




FRANCESKA JORDAN AM

MEDIA KIT



 0429 055 088

Biography

Franceska is an internationally recognised counsellor, speaker, author and healer. She was awarded the Australian Medal (AM) in the Order of Australia Day Award for her work with the aged, community care, disability and mental health sectors. Franceska has worked extensively in Africa, Europe, Latin America, Asia and India and now resides amongst her beloved trees in Queensland, Australia.

Franceska's personal studies extend to Buddhism, Shamanic healing, non-dualism and Jungian studies. She comes from the university of life (her own life has been fraught with difficulties), as well as extensive main-stream study and practice in psychological, emotional, neuropsychology and group work.

Franceska is a mother and grandmother, keen gardener and enjoys having Lucius - her furry grandson (alias Prince Fluff) for doggie day care and sleep overs while her son is working.

Franceska recently retired from her life's work in the health industry to complete her memoir, *Under The Boab Tree*. It is a story of abuse, loss, exile and love. Franceska is dedicated to sharing her and her mother's story to honour their journey of being tenacious survivors who choose to live with a loving heart. Their story inspires, gives hope and shows how through adversity we can triumph and grow. Franceska's story is one of amazing courage. Her story offers strength and comfort at a time when the pain, exclusion, isolation, abuse and disrespect seem insurmountable.

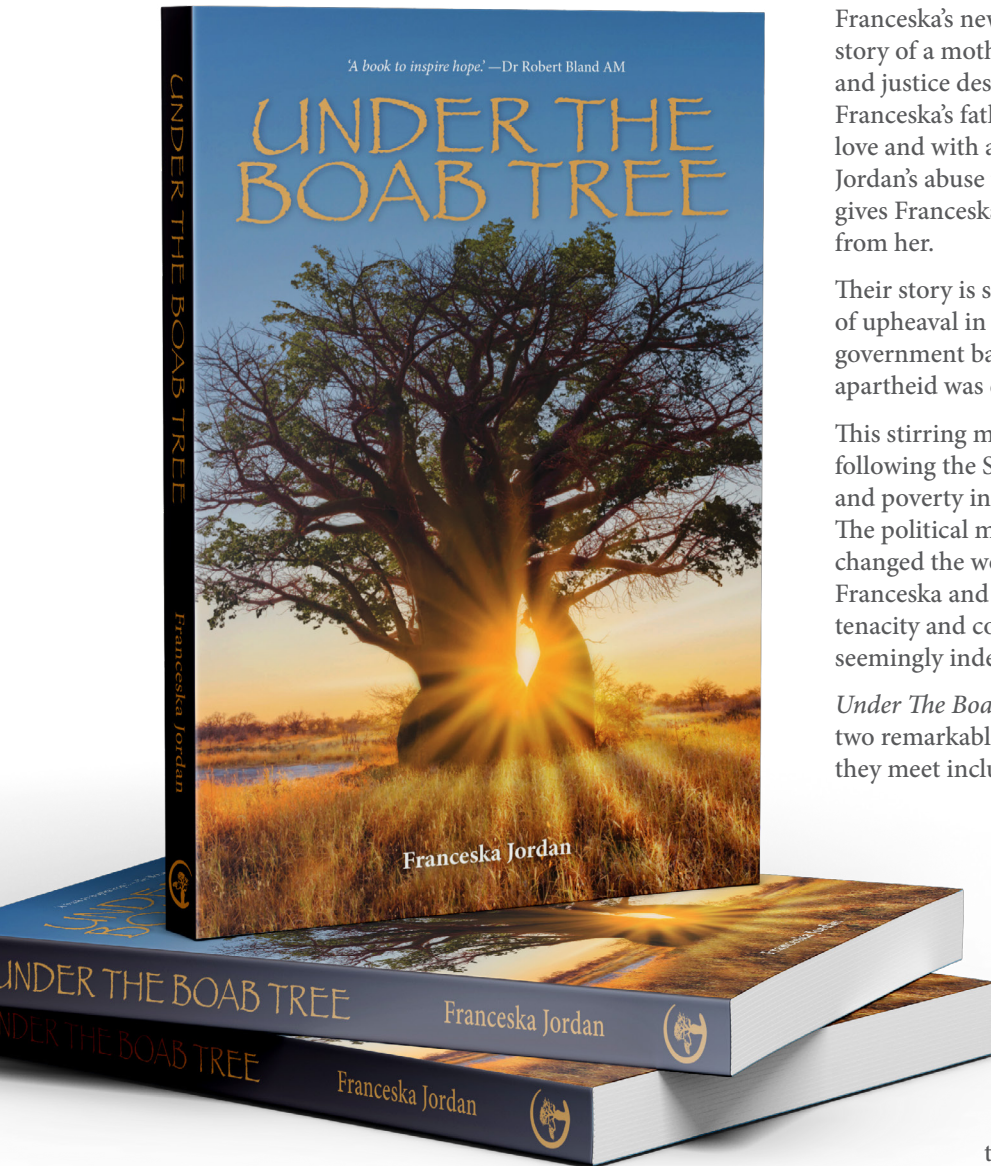
Franceska is able to seek joy in the saddest of places.



"A woman in full warrior mode feels like this: with grounded confidence, calm demeanour and respect, her strength shines through."

— AN EXCERPT FROM 'UNDER THE BOAB TREE'

Under the Boab Tree



Franceska's new book, 'Under The Boab Tree' is the story of a mother and daughter searching for truth and justice despite being beaten and tormented by Franceska's father, Charles Jordan. In their quest for love and with a desperate desire to escape Charles Jordan's abuse there is just one woman whose help gives Franceska hope that she can keep 'Father Death' from her.

Their story is set against the background of a time of upheaval in South Africa when the national government banned the Trade Union movement and apartheid was enforced.

This stirring memoir traverses Africa and Australia following the Speer-Jordan family, who fled persecution and poverty in Varniai, Lithuania, to South Africa. The political machinations they witnessed in that time changed the women forever. As the story unfolds, Franceska and her mother, Isabella show amazing tenacity and courage and prove themselves to be brave, seemingly indestructible women.

Under The Boab Tree is a tale about the souls of these two remarkable women connecting to the people they meet including Princess Yasmin Aga Khan,

Rita Hayworth's daughter. It is a story which shows the richness of the mother and daughter's hearts and their spiritual, political, and humanitarian awakenings which give them the power and purpose they need to find truth and justice for themselves and others.

Through their journey, Isabella and Franceska come to a place of acceptance and stillness, finding

their ultimate saviour: love. A love that unravels and transcends exploitation and fear.

"I was born from the strong, tangled roots of the tree of life, as was my mother and grandmother before me"

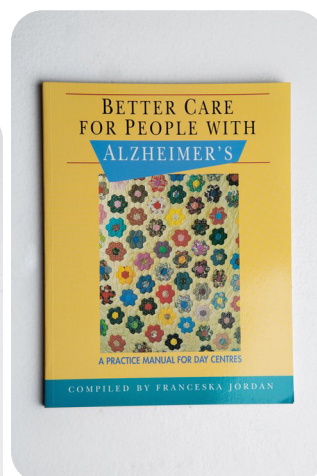
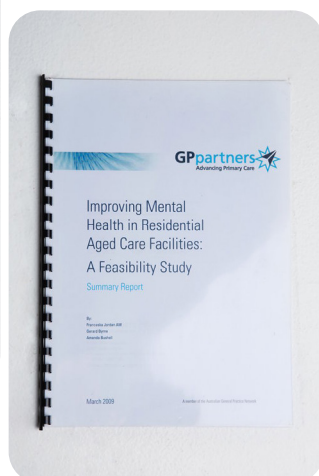
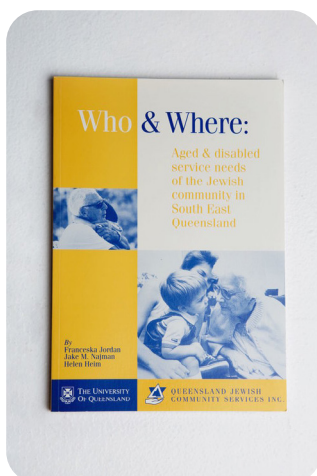
— AN EXCERPT FROM 'UNDER THE BOAB TREE'

Previous publications

BOOKS & ARTICLES

Francesca has published numerous articles and books in the areas of Health, Psychiatry, Welfare, Spirituality and Healing. Titles of her work include:

- The Voice of Love in the Corridor of Lost Steps
- Better Care for People with Alzheimer's Disease and Help for Caregivers
- Diffusing the Potential Storm: Non-drug Solutions for Behavioural Difficulties
- The Dance for Life: Setting up a Clearing House and Resource Centre
- Improving Mental Health in Residential Aged Care Facilities: A Feasibility Study
- Sources and Resources: Linkages for People from Non- English-Speaking Backgrounds and Mainstream HACC Services
- Who and Where: Aged and Disabled Service Needs of the Jewish Community in South East Queensland
- Better Care for People with Alzheimer's: A Practice Manual for Day Centres



Speaker

SPEAKING EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

Francesca is a highly respected and influential speaker on the Australian and international speaking circuit. She is available to speak at events, facilitate workshops, participate in open mic discussions, podcasts, interviews and educational events on topics ranging from:

- Human Development
- Communication
- Counselling
- Community Development
- Personal & spiritual development
- Mental Health
- Emotional intelligence
- Understanding and Dealing with Trauma and PTSD
- How does guilt and shame differ?

Previous speaking engagements include:

- **Keynote speaker:** The Voice of Love in the Corridor of Lost Steps - Alzheimer's Disease International 12th Conference held by Alzheimer's Association of Israel, Jerusalem – Training for family and professional caregivers on dementia care and stress management
- **Workshop Leader:** Care of People with Alzheimer's Disease – International Psycho-Geriatric Association (New Delhi, India)
- **Instructor:** Residential Courses - 'What is Dementia?' Day Care and Nursing Home Care (Cochin, India)
- **Trainer:** For a nucleus of doctors, nurses, social workers, philanthropists, and family care givers to set up community services and train personnel in medical institutions. Tropical Health Foundation and Alzheimer's and Related Disorders Society of India (Cochin, India)
- **Consultant:** Scientific Committee of Alzheimer's Association of Argentina in Tucumán, Family Committee (Buenos Aires) and ALMA – Association of Alzheimer's and Hogar Adolfo Hirsch Residential Home. Advising on dementia specific units within nursing homes and planning services with and for the community and training personnel
- **Workshop Leader:** International Training Workshop for the Care of People with Dementia and Self Care for the caregivers – Alzheimer's Disease International (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
- **Keynote Speaker:** Diffusing the Potential Storm - Non-drug Solutions for Behavioural Difficulties Alzheimer's Disease International (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
- **Keynote Speaker:** The Dance for Life - Ministry of Public Health and Environment Belgium and World Health Organisation Collaborating Centers for Health and Clinical and Psychobiological Factors
- **Keynote Speaker:** Advocacy - Influencing Public Policy Alzheimer's Disease International Conference (Toronto Ontario, Canada)
- **Conference Speaker:** Guidelines for Care: Some International Examples
- **Visiting Scholar:** University of Tasmania, School of Sociology and Social Work. Lecturing in Ageing and Aged Care (Tasmania, Australia)
- **Speaker:** Promoting Community Harmony in Times of Ease and Difficulty, Interfaith Dialogue, Queensland Parliament House (Brisbane, Australia)
- **Radio interview:** Trauma, How it Affects the Brain, Behaviour and Relationships, Radio Women 4 Women Network – W4WN - (USA)



Endorsements

In The Boab Tree, Franceska creates both character and symbol. This tree, and others in the story, are endowed with a spiritual quality—a strength and beauty—that reflects the spirit of Isabella and Franceska. This is a book about the power of the human spirit to meet injustice and suffering with courage and compassion. It is a book to inspire hope. We want to soak up some of that strength at the roots of the Baobab. We want to rest in its shade. We want the connection with the spirit of life that the tree offers. We, too, want the full life in all its richness and contradiction. And we want that peaceful resolution at the end.

—Robert Bland AM PhD, Honorary Professor of Social Work University of Queensland, and Australian Catholic University. Robert is a clinician, researcher, and teacher in the mental health field. His publications reflect his interest in families and mental health, the experience of mental illness, and the recovery journey for individuals and their families. He is interested in spirituality, ethics, and social work practice.

FOR BOOK

Franceska Jordan is an extraordinary essayist and writer as well as an extraordinary woman.

—Dr Fred Guilhaus. Author *The Analyst, The Devil You Know & Bankrupts and Bandits & Musth and Road Rage*. Master of Business Administration, Dr of Philosophy, educator, academic, managing director and novelist.

FOR AUTHOR

Franceska was the driving force behind the establishment of the Alzheimer's Association in QLD and Australia in the early 1980s. She was one of three Australians at the meeting that established Alzheimer's Disease International in 1984. In 1988 she chaired the first Australian national Alzheimer's conference and The Alzheimer's Disease International Conference coinciding with World Expo in Brisbane. Franceska has been a passionate and effective campaigner, researcher and speaker for people with dementia and their carers at state, national and international levels for nearly 40 years.

Scientia Professor Henry Brodaty, AO
Co-Director, CHeBA (Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing)
Discipline of Psychiatry and Mental Health, UNSW Medicine, Australia

FOR SPEAKER

"From my inner core rose the ability to see suffering, and determination to right the wrongs"

— **FRANCESKA JORDAN**



Contact

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