

Kungun Ngarrindjeri Miminar Yunnan: Listen to Ngarrindjeri Women Speaking



Edited by Diane Bell for the Ngarrindjeri Nation
Spinifex press
ISBN 9781876756697
R.R.P. \$26.95

"Namawi rawul-inyeri thulun-ar: Our footprints

[come] from the past. From our ancestors to us, we are the traditional owners, still guiding our young ones, connecting the Stolen Generations back to family and country, standing strong in our history and culture and heritage" announce these remarkable Ngarrindjeri *miminar*.

Listen to Ngarrindjeri Women Speaking, edited by Diane Bell for the Ngarrindjeri Nation, is the latest release from Spinifex Press which will be launched in Adelaide to coincide with Indigenous Literacy Day's national campaign on 3 September. The text will also be available as an eBook.

Ngarrindjeri came to prominence in the 1990s with the Hindmarsh Island Bridge Affair.

Labelled "liars" in 1995 by a South Australian Royal Commission, then vindicated in the Federal Court in 2001 as "truth-tellers", these Ngarrindjeri *miminar* have much to be annoyed about, and a lot to share, with stories of caring for country, family and nation.

Listen to Ngarrindjeri Women Speaking is an empowering work of Australian literature, introducing new, brave voices of women of the Ngarrindjeri nation, and spanning generations of experiences. Illuminating photographs accompany the stories of their lives, history, culture and their visions for the future. These are stories that will charm and delight, jar and shock.

Written through a unique process of community development and collaboration with Professor Diane Bell *Listen to Ngarrindjeri Women Speaking* is a proud and timely book,

adding a jubilant collection to the chorus of Australian voices sharing their hopes and dreams for the future of our country.

"Right now this country is engaged in a battle of ideas for Australia's future" uttered Kevin Rudd in his first speech to Parliament as Opposition Leader. Now as Prime Minister he has said "Sorry" to the stolen generation for the injustices of the past and the ideology of a socially aware state is at the forefront of the national agenda.

This is a book serves as an important addition to the documentation of Australia's social history.

Just Words? Australian Authors Writing for Justice



Edited by Bernadette Brennan
QUP
ISBN: 9780702236389
R.R.P. \$32.95

Just Words? Australian Authors Writing for Justice is an interesting collection of work edited by Sydney academic Bernadette Brennan. The authors who have contributed to this book are inspiring, if for nothing else than their passion for wanting to right the wrongs of a seemingly unjust system.

The writing of political fiction is not an advent of the 21st century. Writers have always been observers; using the everyday and turning it into something extraordinary and the list of titles that reflect social history is far-reaching. You only have to think of Charles Dickens who turned his imagination to all aspects of society - politics, law, society, the class system, schools, the railways and relationships.

Just Words? is an important text, coinciding with the hope that Australia has now entered a new age of openness and compassion. In this powerful collection, Australian writers including Gail Jones, Eva Sallis and Frank Brennan explore the relationship between

writing and justice, a relationship utterly dependent on informed, ethical readers. These essays - from poets, essayists, academics, playwrights, critics and novelists - demonstrate how it is possible for writing to articulate concerns of justice to enlighten the broader community and stir people into action.

The Wish Pony



By Catherine Bateson
Woolshed Press/Random House Australia
ISBN: 978 1 74166324 2
R.R.P. \$15.95

The arrival of a new baby can be traumatic for older siblings, especially if Mum is unwell during the pregnancy. All conversation is focused on the impending birth and for the child that has been used to being the centre of attention, suddenly there is competition.

This is Ruby's life. Abandoned by her mother, ditched by her best friend and finding herself in hot water at school, Ruby is feeling sorry for herself. That is until she meets the colourful and mysterious Magda who gives Ruby a very special gift.

The Wish Pony has a truly Australian feel and is written in a lively and engaging manner which may appeal more to the young ladies of year 3 than to their male peers. The text deals with a range of identifiable relationships in a delicate manner using language that is neither condescending nor unapproachable. It would have been helpful to the development of the plot if the role of the wish pony itself was more intrusive.

The use of italics separates character plot lines and is an easy tool for young readers to use in order to keep up with the thread of the story.

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**Listen to Ngarrindjeri Women Speaking
Kungun Ngarrindjeri Miminar Yunnan**

Woven by Diane Bell for the Ngarrindjeri Nation

Ngarrindjeri women take us into their world of caring for their country, their families and their nation. Their stories will charm and delight, jar and shock. They ask that you *kungun* [listen] to their *yunnan* [speaking].

www.spinifexpress.com.au



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Crossing the Line



By Dianne Bates
Ford St
ISBN: 9781876462703
R.R.P. \$16.95

Self-harm is an issue that affects more children and young adults than the community can possibly imagine. It is something that is done in secret – known only to the person who is trying to relieve their emotional pain with physical discomfit.

This novel is about Sophie. Orphaned then abandoned by long-term foster carers, the teenager is placed by community services, into a share house with Amy and Matt. Sophie sees a therapist and concerned about Sophie's increasing depression, the doctor admits her to a hospital. There Sophie is placed in an adolescent ward where she forms tentative relationships with other troubled teenagers and begins sessions with psychiatrist, Helen Marshall.

This is a moving and sensitive story for the more mature young reader that deals with delicate topics such as relationships, loss, self mutilation, obsession and stalking. It is a brave attempt at trying to uncover the reasons behind why some adolescents are in such pain.

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Lucy the Good



By Marianne Musgrove
Illustrated by Cheryl Orsini
Random House
Australia
ISBN: 9781 741662955
R.R.P. \$14.95

Many children's books carry underlying themes of good versus evil, but here is a new and humorous book that takes on every child's dilemma of working out what is good and what is bad, head-on.

An impending visit from Tanta Bep, a great-aunt from Holland, places Lucy in the difficult position of promising to be 'a good girl', when all events seem

to conspire against her and provoke behaviour unacceptable to the adults in her life.

Is she Lucy the good or Lucy the bad?

Pondering her problems while feeding the family chickens, Lucy remembers being taught that a 'good egg' will sink in water and a bad one will float...

Lucy is a very likeable heroine, rather like a modern day Judy from Seven little Australians – certainly a character in the tradition of gutsy girls trying to find solutions to their problems.

I particularly liked the mix of inter-generational and inter-cultural themes in this book – Lucy's troubled but developing relationship with Tanta Bep, the customs of Holland effortlessly woven into the story, and also the tantalising sub-plot of Lucy's off and on friendship with Paolo. Orsini's line drawings have a European flavour and sit well with the text. Suitable for independent readers in early to middle primary, this book will also be useful to classroom teachers planning units of work on other countries (a recipe for Dutch biscuits is included).

All young readers will identify with Lucy's struggles and enjoy the pace and humour of this story.

Julie Thorndyke
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The Office Copying Revolution



By Ian Batterham
National Archives of
Australia
ISBN: 978 1 920807
63 4
R.R.P. \$59.95

From carbon paper to laser printers, the story of office copying has been captured in *The Office Copying Revolution*, a by conservator Ian Batterham in his book published by the National Archives of Australia.

The Office Copying Revolution is liberally illustrated with quaint advertisements and colourful images of machines such as the 1870 'Malling Hansen writing ball' from Denmark, the world's first commercial typewriter.

Mr Batterham, who works as a conservator at the National Archives, describes the story of office copying as 'diverse and inventive'. It involves well known inventors such as Thomas Edison who developed the Mimeograph machine and James Watt who invented the first copy press. It also tells the story of the demise of the typing pool when word processors came on the scene.

While generations of copying machines have become obsolete, their legacy resides in the historical collections of archives, libraries, personal collections and galleries across the world. Mr Batterham said it is the challenge for conservators in such institutions to preserve the copies that resulted from varying processes over the centuries.

The book is aimed at a wide audience, including professional conservators, archivists, librarians and forensic document examiners. A helpful appendix provides an 11-step process to identify an unknown copy.

The book is available at <http://www.naa.gov.au>.

The Pocket Dogs go on Holiday



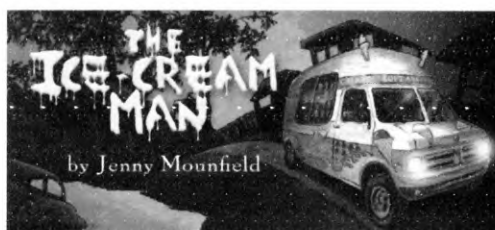
author
Margaret Wild

Written by Margaret Wild
Illustrated by Stephen Michael King
Scholastic
ISBN: 978 1 86291
738 5
R.R.P. \$24.95

A charming story of love and friendship, the book has vibrant pen and ink illustrations that are full of character, atmosphere and above all fun.

Mr Pockets and his two little dogs, Bill and Buff set off to the seaside for a holiday. The two little dogs love riding in the pockets of Mr Pockets' big old coat; but when the coat suddenly disappears, all that they know and love comes to a grinding halt.

A lovely picture book for the preschooler.



One summer afternoon three boys play a prank on the ice-cream man. This one decision sets into motion a chain of events that will forge a life-long bond, testing each boy as never before. Three boys united by fear and their need for friendship. Three boys united against the ice-cream man.

RRP: \$16.95



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