

**‘Living Lives : Autobiographies, Biographies and Memoirs’**

**Featured within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Database**

The National Centre for Australian Children’s Literature Inc launched the database, Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander Peoples Resource in July 2020. This database was initially funded by the Australian Government, Department of Education, Skills and Employment. By August 2024, this database included 619 books and around 2,500 free online teaching resources. It is continuously updated.

Contributors to this project include 35 individuals across Australia, chosen for their expertise. Moderators guided these individuals, while the Project Team and an external Reference Group monitored the project as a whole. First Nations People participated in this project.

This **Living Lives** bibliography is a selection of books within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples resource. Three types of books are included here: autobiographies, biographies and memoirs for young people. Each book in the database includes the following information: publication details, suggested age range, subjects, annotation, story location and creators’ background (where identified) and multiple free online teaching resources.

items retrieved can be shared with colleagues on social media.

This **Living Lives bibliography** features the following

* number of books included: 47
* books’ publication date range: 1993-2023
* audience range: birth-secondary
* subjects featured for each book: between 6-20
* publishers included: 21
* online free teaching resources: approximately 200
* hyperlink to each book in the database

All hyperlinks were checked on 22 June 2024 and were accurate and live at that time. Should you find a broken link, please email us at ncacl@canberra.edu.au and give us the book’s title and the broken link’s details.

**LIVING LIVES :** **AUTOBIOGRAPHIES, BIOGRAPHIES AND MEMOIRS BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**Books are arranged alphabetically by title**

*A is for Aunty* written and illustrated by Elaine Russell. ABC Books, 2000 (5-8yrs)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/a-is-for-aunty/>

*Albert : Albert Namatjira and the Hermannsburg Watercolour Artists* written by Damien Kamholtz (English story text) and Lenie Namatjira (Western Arrarnta story text). Illus Ntaria and outstation community students. Openbook Australia, 2006 (primary-upper primary)

Language included: English, Western Arrernte language (C8) (NT SF53-13)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/albert-albert-namatjira-and-the-hermannsburg-watercolour-artists/>

*Albert Namatijira* written and illustrated by Vincent Namatjira. Magabala Books, 2021 (5yrs-secondary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/albert-namatjira/>

*Amazing Australian Women : Twelve Women Who Shaped History* written by Pamela Freeman. Illus Sophie Beer. Hachettte Australia, 2018 (primary-upper primary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/amazing-australian-women-twelve-women-who-shaped-history/>

*As I Grew Older : The Life and Times of a Nunga Growing up Along the Murray River* written by Ian Abdulla and John Kean, illustrated by Ian Abdulla, Omnibus, 1993 (primary-upper primary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/as-i-grew-older/>

*Australia is Our Home* written by Laura Giuffrida. Illus Julia Chapman. Book Ink Publishing, 2018 (3-8rys)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/australia-is-our-home/>

### *Biddy's Fishing-Line : An Adventure of Biddy When She Was Young* written by Bridget Priman and illustrated by Robbie Paul. Black Ink Press, 2005 (3yrs-primary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/biddys-fishing-line-an-adventure-of-biddy-when-she-was-young/>

*Born to Run* written by Cathy Freeman and illustrated by Charmaine Ledden-Lewis. Penguin Random House Australia, 2021 (5yrs-primary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/born-to-run/>

*Charlie’s War* written by Vicki Bennett and Des Crump. Illus Debbie Taylor Worley. Windy Hollow Books, 2023 (primary-upper primary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/charlies-war/>

*Cheeky Dogs: To Lake Nash and Back : An Illustrated Memoir* written and illustrated by Dion Beasley and Johanna Bell. Allen & Unwin, 2019 (5yrs-upper primary)

[Cheeky Dogs](https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/cheeky-dogs-to-lake-nash-and-back-an-illustrated-memoir/)

*Day Break* written by Amy McQuire. Illus Matt Chun. Little Hare Books (Hardie Grant Children’s Publishing), 2021 (birth–primary) <https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/day-break/>

*Do Not Go Around the Edges* written by Daisy Utemorrah. Illus by Pat Torres. Magabala Books, 2015 (primary-upper primary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/do-not-go-around-the-edges/>

*Follow the Rabbit-proof Fence* written by Doris Pilkington. University of Queensland Press, 2001 (secondary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/follow-the-rabbit-proof-fence/>

*Freedom Day : Vincent Lingiari and the Story of the Wave Hill Walk-off* written by Rosie Smiler and Thomas Mayor. Illus Samantha Campbell. Hardie Grant Children’s Publishing, 2021 (5yrs-primary

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/freedom-day-vincent-lingiari-and-the-story-of-the-wave-hill-walk-off/>

*Heroes, Rebels and Innovators : Inspiring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People from History* written by Karen Wyld. Illus Jaelyn Biumaiwai. Lothian Children’s Book, 2021 (lower primary-secondary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/heroes-rebels-and-innovators-inspiring-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-people-from-history/>

### *Home to* *Mother : A Younger Reader’s edition of Follow the Rabbit-proof Fence* written by Doris Pilkington Garimara. Illus by Janice Lyndon. University of Queensland Press, 2006. (primary-secondary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/i-remember/>

### *I Remember* written by Joanne Crawford. Illus Kerry Anne Jordinson. Magabala Books, 2018 (3yrs-lower primary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/i-remember/>

*Jack Charles : Born-again Blakfella* written by Jack Charles and Namila Benson. Penguin Books, 2019 (secondary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/jack-charles-born-again-blakfella/>

*Jandamarra* written by Mark Greenwood. Illus Terry Denton. Allen & Unwin, 2013 (5yrs-upper primary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/jandamarra/>

*Jirrbal : Rainforest Dreamtime Stories* written by Maisie (Yarrcali) Barlow. Illus by Michael (Boiyool) Anning. Magabala Books, 2001 (5yrs-upper primary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/jirrbal-rainforest-dreamtime-stories/>

*Kicking Goals with Goodsey and Magic* written by Anita Heiss, Adam Goodes and Michael O’Loughlin. Piccolo Nero, 2016 (5yrs-upper primary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/kicking-goals-with-goodsey-and-magic/>

*Kulinmaya! Keep Listening everybody!* written by Mumu Mike Williams, Linda Rive (translator) and 11 other contributors. Allen & Unwin, 2019 (secondary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/kulinmaya-keep-listening-everybody/>

*Kunyi* written and illustrated by Kunyi June Anne McInerne. Magabala Books, 2021 (lower primary-secondary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/kunyi/>

*Main Abija : My Grandad* written and illustrated by Karen Rogers. Allen & Unwin, 2021 (5yrs-primary) <https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/main-abija-my-grandad/>

### *Maralinga's Long Shadow : Yvonne's Story* written by Christobel Mattingley. Allen & Unwin, 2016 (upper primary-secondary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/maralingas-long-shadow-yvonnes-story/>

*Maybe Tomorrow* (Anniversary Edition) written by Boorie Monty Pryor and Meme McDonald. Allen & Unwin, 2010 (secondary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/maybe-tomorrow-anniversary-edition>

*Multuggerah and the Sacred Mountain* written by Frank Uhr. Illus Debra O’Halloran. Boolarong Press, 2019 (primary-secondary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/multuggerah-and-the-sacred-mountain/>

### *Mum's Elephant* written by Maureen Jipyiliya Nampijinpa O’Keefe. Illus Christina Booth. Magabala Books, 2020 (3yrs-lower primary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/mum-s-elephant>

### *My Father's Shadow* written by Jannali Jones. Magabala Books, 2019 (secondary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/my-fathers-shadow/>

### *My Mob at Christmas* written by Vicki Griffin. Vicki Griffin, 2017 (5yrs-primary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/my-mob-at-christmas/>

*Ngaginybe Jarragbe : My Story* written by Shirley Purdie and Eileen Bray, translated from English to Gija, Frances Kofod, Gija language editor. Magabala Books, 2020 (5yrs-secondary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/ngaginybe-jarragbe-my-story/>

*Old Tucker Man* written by Debbie Austin (as told to her by her uncle, Banjo Clarke. Illus Debbie Austin. One Day Hill Pty Ltd, 2007 (lower primary-upper primary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/old-tucker-man/>

### *Our Home, Our Heartbeat* written by Adam Briggs. Illus Kate Moon and Rachael Sarra. Little Hare, 2020 (5yrs-primary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/our-home-our-heartbeat/>

### *Over the Back Fence* written by Fay Gee-Hoy. Illus Jaquanna Elliot. Black Ink Press, 2010. (3yrs-primary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/over-the-back-fence/>

*Playground* written by Nadia Wheatley & Jackie Huggins, Indigenous consultant. Illus by Ken Searle. Allen & Unwin, 2011 (primary-secondary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/playground>

### *Remembering Lionsville* written and illustrated by Bronwyn Bancroft. Allen & Unwin, 2016 (5yrs – primary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/remembering-lionsville/>

*Robert Runs* written by Mariah Sweetman. Magabala Books, 2023 (secondary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/robert-runs/>

*Sally’s Story* written and illustrated by Sally Morgan. Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1990 (upper primary-secondary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/sallys-story/>

### *Stradbroke Dreamtime* written by Oodgeroo Noonuccal. Illus Bronwyn Bancroft. Angus & Robertson, 1993 (5yrs-upper primary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/stradbroke-dreamtime/>

*Tell Me Why : For Young Adults* written by Archie Roach. Simon and Schuster, 2011 (secondary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/tell-me-why-for-young-adults/21>

### *The Memory Shed* written by Sally Morgan and Ezekiel Kwaymullina. Illus Craig Smith. Omnibus Books, 2015 (5yrs-primary)

### <https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/the-memory-shed/>

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*This Book Thinks Ya Deadly! : a Celebration of Blak Excellence* written by Corey Tutt and illustrated by Molly Hunt. Hardie Grant Explore, 2023 (primary-secondary) <https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/this-book-thinks-ya-deadly-a-celebration-of-blak-excellence/>

*Tucker* written by Ian W Abdulla and illustrated by Ian Abdulla and Jo Brock (map only). Omnibus Books, 2014 (5yrs-primary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/tucker/>

*When I Was Little, Like You* written and illustrated by Mary Malbunka. Allen & Unwin, 2004 (5yrs-upper primary) Language: English, Luritja (C7.1), Luritja language (C7.1) (NT SG52-04)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/when-i-was-little-like-you/>

### *Wur Burrungkeima, Germany-Yanga = Two Men Who Flew from Germany* written by Mary Pandilo and Margaret Sefton. Illus by students of Kalumburu Remote Community School. Kimberley Language Resource Centre, 2003. English, Kwini / Gwini language (K36) (WA SD52-09)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/wur-burrungkeima-germany-yanga-two-men-who-flew-from-germany/>

*Yinti, Desert Cowboy* written by Pat Lowe and Jimmy Pike. Magabala Books, 2000 (upper primary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/yinti-desert-cowboy/>

*Yinti’s Desert Dog* written by Pat Lowe and Jimmy Pike. Illus Jimmy Pike. Magabala Books, 2019 (primary-secondary)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/yinti-s-desert-dog/>

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