

Welcome to ASP's e-newsletter – Issue 13, August 2009

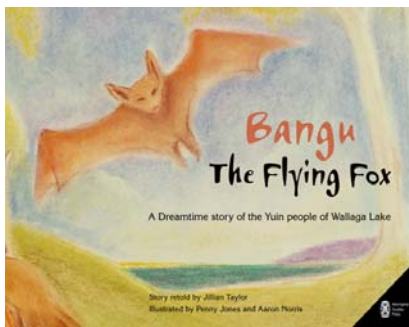
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LATEST RELEASES

Aboriginal Studies Press has reformatted and released new paperback versions of some of its children's books. These formed part of a NAIDOC promotion where more than 48 bookshops around the country used the books plus free posters and bookmarks to encourage book buyers to take part in this special Indigenous event.

Free downloadable teachers' notes are being made available on the ASP website to make it easy for schools to use the books in the classroom. Visit: <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/asp/aspbooks/bangu.html>.



Bangu the Flying Fox
A Dreamtime story of the Yuin people of Wallaga Lake
Jillian Taylor, Penny Jones & Aaron Norris
\$19.95 RRP, July 2009

A traditional dreaming story from the Yuin people of Wallaga Lake, Bangu explores the importance of belonging and identification.

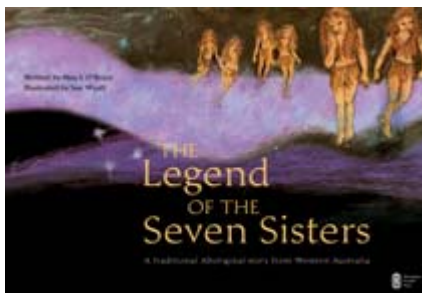
<http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/asp/aspbooks/bangu.html>



Bittangabee Tribe
An Aboriginal story from coastal New South Wales
Beryl Cruse, Rebecca Kirby, Liddy Stewart & Steven Thomas
\$19.95 RRP, July 2009

Written and illustrated by students, this delightful book tells the story of Ninima, his wife Mina and their children and the rhythms of their traditional life on the south coast of NSW.

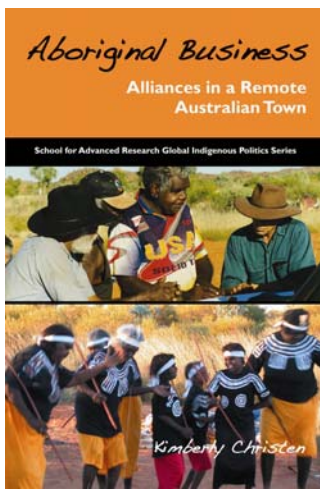
<http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/asp/aspbooks/bittangabee.html>



The Legend of the Seven Sisters
A traditional Aboriginal story from Western Australia
May O'Brien & Sue Wyatt
\$19.95 RRP, July 2009

A dreaming story of the Wongutha people from the Eastern goldfields, this wonderful retelling by well-known Indigenous children's author, May O'Brien, explains how the Seven Sisters (Pleiades) came to be.

<http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/asp/aspbooks/sevensisters.html>



Aboriginal Business: Alliances in a Remote Australian Town

Kimberly Christen

\$39.95 RRP, July 2009

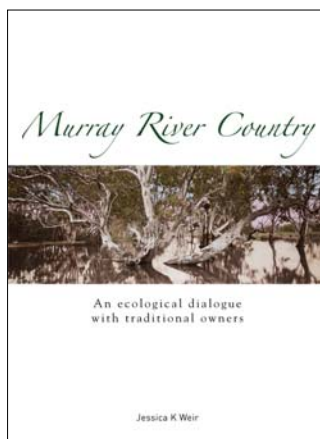
[A]lso has the potential to shape broader anthropological questions about the conditions of indigeneity, the ways that collectives forge alliances, the currency of culture, and the contours of economic development.

Jessica Cattelino, University of Chicago

Aboriginal Business is an ethnographic snapshot of the Warumungu people, the traditional owners of the country on which the remote Northern Territory town of Tennant Creek lie. Christen examines both the colonial past and the contemporary practices of alliance-making that set the stage for an alternative future, rerouting the national and global narratives that still seek to confine Indigenous people to the margins.

<http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/asp/aspbooks/aborbusiness.html>

FORTHCOMING BOOKS and EVENTS



Murray River Country: An ecological dialogue with traditional owners

Jessica K Weir

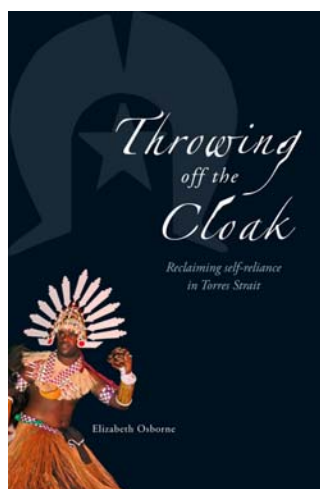
\$34.95 RRP, August 2009

To be launched by Monica Morgan and John Doyle

Strong endorsements from Professor Donna Haraway, Payi-Linda Ford, Richie Howitt and Libby Robin are pointers to the importance of this new title to discussions about climate, water, resources, and environmental and 'cultural flows' – both in Australia's Murray–Darling Basin, and elsewhere.

Murray River Country discusses the water crisis from a unique perspective – the intimate stories of love and loss from the perspectives of Aboriginal people who know the inland rivers as their traditional country. This book brings new insights to these issues by focusing our attention on what Indigenous people from along the Murray are experiencing, saying, and doing.

<http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/asp/aspbooks/murrayriver.html>



Throwing Off the Cloak: Reclaiming self-reliance in Torres Strait

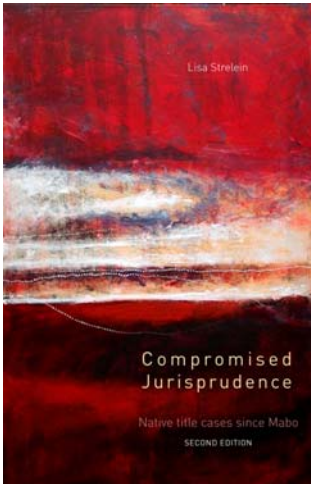
Elizabeth Osborne

\$39.95 RRP, October 2009

Osborne focuses on the Torres Strait Islander peoples' evolving struggles for recognition of their unique Indigenous island identities and in doing so she foregrounds the voices of the Torres Strait Islanders whose views were rarely sought or recorded up to the 1970s.

Osborne explores the debates centring on the Islanders' struggle to recover their rights to their land, sea, fish resources, and decision making for their own wellbeing. The successful Border Not Change protest, is an example of the peoples' collective resistance and the Islanders skills in dealing with political leaders.

<http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/asp/aspbooks/throwingoffcloak.html>



Compromised Jurisprudence: Native title cases since Mabo, 2nd edn

Lisa Strelein

\$39.95 RRP, November 2009

A welcome revised edition makes the most up-to-date and best-written book on the subject. It includes new chapters on the recent High Court cases, including the most controversial Federal Court case of the last two years, Bennell, the south-west Western Australia/Perth claim. The final two chapters include a discussion of these decisions and all the Federal Court appeals since the last edition. Also includes an updated annotated case list.

<http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/asp/aspbooks/compjuris2nded.html>

LAUNCHES & EVENTS

Book launch, Melbourne Writers Festival 29 August 2009

John Doyle and Yorta Yorta woman, Monica Morgan, join to co-launch Jess Weir's *Murray River Country* at the Melbourne Writers; Festival on 29 August 2009 at 11.30am. Members of MLDRIN will attend and we expect a big crowd.

Brisbane Writers' Festival 7–13 September 2009

This will be the chance for Murrin and non-Indigenous Australians to hear Bill Simon, an Aboriginal pastor on Redfern's The Block, talk about his life. His tale of life in the notorious Kinchela Boys' Home had the Sydney Writers' Festival audience in the palm of his hand, equally horrified by the brutal realities of his life and moved by his faith and redemption. In Brisbane, along with co-writer, Des Montgomerie, Bill will be in conversation with the legendary Tiga Bayles.

AIATSIS Conference 29 September–1 October 2009

Perspectives on Urban Life: Connections and Reconnections

Hear Robyn Forrester and Naomi Parry discuss the use of materials like *The Little Red Yellow Black Book* on a panel called: Notions of Aboriginality in an Urban Educational setting. ASP will have a stall, and for more conference information see:

This will be the largest AIATSIS conference ever. Visit

<http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/research/conf2009/conference2009.html> to download the program.

ASP AUTHORS IN THE MEDIA

***Australian Literary Review*, June 2009, *Whitefellas hanging from the learning cliff* by David Trigger**

Yuendumu Everyday is an informative ethnographic account of mundane life among Aboriginal people.

Anthropology's strength, Musharbash writes, lies in understanding core values and aspects of world view that 'lie hidden underneath the commonplace'.

Yasmine Musharbash has been busy on national, state and regional radio and her book, *Yuendumu Everyday*, has already been set on several tertiary teaching courses. Email sales@aiatsis.gov.au for more information.

Geoff Gray's *A Cautious Silence* received a thoughtful review from John Morton, as the following excerpt shows: 'The basic proposition in *A Cautious Silence* is that anthropologists in Australia, in spite of their concern about the fates of local colonised peoples, were invariably situated between contradictory forces...To enable access to the field, anthropologists were generally obliged to restrict criticism of the conditions and treatment of Indigenous people to within the funding body or sponsoring university, which was then expected to pass it on to the government department concerned with Indigenous affairs...His tone, however, is descriptive rather than critical or moralistic. He is less interested in judging the past than of understanding it in terms of its contradictions...Gray is painstakingly empiricist in approach...this is plain-speaking history which insists on the illumination of transparent, yet messy and contradictory, details gleaned from a broad archive'.



Yawulyu (women's dance) to open the book launch of *Aboriginal Business* in Tennant Creek in July

Aboriginal Business: Alliances in a remote Aboriginal town
Kimberly Christen

Reviewed by Will Owen in

Aboriginal Art & Culture: An American Eye

'In *Aboriginal Business*, [Christen] expands the scope of her investigations enormously, which is one reason to make this your top choice for this year's reading list. In addition to addressing the culture work of the archives and cultural centre and the story of the production of a commercial CD of Warumungu women's songs, Christen offers a history of settler-Indigenous relations and interactions in the Tennant Creek region, focusing especially on the time since it became the center of the last major gold rush

in Australian history during the 1930s. By focusing on the work, the business of negotiation, contestation, and compromise, Christen is able to chart a history of Warumungu agency in Tennant Creek, its ups and its downs, but above all its persistence. This is a story about how people engage with their country and with those others who have come to occupy it with them. In her portrait of the Warumungu, they are neither passive victims nor activists, but rather women and men engaged in the business of living, with all their aspirations, disappointments, conflicts, and solutions'



Bill Simon, Thérèse Rein and Jo Tuscano at the launch of *Back on The Block* at the Redfern Community Centre in June.

Back on The Block: Bill Simon's life story

Bill Simon, Des Montgomerie, Jo Tuscano

An overflowing audience of more than 150 people came to hear Thérèse Rein launch Bill Simon's searing autobiography. She encouraged the audience to read *Back on The Block*: 'There are some things, many things in fact in this book that people will find very hard to read. But Bill's story must be told and it must be retold so we don't forget.'

Bill's session was keenly sought after at the Sydney Writers' Festival, he's spoken in Melbourne and appeared on NSW's ABC TV's Stateline twice, and been interviewed on regional Indigenous media, as well as national mainstream media.

Early sales of his book have been strong and show no signs of abating. Aboriginal Studies Press has already reprinted.

FREE RESOURCE MATERIALS FROM AIATSIS

The **Native Title Research Unit** publishes a range of materials: newsletters, discussion papers, issues papers and reports. To see what's available in this fast-evolving area, or to subscribe, visit

<http://ntru.aiatsis.gov.au/publications.html#subscriptions>

The **Research Program** also publishes widely. Publications include online papers from the Protecting Country session of the AIATSIS 2007 major conference, *Beyond Sandy Blight: Five Aboriginal experiences as staff on the National Trachoma and Eye Health Program*, and *Successful Strategies in Indigenous organisations*, and the Discussion Papers series. Visit: <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/research/publications.html> to see the full range.