other side of the bars, helping other members of the Stolen Generations find a voice and their place; finally putting their pain to rest. He works on the streets, in jails, in churches and his home in Redfern is a drop-in centre for anyone in need.

From his home on The Block in Sydney's Redfern, one of the most contentious and misunderstood places in Australia, Bill Simon tells the truth about life in one of Australia's most terrible juvenile institutions, where thousands of boys were warehoused and abused

Paddy's Road: Life Stories of Patrick Dodson

Kevin KEEFFE

Paddy's Road shares the story of Patrick Dodson's life and extraordinary family history. From the moment of colonisation in the Kimberleys to the era of native title, from pearling to pastoralism, through missions and institutions, this Aboriginal family has survived an uncaring and intrusive state system

Throwing Off the Cloak: Reclaiming self-reliance in Torres Strait

Elizabeth Osborne

Throwing off the Cloak opens a window onto the Torres Strait Islands peoples' struggles for control over their own lives, and recognition of their unique island identities and aspirations.

The 1967 Referendum: Race, power and the Australian Constitution

Bain ATTWOOD and Andrew MARKUS

The 1967 Referendum explores the legal and political significance of the referendum and the long struggle by black and white Australians for constitutional change. It traces the emergence of a series of powerful narratives about the Australian Constitution and the status of Aborigines, revealing how and why the referendum campaign acquired so much significance, and has since become the subject of highly charged myth in contemporary Australia.

The Little Red Yellow Black Book: An introduction to Indigenous Australia

Bruce PASCOE with AIATSIS

This new edition of the popular The Little Red Yellow Black Book: An introduction to Indigenous Australia provides an entry-point to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and history for everyone: adults who want to learn what they weren't taught at school, migrants, tourists, trainers, institutions, government departments and schools.

AFL Indigenous Team of the Century 1905-2005

Sean Gorman

For many non-Indigenous Australians, their only engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is through watching sport, on television or at a match. Sport in many ways has offered Indigenous Australians a platform from which to begin the process for social justice and equity. Sport also provides us with a lens through which to view the many overlapping themes of sport, politics, race and history.

Today, at AFL matches across the country, electronic screens broadcast a warning about Rule 30; the non-tolerance of racial vilification on the ground. But it was not always so and the changes have been hard-won. Doug Nicholls (later Sir Douglas Nicholls and South Australian Governor) was refused a jumper at Carlton in the 1920s as it was claimed his 'smell' was intolerable. And it was the contributions of Doug Nicholls, Norm McDonald, Polly Farmer and Syd Jackson that have created the space that others now occupy. Sean Gorman has been talking with Australian Football's most famous Indigenous players for years: about their lives, about their sport. Here are those conversations.

Yuendumu Everyday: Contemporary life in remote Aboriginal Australia

Yasmine Musharbash

Yuendumu Everyday explores intimacy, immediacy and mobility as the core principles underpinning contemporary everyday life in a central Australian Aboriginal settlement. It analyses an everyday shaped through the interplay between a not so distant hunter-gatherer past and the realities of living in a first-world nation-state by considering such apparently mundane matters as: What is a camp? How does that relate to houses? Who sleeps where, and next to whom? Why does this constantly change? What and where are the public/private boundaries? And most importantly: How do Indigenous people in praxis relate to each other?

Whitening Race: Essays in social and cultural criticism

Aileen Moreton- Robinson (ed)

With its focus on Australia, Whitening Race engages with relations between migration, Indigenous dispossession and whiteness. It creates a new intellectual space that investigates the nature of racialised conditions and their role in reproducing colonising relations in Australia.

Fight for Liberty and Freedom: The origins of Australian Aboriginal activism

John Maynard

The Australian Aboriginal Progressive Association (AAPA), begun in 1924, is little heard of today, but today's Aboriginal political movement is drawn from these roots. In this passionate exploration of the life of founder, Fred Maynard, John Maynard reveals the commitment and sacrifices made by these Aboriginal heroes.

Cleared Out: First contact in the Western Desert

Sue Davenport, Peter Johnson and Yuwali

In 1964, a group of 20 Aboriginal women and children in the Western Desert made their first contact with European Australians — patrol officers from the Woomera Rocket Range, clearing an area into which rockets were to be fired. Yuwali, 17 at the time, remembers every detail of the drama. Her sharp recollections are complemented in a 3-part diary of the 'chase' by the colourful official reports of the patrol.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to read a prize-winning book and view the award-winning DVD based on the book.

Rob Riley: An Aboriginal leader's quest for justice

Quentin Beresford

Widely regarded as one of the great Aboriginal leaders of the modern era, Rob Riley was at the centre of debates that have polarised views on race relations in Australia: national land rights, the treaty, deaths in custody, self-determination, the justice system, native title and the Stolen Generations.

He tragically took his own life in 1996, weighed down by the unresolved traumas of his exposure to institutionalisation, segregation and racism, and his sense of betrayal by the Australian political system to deliver justice to Aboriginal people. His death shocked community leaders and ordinary citizens alike.

Set against the tumultuous background of racial politics in an unreconciled nation, the book explores Rob's rise and influence as an Aboriginal activist. Drawing on perspectives from history, politics and psychology, this work explores Rob's life as a 'moral protester' and the challenges he confronted in trying to change the destiny of the nation.

The Tall Man

Chloe Hooper

The Tall Man is the story of Palm Island, the tropical paradise where one morning Cameron Doomadgee swore at a policeman and forty minutes later lay dead in a watch-house cell.

It is the story of that policeman, the tall, enigmatic Christopher Hurley who chose to work in some of the toughest and wildest places in Australia, and of the struggle to bring him to trial.

Above all, it is a story in luminous detail of two worlds clashing - and a haunting moral puzzle that no reader will forget.

First Australians: An Illustrated History

Editors Rachel Perkins, Marcia Langton With Wayne Atkinson, James Boyce, RG Kimber, Steve Kinnane, Noel Loos and Bruce Pascoe

This is the story of the violent clash of culture, religion and ideas at the heart of Australia's history.

Beginning with Aboriginal travellers landing on Australian shores around 70,000 BC, it chronicles the fierce war with colonists, the blood massacres and the earliest civil rights movement the world has ever seen.

Drawing on a rich collection of historic documents and haunting images, it brings to life a cast of characters including Bennelong, who is kidnapped by the British and is the first Australian to set foot on British soil; Truganini known as the last Tasmanian who is broken by the betrayal of her people; and Lieutenant Dawes, a British officer who defies the authority of Empire by falling in love with a young Indigenous woman.

Alive with colonial detail-corruption, mutinies and pyrrhic victories - First Australians tells the story that gave birth to the nation.

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Michel Streich

On 13 September, 2007 the General Assembly of the United Nations, with an overwhelming majority of votes, adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Declaration was over 22 years in the making.

Its purpose, as described by the UN, is to set an important standard for the treatment of indigenous peoples and to act as a significant tool in eliminating human rights violations against the planet's over 350 million indigenous people, while assisting them in combating discrimination and marginalisation.

Only four countries voted against it: the US, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. In 2009, the Australian government decided to endorse this landmark Declaration. Michel Streich's simple yet moving illustrations add powerful resonance to this highly topical and controversial issue. The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is a clear and strong statement of hope, belief and purpose - an important document for our time.

Original Australians - Story of the Aboriginal People

Josephine Flood

Offering insight into the life and experiences of the world's oldest culture, this account of Australia's Aboriginal history spans the mythologies of the Dreamtime through the modern-day problems within the community. Culture and history enthusiasts will get answers to such questions as Where did the Aborigines come from and when? How did they survive in such a harsh environment? and What was the traditional role of Aboriginal women? This story emphasizes the resilience and adaptability of the Aboriginal people, especially throughout their relationship with the Europeans who eventually colonized the continent.

Darby - One Hundred Years of Life in a Changing Culture

Liam Campbell

This entertaining and educational book offers a view into an aspect of Australia rarely seen with this detail and sensitivity. The stories and artwork for which Darby Jampijinpa Ross was famous and revered are included and it features photographs by Emmy award-winning cinematographer Scott Duncan

Born in the bush before Whitefellas entered his country, Darby Jampijinpa Ross lived through a time of great change for his people and died the day after his hundredth birthday.

He survived the deaths of his family in the 1928 Coniston massacre before travelling widely as a stockman, cameleer, drover and prospector. After assisting the war effort, he returned to his traditional country northwest of Alice Springs where he became a much loved community and ceremonial leader. He gained recognition as a successful artist and strong advocate for Aboriginal law and culture.

Follow The Rabbit Proof Fence

Doris Pilkington

The film Rabbit-Proof Fence is based on this true account of Doris Pilkington's mother Molly, who as a young girl led her two sisters on an extraordinary 1,600 kilometre walk home. Under Western Australia's invidious removal policy of the 1930s, the girls were taken from their Aboriginal families at Jigalong on the edge of the Little Sandy Desert, and transported halfway across the state to the Native Settlement at Moore River, north of Perth. Here Aboriginal children were instructed in the ways of white society and forbidden to speak their native tongue.

The three girls – aged 8, 11 and 14 – managed to escape from the settlement's repressive conditions and brutal treatment. Barefoot, without provisions or maps, they set out to find the rabbit-proof fence, knowing it passed near their home in the north. Tracked by Native Police and search planes, they hid in terror, surviving on bush tucker, desperate to return to the world they knew.

Treading Lightly

Karl-Erik Sveiby and Tex Skuthorpe

Karl-Erik Sveiby and Tex Skuthorpe show how traditional Aboriginal stories and paintings were used to convey knowledge from one generation to the next, about the environment, law and relationships. They reveal the hidden art of four-level storytelling, and discuss how the stories, and the way they were used, formed the basis for a sustainable society. They also explain ecological farming methods, and how the Aboriginal style of leadership created resilient societies.

Treading Lightly takes us on a unique journey into traditional Aboriginal life and culture, and offers a powerful and original model for building sustainable organisations, communities and ecologies. It is a compelling message for today's world.

Other People's Country

Maureen Helen

When comfortable housewife and mother of six adult children, Maureen Helen reached her late fifties, she decided she wanted to do something a little different.

Spurred on by an adventure in Thailand, she decides to use her rusty skills to become a RAN: a remote area nurse, in an isolated Aboriginal settlement in WA's Pilbara region.

Faced with the terrible health problems of the community, inadequate equipment and a growing sense that she doesn't belong, Maureen battles her own crisis of confidence as well as the harshness and hostility of her environment.

Other People's Country is an elegantly written examination of the unexpected consequences of one woman's wish to do good. This finely judged piece of writing offers penetrating insights into the cultural clash between Aboriginal and white Australia, as well as taking a cool look at the narrator's own moral compass when faced with a demanding and hostile environment.

Dog Ear Café

Andrew Stojanovski

Dog Ear Café is a true-life adventure story about how one Aboriginal community beat the odds and defeated petrol sniffing. It tells of the Mt Theo Petrol Sniffing Program: a story of culture clash, of two lines of fire that meet in the desert night, of partnerships that cross Australia's racial divide.

Politics of Suffering

Peter Sutton

Peter Sutton is a fearless and authoritative voice in Aboriginal politics.

In this groundbreaking book, he asks why, after three decades of liberal thinking, has the suffering and grief in so many Aboriginal communities become worse?

The picture Sutton presents is tragic. He marshals shocking evidence against the failures of the past, and argues provocatively that three decades of liberal consensus on Aboriginal issues has collapsed.

Ernie Dances to the Didgeridoo

Alison Lester

Ernie is going to live in Arnhem Land for a year. He flies above the desert for hours, travels over the floodplains, crosses the East Alligator River and arrives at his new home.

Here are Ernie's letters, describing the life he discovers with his new friends in their wild and beautiful land.

Jasper Jones: A Novel

Craig Silvey

To 13-year-old Charlie Bucktin, the mining town of Corrigan is populated by barnacles: "hard shells that ... clench themselves shut and choose not to know" about the outside world. It is 1965, and the insularity of rural Western Australia is an oddly neat setting for a story that aligns itself with an American literary tradition. Charlie is lured by the promise of adventure when the town troublemaker, Jasper Jones, comes to his window one night and asks for help. At the other end of a trek through the sleeping town lies a secret that is adult and painful.

An Intruders Guide to East Arnhem Land

Andrew McMillan

An Intruder's Guide To East Arnhem Land is part history, part journalism, part literature, part love story with a people and a place. The writing is both edgy and contemporary; a narrative of history in remote Australia where the echoes of the past continue to resonate with us today. Passionate, sensitive, witty and surprising, this book will give you a sense of Australia and national identity you have never known before.

Liyam Ngarn

Liyam Ngarn, in the Yawuru language of the West Kimberly region around Broome in Australia's far north-west, means "Coming Together of the Spirit". It epitomizes a thirty year long mission of Indigenous leader and Yawura man, Patrick Dodson, to bring about a lasting and true reconciliation between the original owners and the immigrants.

This compelling documentary tells of the devastation and inhumanity bought upon Indigenous people in every aspect of their daily lives. Personal stories of injustice are recounted by renowned English actor Pete Postlethwaite, as told to him by Patrick Dodson and Bill Johnson, an old English school friend, whose Indigenous son Louis died tragically.

Respected songman, Archie Roach, adds his powerful lyrics and voice to this often painful, yet inspiring, journey of strength.

Liyam Ngarn aims to change peoples' perception and attitude to Indigenous people and to assist with the process of true and lasting reconciliation. It also offers some kind of meaningful epitaph to the Indigenous lives lost through sheer inhumanity.

Secret Country

Over an impressive 35 year career John Pilger's determination to uncover the truth and unearth the facts underlying numerous social and political injustices has taken him to every corner of the globe.

Now, for the first time on DVD John Pilger returns home in a personal study of the changing face of Australia. Filmed over 15 years these films offer an uncompromising look at the social and political shifts for both Aboriginal and white Australians and the changing perceptions of Australia on the domestic and international stage.

Lousy Little Six Pence

In the mid-1930s, the Aboriginal people began to organise, and to fight the Aborigines Protection Board. Through old newsreels, archive film, photographs and interviews with Elders, the film weaves a moving account of a hidden history, the early struggle for Aboriginal land rights and self-determination. A meticulous study of how white Australians between the wars consistently broke up Aboriginal families to manufacture a black servant class.

Rabbit Proof Fence

The film 'Rabbit Proof Fence' tells the story of three young Aboriginal girls (Molly, Gracie and Daisy) who were forcibly removed from their families in 1931 and sent to the Moore River Native Settlement. It is a true story based on the book by Doris Pilkington Garimara (daughter of Molly) that tells us of their escape and amazing journey home via the rabbit proof fence.

The Apology to the Stolen Generations

The apology to the Stolen Generations by the Australian Parliament on 13th February 2008 was a powerful and memorable moment in the nation's history. For Indigenous and non-Indigenous people alike.

The Apology begins two days before the historical event as people began to gather in Canberra. It includes interviews, stories and many moments including the first Welcome to Country in the Federal Parliament.

The Film Captures the anticipation on a thousand faces as Prime Minister Kevin Rudd delivers the apology, and then the spontaneous outpouring of emotion all around the country.

Jack Thompson's narration, Shelley Reys' thoughtful commentary and the music of Silverchair, John Butler Trio, Missy Higgins and the Stiff Gins all help make this film a truly uplifting experience

Bran Nue Dae

Bran Nue Dae is a charming new Australian based, music driven road movie/romantic comedy starring Academy Award winning Geoffrey Rush that literally bursts onto the screen with unbridled energy and fun.

In the Summer of 1969 a young man is filled with the life of the idyllic old pearling port Broome - fishing, hanging out with his mates and his girl. However his mother returns him to the religious mission for further schooling. After being punished for an act of youthful rebellion, he runs away from the mission on a journey that ultimately leads him back home.

Samson and Deliah

Samson and Delilah's world is small - an isolated community in the Central Australian desert. When tragedy strikes, they turn their backs on home and embark on a journey of survival. Lost, unwanted and alone, they discover that life isn't always fair, but love never judges.

Toomelah

The tiny community of Toomelah is made up of Gamilaroi and Bigambal people living in an old Aboriginal mission north of Mooree. This is the country where director Ivan Sen's (Beneath Clouds, Dreamland) mother grew up and his deep personal connection to the place is palpable throughout this confronting, brutally honest dramatic feature that draws its acting talent from within the community. Ten-year-old Daniel (Daniel Connors) is a good little boxer like his dad Buster (Michael Connors) used to be. Impatient with the other kids at school - except for his sweetheart Tanitia (Danieka Connors) - he starts hanging out with Linden (Christopher Edwards), the local dealer, who trains him up to be a gangster. When a thug named Bruce (Dean Daley-Jones) returns to town after a stint in jail, he threatens Linden's territory and Daniel is suddenly propelled towards violence. Raw, intimate, and laced with mob humour, Toomelah seamlessly intertwines issues like the Stolen Generation, substance abuse and cultural erasure with an everyday story about one boy caught in the downward spiral of a neglected community.

Tales from the Daly: 'Naiiyu Nambiyu'

Tales From the Daly is a cinematic journey into the lives and country of the traditional owners who call this region home. The stories told by their old people still thrive and are told to children today. During the months of October to May the area is lashed with Monsoonal storms which bring the landscape and rivers to life. Legend says it is the Sugar Glider travelling across the sky mischievously moving the clouds around, which brings the rains. The beauty and power of these storms take the audience to the heart of the landscape. But amongst this beauty lies danger. This is told to children in the form of stories from long ago. They are told to the children to teach them respect for the bush and to be wary of its dangers. The Wabuymem is one of these stories. The Wabuymem is a little grey spirit that lives in the Banyan Tree. It lays in wait for curious children. It stalks them and lures them away from their families into the Banyan Tree to never be seen again.

Crookhat and the Kulunada

Three old men, Donald (Crookhat) Akemarr Thompson, Alec Apetyarr Peterson and Casey Akemarr Holmes – travel by four-wheel drive out to a surprising strip of green bush in the desert, where a permanent spring feeds a large waterhole.

We listen to their stories as they prepare their camp: stories rich in knowledge of the place and its history. They tell both the Dreamtime stories of the Rainbow Serpent, Kulunada, which lived in the waterhole, and also the violent past of the white settlement of the area.

The Tall Man

The documentary chronicles the events surrounding the 2004 death of Cameron Doomadgee, who was named Mulrunji after his death, at the Palm Island police station in Far North Queensland.

Some six years of inquiries have delivered an open finding in relation to the actions of policeman Chris Hurley, the 'Tall Man' of the film.

The Doomadgee family hopes the movie will shed light on a complicated saga.

First Australians: The Untold Story of Australia

First Australians chronicles the birth of contemporary Australia as never told before, from the perspective of its first people. First Australians explores what unfolds when the oldest living culture in the world is overrun by the world's greatest empire. Over seven documentaries, First Australians depicts 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.

We begin in 1788 in Sydney, with the friendship between an Englishman (Governor Phillip) and a warrior (Bennelong) and end our tale in 1993 with Koiki Mabo's legal challenge to the foundation of Australia.

First Australians chronicles the collision of two worlds and the genesis of a new nation.

September

September is an engrossing film about the economic co-dependency between blacks and whites, made intensely dramatic and personal through the story of a friendship.

Ten Canoes

Parable of forbidden love from Australia's mythical past, narrated by Australian icon David Gulpilil and starring his son Jamie as the covetous youth Dayindi, TEN CANOES is a ground-breaking glimpse into aboriginal life centuries before European settlement. Shot in and around the Arafura Wetlands of Central Arnhem Land, Rolf de Heer and the People of Ramingining have created a pioneering and timeless tale for all people and all cultures.

Two Laws

The concept of two laws – colonial and Indigenous law – can also be spoken about as two ways of storytelling or filmmaking.

Jimmy Little's Gentle Journey

Jimmy Little's Gentle Journey traces the extraordinary life and times of this popular and inspirational Aboriginal entertainer and activist. From a tragic childhood to star of the Australian popular music scene, Jimmy Little has proven to be both a survivor and a pioneer. Archival footage, anecdotes and interviews with his contemporaries shed light on the social and political issues of the last 65 years in Australia. It is a deeply moving journey that defines and transcends the story of contemporary Aboriginal expression.

Black and White

Recreation of the landmark 1958 South Australian Court trial in which young aboriginal Max Stuart was sentenced to hang, having been found guilty of the murder of a nine year old white girl.

Pemulwuy: The War of Two Worlds Part 1 & 2

The story of Pumulwuy is viewed by Aboriginal and non- Aboriginal expert voices reconciling the contention between the oral and written history of the early European colonisation of Australia and give him his due place in Australia's shared history.