



THE INDIGENOUS LITERACY FOUNDATION

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MEDIA RELEASE

PAAKANTYI & ENGLISH CHILDREN'S BOOKS LAUNCHED IN WILCANNIA & MENINDEE

A series of books encouraging children to read and develop literacy skills in both Paakantyi and English, will be launched by The Indigenous Literacy Foundation in July in Wilcannia and Menindee, north-west NSW.

The two books, *No Tharlta on the Bus* and *Lenny & the Big Red Malka*, are part of the first books ever published in dual language for the community. The publication has been made possible with the support of the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund.

Aimed at children who are just learning to read and write, these dual language books were written by Indigenous Language Consultant Faith Baisden were developed in consultation with Murray Butcher, a Paakantyi Language & Culture Officer based at Wilcannia.

The Indigenous Literacy Foundation will travel with Faith Baisden to Wilcannia and Menindee July 19-20 to launch and introduce the books through workshops to local schools.

No Tharlta on the Bus and *Lenny & the Big Red Malka* are beautifully illustrated and aim to introduce and build children's knowledge of Paakantyi language. Faith Baisden has also produced an Audio reader (pen) so that young children can hear and learn the correct pronunciation of the Paakantji words.

In 2011, The Indigenous Literacy Foundation launched the first book in the series, *My Mara Love to Clap* in both Menindee and Wilcannia.

The Indigenous Literacy Foundation is a not for profit charity of within the Australian Book Industry that supplies books and literacy resources to remote communities across Australia. The Foundation has delivered over 80,000 books to more than 200 communities across Australia in the past three years.

Author Faith Baisden specialises in writing and publishing books that can be adapted to include vocabulary from any Indigenous language.

For further information/interviews please contact Karen Williams, Executive Director, Indigenous Literacy Foundation on (02) 9698 2884/9319 2883 or 0404 075 924 or email: Karen@indigenouliteracyfoundation.org.au