

Toowoomba First Nations Allies

Newsletter No. 5

November 2024



Next Meeting:
10:30am on
Sunday, 17
November
2024 - Social
Justice Commission
- 123 Neil Street,
Toowoomba

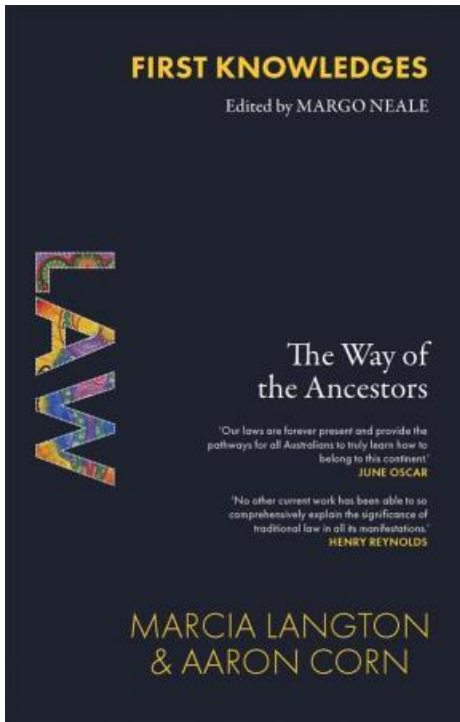
Book Clubs – Book Reports

'Law: the Way of the Ancestors', by Marcia Langton and Aaron Corn

Book club review by Jane Sherwin

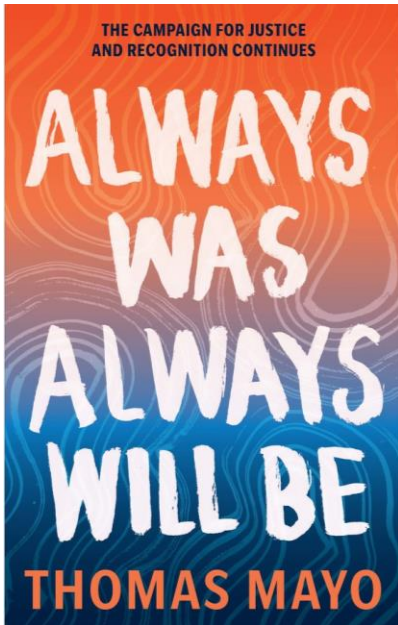
A fundamental message from Langton and Corn is that contemporary First Nations issues cannot be understood without understanding that Aboriginal Law and Culture cannot be separated, that there are spiritual ties between land (mother

nature), Ancestors and humans. *Everything* is related: human relatives, land, other species and Ancestors.



The book is from the 'First Knowledges' series and helped strengthen the book club members' awe of Indigenous law and culture. Much detail about Law is provided. I'll share just two aspects. I relished the concept of 'home having': that First Nations people become home/less without language, kin, law, ceremony and land. The concept of 'everywhen' stretched my appreciation of connections across time.

This book allows us to more deeply appreciate the impacts of the decimation of Law and culture, and the book brought me to an even more sombre understanding. Despite all this, and despite it being a conceptually difficult read, the book is surprisingly uplifting, fascinating, and highly recommended.



'Always Was, Always Will be', by Thomas Mayo

Book club review by Majella Albion

Thomas Mayo was a key advocate for the Yes campaign and was possibly the one who was most vilified by opposing voices during that time. Far from the extremism he was accused of, this book reveals a compassionate man whose love of family and country drive his ongoing work for justice and recognition for First Nations peoples, and a desire

for national unity. He provides a concise history of the impacts of colonisation and the efforts to overcome them. The main message and value of the book lies in the section on "Where to from here". He includes suggestions on how to continue with hope and provides responses to the lies and misinformation that are often cited to discredit First Nations peoples. The book is an easy read and I highly recommend it.

Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry – Report One

Recently, the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry released its first report titled 'Report 1: The story of Queensland connects us all'.

The report highlights some of the Inquiry's key achievements and information about the hearings and sessions already held

alongside how the Inquiry plans to engage Queenslanders in its next steps.

The 'Executive Summary' includes the below key takeaways:

'Since 1 July 2024, the Inquiry has:

- commenced consultations in preparation for the first community truth-telling sessions and hearings
- met with Queensland State Archives and identified over 200,000 items and 4,000 physical artefacts held by archives relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference
- held a ceremonial hearing, attended by over 2,000 people in person and online
- held its first truth-telling hearing in Meanjin (Brisbane) where it heard evidence from 7 participants who shared evidence of their lived-experience, experience of their families and their research work
- held a truth-telling session with government representatives with submissions received from 14 government entities, and oral testimony from 6 Directors-General and the Queensland Police Commissioner
- invited over 430 community organisations to provide submissions, in preparation for planned truth-telling sessions over the coming months
- held community events, met with Elders, community leaders, business and community groups, and government representatives to raise awareness about the Inquiry's work
- raised awareness about the Inquiry's work and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture through the Inquiry's new website, welcomed more than 12,000 visitors to the Inquiry's social media sites and received almost 1,000 media mentions, reaching an audience of nearly 30 million people.'

For the full first report, please visit the below link:

<https://www.truth-telling-qld.com.au/reports>

If you're interested in staying up to date with the Inquiry, please visit the 'events' page and keep an eye out for local events.

<https://www.truth-telling-qld.com.au/events>

At community truth-telling sessions, 'Inquiry Members will hear evidence from Elders and members of the community who have worked with the Inquiry's team to prepare for sharing their stories with the Inquiry.'

Members of the public are welcome to attend public truth-telling sessions. Some truth-telling sessions may be held in private.

Articles of interest:

'Native title is a cultural issue, not just a legal one'

For the full article, please visit the below link:

<https://study.uq.edu.au/stories/native-title-is-a-cultural-issue-not-just-legal>

Upcoming Dates

Date	Event
Sunday, November 17	November Meeting 10:30am at the Social Justice Commission - 123 Neil Street, Toowoomba

Have any other events we should know about? Please email us at info@tfna.asn.au

Some Useful Links

How to be a genuine ally - <https://www.yarn.com.au/blogs/yarn-in-the-community/how-to-be-a-genuine-indigenous-ally>

Our Website - <https://tfna.asn.au>

Our Facebook -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1036130354262912>

Our Email - info@tfna.asn.au

About TFNA

Toowoomba First Nations Allies (TFNA) is a local group dedicated to becoming better informed regarding First Nations matters and strengthening community relationships as we undertake truth-telling towards a closer and more cohesive community. We are consciously humble as we listen, learn and connect.