

Uncle Bob Randall was born around 1927 in the bush of the Central Desert region of the Northern Territory (NT), Australia. He is a "Tjilpi" (special teaching uncle) of the Yankunytjatjara Nation and one of the listed traditional keepers of the great monolith, Uluru. At about age 7, young Bob was taken away from his mother and family under government policy which forcibly removed all half-caste (half-Aboriginal) children from their families. He was one of thousands of Aboriginal children who were placed in institutions throughout Australia and came to be known as the "Stolen Generation." Like so many, he grew up alone, away from his family, and never saw his mother again.

He was taken to a receiving home for indigenous children in Alice Springs, NT, then later was moved to Croker Island Reservation in Arnhem Land where he, like the other children, was given a new identity and birth date. No records were kept of the Aboriginal nation, family name, or identity of the Aboriginal children who were stolen. Young Bob was kept in government institutions until he was twenty when he, with new wife and baby, was banished for questioning white authorities. He moved to Darwin and later to Adelaide, South Australia, working, studying, and looking for his family and country of belonging. After many years of heart-wrenching searches, he found his roots and returned to his mother's country where he lives today at Mutitjulu Community beside Uluru.

Throughout his life, Uncle Bob has worked as an educator and leader for equal rights of all living, land rights and responsibility to the environment, Indigenous cultural awareness and preservation, and community development. He established Croker Island Night and several organizations in Darwin including the RRT Pony Club, Boxing Club, Folk Club, the Aboriginal Development Foundation. He worked as a Counselor through the Methodist Uniting Church and led a country music band that serviced regional Aboriginal communities. Later, Uncle Bob helped establish the Adelaide Community College for Aboriginal people, served as the Director of the Australian Northern Territory Legal Aid Service, performed on stage in "Child of the Night" and "Dream of Reconciliation" and established Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Centers at Australian National University, University of Canberra, and University of Wollongong.

In the early 1970s, Uncle Bob earned widespread recognition for his song, "My Brown Skin Baby, They Take 'Im Away," which focused national and international attention on the issues of the Stolen Generation. This song exposed the government's policy of stealing Aboriginal children and opened the door for indigenous story songwriters throughout Australia. It led to the filming of a documentary by the same name that won the Bronze Prize at the Cannes Film Festival and subsequently, the Australian government stopped taking children away from their families.

His lifelong efforts to retain Aboriginal culture and restore equal rights for all living were recognized in 1999 when he was named Indigenous Person of the Year. In 2004, Uncle Bob Randall was inducted into the NT Indigenous Music Hall of Fame, recognizing the historical significance of his classic story songs, "My Brown Skin Baby, They Take 'Im Away" and "Red Sun, Black Moon."

Uncle Bob has authored four books, including his autobiography, SONGMAN, and 3 books for children: TRACKER TJUGINJI, STORIES FROM COUNTRY, and NYUNTU NINTI He contributed his personal story of being stolen to the anthology, STORIES OF BELONGING: FINDING WHERE YOUR TRUE SELF LIVES, published in 2009. In 2006, Uncle Bob co-produced and narrated the award-winning documentary, "Kanyini." "Kanyini" was voted "best documentary" at the London Australian Film Festival 2007, winner of the "Inside Film Independent Spirit Award", and winner of the Discovery Channel Best Documentary Award in 2006.

Uncle Bob continues to write and teach throughout the world, presenting teachings based on the Anangu (central desert Aboriginal nation) "Kanyini" principles of caring for the environment and each other with unconditional love and responsibility. His tireless dedication calls indigenous people to reclaim their Aboriginal identities and re-gain lives of purpose, so that the relevance of ancient wisdom to modern living is understood. Uncle Bob Randall is a living bridge between cultures and between world nations, creating lines of understanding so that indigenous and non-indigenous people can live and learn together, heal the past through shared experience in the present, sharing a way of being that allows us, once again, to live in oneness and harmony with each other and all things.