

Singing the Coast

Tony Perkins & Margaret Somerville

DESCRIPTION

Most Australians live on the narrow coastal strip that fringes our island continent. For Aboriginal people a place comes into being each time it is sung, and it is through this process that places are learned about and cared for. These songs can be for all of us, in the places where Aboriginal stories are rapidly overwritten with the grids of roads and towns.

Together Tony Perkins and Margaret Somerville explore one coastal group's experience in maintaining the stories and songs of their country: Perkins' Gumbaynggirr* homeland in mid-north coast New South Wales. These stories and songs are unique in their particularities, yet universal in their sense of knowledge, understanding and openness to sharing.

In *Singing the Coast* Tony Perkins and Margaret Somerville invite us to share their decade-long conversations.

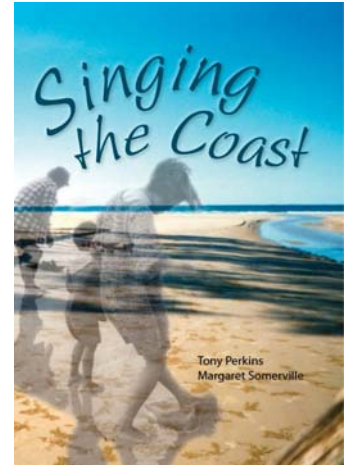
By taking up the metaphor of singing to capture a quality of voice, Perkins and Somerville show us how to share the land and its stories throughout Australia.

SELLING POINTS

- Appointing a publicist; Tony Perkins skilled and experienced interviewee with the media.
- Reveals mid-north coast NSW Aboriginal people's (Gumbaynggirr) stories and songs, and how they care for their country.
- Viewpoint of the Gumbaynggirr people provided through direct quotations from Tony Perkins: *We can't continue to be a hidden race of people.*
- Provides another way for non-Indigenous Australians to look at, understand, and look after the coastal landscape many of us inhabit.
- Very strong local Aboriginal community, dedicated to the retention and learning of language and culture (Muuurbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Co-operative who have connections with local schools, other Aboriginal groups, local Council etc., plus Yarrawarra Aboriginal Corporation).

*Gumbaynggirr is pronounced roughly as Gum-bain-gee-ar.

Gumbaynggirr country is just south of Nambucca Heads on mid-north coast NSW (also Corindi Lake and Corindi Beach, Red Rock). South are the Thungutti people, to the north, Bundjalung people.



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- * Postcolonial studies
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