

## This is Auntie Jessie's story

BY MELINDA HEALY

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It's been 10 years in the making... but finally the life story of Gumbaynggirr elder Auntie Jessie Williams has been put into print and will be launched to the Nambucca Valley community next week (12th).

The book entitled Nganyundiya Milingundiya Jagunda (Into my Mother's Country) is a social commentary of Auntie Jessie's life, a woman described by publisher Sue Nicholls as 'the most humble and truest Christian' she had ever met.

Ms Nicholls, a Bellingen-based author/publisher, told the Guardian News earlier this week how proud she was of the finished product.

She said the book would give readers an insight into what life was like for Auntie Jessie during the years of the Stolen Generation.

It also touches on Jessie's spirituality and healing ability, and her views about reconciliation.

"It's a very important social document that I hope might encourage other Aboriginal people, other elders to share their stories," Ms Nicholls said.

The book came about after Jessie's beloved friend Phoebe Mumbler, Aiden Ridgeway's (former NSW Democratic Senator) grandmother, encouraged her to pen her life story.

In her foreword Jessie said: "Phoebe said: 'Jess, why don't you ask Sue to write your story? About your Aboriginal healing?'

So she did, and 10 years on, the book serves as a historical document not only for her family and her people, but Australians everywhere.

"I think we can learn from Aboriginal people and how they feel about things," Ms Nicholls added. "This process has given me an insight into Aboriginal spiritual values."

Into my Mother's Country will be officially launched at Murrbaay Language Centre, Nambucca Heads, next Wednesday (12th) from 10am-12pm.

All interested members of the public are invited to attend the launch.

Those interested in purchasing a copy of the book can do so for \$15 from Goorl Broadcasters, the Coffs Harbour Education Campus Book-shop and the Yellow Shed in Bellingen.



Sue Nicholls is proud of the autobiography she and Gumbaynggirr elder Auntie Jessie Williams have produced together - it will be launched officially next week (12th).