



Yarnuping 2: Digital representation of Aboriginal and Torres Islander Culture, Heritage and Art: How do people engage and respond?

In this blog of Yarnuping we are looking at how Aboriginal People are represented in our Media. We have provided a few exercises for you to do, or follow up on your own.

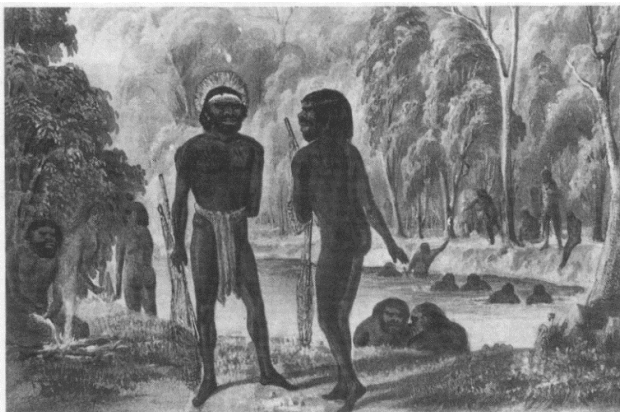
"I believe we are all connected whether we like it or not. We are all equal and the same in so many ways. My hope is that we as a nation can break down the silos between races, break down those stereotypes of minority populations, indigenous populations and all other minority groups. I hope we can be proud of our heritage regardless of the colour of our skin and be proud to be Australian." Adam Goodes

Excerpt from Australian of the Year Speech

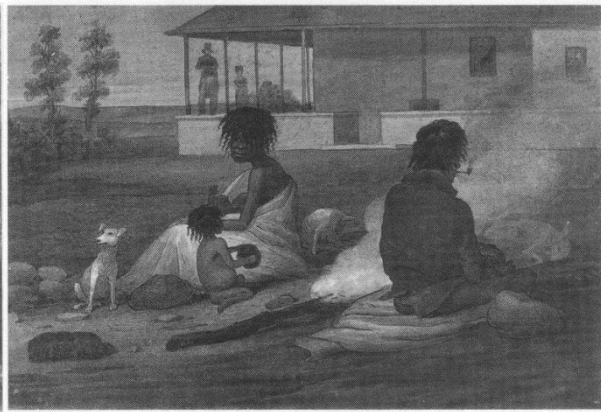
In the very recent past, most of what we saw of Aboriginal people expressed in mainstream media, were the worst stereo types. Alcoholics, people living on the street – any negative image was portrayed. We rarely saw the good news stories, of our people enacting change, becoming doctors, nurses, lawyers, schoolteachers etc. This is still happening. Who can forget the gaffe by our ex-Prime Minister Tony Abbott, speaking in front of the country, stating Australia began with Captain Cook?

Many drawings and writings after invasion saw us depicted as primitive ignorant savages. One of the best artists was Watling, sent to Australia for forging bank notes. The judge said he was an ingenious artist and the colony needed him. He left us great drawings of the people and colony.

There was competition to get the best stories back to England. There was good money to be made, and often-fantastical tales were written to earn a pound. These texts are enduring. We also have the writings of First Fleet travellers, Captain Watkin Tench, Captain David Collins, Officer William Bradley, Captain John Hunter, Chaplain Richard Johnson and Governor Phillip, although Phillip's diary is lost and is cobbled together from the letters he wrote. The convicts and midshipman also wrote diaries. Captain Watkin Tench was said to be a humanist and perhaps due to this his writings show us a growing and deeper understanding of Aboriginal people. Many of these diaries are now made available digitally through the libraries.



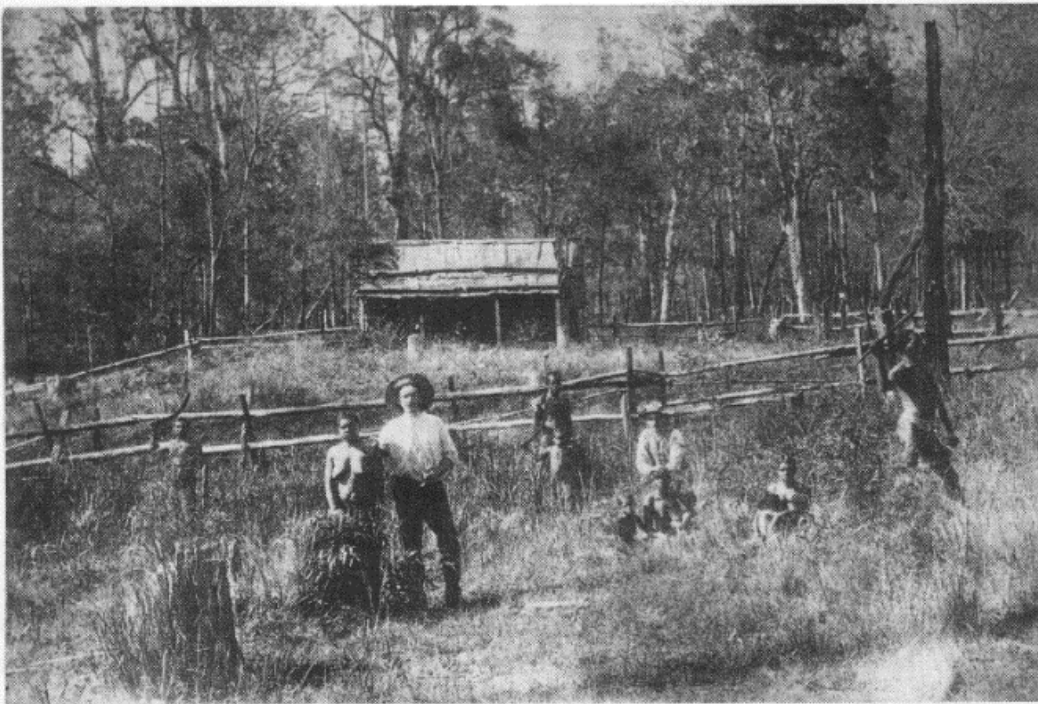
Thirty years later, Aboriginal people were regarded as a 'rural pest' and artists were depicting them as short, ugly and heavy-featured.



One of the most famous images of Aboriginal life around Sydney in the early 1830s, this painting by Augustus Earle perfectly captures the profound effect of dispossession.

Later images were posed for the Camera.

EXERCISE: You may be able to research images from newspapers prior to the Olympics in Australia in 2000 to see how Aboriginal people were depicted in the media.



This photo gives a unique view of the life of the early settler — the simple hut, the crude fences, the Aboriginal woman for sexual purposes, and the group of Aboriginal men as casual labour.



A bizarre posed photograph in which a white settler is depicted in hand-to-hand combat with a 'savage'.

The lack of Aboriginal education in Primary, Secondary and Tertiary educational institutions meant that factual knowledge of Aboriginal people was built on hearsay, conjecture and racist attitudes.

In 1991 Reconciliation Circles were set up. The Reconciliation Council initiated these circles in 1991 with the "aim of improving relations between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians". This was particularly important as all the tourists arrived for the 2000 Olympics.

Some reconciliation groups continue to exist today and do wonderful work in holding talks and film nights.

EXERCISE: Watch *Whiteys Like Us* to see how people tackled issues in the late 1990s

Whiteys Like Us

Initial release: 1999

Director: Rachel Landers

Producer: Tom Zubrycki

Genre: Documentary

Running time: 52m

A reconciliation group on Northern Beaches

Available Ronin Films

<https://www.roninfilms.com.au/feature/522/whiteys-like-us.html>



CURRENT

EXERCISE: Please look at the *Final Quarter* and *Australian Dream* documentaries to see how Adam Goodes' stand against Racism was treated in the mainstream media

Australian Dream

The Australian Dream is a theatrical feature documentary that uses the remarkable and inspirational story of AFL legend Adam Goodes as the prism through which to tell a deeper and more powerful story about race, identity and belonging.



Final Quarter

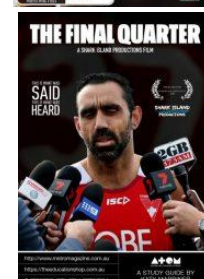
Release Date: 7 June 2019

Directed by: Ian Darling

Produced by: Ian Darling, Mary Macrae

Genre: Documentary

Running Time: 1h 15m



SEE APPENDIX BELOW for Shark Islands Educational Resources for *Final Quarter*

OTHER CURRENT MEDIA

NITV has been an incredible change. It was launched free to air in 2012, existing prior to this as Imparja only available by satellite in the central desert area of Australia. NITV brought our culture, our stories, our elders, our mob, our news, our sport, our comedy, our music, dance, art and spiritual dreamings.

Koori Radio 93.7 is a community radio station based in Redfern broadcasting to Sydney . It is part of the Gadigal Information Service and is the only radio station in Sydney providing full-time broadcasting to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. It went to air in 2001 but had humble beginnings as Radio Redfern, which began in 2008.

Before this we relied on Koori Mail Newspaper / Indigenous Times Newspaper. Our elders created days of sharing – NAIDOC WEEK, Sorry Day, Mabo Day etc as mainstream TV ignored us.

Most Aboriginal people love FaceBook and use this to connect with family, mob and share stories.

ABC / SBS Television has represented our stories and our mobs with much greater respect
But even now - when they speak about COVID -19 and the restrictions many don't repeat the advice for
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over 50 to stay home
Again it can feel like we don't exist.

EXERCISE: Review Hetti & Rachel Perkins

Hetti and Rachel Perkins – Daughters of the great activist Charlie Perkins have pushed our stories to the fore

ART & SOUL Hetti Perkins

<https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/exhibitions/art-soul/curator-insights-hetti-perkins/>

<https://iview.abc.net.au/show/art-soul>

<https://www.mup.com.au/books/art-soul-hardback>

BLACKFELLA FILMS Rachel Perkins

<http://blackfellafilms.com.au/about/>

<https://theeducationshop.com.au/downloads/senses-of-cinema-articles/rachel-perkins-creating-change-through-blackfella-films/>

The early Sydney Newspaper 'The Sydney Gazette' is being slowly digitised

Bangarra Dance Group tours the world telling our stories

<https://www.bangarra.com.au/>

Exercise: What else can you find?

APPENDIX

Shark Islands Educational Resources for *Final Quarter*

FULL SUITE OF LEARNING RESOURCES ONLINE

THE FINAL QUARTER NOW AVAILABLE ON iTUNES IN USA, CANADA, UK AND IRELAND

ACCESS FOR REMOTE LEARNING AT HOME

The film and free learning and education resources can be accessed by teachers, students, parents, members of registered sporting clubs, not-for-profit community groups and corporate partners

The material can be accessed freely via our website www.thefinalquarterfilm.com.au

WHAT IS AVAILABLE?

1. The film can be viewed in its entirety by registering on our website

2. A DVD of The Final Quarter can be requested via our website
3. There are 52 lesson plans covering Years 5-12 of the Australian curriculum. These have been produced for us by Cool Australia, under the expert guidance of the Australian Human Rights Commission and Reconciliation Australia
4. A screening guide for schools produced by the Australian Teachers of Media
5. A general screening guide to assist sporting, community, corporate, private or individual screenings

OTHER WAYS TO WATCH THE FILM

We're pleased to announce The Final Quarter is now available to rent or buy on iTunes in the USA, UK, Canada and Ireland

If you don't meet the criteria for free access to the film via our website, there are a number of other ways you can watch The Final Quarter.

1. It is available on Stan
2. It's available for rent or purchase from a number of outlets in Australia – view them here <https://thefinalquarterfilm.com.au/#rentorbuy>

LET US KNOW HOW WE CAN HELP

We know many of you – teachers, parents and family members - will be assisting students to learn from home. We would appreciate any feedback on how you're using the film and our lesson and screening guide resources. We'd also like to hear if there are ways we can make this easier for you.

Please contact us at impact@thefinalquarterfilm.com.au to share any thoughts or ask us a question.

Twitter: @TheFinalQtr

Facebook: @thefinalquarterfilm

<https://www.facebook.com/thefinalquarterfilm>

Instagram: @TheFinalQuarterFilm

And we're using these hashtags: #TheFinalQuarterFilm #IStandWithAdam

All the materials can be accessed via our website www.thefinalquarterfilm.com.au