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## Unique partnership nurtures Indigenous writing & illustrating talent

Six previously unpublished Indigenous authors and illustrators are in the final stages of having their work showcased in a children's picture book, thanks to The Little Big Book Club and Allen & Unwin *Emerging Indigenous Picture Book Mentoring Project*.

The project has paired each author/illustrator with a renowned mentor in children's publishing, including the likes of Nick Bland, Ann James, Bronwyn Bancroft, Boori Monty Prior, Ali Cobby Eckermann, Nadia Wheatley and Ken Searle, to share ideas, techniques and inspiration for their first published work. The result is a set of four original children's picture books that will be published by Allen & Unwin Book Publishers and available to purchase nationwide.

The main objectives of the project are to create professional development opportunities for emerging Indigenous children's authors and illustrators, provide appropriate and enjoyable books for young children and increase the availability of books by Indigenous authors and illustrators.

Leann J Edwards, one of the participating artists from Lakes Entrance, Victoria, has relished the opportunity to work with one of her favourite illustrators.

"Having Bronwyn Bancroft as my mentor was very helpful...because she got my work, dissected it and then put it back together again, in a different way! But she bridged the gap for me and finally made that penny drop".

The project commenced in late 2011 and the final picture book will be printed in October 2014. Each book has been produced as a joint initiative between The Little Big Book Club and Allen & Unwin and has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

For further information on the project please contact: Nicole Marshall, Marketing Officer, The Little Big Book Club, M: 0402 296 967 / E: [nicole.marshall@tbbcinc.com.au](mailto:nicole.marshall@tbbcinc.com.au)

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