**Historical Fiction**

**Ancient Egypt**

Would, Nick *The Scarab’s Secret* (The story of a pharaoh’s tomb and a secret plot told from the point of view of a scarab beetle – picture book, yrs 1-3)

**Ancient Rome**

Balit, Christina *Escape from Pompeii* (a story of Tranio’s escape from Pompeii on August 24, AD79 when Vesuvius erupted – picture book Junior primary)

Bradman, Tony *The Sandal* (the history of an artefact – a Roman sandal – a textless picture book showing a day in a Roman family and the loss of a sandal/then a trip to a museum with a modern family where they see the Roman sandal and the subsequent loss of a sandal/then a look at a family of tomorrow . . . – yrs PP+)

**Australian**

Allen, Peter *Our Don Bradman – The Diary of Victor McDonald* (set in Sydney it describes the year 1932. While cricket and Don Bradman are at the centre of the story, other events of that year, Bodyline scandal, Olympics, opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Great Depression are inter-related.) (My Story series)

Bernard, Patricia *Fords and Flying Machines – The Diary of Jack McLaren* (set in Longreach, 1919-21 - At 14, Jack McLaren leaves his home in Sydney and heads to Longreach in Queensland where he is apprenticed as a motor mechanic to his uncle George. Jack and George travel on the first automobile to drive the Gulf Track from Longreach to Katherine, accompanying two pilots who are surveying suitable airstrip sites for the great air race from England to Australia. They encounter crocodiles and snakes, and contend with punctures, broken axles and breakdowns, Jack and his fellow travellers are sure there is a better way to travel these vast distances. The Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Service is about to be born.) (My Story series) Yrs 5/6

Boardman, Alan *Eureka Stockade* (non-fiction but in picture book format illustrated by Roland Harvey – Ballarat 1854 – Life on the goldfields was harsh and the miners felt government measures were unfair and oppressive. They formed the Ballarat Reform League to fight for improved rights and condition. This began the legend of the Eureka Stockade) 994.5 BOA Yrs 3+

Cheng, Christopher W *New Gold Mountain – the Diary of Shu Cheong* (set in Lambing Flat, NSW in 1860-1861 - Relations between the European miners and the Chinese are strained. As more people come flooding into the area and space gets tighter, the tensions break into violent outbursts against the Chinese, who live in constant fear of being attacked.  Cheng weaves historical events into Shu Cheong's story.  He uses the diary genre convincingly to convey the daily grind of camp life and sets this alongside the concerns and questions of a young boy caught up in these events outside his control. ) (My Australian Story series) Yrs 5/6

Baillie, Alan *Riding With Thunderbolt – The Diary of Ben Cross* (set in Northern NSW in 1865 it is the story of Ben Cross who runs away to join Captain Thunderbolt the bushranger. It describes the highs and lows of bushranging life) (My Story series) Yrs 5/6

Edwards, Ian *Papa and the Olden Days* (based on Rachel Tonkin’s (illustrator) memories of her father’s stories – reminiscences of days gone by) PP-Yr 2

French, Jackie *The Camel Who Crossed Australia* (the story of the Burke and Wills expedition in 1860, told from 3 different points of view – camel handler Dost Mahomet, soldier John King and Bell Sing, a camel) (Animal Stars series) Yrs 4-6

French, Jackie *The Goat Who Sailed the World* (The story of the Goat is really the story of the historic voyage of Capt Cook’s Endeavour and their adventures, mapping the transit of Venus, hunting for the Great South land, exploring the New Zealand coastline and eastern Australia, facing ship wreck, attack, and disease. It's also the story of Isaac Manley, the boy who looked after the goat, and his rise from master's servant to midshipman, the beginning of a career that would make him an admiral, and the last surviving member of cook's crew.) (Animal Stars series) Yrs 4-6

French, Jackie *Tom Appleby Convict Boy* (The story opens as Thomas Appleby, a successful squatter celebrates his ninetieth birthday in April 1868 at Murraroo, Australia. In the next chapter we meet the young Tom in Puddlington, England in the year 1785, when the events that led to his transportation to Australia with the First Fleet begin. This is an historical narrative which evokes the social, and to a lesser extent political conditions, of late eighteenth-century London; conditions aboard ship and the hardships of establishing a self-sufficient colony, far removed from the familiarity of home.) Yrs 5-6

Gillespie, Michelle *Sam, Grace and the Shipwreck* (picture book depicting sixteen-year-old Grace Bussell’s part in rescuing the passengers and crew of the Georgette when it was shipwrecked off the WA coast in 1876. But the rescue would never have been possible without the guidance and leadership of Sam Isaacs, an Aboriginal stockman.) Yrs 2+

Gleeson , Libby *The Rum Rebellion – the Diary of David Bellamy* (Set in Sydney Town in 1807-1809 Orphaned, lame and afraid, David Bellamy is shipped around the world to his only surviving relatives, farmers in New South Wales. In the midst of his grief he must come to terms with a whole, strange new life, which often seems harsh and terrible, peopled by convicts and snakes and rum-soaked redcoats. But then, just as life on the farm seems to be becoming more bearable, David’s uncle, a supporter of Governor Bligh, decides to take a hand in the politics of the day, and David becomes involved in the infamous Rum Rebellion.) Yr 6+

Greenwood, Kerry *A Different Sort of Real - The Diary of Charlotte McKenzie* (set in Melbourne in 1918, this describes the devastating influenza pandemic just after WW1) (My Story series) Yr 6+

Greenwood, Mark *The Legend of Lasseter’s Reef* (the story of Lasseter's search for an elusive and mysterious gold reef. Well illustrated with maps, photos, diary entries and letters) Yr 4+ (823.3 GRE)

Greenwood, Mark *The Legend of Moondyne Joe* (The story of Joseph Johns (who became known as Moondyne Joe), who is remembered for his daring escapes from custody. History has questioned whether Joe was really a hardened criminal, or simply a harmless lover of freedom. This story explores Moondyne's tale without either condemning or condoning his actions, yet the reader find himself quietly cheering Joe on.) Yrs 2-6

Harris, Christine *Outback – The Diary of Jimmy Porter* (Central Australia in 1927-28 this is the diary of 12 year old city boy Jimmy who is sent to live with his uncle’s family in the middle of nowhere. It clearly records the harshness and basic level of life in inland Australia at that time and also includes other aspects of Australian history like the infancy of the Royal Flying Doctor Service) (My Australian Story series)

Lefroy, Joy & Frylinck, Diana *The Pipeline C.Y. O’Connor Built* (a clever, very accessible picture book which describes the evolution of the Goldfields Pipeline from Mundaring to Kalgoorlie in the style of *The House That Jack Built*. It includes a short history of the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme and a glossary of terms at the back – Yr 3+) (628.1 LEF)

Lisson, Deborah *The Yankee Whaler – The Diary of Thomas Morris* (set in Bunbury in 1876 a fictional story based on the true events involving an American whaling ship and Irish Fenian rebels locked in Fremantle Prison) (My Story series) Yrs 5/6

McHugh, Siobhan *Snowy – the Diary of Eva Fischer* (set in Cabramurra in 1958-59. A year in the life of a feisty eleven year-old-girl growing up in Cabramurra as the Snowy Mountains Scheme transforms the social and physical landscape) (My Story series) Yrs 5/6

Masson, Sophie *The Hunt for Ned Kelly – the Diary of Jamie Ross* (set in north-east Victoria in 1879-80. Jamie Ross and his older sister Ellen are alone in the world after the death of their father. Determined to make their fortune, they head to Beechworth-and straight into the midst of the search for notorious bushranger, Ned Kelly. Jamie is fascinated by Ned. Is he a hero wronged by the police, as some people say, or a cold-blooded murderer? A chance encounter will bring Jamie closer to the answer than he could ever imagine.) (My Australian Story series) Yrs 5/6

Tucker, Alan *The Bombing of Darwin – The Diary of Tom Taylor* (Darwin, 1942) (My Australian Story series)

Tonkin, Rachel To the Goldfields! (1852 – “I was nine when my family and I set off for the goldfields. Life was completely different there . . .” – a picture book which recreates the details of daily life at the diggings, from family doings to sly grog shops, water shortages and political protests.) Yrs 3-5

Tonkin, Rachel *When I Was A Kid* (1950s Australia – a picture book which recreates the world of the 1950s from beach fashions to Ansett Airways, from the beginning of TV to bungers on Guy Fawkes’ Night.) Yrs 2-5

Tucker, Alan *Cyclone Tracy – The Diary of Ryan Turner* (Darwin, 1974) (My Australian Story series)

Wheatley, Nadia *A Banner Bold - The Diary of Rosa Adams*

(a portrayal of life on the Ballarat goldfields and of the events of the Eureka Stockade in 1854) (My Australian Story series)

Wheatley, Nadia *My Place* (Originally published to mark the bicentenary of white settlement in Australia, it tells the story of a house and its surroundings through the voices of successive generations of children who identify with it as their home during different decades, from 1988 to 1788, with the aboriginal boy, Barangaroo. Each child draws a detailed map of the area in which they live, and introduces the reader to "my place" which, while remaining geographically constant, changes in its features and use as each generation puts their individual stamp on the building and the area.) PP-6. Excellent teacher resource available at <http://www.myplace.edu.au/home.html>

Wilkinson, Carole *The Night We Made the Flag* (In 1854 goldminers took a stand against high mining fees on the Victorian goldfields. They rallied around a flag. The story of the Eureka Stockade is well documented. The flag flew for just a few days in 1854. The protest was crushed, the flag was torn down, and yet this flag has become a symbol of democracy and a fair go in Australia. But what about the women who made the flag by hand? There are no records of that event, just oral stories handed down in three families. This is a story of what might have happened the night the flag was made.) Yrs 4-6

**Refugees**

Do, Anh and Suzanne *The Little Refugee* (comedian Anh Do's inspirational story about his family's incredible escape from war-torn Vietnam and his childhood in Australia, told in picture book form especially for young children. [*The Happiest Refugee* is his memoir for older readers]) Yrs 1+

Mattingly, Christobel *No Gun for Asmir* (Bosnian conflict, 1992 - This is a story of war, told from a child's point of view. The Bosnian conflicts may be a thing of the past, but this story is a testament to the saying "War never does make sense".  Asmir and his family have to flee the city of Sarajevo and they become refugees to escape the war.  Unfortunately Asmir's father cannot leave with them. Mattingley's story is based on real events and is a tender account of the family's escape and the emotions they experience.) Yrs 4-6

Strachan, Ian *Journey of a 1000 Miles* (Follows 12-year-old Lee and his desperate escape from war-torn Vietnam with many others on a fishing boat. He has to battle a giant storm, rough seas and real life pirates, all the while wondering if he will ever see land again?) Yr 6+

**Medieval**

Crossley-Holland, Kevin *Gatty’s Tale*

(1203 – story of a pilgrimage from Wales to Jerusalem) UP/LS

Deary, Terry *The Real Joan of Arc?* (History Mystery series)

 (France – 1420’s)

**Roman**

Deary Terry *The Captive Celt* (Roman Tales series)

(Emperor Claudius and British chief Caratacus - 51 AD)

Deary, Terry *The Grim Ghost* (Roman Tales series)

 (in Pliny’s house - 113 AD)

**Stuart**

Deary, Terry *The Truth about Guy Fawkes* (History Mystery series) (Gunpowder Plot – 1605)

**Tudor**

Deary, Terry *The Thief, the Fool and the Big Fat King* (Henry VIII’s reign) (Tudor Tales series)

Deary, Terry *Who Killed Kit Marlowe?* (History Mystery series) (The story of Christopher Marlowe’s death in 1593)

Deary, Terry *The Princes in Terror Tower* (mystery of the disappearance of the princes, Edward IV’s sons, in the tower in 1483) (Time Detectives series)

French, Jackie *The Dog Who Loved a Queen* (tale of religious bigotry, plots and passion, told from the point of view of Mary Queen of Scots’ dog Folly, a small Scottish Terrier.) (Animal Stars series) Yrs 4-6

**Victorian**

Deary, Terry *Who Shot Queen Victoria?* (Assassination attempt on Queen Victoria in 1842) (History Mystery series)

Lasky, Kathryn *One Beetle Too Many* (picture book form of Charles Darwin’s journey toward the theory that changed the way we think about the world and ourselves – 576.8 DAR) Yrs 2+

**World War 1**

Beck, Jennifer *The Bantam and the Soldier* (picture book depicting another side to the war. In the midst of the fighting and devastation an unusual friendship between a young soldier and a bantam is formed.) Yrs 1-3

Eldridge, Jim *Flying Ace – Jack Fairfax, Royal Flying Corps 1915-1918* (fictional account of the early days of the RAF during WW1 with some historical notes and statistics added) (English My Story series) Yr 5/6

Greenwood, Mark *Simpson and his Donkey* (picture book with simple illustrations telling the heroic story of Jack Simpson Kirkpatrick who, together with a donkey, worked tirelessly to carry wounded soldiers from the battlefront at Gallipoli to the beach hospital – yrs 3+ (940.426 KIR)

Jorgensen, Norm *In Flanders Fields* (a compelling counterpoint to images often seen of war, depicting its senselessness and inhumanity. The book tells the story of a homesick soldier who, in the temporary ceasefire which comes with Christmas day, spies a robin caught on some wire in no man’s land. Rather than enjoy the lull in fighting and remain in safety, the soldier risks walking towards German trenches to rescue the robin. Soldiers from both sides watch in disbelief as he risks his own life to save that of the robin.) Yrs 3-6

Lockyer, John *Harry and the Anzac Poppy* (Harry discovers a world he’s only ever read about in books when he finds the letters written to his Great Grandma by her father from the Western Front during the First World War. Good descriptions of life in the trenches and the soldiers’ emotions.) Yrs 3+

Williams, Marcia *Archie’s War – My Scrapbook of the First World War, 1914-1918* (10 year old Archie is mad about comics in 1914 and when his uncle Teddy gives him a scrapbook, he fills the pages with characters and stories from his life at the time. Then the war begins and Archie chronicles its progress both at home in East London and abroad. It's all historically sound but told in such a way that it's impossible not to empathise with the family as Teddy is killed and Dad goes off to fight. Postcards from Dad come into the scrapbook, but five men from Grove Road have been killed and three of them had children. The war no longer seems quite as glorious particularly as food is in short supply and money is tight. A unique history of a young person’s life in England during the Great War.) Yrs 4-6

**World War II**

French, Jackie *Hitler’s Daughter* (Obviously fictional but thought-provoking – 2 stories - one of Anna, Mark, Ben and Tracey who tell stories to each other while waiting for their bus each day and the other is Anna’s story about Hitler’s daughter Heidi. Considers the implications of being the child of someone wholly evil/What could a child do about it?/Could you continue to love that person? Yr 6+

Hesse, Karen *The Cats in Krasinski Square* (picture book based on a true story about cats outfoxing the Gestapo at the Warsaw train station during the war. Set in the Warsaw Ghetto.) Yrs 2+

Lester, Alison *Running with the Horses* (picture book based on the true story of Vienna’s Spanish Riding School, the Lipizzaner stallions and their escape from the city during the war.) Yrs 1-4

Tonkin, Rachel *What Was the War Like, Grandma?* (a recreation of the war years in Australia from a child’s point of view – picture book) Yrs 2+