

MEDIA RELEASE

WONGUTHA TALES BAWOO STORIES & BADUDU STORIES by MAY O'BRIEN

ABOUT THE BOOK

First published as individual titles in 1992, May O'Brien's stories were groundbreaking publications, presenting traditional Indigenous stories in a bilingual text and giving a unique insight into learning English as a second language from a First Nations perspective. Classic tales such as *How Crows Became Black* and *Why the Emu Can't Fly* are still as fresh and appealing as ever for a new generation of junior readers. Stories based on the author's childhood at Mount Margaret Mission provide a gentle insight into First Nations history as well as creating empathy for those whose first language is not English and how that plays out in the classroom setting.

May's simple pronunciation guide for Wongutha words are perfect learning activities for the classroom.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

May O'Brien was born in the Eastern Goldfields of Western Australia, and at the age of five, was taken to Mount Margaret Mission where she spent the next twelve years. She taught in Western Australian rural and metropolitan primary schools for twenty-five years. May served in a number of other positions before being appointed Superintendent of Aboriginal Education, a position she held until her early retirement in 1988.

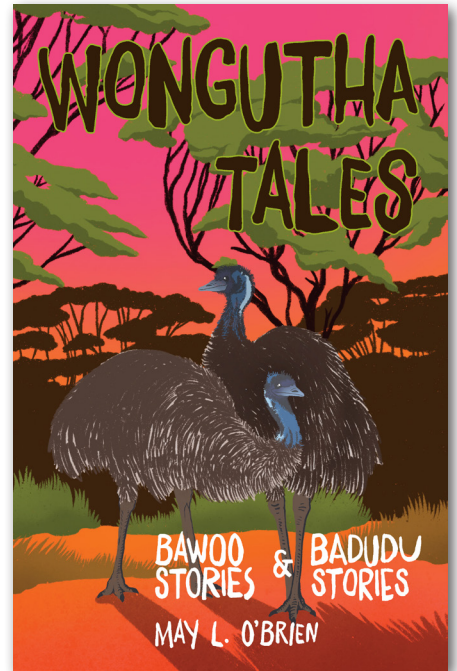


MEDIA NOTES

- May O'Brien was one of Australia's first Indigenous school teachers and was the first in Australia to be appointed to the role of Superintendent of Aboriginal Education. She was an exceptional community leader, a Churchill Scholar who studied in Europe – another first for her community – and a gifted storyteller. Later in life she was a National Indigenous English Literacy and Numeracy Strategy Ambassador for the Department of Education, Science and Training, and a Patron of the Australian Principals Associations Professional Development Council's 'Dare to Lead: taking it on' project. She also helped raise money as an Ambassador for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.
- Australian educators have told us they want more First Nations junior fiction for reluctant readers and to help teach reading in schools. This book fits into the Australian cross-curriculum priority: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and culture.

PRAISE FOR THE AUTHOR

'These are delightful stories stand on their own and most useful in a class where Aboriginal understandings is being discussed.' *ReadPlus*



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