

Yarri and Jacky Jacky

Aunty Sony Piper
Mark Tiris

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First published 2020

ISBN: 9781925714791

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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Acknowledgements:

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Dean Maynard: Line art pp. 3,5,7. Front cover illustration.

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My Aboriginal family come from the vast lands of the Wiradjuri peoples of South West NSW. The men and women from this Aboriginal Nation were very strong hunters and warriors. They knew the land very well. They were brave and took care of their people. They sometimes put their lives in great danger for others.

SAMPLE



Two Wiradjuri men, Yarri and Jacky Jacky, were great heroes. They grew up learning to be smart, strong and brave. Their women taught them to gather berries and small lizards. They taught them to care for the sick and the weak. The men taught them to swim, climb, hunt and fight against any dangers.

SAMPLE



The Wiradjuri travelled the land of their ancestors. They followed the seasons and went where the food was available. However, as settlers came from lands across the ocean, the Wiradjuri were stopped. The new people made farms, fences, buildings, roads and trains. The Wiradjuri couldn't hunt and travel. The new people could not speak the Wiradjuri language.



Word bank

Aboriginal

Wiradjuri

warriors

Yarri

Jacky Jacky

ancestors

language

Gundagai

Murrumbidgee

dangerous

destroyed

European

paddled

swirling

floodwaters

survivors

respect

breastplates

descendants

erect

plaques

honour

fund-raising

assistance

Cootamundra

powerful

heroic

society

celebrate

Reading Recovery Level : 24

Word count: 581

Content: Non-fiction explanation and report

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:

This powerful story, retold by Mark Tirris, recounts the heroic rescue of 69 Gundagai townspeople by local Aboriginal men, Yarri and Jacky Jacky. It also talks about how their selfless act brought the Aboriginal and European people closer together. Yarri and Jacky Jacky's rescue feats are still celebrated by the town of Gundagai today, and the statue in the main street is a reminder to all, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

Discussion points for consideration:

1. Find Wiradjuri country on a map and locate the town of Gundagai and the Murrumbidgee River.
2. Why should the European people have listened to the Wiradjuri people about building the town where they did?
3. Do you know of any other heroes that you respect and admire and look up to?

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

Aboriginal, Wiradjuri, warriors, Yarri, Jacky Jacky, ancestors, language, Gundagai, Murrumbidgee, dangerous, destroyed, European, paddled, swirling, floodwaters, survivors, respect, breastplates, descendants, erect, plaques, honour, fund-raising, assistance, Cootamundra, powerful, heroic, society, celebrate.

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.

Yarri and Jacky Jacky

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Author's Bio:

Mark Tirris is a proud descendant of the Wiradjuri Peoples of South West NSW and has always been active in his local Aboriginal community in Northern NSW. He successfully completed a Master's degree in Indigenous Studies (Wellbeing) through Southern Cross University. His professional experience includes five years working in several Aboriginal organisations and managing his own Indigenous consultancy business.



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