When Europeans first settled in Australia, the land withheld many of its secrets from these new arrivals. There were broad rivers, wide plains and tall forests, all of which, to European eyes, suggested promising sites for settlement. To new settlers, the First Australians were a puzzle: moving freely through country they knew intimately. What few realised then was that Aboriginal people and their land were indistinguishable. Failure to read the people made it hard to read the country.

*Invisible Country* describes the environmental change that has occurred in south-western Australia since European settlement. Case studies, compiled through extensive conversations with farmers, ecologists, traditional owners and others on the land, combine with an examination of the historical perspective as a reminder that the land owns people, not the other way around. This is a conversation about understanding and caring for a land we are all lucky to live in.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Bill Bunbury is a broadcaster, documentary maker and Adjunct Professor of Communications and History at Murdoch University. After joining the ABC in 1969, Bunbury pioneered the use of oral history in creating radio features about Australian life and society. His radio documentaries have received a number of awards including the United Nations Australia Peace Prize. Bunbury is a regular speaker at history associations on the topics of the oral, environmental and social history of Western Australia.

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

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