

MAY 2009 – new release

Title Back on the Block
Subtitle Bill Simon's Story
Author(s) Bill Simon, Des Montgomerie and Jo Tuscano
Format 230 x 152 mm, pb, illustrations
Extent: 224 pages
RRP \$34.95
ISBN 978 0 85575 677 2
Market: general trade
Bookshelf categories: biography, Aboriginal Studies
BIC categories: BG, JFSL9

- Promotion booklet available on request
- ASP will provide free teachers' notes (English syllabus) for NSW syllabus
- Resubscribe Stolen Generation stories: *Auntie Rita*, ISBN 978 0 85575 248 4; *Doreen Kartinyeri*, ISBN 978 0 85575 659 8; *Rob Riley*, ISBN 978 0 85575 502 7; *Very Big Journey*, ISBN 078 0 85575 521 8; *Paint Me Black*, ISBN 978 0 85575 399 3

Endorsements

This is a frank 'insider's' story of a stolen child who becomes an angry addicted young man and then through a life-changing conversion the compassionate pastor of his people on The Block, Redfern. Bill Simon's tells his story with humanity and hope. It needs to be widely read by Australians as a window into the challenges faced by our indigenous men. I commend Bill for his courage and honesty.

Tim Costello, Chief Executive, World Vision Australia

Bill Simon has a heart of gold and a passion to see his peoples' lives turned around. He speaks with an openness and a passion that touches the lives of others deeply, simply by telling his own story. Read it and be inspired.

Rev. John McIntyre

Stolen, beaten, deprived of his liberty and used as child labour, Bill Simon's was not a normal childhood. He was told his mother didn't want him, that he was 'the scum of the earth' and was locked up in the notorious Kinchela Boys Home for eight years. His experiences there would shape his life forever. Bill Simon got angry, something which poisoned his life for the next two decades. A life of self abuse and crime finally saw him imprisoned. But Bill Simon has turned his life around and in *Back on the Block*, he hopes to help others to do the same.

These days Bill works on the other side of the bars, helping other member of the Stolen Generations find a voice and their place; finally putting their pain to rest. He works on the streets, in jails, in churches and his home in Redfern is a drop-in centre for anyone in need.

From his home on the Block in Sydney's Redfern, one of the most contentious and misunderstood places in Australia, Bill Simon tells the truth about life in one of Australia's most terrible juvenile institutions, where thousands of boys were warehoused and abused.

Bill Simon is a pastor who works on the Block in Sydney's Redfern, assisting Aboriginal people and particularly fellow member of the Stolen Generations. **Des Montgomerie** has worked with Indigenous outback communities and has also recorded many interviews with members of the Stolen Generations. **Jo Tuscano** has worked in education and multicultural community programs for many years and has an MA in Creative Writing.

