

Small group tour of outback Queensland

Reading List

Frontier History Revisited: Colonial Queensland and the 'History War'

by Robert Orsted-jensen

Colonial Queensland was arguably the most violent of all Australian colonial frontiers. Her primary sources certainly reflect the doubtful honour of delivering the most frequent reports of shootings and massacre of indigenous people, the three single deadliest massacres on white settlers, the most disreputable frontier police force, and the highest number of white victims to frontier violence recorded in the history of any Australian state or territory. The most obvious explanation for the higher level of violence is provided by powerful evidence suggesting that she was also, in terms of original indigenous population and number of tribes on record, the single most populous of the Australian colonies. 'Frontier History Revisited' allow its readers an opportunity to examine and compare the most prominent statements made during the skirmish known in the popular Australian press as 'The History War', with a chronological listing of citations from the primary sources to colonial Queensland's history. It then goes on to examine political and other forms of dissent to her frontier indigenous policies and the actual role, presence and influence of missionaries and protectors. Finally it presents and debates anew the evidence of white and black victims to frontier violence in north-eastern Australia, for the first time providing a full listing of all recorded Europeans and assistants who fell victim during the nineteenth century to this violence within the territory of the present day state of Queensland.

Reaching Back: Queensland Aboriginal people recall early days at Yarrabah Mission

by Judy Thomson

Taking us back to Yarrabah Mission, two generations of Aboriginal people relive the days in Queensland under the Act. They recall dormitory and school life, marriage and work at the mission, the struggle for survival during the Depression years and the loss of their language and culture.

A History of Queensland

by Raymond Evans

A History of Queensland is the first single volume analysis of Queensland's past, stretching from the time of earliest human habitation up to the present. It encompasses pre-contact Aboriginal history, the years of convictism, free settlement and subsequent urban and rural growth. It takes the reader through the tumultuous frontier and Federation years, the World Wars, the Cold War, the controversial Bjelke-Petersen era and on, beyond the beginning of the new millennium. It reveals Queensland as a sprawling, harsh, diverse and conflictual place, where the struggles of race, ethnicity, class, generation and gender have been particularly pronounced, and political and environmental encounters have remained intense. It is a colourful, surprising and at times disturbing saga, a perplexing and diverting mixture of ferocity, endurance and optimism.

Made in Queensland

by David Symons, Ross Fitzgerald and Lyndon Megarrity

In 1859, Queensland formally separated from New South Wales and became an independent colony. Made in Queensland examines the evolution of this great state by considering all aspects of its recent history, from its people and its politics, to its events and its achievements.

The Gulf Country: The story of people and place in outback Queensland

by Richard J Martin

There is something about the Gulf Country that seems to become part of you.'

With its great rivers, grassy plains and mangrove-fringed coastline, Queensland's remote Gulf Country is rich and fertile land. It has long been home to Aboriginal people and, since the 1860s, also to Europeans and to settlers with Chinese, Japanese and Afghan ancestry.

Richard J. Martin tells the story of a century-and-a-half of exploration and colonisation, the growth of cattle and mining industries, and the impact of Christian missionaries and Indigenous activism, through to the present day. He acknowledges the brutal realities of violence and dispossession, as well as the challenges of life on the land in northern Australia.

Drawing on extensive interviews with people across the Gulf Country, this is a lively and colourful account of tight-knit communities, relationships across cultures and resilience in the face of adversity.

Beyond the Outback: Gulf Women of Remote North West Queensland

by Bronwyn Blake

Twenty women share their incredible stories of surviving and thriving in the remote Australian 'Gulf Country', near the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Gulf women are self-sufficient, generous, and can cope with almost anything that life and the environment throws at them: floods, drought, sickness, emergencies. Whether they are graziers, fisherwomen, ringers, women in tourism, aviation and education, Indigenous women or descendants from early women settlers, this powerful book gives these women a voice to tell their own stories.

There are stories of new mothers on properties isolated and inaccessible for months in the wet season; women giving birth at home with only neighbours to assist; reminiscences from last century and World War II, and accounts of fishing in the Gulf in sometimes unimaginable conditions.

From the kids wanting a baby croc for a pet to the terror of a snake bite with a flooded airstrip and impassable roads, these women treat the extraordinary events in their lives as just part of their remote way of life.

Set in a world of vast landscapes, distance and merciless climate, *Beyond the Outback* contains riveting tales of the lives of the women who live, work and raise families in one of Australia's most isolated regions. It will be loved by readers of Sara Henderson, Toni Tapp Coutts and Terry Underwood.

Growing Pineapples in the Outback

by Tony Kelly, Rebecca Lister

When Rebecca Lister and Tony Kelly move from Melbourne to Mount Isa to care for Rebecca's elderly mother, Diana, they have no idea what they've signed up for. The isolation, sweltering heat and limited employment opportunities make settling into the mining town a challenge. While Rebecca deals with her mother's declining health and delves into her own past, Tony takes on a new role in native title law.

However, caring for Diana - a witty, crossword-loving 92-year-old - proves to be a more enriching experience than either Tony or Rebecca thought possible. As they make deeper connections to the land and community, they find themselves flourishing in a most unexpected place. *Growing Pineapples in the Outback* explores the highs and lows of caring for an ageing parent, while also celebrating the rewards of a simpler life.
