



The Australian Journal of **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

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Black Duck and Water Rat. Written and illustrated by Percy Trezise and Mary Haginkitas. Collins in association with Anne Ingram Books, 1988. \$16.95.

This delightful story is told in the Aboriginal story style and will have a wide appeal for lower and middle primary school age children.

The work's simplicity and the glorious illustrations will further add to the appeal and acceptance of this fine publication.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. LP-MP

Making a Life: a people's history of Australia since 1788.
Edited by Verity Burgmann and Jenny Lee. McPhee Gribble/
Penguin Books, 1988. \$16.95.

This publication gives some insight into significant events which shaped Australian society between 1788 and 1988.

The editors explore this development under eighteen major headings, analysing how events affected the various groups within Australian society. While the perspectives of disadvantaged groups such as the working class, migrants and women are explored adequately, the Aboriginal perspective is all but neglected. This is puzzling when one considers that the impact these events had on Aboriginal people was far greater than on any other group. One would have expected the section 'A Struggle for Equality' and 'Discrimination' would have contained Aboriginal perspectives. In fact Aborigines are not even mentioned in these sections.

It is most unfortunate that Aborigines are still being written out of Australian history or at best only given a cursory superficial mention.

NOT RECOMMENDED. US. (Note: for further comments see p.52 of Reviewpoint 56).

Nuclear Playground. By Stewart Firth. Allen and Unwin, 1987.
Paper \$14.95.

An excellent publication which gives a comprehensive account of the nuclear testing in the Pacific region.

The author explores the thinking which determined where the tests would be conducted as well as the safety precautions undertaken by the testing nations to ensure the safety of the indigenous people of testing locations. Stewart further explores what compensation, if any the indigenous people received for the loss or destruction of their lands as well as any efforts made to restore the test areas to a safe state.

This revealing publication shows that the testing nations initially were either genuinely or conveniently ignorant of the 'real' dangers of testing nuclear weapons. They employed inaccurate and totally inadequate methods of testing and measuring levels of fall out.

In the Australian context, the British made only token efforts to clear Aborigines from the testing area and until recently denied that Aborigines were present when tests were conducted.

After tests were conducted the testing nations generally did not conduct programs to monitor the effects of testing fall out on local inhabitants. They have neither accepted responsibility for making safe and restoring test areas nor for the test victims who have experienced serious health problems as a result of the tests.

A valuable resource which gives a true indication of the attitudes held by many prominent and powerful nations toward indigenous peoples.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. US. (*For further comments see p.41 of Reviewpoint 56*).

Pride against Prejudice: reminiscences of a Tasmanian Aborigine.
By Ida West. Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies,
1987. Paper \$8.95.

An intimate and very personal account of Ida West's life, the life of her family and forebears as well as that of other Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people with whom she came in contact.

While this book provides a valuable Aboriginal perspective of Tasmanian history from contact to present day and is important for its detail and as a spiritual, genealogical and historical record, the writing is somewhat lacking in style. At times