

Australian historical novels for SOSE/ English/Literacy unit:

Dancing with Ben Hall

(Some of these books are published for adults and require a mature and strong reader; most are for a readership of upper primary – secondary years; some picture books and illustrated stories are included for weaker readers. Some may be difficult to find, or out of date)

- Aldridge, James *The True Story of Lilli Stubeck*, Viking
The True Story of Spit McPhee, Viking
Country town life in Depression times
- Allanby, K *Courageous Crew* HarcourtBraceJovanovich 1992
Set around Dunalley, Tasman Peninsula
- Alexander, Goldie, *Surviving Sydney Cove*, Scholastic 2001
First settlement in Sydney
Mavis Road Medley, Margaret Hamilton Books, 1991
1933 Melbourne
Body and Soul, Indra Publishing, 2003
1938 Melbourne, family life, attitudes to Jewish refugees, disabled,
women
- Allen, P, *Our Don Bradman*, Scholastic 2004
Cricketer Don Bradman
- Baillie, Allan, *Riverman*, 1986
Loggers and miners in Western Tasmania, early 1900s
Songman, Penguin 1994
Pre European contact with Macassans
Secrets of Walden Rising, Puffin 1996
Gold rush, Captain Thunderbolt
Riding With Thunderbolt, Scholastic, 2004
Busranger Captain Thunderbolt
- Baird Patricia, *An Unletterd Girl: Her life o the goldfields* ,
SRM Production, 2004 095803407
Victorian goldfields, 1850s
- Bancroft, Bronwyn, *The Whalers*,
Twofold Bay whaling, Aborigines
- Baron, Antonia, *Jeremy Jeremiah*, Allen & Unwin, 1995
Life in 19th century gold rush town
- Bates, Dianne, *The Hold-up Heroes* ,National Museum of Australia, 2006
busrangers
- Bell, Helen, *Idjhil*, University of West Australia Press, 1996
Picture book: stolen children
- Bernard, Patricia, *Monkey Hill Gold*, Omnibus 1992
Chinese migrants, gold rush
Fords and Flying Machines, Scholastic 2004
Early days of cars and Qantas
Claw of the Dragon, Ashton Scholastic, 2008

Broome, piracy, pearling

Blackman Jenny, *Our Enemy, My Friend*, Scholastic 2005

Treatment of Germans in WWII

Bastian, Greg, *The Gold Seekers*, 2006

Gold fields, Korean children

Boldrewood, Ralph, *Robbery Under Arms*, Penguin, 1985

Bushranging, gold rushes

Bowles, Colin, *Nights in the Sun*, Penguin 2003

Life in Broome

Brinsmead, Hesba, *I Will Not the Day is Done*, 1983

Flooding of Lake Pedder

Pastures of the Blue Crane, UQP Children's Classics, 2004

Aboriginal relations, Kanaka labour on sugarfields

Brooksbank, Anne, *On Loan*, Puffin 1985

Vietnamese adopted child in 1980s

Broome, Errol, *Splashback*, Allen & Unwin, 1996

Early 1800s whaling

Bunney, Ron, *The Hidden*, Fremantle Arts Centre Press 2000

Eye of the Eagle, Fremantle Arts Centre Press 1995

No One Owns Me, Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 2004

Outback camel transport industry, Afghan migrants, coming of

trucks

and cars

All That Glitters, Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 2005

WA gold rush

Carey, Peter, *The True Story of the Kelly Gang* UQP, 2000

Ned Kelly

Carr, Roger Vaughan, *Piano Bay*, Walter McVitty Books, 1991

shipwrecks

Firestorm, Puffin, 1989

Ash Wednesday bushfires 1983

Caswell, Brian & David Phu An Chiem, *Only the Heart*, UQP, 1997

Vietnamese refugees

Chadwick, Doris, *John of the Sirius*,

First Fleet

Chandler, Diane, *Diane's Diary*, Maygog, 2003

Women in workplace, 1950s

Charlton, Ann, *Dangerous Places*, Hodder, 2004

Press-ganged, life on run in colonial Victoria, goldrush & Eureka

Stockade

Charlwood, *All The Green Year*, Angus & Robertson, 1978

30s country life

Cheng, Christopher, *New Gold Mountain*, Scholastic, 2005

Lambing Flat anti-Chinese riots

The Melting Pot, Scholastic, 2007

Sydney's Chinese community, White Australia policy

Seams of Gold, National Museum of Australia, 2007

Chinese on the goldfields

Clarke, Marcus, *For The Term of His Natural Life*

Convict life in VDL and Norfolk Island

Collins, Alan, *The Boys From Bondi*, UQP, 1987

Growing up Jewish in depression children's home

Courtenay, Bryce, *The Potato Factory*, William Heinemann Australia,
1995

Crew, Gary, *The Lacemaker's Daughter*, Pan, 2005

The Diviner's Son, Pan, 2003

1850s, life in VDL, spiritualism

Strange Objects, 1990

Batavia shipwreck

Mama's Babies, Lothian 1998

Baby farming

The Saw Doctor, National Museum of Australia, 2006

Great Depression

Crew & Neilsen, *Edward Britten* Lothian 2000

Point Puer Convict Boys Settlement

Crew and Whatley, *Quetta*, Lothian, 2002

Shipwreck

Crew and Wilson, *I Saw Nothing: The Extinction of*

The Thylacine, Lothian, 2003

Tasmanian Tiger, picture book

Crew and Wilson, *Young Murphy: a boy's adventure*, Lothian, 2005

Picture book, Ludwig Leichhardt's journey of discovery

Crookes, David, *Blackbird*, Big Indian, 1996

Early settlement in Qld, migrants, Kanaka slave labour

Croser, Josephine, *Making Best*, Era, 1993

Darke, Eleanor, *The Timeless Land*, Collins, 1941

Storm of Time, Collins, 1948

No Barrier, Collins, 1953

Trilogy dealing with penal settlement and colonisation

Disher, Garry, *Moondyne Kate*, Hodder, 2001

Bushranging, gold rush, 1865

Disher, Garry, *The Bamboo Flute*

30s Depression

Disher, Garry, *The Divine Wind*

Broome, incarceration of Japanese in WWII, Treatment of

Aborigines

Disher, Garry, *The Apostle Bird*, Hodder 1997

- Great Depression, gold fossicking, camps of unemployed in rural
SA
- Deason, Denise, *Welcome Stranger*, Viking, 2005
Gold Rush
- Doyle, Malachi, *12,000 Mile from Home*, Watts, 1999
Child migration, Bindoon
- Drewe, Robert, *Our Sunshine*, Penguin 1991
Ned Kelly
- Dubosarsky, Ursula, *The Red Shoe*, Allen and Unwin, 2006
Petrov Affair, 1950s childhood
- Eaton, Anthony, *Fireshadow* Penguin 2004
German POWs in WWII
- Edwards, Christine, *On Board the Boussole*, Scholastic
French explorer, La Perouse
- Egan, Ted, & Robert Ingpen, *The Drover's Boy* Lothian 1997
**Lyric, picture book, early 20th century droving,
Aboriginal women**
- Eldridge, Jim, *The Trenches*,
Boy soldiers, Western Front W W 1
- Epstein, June, *When Tracy Came for Christmas*, Longman Cheshire, 1982
Cyclone Tracy
- Evans, Alwyn, *Walk in my Shoes*, 2004
Asylum seekers, detention centres
- Farrer, Vashti, *Plagues and Federation*, Scholastic, 2000
1901 bubonic plague, Federation
Ned's Kang-u-roo, Otto Books 1997
Captain Cook
Eureka Gold, 1993
- Archer's Melbourne Cup* Scholastic, 2007
Beginnings of Melb Cup
- Farthing-Knight, Catherine, *Days with Gran*, UQP, 1995
Daily urban life in 1940s, picture book
- Fatchen, Max, *The River Kings*, Wakefield Press, 2004
Murray River Paddle Steamers
- Ferrier, Susanne, *Ned: A Leg End*, Collins, 1984
Ned Kelly, picture book
- Ferrier, Susanne, *Lola*, Collins, 1985
Lola Montez and her Spider Dance, picture book
- Flanagan, Martin, *The Call*, Allen&Unwin 1998
Origins of Aussie Rules, 1860s
- Flanagan, Richard, *Gould's Book of Fish*, Picador, 2002
1828, convict life

Frances *Edge of Fear*

Frankland , Richard J, *Digger J. Jones* Scholastic 2007

Aboriginal rights, 1967 Referendum

Fraser King, Lorraine, *Mannin Boy* ,Trafford Publishing, 2006

Fishing, goldfields

French Jackie, *Tom Appleby: Convict Boy*, Angus & Robertson, 2004

First Fleet, contact with Eora

Valley of Gold, Angus & Robertson, 2003

Discovery of gold in Araluen Valley

Daughter of the Regiment, Angus&Robertson, 1997

Somewhere Around the Corner, Angus & Robertson, 1994

1932 Depression

How the Finnegans Saved The Ship Angus&Robertson, 2001

Irish migration, conditions on board ship

Soldier on the Hill, Angus & Robertson, 1997

End of WWII, cut off Japanese soldiers

The Day I was History, National Museum of Australia, 2007

Canberra bushfires

One Perfect Day, National Museum of Australia, 2006

1927 opening of Parliament House, Canberra

A Rose for the Anzac Boys , HarperCollins, 2008-04-28

Soldiers and female volunteers on the battlefields of France, W W 1

Fowler, Thurley, *The Green Wind*, Puffin 2004

post WWII rural life

Gaita, Raimond, *Romulus, My Father* 1998

1950s, European migrants

Geason, Susan, *All Fall Down*, Little Hare, 2005

Plague, suffragettes in early 1900s Sydney

Gleeson, Libby, *Eleanor Elizabeth*, Puffin, 1986

1960s

The Rum Rebellion, Scholastic

Gov. Bligh, Rum Rebellion

Refuge, Penguin, 1988

Hiding asylum seekers

Ray's Olympics National Museum of Australia, 2006

Melbourne Olympics

Greagg, David, *Burke and Wills forgot the frying pan*, Allen & Unwin, 2005

Picture book, Burke and Wills cross Australia expedition

Greenwood, Mark, *The Legend of Lasseter's Reef*,

University of West Australia Press, 2003

- Lasseter's lost gold reef
Greenwood, Mark, & Frane Lessac, *Simpson and his Donkey*, Walker Books, 2008
- Golds, Cassandra, & Axelsen, Stephen, *The Mostly True Story of Matthew and Trim*, Puffin, 2005
Cartoon telling of Matthew Flinders' explorations
- Gough, Sue, *A Long Way to Tipperary*, UQP, 1992
Touring Theatre troupes
- Green, Cliff, *Boy Soldiers*, Penguin, 1990
WWI, military training for 15 y.o. boys
- Greenwood, Kerry, *A Different Sort of Real*, Scholastic, 2001
Influenza epidemic after WWI
The Long Walk, Hodder 2004
Great Depression, building of Great Ocean Road
Journey to Eureka, Hachette Children's Books, 2005
Voyage from England, Eureka Stockade
- Greenwood, Mark, *The Legend of Moondyne Joe*, Cygnet Books, 2002
Bushranger, picture book
- Grenville, Kate, *The Secret River*, Text, 2005
Transportation, convicts, Aboriginal/settler interaction
- Hague, Graeme, *And In The Morning*, Simon & Schuster
Gallipoli
- Halligan, Marion & Mackintosh, David, *The Midwife's Daughters*, Mammoth, 1996
- Hann Syme, Marguerite, *Burnt Out*, Omnibus, 2001
1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires, SA
- Harris, Christine, *Strike!*, Random House 1994
1928 waterfront strike, Port Adelaide
- Outback*, Ashton Scholastic 2005
Late 1920s, Flying Doctor
Audrey of the Outback, 2008
Depression, surviving on the land
- Hausman, G & L, *Escape from Botany Bay*, Scholastic, 2003
Mary Bryant, early settlement of Sydney
- Hawke, Rosanne, *A Kiss in Every Wave*, Lothian, 2001
WWII
- Hayes, Rosemary, *The Silver Fox*, Puffin, 1997
Loch Ard shipwreck
Blood Ties, Penguin, 2001
Barnardo's orphans from UK
- Heiss, Anita, *Who Am I?* Scholastic
Stolen children
- Hepworth, John, *Paper Boy*, Puffin, 1985
1930s
- Hesse, Karen, *Stowaway*, Margaret McElderry Books, 2002

- On board with Captain Cook
 Hill, Anthony, *The Burnt Stick*, Penguin 1994
 Stolen children, illustrated story
River Boy, National Museum of Australia, 2006
- Murray River paddle steamers**
- Hill, Deidre, *A Bridge of Dreams*, Hodder and Stoughton, 1982
 Sydney in 1920s & 30s, Sydney Harbour Bridge
- Hill Ernestine, *My Love Must Wait*, A&R Classics, 2002
- Matthew Flinders**
- Hooper, Meredith, *The Journal of Watkin Stench*, Lutterworth, 1988
 First Fleet settlement from rat's p.o.v.
- Hutchison, David, *Many Years a Thief*, Wakefield Press 2007
- Juvenile convicts, WA**
- Hyde, Michael, *Hey Joe* The Vulgar Press 2003
 Personal impact of Vietnam War
- Janson, Julie, *Black Mary*, Aboriginal Studies Press, 1996
 Playscript, Aboriginal bushranger Mary Ann and partner,
 Captain Thunderbolt, 1850s
- Jorgensen, N., & Harrison-Lever, B., *In Flanders Fields*,
 Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 2002
 Christmas Truce during WWI
- Kelleher, Victor, *Baily's Bones*, Viking
 Aboriginal massacres
- Keneally, Tom, *An Angel in Australia*, Random House, 2003
- World War II, Sydney, religion**
- King, John Anthony, *An Uncommonly Fine Day*, Collins, 1987
 Picture book, landing of First Fleet
- Klein, Robin, *All in the Blue Unclouded Weather*, Puffin, 1991
Dresses of Red and Gold, Puffin, 1992
The Sky in Silver Lace, Puffin
 All three about family life in 1950s
- Lawrence, Iain, *The Convicts*, Delacorte, 2005
 Criminal life, the hulks, and transportation, mostly in Britain
- Lawrinson, Julia, *The Push*, Penguin, 2008
- 1950s, Sydney, feminism**
- Lefroy, Frylink & Duke, *The Pipeline C.Y. O'Connor Built*,
 Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 2003
 Picture book, bringing water to Kalgoorlie
- Lendis, C & J, *Postcards from the town that disappeared*,
 Forest Education Foundation, 2004
 Life in 1920s bush settlement, picture book
- Lisson, Deborah, *The Devil's Own*, Lothian
 Batavia wreck
The Yankee Whaler, Scholastic, 2001

- Escape of Irish Fenian convicts, WA
 Macdonald, Wendy, *The Castaway Convict*,
 University of Western Australia Press, 2005
 Point Puer boys prison
- Marsden, J & Tan, S, *The Rabbits*, 1998
colonisation
- Martin, David, *The Cabby's Daughter*, 1974
 Life in 1903 in small country town
The Chinese Boy, Globe/Macmillan, 1977
 1860 goldrush in NSW, Chinese migrants
The Man in the Red Turban, Hutchinson, 1978
 The Depression, itinerant Sikh hawker along Murray River
The Girl Who Didn't Know Kelly, Hutchinson, 1985
 Life in 1881s Beechworth, Kelly gang
- Metzenthien, David *Wildlight*, Penguin, 2002
 Settling the bush
Boys of Blood and Bone, Penguin 2003
 WWI
Blackwater, Penguin, 2007
- McCullough, Colleen, *The Touch*, Century
- McDonald, Roger, *1915: a novel*, UQP, 1988
 WW I
- McHugh, S, *Snowy*, Scholastic 2004
 Migrants, Snowy Mts Scheme
- McRobbie, David, *Mandragora*, 1991
 Wreck of Loch Ard
- McRobbie, David, *Mum, me and the 19C*, Angus and Robinson 2002
 Time travel back into 1800s pioneer days
- McRobbie, David, *Strandee*, Angus and Robinson 2003
 Sequel to above but time travel to modern times from 1800s
- Montano, Josie, & Mary Serenc, *Cross-eyed Jack*, Lothian, 2005
 Gold rush
- Murray, Kristy, *Market Blues*, Lothian, 2001
- Walking Home with Marie Claire*, Allen & Unwin
 1970s, Vietnam moratorium, feminism
Bridie's Fire, Allen & Unwin, 2003
 1850s, orphaned Irish girls shipped to Australia
Becoming Billy Dare, Allen&Unwin 2004
 1890s, touring theatre troupe in Australian bush
A Prayer for Blue Delaney, Allen & Unwin, 2005
 Post WWII Children of Empire immigrants
A Penny to Remember, National Museum of Australia, 2007
Child convicts

Newton, Nerida, *The Lambing Flat*, UQP, 2003
 Lambing Flat anti-Chinese riots

Newton, Robert, *Runner*, Penguin 2005
 Gangster Squizzy Taylor
 The Black Dog Gang, Penguin 2007
 1900, The Rocks, Sydney, plague

Noonan, Michael, *McKenzie's Boots*, UQP, 1987
 WWII soldiers in PNG

O'Neill, Judith, *So Far From Skye*, Penguin, 1992
 Scottish crofter migration

O'Neill, Judith, *Deepwater*, Mammoth, 1987
 Effect of WW1 on farming communities

Park, Ruth, *Poor Man's Orange*, Angus & Robertson, 1949
 Great Depression

Park, Ruth, *Come Danger, Come Darkness*, Hodder and Stoughton 1978
 Convict settlement on Norfolk Island

Park, Ruth, *Playing Beattie Bow*, 1989
 1800s The Rocks

Pausaker, Jenny, *Can You Keep A Secret?*, 1986
 Depression
 A Tale of Two Families, Scholastic, 2000
 Vietnam Moratorium

Porter, James, *Piya*, 1991

Ridden, Brian, *Whistle Man*, Lothian, 2000
 Ned Kelly and gang
 Sweet Tea, Lothian, 2002
 Kanaka kidnapping for sugar field labour
 Lifeboat, Lothian, 2004
 1850s, goldfields, Chinese, shipwrecks

Roberts, Beth, *Manganinie* Longman Cheshire, 1993
 Tasmanian Aborigines

Roy, James, *Billy Mack's War*, UQP, 2004
 WWII

Rudd, Steele, *On Our Selection*, UQP
 Hardship of life for selectors in late 1880 -1920

Saunders, G.K., *Maggie Jackson's Kid*, Aboriginal Studies Press, 1998
 Sydney in 1820s, European/aboriginal contact

Savvides, Irini, *A Marathon of Her Own*, Scholastic 2004
 Greek immigrants, Melbourne Olympics

Scott, Bill, *The Currency Lad*, Walter McVitty, 1994
 1850s NSW

Shaw, Patricia, *Storm Bay*, Headline Book Publishing, 2005
 Transportation to VDL

Shueard, Hallett, *Nemesis: Murder on the Southern Seas*, Peacock,
 2004

- 1724 wreck of Dutch vessel, Aboriginals, early 1800s seafarers,
pirates
- Small, Mary, *The Catastrophe Cat*, Cygnet 2005
Cyclone Tracy
- Spence, Eleanor, *The Family Book of Marie Claire*, Collins Dove, 1991
Family saga covering 1800s to present
- Stafford, Paul, *Ned Kelly's Helmet*, Crawford House, 1998
Humorous account of Kelly gang
- Starke, Ruth, *Orphans of the Queen*, Lothian 2004
English orphan emigrants, Royal Tour
- Strutt, William, *Cooey*, National Library of Australia, 1989
Written in 1901, lost children, bush trackers
- Summons, John, *Massacre at Myall Creek*, Cambridge, 1993
Playscript, Myall Creek massacre
- Sunderland, Alan, *Refugee: the Diary of Ali Ismail*, Scholastic 2006
Asylum seeker, detention centres
- Svendsen, Mark, *Poison Under Their Lips* Lothian, 2001
- Svendsen, Mark, *Rat-face and Snake-eyes*, Lothian
1930s children surviving in wharf area
- Tanton, Bruce, *Time's Lost Hero*, 1990
- Thiele, Colin, *The Sun on the Stubble*, 1961
Depression
River Murray Mary, 1979
1920s Murray River paddle steamers
Emma Keppler, Walter McVitty, 1991
German community in Barossa Valley, role of women
- Tonkin, Rachel, *To The Goldfields*, 1999
Picture Book, goldrush
What Was the War Like, Grandma?
Picture book, life at home during WWII
Papa and the Olden Days, Heinemann, 1989
Picture book, life in Thoona, a Victorian rural community, in late
1800s
- Tucker, Alan, *The Bombing of Darwin*, Scholastic, 2002
Japanese bombing of Darwin, WWII
Cyclone Tracy, Scholastic, 2006
Darwin cyclone
- Turner, Ethel, *Seven Little Australians*, Puffin, 1994
Sydney household in 1890s
- Walters, Celeste, *Only a Donkey*, Puffin, 2007
Picture book, Simpson and his donkey
- Wheatley, Nadia, *A Banner Bold*, Scholastic, 2000

Eureka Rebellion

The House That Was Eureka, Penguin 2001 edition

Eviction riots in Newtown, Sydney 1920s

My Place, Collins, 1988

One location over 200 years, picture book

Willmo, Eric , *Pemulwuy, the Rainbow Warrior*, , 1987

Aboriginal Resistance fighter

Wolfer, D., & Harrison-Leaver, B, *Photographs in the Mud*,

Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 2005

Picture book, WWII Kokoda Track