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Andrew Bolt: Leftists finally waking up to Bruce Pascoe's fraud

“Aboriginal historian” Bruce Pascoe’s jig is up, with woke Leftists now admitting he told untruths.



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Sky News host Andrew Bolt says “amazing new developments” have come to light in relation to “scandal” around historian Bruce Pascoe.

So called “Aboriginal historian” Bruce Pascoe pulled off the biggest hoax in Australia’s literary history. But now the jig is up, as even the woke Sydney Morning Herald and Age admit Pascoe told untruths.

The news on Saturday came like a thunderclap. Until now, these two Left-wing newspapers – along with the ABC – had protected the snowy-bearded 73-year-old sage.

Just last Australia Day, the SMH had this supposedly “Yuin, Bunurong and Tasmanian man” write an article about our white sins.

But at the weekend the SMH and Age reported that impeccably credentialed Leftist academics – anthropologist Peter Sutton and archaeologist Keryn Walshe – had a new book detailing how Pascoe had cheated in writing his bestseller *Dark Emu*.

Dark Emu became our hottest history book in decades by sensationally claiming Aborigines were not hunter-gatherers but “farmers” living in “houses” with “pens” in “towns” of “1000 people”.

But in Saturday’s magazine cover story, Sutton and Walshe gave example after example of how *Dark Emu* was “riddled with errors of fact, selective quotations, selective use of evidence, and exaggeration of weak evidence”, all to make false claims that appeal to Australians who wanted to believe Aborigines weren’t “mere” hunter-gatherers.

In fact, Sutton said he was “outraged” that schools now used *Dark Emu* as a textbook. The rest of us should be just as outraged that the ABC has made many videos to promote Pascoe in schools.



Dark Emu author Bruce Pascoe. Picture: Luke Bowden

We should also be amazed that the white Pascoe won a NSW Premier’s Literary Award meant for the best Indigenous writer – Stan Grant was a judge – and that Melbourne University even made this fantasist a Professor in Indigenous Agriculture

We should be appalled that Labor senator Penny Wong praised Pascoe for helping to free Australians from an “underlying supremacism”, and that Indigenous Affairs Minister Ken Wyatt sacked businesswoman Josephine Cashman as an adviser for calling Pascoe a fake. Pascoe proves truth is dead in even universities, schools, parliament and the ABC.

For readers of this newspaper, of course, it’s not news at all that Pascoe and his book are a colossal hoax.

Over nearly two years, I’ve shown that Pascoe cannot tell the truth even about his own racial identity.

Ever since the Canberra Times in 1988 criticised his first novel for being written by “a white man”, Pascoe has claimed to be a member of as many as three Aboriginal tribes.

But genealogical records show all his ancestors are of English descent, and both the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre and the Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council deny he’s a member of their tribes. They say he’s a fake.

Pascoe did eventually admit that the maternal great-grandmother he’d claimed was his Aboriginal ancestor was English, but won’t now say which ancestor he believes still makes him Aboriginal.

I’ve also given many examples of how Pascoe invented the evidence for his absurd claims that Aborigines were farmers in big towns. For instance, he’d falsely claimed explorers Thomas Mitchell and Charles Sturt had seen such things.





Pascoe's book *Dark Emu* won a number of awards.

Pascoe's inventions are so mad that he's even claimed – against evidence in the journals of Joseph Banks – that explorer Captain Cook saved his crew from “dying of scurvy” by boiling up native cabbage he'd “stolen” from the “roofs” of houses of Aboriginal “farmers”.

How did journalists let him get away with such idiocy, when the truth was staring them in the face?

It wasn't just me who pointed out Pascoe was a fraud. Researchers on dark-emu-exposed.org pulled apart Pascoe's claims in forensic detail. So did Peter O'Brien in *Quadrant* and his book *Bitter Harvest*.

But here's the problem. We were all conservatives. And journalists of the Left could not allow conservatives to be right.

Nowhere was Pascoe protected more fiercely than on the ABC. I can count at least 20 ABC presenters, reporters and editors who promoted him – but none who questioned him.

If any did mention Pascoe's critics, it was only to jeer that such evil people proved Pascoe's book was great. Take ABC host Benjamin Law: “If Andrew Bolt's publicly s...tting himself over it, you know it's good ... Give it to your non-Indigenous relatives this Christmas.”

Even this SMH article now trashing Pascoe offers a similar excuse for not listening sooner to his conservative critics.

It gratuitously abuses dark-emu-exposed.org as “vitriolic”, and quotes an academic falsely claiming “some of the criticism has been used to support a racist agenda”.

But Leftists may now safely admit Pascoe is a phony – because nice Leftists said so, in a Leftist newspaper.



Andrew Bolt

Columnist

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With a proven track record of driving the news cycle, Andrew Bolt steers discussion, encourages debate and offers his perspective on national affairs. A leading journalist and commentator, Andrew's columns are published in the Herald Sun, Daily Telegraph and Advertiser. He writes Australia's most-read political blog and hosts The Bolt Report on SkyNews each weeknight.

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