

Teachers' Notes
by Robyn Sheahan-Bright

100 Years of Petrol Power

Transport, Trade and Travel in Australia Book 5 1900-2000

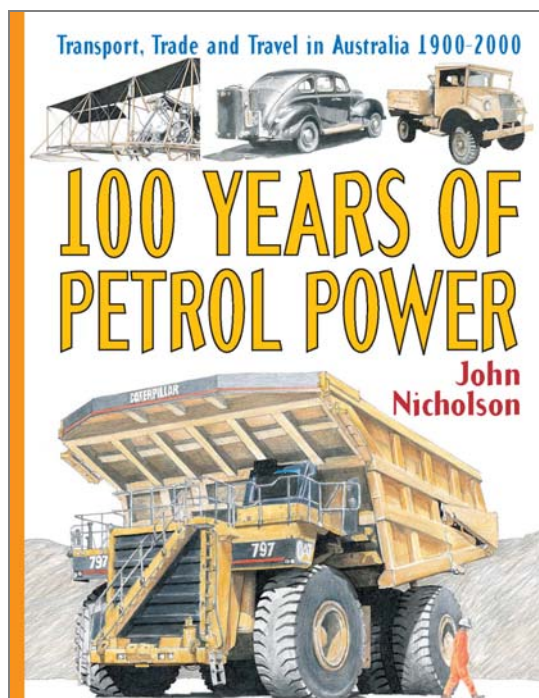
by
John Nicholson

ISBN 978-1-74175-047-8

Recommended for readers 9 yrs or older

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INTRODUCTION

In *100 Years of Petrol Power*, the fifth book in his series on *Transport Trade and Travel in Australia*, John Nicholson moves on to the age of petrol and oil. He shows in this title (as he did in Books 1-4) how internal trade and the import and export of goods to and from Australia led to the need for new and faster methods of transport. In *100 Years of Petrol Power*, we see how networks developed leading to further demand for oil, and to the growth of new road, rail, shipping and air systems.

This book traces the influence of petrol and the combustion engine on the technological revolution in the twentieth century, detailing one of the most rapid periods of development in history. He shows that in one hundred years we've become almost totally dependent on petrol, and that this presents a huge problem as resources are rapidly drying up worldwide. He concludes that, 'Whatever the vehicle-makers end up choosing, it seems clear that petrol's hundred years are almost up.' (p. 31)

Previous books in the series include:

- Book 1 – *Songlines and Stone Axes* which details the trading practices already in place amongst Aboriginal people, and shows how the arrival of European settlers not only displaced Aboriginal people but destroyed their trading networks and altered the land dramatically.
- *Book 2 – Cedar, Seals and Whaling Ships* describes the way in which European settlement transformed the land and established a network of transport which continues to this day.
- *Book 3 – Wool, Wagons and Clipper Ships* covers the industries of cattle, wool, wheat, mining and forestry which encouraged the growth of horse-, bullock- and sail-powered transport networks.
- *Book 4 – Steam, Steel and Speed* shows how steam power influenced the growth of various towns and states and created a pattern of competition, and of growth and decline, in many areas. It also describes the role which the mining of gold, silver, iron ore, coal and copper played in the development and use of steam-powered transport.

In the fifth and final book in his engaging series, award-winning author John Nicholson shows how petrol, diesel and the internal combustion engine superseded horse and steam power as the driving forces in our modern economy. He outlines the phases of this development over nearly a century and then leaves us with the sombre question: What will we do when the oil runs out?

THEMES & CURRICULUM TOPICS

Themes suggested by the book which might be explored with class groups include:

- Trading and Trading Practices
- Transport and Travel (including roads, waterways and shipping)
- Secondary and Primary Industries
- Land and Property Ownership (Competition and Rivalry)
- Workers Rights
- Historical Accuracy
- National Infrastructure Growth and Development

Topics which relate to these themes fall into **Curriculum areas** such as:

- SOSE/HSIE – Studying Society and Societal Issues
- Language and Literacy
- Creative Arts
- Food & Public Health
- Maths

SOSE/HSIE

In this curriculum area there are several topics you might explore with your students:

1. PETROL POWER

Petrol has become a vital resource in today's society but it was not immediately adopted as a source of fuel, even after the technology had been trialled and proven to succeed. 'The first internal combustion (petrol) engine was built in 1876, but it took almost 100 more years for petrol engines to become the main way of powering transport. (Petrol engines are still not widely used for things like electricity generation or powering factory machinery.)' (p. 6)

Question: What is an internal combustion engine?

Question: What factors hampered the adoption of petrol as a source of power? (See pp. 6-7)

Activity: Compare the predictions made about steam power and those made about petrol power?

Activity: The automotive industry ushered in a whole new set of jobs, tasks and occupations. Write a list of all the types of worker employed in that industry.

Quiz Questions:

1. Who was the first person to assemble a motor vehicle in Australia?
2. Which gifted inventor came up with the 'Autocar'?
3. Colonel Harley Tarrant began manufacturing the all Australian-made Tarrant car in what year?
4. What are two 'nicknames' for Henry Ford's famous Model-T Ford?
5. The Holden company first began in 1819 as what sort of firm?
6. Who created the sculpture on which the Holden symbol is based?
7. Who created the world's first ute in 1933?
8. What famous vehicle is the Willys company best known for producing?
9. Who created the first petrol powered road train?
10. What was the 'Mighty Antar'?

Quiz Answers:

1. Brisbane-bicycle seller H. Knight Eaton when he mounted a petrol engine on a bicycle in 1893!

2. Henry Sutton.
3. 1897.
4. *Tin Lizzie* and the *Squatter's Joy*.
5. Coach-building and saddlery business.
6. British born Sydney sculptor George Rayner Holt.
7. Ford's Australian designer Lewis Brandt.
8. The WWII General Purpose vehicle, the G.P. or Jeep.
9. Felix Caldwell in 1910.
10. In 1953 a fleet of the English Thorneycroft Mighty Antar trucks were imported for use on the Snowy Mountains Hydroelectric Scheme.

2. MOTOR VEHICLES, TRUCKS AND TRACTORS

In the early part of the twentieth century, the adoption of motor vehicle driving as a form of transport was restricted to the very few – generally rich people. But later it became the province of everyone.

Question: What were some of the reasons that people did not use cars more widely? (p. 11)

Activity: Research some of the early pioneers in motor car engines. Eg Gottlieb Daimler, Karl Benz, or the maker of the first widely used pneumatic rubber tyre, John Dunlop.

Activity: Find out more about Australian Motors Limited (p. 11) and why it did not survive.

Activity: Truck manufacture has been hampered in Australia, due to the influence of two world wars. Discuss.

Activity: Vestey's was a British meat producer which bought up a lot of the Northern Territory and created a huge trucking network there and imported Rotinov road trains to drive on these routes. Research this subject more fully.

Question: What is a Fergie?

Question: What are caterpillar tractors? Research their use in the mining industry.

Activity: Research one of the agricultural inventions mentioned. (See p. 19)

Question: Australia has had a thriving tractor-building industry for most of the twentieth century. Why?

Activity: The Model-T Ford was 100 years old in 2008. Research.

Activity: The future of the automotive industry is of concern to all who recognise the growing scarcity of oil. Try to find out what alternative forms of motor vehicle are being produced or trialled, for example, hybrid cars. [See **Websites** below.]

3. AIR TRAVEL

Air travel in Australia was a pioneering industry and our aviators and inventors achieved international records in several regards.

Question: How did people 'fly' before aircraft were invented? (See p. 21)

Activity: The Australian Flying Corps (AFC) was the breeding ground for several later air pioneers. Research the life of one of them, for example, Charles Kingsford Smith, Paul McGuinness, Hudson Fysh, Hubert Wilkins.

Question: In 1919, who won the air race from England to Australia announced by Prime Minister Billy Hughes after WWI?

Question: Who was the first person to fly solo from England to Australia?

Activity: Read about the background to the establishment of Queensland and Northern Territory Air Services (Qantas) (pp. 22-3) and then research further.

Activity: Laurence Hargrave was a pioneer in aircraft invention amongst other things. Research his achievements.

Activity: Amy Johnson was a pioneering female aviator. Research some of the women listed (see p. 23). What role did women play in early aviation?

Activity: Research the fates of the Australian airlines listed (see pp. 24-5).

Activity: Crashes and accidents are a constant source of concern in the aviation industry, and in the early days of flying, the danger was magnified by the fact that the technology was still so new, and communications were far less sophisticated. Research an accident such as that of the Stinson aircraft in Queensland in 1937.

4. WAR AND THE INCREASED USE OF PETROL

'The thing that really speeded up the adoption of petrol engines was war: World War I (1914–1918) and World War II (1939–1945).' (p. 7) The book outlines the part war has played in the development of petrol power and new forms of technology. It outlines a number of contributing factors (p. 9).

Question: How and why did wars improve the national road transport network?

Activity: 'Three quarters of all aircraft ever made have been warplanes' (p. 9). Discuss this statement and what it says about human behaviour.

Activity: There were many technologies which were developed because of war. What were some of them? (See p. 10.)

Activity: 'It makes you wonder how many good ideas have failed to achieve their potential simply because they had no military use.' (p. 10) Discuss.

Question: How did war adversely affect Australia's ability to become a significant manufacturer of motor vehicles and trucks?

Question: War has caused fuel shortages which in turn have created new forms of technology and new solutions. What are some of them? (See p. 14)

Question: What other effects did war have on our transport? (See p. 29)

Question: What was the Mack 'Bulldog'? (See p. 9)

Question: What effect did war have on truck manufacture here?

True or False?

1. Large-scale assembly of cars made from imported parts began at the Holden Motor Body Builders factory at Woodville in South Australia and at Ford's Geelong plant in Victoria, in the 1920s.
2. There were 250,000 Model T-Fords sold in Australia.
3. Laurence Hargrave also experimented with shoes for walking on water.

4. Lores Bonney was the first Australian woman to make the solo flight from England to Australia, in 1933.

5. Australian now imports almost half its oil needs.

5. CHANGES IN SHIPPING TRANSPORT

Air travel gradually destroyed or threatened the viability of shipping for passenger transport as travel took a great deal longer by sea. Similarly, road transport gradually superseded shipping for freight, since costs were lower. However, this in turn led to innovation, and again Australia was at the forefront: the world's first purpose-built container ship, the MV *Kooringa*, was built at the NSW dockyard in 1964. Bulk carriers were another invention designed to allow ships to load large quantities with far less handling. The first diesel-powered ship was built in England in 1915 for the WA coastal trade.

Question: Some harbours were not suitable for container traffic? Why? And how did they adapt to suit this need?

Activity: 'During the early twentieth century almost everything we used was made in Australia. Now it is almost all made overseas.' (p. 28) Discuss the reasons for this change.

Question: What are now our chief exports?

6. NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

This series reveals how new forms of transport have influenced each phase in Australia's historical development. Public transport has always presented challenges to city and rural planners. The last Cobb and Co coach ceased service in 1924, but by then rail, trams and paddle steamer networks were in constant use. Nevertheless Australia adopted petrol and diesel quite early, eg 'The first petrol-driven buses arrived in Perth in 1903 (two years ahead of New York!).' (p.18)

Question: What advantages did diesel have over steam? (See p. 18)

Question: Was the decision to get rid of tram tracks in many places a sound one?

Activity: Sir Reginald Ansett began with a bus line and then an airline. Research the history of his companies.

Question: What has been the changing role of rail transport?

Activity: Topics to be researched in relation to the spread of petrol power in Australia include, for example, the role played by war; the minerals and resources boom in recent years; the decline of companies such as coach services and tram networks; the increased need for bitumen road networks etc.

Discussion: The decline in our ability to supply our own oil needs is a crucial challenge in today's Australia. (See p. 30) How might we confront it?

Activity: Relate some of these questions to contemporary issues, for example, the debate about climate change, coal power and fossil fuels, uranium, solar and wind power, etc.

Question: The world's power consumption has in 100 years become almost totally derived from oil. How can this be sustainable? What alternatives can we find? (See p. 31)

LITERACY & LANGUAGE

Several activities might relate to this curriculum area.

In each of the titles in this series the author takes a real incident and describes it in his own words, using it as an opening scene to grip the reader's attention. This can be called '**Faction**' and might be applied to the story which opens this text and demonstrates the precarious nature of early air travel and the bravery of the men involved. Bill Taylor's actions in saving the *Southern Cross* were nothing short of remarkable.

Activity: Make up your own story about any incident or person mentioned in this book. Research and then create a fictionalised evocation of that person's life.

Activity: Read other works of fiction or non-fiction which explore the era of early petrol power and the invention of motor vehicles, trucks and aircraft. [See **Related texts and other sources.**] Invite your students to write a story or an essay based on anything they read in these stories which interests them.

The role of the individual in history is often misconstrued by biographers. Eg Nicholson suggests that Charles Kingsford Smith's reputation has not taken into enough account that he was a rather 'disorganised risk-taker' (p. 22).

Activity: Read a variety of versions of a life and assess the different interpretations of the life. Eg Bert Hinkler or Lores Bonney.

Arranging a text like this requires **structure and interesting 'signposts'** to the action. Nicholson makes section headings such as 'Women with Wings'; 'People-Movers' and 'The Good Oil'.

Activity: Make up your own headings for the sections in this book.

Visual literacy is an aspect of this text and the other books in the series which you might like to explore. In Nicholson's images he uses his scientific and geographical knowledge in creating models of combustion processes, and his detailed observation skills in his drawing of various vehicles.

Activities: Examine the pictures in this book for *the use of perspective*. You'll notice that in each of his drawings the use of this technique adds depth and makes the picture three-dimensional in the reader's eyes. He often makes things appear closer or alternatively takes a long distance view of the image. Discuss.

Activity: The *medium and technique* chosen adds depth to a picture in terms of *texture* as well. For example, the sea surrounding the oil rig (p. 31) is drawn in an uneven blue pencil, contrasting to the solidity of the rig traced in careful geometrical lines.

Activity: Four vehicles are depicted from *different angles* (pp. 14-5). Discuss with students the choices you make when drawing an image, such as point of view and angle.

Activity: The opening page of the book (pp.4-5) depicts an airplane across the double page spread (pp. 12-3). What effect does this technique lend to the image?

Activity: *Scale, measurement and detail* are important in visually creating a picture, for example, the picture of the road train (pp. 16-7). Create your own picture of a road train.

CREATIVE ARTS

This non-fiction text contains or suggests a range of exciting stories which could offer stimuli for several creative arts activities.

Visual Arts: Create a display of images related to early petrol engines and vehicles; make a model of any object in this book which appeals to you.

Drama: Re-enact any scene in this book, for example, the announcement of the England to Australia air race by Prime Minister Bill Hughes.

Music: What sort of song might you write to celebrate the changes in transport over the last hundred years?

Performance Poem: Have fun using the sounds made by cars, trucks and tractors to make a soundscape or performance poem. You'll be surprised at how many engine sounds there are, and what you can make out of them. Read Komninos's *High Street, Kew East* (A&R, 1990) to get an idea of how you might create such a poem, and listen to him recite it at <http://komninos.com.au/hscpoems/jukebox.html> .

Multimedia Performance: Base a performance on one of the exciting tales told by Nicholson in this book and series, for example, the road trains used in the building of the Snowy Mountains River Scheme.

FOOD & PUBLIC HEALTH

This book suggests a range of public health issues for discussion and research.

Question: Air crashes were an occupational hazard in the early days of flying. What accidents or workplace health and safety issues were experienced by early workers in the automotive or aircraft industry?

Question: What are the environmental hazards attached to oil consumption and exhaust fumes in cities?

Activity: Oil spills are a common side effect of the oil industry. Research a famous oil spill, its cleanup, and any environmental or legal repercussions.

MATHS

Some simple maths activities might be related to this text.

Question: See table of exports (p. 10). What percentage in growth occurred in export from 1905-1985?

Activity: See the Rail Transport Table (p.18). Try to discover comparable figures from 1969 to the present.

Activity: Study the increase in oil prices by more than 250 percent on 5 years ago [see Reserve Bank of Australia. RBA Bulletin Oil Prices Graph 1 http://www.rba.gov.au/PublicationsAndResearch/Bulletin/bu_sep08/oil_prices_au_economy.html] and discuss the implications for the next five years.

SCIENCE

Study the internal combustion engine.

Activity: Examine the drawing of a steam engine and how it works (p. 8). You might be able to conduct an experiment with your class to make a primitive steam engine. Read the entry on 'Internal Combustion Engines' in *Wikipedia*.

Question: What are hydrocarbons?

Question: How do hybrid cars work? [See **Websites** below. eg Students may like to visit the How Stuff Works <http://www.howstuffworks.com/> website which offers a range of explanations for many forms of technology.]

QUESTIONS FOR READING AND DISCUSSION

1. Nicholson says that 'By 1950 nearly 100 different Australian motor car brands had come and gone. It was time for a real Australian success story.' (p. 13) Why did these companies fail? And what was the big 'success story'? Research.
2. What forms of transport (discussed in this book) did oil eventually displace?
3. Another side effect of the mining and oil industries is the conflict over Aboriginal Land Rights. How have Aboriginal peoples been recompensed for such usage of land and water?
4. The story of oil in Australia is the story of many competing interests. Discuss and research.
5. Is oil yesterday's technology?

CONCLUSION

Each book in this series offers the reader fascinating questions to pursue further via research and reading.

IN-DEPTH RESEARCH TOPICS TO PURSUE

1. The book points out that many different forms of technology were used for quite a long time before petrol power superseded steam, and even horse, power! Write an essay analysing the many technological changes which occurred in the twentieth century and why the adoption of petrol wasn't immediate (p. 7).
2. Examine the role of oil in the world today and the effect it has had on the economic, social and cultural life of any country.
3. Aviation, shipping, agricultural machinery and public transport are some of the topics covered in this book. Choose any subject related to petrol power in transport and trade in Australia, and research it further.
4. 'Australia's resources and minerals boom has not only provided wealth but also stretched our capacity to remain self-sustaining'. Conduct a debate on this topic.
5. The role of oil in Australian's economy is referred to in the final pages of this book. How has oil power influenced this country's economy and what are the alternatives? (Solar power, wind power etc.) Research and write an essay on this topic.

RELATED TEXTS AND OTHER SOURCES

BOOKS

Non-Fiction

Barwick, John & Jennifer, *Trade in Australia* (Database of Australia series), Heinemann Library, Port Melbourne, 2000.

Beck, Jennifer, Blacklock, Dyan & Allan, Katrina *Crash! The Search for the Stinson* Norwood, SA, Omnibus, 1999.

Davis, Tony *Are you for wheel? The most amazing cars ever* Random House Aust., 2008

Denton, Terry *It's True! Pigs do fly* (It's True! series), Allen & Unwin, 2004

Duncan, John *Any Colour ... So Long as It's Black. Designing the Model T Ford 1906-1908* Exisle Publishing, 2008.

Patrick, Kevin *Airborne Australia* Illustrated by Douglas Holgate, (Amazing Australia series), Random House Australia, 2008.

Pyers, Greg *Petrol in Australia* Port Melbourne, Vic., Echidna Books, 2001.

Thomas, Ron and Joe Herran *Transport* Sth Yarra, Macmillan, 2001.

Tonkin, Rachel *What Was the War Like, Grandma?: Emmy Remembers World War II* Heinemann, 1995.

Young, Leonie & Avril Janks *I wish I'd flown the Atlantic with Amelia Earhart* (Been There Done That series), Weldon Kids Pty Ltd, 1994 (picture book)

Biographies

Try to find biographies of famous people mentioned in this text. For example:

Fern, Ann and David Llewellyn *Inventors* Port Melbourne, Vic., Heinemann, 2004.

Hillman, Robert *Smithy and the Southern Cross* Carlton, Binara, 2003.

Russell, Jennifer *A Century of Great Australians* Port Melbourne, Vic., Heinemann, 2001.

Weston, Joel *Inventors and Inventions*. Lane Cove, NSW, Franklin Watts, 2000.

Haworth, Dianne *Paddy the Wanderer* HarperCollins NZ, 2007. (Story of a famous docklands dog, notable for his real adventures with numerous forms of sea and road transport, and even a Gypsy Moth!)

You will also find many of the people mentioned in this text in:

Australian Dictionary of Biography <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/adbonline.htm>
and

Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

Fiction

Try to find fictional texts which feature petrol power. Texts based around warplanes and warships are relatively easy to find. But, war aside, there are many books featuring cars, trucks, tractors and aircraft. For example:

Aldridge, James *The Wings of Kitty St Clair* Penguin Australia, 2006

Bates, Dianne *Grandma Cadbury's Trucking Tales* Angus & Robertson, 1987.

Bernard, Patricia *Fords and Flying Machines the diary of Jack McLaren, Longreach 1919-1921* (My Story series), Scholastic Australia, 2003

Cox, David *Tin Lizzie and Little Nell* Collins Australia, 1982.

Dugan, Michael *The Teacher's Secret* Penguin Australia, 1986

French, Jackie *One Perfect Day* (Making Tracks series), Canberra ACT, National Museum of Australia Press. (Inspired by the Crossley Landraulette motor car in the museum, used by the Duke & Duchess of York when opening Parliament House.)

Hathorn, Libby *The Tram to Bondi Beach* HarperCollins Australia, 1992 (picture book)

Jones, Carol *Just a Trucker's Luck* Longman Australia, 1997

Komninos *High Street Kew East* Illustrated by Diana Reynolds, Angus & Robertson, 1990.

Wheatley, Nadia *Highway* Omnibus Books, 1998 (picture book)

ARTICLES

'Conversation between John Nicholson and Rosalind Price' *Magpies*, Vol 11, Issue 4, September 1996, pp. 8-13.

Crew, Gary, 'Fiction, Nonfiction and the Limits of Fiction', *Magpies*, Vol 19, Issue 2, May 2004, pp. 8-10.

WEBSITES

Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF)
http://www.acfonline.org.au/default.asp?section_id=0

Australian Government. Department of Climate Change.
<http://www.climatechange.gov.au/>

Australian Institute of Petroleum
<http://www.aip.com.au/about/index.htm>

Australian Institute of Petroleum 'Oceans and Oil Spills' Fact Sheet.
http://www.aip.com.au/industry/fact_oceans.htm

Australian Motor Industries (AMI)
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_Motor_Industries

'Aviators' *Study Sphere* at *The Sphere for Learning: Learning Resources for Students, Families, and Teachers*
http://www.studysphere.com/Site/Sphere_5368.html

'Car Accident' *Wikipedia*
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Car_accident

Centre for Automotive Research (CAR)
<http://www.cargroup.org/>

'A Century of Discovery'
http://www.boeing.com/companyoffices/aboutus/wonder_of_flight/cod.html

'Charles Kingsford Smith'
<http://www.culture.gov.au/articles/kingsfordsmith/>

'Hargrave: Aviation and Aeromodelling Independent Evolutions and Histories'
<http://www.ctie.monash.edu.au/hargrave/>

'Holden' *Wikipedia*
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holden>

How Stuff Works
<http://www.howstuffworks.com/>

'Hybrid Cars' *Eartheasy*
http://www.eartheasy.com/live_hybrid_cars.htm

Hybridcars.com
<http://www.hybridcars.com/>

'Internal Combustion Engine' *Wikipedia*
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internal_combustion_engine

'Lawrence Hargrave (1850-1915)' *Australian Dictionary of Biography* Online Edition
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A090194b.htm>

National Library of Australia Digital Collections .This site contains many photos.
<http://www.nla.gov.au>

Nice, Karim and Julia Leighton 'How Hybrid Cars Work.' *How Stuff Works*
<http://www.howstuffworks.com/hybrid-car.htm>

'Petrol Engine' *Wikipedia*
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gasoline_engine

Powerhouse Museum
<http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/>

Qantas Founders Outback Museum
<http://www.qfom.com.au/>

Qantas Heritage Collection
<http://www.qantas.com.au/info/about/heritageCollection>

Queensland Museum Sciencentre
<http://www.southbank.qm.qld.gov.au/sciencentre/>

Reserve Bank of Australia. 'Oil Prices and the Australian Economy.' *Reserve Bank Bulletin September 2008*.

http://www.rba.gov.au/PublicationsAndResearch/Bulletin/bu_sep08/oil_prices_au_economy.html

'Transportation' *Study Sphere at The Sphere for Learning: Learning Resources for Students, Families, and Teachers*
http://www.studysphere.com/Site/Sphere_2028.html

'Southern Cross' *Wikipedia*
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Cross_\(aircraft\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Cross_(aircraft))

'World Solar Challenge' *Wikipedia*
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Solar_Challenge

'World's First Automotive Accident' *Ohio History Central*
<http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/entry.php?rec=2596>

ABOUT THE WRITERS

JOHN NICHOLSON

John Nicholson is an award-winning author and illustrator, who has produced a number of children's books for Allen & Unwin. Three of John's books, *A Home among the Gum Trees*, *The First Fleet* and *Fishing for Islands*, have been awarded the Children's Council of Australia's Eve Pownall Award for Information Books. He was trained as an architect but now writes and illustrates full-time. His books are mostly non-fiction, and he believes that 'information books' can be as exciting and adventurous as fiction. John Nicholson's other publications for children and teenagers include:

Paper Chase 1993

Homemade Houses 1993

Gold! 1994

The Cruellest Place on Earth 1994

The First Fleet 1995

Australian Explorers 1996

Kimberley Warrior 1997

A Home Among the Gum Trees 1997

Who's Running This Country? 1998

Fishing for Islands 1999

The State of the Planet 2000
Building the Sydney Harbour Bridge 2000
The Mighty Murray 2002
Animal Architects 2003
Australia Locked Up 2006
Songlines and Stone Axes 2007
Cedar, Seals and Whaling Ships 2007
Wool Wagons and Clipper Ships 2008
Steam Steel and Speed 2008

Within NSW, school visits by John Nicholson can be organised through Lateral Learning. Visit <http://www.laterallearning.com> or email bookings@laterallearning.com.

Within Victoria, school visits can be organised through Booked Out. Visit <http://www.bookedout.com.au/> or email bookings@bookedout.com.au

DR ROBYN SHEAHAN-BRIGHT

Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright operates **justified text** writing and publishing consultancy services, and publishes regularly on children's literature, Australian fiction, and publishing history. She was inaugural director of and is a Life Member of the Queensland Writers Centre, and was co-founder of Jam Roll Press. Her latest publications include *Paper Empires: A History of the Book in Australia (1946-2005)* (2006) co-edited with Craig Munro, *Kookaburra Shells Port Curtis Literature* (2006), and *Hot Iron Corrugated Sky: 100 Years of Queensland Writing* (2002) co-edited with Stuart Glover. She has chapters in several textbooks including *Making Books* edited by David Carter and Anne Galligan (UQP, 2007) and *Crossing the Boundaries* edited by Michelle Anstey and Geoff Bull (Pearson Education, 2002). Her PhD thesis traced the development of the Australian children's publishing industry, and she teaches for Griffith University (Gold Coast) and USQ.