

Aboriginal Studies Press Newsletter – Issue 6 January 2007

Welcome to the first ASP newsletter for 2007.

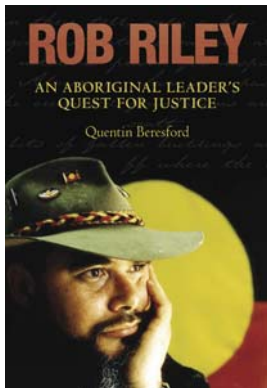
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WHAT'S NEWS



Book Award

Rob Riley: An Aboriginal leader's quest for justice, by Quentin Beresford, won the Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Commission Award for Arts Non-Fiction in December 2006.

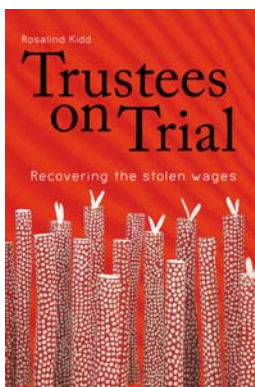
This powerful biography was noted as 'very moving' by the judging panel and a book needed by the Australian community at this time.



Free Guides for Authors

Aboriginal Studies Press Publishing Style Guide for Authors and Editors burst forth just before Christmas. Written for ASP authors, but useful for a range of writers, the guide details what it means to publish with Aboriginal Studies Press as well as background information on writing, self-editing and choices of style. Complements the recently published *Information Kit for Indigenous Authors*. Both available by calling 02 6246 1183 or downloadable at http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/aboriginal_studies_press

JUST RELEASED



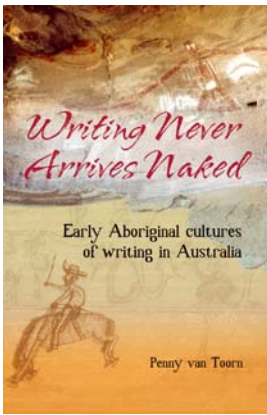
Trustees on Trial: Recovering the Stolen Wages

Ros Kidd

The recent Senate Inquiry into Stolen Wages report is informed by Ros Kidd's work. The report mentions *Trustees on Trial* twice, as did some of the senators in their speeches.

http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/legcon_ctte/stolen_wages/report/b01.htm

Kidd argues governments were legally bound not to abuse their sweeping powers over Aboriginal lives and livelihoods and that the courts and the people should determine what constitutes just reparations. Kidd puts every state government on notice.

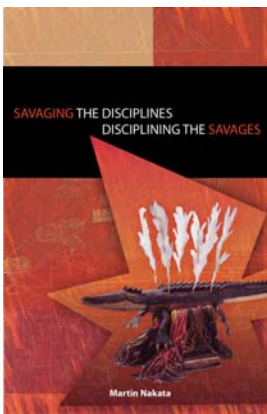


Writing Never Arrives Naked:
Early Aboriginal cultures of writing in Australia
Penny van Toorn

Australian studies academic in particular are showing a keen interest in Penny van Toorn's wonderful new publication. So are historians and English language academics. The book was ten years in the making van Toorn says, but it was worth the wait as she elegantly disrupts conventional views about Aboriginal literacy, writing and activism. As van Toorn shows, Aboriginal writing in English began soon after the early years of colonisation, even though names like Oodgeroo Noonuccal, Kim Scott and Anita Heiss might be more familiar to us.

FORTHCOMING IN 2007

March



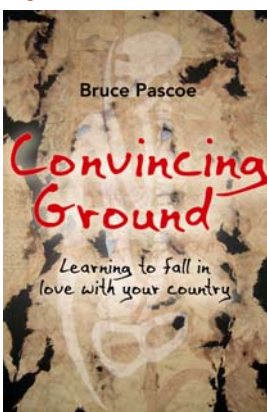
Disciplining the Savages: Savaging the Disciplines
Martin Nakata

Nakata meticulously analyses the Cambridge Expedition's linguistic, psychological, anthropological and other scientific projects. He offers an astute critique of the research methods and interpretations which produced particular sets of knowledge and inscribed what it means to be 'Islander'.

In doing so he draws eloquently from his own struggle to break free from imposed definitions while exploring the often uneasy tension between being who you are and who you have been told you are. Informed by critical theory, *Disciplining the Savages* makes a unique contribution to this ongoing effort and dialogue between scholars.

Professor Martin Nakata is the Director of Jumbunna House of Learning at Sydney's University of Technology Sydney.

April

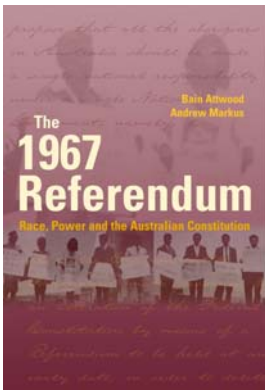


Convincing Ground: Learning to fall in love with your country
Bruce Pascoe

Pascoe's new publication is his most wide-ranging and personal work. A contemporary critique of the great Australian silence when it comes to dealing respectfully with the constructed nation's Indigenous past, it resonates with debates surrounding identity, dispossession, memory and community.

Through a close, critical examination of the major historical works, sources and witness accounts of the colonisation of Gunditchmurra lands Pascoe's questioning is both destabilising and compelling. For him, the hope for Australia lies beyond shady intellectual argument and immature nationalism.

Bruce Pascoe is a much published and award-winning writer, editor and anthologist. He is currently compiling a dictionary of the Wathaurong language.



The 1967 Referendum: Race, power and the Australian constitution Attwood & Markus et al.

With teachers' notes

On 27 May 1967 a remarkable event occurred: an overwhelming majority of electors voted in a national referendum to amend clauses of the Australian Constitution concerning Aboriginal people. Forty years later, a younger generation haven't heard of it, while an older generation remain unclear about its significance.

Commonly considered the turning point in Australian historical and cultural life, the outcomes for Indigenous Australians haven't improved significantly since the vote. So what is the referendum's value now?

The 1967 Referendum traces the emergence of powerful narratives about the Australian Constitution and the status of Aborigines. It reveals how and why the referendum acquired significance and has since become the subject of a highly charged myth in contemporary Australia.

Also coming in 2007

New works from Professor John Maynard, Dr Geoff Gray and Dr Noel Loos.

EVENTS



Toni Bauman's *Aboriginal Darwin*, the third in this best-selling series, was launched by the Chief Minister Clare Martin and Professor Mick Dodson recently.

Larrakia man, Richard Fejo provided the welcome to country, while the Kenbi Dancers provided lively entertainment. Administrator, Ted Egan AO and partner Nerys Evans were in attendance.

left to right, *Administrator, Ted Egan AO; Professor Mick Dodson AM; Toni Bauman; NT Chief Minister Clare Martin and Steve Larkin, AIATSIS Principal*



Linda Burney, MP, was the participant chair in an Evatt Foundation sunset seminar held in Sydney in November. Co-speakers were Professor Mick Dodson, board member of Reconciliation Australia and Associate Professor Quentin Beresford, author of the acclaimed *Rob Riley: An Aboriginal Leader's Quest for Justice*.

Both Professors Dodson and Beresford spoke passionately but from different positions, with the display of photos from the book providing a visual immediacy to the discussion.

The Koori Centre at the University of Sydney played host to the launch of *Writing Never Arrives Naked* on 21 September while Ruby Langford Binibi did the honours. Penny van Toorn commented on the book's gestation and her need to leave Australia to gain the intellectual distance to create the work. That it was launched during History Week was especially fitting.

A large crowd filled the big River Marquee on a cool Brisbane Writers' Festival day on 14 September. In a short but powerful launch of *Trustees on Trial*, the Hon John von Doussa, President of HREOC, spoke stirringly. Alf Lacey (right) from the Stolen Wages Working Group spoke too. He brought the crowd to their feet for a minute's silence to remember those who will have passed on before the stolen wages are returned.



At a Sydney event the book was launched by Danny Gilbert of Gilbert + Tobin. A community meeting was held in Redfern the next day with public and community meetings following in Melbourne also. Guest speaker was Blackfeet elder, Elouise Cobell, lead plaintiff in a large class-action case in the USA. Ms Cobell eloquently spoke about the case, and the similarities and differences between the two jurisdictions.