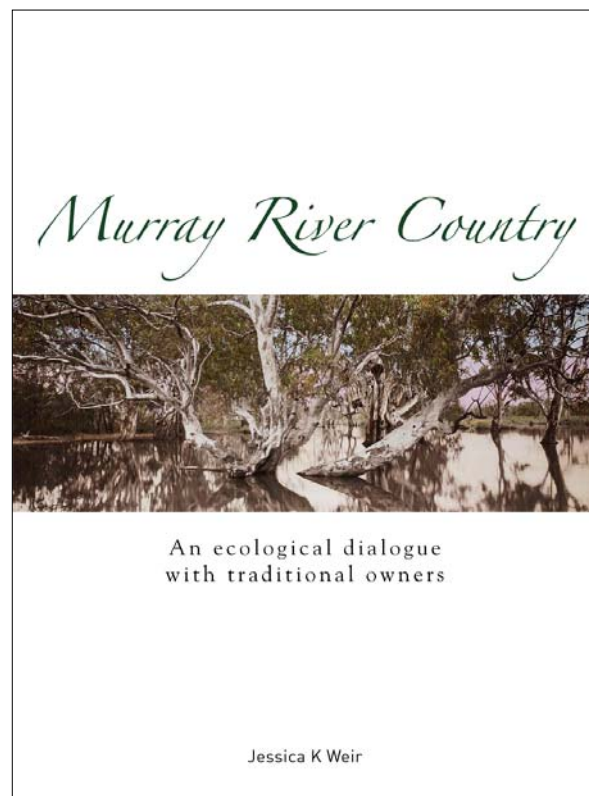


September 2009 NEW RELEASE

Title	Murray River Country
Subtitle	An ecological dialogue with traditional owners
Author(s)	Jessica K Weir
Format	240 x 170 mm
Extent	228 pp
RRP	\$34.95
ISBN	978 085575 678 9
Market	Academic informed trade title
Bookshelf categories	Human geography, Environment; Indigenous studies
BIC categories	YQG, JBHG



Main selling points

- Timely topic in respect to climate change, drought and water mismanagement
- New insights on Indigenous experiences and practices, in light of The Apology and the requirement for Reconciliation Plans
- Goes to the heart of our national understandings of who we are and how we are to live in this country

This is a really positive book with original and creative suggestions about managing water using Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal understandings together. — Libby Robin, Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU

Murray River Country discusses the water crisis from a unique perspective — the intimate stories of love and loss felt by the Aboriginal people whose traditional country incorporates the inland rivers. Readers come to know these individuals and their passion for the river country's resilience. Weir brings a fresh narrative to contemporary debates about the Murray-Darling Basin in which all acknowledge that water is increasingly scarce and degraded, while being of increasing economic value. Weir believes that to open up a space for dialogue to create new possibilities for action we need to change our fundamental philosophies about water. After all, if we've been managing Murray River water, how did we get to this unmanageable state?

Weir wants to move readers beyond questions of how much water will be 'returned' to the rivers, to understand that our economy, and our lives, are dependent on river health. She uses different knowledge traditions to reveal unacknowledged assumptions that trap our thinking and disable us from acting. By engaging with the Murray-Darling Basin, Australia's agricultural heartland, *Murray River Country* goes to the core of our national understandings of who we are and how we can live in this country.

Author Dr Jessica Weir is a Research Fellow in the Native Title Research Unit at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and a graduate of the ANU. She is a human geographer whose research focuses on ecological and social issues in Australia, particularly water and ecological devastation.