

JUNE 2023 MEDIA RELEASE

Gurril: Storm Bird

By Trevor Fourmile and Jingalu



Children's picture book tells a thousand year-old Yidinji story

A story passed down orally over thousands of years in Gimuy Walubara Yidinji culture has been turned into *Gurril: Storm Bird*, a delightful children's picture book by Trevor Fourmile, with bright illustrations by Jingalu, releasing 1 June by Magabala Books.

Gurril is a Gimuy Walubara (pronounced ghee-moy-wah-la-burra) Yidinji traditional story that helps to explain the cultural beliefs held by the First Nations People of Cairns.

The book follows a cheeky boy Gurril, who doesn't respect the power of the rainbow serpent and gets more than he bargained for.

Trevor Fourmile says the story was told to him by his parents and grandparents and he's honoured and blessed to share the book with others.

'As a storyteller, being able to reach a wide audience is an incredibly rewarding feeling,' he says. 'I know that books can contribute to promoting literacy, education, and cultural awareness. Sharing my story around the country is something I've always wanted to do.'

The call of the storm bird helps the Yidinji people prepare for the arrival of rain or the wet season. During the dry season the Gimuy Walubara people dance and mimic the storm bird to bring in the rain.

Bagawa Illustrator Jingalu is thrilled to see her first published book. 'I absolutely loved painting *Gurril*, it was such a joy to create, I learnt so much from the Magabala family. When I seen it for the first time I couldn't believe it, it looks so much better than I ever imagined it to turn out. I'm so grateful to Magabala and Trevor Fourmile for trusting me with his story. I hope everyone loves it as much as I do.'

Magabala Publishing Cadet Melena Cole-Manolis is excited to see such an important story in the Australian children's book market. '*Gurril* is a wonderful book that shares Gimuy Walubara Yidinji culture. The story has been told orally for generations and is intrinsic to Yidinji culture, both past and present. The illustrations are spectacular and really bring the story to life. Congratulations to both Trevor and Jingalu.'

Gurril will come with comprehensive teacher notes.

Available June in all good bookshops and online from Magabala Books — RRP \$27.99

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The Author

Trevor Fourmile is from the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji people of the Cairns area in Far North Queensland. He is the author of numerous children's books, including *How the Cassowary Got Its Helmet*. These stories are based on the coastal rainforest and told in traditional style. Trevor's Yidinji name is Bumi which means 'lightning flash'. He is passionate about teaching the younger generation his Culture through traditional dancing, storytelling, painting and writing children's books.



The Illustrator

Jingalu is a Bagawa woman from Gumbayggirr and Yaegl Country. She grew up in Coffs Harbour, in the Mid North Coast of New South Wales, and travelled around Australia with her art career as a young adult before returning home to raise her family. Jingalu has been painting since the age of 16 and creates to share stories and important messages about Culture.

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