

Arabanoo was a boy when Captain James Cook sailed into the Pacific Ocean in search of the fabled 'Great South Land'. While revolution and unparalleled change swept the northern hemisphere, Arabanoo's people continued to live in seclusion from the rest of the world.

Oblivious of Cook's return to London with news of a land he had claimed for Britain, Arabanoo's people remained unaware of subsequent plans for a penal colony in their homeland. They had no idea of the enormous challenge they would face with the arrival of the First Fleet.

More than a decade later, Arabanoo, now a young man, finds himself caught in a drama of unimagined consequence. Alone, in the midst of strangers, while captive to their unknown intentions, he nevertheless turns his terrifying ordeal into an amazing cross cultural journey.

By his actions, his captors come to admire and respect him, describing him as intelligent, dignified and gentle. Through his open-mindedness, he demonstrates how ignorance and fear can be dispelled.

However, when two sick children arrive on the scene, Arabanoo's journey takes a dramatic turn.

Every Australian will be the better for knowing this true story.



BIRRONG BOOKS