



## Astronomy and Navigation in Aboriginal Australia

*Tuesday 19 May 2015 20:20 (1 hour)*

Aboriginal people in Australia have a rich astronomical tradition with stories about the Sun, Moon, and stars, revealing a depth and complexity of pre-contact Aboriginal cultures which are not widely appreciated by outsiders. Not only did they know the sky intimately, but they were familiar with planetary motions, tides, and eclipses. Their songs and stories show that Aboriginal Australians sought to understand their Universe in a similar way to modern science. They used this knowledge of the sky and land to construct songlines, enabling them to navigate across the country, trading artefacts and sacred stories. In this talk I will explore some of the wonderful mystic Aboriginal songs, stories, and art, and how these were used to understand their world.

**Author:** NORRIS, Ray (Australia Telescope National Facility)

**Presenter:** NORRIS, Ray (Australia Telescope National Facility)

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