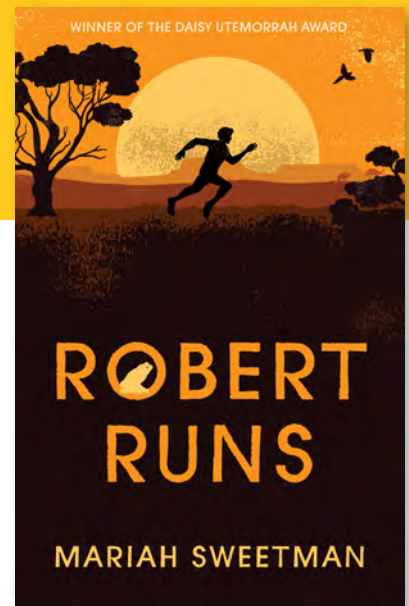


PRESS RELEASE OCTOBER 2023

Robert Runs

By Mariah Sweetman

Daisy Utemorrah Award-winner brings to life a captivating tale inspired by her great-great grandfather



Magabala Books is proud to announce the upcoming release of the young adult fiction novel *Robert Runs*, written by Ugarapul woman and 2022 Daisy Utemorrah Award winner, Mariah Sweetman. The book is scheduled to hit shelves on October 1, 2023.

Robert Runs is a captivating and fast-paced thriller, drawing inspiration from the life of the author's great-great grandfather, Robert 'Goupong' Anderson - once celebrated as the fastest man in Australia.

Mariah says she was inspired to write a story about Goupong after she played the game 'two truths and a lie' with her school class. 'For one of my statements I said, "My great-great grandfather was the fastest man in the world!", but none of the young people in my class believed me! I felt a burning passion to share this local story, and to honour the memory of my great-great grandfather.'

Set within the confines of the Deebing Creek Mission, ruled by the malevolent Boss Man, the story follows Goupong, his little sister Dot, and best friend Jonathan, who are from the Ugarapul people, the Green Tree Frog tribe. As they prepare to compete in the mission's annual running race, strange noises and unexplained events grip their area, compelling them to investigate.

Robert Runs not only takes readers on a thrilling journey but also delves into poignant historical events, shedding light on the Deebing Creek Massacre and the challenges of life on the mission. Mariah Sweetman artfully weaves fact with fiction, painting a vivid picture of the events leading up to the atrocity.

'In a way this book was an opportunity for me to process the impacts of the mission and the continuing impacts today,' says Mariah. 'I'm passionate about sharing stories with young people that paint a picture of what life was like, and what happened in our history. My hope is that this book will stir an appetite in our young people to go on their own journeys of discovery of their own local indigenous histories.'

Sharona Wilson, Magabala publishing Cadet says: 'Mariah Sweetman's *Robert Runs* masterfully blends suspense with historical resonance, ultimately honouring her ancestors while delivering an unputdownable read. We are honoured to have published Mariah's award-winning manuscript.'

Mariah won the Daisy Utemorrah Award for her *Robert Runs* manuscript in 2022. The Award is a prestigious literary accolade presented to emerging Indigenous writers by Magabala Books. It celebrates and nurtures Indigenous Australian talent, fostering the publication of compelling and authentic stories that resonate with readers.

Full teacher notes will be available on the Magabala Books website at ww.magabala.com/education

Available October in all good bookshops and online from Magabala Books — RRP \$22.99

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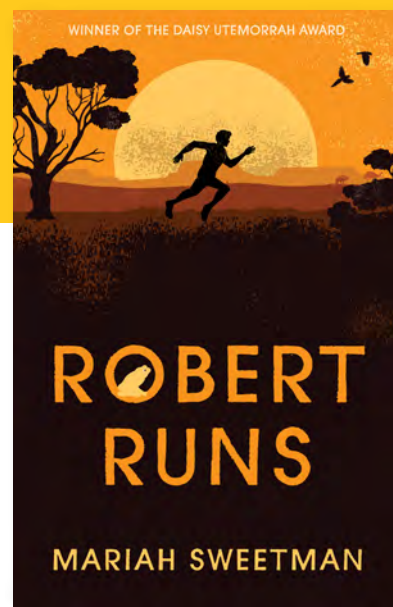
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PRESS RELEASE OCTOBER 2023

Robert Runs

By Mariah Sweetman



The Author

Mariah Sweetman is a proud descendant of the Ugarapul people. She is passionate about First Nations histories and engaging young people with stories. She loves to create with words and paint; often writing poetry and painting in her free time. She is a teacher by trade with Bachelor in Education and Arts, Master of Education, specialising in Indigenous Education.

Previous Daisy Utemorra Award winners



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