

## MRS WHITLAM

From acclaimed award-winning author Bruce Pascoe, comes another book for children about friendship, horses and following your heart

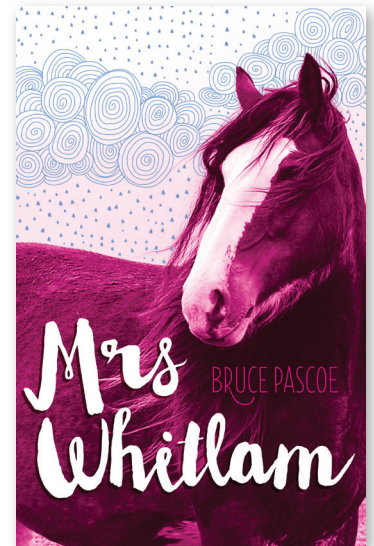
*The boots were the cutest things I had ever seen. And that riding hat – dark blue velvet. It made my stomach wriggle to think of feeling that in my hands. I felt like a thief. But Mrs Arnold had asked me and in the end I could see she was begging me to take the horse and all the things – to get them out of her sight.*

Marnie can hardly believe her ears when she is gifted a horse out of the blue. She, Marnie Clarke, the one who doesn't fit into pony club, who lives on the outskirts of town, who has nothing but family to keep her strong.

But Mrs Whitlam is no ordinary pony for a girl. First there's her name, but then there's the fact that she is a Clydesdale and used to belong to a dead girl. Mrs Whitlam may look like a carthorse but she has seen things, has suffered. Little does Marnie know that in showing her love and kindness, Mr Whitlam will love her back ten-fold.

Then, when Marnie takes Mrs Whitlam out bush to the river, she is faced with an emergency that will test all her mettle, and Mrs Whitlam too.

With evocative prose and engaging detail, this book is destined to be a new Australian classic loved by all ages. From an author at the height of his powers, *Mrs Whitlam* is a story with immense heart about horses, an extraordinary friendship, and what it takes to find your inner strength.



### About the author



**Bruce Pascoe** is a Bunurong, Tasmanian and Yuin man born in Melbourne who grew up on a remote island in Bass Strait and had a joey and a dog as pets. He lives in a secret bay called Gipsy Point in Victoria, where he has two children, three grandchildren and two dogs, Yambulla and Wangarabel.

Bruce's books for children include *Foxies in a Firehose* (2006), *Seahorse* (2015) and *Fog a Dox*, which won the 2013 Prime Minister's Literary Award (YA Fiction). His most recent non-fiction book, *Dark Emu* (2014) continues to go into reprint and recently won the Book of the Year and Indigenous Writer's Prize in the 2016 NSW Premier's Literary Awards.

Bruce is a prolific writer and has written more than 20 books, including short story collections *Night Animals* (1986) and *Nightjar* (2000); the novels *Fox* (1988), *Ruby Eyed Coucal* (1996), *Ribcage* (1999), *Shark* (1999), *Earth* (2001), *Ocean* (2002), and *Bloke* (2009); and historical works *Cape Otway: Coast of Secrets* (1997) and *Convincing Ground* (2007).

Bruce is currently writing a screenplay for children's television and fashioning a novel set in Mongolia.

Available June 2016 in all good bookshops and online from Magabala Books RRP \$16.99.

Launched in 1987, Magabala Books is a not-for-profit publishing house that aims to promote, preserve and publish Indigenous Australian culture.

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Spreading the seeds of our culture ...

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