

**Title** Australia  
**Subtitle** William Blandowski's illustrated encyclopaedia of Aboriginal life  
**Author(s)** Edited by Harry Allen, contributions by Mark Dugay-Grist, Luise Hercus and Brook Andrew  
**Format** 290x240mm, full col. illus.  
**Extent** 176pp  
**RRP** \$60.00 RRP pb; \$140 RRP leather-bound hb with slipcase  
**ISBN** 9780855757137 pb and 9780855757175 hb (with slipcase)

**Bookshelf categories** history, natural history, Australiana, Indigenous  
**BIC categories** GBC+HBJM, HBTD, JFSL9

## Endorsements

Harry Allen convincingly makes the case for Blandowski's manuscript being a genuinely unique conception – a sort of visual anthropology of Aboriginal life, which is really a very modern conception. Harry Allen makes a compelling case for its significance and all power to him for seeing this — Prof. Nicolas Peterson, ANU

## Precis

William Blandowski was an explorer, natural scientist and artist who led a Victorian government expedition to the junction of the Murray and Darling Rivers from 1856 to 1857.

*Australia* is the first publication in English of his nineteenth century illustrated encyclopaedia of Aboriginal life, *Australien in 142 photographischen Abbildungen nach zehnjährigen Erfahrungen*.

In *Australia*, Blandowski explores the potential of images to portray the lives of people engaged in everyday activities, as well as dramatic conflicts and rituals. They include Blandowski's own photographs, and photographs of sketches or illustrations created by others, including the only nineteenth century portrait image of the Nyeri Nyeri people. By reading *Australia*, we become on-the-spot participants in moments of 'first contact'.

## Author(s)

**Associate Professor Harry Allen** teaches in the Department of Anthropology at Auckland University, New Zealand. He is a Research Associate at La Trobe University, Victoria. **Mark Dugay-Grist** is an archaeologist who belongs to the Wergaia, Wamba Wamba and Nyeri Nyeri peoples. His work has included protecting Aboriginal heritage sites and returning Aboriginal remains to communities. **Luise Hercus** is a linguist, specialising in Aboriginal languages, and has also studied songs and mythologies, particularly in the Lake Eyre Basin. **Brook Andrew** is an interdisciplinary artist working in photography, neon, screen print, mixed media, public art and installation.

## Selling Points

- First English publication of 1850s encyclopaedia, making us on-the-spot viewers of first-contact.
- Contextualising essays by the editor, Aboriginal archaeologist and artist, and a linguist.
- Unique insights into processes of engravings and early photography.
- Includes images of geography, ecology, mammals and bird life, Aboriginal life (hunting/fishing etc.), and rituals.
- Publication of one of these images, Aboriginal men playing with a ball (possibly a precursor to AFL), caused immediate 'uproar' and interest in the media. The other images may do likewise.

