

---

— THE —

# **SPEAKING LAND**

---

Myth and Story in Aboriginal Australia

Ronald M. Berndt  
Catherine H. Berndt

PENGUIN BOOKS  
ASSISTED BY THE LITERATURE BOARD  
OF THE AUSTRALIA COUNCIL

---

# CONTENTS

---

LIST OF MYTHS AND STORIES	vii
---------------------------	-----

---

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	xiii
-----------------------	------

---

MAIN STORY-TELLERS	xiv
--------------------	-----

---

MAPS	xxii
------	------

---

FOREWORD	xxv
----------	-----

---

1. INTO A WORLD OF MYTH AND STORY	1
Mythic scenes	
Living myths	
The <i>participating</i> land	
Range and selection	
Speaking and listening	
A land full of mythic voices	

---

2. SHAPING THE ABORIGINAL WORLD	15
Myths 1 to 35	

---

3. SNAKES AND RAINBOWS	73
Myths 36 to 65	

---

4. ALSO THERE FROM THE BEGINNING	126
Myths 66 to 92	

---

5. SHAPES IN NATURE	176
Myths 93 to 123	

---

6. BREAKING THE RULES	215
Myths 124 to 146	

---

7. EROTICISM	257
Myths 147 to 165	
<hr/>	
8. DRAMATIC PERSPECTIVES	296
Myths 166 to 191	
<hr/>	
9. IN SEARCH OF MEANING	389
'Different, but a little bit the same' (locally speaking)	
Some examples from western Arnhem Land	
Myth 192	
Myth 193	
Same but different (a distant view)	
Continuities and changes	
<hr/>	
10. OLD WORLD, NEW WORLD	408
Inside views, outside views	
Structural approaches	
Yirawadbad discourse analysis	
Translating and interpreting	
A changing world	
Myth 194	
Myth 195	
New techniques, in new settings	
Talking, listening to the land	
<hr/>	
BIBLIOGRAPHY	428
<hr/>	
INDEX	433
<hr/>	