

BLAK BOOK OF THE MONTH

YEAR 1 & 2

'**Blak Book of the Month**' is an initiative to support the inclusion of First Nations children's books regularly throughout the year in all Australian classrooms. This initiative can be lead by individual teachers or taken up across the whole school by downloading the other 'Blak Book of the Month' resources for:

- [Early Childhood and Foundation](#)
- [Year 3 and 4](#)
- [Year 5 and 6](#)

The following books have been carefully selected to cover a range of First Nations themes/content such as Country, seasons, the Stolen Generations, Elders, respect, the Dreaming, sustainability and community; as well as link to all subject areas in the [Australian Curriculum](#). Books have also been carefully chosen for particular months to align with significant dates within each month, e.g. the book *Sea Country* was chosen for the month of March to coincide with National Sea Week.



You can purchase the following books from [Riley Callie Resources](#), an Aboriginal owned and run educational online shop/business. Books can be purchased individually or Riley Callie Resources and I have partnered to create a '**Blak Book of the Month - Year 1 and 2 Book Pack**' for your convenience. To purchase the book pack head on over to the Riley Callie website [here](#). Use the discount code NGANGAANHA for 5% off!



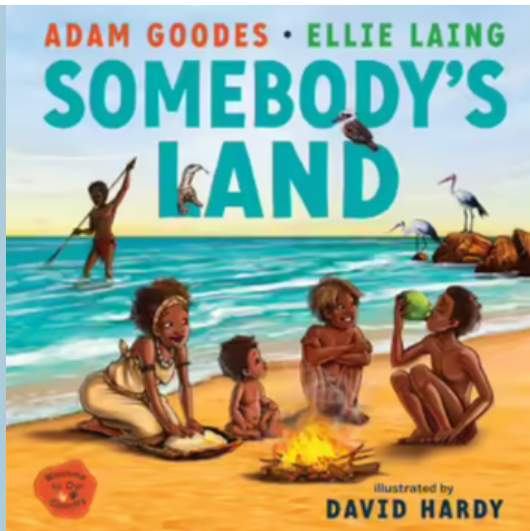
Several of the books listed are also read online by First Nations storytellers in the [Story Box Library](#) (SBL) website and app. If you have a subscription to SBL, click on the SBL icon next to each book to take you there.

By downloading this document you are agreeing to:

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JANUARY

SOMEBODY'S LAND

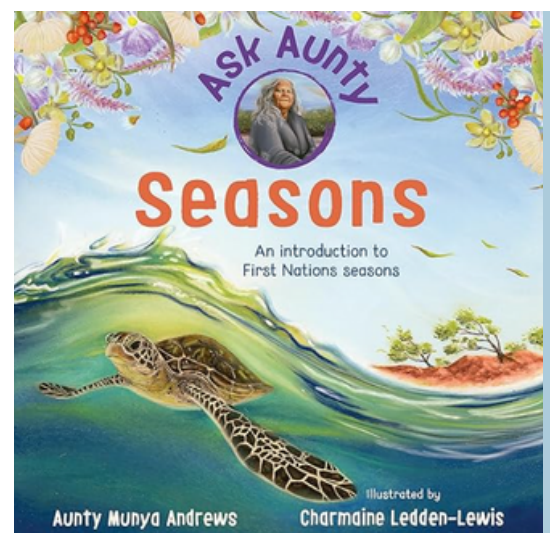
Adam Goodes, Ellie Laing & David Hardy

Somebody's Land is an invitation to connect with First Nations cultures, to acknowledge the hurt of the past, and to join together as one community with a precious shared history as old as time. This is a great book to introduce who [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people](#) are (the First Peoples/Nations of what it now known as Australia) and how the declaration of '[terra nullius](#)' forever impacted the lives of First Nations peoples. Create your own unique and meaningful class [Acknowledgement of Country](#) to show respect for the traditional custodians where your school is located.

FEBRUARY

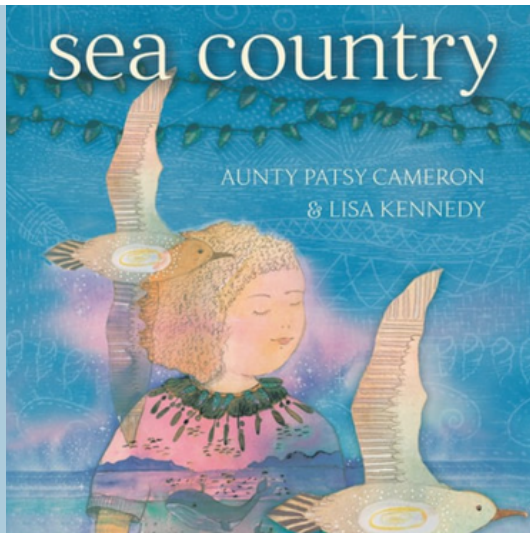
ASK AUNTY: SEASONS Aunty Munya Andrews & Charmaine Ledden-Lewis

This is a delightful and educational picture book for children that introduces First Nations seasonal calendars. Aunty Munya Andrews is an [Elder](#) from the Kimberley region of Western Australia. There are six seasons in Bardi [Country](#). Read *Ask Aunty: Seasons* in February so that you can spend the rest of year observing seasonal changes where your school is located. Can you find out about the traditional seasons of the [Country](#) where you are? Compare these to the four seasons summer, autumn, winter and spring!



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MARCH

SEA COUNTRY

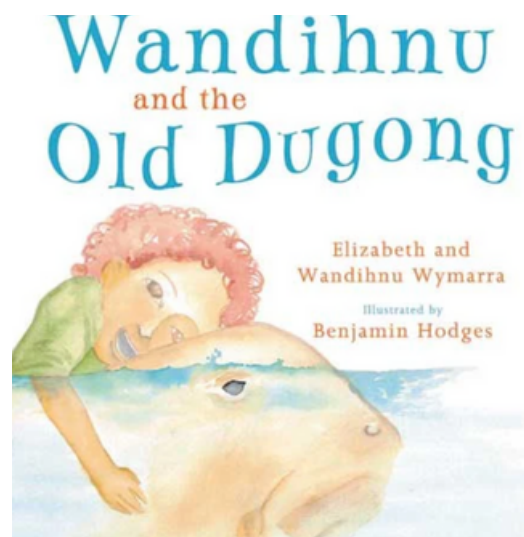
Aunty Patsy Cameron & Lisa Kennedy

Celebrate [National Sea Week](#) by reading this delightful book! In *Sea Country*, Aunty Patsy Cameron generously shares the stories and traditions from her family's seasonal island life in Tasmania. Learn how Aboriginal people have observed and learned the patterns of [Country](#) since time immemorial. Aunty Patsy shares when to pick ripe wild cherries, when the moon (mutton) birds fly home and how the nautilus shells smell like the deepest oceans. Explore the love and connection [Saltwater People](#) have to sea and Country.

APRIL

WANDIHNU AND THE OLD DUGONG Elizabeth Wymarra, Wandihnu Wymarra & Benjamin Hodges

Learn about Torres Strait Island people, culture and languages with the book *Wandihnu and the Old Dugong*. This is a contemporary story about a young girl (Wandihnu) who has grown up in the city and returns to Badu Island in the Torres Strait to stay with her aka (grandmother). It is time for Wandihnu to learn about the customs of her people. The night before she leaves, Wandihnu drifts off to sleep and dreams about the journey, about her aka, and about a very special friend.



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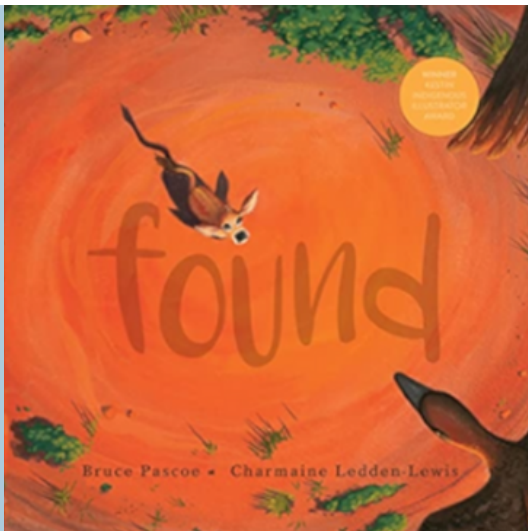
MAY

FOUND

Bruce Pascoe & Charmaine Ledden-Lewis

This gentle story is about a small calf who becomes separated from his family. The little calf is alone and simply wants his mother, sisters and brothers. He begins a journey to find his family.

[National Sorry Day](#) is commemorated annually on May 26 and is an important date for all Australians to understand and commemorate. The story of the young calf in *Found* can be used to help young students understand the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were removed from their families in [the Stolen Generations](#).

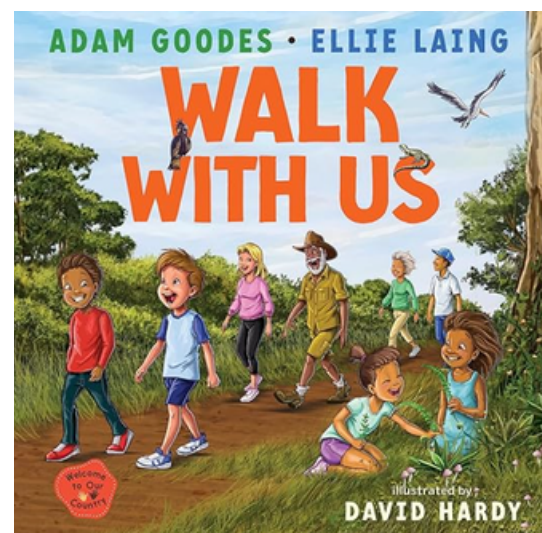


JUNE

WALK WITH US

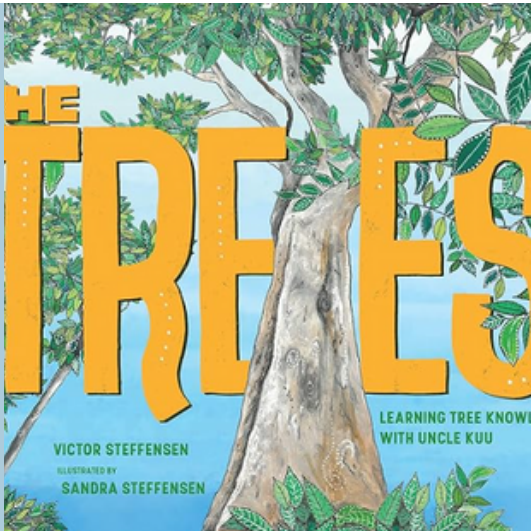
Adam Goodes, Ellie Laing & David Hardy

[National Reconciliation Week](#) (NRW) occurs annually between 27 May and 3 June. NRW promotes reconciliation by building relationships, respect and trust between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. *Walk with Us* is a great text to read for NRW because it invites readers to go on a journey of learning and appreciation – with family, with friends, and with our nation – together. In the story members of a non-Indigenous family (Harvey and his mum) participate in a local cultural tour with an Aboriginal [Elder](#) (Uncle Boris) which results in a respectful exchange of cultural knowledge that brings two cultures together.



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JULY

THE TREES

Victor Steffensen & Sandra Steffensen

Celebrate [National Tree Day](#) (28 July) with the book *The Trees!* Learn from Uncle Kuu how to care for trees and keep Country happy and healthy. First Nations People have done so for thousands of years. In return, the trees look after the people and provide them with gifts of seeds, flowers, wood and more. This creates the balance between giving and taking from the land. This is a powerful and timely story to help future generations manage our landscapes and ensure that they thrive. At the back of the book, you will find lyrics to a song written by author Victor Steffensen with the title, 'We are the Trees', and a QR code to watch the song's YouTube video.

AUGUST

SHARING

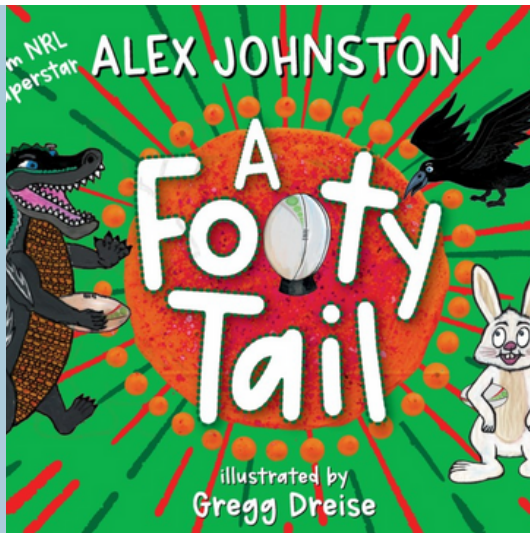
Aunty Fay Muir, Sue Lawson & Leanne Mulgo Watson

The [International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples](#) is recognised annually on the 9th of August. Sharing is an essential and embedded value within indigenous communities around the world and can be seen in the forms of sharing food and resources as well as sharing and passing on cultural and survival knowledge. Sharing, in all its many forms, has ensured that indigenous cultures have survived to this day. Read the book *Sharing* and discuss all the different ways that sharing is important to First Nations peoples here in Australia. How can students embed different ways of sharing to enrich their lives?



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SEPTEMBER

A FOOTY TAIL

Alex Johnson & Gregg Dreise

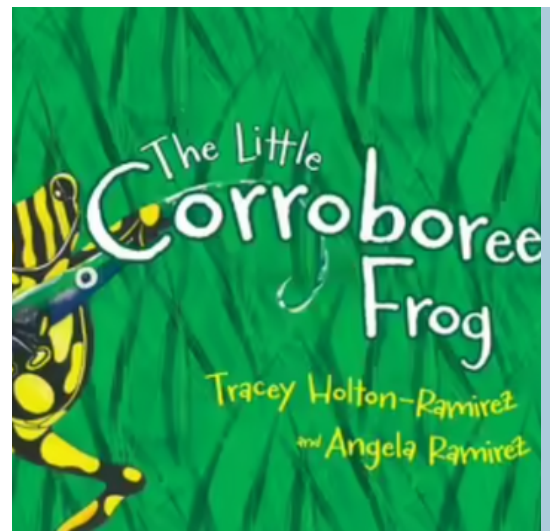
September is an exciting month for anyone who follows the Australian Football League (AFL) or National Rugby League (NRL). Most (if not all) of the final rounds occur in September. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have excelled in many different sports - but especially in AFL and NRL. The NSW Koori Rugby League Knockout Carnival is one of the biggest First Nations gatherings in Australia! Read this rhyming picture book about an underdog team of bunnies who are up against the stronger teams of animals is a wonderful story of unity, togetherness, resilience and teamwork.

OCTOBER

THE LITTLE CORROBOREE FROG

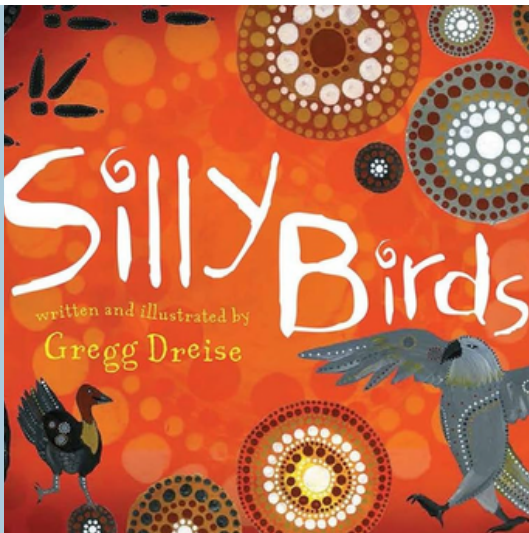
Tracey Holton-Ramirez & Angela Ramirez

The Little Corroboree Frog is a wonderful children's story that can be read for [World Habitat Day](#). The book gently introduces the serious plight of one of Australia's most endangered species. Jet the corroboree frog is happily taking care of the tadpole ponds when the water starts to dry up and his family's eggs are threatened. He goes to visit Grandmother Frog to find out why and she tells him all about the summers that are getting hotter every year and the careless humans who are leaving their rubbish around. When a boy and his father arrive to go fishing in the nearby river, Jet seizes the opportunity to show them how humans are threatening the very existence of his species.



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NOVEMBER

SILLY BIRDS Gregg Dreise

If your littlies are starting to get the end of year sillies, *Silly Birds* is the perfect book for November! In this charming and humorous morality tale, Maliyan, a proud eagle meets a turkey, Wagun, who is a silly bird, and together these two new friends begin to do silly-bird things. The [Elders](#) and Maliyan's parents are very disappointed, warning Maliyan that it's hard to soar like an eagle when you are surrounded by turkeys. Maliyan sees the error of his ways and together with the other animals, works to clean up the mess wrought by too many silly birds.

DECEMBER

OUR DREAMING Kirli Saunders & Dub Leffler

Complete the year by reading this special book, *Our Dreaming*. [The Dreaming](#) (sometimes referred to as the Dreamtime) can be a complex concept for young learners to understand and teachers to explain, but as essential aspect of Aboriginal culture and communities. Explore what the Dreaming means to Aboriginal people by following the journey of two echidnas who reflect on their [Country](#) and the Dreaming.

