

Desert Channels

The Impulse to Conserve

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Libby Robin, Christopher R. Dickman, Mandy Martin (Editors)

Desert Channels is the centrepiece of a project that combines book, art exhibitions and web-based educational materials exploring the distinctive Desert Channels country in south-western Queensland.

This is the production landscape right on the edge of the desert, and the Simpson Desert itself. The region is the main source of all the desert rivers in arid Australia, and its rivers drain

into Lake Eyre. The region includes the Channel Country and adjacent Simpson Desert and extends north east of Longreach to include Mound Springs country. *Desert Channels* explores the impulse to protect the varied biodiversity of the region, and the many ways in which this is accomplished.

The book combines visual appreciation of the region with accessible text about its intriguing natural history, its people and their histories and the various ways that people are working to conserve the land, the rivers and the creatures. It is a celebration of what people in the region value about their place, and what visitors might find when they visit.

Desert Channels is richly illustrated, with strong writing by many prize-winning writers, and featuring the artworks of Mandy Martin, one of Australia's premier artists.



SECTIONS

PART 1: Place

Arriving in the Desert Channels Country; Alice Duncan-Kemp (Pinningarra) and the History of the Frontier; Connecting with our Land; Pituri Country.

Interlude I: Landscape Studies 2007: Environmental Projects and the Impulse to Conserve.

PART 2: Landscape

The Story of our Land Revealed through Plants; Mystery and Marvel: The Invertebrate Animal World; Channel Country Rivers: The Pulse of Life; Artesian Springs.

Interlude II: Landscape Studies 2008: Aesthetic Evaluation as an Environmental Tool

PART 3: Biodiversity

Mammals and Birds: Life on the Move; Reptiles, Amphibians and Fish: Going with the Flow; Dragons, Diprotodons, Dinosaurs and Dust: 150 Million Years of Desert Channels Prehistory; Creating a Herbarium for Cravens Peak.

Interlude III: Landscape Studies 2009: Painting in Place.

PART 4: Livelihood

Conserving Desert Australian Livelihoods; The Forum is a Campfire, The River is a Story; Production Lands, Philanthropy and Biodiversity; Conservation Science: Here and Beyond.

Interlude IV: Listening to the Land: Encounter Documentary of Zebra Finches at Oceans Bore.

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CSIRO PUBLISHING

PO Box 1139 (150 Oxford Street)

Collingwood, VIC 3066, Australia

Phone: +61 (0)3 9662 7666

Local call: 1300 788 000 [in Australia]

Fax: +61 (0)3 9662 7555

Email: publishing.sales@csiro.au



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CONTRIBUTORS

Faye Alexander is a ceramic artist and sculptor based in Alice Springs.

Max Bourke AM has worked in science, agriculture and the arts. He has had a life-long interest in conservation and is a Board member of The Nature Conservancy (Aust) and The Thomas Foundation.

Christine Campbell lives on Norwood Station at Blackall where she combines involvement in the family cattle and goat grazing business with a passion for the recording and preservation of Aboriginal and colonial heritage.

Simon Campbell is a grazier from Blackall, with a wide range of interests and experience in national agri-political representation and agricultural research and development strategy and planning.

Alex G. Cook is a palaeontologist and geologist who is a senior curator at the Queensland Museum.

Glenn R. Cooke is Research Curator, Queensland Heritage in the Australian Art Department at the Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane.

Stuart Cowell is the Manager of Conservation Partnerships with Bush Heritage Australia.

Chris Dickman is Professor in Terrestrial Ecology at the University of Sydney.

Alice Duncan-Kemp was brought up on Mooraberrie station at the heart of the Desert Channels region in the early years of the twentieth century.

Hope Ebsworth is the Indigenous Cooper's Creek Representative at Desert Channels Queensland. His country is around Durham Downs on the lower Cooper.

David and Judy Elliott are Founders of the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum who have coordinated dinosaur digs in the Winton district since 2002.

Angus Emmott is a keen photographer, natural historian and grazier.

Karen Emmott lives at Noonbah, near Longreach.

Rod Fensham researches the ecology and conservation of native vegetation with a strong focus on arid lands of Queensland.

Guy Fitzhardinge is a beef producer with a strong interest in conservation and is deputy chair of Desert Channels Queensland.

Anke Frank is a PhD student in the Desert Ecology Research Group at the University of Sydney.

Tom Griffiths is a historian at the Centre for Environmental History, Australian National University.

Adele Haythornethwaite is an honorary researcher in the Institute of Wildlife Research at the University of Sydney.

Scott Hocknull is Curator, Palaeontology & Geology Geosciences at the Queensland Museum and one of the state's greatest dinosaur enthusiasts.

Leanne Kohler is Chief Executive Officer, Desert Channels Queensland in Longreach.

Mike Letnic is an ecologist at the University of Western Sydney, and has been 'ratcatching' for more than a decade.

Darrell Lewis is a historian whose research focuses on exploration and early settlement of the outback, based at the Centre for Historical Research, National Museum of Australia.

Luke Keogh is a historian working on the Queensland Historical Atlas.

George Main is an environmental historian and curator at the National Museum of Australia, Canberra.

Nicola Markus is the Chief Conservation Officer for Bush Heritage Australia.

Mandy Martin is an artist and an Adjunct Professor at the Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University.

Jenny Milson is a pasture scientist based in western Queensland, where her family has lived and worked for four generations.

Bob Morrish trained originally as a research scientist in agriculture and now manages his own pastoral station in south-western Queensland.

Steve Morton is an ecologist who serves on the CSIRO Executive.

Richard Nelson is an anthropologist, writer and radio producer living in Sitka, Alaska and periodically in Australia.

Tony Popic is a PhD student in the Desert Ecology Research Group, The University of Sydney.

Jim Puckridge was a major arid-zone scientist who worked on the ecology of the Coongie Lakes region. He also wrote poetry.

Julian Reid has been researching ecology in the Channel Country and adjacent deserts for more than two decades and is a PhD student at the Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University.

Libby Robin is an environmental historian at the Australian National University and the National Museum of Australia.

Don Rowlands is a Wangkangurru elder who manages his Traditional lands as a Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service Ranger.

Bruce Scott is Mayor of Barcoo Shire and chair of the Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD), incorporating the Central Western Regional Organisation of Councils.

Maureen Scott lives and works at Moothandella, a pastoral property near Windorah.

Jenny Silcock lives and works in western Queensland.

Mike Smith, an archaeologist, is a Senior Research Fellow at the National Museum of Australia and an Adjunct Professor at the Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University.

Mark Stafford Smith is Science Director for CSIRO's Climate Adaptation Flagship, as well as continuing a smaller role leading the Science of Desert Living project with Desert Knowledge CRC.

David Taylor is an independent director on the Macquarie Pastoral boards.

Max Tischler is a specialist bird researcher who is part of the Bush Heritage ecology team, based at the reserves of Cravens Peak and Ethabuka, in the Simpson Desert.

David Thompson is a proud Custodian of Iningai Traditional Country. He has worked in Landcare and the Indigenous program for Desert Channels Queensland is currently an Indigenous Land Management Facilitator with the Australian Government.

Glenda Wardle is an ecologist based in the Institute of Wildlife Research at the University of Sydney.

Alan Williams is currently undertaking a PhD in Archaeology at the Fenner School of Environment and Society, The Australian National University, Canberra. He is a senior archaeologist at Archaeological and Heritage Management Solutions Pty Ltd.

Steve Wilson is Regional Coordinator at Desert Channels Queensland Regional Natural Resource Management Group.