



# The Australian Journal of **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

This article was originally published in printed form. The journal began in 1973 and was titled *The Aboriginal Child at School*. In 1996 the journal was transformed to an internationally peer-reviewed publication and renamed *The Australian Journal of Indigenous Education*.

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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.

This book contains colour photographs of the ritual objects used in the Rom ceremony as well as the bark paintings used in the exhibition. A comprehensive account is given of all facets of the preparation for the Rom ceremony. Students will find this book a valuable resource for the study of Aboriginal culture. RECOMMENDED. US.

*The Songlines.* By Bruce Chatwin. Cape 1987.

A totally insensitive, unacceptable and highly offensive publication in which the author displays a lack of understanding of, and scant regard for, Aboriginal culture. Evidence of what can only be seen as racism lies in the negative images used to portray Aboriginal people throughout the book. The author also portrays negatively, those non-Aboriginal people who show support for Aborigines. NOT RECOMMENDED. US.

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILD POVERTY  
AND EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA

Adelaide : South Australia, September 12th - 15th 1989

The major aim of the conference will be to further develop awareness and understanding of issues relating to child poverty, with particular focus on the educational implications for children.

The keynote speaker will be Associate Professor George Martell from Ontario, Canada. National keynote speakers include Julian Disney, President Australian Council of Social Services; Linda Burney, President, Aboriginal Education Consultative Group, NSW; Jan Dillow, Project Officer, Ministry of Education, Vic., and Professor Bob Connell, Macquarie University NSW. Presentors from SA will include the Hon.G.J.Crafter, MP, Minister of Education and Minister of Children's Services; Associate Director of Education (Curriculum) Garth Boomer and Assistant Director Curriculum, Social Justice, Margaret Wallace.

Approximately 40 workshops will be presented.

The opening address by Professor Martell on Tuesday evening 12th September will be held at the Adelaide University Union Hall and will be open to the public. The remainder of the conference will be held at Hotel Adelaide, Brougham Place, North Adelaide.

People wishing to register for the conference should contact Kerry Kavanagh, Conference Co-ordinator at the Priority Projects Office, phone (08) 296 9100.

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