

July 2024 – books to celebrate NAIDOC week and Megafauna month

Birriliburu Bush Tucker, by Lena Long, Gladys Ashwin, Rita Cutter et al; Pormpuraaw Cultural uses for plants, by Pormpuraaw Arts and Culture Centre Inc; The Kamberri, Weereewaaa History Series vol 1, by Ann Jackson-Nakano; Tunnels in Time by Lyndall Dawson; Diprotodon: A megafauna journey, by Bronwyn Saunders.

- *Birriliburu Bush Tucker*, by Lena Long, Gladys Ashwin, Rita Cutter et al
The Birriliburu Traditional Owners, Martu People, hold incredible knowledge about plant species on their country in Western Australia.
The book was created by the Birriliburu rangers between 2014 and 2023 to collate the Martu's stories and draw together their knowledge.
The book is arranged by plant use and contains photos of the Martu people demonstrating traditional gathering and preparation of the plants. Personal recollections and quotes from community members, lots of names in language and their pride as they display the bounty of their Country make this a joyous book.
- *Pormpuraaw Cultural uses for plants*, by Pormpuraaw Arts and Culture Centre Inc
Pormpuraaw is on the western side of Cape York Peninsula in Queensland, the traditional country of 3 languages groups. The plants are organised by landscape type (eg Inland ridges, Melon-hole Country) and beautifully photographed. Each has its name in the 3 languages, and clear descriptions explain how humans and animals use the plants for food, medicine, habitat, tools and toys. There are also warnings about the hazards of not preparing or using these plants correctly!
Another
- *The Kamberri*, vol 1, by Ann Jackson-Nakano
This is part of the Weereewaaa History Series looking at the post-contact history of Aboriginal people in the Lake George district, in this case in the Canberra and Queanbeyan region since the 1820s. Readers familiar with the ACT will recognise the names of many local places and First Nations families. The monograph is included in this month's reading list to acknowledge the NAIDOC theme, rather than for any botanical connection.
- *Tunnels in Time: the discovery, ecology and extinction of Australia's marsupial megafauna*, by Lyndall Dawson
'Tunnels in Time tells the story of fossil bones of giant animals found in caves, lake beds and riverbanks across Australia... Inevitably it is a story of extinctions, first of a vibrant rainforest fauna that existed until 10 million years ago, then of the more recent demise of the megafauna, the giant herbivores and carnivores that roamed Australia in the Pleistocene era...Research is brought to life with anecdotes and stories.'

- *Diprotodon: A megafauna journey*, by Bronwyn Saunders
‘Follow in the giant footsteps of Diprotodon, as he finds his own place in the world. Explore his Ice Age environment, encounters with other megafauna and the challenges he faces to survive.’ A picture book with a happy ending and a smidgin of science.