



Sophia Library

TWO BOOK REVIEWS

And The Clock Struck Thirteen

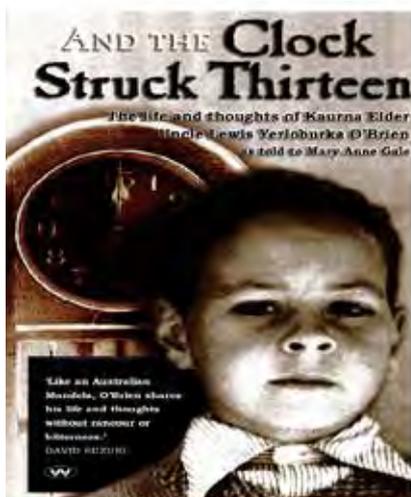
The life and thoughts of Kaurna Elder Uncle Lewis Yerloburka O'Brien as told to Mary-Anne Gale.

[305.3 OBR]

This book is a goldmine! I expected a biography of Uncle Lewis, but found in his 'thoughts' so much more than one person's story. He has a passionate interest in uncovering and documenting the past of his people, and there is a wealth of fascinating detail of the history of Kaurna Aboriginal people in SA. He tells this story through the records of his own family, including many photos, beginning with Kudnarto, his great great grandmother, who was the first Aboriginal woman to hold a title to a piece of her own land in SA. (Ironically, on Skillogalee Creek near Clare...not surprising that following her early death, the land was not allowed to be passed to her sons but reverted to the Crown). It is a story of constant dispossession of land, persistent attempts to redress wrongs and an insight into the Aboriginal way of being in the world.

His own personal story is one of constant learning, and of intelligent and courageous adaption to harsh and excluding circumstances, to find a way to not only survive, but to use what was available to thrive and achieve his dreams.

Don't miss it.



Waging Peace

Reflections on Peace and War from an Unconventional Woman by Anne Deveson.

[361.92 DEV]

We are so fortunate to have this last testament, as it were, from Anne Deveson, which was published in 2013 just before the onset of her dementia. Her life was so rich and her contribution so vast, that her reflections are like a gathering up of threads of intense wisdom.

The book is written in two parts: the first chronicles her formative life experiences in the ravages of war-time and as a refugee twice over, and the second her adult life shaped in response to these horrors. The intensity of her shock on returning to England and seeing the dreadful waste and senseless damage, both to people and to all the things that support people's lives, led her into journalism.

Her passion for peace grew as she worked, and the book's title sums up her attitude- that if we waged peace with the energy and drive with which we wage war, life would be profoundly changed.

Her dedication is to her family and she leaves a simple motto for life for them, that sums her own life up perfectly. 'Live life generously, learn well, be kind.'

Pauline Small

