

**THIS TIMELY BIOGRAPHY OF AUSTRALIA'S FIRST
INDIGENOUS PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER REVEALS
THE MAN BEHIND THE ICONIC IMAGE THAT MARKED A
NEW ERA FOR ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS,**

**MERVYN BISHOP'S PHOTOGRAPH OF GOUGH WHITLAM AND
VINCENT LINGIARI WAS CELEBRATED ON A STAMP IN 2026 AND
NOW A 50 CENT COIN.**

Born in Brewarrina NSW in 1945, he used chance, charm and talent to join the staff of the Sydney Morning Herald at just 17. He won a top news photography award but never received the customary pay increase.

Disillusioned, Bishop moved to Canberra as a government photographer and took the iconic photo of Gough Whitlam pouring earth into the hands of traditional owner Vincent Lingiari. He later returned to Sydney and was eventually befriended by the arts scene, leading to his first solo exhibition in 1991. But this victory was clouded by the death of his wife on the day of the opening. While often celebrated for chronicling the rising visibility of Indigenous Australians, Bishop is also proud of what he calls his "Whitefella pictures". He carved his own path, deftly navigating the Black and White worlds of post-war Australia.

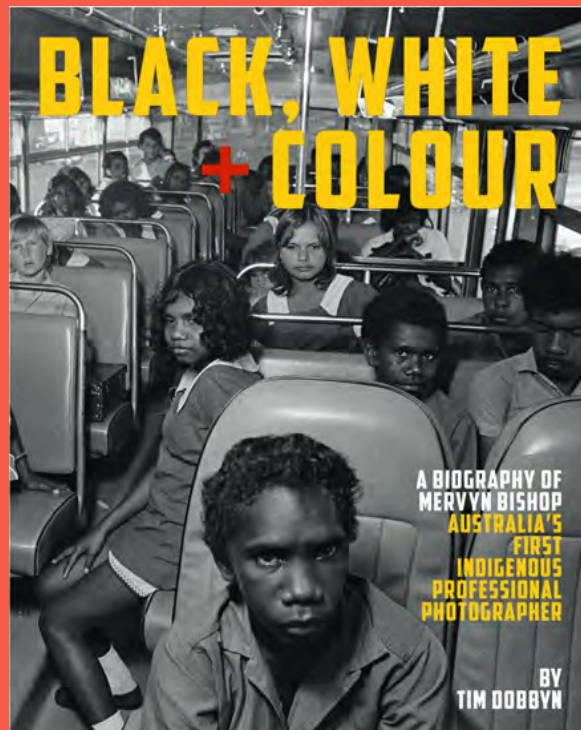


MEDIA COVERAGE

The biography is an affectionate, warm-hearted portrait of Bishop, who never loses his cheeky side. - Jasper Lindell, The Canberra Times

- The Guardian
- Australian Rural and Regional News
- Australian Associated Press
- Radio National
- National Indigenous Times
- Sydney Morning Herald
- Channel 9 News
- NITV

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION



Hardcover

ISBN:

9781761097089

Pub Date:

October 2025

RRP: \$59.99

Pages: 208 Size: 245 x 195 mm

Book details: Laminated cover, 4-process color, ivory paper, case bound and section sewn. Weighs 0.96 per unit. Ships 16 to a box. Produced in Hong Kong.

Availability: Direct supply from Ginninderra Press with 40 percent retailer discount at \$35.99 (inc. GST). Minimum quantity 10 units. Alternatively, through distributor Woodslane.

Stocked by all good booksellers including:

Readings, The Avenue Bookstore, Gleebooks; Abbeys, plus major chain/franchise stores - Dymocks, Collins, QBD. See also Gallery and Library shops such as The Curatoreum (National Portrait Gallery bookstore), National Library Australia bookshop; NSW State Library Bookshop; online stores, library suppliers and Indigenous specialty stores.

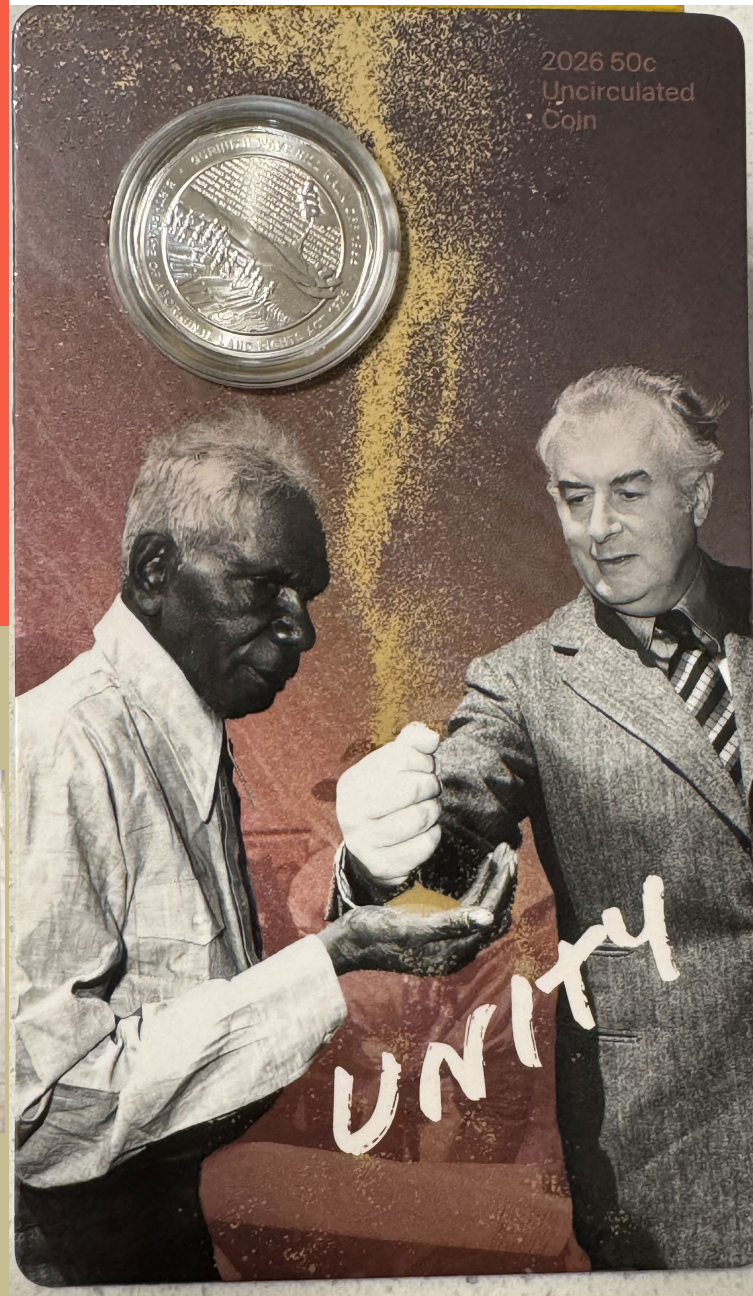
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In conjunction with the book's release, a landmark exhibition of Mervyn Bishop's iconic photography is currently running at the NSW State Library (from October 2025 through to February 2027).

In addition, the Royal Australian Mint has released a commemorative 50-cent coin in August 2026, honouring the 60th anniversary of the Wave Hill Walk-Off and the 50th anniversary of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976.



THE AUTHOR

Tim Dobbyn is a former journalist who has worked at Australian Associated Press and Reuters. He then worked freelance jobs before starting work on the Mervyn Bishop biography in 2018. He and his family have known Bishop since 1962. He lives near Washington D.C. with his wife Sheila and two impossible dogs.



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