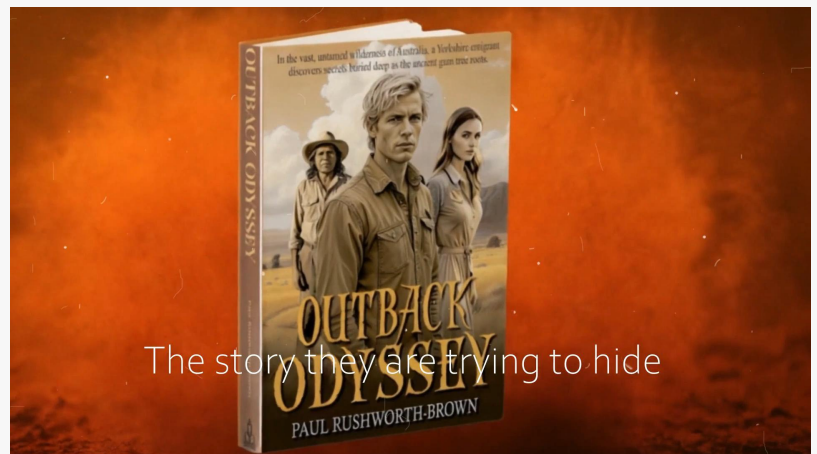


# New Historical Novel Outback Odyssey Gains Global Attention While Sparking Silence at Home

*Paul Rushworth-Brown's Outback Odyssey Earns International Acclaim for Its Allegorical Portrayal of Australia's Colonial Past*

SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA, August 7, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- On the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, a historical novel out of Australia is doing what few books dare: confronting the silence that still surrounds colonisation, Aboriginal culture, and national identity.



Outback Odyssey: One boy's journey. Every nation's question — who gets to belong?

[Outback Odyssey](#), the new novel by English-born Australian author Paul Rushworth-Brown, is gaining international recognition — from the UK to the US — for its unflinching exploration of cultural erasure, Indigenous resilience, and spiritual belonging in a fractured land.

“

I just wrote a story that hopefully urges people to think. We need to grow — not in power, but in empathy. We've got to become better at being human.”

*Paul Rushworth-Brown*

*A Story Too Honest for Some*

Set in 1950s Australia, Outback Odyssey follows a young

Yorkshire migrant who, after a childhood in an orphanage, is cast adrift in the remote bush. Taken under the guidance of a First Nations Elder named Jarrah, the boy's journey becomes one of cultural immersion, spiritual reckoning, and quiet belonging — not to ownership, but to understanding.

This isn't just historical fiction. It's an allegory. And that makes it harder to dismiss.

"So many books set on Aboriginal land never ask what that land remembers," Rushworth-Brown says. "This one does."

"I'm not trying to preach," he says. "I just wrote a story that hopefully urges people to think. I believe we need to grow — not in power, but in empathy. We've got to become better at being human."

Global Praise. Local Silence.

Outback Odyssey has been featured on the [UK podcast Conversations Allowed](#), America's Jazz for Peace, America Tonight with Kate Delaney, and picked up by [The Associated Press](#). It's been applauded for its allegorical depth — a novel that, as one Indigenous educator said, "sits with us, not over us. That's rare. And it matters."

And yet, back home in Australia?

Silence. With the exception of Ngaarda Media, a First Nations broadcaster, the novel has been ignored by the mainstream literary press — a void that mirrors the story's deeper themes.

"It's not just a novel," says literary analyst Amanda Smith. "It's a mirror. And mirrors make people flinch when they're not ready."

From Page to Screen

Award-winning Swedish director Carl Svensson — known for *Young Wallander*, *Pappa Parkinson* and *En svensk tiger* — is currently in early talks with Rushworth-Brown about a screen



Author Paul Rushworth-Brown seated beside an Aboriginal Elder in Arnhem Land, Northern Territory — a moment of cultural connection that echoes the themes of *Outback Odyssey*.



Author Paul Rushworth-Brown walking in the shadow of Uluru — a moment of reflection on sacred ground.

adaptation that stays true to the book's emotional and cultural weight.

#### A Life Written Between the Lines

Rushworth-Brown is no stranger to being erased. As former head coach of the Australian Paralympic Football Team — a team he helped name and lead for over a decade — he was removed from its official history after speaking out when the Australian Sports Commission attempted to shut the program down.

That experience of institutional silence echoes through *Outback Odyssey* — a story built on truths Australia often struggles to face.

"Truth-telling costs something," he says. "But silence costs more."

#### Why It Matters — and Why It's Timely

Released during a global reckoning on Indigenous rights, *Outback Odyssey* is a wake-up call dressed in fiction. Its allegorical message resonates with Indigenous struggles across continents — from Turtle Island to Aotearoa. And it asks something simple, but urgent:

"Can we grow — not just as economies, but as people?"

As the world marks the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, *Outback Odyssey* isn't just part of the conversation. It's starting the one many still try to avoid.

□ Listen to the Author Interview on Conversations Allowed

<https://youtu.be/CGHOBZkyM0>

□ Learn More about the Book

<https://bit.ly/43P4noC>

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