

## **Pearl Beach Aboriginal History Community Library**

You are welcome to borrow any of these Books or Films (DVDs) from our Pearl Beach **Aboriginal History Community Library** free of charge.

These DVDs and books have been donated by our committee members.

Please email [pbaboriginalhistory@gmail.com](mailto:pbaboriginalhistory@gmail.com) to enquire about borrowing.

### **DVDs available to borrow**

**'Beneath Clouds' (2002)**

A Film directed by Ivan Sen

**'First Australians' (2008)**

Documentary by Rachel Perkins and Darren Dale - 7 parts, SBS

**'First Footprints' (2013)**

Documentary - 4 parts, ABC

**'Jandamarra's War' (2011)**

Documentary, ABC

**'Lousy Little Sixpence' (1982)**

Documentary by Alec Morgan, Ronin Films

**'Mabo' (2012)**

A film directed by Rachel Perkins, ABC & Blackfella Films

**'Pemulwuy - A War of Two Laws' (2010)**

Documentary - 2 parts, ABC

**'Rabbit Proof Fence' (2002)**

A Film directed by Phillip Noyce, Miramax Films

**'Samson and Delilah' (2009)**

A Film Directed by Warwick Thornton

**'The Secret River' (2015)**

Mini-series - 2 parts, ABC

**'Walkabout' (1971)**

A Film Directed by Nicholas Roeg

## **Books available to borrow**

**'Aboriginal Sydney – A Guide to Important Places of the Past and Present'** by Melinda Hinkson (2<sup>nd</sup> ed, 2010)

**'Demons at Dusk – Massacre at Myall Creek'** by Peter Stewart (2007)

**'Hidden in Plain View - The Aboriginal People of Coastal Sydney'** by Paul Irish (2017)

**'James Cook: The Voyages'** by William Frame, The British Library (2018)

**'King Bungaree : a Sydney Aborigine meets the great South Pacific explorers, 1799-1830'** by Keith Vincent Smith (1992)

**'Emu Dreaming – An Introduction to Australian Aboriginal Astronomy'** by Ray & Cilla Norris (2009)

**'Murder at Myall Creek – the Trial that Defined a Nation'** by Mark Tedeschi (2016)

**'Mari Nawi – Aboriginal Odysseys'** by Keith Vincent Smith (2010)  
This book reveals the significant role Aboriginal men and women played in Australia's early maritime history and the Indigenous people who sailed on English ships through Port Jackson to destinations throughout the world in the period 1790-1850.

**'Songlines – Tracking the Seven Sisters'** Edited by Margo Neale (2017)  
Published to accompany the exhibition at the National Museum of Australia, 15 Sept – 25<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2018

**'Spirit of the Night Sky'** by Laksar Burra (2001)

**'The Little Red Yellow Black Book: An Introduction to Indigenous Australia'** by Bruce Pascoe (2012)

**'The Lone Protestor – AM Fernando in Australia and Europe'** by Fiona Paisley (2012)

**'The Way we Civilise – Aboriginal Affairs, the untold story'** by Rosalind Kidd (1997)

**'Why Weren't we Told? A Personal search for the truth about our history'** by Henry Reynolds (1999)

## **Pam's Film Reviews**

One of our former committee members, Pam Ellis, kindly volunteered to watch each film and write these reviews to accompany the DVDs. Thank you Pam! ☺

### **BENEATH CLOUDS** (2002)

Directed by: Ivan Sen

Starring: Dannielle Hall

This minimal spare film has an incredible beauty

Lena has an absent Irish father she longs to see and an Aboriginal mother she finds disgusting. When she breaks away, she meets up with petty crim Vaughn (Damien Pitt) who's just escaped from low security prison to reluctantly visit his dying mother. Blonde and light-skinned, Lena remains in denial about her Aboriginal heritage; Vaughn is an angry young man with a grudge against all whites. An uneasy relationship begins to form as they hit the road heading to Sydney, taking them on a journey that's as emotional as it is physical, as revealing as it is desperate.

### **FIRST AUSTRALIANS** (2008)

SBS Documentary – 7 parts

Produced and created by Rachel Perkins and Darren Dale

Director of Photography: Warwick Thornton

#### **Episode 1: 'They have come to stay'**

Initial contact with the Garrigal people – dancing, friendship at first – this changed quickly, with fences and settlement. 1,100 settlers outnumbered the Aboriginals. Smallpox spread quickly and ongoing clashes between white settlers and Aboriginal people. Great expose of prominent Aboriginal men such as Bennelong, Pemulwuy and a Wirajeri man. Commentary by numerous historians and the remarkable story of a family of friendly settlers.

#### **Episode 2: 'The Will to Survive'**

A period in Tasmania called the 'Black War'. Peacemaking by Trugannini with George Robinson on Bruny Island – a mission which failed from disease and

confinement. The 'Black Line' was used to keep Aboriginal people in a part of Tasmania and all removed to Flinders Island.

### **Episode 3: 'Freedom for our Lifetime'**

The story of Wonga & Barak in Victoria trying to save the remaining 2000 of the original 60,000 first Australians.

### **Episode 4: 'No Other Law'**

Central Australia and Arrernte Country - the fight to stop the Protection Board and gain independence featuring the story of Corranderk. The first book 'Natives of Central Australia and Tjerreng - the Law' was produced.

### **Episode 5: 'An Unhealthy Government Experiment'**

WA - Jandamarra's rebellion of 3 years to 1873 and Gladys Gilligan, of 'Rabbit Proof Fence' fame - 2 remarkable Aboriginal people. The horrors of Rottnest Island and the wars and heavy policing for the cattle and sheep industry.

### **Episode 6: 'A Fair Deal for a Dark Race'**

The story of Doug Nicholls, an Aboriginal footballer in Victoria and his Uncle, William Cooper, pushing a petition for rights for citizenship. The Day of Mourning in 1938 Rebellion at Cumeroogunga and a 'walk off' to support the labor movement. WWII Aboriginal soldiers broke stereotypes but reverted after the Assimilation Policy and needed passes to move about.

### **Episode 7: 'We Are No Longer Shadows'**

Tracks the protest and change movement through famed and unknown activists. Charles Perkins 'Freedom Ride' in 1967 for Constitution change & voting rights. Segregated pools, cinemas. Doug Nicholls appointed Governor of South Australia.

### **FIRST FOOTPRINTS** (2013)

ABC Documentary – 4 parts

Produced and Directed by: Bentley Dean and Martin Butler

Narrated by: Ernie Dingo

**Episode 1: Super Nomads**

**Episode 2: The Great Drought**

**Episode 3: The Great Flood**

**Episode 4: Th Biggest Escape**

Over 50,000 years of Aboriginal history of Australia, showing the existence of art, culture, tool-making, stories and spiritual ceremony. Mungo Man (45,000 years ago) pre-dates Cro Magnum man and footage covers many big events in more recent history. Wonderful footage of art in Arnhem Land and other remote regions. Natural events such as the Great Flood of 18,000-50,000 years ago and the separation of continents provides geographical background to events affecting Aboriginal lives. Includes information on Papua New Guinea and the development of crops over 9000 years.

### **JANDAMARRA'S WAR** (2011)

Directed & Written by: Mitch Torres

Starring: Keithan Holloway, Stanley Jangary Snr, Peter Docker, Kaylene Marr

Narrated by: Ernie Dingo

Jandamarra's war is the story of an Aboriginal warrior who led one of the most effective rebellions in the history of the Indigenous people's resistance to European colonisation in the Kimberley.

In 1894 Jandamarra led a rebellion against invading pastoralists in defence of his people's ancient land and culture. Until his death in brutal retribution, this formidable Bunuba warrior waged a 3 year guerrilla war, earning him both the admiration of his people and international notoriety.

### **LOUSY LITTLE SIXPENCE** (1983)

Documentary

Directors: Alec Morgan & Gerry Bostock

The Aborigines Protection Board in NSW in 1909 planned to break up Aboriginal communities by forcibly removing the children, from age 13, hiring them out as servants to white employers.

'Lousy little sixpence' comes from the wages that were supposed to be paid, but many never saw this money.

The Aboriginal people began to organise in the mid-30s which formed part of the early struggle for Land Rights and Self Determination. The film contains old newsreels, archival films, photographs and interviews with elders.

Note: Aboriginal people in some footage shows them crop raising and performing land care which were later denied them.

### **MABO** (2012)

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Directed by: Rachel Perkins

Starring: Jim Bani, Deborah Mailman

The story of Eddie (Koiki) Mabo (1936-1992)

This is the story of Eddie Mabo from Murray Island in the Torres Strait and his fight for recognition of Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islanders' right to own land that had been handed down through many generations, through the Bjelke-Petersen Queensland government and eventually through the High Court of Australia.

In 1988 the High Court extinguished 'terra nullius', the concept that the land had previously been unclaimed and no ownership existed, beginning The Native Title Act, allowing aboriginal claimants the right to claim native title.

### **PEMULWUY - 'A WAR OF TWO LAWS'** (2010)

ABC Documentary – 2 parts

Introduced by: Miriam Corowa

Produced by: Grantley Saunders.

A documentary about Pemulwuy – a lawman and warrior of the Bidjugal tribe of the woodlands of Toongabbie and Parramatta. This is a story of struggle, courage and resilience in the face of an invading force – an amazing warrior.

**Part 1** - The first part uses prime sources and expert scholars to describe the actions of Pemulwuy to retaliate against the European settlers in the early days of the colony in and around Sydney. He was written out of history for over 200 years and this documentary aims to restore his reputation.

It describes his status among Aboriginal people and the guerrilla tactics he employed against the white settlers who took over his tribal lands. After spearing the provisioner Macintyre, he led many Aborigines from different tribes to fight against the white settlers. A reward was offered for his capture.

## **Part 2 – ‘A War of Two Laws’**

Details Pemulwuy’s attack on Toongabbie with 100 men which then led to his capture. Burning of crops to protect their land, killing of cattle and sheep to steal food – a price put on his head. Wounded and captured in Parramatta. Jailed in Balmain but escaped with chains still attached, his reputation grew so that he was considered to be invincible and have mystical powers. He was shot and killed in 1802, possibly by Henry Hacking (after whom Port Hacking was named) and his head was sent to Joseph Banks in England and presented to King George III. It has not been located and, according to Aboriginal beliefs, his soul cannot rest. This story was buried from our history for many years.

### **RABBIT PROOF FENCE (2002)**

Rated PG

Directed by: Phillip Noyce

Starring: Evelyn Sampi, Tianna Sansbury, Laura Monaghan, Deborah Mailman, David Gulpilil, Kevin Branagh

This film tells the true story of the Stolen Generation. It depicts the 1931 removal of three aboriginal girls from their families under the Aborigines Act by Mr A. O. Neville, Chief protector of Aborigines in WA. They are sent 1500 miles to a remote settlement. In response they attempt the impossible and embark on a daring escape and an epic journey to find their way back home along the rabbit proof fence, constructed to keep out rabbits. They venture across an unforgiving landscape which tests their very will to survive.

Note: Aboriginal children were forcibly removed from their families until 1970.

### **SAMSON AND DELILAH (2009)**

Rated MA 15+

Directed by: Warwick Thornton

Starring: Rowan McNamara & Marissa Gibson

This story of a young, silent love between two Aboriginal residents of an isolated community in the Australian desert is a visual and sensitive masterpiece of Australian film.

It is a journey of hardship and survival, poignantly graphic in its portrayal of life in a remote, harsh landscape.

It shows that life isn’t always fair but that love never judges. Some moments are existentially shocking and painful and others are of quiet acceptance and optimism.

### **THE SECRET RIVER** (2015)

ABC – 2 part Mini-series

Directed by: Daina Reid

Adapted from the novel by Kate Grenville

Starring: Oliver Jackson-Cohen & Sarah Snook

Chronicles the lives of a convict-turned free settler, Will Thornhill, who acquires 100 acres on the Hawkesbury River, with his wife and children in the early 1800's. This is a semi-fictional account of the problems faced by the Aboriginal inhabitants as the settlers take over their land. The film includes a massacre with some very confronting scenes. Not recommended for children.

### **WALKABOUT** (1971)

Rated M 15+

Directed by: Nicholas Roeg

Starring: Jenny Agutter, David Gulpilil

The story chronicles the physical, spiritual and emotional journey of a brother and sister abandoned in the harsh Australian outback. Their struggle to survive leads them through the beautiful harsh landscape of central Australia. Many native animals make an appearance and the landscape constantly changes in surprising ways until they meet a young aboriginal boy who shows them some of the knowledge he has about bush survival. Early confronting scenes make this film unsuitable for children.

Note: Walkabout is a film by a British director, Nicholas Roeg. It is described as a mystical masterpiece which chronicles the physical spiritual and emotional journey of a brother and sister abandoned in the harsh Australian outback. Walkabout could also be described as depicting a clash of cultures and a showcase of Australian animals and landscapes for a British audience.

It is a film of the 1970's showing a slice of aboriginal culture and a journey of a young aboriginal man towards initiation in the traditional culture of the original Australians. You will be able to contrast this film with Rabbit Proof Fence and the much later Samson and Delilah where greater empathy and understanding are shown.