

Acknowledgements

Publishing *Dreaming Ecology* several years after the death of Debbie Bird Rose has been a process of dedication and love. We thank Chantal Jackson for keeping faith with her mother's wishes that this fine book be published to complete an envisaged trilogy. The editors Darrell Lewis and Margaret Jolly want to thank each other for sustaining a happy and harmonious working relationship in the complex process of developing this work for publication. We are grateful to Karina Pelling of CartoGIS at The Australian National University (ANU) for finessing regional maps and bio-eco maps of remembered walkabouts done by Debbie's teachers long before she came to Yarralin, to such a high professional standard. We are also extremely grateful to Carolyn Brewer for her excellent work in editing, standardising the text and chasing up some elusive bibliographical details. We warmly thank Beth Battrick for her prompt and meticulous work on final copyediting, styling for ANU Press and creating the index. We thank the National Library of Australia for permission to publish a copy of Thomas Baines's early engraving of a boab tree. We thank Matt Tomlinson and the Anthropology Board of ANU Press for the invitation to submit this as a Flagship title and to the ANU Vice-Chancellor Brian Schmidt for funding Flagship titles of ANU Press. Margaret Jolly also thanks the School of Culture, History and Language in the College of Asia and the Pacific at ANU for research support over decades and into her retirement.

We are grateful to both Richard Davis and Thom van Dooren for close and insightful readings, for excellent suggestions to which we have responded and for revealing themselves to us. We are especially pleased to be able to include a suite of photographs of both people and Country (mostly taken by Darrell Lewis) as Debbie had planned and also to link this volume to a gallery of other photographs—most in splendid colour. We thank the current mayor of Yarralin, Brian Pedwell, for confirming permissions given at the time of research to publish photographs of people, many of whom

have now passed into Country (see Appendix 1). But our deepest and most humble thanks must be to Debbie's teachers who were the source of the profound knowledge and moving stories offered in this book. We see this as a return gift to present and future Indigenous generations and their gift to a broader public audience in what is a critical moment for Indigenous concerns in Australia.

Acknowledgements by Deborah Bird Rose

The majority of the research was carried out in the communities of Yarralin and Lingara in the years 1986–1991, with less detailed research with people in the communities of Daguragu, Kalkarindgi, Pigeon Hole, Gilwi, and Timber Creek. These communities are all located in the Victoria River Valley of the Northern Territory of Australia. The methodologies will be discussed in the following chapters, as will many of the social boundaries and social groups through which people in this region identify themselves and their connectivities.

Much of the research presented here was funded by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, and I remain grateful for their committed support for my research. The final portions of the research, and all of the writing, was accomplished in my position at the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies of The Australian National University. I am grateful to several botanists whose impact is felt throughout this book. Thanks to Neville Scarlet for introducing me to the joys of ethnobotany, to David Cooper for assisting me with my first ethnobotanical work in the Victoria River District, and to Jock Morse for assistance in analysing the information back in Canberra.

My debts to my Aboriginal teachers are evident throughout the book, but it is always worth saying again: their hospitality, generosity, teaching, and patience have taken my understanding, and indeed my life, in directions for which I will always be grateful.

My loving thanks, as ever, go to Darrell Lewis who always gets up to light the fire.

This text is taken from *Dreaming Ecology: Nomadics and Indigenous Ecological Knowledge, Victoria River, Northern Australia*, by Deborah Bird Rose, edited by Darrell Lewis and Margaret Jolly, published 2024 by ANU Press, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.