



# CONNECTING CULTURE: Tracing Ancestors

Resources Guide



# ABORIGINAL FAMILY HISTORY

## GETTING STARTED

The State Library of NSW holds an extensive collection of material that may be useful for people engaging in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family history research. This guide is intended as a quick reference to help you get started, and provides an overview of:

- the Library's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family history resources
- published books containing information on individuals, families and communities
- records and information held by other organisations.

To begin your research, talk to your family and gather as much information as you can. The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) has put together a handy template you can use to compile the information and develop a research plan. Download a family history kit at:

<http://aiatsis.gov.au/research/finding-your-family/family-history-kit>

## STATE LIBRARY OF NSW RESOURCES

### Aboriginal Australians Family History Research Guide

Use the Aboriginal Australians Family History Research Guide on the State Library of NSW website to determine which resources might be useful and other organisations you can approach:

<http://guides.sl.nsw.gov.au/aboriginal-australians>

The guide contains information on:

- beginning your family history research
- specific resources for Aboriginal family history
- books with Aboriginal family histories
- other organisations with Aboriginal records.

### Australian Indigenous Index (Infokoori)

The State Library of NSW has an index to names which draws on magazines and papers relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Search the Australian Indigenous Index (Infokoori) at: <https://primo-slnsw-sb.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/search?vid=KOORI&sortby=rank>

## PUBLISHED BOOKS

Published books can contain specific information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, families and communities. Here are some suggestions compiled by region:

### Central Coast

- Davis-Hurst, Patricia, *Sunrise Station*, Taree, NSW, Sunbird Publications, 1996, Q994.42092/D265.8/1
- Byrne, Denis & Nugent, Maria, *Mapping attachment: a spatial approach to Aboriginal post-contact heritage*, Hurstville, NSW: Department of Environment and Conservation NSW, c 2004, 363.69089/4
- Ryan, JS (John Sprott), *The land of Ulitarra: early records of the Aborigines of the mid-north coast of New South Wales together with various vocabularies*, Lismore, NSW: New South Wales Department of Education, North Coast Regional Office, 1988, Q305.89915/52
- Byrne, Denis, Partl, Sabine & Schilling, Kath, *Aboriginal women's heritage: Nambucca*, Hurstville, NSW, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2003, Q994.43004/4

### Far Western

- Elphick, Beverley Gulambali, Elphick, Don J, *Menindee Mission Station: 1933-1949*, Canberra, B and D Elphick, 1996, 994.0049915/85
- Beckett, Jeremy, Hercus, Luise & Martin, Sarah, *Mutawintji: Aboriginal Cultural Association with Mutawintji National Park*, Glebe, NSW, Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983, 2008, Q346.94404/150

### North Coast

- Moran, Ashley, *Aboriginal women's heritage: Ballina and Cabbage Tree Island*, Sydney, NSW, Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW, 2007, Q994.43004/3
- Partl, Sabine, Schilling, Kath & Veale, Sharon, *Aboriginal women's heritage: Port Stephens*, Hurstville, NSW: Department of Environment and Conservation, 2004, Q994.42004/2
- New South Wales Ministry for the Arts; Manning Regional Art Gallery; New South Wales Department of the Arts, Sport and Recreation; Arts NSW, *Oral histories and portraits of members of the Aboriginal community recorded in the Manning Valley and Great Lakes*, Taree, NSW: Manning Regional Art Gallery, 2005, Q994.42004/3

### North West

- Briggs-Smith, Noeline & McGregor, Wendy, *Winanga-li = To remember*, Moree, NSW, Northern Regional Library and Information Service, 1997, Q929.20994/320

- Briggs-Smith, Noeline, *Burrul Wallaay*, Moree, NSW, Northern Regional Library and Information Service, 2003, Q929.20994/605
- Somerville, Margaret & Dundas, Marie, *The sun dancin': people and place in Coonabarabran*, Canberra: Aboriginal Studies Press, 1994, 305.4889915/4
- Coonabarabran High School, *Life on Burra Bee Dee*, Dubbo, NSW, Development and Advisory Publications of NSW, 1987, 994.4400499/2 (SET)
- Gay, Teresa & Schilling, Kath, *Aboriginal men's heritage: Walgett and Collarenebri*, Hurstville, NSW, Department of Environment and Conservation, 2006, Q994.49004/4
- Gay, Teresa & Schilling, Kath, *Aboriginal women's heritage: Walgett and Collarenebri*, Hurstville, NSW, Department of Environment and Conservation, 2006, Q994.49004/2
- Brown, Carl, Journey of Healing (ACT) Inc, *Stories of the Ngunnawal*, Florey, ACT, Journey of Healing ACT Inc, 2007, 994.40049/6
- Egloff, Brian, Peterson, Nicolas & Wesson, Sue C, Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW), *Biamanga and Gulaga: Aboriginal cultural association with the Biamanga and Gulaga National Parks*, Surry Hills, NSW, Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Acts 1983 NSW, 2005, Q305.89915/306
- Byrne, Denis, *The mountains call me back: a history of the Aborigines and the forests of the far south coast of New South Wales*, Sydney, NSW Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, 1984, Q994.4700499/1
- Byrne, Denis, Partl, Sabine & Schilling, Kath, *Aboriginal women's heritage: Nowra*, Hurstville, NSW, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2004, Q994.43004/1
- Illert, CR (Christopher Roy), *Early ancestors of Illawarra's Wadi-Wadi people*, Wollongong, NSW, c 2003, Q994.46004/3

#### Northern

- Howell, Robyn, *The history and culture of the Aboriginal people of the Ashford district*, Sydney, Government Printer, 1983, Q994.4400499/1
- Le Maistre, Barbara & Hardie, MR, *Nimula, Tingha, Bullawangen: Aboriginal people and their land*, Hurstville, NSW, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, 1996, Q994.4400499/3
- Fennell, Marion Agnes & Grey, A, *Nucoorilma*, Sydney: University of Sydney, Department of Adult Education, Van Leer Foundation Project, 1974, Q981.8/34
- Cohen, Patsy & Somerville, Margaret, *Ingelba and the five black matriarchs*, Sydney, Allen & Unwin, 1990, 305.4868991/1

#### South Coast

- Organ, Michael, *Illawarra and South Coast Aborigines, 1770-1900*, Wollongong, NSW, M Organ, 1993, Q994.460049/1
- Bennett, Michael, *For a labourer worthy of his hire: Aboriginal economic responses to colonisation in the Shoalhaven and Illawarra 1770-1900*, Thesis (PhD) - University of Canberra, 2003, Q305.89915/332 SET
- Dunn, Cathy, *Mirryal: Budawang Aborigines featured in church records*, Milton, NSW, C Dunn, 2000, Q305.899/2
- Jackson-Nakano, Ann, *The Pajong and Wallabalooa: a history from the records of Aboriginal farming families at Blakney and Pudman Creeks, 1820-1945 and historical overview 1945-2002*, Canberra, Aboriginal History Inc, c 2002, Q994.00499/20
- Jackson-Nakano, Ann, *The Kamberri: a history from the records of Aboriginal families in the Canberra-Queanbeyan district and surrounds 1820-1927 and historical overview 1928-2001*, Canberra, Aboriginal History, 2001, Q994.00499/20

#### Sydney and Newcastle

- Kohen, JL, *The Darug and their neighbours: the traditional Aboriginal owners of the Sydney region*, Blacktown, NSW, Darug Link in association with the Blacktown and District Historical Society, 1993, 305.8991509/32
- Kohen, JL, *Daruganora: Darug Country - the place and the people*, Blacktown, NSW, Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation, 2006, Q305.89915/323
- Johnson, Dianne D, *Sacred waters: the story of the Blue Mountains Gully Aboriginal people*, Rushcutters Bay, NSW, Halstead Press, 2007, Q305.89915/337
- Smith, Jim, *Aborigines of the Burratorang Valley 1830-1960*, Wentworth Falls New South Wales, J Smith, c 1991, Q994.46004/1
- Ardler, Gloria, *The wander of it all*, Darlinghurst, NSW, Burruga Aboriginal History and Writing Group Inc, c 1991, 994.4004991/10

#### Wiradjuri

- Kabaila, Peter Rimas, *Wiradjuri places*, Jamison Centre, ACT, Black Mountain Projects, 1995-1998, F994.4004991/2 SET
- Elphick, Beverley Gulambali & Elphick, Don J, *The camp of mercy: an historical and biographical record of the Warangesda Aboriginal Mission/Station, Darlington Point, New South Wales*, Canberra, Gulambali Aboriginal Research, 2004, Q266.00994/1
- Elphick, Beverley Gulambali & Elphick, Don J, *Riverina Aborigines: 1874-1945*, Canberra, DJ & BP Elphick, 1997, Q994.0049915/64
- Keed, Rita, *Memories of Bulgandramine Mission*, Peak Hill, NSW, R Keed, 1985, 994.4500499/2

- Read, Peter, *Down there with me on the Cowra Mission: an oral history of Erambie Aboriginal Reserve, Cowra, New South Wales*, Sydney, Pergamon Press, 1984, 994.4500499/1
- Chaffe, Cathy, 'The Aboriginal people of Erambie [manuscript]: descendants of the Wiradjuri', Thesis (BA Hons) - Macquarie University, Sydney, 1981, Q994.4500499/2
- Hamilton, Fiona, *Aboriginal women's heritage: Brungle & Tumut*, Hurstville, NSW: Department of Environment and Conservation, c 2004, Q994.48004/1
- Dargin, Liz, Freeman, Dean, & Schilling, Kath, *Aboriginal women's heritage: Wagga Wagga*, Sydney, NSW, Department of Environment and Conservation NSW, 2006, Q994.48004/2
- Wagga Wagga Aboriginal Elders Group Incorporated, *Making waves for a new Dreaming*, Wagga Wagga, NSW, Wagga Wagga Aboriginal Elders Group Incorporated, 2001, Q305.89915/258

## OTHER ORGANISATIONS WITH ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER RECORDS

Records relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are held in many different organisations. Here are some of the organisations you might like to approach for access to particular types of records.

### Births Deaths & Marriages records:

NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages  
[www.bdm.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au)

### NSW State Government records:

State Archives and Records NSW  
[www.records.nsw.gov.au](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au)

### Aborigines Welfare Board (formerly Aborigines Protection Board) records:

Aboriginal Affairs NSW  
[www.aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au/)

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collections:

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS):  
<http://aiatsis.gov.au/>

## NEED HELP?

### YOU CAN ASK A LIBRARIAN!

Our Ask a Librarian service can assist with:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family history enquiries
- finding resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family history
- access to the Tindale Genealogies
- Stolen Generations family history

Complete the request form online:

[www.sl.nsw.gov.au/research-and-collections/ask-librarian](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/research-and-collections/ask-librarian)

Indigenous Services can assist with:

- Connecting Culture: Tracing Ancestors family history training
- family history research consultations

### Contact Indigenous Services:

Telephone: (02) 9273 1577

Email: [info.koori@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info.koori@sl.nsw.gov.au)

