



The Australian Journal of **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

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The Coming of the Strangers: Life in Australia 1788-1822.
By Baiba Berzins. Collins, 1988.

The author has extensively researched the period of Australian history from 1788 to 1822 and combined the information into a balanced account of the period.

Berzins recognises the arrival of non-Aboriginal people in Australia for what it was - an invasion - and the multitude of ways this impacted on the original owners, the Aborigines. Many publications dealing with the arrival and establishment of an English culture in Australia present an English male perspective. Berzins has sensitively and realistically presented the perspectives of women, convicts and Aborigines on these events.
UP-US.

Excuse me Captain Cook, who did discover Australia? By Michael Salmon. Martin Educational, 1988.

A much-needed, simple, accurate and balanced account of the discovery of Australia. This book recognises that Aboriginal people were the first inhabitants of Australia and would be valuable in correcting many misconceptions about the 'discovery' of Australia held by many Australian adults and children. The timeline included is also important in that it brings into perspective the coming to Australia of various groups of people and the various periods of Australian history.
RECOMMENDED MP-UP.

Little bit long way. By Jim Howes. Dorr-McLeod, 1986.

This superbly illustrated and presented publication affords the reader a valuable insight into Bobby Nganmijra, story keeper of Malwan. It illustrates the significance of place to Aboriginal people, giving the reader glimpses of their complex beliefs. Bobby Nganmijra's vast knowledge of tradition and the environment, as well as his spiritual knowledge, is evident through the text. The breathtaking photography and the simplicity and sincerity of the text make for refreshing and uplifting reading. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. MP-US.

The Macquarie bedtime story book. Compiled and edited by Rosalind Price and Walter McVitty. Macquarie Library, 1987.

A large selection of children's stories collected from countries throughout the world and retold by Australian authors.

These range from traditional stories and old favourites to new works, and cover a wide spectrum of moods. Because of the variety of sources from which the stories have been drawn, there is a diversity of style which adds to the appeal of the book. Unfortunately, in the story "How fire came", retold by Bill Scott, it is not clear whether 'Mirrungun' is written or retold by Bill Scott. If it is a traditional Aboriginal story it should be properly acknowledged and referenced to the Aboriginal owners.

Race and racism in Australia. By Keith McConnochie. Social Science Press, 1988.

Racism is generally accepted as being morally wrong, irrational and inexcusable.

This book suggests that Australia is a racist country, presents examples of individual and institutional racism, and suggests ways of challenging this problem. This is a publication which should be read by all Australians as an insight into the historic and social forces which shaped their lives and developed the Australian psyche. US.

Recovery: the politics of Aboriginal reform. By C.D. Rowley. Penguin Australia, 1986.

Charles Rowley is acutely aware that much of the non-Aboriginal backlash against Aboriginal politics, land rights, Government assistance programs and Aboriginal rights in general, is largely the product of non-Aboriginal people's ignorance of the facts.

Rowley has provided a comprehensive and accurate picture of Aboriginal politics, government policies, institutions involved in providing services to Aborigines, and how the effectiveness of these institutions is impeded. It is an informative and somewhat 'dry' publication but to quote H.C.Coombs in his foreword to this book, "a book which all white Australians should read with care and humility." RECOMMENDED. US.

Rom, an Aboriginal ritual of diplomacy. Edited by Stephen A.Wild. Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, 1986.

The first Rom ceremony to be performed outside of Arnhem Land was at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, Canberra, 1982. The performers were Anbarra Aborigines from north-central Arnhem Land and the ceremony was held simultaneously with an exhibition of bark paintings which formed part of the same cultural event.