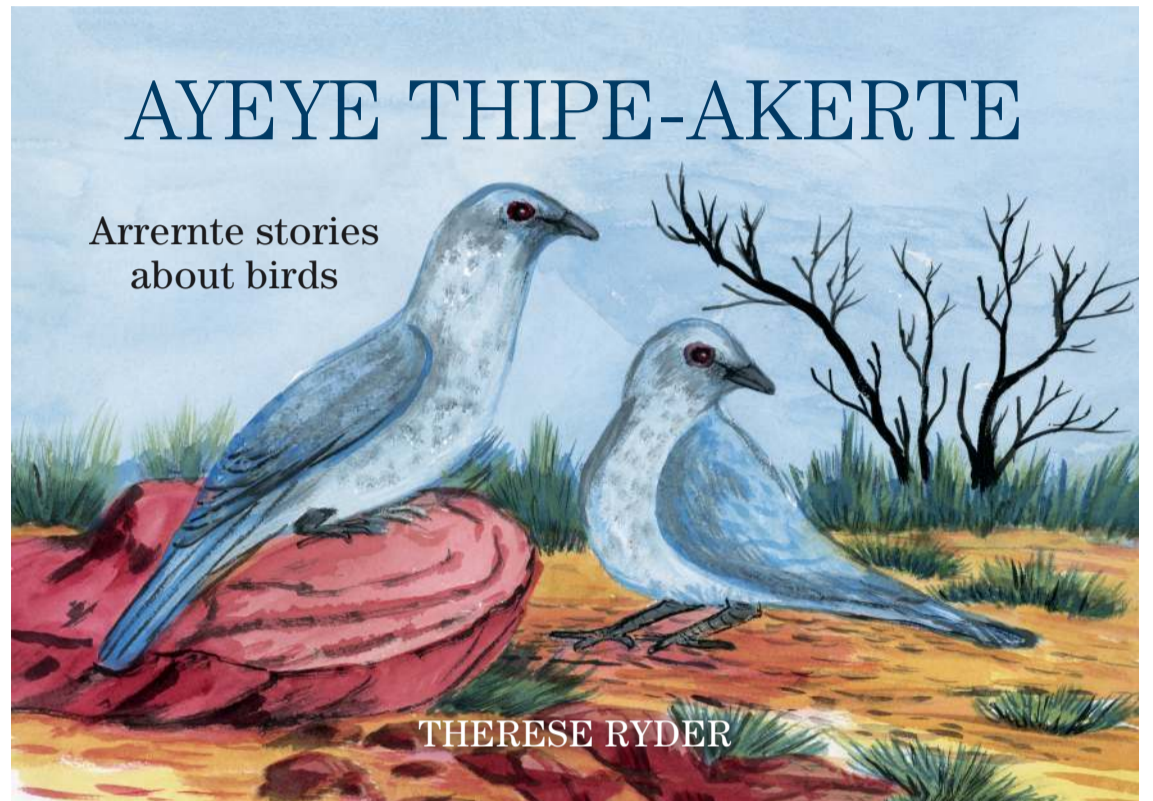


Ayeye Thiipe-Akerte

Arrernte Stories About Birds

THERESE RYDER

Eastern Arrernte artist and writer Therese Ryder uses pictures and words to describe the birds that live on her country. She appreciates their beauty and their songs, and the roles that they play as messengers and as food. Therese writes and speaks her stories in the Arrernte language, alongside written English translations.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Therese Ryder, April 2017. Photo by Rhett Hammerton, used courtesy of Indigenous Community TV.

Therese Ryder was born at Todd River station and spent her early childhood living in the bush on Eastern Arrernte country. She travelled around from place to place with her parents and extended family, hunting for food and holding traditional ceremonies on country. Her father was Jack Ryder and her mother Nancy Ryder. Therese's father's country is Love's Creek and Ndhala Gorge, Trephina Gorge, Corroboree Rock and Williams Well. The Arrernte name for this country is Pwanye. As a young man Jack Ryder worked for the Afghan cameleers who carted supplies up the

Ghan track on camel. He kept camels for many years afterwards and the Ryder family used these for transport on their country. Therese's mother's traditional country is Titjikala, and she was born at the old Maryvale station.

When she was ten years old, Jack and Nancy took Therese to Santa Teresa Mission, where she went to school. It was there that she learned not only how to read and write, but to paint. When she grew older she began painting landscapes, not knowing that Albert Namatjira was a great landscape artist. Later on Therese discovered that Albert was a distant uncle to her mother. Alongside her artistic career, Therese has worked in Indigenous education as an Arrernte teacher and on many language projects, including the Eastern and Central Arrernte Dictionary. Today Therese continues to use her language skills, working as a consultant and advisor to a range of Arrernte literacy, translation, arts and educational projects.



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