

together the two lives that in many ways are so far apart.

The book is divided into six parts and 22 short chapters all with headings and quotes from literature. The short sections make it a simple read, which should encourage a more general audience. The book is short with the numerous quotations and sketches used to fill half pages and full pages. There is a prologue and epilogue and four more appendices giving acknowledgements, simple terraria management, sources and permissions. The small though tidily sketched-diagrams are placed appropriately through the book. A contents page rounds out the additional pages: the additional pages give the impression of 'fill' as if the book's narrative was too small to stand on its own. Yet the narrative does stand complete on its own. Nevertheless it has been embellished by the sketches and the introduced quotations, which add colour and a sense of deeper time.

The intended audience is undoubtedly a general one, a broad audience of non-specialists. Despite this the book is destined to be read by many biologists. The only weakness I could see in this book was its easy reading style yet perhaps this is no weakness at all. The text meets its goals of bringing the world of the **malacologist** closer to that of *Homo sapiens* in that it will make people understand and empathize with snails. It will narrow the human—mollusc gap! Can it be taken as a model way to write to engage audiences with the technical jargon of biology? Thus, can conservation biologists, managers and administrators kleptoparasitize E. T. Bailey's idea to

help communicate to a non-biological audience? Yes. Yet more wonderfully, to quote Tim Flannery who is quoted on the cover of my review copy, "This book makes us see the natural world afresh". I long for an essay to be submitted to *Pacific Conservation Biology* in this format, *now*.

This book has broad educational possibilities as an ancillary read in secondary and tertiary teaching. The level of research is appropriate for its general audience; clearly not for a professional **malacologist**, who may nevertheless delight in it anyway. The text is clear and in no way confounded by the appropriate level of Molluscan vocabulary.

The amount of supplementary material may be too much in this book, but it is a minor criticism. I enjoyed the quotations, principally because they were selected by the author from her research and were thus appropriate. I dislike quotations inappropriately placed in text and placed out of context and more aggravatingly placed outside their original context. E. T. Bailey has done her homework and placed her quotes in the right places. Her acknowledgements provide some evidence of why her book is so well polished.

I would recommend this book to all *Pacific Conservation Biology* readers. To Professors and students alike, although I am sure different groups will take different things from the read. At this point in a review I would normally compare the work to other works in the field. But, none come to mind. This book is original and refreshing. For those that read it, it will bridge the **malacologist**—public divide: if there is one.

The Water Dreamers: The Remarkable History of Our Dry Continent

Michael Cathcart 2010
The Text Publishing Company, Melbourne.
ISBN 9781921520648
Pp. 32, Price Aud\$26.95 paperback

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MICHAEL Cathcart was born in Melbourne. He teaches Australian History at the University of Melbourne and has presented various shows on ABC radio and television. I have spent many mornings listening to him on Radio National where he brings knowledge and fairness to his interviews, furthering my belief that academics need more media exposure—all credit to him. He has published broadly including an abridgement of Manning Clark's epic *A History of Australia* and an anthology of Australian Speeches.

The Water Dreamers takes us on a journey through time on the Australian continent in search of water. From a beginning with the arrival of Europeans, then with engineering works and the pollution of the Tank Stream, in Sydney Cove, through a period of searching for inland seas, to the debacle of the over-

allocation of water from the Murray/Darling River system. The book's aim is to present the author's thesis of how a culture and a country were formed by the search for water and, more importantly, the inability to find enough of it.

The Water Dreamers are the explorers, engineers and others that set out to build a nation but needed the water to do it. They will argue over how much water there is and how best to use it and they still do. Michael Cathcart knows, as the explorers knew, we need the water. He builds his book and his thesis using the Australians (or Europeans) that searched for the water and gave their names to the legends. This is the foundation framework upon which the book relies. However, Cathcart has added another two ribs for the overlying flesh of his story to adhere to—he has added the *Silence* and literature. His *geography of silence* is the lack of sound that one finds when listening to the desert. In contrast water and the organisms that use it are noisy. Explorers to the inland of Australia in search of great rivers and inland seas invariably meet with this silence. The literature that he has evoked is broad and entirely correct and appropriate – from Patrick White's *Voss*

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to Rider Haggard's *King Solomon's Mines* and Jeannie Gunn's *We of the Never Never* and many others. The three ribs of the book support the depth of argument that the author has forwarded.

It is a book of sixteen solid chapters well divided into apposite subheadings. It is not too long at about 78,000 words (estimated). It has extensive referencing and notes given as endnotes and is indexed. There are a small number of black and white figures, which are appropriate and aid the text. A short series of colour plates in the centre add a layer of colour to the history and help recreate a lost age. The audience addressed is a scholarly one, though the book is open to anyone interested in Australian history and geography.

The text could be used in undergraduate teaching of history and geography; to a large extent it will also inform Australian literature studies at a tertiary level. In particular it will inform the overlap area between each discipline. It clearly meets its objective in describing how a county, its people and its ethos have been formed by a dry continent. It will also be a useful read for post-graduate researchers. I have found references in it to follow for my research on the history of the Macleay Museum.

The organization of the narrative from past to present makes travelling with the Water Dreamers easy. The text flows logically with a myriad of little stories that accumulate seamlessly into the thesis. Michael Cathcart's *silence*, which parallels exploration, is ironically loudest in the driest heart or hearts of Australia. The Australian literature is beautifully used in juxtaposition with Cathcart's own hand to add colour to the text. A. G. Stevens, a sub-editor of the *Bulletin* scales down the bushman to a simple figure in the vast *silence*, humanity is "puny"—"where the

bush joins hands with her terrible sister the Desert". Cathcart shows us he has been there in the same passage, "when the night stars burn so brightly that you might touch them". The *silence* in the author's hands helps account the Australia's fixation with venerating failure and in highlighting that the mores of Australians are connected to their landscape and history. Something often alluded to through the narrative is the possession of *country*, silent or otherwise, by Aboriginal Australians. We are frequently given the precise name of a language group from particular provenances. Aborigines led the explorers on their expeditions, and they were living in the deserts when the explorers died, but they are never drawn in detail nor is their relationship with the water explained. They may have been omitted because they understood the water and the deserts. This may be why the author only touches on them but does not draw them out. They did not fit his thesis. I would like to see another thesis that tells the Aboriginal story and how Europeans missed learning how to manage their rivers as they conquered the country.

The level of research and references are appropriate to a scholarly treatise. The writing is unusually entertaining for such a thesis. I was never bored while reading, in fact I was excited by the story and looked forward to the parts that I was more familiar with such as Prof. Griffith Taylor's theses on water and populating Australia. My only criticism is that my favourite parts were too short. I would recommend this book to readers of history and geography and those interested in understanding how Australia's water or lack of it helped shaped a nation. Anyone reading this will gain considerable foundation knowledge into how Australia's water is used and why so much of it is mismanaged.

Wildlife Search and Rescue: A Guide for First Responders

Dmytryk, Rebecca (2012)
John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.
Chichester, West Sussex, UK
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WILDLIFE rescue has become part of Australian urban society. Injured and sick animals are common in all cities and their surrounding suburbs. The majority of these are common human commensals that have been dogs, cats, and cars, or have struck overhead wires or windows. Near coasts, it is common to find birds entangled in fishing line (with or without hooks) or fouled by other rubbish that is the jetsam of human society. Rescuing these animals, whether or not there is any conservation value or not, makes people feel good. Since the 1980s, organizations, such as Wildlife Information Rescue and Education Service (WIRES) in New South Wales,

have proliferated and process tens of thousands of distressed animals annually. WIRES, for example, processed 56 500 animals in 2009/10. Many of these were threatened fauna, with the WIRES' web site stating they handle 130 species on average each month. Birds are the most common group processed. There are 2000 WIRES volunteers, all of whom have been required to undertake training in the handling of wild animals. Although oiled birds, whales entangled in shark nets or stranded on beaches are often in the headlines, rescuing them requires professional skills and logistical support outside the scope of "wildlife rescuers" and are normally handled by nature conservation agencies.

"Wildlife Search and Rescue" is "*intended solely as a guide to appropriate procedures for response to emergencies involving wild animals based on the most current recommendations*". It is written primarily for wildlife carers in the United States and includes advice for many animals that Australian carers are unlikely to encounter, such as hummingbirds,

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