

## Meme McDonald & Boori Monty Pryor

met in Melbourne when they were working for the Wurundjeri people, the traditional custodians of that area. They started talking about writing books. Meme had already written two books and Boori had at least three going around in his head but was busy performing dances, playing didgeridoo and storytelling in schools. Meme and Boori began their writing partnership with *Maybe Tomorrow* in 1998 (Penguin).

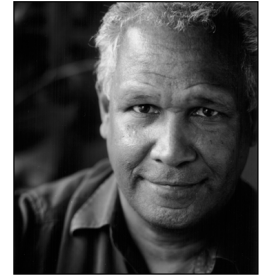
When Meme and Boori speak about their experiences and their books they combine their skills as storytellers to touch on issues of significance for all ages. They talk about healing the past and creating positive visions for the future; issues of finding strength within to deal with the challenges from without; survival, optimism and finding a basis for mutual, and self, respect.

### Meme:

Meme grew up on a sheep and cattle station in south-west Queensland. After leaving school she received an American Field Scholarship to the United State and on returning to Australia studied for a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Queensland and later graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts Drama School. She has published eight books to date in a variety of genres.

Meme began her career directing theatre. She wrote *The Way of the Birds* (1996) after returning from an international theatre tour entitled *Waderbirds – Odyssey of the Wetlands* of which she was the artistic director. *The Way of the Birds* has been adapted into an award winning animation of the same title. A further adaptation of the original story has resulted in Meme's most recent book, *Sister Chick* (2002). Meme co-wrote the on-line documentary *A Year on the Wing* that follows the migration path of the Eastern Curlew.

Currently, Meme is a Board member of the State Library of Victoria's Writers and Readers Advisory Committee, and is one of the Victorian Premier's Reading Ambassadors for 2005.



In 1996, Meme was the recipient of a two year Australia Council Fellowship in Community Cultural Development.

Speaking engagements by Meme can be organised through Booked Out: [bookings@bookedout.com.au](mailto:bookings@bookedout.com.au) or visit [www.bookedout.com.au](http://www.bookedout.com.au)

Visit Meme's website at: [www.mememcdonald.com](http://www.mememcdonald.com)

### Boori:

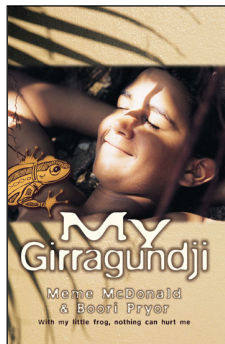
Boori Monty Pryor is an indigenous Australian born in Townsville, North Queensland in 1950. His father is from the Birri-gubba Nation of the Bowen region and his mother's tribal group from Yarrabah, near Cairns, is the Kunggandji.

Boori travels extensively as a performer and public speaker for school students and adult groups throughout Australia and overseas.

Boori has worked in numerous industries including education, film, television, modelling, sport and music. He has played in two World Masters Games in Basketball competition, winning a Silver Medal for Australia in 1994.

In 1990 he was awarded the National Aboriginal and Islander Observance Day Committee Award for "outstanding contribution to the promotion of indigenous culture". He is one of the Victorian Premier's Reading Ambassadors for 2005.

School visits by Boori Monty Pryor (to all Australian states) can be arranged through Young Australia Workshop. Visit <http://www.youngaus.com.au>, email [yamail@ozemail.com.au](mailto:yamail@ozemail.com.au) or phone tollfree within Australia: 1800 227 095.



## MY GIRRAGUNDJI

*'I wake with a start. The doorknob turns. It's him. The Hairyman...'*

Alive with humour, *My Girragundji* is the vivid story of a boy growing up between two worlds. With the little green tree frog as a friend, the bullies at school don't seem so big anymore. And *Girragundji* gives

him the courage to face his fears.

*My Girragundji* has been adapted for the theatre by The Bell Shakespeare Company.

- ✂ Winner: Book of the Year for Younger Readers, Children's Book Council of Australia 1999
- ✂ Shortlisted: Best Children's Book, Queensland Premier's Literary Awards, 1999
- ✂ Commended: Best designed Young Adult Book, Australian Publishers Association Design Awards, 1998

ISBN: 1864488182 \$13.95 pb

## THE BINNA BINNA MAN

*'The Binna Binna man is a big fulla and he stinks like a goat. He can be good and heal you, but if you poke fun at him then you can get into big trouble, like die.'*

In Binna Binna country you should watch where you go. You go wandering too far and you might come face to face with your worst nightmare – the Binna Binna man. Filled with laughter and affection, this is the powerful story of a boy who is learning that to stay strong you must listen to the old people with your eyes and ears – and your heart. A companion to *My Girragundji*.

- ✂ Winner: Ethel Turner Prize for Young People's Literature, 2000
- ✂ Winner: Ethnic Affairs Commission Award, 2000
- ✂ Winner: Book of the Year, NSW Premier's Literary Award, 2000

ISBN: 1865080713 \$13.95 pb

## NJUNJUL THE SUN

*'I'm heading out on m'own, down the highway to the big city. Going south. I lost my taste for knowing the old ways. I'm wanting what's new.'*

A 16-year-old Aboriginal boy leaves his family and home for the big city, and as he struggles to make sense of his experience he realises that he must have

the knowledge of his own people and culture in order to know who he is, and to find his direction.

*Njunjul the Sun* is currently being adapted for the stage.

- ✂ Winner: Kraft Foods Prize for Young Adult Fiction, Victoria Premier's Literary Awards, 2002
- ✂ Shortlisted: Book of the Year Award, Children's Book Council of Australia, 2003

ISBN: 186508641X \$15.95 pb

## FLYTRAP

*'Nancy is worried. She's said she has a Venus Flytrap, but she hasn't really got one, and now the teacher wants her to bring it in to show the class. It wasn't really a lie, it was more like...a wish.'*



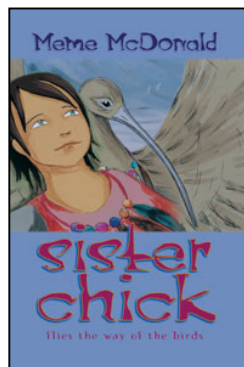
Nancy wants so much to be the centre of attention at school that she makes up a story – a wish really. But with the help of stories from both sides of her family – white Australian and Aboriginal – she learns something about what is true for her, and what she herself has to offer. *Flytrap* is a playful and inspiring book about what stories can do.

- ✂ Notable Book: Book of the Year Award, Children's Book Council of Australia, 2003

ISBN: 1865086088 \$13.95 pb

## BY MEME McDONALD

### SISTER CHICK (flies the way of the birds)



Eva dreams of places far beyond her own backyard. While other kids go by with their friends, Eva is watching, listening for the call of a curlew flying high overhead; waiting for the bird with the long slender beak. And when the curlew finally arrives, Eva goes on a magical journey, flying with Sister Chick from the distant marshlands of Siberia to the ancient southern land of Australia.

*Sister Chick* is a lyrical story about a young girl and a curlew, and the way they change each other's lives.

ISBN: 1865089869 \$13.95 pb

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