DANCING IN SHADOWS
Histories of Nyungar Performance

By Anna Haebich
RRP $29.99

• Dancing in Shadows sheds light on the history of Nyungar performance.

Do you ever wonder how survivors who lose everything in the wars and natural disasters that fill our TV screens find the resilience to carry on? Award-winning author and historian Anna Haebich’s latest book describes how Nyungar Aboriginal people from the southwest of Western Australia survived the catastrophe of colonisation that took their country, their resources, their culture, their children and their lives and wrecked 50,000 years of peaceful living within just a few decades.

Trauma experts agree that cultures have their own ways of healing and Nyungar people drew on their rich culture of performance to create healing and resilience through performances that were courageous, political, innovative and hopeful.

They bring the past to life with Nyungar people making music and dancing in colonial corroborees, mission string and brass bands, old time dances in the bush with piano accordions, jiving with rock and roll bands, and joining in Noongar-style karaoke nights, plus sports, tourism, theatre and concert performances.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Anna Haebich is a multi-award winning author, known for her passion for research that pushes into new territories. She has written about most Aboriginal issues from the past and present. Her insights are shaped by her experiences of living in Nyungar country with her partner, Elder Darryl Kickett, and by her varied career in writing, visual arts practice, university research, and community engagement. Anna has received numerous honours and recognitions for her contributions. She is a Fellow of two Australian learned academies and member of university centres in Australia and Germany. She is currently a John Curtin Distinguished Professor at Curtin University.