

Books, websites, TV series, films and activities

To learn more about our shared histories, cultures and achievements

Websites

TITLE	ABOUT
https://www.snaicc.org.au/	National Voice for our Children – advocating for the rights of Aboriginal children to ensure their safety, development and well-being.
https://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/news/videos/bringing-them-home-1997	Bringing them home report
http://shareourpride.reconciliation.org.au/	Share Our Pride - Reconciliation Australia
https://ictv.com.au/	Indigenous Community TV
https://australiantogether.org.au/	Australians Together

YouTube

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHVbVBLIhCM	Myth Debunking (Sydney University)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1XUOj13yuY	Ingrid Cumming - Two Worlds
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7FU8zuHaHg	Cally Jetta - Australia, we need to talk.
https://www.ted.com/talks/dean_parkin_the_uluru_statement_from_the_heart_an_idea_whose_time_has_come	Dean Parkin - The Uluru Statement from the Heart - an idea whose time has come
https://youtu.be/msCumiKU-Rg	Yakanarra Song Book Album Launch
Stan Grant: Racism and the Australian Dream/Speech Stan Grant: Racism and the Australian dream - The Ethics Centre	On the IQ2 stage in 2015, Stan Grant opened the hearts and minds of the audience with his powerful speech on racism in Australia.

Books - Children and Young Adults

TITLE	ABOUT
<p><i>I Saw We Saw</i></p> <p>By Yolŋu students at Nhulunbuy Primary School, with Ann James and Ann Haddon.</p> <p>(ILF Book)</p>	<p>With its stunning illustrations and intriguing text, <i>I Saw We Saw</i> provides a fascinating glimpse into the world of Yolŋu students at Nhulunbuy Primary School. There's much to see on every page page, with the opportunity to learn some Yolŋu Matha words, the authors' first language, making this book a delight to read and explore.</p>
<p><i>Deadly Sisters of Worawa</i></p> <p>Written by thirteen young women from Worawa Aboriginal College with Anita Heiss and Shelley Ware.</p> <p>(ILF Book)</p>	<p><i>Deadly Sisters of Worawa</i>, written by thirteen young women from Worawa Aboriginal College, was produced during a writing workshop that was facilitated by our Lifetime Ambassador Anita Heiss and the equally passionate literacy advocate Shelley Ware. In their book, the students write about themselves, their families, their sacred places and the things they've achieved that make them proud. They've also written some powerful and moving poetry, and created some amazing artwork, all of which combined reveals how deadly these Worawa sisters are.</p>
<p><i>Japarripa</i> (series)</p> <p>Written by senior students of Tiwi College in collaboration with David Lawrence and Shelley Ware.</p> <p>(ILF Project, PRH Book)</p>	<p>Kay-Bell loves to play footy. All she wants to do on the field is make her family and the Tiwi people proud. But when Auntie B gets in the way of her dream of kicking goals for the Tiwi Warriors, Kay-Bell must enlist the help of her friends and brother on a wild journey ... Will she survive the water buffaloes, dugongs, crocodiles and stormy weather to make it to the big game?</p> <p>A powerful story about finding the courage to believe in yourself.</p>
<p><i>Two Ways Strong</i></p> <p>By the Deadly Mob from Concordia Lutheran College, with Claire Scobie and Kristine Ellis.</p> <p>(ILF Book)</p>	<p>Going to boarding school can be a difficult transition for many students, but for Indigenous students from remote communities, it can be quite a culture shock. In <i>Two Ways Strong</i>, Indigenous students from Concordia Lutheran College have combined to tell their experience in a story about Jaz a young girl from Palm Island who goes to boarding school at the age of fourteen.</p> <p>Jaz has many challenges to face, not least having to speak English and make herself understood. Her fellow Indigenous students help to ease the way for her but ultimately it's up to Jaz to make the most of what boarding school has to offer.</p> <p>As she becomes accustomed to school life, has fun with her friends and has academic success, Jaz realises just how much she has gained and grown in the time she's been at school. She's no longer just one way strong like she was on Palm Island, she's now two ways strong and ready to take on the world.</p>
<p><i>Wamparla Apira</i> (Possums and Tall Trees)</p> <p>Written by Syd Strangways and illustrated by Kathy Arbon.</p> <p>(ILF Book)</p>	<p>Told in Arabana and English by Elder Thanthi Syd Strangways, this fascinating story is beautifully illustrated by Kathy Arbon, and is also an important addition to the Arabana Wangka or language resources for the Arabana people of northern South Australia. As a child, Thanti Syd travelled the region with his grandmother and other Arabana tribespeople, camping and hunting for possums for food and clothing.</p>

Books - Children and Young Adults

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<i>Nginingawila Ngirramini – Our Story</i> (ILF Book)	<i>Nginingawila Ngirramini</i> – Tiwi language – for ‘Our Story’ was written by nine students from Tiwi College (Tiwi Islands, NT) with Anita Heiss and Pamela Freeman. The book is a celebration of these girls’ lives. It traces their heroes, sacred places, and happiest memories.
<i>Young Dark Emu</i> - Bruce Pascoe	Bruce Pascoe has collected a swathe of literary awards for <i>Dark Emu</i> and now he has brought together the research and compelling first person accounts in a book for younger readers. Using the accounts of early European explorers, colonists and farmers, Bruce Pascoe compellingly argues for a reconsideration of the hunter-gatherer label for pre-colonial Aboriginal Australians. He allows the reader to see Australia as it was before Europeans arrived – a land of cultivated farming areas, productive fisheries, permanent homes, and an understanding of the environment and its natural resources that supported thriving villages across the continent. <i>Young Dark Emu - A Truer History</i> asks young readers to consider a different version of Australia’s history pre-European colonisation.
<i>Artweyenhenge</i> - Family Amanda Turner, Anna Maria Palmer & Janine Turner	<i>Artweyenhenge</i> is a cross-cultural educational resource developed and written by Arrernte Educators to combine Arrernte language learning around family and relationships with English numeracy. This book merges both First Nations values and world view with Western numeracy learning. Pre-colonisation, there was no need in the thriving and highly functional Arrernte societies to develop any numbers beyond three, other than arrunthe meaning ‘many’
<i>My Country</i> - Sally Morgan	Written by a mother and son duo, this brightly illustrated picture book is a jubilant journey through a child’s home country that celebrates the joys of nature and emphasizes forming a connection with place. In simple and lyrical prose, this narrative offers an indigenous Australian perspective of life as it connects traditional and contemporary experiences in ways that children can understand.
<i>Annie’s Story - Growing up strong on Boandik Country</i> - Aunty Michelle Jacquelin -Furr	<i>Annie’s Story – Growing Up Strong On Boandik Country</i> is my first children’s book about aboriginal culture in the South East of South Australia. The stories are inspired by my great grandmother and her life growing up as a young Aboriginal girl on Boandik country when her traditional ways were disappearing as the white man’s culture took over.
<i>Nitirringanyi Ngurra Ku: Learning on Country</i> - Annette Robinson, Roxanne Sharpe	This book is a collaboration between mothers and grandmothers, representing Luritja, Warlpiri, and Eastern Arrernte language groups in Central Australia. The story depicts the kinds of learning that take place when First Nations kids are out bush with their families, and aims to enrich reading and literacy as a culturally relevant experience for First Nations children

Books - Children and Young Adults

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<i>My Culture and Me</i> - Gregg Dreise	A stirring story about pride, respect and maintaining culture. Feel the rhythm of the music, from your heart down to your feet. Enjoy the movements of melodies, as clapsticks keep a strong beat. This is my culture. This is me.
<i>Sally's Story</i> – Sally Morgan	<i>My Place</i> is Sally Morgan's rich, zesty and moving story of her childhood and growing up in Perth, Western Australia. It tells how she gradually came to realise the truth about her family and their heritage. In its original edition, <i>My Place</i> was warmly and enthusiastically received by readers and critics. This new edition has been adapted for younger readers.
<i>The Girl from the Great Sandy Desert</i> - Jukuna Mona Chuguna, Pat Lowe	<i>The Girl from the Great Sandy Desert</i> is the remarkable account of the life of Mana, a young Walmajarri girl and her family in the desert country of north-west Australia. A collection of accessible stories that elucidate the rich cultural lives of pre-contact Aboriginal Australians, this book is a valuable resource for educators and young readers, and is accompanied by beautiful black and white illustrations.
<i>Our World - Bardi-Jaawi Life at Ardiyooloon</i> By: One Arm Point Remote Community School	Ardiyooloon is home to the Bardi-Jaawi people and sits at the end of a red dirt road at the top of the Dampier Peninsula, 200km north of Broome in the north-west of Western Australia. <i>Our World: Bardi-Jaawi life at Ardiyooloon</i> takes readers inside the lives of the children of a remote Indigenous community — lives very different to those experienced by most Australians. The children take readers camping and fishing, share traditional stories and dances, show them how to find a waterhole, track, cook and eat bush tucker and animals such as turtles, crabs, oysters and clams, and make spears, boomerangs, bough shelters and bush brooms. Created by the children themselves, it is full of colourful illustrations and amazing photographs of the students experiencing their world and keeping alive the age-old traditions of their people.
<i>My Story, Ngaginybe Jarragbe</i> by Shirley Purdie	My mother shows me how to get bushtucker and she shows me how to paint. Now I'm a famous artist. My paintings are all over the world hanging in important places. Happy times. Told in English and Gija, this is the story of Shirley Purdie, famous Gija artist, as told through her paintings, as part of the Ngaalim-Ngalimboorro Ngaginybe exhibition created for the 2018 National Portrait Gallery exhibition <i>So Fine: Contemporary women artists make Australian history</i> .
<i>Welcome to Country</i> Joy Murphy & Lisa Kennedy	This is a welcome to the lands of the Wurundjeri people and is beautifully told and illustrated. Great for adults and children.

Books - Adult

TITLE	ABOUT
<i>Growing up Aboriginal in Australia</i> – edited by Anita Heiss	What is it like to grow up Aboriginal in Australia showcases as many diverse voices, experiences and stories as possible in order to answer that question. Each account reveals, to some degree, the impacts of invasion and colonisation – on language, on country, on ways of life, and on how people are treated daily in the community, the education system, the workplace and friendship groups.
<i>Dark Emu</i> - Bruce Pascoe https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqgrSSz7Htw	<i>Dark Emu</i> argues for a reconsideration of the ‘hunter-gatherer’ tag for pre-colonial Aboriginal Australians and attempts to rebut the colonial myths that have worked to justify dispossession. Accomplished author Bruce Pascoe provides compelling evidence from the diaries of early explorers that suggests that systems of food production and land management have been blatantly understated in modern retellings of early Aboriginal history, and that a new look at Australia’s past is required.
<i>Jandamarra and the Bunuba Resistance</i> A True Story By: Banjo Woorunmurra, Howard Pedersen	The thrilling story of the great warrior, Jandamarra, who turned from police assistant to resistance fighter. Thought to be unstoppable, he led the Bunuba against the forces invading their land. A legend, forever etched into the history of the Kimberley, Jandamarra’s courage and fighting spirit made him one of the region’s most wanted men. <i>Jandamarra and the Bunuba Resistance</i> is a grand story with a grand theme. A powerful collaboration between a non-Indigenous historian and the Indigenous custodian of the Jandamarra story.
<i>The Little Red Yellow Black Book: An introduction to Indigenous Australia - Aiatsis</i> , With Bruce Pascoe	Originally published in 1994, <i>The Little Red Yellow Black Book</i> has established itself as the perfect starting point for those who want to learn about the rich cultures and histories of Australia’s First Peoples. Written from an Indigenous perspective, this highly illustrated and accessible introduction covers a range of topics from history, culture and the Arts, through to activism and reconciliation. In this fourth edition, readers will learn about some of the significant contributions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have made, and continue to make, to the Australian nation. Common stereotypes will be challenged, and the many struggles and triumphs that we’ve experienced as we’ve navigated through our shared histories will be revealed. Readers will also learn about some of the key concepts that underpin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander worldviews including concepts such as the Dreaming, the significance of Ancestral Heroes and Country.
<i>The Yield</i> by Tara June Winch	Profoundly moving and exquisitely written, Tara June Winch’s <i>The Yield</i> is the story of a people and a culture dispossessed. But it is as much a celebration of what was and what endures, and a powerful reclaiming of Indigenous language, storytelling and identity.

Books - Adult

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<i>Too Much Lip</i> by Melissa Luckashenko	<p>Wisecracking Kerry Salter has spent a lifetime avoiding two things - her hometown and prison. But now her Pop is dying, and she's an inch away from the lockup, so she heads south on a stolen Harley. Kerry plans to spend 24 hours, tops, over the border. She quickly discovers, though, that Bundjalung country has a funny way of grabbing on to people.</p> <p>Old family wounds open as the Salters fight to stop the development of their beloved river. And the unexpected arrival on the scene of a good-looking dugai fella intent on loving her up only adds more trouble - but then trouble is Kerry's middle name.</p> <p>Gritty and darkly hilarious, <i>Too Much Lip</i> offers redemption and forgiveness where none seems possible.</p>
<i>Talking to my Country</i> by Stan Grant	<p>Talking to My Country is that rare and special book that talks to every Australian about their country - What it is, and what it could be. It is not just about race or about Indigenous people, but all of us, our shared identity. Direct, honest and forthright, Stan is talking to us all. He might not have all the answers but he wants us to keep on asking the question: how can we be better?</p>
<i>SongSpirals</i> by Gay'wu Group of Women	<p>Aboriginal Australian cultures are the oldest living cultures on earth and at the heart of Aboriginal cultures is song. These ancient narratives of landscape have often been described as a means of navigating across vast distances without a map, but they are much, much more than this. Songspirals are sung by Aboriginal people to awaken Country, to make and remake the life-giving connections between people and place. Songspirals is a rare opportunity for outsiders to experience Aboriginal women's role in crying the songlines in a very authentic and direct form.</p>
<i>Flock</i> First Nations Stories Then and Now Edited by Ellen van Neerven	<p>A wide-ranging and captivating anthology of stories that brings together voices from across the generations curated by award-winning author Ellen van Neerven.</p> <p>"Urgent, searing and powerful. For First Nations peoples, this collection affirms our many realities and inspires us with the power and possibilities of our storytelling". Ambelin Kwaymullina</p>
<i>Bila Yarrudhanggalangdhuray</i> Anita Heiss	<p>A story of courage, connection and belonging set on Wiradyuri country where the life-giving waters of the rivers can make or break dreams. <i>Bila Yarrudhanggalanghuray</i> is an epic story of love, loss and belonging.</p> <p>Larissa Behrendt says: "Anita Heiss is at the height of her storytelling powers in this inspiring, heartbreaking, profound tale that explores the deep, eternal connection to country and the resilience of the human heart".</p>

Movies and Series

TITLE	ABOUT
In My Own Words http://blackfellafilms.com.au/project/in-my-own-words/	Raw, heartfelt, sometimes painstaking but often funny, In My Own Words follows the journey of adult Aboriginal students and their teachers as they discover the transformative power of reading and writing for the first time in their lives.
Rabbit Proof Fence	This true story about three Aboriginal girls from the Stolen Generation. Taken from their home and separated from their mothers, they are sent to a remote settlement 1,500 miles away. In response they attempt the impossible and embark on a daring escape and epic journey to find their way back home - across an unforgiving landscape that will test their very will to survive.
Mabo	Mabo is the story of how one man fought the system and won, how one man affected the lives of all his people. Eddie 'Koiki' Mabo was shocked to discover that the ownership of land his ancestors passed down on Murray Island in The Torres Strait Islands for over 15 generations was not legally recognized. Rather than accept this injustice he began an epic fight for Australian law to recognise traditional land rights.
The Sapphires	1968 was the year that changed the world. And for four young Aboriginal sisters from a remote mission this is the year that would change their lives forever. Around the globe, there was protest and revolution in the streets. Indigenous Australians finally secured the right to vote. Based on a true story.
Utopia	Utopia represents a long journey through the 'secret country' of John Pilger's homeland. It is his fourth film about Indigenous Australia, the oldest, most enduring human presence on Earth. Released in 2013 and filmed over two years, Utopia breaks what amounts to a recurring national silence about the brutalising of Indigenous people. One of the film's striking elements is the trust given to Pilger by so many indigenous Australians to 'voice their voices'. The point is made that little has changed for many of those excluded from white Australia's wealth, regardless of an official apology for 'wrongs past and present'.
In My Blood It Runs https://inmyblooditrans.com/	When Djuwan cannot run nor fight alone, he faces the history that runs straight into him and realised that not only has he inherited the trauma and dispossession of his land, but also the resilience and resistance of many generations of his people.

Movies and Series

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Total Control /TV series Total Control : ABC iview	A fearless Indigenous senator, just weeks into her political career, finds herself betrayed at the highest level. Seeking redemption, she sets out to settle a score against the party and the Prime Minister of Australia.
High Country/Film/ In Cinemas	In a bid to save the last of his family, Gutjuk, a young Aboriginal man, teams up with ex-soldier Travis to track down Baywara, the most dangerous warrior in the Territory, his uncle.
First Australians Documentary/ Search SBS On Demand	First Australians chronicles the birth of contemporary Australia as never told before, from the perspective of its first people. First Australians explores what unfolds when the oldest living culture in the world is overrun by the world's greatest empire. Over seven episodes, First Australians depicts the true stories of individuals - both black and white - caught in an epic drama of friendship, revenge, loss and victory in Australia's most transformative period of history.
Oodgeroo Noonuccal SBS On Demand Video Oodgeroo Noonuccal SBS On Demand	Only available till 29 June 2021, this is the story of one of our most celebrated powers who was born on Stradbroke Island in 1920 and who went on to fight for her peoples rights. (National Film & Sound Archives also has a video of Oodgeroo Noonuccal reading her poems).

Activities

TITLE	ABOUT
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Collection, Art Gallery of NSW Also can be viewed online: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art Art Gallery of NSW	A stunning collection representing artists from communities across Australia. It is a true celebration of culture and heritage from both traditional and contemporary artists.
Barangaroo Aboriginal Walking Tour Barangaroo » Aboriginal Cultural Tours	One of Sydney's major harbourside developments, Barangaroo is named after a powerful Cammeraygal woman who lived at the time of early colonial settlement. She was a key figure in the local Aboriginal culture and community.