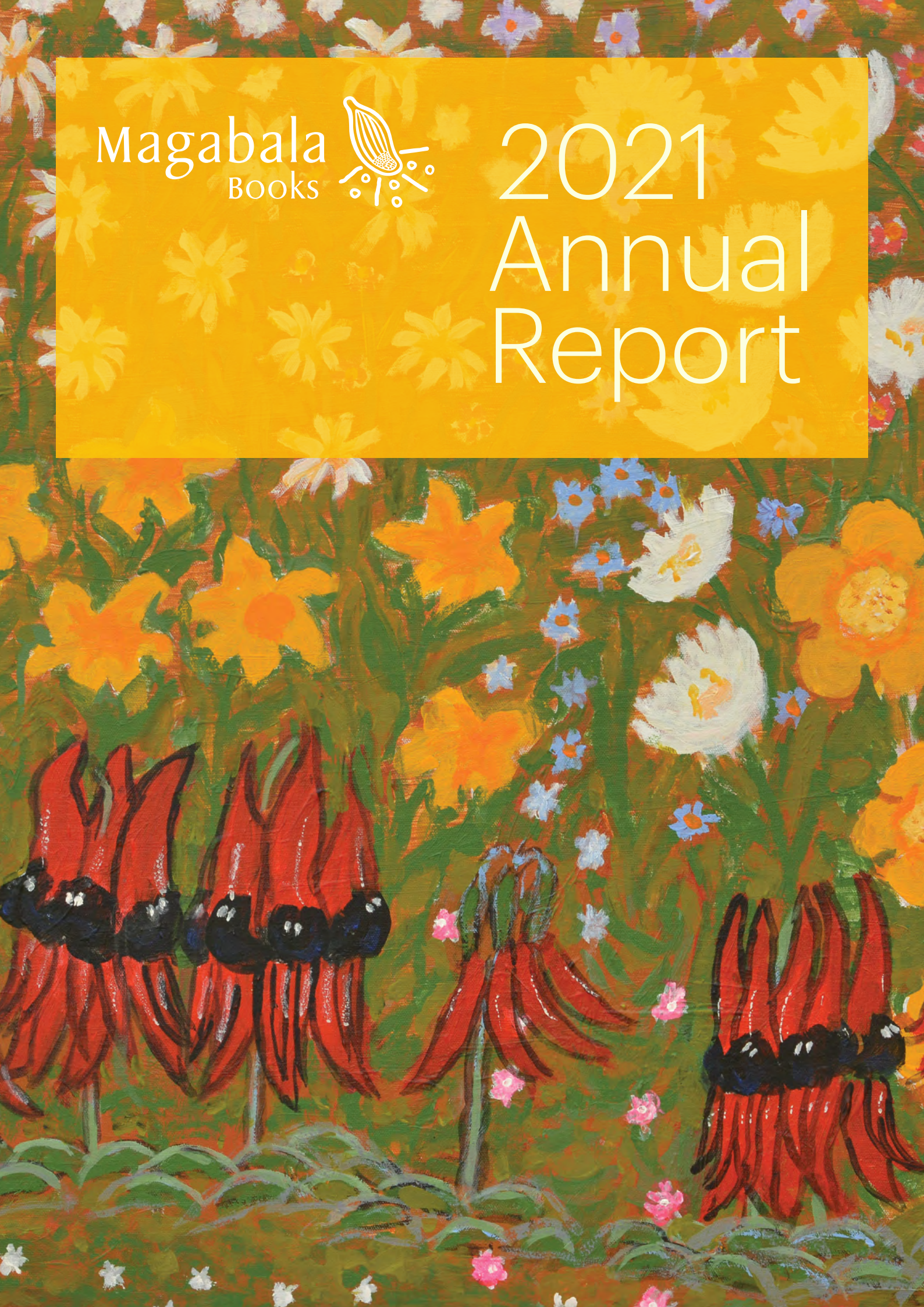


Magabala
Books



2021 Annual Report



Magabala Books acknowledges Yawuru people, the Traditional Owners and custodians of Broome and pay our respects to Yawuru Elders. We are privileged to share and walk this special country together.

Magabala also acknowledges the Traditional Owners of our many Nations across Australia. We recognise the continuing connection to lands, waters and cultures. Through what we publish, we honour our Elders, peoples and stories, past, present and future.

We respectfully caution Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers that this report may contain images of people who have passed away.

Vale Uncle Max Dulumunmun Harrison

Magabala acknowledges the passing of senior Yuin leader Uncle Max Dulumunmun Harrison on 11 December 2021 and expresses our deep condolences to his family and community. Uncle Max Dulumunmun Harrison dedicated his life to teaching and sharing his cultural knowledge. With his family's support, Magabala will progress Uncle Max Dulumunmun Harrison's book project for publication to honour his life and legacy.

Magabala Books Aboriginal Corporation

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@magabalabooks
ABN 56 764 219 082

Magabala Books receives financial assistance from the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and the State Government of Western Australia through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.



Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries



Cover artwork and internal design elements from *Kunyi* by Kunyi June Anne McInerney. Further internal design elements on pages 2-3, 9, 12, 14-15, 18-19, 22-23, 40-41 and 55 from *Albert Namatjira* by Vincent Namatjira.

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ALBERT NAMATJIRA
BY VINCENT NAMATJIRA



Vincent Namatjira on Country with
Albert Namatjira. Photo: Iwantja Arts

Australia's leading Indigenous publisher

Magabala Books is Australia's leading Indigenous publishing house. Aboriginal owned and led, we celebrate and nurture the talent and diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices.

Our vision

To inspire and empower Indigenous people to share their stories.

Our purpose

To celebrate the talent and diversity of Australian Indigenous voices through the publication of quality literature.



35
years

254
publications

287
authors/illustrators



MY VINCENT NAME

Kanjaloon, ngalak warrangka Forever, we sing

the river
Sally Morgan & Johnny Warrkatja Malibirr

ALBERT NAMATJIRA BY VINCENT NAMATJIRA
GINA WILLIAMS & GUY GHOUSE

AWESOME EMU
GREGG DREISE

MUIR / LAWSON / WATSON

SHARING

GROG WAR ALEXIS WRIGHT

EVERY SECRET THING X MARIE MUNKARA

CAMERON / KENNEDY SEA COUNTRY

Kunyi Kunyi June Anne Melherney

Debesa CINDY SOLONEC

THE BOY FROM BIRDUM BILL DEMPSEY

Tales from the Bush Mob
The Emu Who Ran Through the Sky Helen Milroy

Homecoming ELBIE SHIOSAKI

Two Cultures, One Story DR ROBERT ISAACS

God, the Devil and Me ALF TAYLOR

BILLIE and the BLUE BIKE
Andelin Kwaymullina
Welcome, child! Sally Morgan





2021

15

new releases

2

new editions

87

reprints

17

new release authors
and illustrators

33%

first-time published

298,579

books sold

92

new titles under
development

201

Indigenous creators
and their families
receiving royalties

28

professional
development
opportunities

2

publishing
cadetships

8

book launches

1

festival

The year in review

A message from the Chair

On behalf of the Board and staff of Magabala Books, I am pleased to present the Magabala Books 2021 Annual Report. It is 35 years of publishing, telling the stories of our Indigenous authors and creators.

In a year overshadowed by the ongoing challenges and uncertainty of COVID-19, we are proud of our steady commitment to Indigenous creators and their stories. We acknowledge the legacy of our Old People, who guide everything we do. And we thank all those who have gone before us to pave such a strong path for Magabala Books.

The last five years have been a remarkable time of success and growth for Magabala and 2021 was no exception.

There were many highlights. We published 15 new releases and 2 new editions, while the publishing team continued work on 92 manuscripts under development. We held our ground with record high sales, reaching \$5.5 million (RRP value) and selling 298,579 books. We celebrated eight in-person book launches and hosted a major festival, Corrugated Lines in Broome. The excellence of our publishing program continued to be recognised, with 28 awards longlisted, shortlisted or won, and Magabala Books was again one of three publishing houses shortlisted for the Australian Book Industry Awards, Small Publisher of the Year.

But our proudest measure of success, continues to be the publication journeys of our creators and the impact of their stories.

2021 was the year of the memoir, with biographies by Alf Taylor, Dr. Robert Isaacs, Bill Dempsey and Cindy Solonec. These books are profound stories of family, history, survival, and resilience. Each unique in their challenges and triumphs, together they reveal the rich diversity and complexity of Aboriginal experience.

Memoir was also a focus within poetry and children's books – with *Homecoming*, *Albert Namatjira*, *Kunyi*, and *Sea Country* all drawing on memories of the past to inform and heal our present, while *Kalyakoortl*, *ngalak warangka* (*Forever, we sing*), the songbook by Gina Williams and Guy Ghouse, shares Noongar language with the world in the hope it will continue to be celebrated and seen in new and interesting ways.

There were also stories that made us smile and delight in the simple pleasures – with books about the joy of a new bike, the value of teamwork and the love for a new child.

From these stories and storytellers, we take strength. We thank all our writers, storytellers, and illustrators who so generously offer these gifts to the world.

In-house at Magabala Books we continued to consolidate and strengthen our programs.

We launched our Indigenous Publishing Cadetship program and were thrilled to welcome Melena Cole-Manolis and Sharona Wilson to the team in August. Both Melena and Sharona are Broome locals who bring unique skills to the publishing team.

Our focus on author-care remained central. We supported new and emerging creators through scholarships, creative residencies, and editorial mentorships. We delivered the third Daisy Utemorrah Award and granted two mid-career Fellowships. Major partnerships and projects continued, including the Google Creative Lab partnership and Kimberley Art Centre Series.

Within our philanthropic program, the Cultural Fund supported the re-publication of significant out-of-print historical titles and the precious recording of Elders Stories. Small Seeds donated 2,898 books to organisations working with kids who may not otherwise have access to our books and the Creative Development Fund provided financial support to First Nations writers, storytellers, and illustrators to undertake professional development and initiate new work.

I thank all our generous donors and partners, without whom, the reach and impact of our social and cultural projects would not be possible.

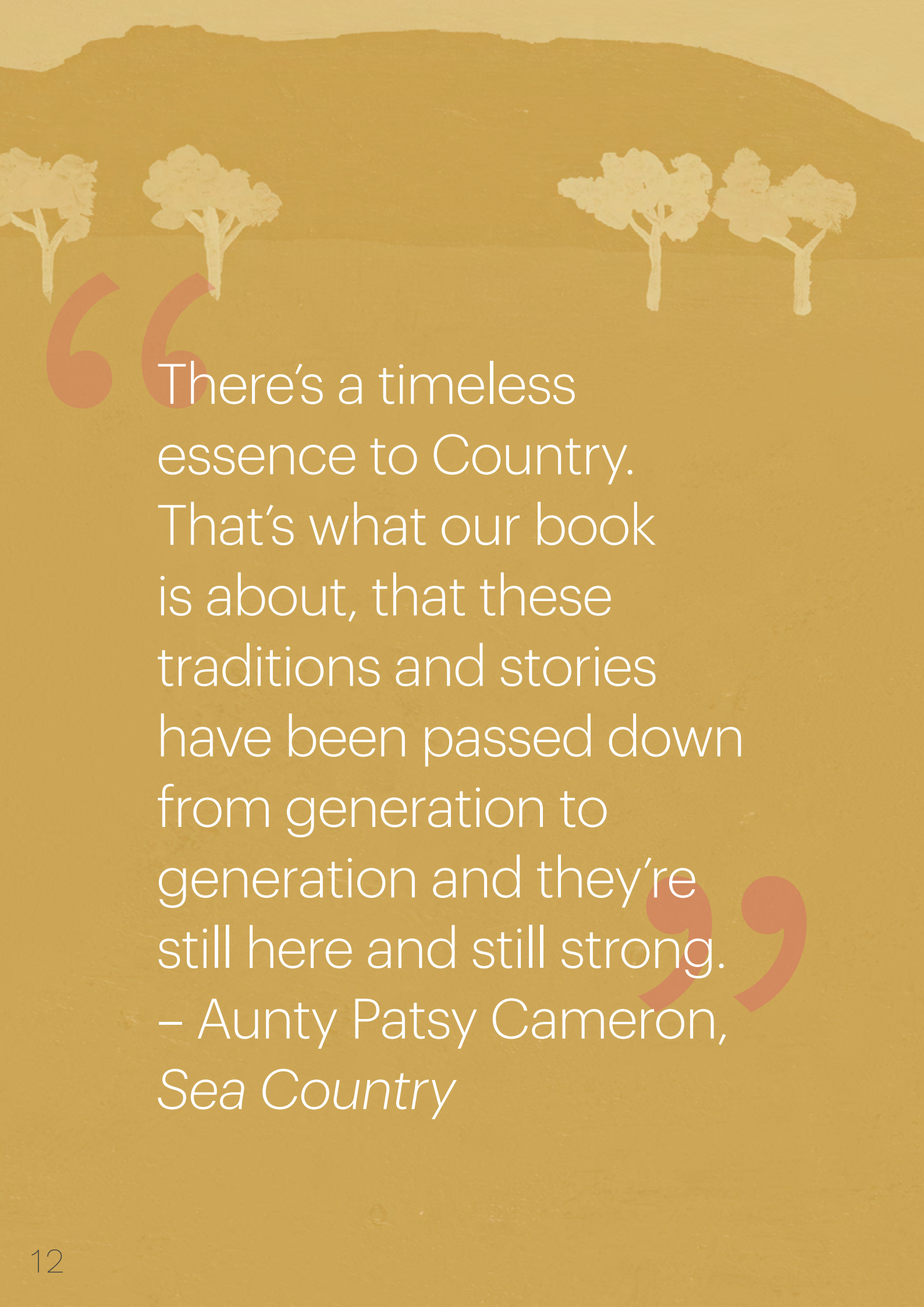
In an excellent year of achievement, I congratulate our staff for their impressive efforts during a challenging year.

I would also like to thank my fellow directors for their ongoing commitment to Magabala on a voluntary basis. Our united vision and our Elder's legacy give Magabala Books its strong foundations.

Gala mabu.

Tony Lee
Chairperson





There's a timeless
essence to Country.
That's what our book
is about, that these
traditions and stories
have been passed down
from generation to
generation and they're
still here and still strong.

– Aunty Patsy Cameron,
Sea Country



Aunty Patsy Cameron.
Photo: RUMMIN Productions

2021 Publications

New releases



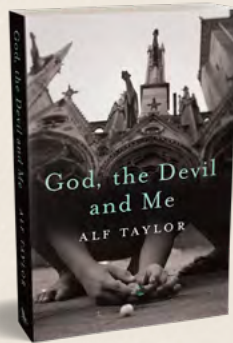
Billie and the Blue Bike

Ambelin Kwaymullina (WA)

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK

Billie wants the blue bike and she asks her Mum to buy it for her – but her Mum has no money to spend on a bike. She asks Uncle Jack and he won't give her the money either, but he will help her save up to buy the bike herself. *Billie and the Blue Bike* is a bright and engaging children's picture book that introduces young children to financial literacy knowledge.

'A vibrantly colourful lesson in teaching young readers that hard work, patience and commitment are needed to get the things we want. The text is bold and simple, with the illustrations full of colour and movement.' – *The West Australian*



God, the Devil and Me

Alf Taylor (WA)

MEMOIR

In this unique and highly entertaining autobiography, Alf Taylor chronicles his life growing up in the infamous New Norcia Mission in the fifties and sixties. Written with an acerbic and brutal wit, Alf intersperses dark childhood memories with a Monty Python-esque retelling of the Bible, in which Peter is an alcoholic and Judas is a good guy.

'Taylor has created a private universe... by turns incredibly sad and comic.' – *The Sydney Morning Herald*



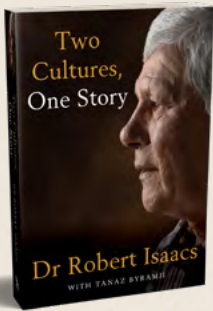
Welcome, child!

Sally Morgan (WA)

CHILDREN'S BOARD BOOK

Welcome, child! is Sally Morgan's beautiful and heartfelt celebration of the love we feel for a new child. Simple, elegant and adorable, this board book is the perfect story to share as a family and the sweetest way to welcome a little one to the world.

'A board book which celebrates the inclusion of a new child in the family, set amongst charming illustrations that will be hard to resist by reader or listener.'
– *ReadPlus*



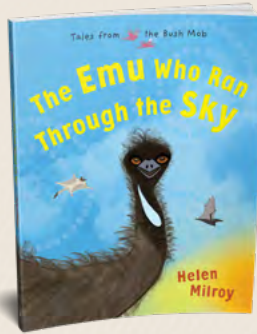
Two Cultures, One Story

**Dr Robert Isaacs (WA)
with Tanaz Byramji**

MEMOIR

Dr Robert Francis Isaacs AM, OAM, PhD (Hon) has spent his life bridging the divide between white and black Australia. Taken from his mother as a baby, Robert was raised in institutions not knowing his family and not knowing he was Aboriginal. Told with grace and strength, this memoir shares the story of a respected Elder and his drive to break down cultural barriers and improve the lives of his people.

‘As described by his collaborative partner in this publication, Tanaz Byramji, Dr Isaacs is ‘pragmatic, wise, diplomatic, direct, and all heart’ – a fitting description for this wonderful memoir.’
– Writing WA



The Emu Who Ran Through the Sky

Helen Milroy (WA)

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK

The Emu Who Ran Through the Sky is the second book in Helen Milroy's delightful 'Bush Mob' series, which follows a group of animals who work together to solve problems. Lofty, a young emu desperately wants to win a big emu race, but he is slow and clumsy. So Lofty enlists the help of his Bush Mob friends to teach him to fly. A joyous, strengths based book for young readers.

‘The stunning illustrations with their deep earthy colours fill up every page of this book. 5 stars.’
– Good Reading



The Boy from Birdum

**Bill Dempsey (WA)
with Steve Hawke**

MEMOIR

Bill Dempsey is a humble achiever. A child of the stolen generations raised in the Retta Dixon institution in Darwin, Bill went on to be a member of the AFL's Indigenous Team of the Century, as a premiership captain who played over 400 games in Perth and the Northern Territory. In *The Boy from Birdum*, Bill tells his story frankly, courageously, and with the charismatic flair of a natural yarn spinner.

‘This is an honest and unpretentious story, well-told, that deserves wide readership.’
– Sporting Traditions

New releases



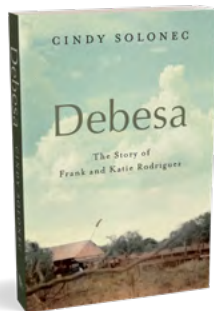
Homecoming

Elfie Shiosaki (WA)

POETRY

Homecoming pieces together fragments of stories from four generations of Noongar women and explores how they navigated the changing landscapes of colonisation, protectionism, and assimilation to hold their families together. In this hypnotic work, Elfie Shiosaki restores humanity and power to her family and gives voice to those silenced by our brutal past.

'This sublime debut highlights the tenacity of family as well as First Nation's agency to resist, survive and renew.' – Readings Melbourne



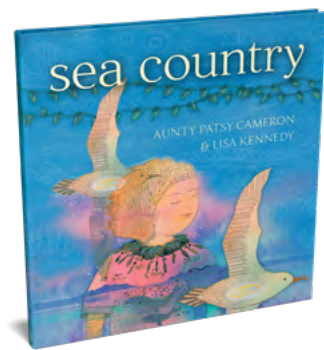
Debesa

Cindy Solonec (WA)

SOCIAL HISTORY

This extraordinary and heartfelt story chronicles the lives of the Rodriguez family of Debesa Station and their rich Spanish, Nigena and English heritage. Cindy Solonec depicts her family's struggles and triumphs with intimacy and warmth, all set against the stunning backdrop of the West Kimberley.

'Full of heart and humour... A triumph of the book is the characters that infuse it with life.'
– GLAM Adelaide



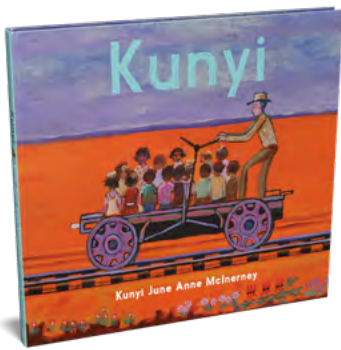
Sea Country

Aunty Patsy Cameron, illustrated by Lisa Kennedy (TAS)

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK

In *Sea Country*, Aunty Patsy Cameron generously shares the stories and traditions of seasonal life growing up on Flinder's Island and weaves a homage to her childhood home. Alongside her tender story, Lisa Kennedy reveals love for family, sea and Country through her intricate collages and delicate illustrations. A stunning book, enjoyed by all ages.

'Breathtaking beauty... finely crafted and significant.'
– Magpies Magazine

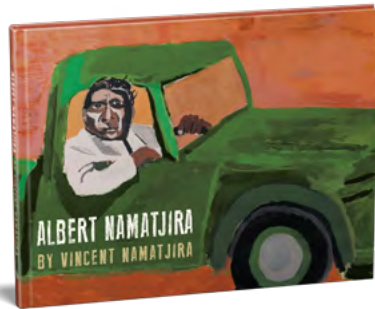


Kunyi

Kunyi June Anne McInerney (SA)
CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK

Kunyi June Anne McInerney was just four years old when she and three of her siblings were taken from their family to the Oodnadatta Children's Home in South Australia in the 1950s. Through an extraordinary collection of over 60 paintings, accompanied by vignettes of story, *Kunyi* presents a rare chronicle of what life was like for her and the Children's Home kids who became her family.

'A significant picture book that is a historical record, unique memoir and moving tribute to those children of the Stolen Generations' – Magpies Magazine

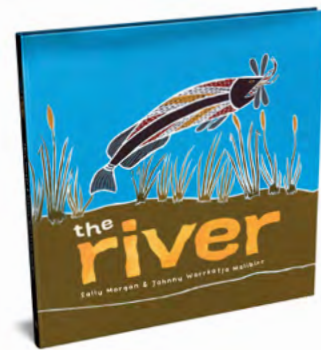


Albert Namatjira

Vincent Namatjira (SA)
CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK

Award-winning artist Vincent Namatjira tells the life story of his great-grandfather, Albert Namatjira, one of Australia's most iconic artists. A unique children's picture book of both artistic beauty and historical importance, Vincent Namatjira honours his great-grandfather's life with heartfelt tenderness.

'Albert Namatjira is simply a triumph of painting, of biography, of history, and of tribute. Magnificent.' – Books+Publishing



The River

Sally Morgan (WA), illustrated by Johnny Warrkatja Malibirr (NT)
CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK

A lilting, universal story from Sally Morgan that celebrates the life of the river. Enlivened by the intricate illustrations of Johnny Warrkatja Malibirr, *The River* takes the reader on a journey of appreciation and reflection on the natural world.

'Highly effective use of simple language and a striking, limited colour palette to tell a story with lovely attention to sensory detail.'
– *The West Australian*

New releases



Kalyakoorl, ngalak warangka (Forever, we sing)

Gina Williams and Guy Ghouse (WA)

SONGBOOK WITH SHEET MUSIC

Kalyakoorl, ngalak warangka (Forever, we sing), is a celebration of Noongar language, and the things we share as community. A collection of reduced scores and song sheets by Gina Williams and Guy Ghouse, *Kalyakoorl, ngalak warangka* is offered to the world in the hope that Noongar language will continue to be seen in new and interesting ways.

'A beautiful source of language and music for schools, choirs and community groups.' – *The West Australian*



Awesome Emu

Gregg Dreise (QLD)

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK

Way back, before Once-upon-a-time, there was the Dreamtime, and during this period lived a very confident emu called Dinewah. He was tall, fast and colourful. Dinewah was determined to run and fly the furthest and the fastest. He even tried to fly to the Sun, but he never quite made it. *Awesome Emu* is the delightful fifth book in Gregg Dreise's award-winning series.

'A lovely colourful picture book explaining the stars in the milky way... a welcome addition to any library.' – *Glam Adelaide*



Sharing

Aunty Fay Muir and Sue Lawson (VIC), illustrated by Leanne Mulgo Watson (NSW)

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK

When we share, there is plenty for all. A tender, thoughtful story with a gentle reminder of all the ways sharing makes us stronger. *Sharing* is book three in the award-winning Our Place series that introduces children to First Nations philosophies dear to Aunty Fay Muir's heart, with rich illustrations by Leanne Mulgo Watson.

'I honestly, cannot recommend the 'Our Place series' and 'Sharing' enough for anyone looking to begin embedding First Nations perspectives into their teaching programs or to include as a part of your child's bookshelf at home.' – *Miss Gibbs First Nations' Teaching Resources*

New editions



Every Secret Thing

Marie Munkara

ADULT FICTION

Every Secret Thing is a nothing-is-sacred misadventure that crackles with Marie Munkara's renowned acerbic humour. Winner of the David Unaipon Award and first published in 2009 by UQP, *Every Secret Thing* was Marie Munkara's debut novel.



Grog War

Alexis Wright


ADULT NON-FICTION

First published in 1997 by Magabala Books, this vivid portrayal of how Indigenous people in Tennant Creek worked together to achieve community-wide alcohol restrictions is as relevant now as ever. A searing account of what transpired over 25 years ago, *Grog War* provides historical context and Indigenous-led solutions to the challenges still confronting communities and towns throughout Australia. A revamped Magabala classic by Miles Franklin award-winning author Alexis Wright.

Rights Sales

- *Little Bird's Day* by Sally Morgan and Johnny Warrkatja Malibirr (2020) Rights: United States. Published by Blue Dot Kids Press, USA, October 2021.
- *Young Dark Emu* by Bruce Pascoe (2020) Rights: audio edition to Bolinda Audio.
- License of illustration from *Sea Country* to the Australian Publishing Association for use on the Australian Collective Frankfurt Stand.
- License of illustration from *Silly Birds* to Australia Post for Christmas Bauble.
- License of 32 titles to ABC Reading Eggs online educational resource.



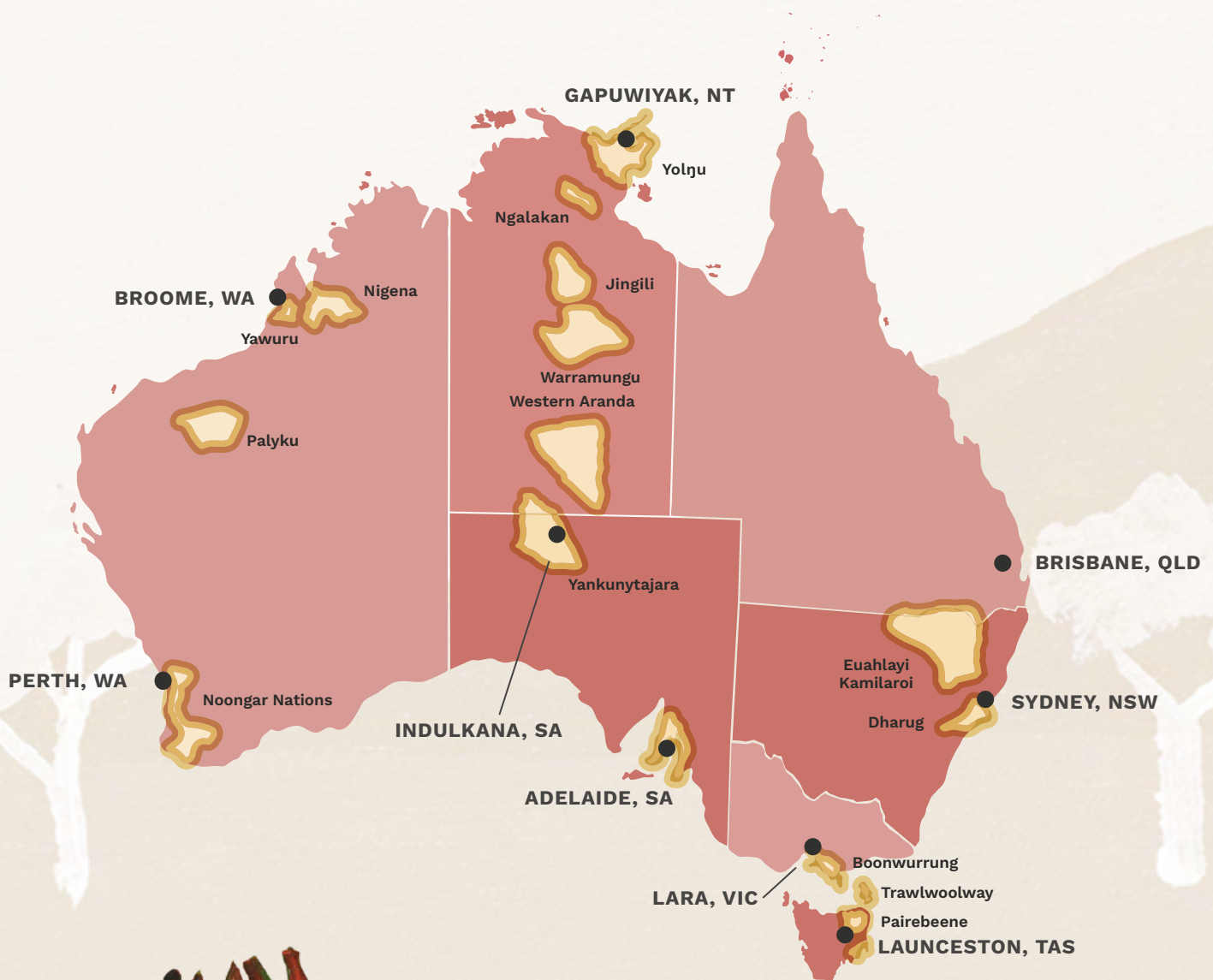


I listened to their narratives,
drew on the diaries and by
cross-referencing these
gems against mission,
pastoral and town archives,
I brought my ancestors into
the present. No longer were
they banished and forgotten.
– Cindy Solonec, *Debesa*



Cindy Solonec. Photo: Miles Noel Photography

A diversity of voices



WHERE AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS ARE BASED



COUNTRY OF OUR CREATORS AND THEIR BOOKS

This map is an artist's impression to show the diverse voices and Nation groups of Magabala Books 2022 creators. This map does not represent exact Nation boundaries and is not intended to be relied upon for any purpose beyond this report.



Alf Taylor
God, The Devil and Me
(Nyongar)



Ambelin Kwaymullina
Billie and the Blue Bike
(Palyku)



Robert Isaacs
Two Cultures, One Story
(Bibilimum/Noongar)



Sally Morgan
Welcome, child!; The River
(Palyku)



Bill Dempsey
The Boy from Birdum
(Jingili Warramunga/
Ngalakan)



Helen Milroy
*The Emu Who Ran
Through the Sky*
(Palyku)



Elfie Shiosaki
Homecoming
(Noongar/Yawuru)



Cindy Solonec
Debesa
(Nigena)



Aunty Patsy Cameron
Sea Country
(Pairebeenne Trawlwoolway)



Lisa Kennedy
Sea Country (illus.)
(Pairebeenne Trawlwoolway)



**Kunyi June Anne
McInerney**
Kunyi
(Yankuntjajara)



Vincent Namatjira
Albert Namatjira
(Western Aranda)



Johnny Warrkatja Malibirr
The River (illus.)
(Yolngu)



Gina Williams
Kalyakoorl, ngalak warangka
(Balladong Noongar)



Gregg Dreise
Awesome Emu
(Kamilaroi/Euahlayi)



Aunty Fay Muir
Sharing
(Boonwurrung)



Leanne Mulgo Watson
Sharing (illus.)
(Dharug)

NON-INDIGENOUS COLLABORATORS AND CONTRIBUTORS



Steve Hawke
The Boy from Birdum



Tanaz Byramji
Two Cultures, One Story



Guy Ghouse
Kalyakoorl, ngalak warangka



Sue Lawson
Sharing

Celebrating success



Australian Book Industry Awards

Children's Picture Book of the Year

- *Respect* – longlisted



Small Publishers' Children's Book of the Year

- *Found* – shortlisted
- *Family* – shortlisted
- *Bindi* – winner



Small Publishers' Adult Book of the Year

- *Living on Stolen Land* – shortlisted
- *Yornadaiyn Woolagoodja* – longlisted



ABIA Small Publisher of the Year

- Magabala Books – shortlisted



Australian Book Design Awards

Best Designed Children's Fiction Book

- *Bindi* – shortlisted

Best Designed Children's/Young Adult Series

- *Respect/Family* – longlisted



Australian Independent Booksellers Association – Indie Book Awards

Children's Book of the Year

- *Respect* – longlisted



Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards

Younger Readers

- *Bindi* – shortlisted



New Illustrator Award

- *Shirley Purdie: My Story, Ngaginybe Jarragbe* – shortlisted



Early Childhood Book of the Year

- *Respect* – notable

Eve Pownall Award

- *Shirley Purdie: My Story, Ngaginybe Jarragbe* – notable

Colin Roderick Literary Awards

- *Bindi* – longlisted

Environment Award for Children's Literature

- *Brother Moon* – shortlisted

NSW Premier's Literary Awards

Douglas Stewart Prize for Non-Fiction

- *A Question of Colour* – shortlisted

Queensland Literary Awards

Premier's Award for a Work of State Significance

- *A Question of Colour* – shortlisted

Judith Wright Calanthe Award for a Poetry Collection

- *Homecoming* – shortlisted

Courier-Mail People's Choice

- *A Question of Colour* – finalist

Children's Book Awards

- *Bindi* – winner

Reading Children's Prize

- *Bindi* – shortlisted

Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards

- *Bindi* – winner
- *Welcome, child!* – shortlisted
- *Willy-willy Wagtail* – shortlisted

Western Australian Premier's Book Awards

The Premier's Prize for an Emerging Writer

- *A Question of Colour* – shortlisted

Writing for Children

- *Willy-willy Wagtail* – shortlisted
- *Shirley Purdie: My Story, Ngaginybe Jarragbe* – shortlisted

Daisy Utemorra Award

- *Carl Merrison and Hakea Hustler* – winner



Kirli Saunders at the 2021 ABIA Awards, image courtesy of the ABIA Awards.

Award-winning

The unstoppable *Bindi* by Kirli Saunders, illustrated by Dub Leffler, continues on its award-winning and critically acclaimed journey. The winner of the inaugural Daisy Utemorraah Award in 2019 and published in late 2020, *Bindi* has delighted readers young and old, with its tale of a young girl growing up on Gundungurra Country. Further to this list, in early 2022, *Bindi* was also shortlisted for the Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature, the IBBY Awards and the NSW Premier's Literary Awards.

WINNER

Australian Book Industry Awards, Small Publishers' Children's Book of the Year

Queensland Literary Awards, Children's Book Award

Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards, Younger Readers

SHORTLISTED


Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards, Younger Readers

Australian Book Design Awards, Best Designed Children's Fiction Book

Readings Children's Book Prize

LOGLISTED

Colin Roderick Literary Award



“It’s been a long journey for me. Been wanting to do this for a long time. Get my stories out into the world. The Oodnadatta Children’s Home kids need their story told.”

– Kunyi June Anne
McInerney, *Kunyi*



Kunyi

June Anne McInerney

Kunyi June Anne McInerney.
Photo: Nharla Photography

Sharing our stories

Social media followers

37,227



16,162

14,471 (2020)



4,996

4,194 (2020)



16,069

13,025 (2020)



**E-Newsletter
subscribers**

4,426

3,624 (2020)

**Unique
Website users**

132,449

121,356 (2020)

**Website page
views**

1,065,472

961,592 (2020)

**Book reviews
and media**

294*

(potential audience 43,349,800)

**"Magabala Books"
mentions**

3,051*

(potential audience 193,999,000)

***syndicated mentions combined**



Jodie Hunter, Bill Dempsey and Margy Dia. Photo: Cole Baxter.

Publicity and promotional highlights

- Vincent Namatjira on ABC News Breakfast TV to promote *Albert Namatjira*.
- A host of Magabala creators appeared in The Age's Spectrum Magazine feature on First Nations children's books.
- *Family* by Aunty Fay Muir and Sue Lawson, illustrated by Jasmine Seymour read on ABC's Play School.
- *Benevolence* author Julie Janson appeared on the ABC's Books that Made Us with Claudia Karvan. Julie Janson also appeared on ABC Radio's Conversations with Richard Fidler.
- *Debesa* listed in The Australian's Best Books of 2021 review.

Book Launches

We were lucky to gather in person for a selection of book launches in Western Australia and Tasmania. After a year of online events, these book launches were joyous events and we felt privileged to celebrate with our creators, their families and community.

25 February: *God, the Devil and Me* launch in Perth, Centre for Stories (Rachel Bin Salleh)

7 April: *The Boy from Birdum* launch in Perth, West Perth Football Club (Tony Lee, Margy Dia)

21 May: *Two Cultures, One Story* launch in Perth, Clontarf College (Steve Kinnane)

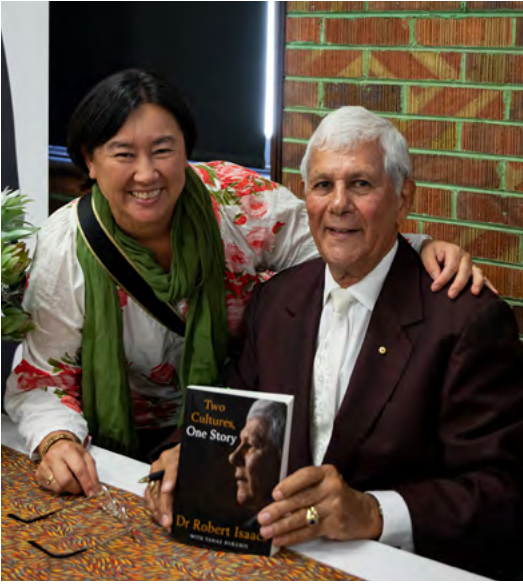
26 May: *Homecoming* in Perth, Rabble Books

28 May: *Sea Country* in Hobart, Fullers Bookshop (Anna Moulton)

29 May: *Sea Country* in Launceston, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery

11 June: *Debesa* launch in Derby, Holy Rosary School (Margy Dia)

9 October: *Kalyakoortl, ngalak warangka* launch at Ubud-Perth Writers Festival



Left:
Robert Isaacs
and Jacque
Happ. Photo:
Miles Noel



Right:
Cindy Solonec
at the *Debesa*
launch. Photo:
Sarah Landro.



Rachel Bin Salleh, Alf Taylor and Kim Scott.
Photo: Luke Riley Creative.



Gina Williams and Guy Ghouse perform at the *Kalyakoort, ngalak warangka* launch. Image courtesy of Writing WA





Dr Lilly Brown, Kirli Saunders, Dr Elfie Shiosaki in conversation at Corrugated Lines: A Festival of Words. Photo: Matthew Adams.

Corrugated Lines Festival

Corrugated Lines: A Festival of Words is an annual community festival that celebrates Kimberley stories alongside a stellar line-up of visiting literary guests. In 2021, in recognition of the 10th anniversary, Magabala Books took a leading role in festival coordination, partnering with Goolarri Media to present two days of First Nations programming. With a successful grant from the Western Australian Government's DLGSC Remote and Regional Festival Fund, we programmed a range of events that showcased First Nations storytellers, artists, poets and musicians.

Magabala guests included: Alf Taylor, Brenton E. McKenna, Elfie Shiosaki, Kamsani Bin Salleh, Kirli Saunders, Rachel Bin Salleh, Dr Robert Isaacs,

Scott Wilson and Lilly Brown (unfortunately due to COVID-19 travel restrictions interstate guests Daniel Browning, Teela Reid and Merinda Dutton were unable to attend). Events included Local Ghost Stories at the Pearl Luggers, author panels, a Deadly Draw-off between illustrators, play readings, children's storytime and a spoken word night.

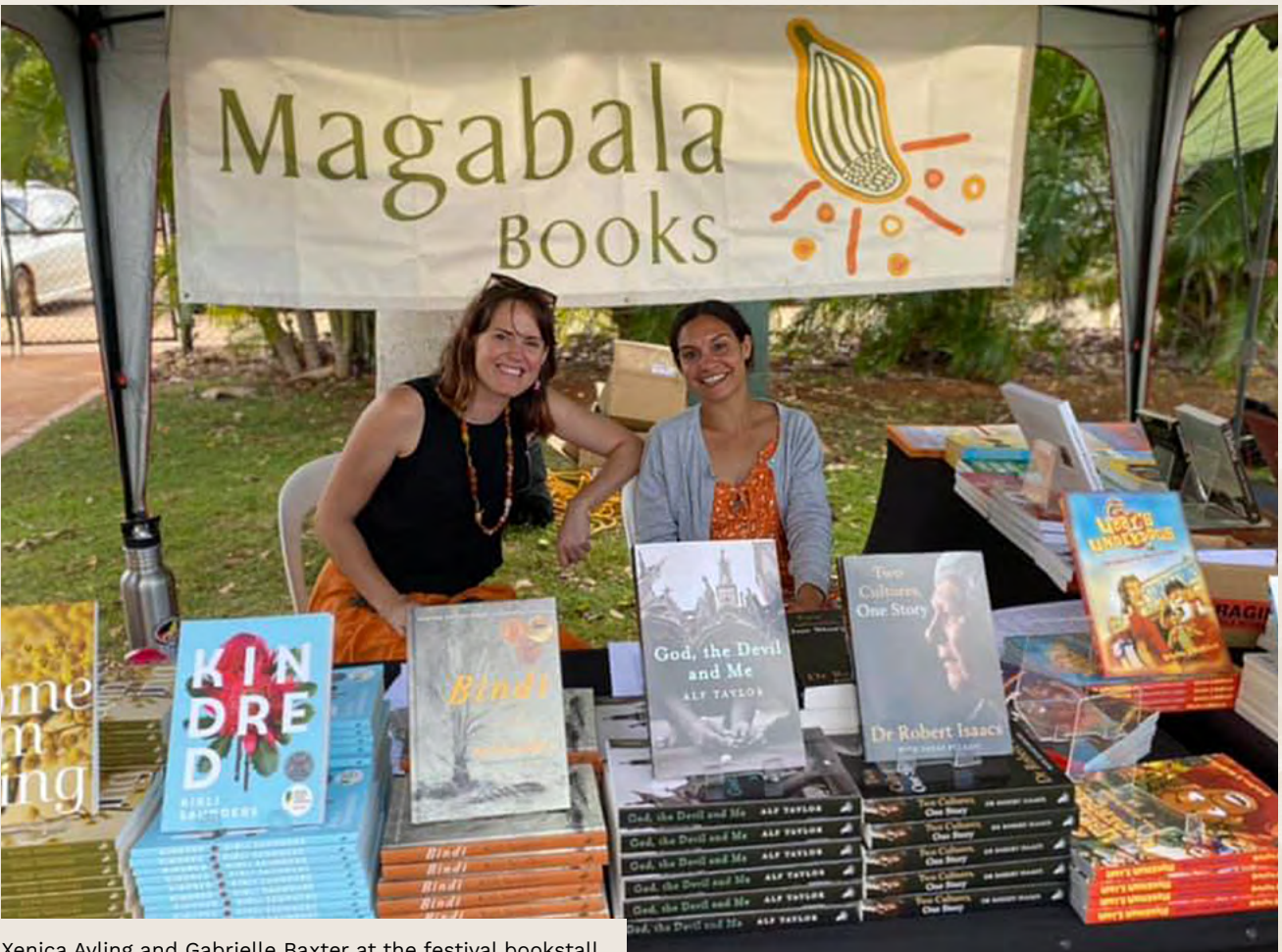
The festival was a significant opportunity for Magabala to host our creators in Broome, some of whom had never visited Yawuru Country before, and celebrate the vibrancy of our First Nations literary community. It was a special weekend, and we thank all creators, artists, staff and partners who made it such a successful event!



Rachel Bin Salleh and Kirli Saunders in conversation.



Scott Wilson and Brenton E. McKenna at the 'Deadly Draw-off'.



Xenica Ayling and Gabrielle Baxter at the festival bookstall.



WA Premier's Books Awards, image courtesy of State Library Western Australia.

Investing in creative futures

Magabala is committed to nurturing and celebrating the talent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander storytellers, writers, artists, illustrators, editors and publishing professionals.

The Daisy Utemorrah Award

The Daisy Utemorrah Award is a national award recognising excellence in junior and YA fiction supported by the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund, the State Library of Western Australia and the WA Government through DLGSC.

In 2021, the award went to Jaru/Kija writer Carl Merrison and co-author Hakea Hustler for their work 'Dirran' – the sequel to their award-winning title *Black Cockatoo*.

Carl Merrison is a respected Jaru/Kija man from Halls Creek in the Kimberley. He has worked alongside Aboriginal youth as a mentor and coach - in education, AFL and community. Hakea Hustler is an experienced teacher who has taught around Australia, including Halls Creek. Together, Carl and Hakea are inspired to write about their shared experiences of the Kimberley, and their belief in the power of stories for learning and change.

Presented at the Western Australian Premier's Book Awards ceremony at the State Library of Western Australia in Perth on 25 August, Carl Merrison and Hakea Hustler received \$15,000 and a publishing contract with Magabala Books. The Daisy Utemorrah Award is generously supported by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund and the State Government of Western Australia.

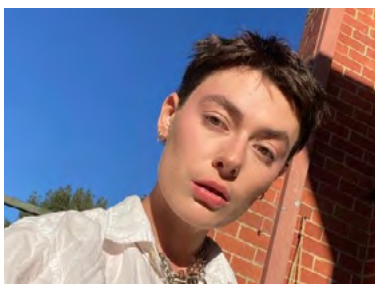
'Winning the Daisy Utemorrah Award through the State Library of Western Australia is a really proud moment. It is a huge boost for our writing career... It is great to have a Kimberley story told, and winning an award named after an inspirational Kimberley woman. This just shows everyone has a story - no matter how remote you are or where you begin' – Carl Merrison and Hakea Hustler.

Creative Development Scholarships

In 2021, six First Nations creators were awarded scholarships to complete creative development projects throughout 2022. Projects include the purchase of digital illustration materials, the transcription of stories, creative residencies and editorial mentorships. Scholars are selected through a competitive application process and expressions of interest come from all over Australia.



Casey Mulder is a Ballardong Noongar woman with Dutch and English heritage, now living and working on Wadjuk country. Casey will undertake an editing mentorship at Night Parrot Press over six months in 2022.



Elijah Money (he/him) is a queer Wiradjuri brotherboy and multi-disciplinary artist who was raised on Kulin Nations and continues to reside there. Elijah will receive creative development fees to purchase digital materials to support his visual art and design practice.



Aunty Kerry Bullojeeno Archibald Moran is a matriarch and medicine woman of Silver City Aboriginal Reserve – the Mission or Mish – on Anaiwan gooten country, Armidale. Aunty Kerry Bullojeeno will be supported to continue work on her kinship stories from Silver City Aboriginal Reserve with an editorial mentor.



Marjorie Nunga Williams is a senior Western Aranda Woman and artist, who remains heavily involved and respected in her community. Marjorie will undertake a children's picture book mentorship to develop her writing and illustration for publication.



Natalie Davey is a writer and artist from Fitzroy Crossing, where she is Creative project lead at Baya Gawiy early learning centre. Natalie will be supported to undertake a creative writer's residency in Broome, to progress work on two manuscripts under development.



Teela Reid is a proud Wiradjuri and Wailwan woman, lawyer, storyteller and co-founder of @blackfulla_bookclub, a platform that honours First Nation's Ancestors as the original Storytellers. Teela will undertake a creative writer's residency in Bundjalung Country, to progress manuscripts under development.

Magabala Fellowship

Thanks to the generosity of Serp Hills Foundation and Australian Indigenous Coffee, we awarded two mid-career Fellowships in 2021. The Fellowships, worth \$10,000 each, provide valuable time to write for a mid-career author working on a current manuscript. The 2021 Fellowships were awarded to Sue McPherson and Charmaine Papertalk Green.



Sue McPherson is a ‘freescribing’ storyteller who lives on the Sunshine Coast. As a writer Sue enjoys making change, pushing boundaries and challenging her readers and audience. Currently Sue writes for TV, Film, Scripted Podcasts and for Young Adult fiction. Sue McPherson has previously published *Grace Beside Me* and *Brontide*. With the support of the Fellowship, Sue will progress her first work of adult fiction, under the working title ‘Caravan’.

‘Genuine heartfelt thanks to our Magabala family. With your support, I can camp across country, yarn with Peg (protagonist) uninterrupted and record her powerful story. A challenging year, a surreal moment and now a solid plan for the new year.’



Charmaine Papertalk Green is from the Wajarri, Badimaya and Southern Yamaji peoples of Mid-West Western Australia. She has lived and worked in rural Western Australia (Mid-West and Pilbara) most of her life, and within the Aboriginal sector industry as a community agitator, artist/poet, community development practitioner and social sciences researcher. Her poetry has appeared in many anthologies and her publications include *Nganajungu Yagu* (Cordite 2019) and *False Claims of Colonial Thieves*, co-authored with John Kinsella (Magabala Books, 2018). She lives in Geraldton, Western Australia.

Charmaine will use the Fellowship to progress two poetry manuscripts currently under development.

‘I would like to thank the Magabala Fellowship selection group and Magabala for ongoing support of me as a female Yamaji writer, so very much grateful for the opportunity.’

Creative Development Support

Our Creative Development Fund extends discretionary financial support to writers and illustrators undertaking professional development opportunities and initiating new work. In 2021, we granted 10 discretionary mentorships and one creative residency, thanks to the Creative Development Fund and the generous support of donors.

Google Partnership

Throughout 2021 we continued our partnership with Google and their Creative Lab team to undertake a digital storytelling development project. Working with creatives Kirli Saunders and Kamsani Bin Salleh, this project explores how new technology can be used to amplify Indigenous stories. The creative outcome of this project will be launched during VIVID Festival at the Sydney Opera House in 2022.



Google Creative Lab and project team test an install at the Sydney Opera House.

Forging new pathways

Magabala is a leading advocate for First Nations publishing and our guidance is often sought by the industry. In this role and in our own practice, we seek to ensure that demand for Indigenous stories also leads to meaningful and lasting industry change.

Magabala Indigenous Publishing Cadetship

The Indigenous Publishing Cadetship program was established in 2020 supported by The Ian Potter Foundation and the Western Australian Government through the Kimberley Development Commission.

The cadetship program provides supportive and scaffolded on-the-job training, under the supervision of Publisher Rachel Bin Salleh. Over two-years, cadets gain experience across all areas of the organisation and receive a wide range of internal and external support, including industry mentoring and a secondment opportunity at another publishing house. In July 2021 we were thrilled to appoint two cadets into the program: Sharona Wilson and Melena Cole-Manolis.

Sharona Wilson is a proud Gooniyandi and Gajerroong woman, who was born in Derby and grew up in Broome. A mother of four wonderful children, she is excited to work with Indigenous creators to inspire healing and empowerment through storytelling and creativity.

Melena Cole-Manolis is a Warumungu, Luritja and Yawuru woman born in Mparntwe (Alice Springs) but has lived most of her life in Broome. Melena returned from the desert to saltwater country to take up the position at Magabala, saying 'this cadetship opportunity is a dream come true.'

Through the cadetship recruitment process, Magabala also appointed Yugumbeh writer and editor Maddee Clark to a new Trainee Editor position. Maddee will join the team in 2022.



Sharona Wilson and Melena Cole-Manolis.

'It is an exciting time at Magabala Books, I feel privileged to see three new First Nations publishing professionals owning their space within the industry.' – Rachel Bin Salleh.



maar bidi creators Nancy Murray, Serena-May Brown, Mabel Gibson and guest, celebrate with Elfie Shiosaki at the launch of *Homecoming*. Photo: Cass Lynch

Nurturing industry connections

- Membership of Australian Publishers Association
- The Small Press Network (Rachel Bin Salleh, committee member).
- Independent Publishers Committee of the APA (Anna Moulton, committee member).
- Varuna First Nations Fellowship (Rachel Bin Salleh, judge).
- Griffith Review 'The Long and the Short of it' Emerging Writers Competition (Rachel Bin Salleh, judge).
- NEWC Pitch Independent (Rachel Bin Salleh, Publisher pitch participant).
- Australia Council for the Arts, First Nations round table – (Rachel Bin Salleh)
- Centre for Stories (Rachel Bin Salleh, board member).

Having the funding to be able to take Nan out bush so these stories could be told on country was such a crucial part of doing this project and really brought the recordings and stories to life. They are memories we will remember for a lifetime. – Emili Sefton



Aunty Daisy Howard, Tina Howard, and Emili Sefton. Photo: Tiara Jade.



Kirsty Burgu at work on *Argula* illustrations.

Continuing our cultural legacy...

Beyond our publishing schedule, we initiate and deliver a wide range of development projects with enduring social, cultural and educational value.

Elders Stories

‘When I come back here, to my birthplace, I feel like a child – true... I feel like a little child coming back home.’ – Aunty Daisy Howard.

In 2021, the Cultural Fund supported Aunty Daisy Howard to travel across the Kimberley with her daughter Tina Howard and grand-daughter Emili Sefton, to trace and record her life story. Daisy Howard is a Jaru Elder, born at Caroline Pool, Halls Creek, East Kimberley and as one of the Stolen Generations was removed from her family and taken to Beagle Bay Mission as a child. A beloved Elder in Broome, Aunty Daisy’s 11 children have blessed her with 42 grandchildren, 53 great grandchildren, 7 great great grandchildren and counting!

Kimberley Art Centre Series

The Kimberley Art Centre Series focuses on developing the skills of Kimberley Aboriginal artists in book illustration. As part of this project, Magabala is continuing work with four artists to publish a series of Kimberley children’s picture books. This project is generously supported by the Kimberley Development Commission through a Regional Grant. As part of this project, Kirsty Burgu travelled from Mowanjum community to Broome for an illustration residency at Magabala to progress the final artwork spreads for her title *Argula Goes Fishing*.

Through the Cultural Fund, Magabala also continued support for:

- The Griffiths book project: the life story of senior Ngarinyman Law man and artist A. Griffiths.
- The Uncle Max Dulumunmun Harrison book project.



Steph Tisdell reading *The River* on Story Box Library.

Planting seeds

We broaden the reach and impact of our books through a range of education and community engagement projects.

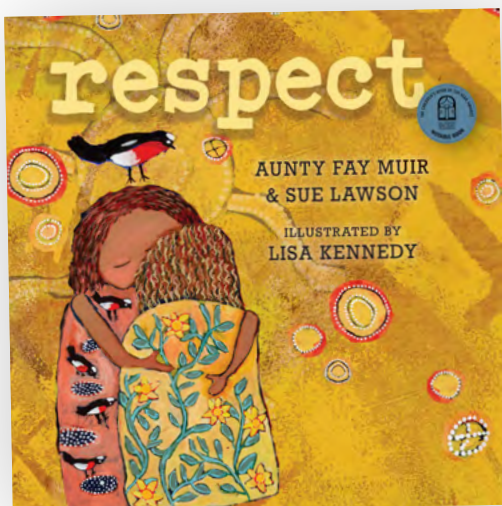
Magabala Teacher Notes

We produce teachers' notes for new release books based on the education strategy for each title. Teacher notes are written by qualified teachers and curriculum experts and are made freely available on our website. In 2021, we commissioned 10 Teacher Notes: *Albert Namatjira*, *Billie and the Blue Bike*, *Homecoming*, *Sea Country*, *The Emu Who Ran Through the Sky*, *Kalyakoorl*, *ngalak warangka*, *Awesome Emu*, *Sharing*, *Kunyi* and *The River*.

Education partners

In addition to a growing number of school and educational buyers, Magabala supplies books to or has partnerships with, the following organisations who work with young people:

- Indigenous Literacy Foundation
- Books in Homes
- Scholastic
- Reading out of Poverty
- Gunawirra
- Koori Curriculum
- ABC Reading Eggs Online
- Story Box Library
- ALIA Online Storytime



Buchan Primary School children receiving their *Re[ad]generate* book pack. Photo courtesy Buchan Primary School.

Victorian Baby Bundle

In 2021, Magabala secured a contract through Baobag Pty Ltd to produce a softcover edition and provide 25,000 copies of *Respect* by Auntie Fay Muir, Sue Lawson, and Lisa Kennedy, for the Victorian Baby Bundle program. The program, run by the Victorian Department of Health, provides a bundle of nursery essentials for all first-time parents and carers. New babies in Victoria will be gifted a copy of *Respect* as part of this program for the next three years.

Re[ad]generate

In 2021, Magabala partnered with creator Kirli Saunders' *Re[ad]generate* campaign supporting children in bushfire and flood affected communities. Sparked into action after delivering workshops with teachers from schools in NSW, Kirli Saunders launched her campaign during Sydney Writer's Festival to regenerate reading in these communities. The *Re[ad]generate* campaign raised over \$10,000 to purchase books by First Nations creatives and in late-2021, Magabala delivered 1,264 books to 31 affected schools in Victoria and New South Wales.

Small Seeds Big Reads

Small Seeds supports early childhood literacy and ensures children across Australia have access to culturally relevant books they love. With the support of our generous donors, we purchase and deliver book packs for organisations where children may have limited access to books.

In 2021, we donated 1,634 books to a range of playgroups, early childhood centres, parenting programs, out of home care units, women's refuges, family support programs, including:

- Aboriginal Medical Service – Mt Magnet, WA
- Operations Sunshine Children and Families crisis care packs – WA
- Yappera Children's Co-op – Melbourne, VIC
- Yokai Maya Program, Acacia Prison – WA
- PCYC Safe Space Program – Broome, WA
- Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Cooperative – Horsham, VIC
- Brewarrina Local Aboriginal Land Council and Dharriwaa Elders Group – Western NSW
- KU Children's Centre Aboriginal Families program – Wagga Wagga, NSW.
- Shine For Kids, Belonging to Family Prison Program – Kempsey, NSW.
- Noongar Radio Koolankas Kids Program – Perth, WA.
- Coota Girls Aboriginal Corporation – NSW.
- Morditj Noongar Community College – Perth, WA.
- First Nations Homelessness Project – Perth, WA.
- Nardine Wimmin's Refuge – Perth, WA.
- Braybrook Early Learning Centre – Braybrook, Melbourne VIC.

ELFIE
SHIOSAKI

Home
com
ing

Homecoming by Elfie Shiosaki.
Image courtesy Elfie Shiosaki



I wrote *Homecoming* for my grandmother and I... we wanted to protect and preserve these stories for the next generations of our family... I hope that readers see *Homecoming* as a kind of truth telling.

– Elfie Shiosaki,
Homecoming





Aunty Leena Fraser, Margy Dia and Cindy Solonec at the *Debeso* launch. Photo: Sarah Landro

Partners

We believe First Nations publishing changes the world, one story at a time, and we couldn't do all that we do without the incredible support of our major government, industry, corporate, community and philanthropic partners.

Our industry partners

Our thanks to:

- The wonderful team at our distributor New South Books and at the warehouse, Australian Distribution Service.
- The team at Ovato (Griffin Press), our Australian printers.
- Post Pre-press Group, our typesetters
- Booksellers: our champions, we thank you all. We would particularly like to acknowledge the independent booksellers who represent the majority of our customers and who contribute so much to Australia's vibrant literary culture.

Our funding partners

Magabala Books receives financial assistance from the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and the State Government of Western Australia through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries. We are grateful to both the Australia Council and DLGSC for their significant investment in First Nations literature through the ongoing support of Magabala Books.

We would also like to acknowledge:

- The Shire of Broome for their support of Magabala.
- The Kimberley Development Commission for their support of the Kimberley Art Centre Children’s Book Series and the Indigenous Publishing Cadetship program through Regional Economic Development Grants.
- Copyright Agency Limited, for their support of the Daisy Utemorrah Award through the Cultural Fund.
- State Library of Western Australia and the State Government of Western Australia for their support of the Daisy Utemorrah Award within the Western Australian Premier’s Book Awards.
- The Western Australian Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Remote and Regional Festivals Fund for their support of the First Nations program at Corrugated Lines Festival.

Magabala thrives on creating meaningful, long-term relationships with philanthropic partners who share our values and we acknowledge the following Trusts and Foundations for their generous support:

- Jon & Caro Stewart Family Foundation (Cultural and Creative Development Fund)
- Spinifex Trust (Cultural and Creative Development Fund)
- Harry Kestin Foundation (Kestin Indigenous Illustrator Award)
- Donnelly Garner Foundation (Creative Development Fund)
- Oranges and Sardines (Kimberley Art Centre Series)
- AESOP Foundation (Cultural Fund)
- The Ian Potter Foundation (Indigenous Publishing Cadetship Program)
- Serp Hills Foundation (Magabala mid-career Fellowship)
- The JTM Foundation (Creative Development Fund)
- Australian Indigenous Coffee (Creative Development Fund and Small Seeds)
- The Tate Family Foundation
- The Aboriginal Benefits Foundation

We would also like to acknowledge our wide range of individual donors, whose generous contributions support our cultural and social impact projects.



Governance

Magabala Books is governed by a dedicated, voluntary Board of Kimberley Aboriginal educators, academics, business professionals, and creative practitioners, drawn from the Magabala Books Aboriginal Corporation general membership.

In June, the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) approved amendments to Magabala's Rule Book. The amendments were passed by the members at the AGM in May, excluding all existing directors who declared conflicts of interest. The amendments to the Rule Book clarify the circumstances in which directors may be paid and the process for managing Related Party Benefits.

Directors are volunteers who do not receive remuneration for being on the Board, however there may be circumstances in which it is fair and reasonable to pay directors fees, for example when representing Magabala at events beyond

the ordinary scope of their role as Director; the payment of a per diem for travel; for professional services rendered commensurate with their skills and expertise or royalties received under Magabala's standard author contract. Magabala is grateful for the advice received from MPS Law who drafted the amendments and supporting policy documents.

In October, Josepha Howard regretfully resigned from the Board due to competing commitments. We are grateful for the skills and experience she brought to the Board and thank her for her contribution to Magabala Books.



TONY LEE
Chairperson



STEVE KINNANE
Deputy-Chairperson



CLINTON BENJAMIN
Treasurer



EDITH WRIGHT
Director



LENKA VANDERBOOM
Director



MARGY DIA
Director



RYAN ATKINSON
Director



JOSEPHA HOWARD
Treasurer and Director
until 21 Oct 2021

Staff

CEO – Anna Moulton
PUBLISHER – Rachel Bin Salleh
SENIOR EDITOR – Margaret Whiskin
PUBLISHING CADET – Sharona Wilson
PUBLISHING CADET – Melena Cole-Manolis
PROJECT OFFICER – Kate Rendell
MARKETING MANAGER – Xenica Ayling
DIGITAL AND DESIGN OFFICER – Gene Eaton
BUSINESS MANAGER – Irene Huang (on maternity leave)
ACTING BOOKKEEPER – Martine Docherty
SALES AND INVENTORY COORDINATOR – Sharon Power
ADMINISTRATION OFFICER – Dasia Kitaura

Adapting to Magabala’s rapid growth proved a challenge in 2021. There was a lot of staff movement and we experienced some difficulty with recruitment and retention in the Sales and Administration team. There were also great new developments, including the launch of our Indigenous Publishing Cadet program.

We would like to deeply thank the staff who left us in 2021: Catelyn Dowell who was with us for many years, Enid Ketchell, Lani Pigram, Sonya Barone, Nicole Drage and Rebecca Ross.


To address growth related pressures, we sought to expand resources in the Sales and Administration team. We created a new Sales and Officer Manager role at the start of the year, however we had difficulties recruiting for it. That position was unfilled and under review at the end of the year. We converted a part-time sales position into a full-time Sales and Inventory Coordinator role, which was filled by Sharon Power, a traveller to Broome with warehouse and logistics experience, on a short-term contract. Review of the organisational structure and capacity will continue into 2022.

In the second half of the year we recruited two Indigenous Publishing Cadets, Sharona Wilson and Melena Cole-Manolis. The program, supported by The Ian Potter Foundation and the Kimberley Development Commission’s RED Grant, is part of Magabala’s commitment to creating career opportunities for Aboriginal people in the publishing industry, and to support longer term succession planning in the publishing team.

Cole Baxter was Acting Marketing Coordinator for 6 weeks mid-year. Olivia Ward, Christine Elasser and Gabrielle Baxter worked with us as casuals, and there are many more freelancers who form part of our broader team. We are grateful for the exceptional work and support of Maryann Ballantyne, Bruce Sims, Rachael Christensen, Grace Lucas-Pennington, Cathie Tasker, Ariana Klepac, Jo Hunt, Donna Rawlins, Kelly Somers, Post Pre-Press, Morey Media, Blackwattle Media, Natasha Solomun of The Rights Hive, Christina Wheeler, Erika Dizon.



Alf Taylor receives his author advances.
Photo: Kamsani Bin Salleh



The pencil saved me from going under... Going back to the child, that hurt a lot. I separated myself from the child and I enjoyed writing about him. It wasn't about me, it was his life. He was my hero.

– Alf Taylor,

God, The Devil and Me

