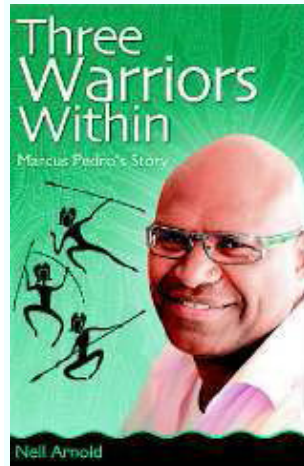


Three Warriors Within: Marcus Pedro's Story

Neil Arnold

Big Sky Publishing, \$24.99



MARCUS Pedro's life story was probably not intended as a reminder for the reader to be eternally grateful. This is however, the lingering sense that remains after reading Neil Arnold's short biography of his life. Primarily a journal of self reflection, the book tells of the quantum leap required to grow away from a challenging childhood. In this, there is a shared commonality for anyone whose early years were less than perfect.

But this is a unique story and one which bears little resemblance to a white, middle-class suburban childhood.

Born on a small island in the Torres Strait, Marcus struggled with literacy and a lack of confidence which plagued his formative years.

Fortunately, his mother valued formal education and despite his pleas to let him leave school, she insisted Marcus continued to secondary school.

Saved in many ways by a talent for sports and martial arts, Marcus was able to redeem enough self-confidence to enrol in a social justice course. This facilitated his entry into the Queensland police force, which became a turning point in his life.

Helped by teachers, his police coach and tutors, Marcus was finally able to develop skills in literacy and address some primary issues which had held him back from reaching his potential. He credits his eventual success to learning how to listen, finally, to his inner voice.

Marcus now spends his time as a motivational speaker and advocate for his self-developed Warrior Programme.

Neil Arnold's story takes up where Marcus Pedro's leaves off and seems, initially, to have been oddly grafted on to the second half of the book. But in some strange way, their parallel stories work. A book which is empathetically written and beautifully produced.

Jane Barry