Bibliography

Getting Started


This is the most current and comprehensive website on the subject of Australian Indigenous Astronomy. Includes new articles published by leading academics in the field, educational downloads and further study links. This site has information on active researchers and has an interactive map where you can discover the star traditions by location and community. Users also have the option of looking up traditions by topic; discover how astronomical objects such as the sun, moon, planets were perceived by Aboriginal communities across Australia.


Emu Dreaming created by Ray Norris and partnered with Sydney Rock Engraving is one of the earlier websites dedicated to Australian Indigenous Astronomy. Last updated in 2011, this website, although not current, provides useful information on research specific to the Sydney basin.

Ronan Films 2019, We Don’t Need a Map, Vimeo video stream, viewed on 5 October 2019, <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/wedontneedamap/257989725>

In this documentary, critically acclaimed Samson and Delilah director Warwick Thornton explores the Southern Cross constellation and its current representation as a symbol of exclusion among white Australia, a far cry from the spiritual significance the constellation embodies in Australian Aboriginal groups. Speaking to Australians from all walks of life, Thornton teases out the social meaning of the Southern Cross, what it became - tattoos, patriotism - and finds moments of stillness when speaking to elders about the significance of the constellation to Australian Aboriginal communities.

@AboriginalAstro, 2019, Indigenous Astronomy, Twitter feed, viewed on 2 October 2019, <https://twitter.com/aboriginalastro?lang=en>

Dreamings

Western Local Land Services 2014, Through Our Eyes - Dhinawan ‘Emu’ In The Sky with Ben Flick, YouTube 24 March, viewed on 19 October 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LzFYFutiiwoA>
Kamilaroi man Ben Flick tells the Dreaming of the Emu in the Sky. This short is part of a series called ‘Through our Eyes’ produced by the NSW Western Local Land Council. Each short focuses on the traditional knowledge of the local area. This story explains how observational astronomy is used to identify the correct time of year to collect emu eggs.


This introductory text written by astrophysicist Professor Ray Norris to Aboriginal Astronomy within Australia is easy to read and provides insight into rare historical manuscripts, Sydney rock art and reflection on time spent with the Yolngu communities in Arnhem Land and other significant Aboriginal sites. Focusing on the Dreaming of the Emu in the Sky, this pocket-sized and brief text provides a broad overview on the way the sun, moon and dark clouds are understood by Aboriginal communities.

Seven Sisters Online 2015, *KURU ALA: KUNGKARRANGKALPA SEVEN SISTERS SONGLINE*, streaming video, viewed on 19 October [<http://sevensisterssongline.com/films/>]

The story of the Seven Sisters as told by Jennifer Mitchell, Lalla West, Lennard Walker and other custodians in 2014. Filmed in collaboration with Australian National University, Papulankuti Artist and the Ngaanyatjarra Council Land and Culture Program funded by the Australian Research Council. The Songline follows the journey of seven sisters as they are chased across three deserts and eventually into the sky as the pleiades star cluster. As they make their journey they sing the landscape into place and so creating an oral history of country.


This book is a companion text to the Aboriginal-led exhibition held by the National Museum of Australia. This book explores the Seven Sisters Songline as it crosses the vast country of Australia and includes artworks, story and analysis of the ‘stories written in the land’.


**Books**
Pascoe, B 2014, *Dark Emu*, Magabala Books, Broome, WA.

Written by Bruce Pascoe an Australian Indigenous writer, *Dark Emu* challenges the hunter-gatherer tag given to pre-colonial Aboriginal people living in Australia. Pascoe presents evidence of irrigation, sowing and early agriculture and argues that Aboriginal people were not just wanderers but masters of their own knowledge systems and practices. Using the historical record, Pascoe encourages readers to fact check his findings and reevaluate Australia’s historical narrative.

Cairns, H & Yidumduma Harney, B 2003, *Dark Sparklers: Yidumduma’s Wardaman Astronomy*, Hugh Campbell Cairns, Merimbula, NSW.

In *Dark Sparklers* Bill Yidumduma Harney shares knowledge that has been passed down from his Wardaman Elders. Written half in the voice of Bill and half of Dr Cain this book gives an in depth look at Wardaman sky lore from both an Indigenous and Western perspective. This is one of the only texts which provide a deep analysis of a single groups night sky knowledge systems.


Using historical records to piece together the early agricultural history in South-eastern Australia, this book explores the understanding Aboriginal people had of the natural environment, flora and fauna cycles, resource management health and education. Similar to *Dark Emu* by Bruce Pascoe, this book provides a broader look at Indigenous Knowledge systems.

Media

TedXTalk 2019, 65,000 yrs - the great history of Australian Aboriginal Astronomy | Kirsten Banks | TEDxYouth@Sydney, YouTube 7 May, viewed on 10 October 2019  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYr7ZCn04eA>

Wiradjuri woman Kirsten Banks shares her passion for astronomy and her culture at TedXSydney in April 2019. Banks shares her unique experience as a trained astrophysicist working in the Sydney Observatory and talks about some of the problems facing astronomy in built up areas for example light pollution. Banks shares the Wiradjuri dreaming of the emu in the sky and explains how, once the stars aligned, Wiradjuri people would collect the emu eggs.

The Feed 2017, Indigenous Astronomer: Karlie Noon - The Feed, YouTube 28 May, viewed on 19 October 2019  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BuFrnm3RytA>

Indigenous Astronomer Karlie Noon speaks to The Feed, a youth news program, about moon halos, the perception of Indigenous Knowledge and her experience within the field.
This 8 minute segment provides another Indigenous perspective on working in science and some of the obstacles faced by young Indigenous people.

**Astronomy Basics**


This guide created by ABC Science provides an introductory look into astronomy. Providing Astronomy basics, instructions on star navigation and sky tours, this guide is a great starting point for amateur astronomers.

Eyes on the Sky 2015, **Stellarium: Getting Started, YouTube** 29 August, viewed on 18 October 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYF7SR99ZOw>

**Stellarium 2019, Stellarium latest version is 0.19.2, Stellarium,** viewed on 09 October, <https://stellarium.org/>  

Stellarium Astronomy Software is a free open source virtual planetarium package. Easy to download and use, view the night sky from anywhere in the world and at any time - past, present and future. Great tool to use when looking into historical astronomy.


**Cultural Competence**

**The University of Sydney 2019, National Centre for Cultural Competence, The University of Sydney,** viewed on 9 October 2019, <https://sydney.edu.au/nccc/>  

The National Centre of Cultural Competence is a joint initiative between the University of Sydney and the Australian Government. The site provides information on the latest research, training, resources and events.


The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) has created the Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies (GERAIS).
Published in 2012, this is the latest edition of GERAIS and comprises of 14 principles covering protocols, emerging developments, research impacts, collaboration and more.


This unpublished 2018 Masters thesis written by Carla Bento Guedes explores how cultural competency can help build relationships between Indigenous people and scientists who sort to built research facilities on sacred lands. This is investigated through two case studies; Hawaii’s - Thirty Meter Telescope and Africa and Australia’s Square Kilometre Array project.


A subject guide created by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS). This guide provides search terms and links to resources including search terms, links to intellectual property and information around welcome to country.

Additional Resources


Hamacher, D 2016, Aboriginal Astronomy Blog, Blogspot, viewed on 02 October 2019 <http://aboriginalastronomy.blogspot.com/>


Hosted by the National Library of Australia, Trove is an Australian database which aggregates information from members of the National and State Libraries of Australasia.