

Yildaan: Our Dreaming Track

AUTHORS

**UNCLE BUD MARSHALL AND
AUNTY SHAA SMITH**

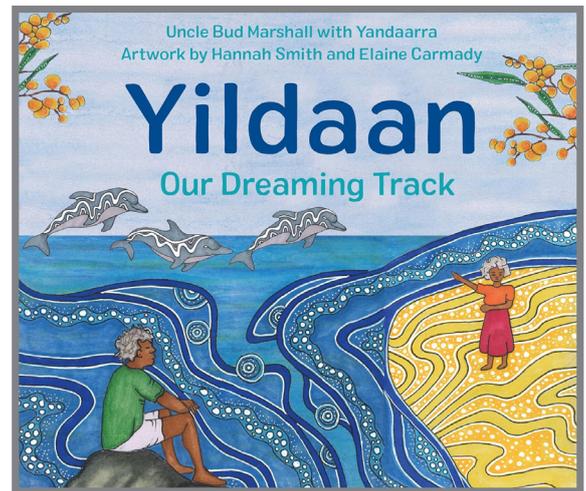
ILLUSTRATORS

HANNAH SMITH AND ELAINE CARMADY

SCIS: 5528460

ISBN: 9781761181382

RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

Giinagay, welcome, I'm Uncle Bud. I'm a Gumbaynggirr man, an Aboriginal Elder from Nambucca Heads. This is my Country. I want to tell you about this place and about my Elders. I want everyone who comes here to know where they are. I want them to follow in the footsteps of our ancestors and be part of Yildaan, our Dreaming track.

In *Yildaan*, Uncle Bud's story of being on Country mingles with ancestor's stories and shows how these two parts of life are inherently connected. Using a mix of Gumbaynggirr and English language, and combining photography and illustration, *Yildaan* includes artwork from Aunty Shaa's nieces and Uncle Bud's great nieces, Hannah Smith and Elaine Carmady, as well as a special story from Aunty Shaa who holds stories from the region.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Uncle Bud Marshall is a Waambung man of the Baga baga bari on Gumbaynggirr Country. Uncle Bud is a senior Traditional Custodian who has shared knowledge and wisdom with many people, especially young people, both near home and internationally. Uncle Bud is a senior cultural advisor and the Elder in Residence for Yandaarra, an Indigenous-led research collaboration with the University of Newcastle. Uncle Bud is Elder to many people in Gumbaynggirr Country and beyond; a guide, Uncle, leader, mentor and friend.

Aunty Shaa Smith is a Gumbaynggirr woman and story holder for her Country. Her mother is Gumbaynggirr and her father Bundjalung. Aunty Shaa is an artist, cultural facilitator and Aunty to many. Led by the Old Fellas and Country itself, Aunty Shaa's work shares the deep relevance of Gumbaynggirr Dreaming for today. Aunty Shaa leads Yandaarra, a research collaboration with the University of Newcastle on Gumbaynggirr Country.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Hannah Smith is a proud Gumbaynggirr woman, an artist, weaver, ranger/site officer, an advocate for change, preservation and protection of Aboriginal sites, culture and land. Hannah has been blessed to have grown up around a strong family of men, women and Elders that have passed down a profound respect for her culture. Hannah is passionate about passing on that taught knowledge to the younger generations through schools, universities, archaeologists, government and national parks.

Elaine Carmady is a proud Gumbaynggirr woman from Stuarts Point, an artist, and a Qualified Early Childhood Educator. As an artist, Elaine works in paint, pencil drawing, traditional weaving and language. Elaine loves to share

her Gumbaynggirr heritage, and learning from her Elders—Parents, Grandparents, Aunties and Uncles. Elaine is passionate about reviving Gumbaynggirr language and teaching children and educators about Aboriginal culture and the importance of respecting the land and keeping culture alive.

THEMES

- Fears
- Honesty
- Imagination
- Friendship

STUDY NOTES

BEFORE READING:

- Find out what your class already knows about First Nations culture and history by asking the following:
 - What is an Acknowledgement of Country?
 - When do we deliver an Acknowledgement of Country at school?
 - Why is it important to Acknowledge Country?
 - When we use an Acknowledgement of Country we talk about paying ‘respect to Elders past and present. Why might we do that?
 - Through generations, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have passed down stories about the creation of land, water, animals and humans on Country. Do you know any of these stories?

AFTER READING

- Show the cover of the book to students, reading the title out loud. Read the back cover blurb out loud and ask the following:
 - Who is Uncle Bud, and why do you think he wants to share stories about his Country and Elders?
 - What do you think ‘Yildaan, our Dreaming track’ might mean? How might it connect to Aboriginal culture and history?
 - Why do you think Uncle Bud wants visitors to know where they are when they come to his Country?
 - The cover shows flowing water, dolphins, people, rocks and sand and features beautiful bright patterns. How might all of these elements connect to the Dreaming track that Uncle Bud talks about?
 - What do you think we can learn from Aboriginal Elders like Uncle Bud about caring for the land and respecting history?

Comprehension

- Read the book through once, slowly, before asking students:
 - Uncle Bud’s Country is
 - Why does Uncle Bud think it is important to tell the story of his Country?
 - What messages do his ancestors continue to send him?
 - Why do you think Uncle Bud is passionate about teaching the next generation about fishing buluunggal (mullet)?
 - What did you take away from Aunty Shaa’s story of the two sisters?
 - How does Aunty Shaa’s story connect with Uncle Bud’s fishing lessons?
 - What does Uncle Bud mean when he says, ‘Things work in cycles’?
 - What does the term Yildaan, our Dreaming Track mean to you?
 - Many people in the book have the title Uncle or Aunty. What do you think this suggests about the importance of family here?
 - Why do you think there are so many photos of different people featured on the book’s back endpapers?

Visual Literacy

- Look closely at the double-page image accompanying the text that begins, ‘Our Gumbaynggirr ancestors are all around us. They live with us in the present.’ How is the meeting of past and present shown in this image? [Answer: by combining photography [the now] with a painting of an ancestor [the past].]
 - Look at the image of Uncle Bud’s ancestor. How has the illustrator shown him sending messages to Uncle Bud?

- Can you find an image of Uncle Bud later in the story where he is sending messages, just like his ancestors? To whom might he be sending messages?

Language

- How is tense—past and present—presented to depict creation time and today? [Answer: the story begins in present tense, switches to past tense for the creation story and returns to present tense for the festival.]

Learning More About Country

- Purchase a copy of the AIATSIS Map of Indigenous Australia to find out more about the language, social or nation groups of Aboriginal Australia. Ask students to find out:
 - What Country is your school on?
 - What Country is your home on?

Caring for Country

- Uncle Bud says, 'You have got to go with nature. It tells you a lot of things—like how the rivers are flowing, which way they want to come in. If you don't follow it, there's going to be problems.' And later in the book he says, 'Listen to the stories and make sure you listen to what Country is telling you, what the stories are telling you. You have to do the right thing. You have to have respect.'
- Uncle Bud talks about nature telling us how it needs to be treated. How does his view differ from those who believe that Australia must commit to large-scale mining and industry?
 - What problems do you think Uncle Bud is talking about here?
 - What do you think Uncle Bud means when he talks about doing the right thing and having respect for Country?
 - Make a list of things that could be done at home and at school to do the right thing and show respect to Country. Place the list in a prominent spot in your classroom for everyone to see.

Welcome to Country

- Invite a local First Nations Elder or Traditional Custodian to visit your school and deliver a Welcome to Country. The event could also include a smoking ceremony and a talk about caring for Country. For more information visit the AIATSIS website.

AUTHOR OF NOTES
CAROLYN WALSH