

History of the First Australians 50

My Childhood Aunty Nita

Aunty Nita Taylor

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First published 2020

ISBN 9781925714746

Illustrations and prepress: Dean Maynard

Text/editor and producer: Sharlene Coombs

Publisher: Robert Watts

Series information: **History of the First Australians**

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Illustration acknowledgements Dean Maynard: pp 1,5,7,15,17,19.

Photo acknowledgments for Aunty Nita Taylor's images: pp 3, 9, 11, 13, 21, 23.

Editorial acknowledgements: Aunty Nita Taylor would like to acknowledge the generous assistance of Lesley Taylor and Kim Lavery during the process of writing her story.



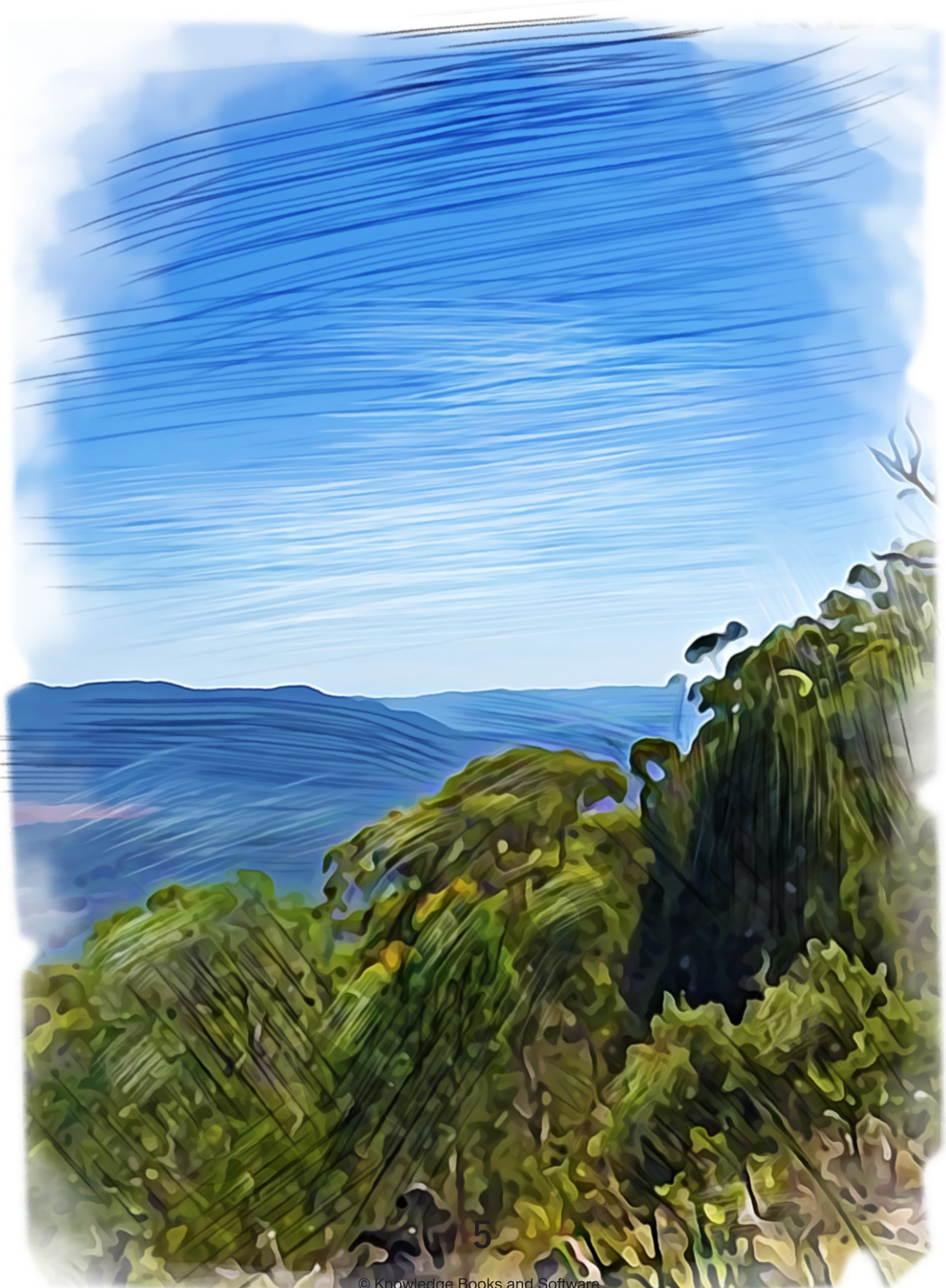
My name is Aunty Nita Taylor and I'm a Gumbaynggirr Elder. I was born in Grafton in the beautiful Northern Rivers of New South Wales. I am one of twelve children and my family name is Duroux. This is a well-known Indigenous name in the Clarence Valley.

SAMPLE



As a young girl, I lived in a place called Cangai. This small town is in the foothills of the Gibraltar Range, which is part of the Great Dividing Range. This range stretches from the very top to the very bottom of Australia.

SAMPLE



Cangai is over seventy kilometres from Grafton, and it took us over an hour to travel there by car. Back when I was a little girl, we didn't own a car and if we wanted to go anywhere, we had to walk.

SAMPLE



Word bank

Gumbaynggirr

strawberries

Duroux

raspberries

Indigenous

gooseberries

Clarence River

passionfruit

Cangai

popular

Gibraltar

cardboard

Dividing

Australia

kilometres

separated

electricity

ourselves

Mann River

mandarins

Reading Recovery Level: 22

Word count: 618

Content: Non Fiction Recount

ACARA F-10 references:

Learning Areas: English; Science; Humanities and Social Sciences; The Arts; Languages.

General Capabilities: Literacy; Critical and Creative Thinking; Personal and Social Capability; Intercultural Understanding.

Cross Curriculum Priorities: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures; Sustainability.

Teacher Notes:

My Childhood-Aunty Nita is a non-fiction recount of the author, Aunty Nita Taylor's childhood, living in the small village of Cangai in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range in New South Wales. Through her recount, Aunty Nita explains the importance of family, community, place and culture and shares her memories of the beauty of the wild Northern Rivers of New South Wales and her proud Gumbaynggirr heritage.

Discussion points for consideration:

1. Talk about the differences between Aunty Nita's childhood and that of the today's children.
2. Aunty Nita talks of making their own fun - how important is it to be able to make your own fun rather than relying on things to stimulate your mind?
3. Find examples of where Aunty Nita and her family lived sustainably off the land.

Difficult words to be introduced and practised before reading this book:

Gumbaynggirr, Duroux, Indigenous, Clarence River, Cangai, Gibraltar, Dividing, Australia, kilometres, separated, electricity, ourselves, Mann River, mandarins, strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, passionfruit, popular, cardboard.

Acknowledgement of the First Nations' People: We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Sensitivity Notice: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are **warned** that the following series may contain images - photographs and illustrations and text about deceased persons.

My Childhood - Aunty Nita

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Author's Bio:

Aunty Nita Taylor was born Nita Aileen Duroux on 12.12.34 in Grafton, the sixth child in a family of twelve. Aunty Nita is a proud and active member of the Gumbaynggirr Nation, and regularly attends the Grafton Elders' Group. Aunty Nita loves to spend time with family, and especially loves watching the sporting activities of her 15 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.



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