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Journey of River Girl released in book form

A BOOK which had its beginnings in Mackay was released earlier this year.

River Girl by Glenda Andrew (Nicholls) is an illustrated book published by Black Ink Press.

Glenda began writing in Mackay while her children were small, and she dedicates the book to them.

"I wrote the book for my children, Melinda, Jonathan and Nathaniel to show where I had come from, the Murray River region bordering Victoria and NSW, and a bit about their history and how things have changed in so little time. I have travelled, married and met many wonderful role models, most now gone to their dreaming," Ms Andrew said.

"As I taught my children living skills, they in turn taught me many in this new world that we are living in. I have learnt some German with Jonathan and learnt how to sing with the help of Melinda and how to laugh and have a good time with Nathaniel."

Following a marriage separation, Glenda moved back to Victoria where she can more easily visit her family and the much-changed Murray River region. Meanwhile, Yanga Station, where she often visited her

Uncle Bes and Auntie Lorraine, has become one of NSW's new national parks.

River Girl explores the childhood influences of two strong but very different sets of grandparents.

"My Christianity came from Nan and Pop (Pastor Doug) Nicholls and my bush spirit is what I received from Nan Karpany," Jeanie said.

In 2001 Glenda met Jeanie Adams of Black Ink who addressed an educators conference in Queensland about the publishing project. Black Ink held its first competition that year, and Glenda's autobiography was the winner of her section. Now she is willing to talk to groups and share her writing experience with students.

Black Ink is an indigenous community writing, illustrating and publishing project, based in Townsville. It was established by the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress.

The idea is to find storytellers, writers and artists, and build skills to enable them to create high quality illustrated books and also use audio, visual and digital media.

River Girl is the seventh book, distributed by the Australian Book

Group.



GLENDA Andrew (Nicholls) began writing a book about her life while she was living in Mackay.

Picture: Contributed.