

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-77409-3 - Belonging: Australians, Place and Aboriginal Ownership

Peter Read

Frontmatter

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# BELONGING

AUSTRALIANS, PLACE  
AND ABORIGINAL OWNERSHIP

This extraordinary book explores the feelings of non-Aboriginal Australians as they articulate their sense of belonging to the land. Always acting as a counterpoint is the prior occupation and ownership by Aboriginal people and their spiritual attachment. Peter Read asks the pivotal questions: What is the meaning of places important to non-Aboriginal Australians from which the Indigenous people have already been dispossessed? How are contemporary Australians thinking through the problem of knowing that their places of attachment are also the places which Aboriginals loved – and lost? And are the sites of all our deep affections to be contested, articulated, shared, forgone or possessed absolutely? The book cleverly interweaves Read's analysis (and personal quest for belonging) with the voices of poets, musicians, artists, historians, young people, non-European Australians, farmers and seventh-generation Australians.

Peter Read is an Australian Research Council Senior Fellow, Centre for Cross-Cultural Research, Australian National University. He has worked extensively in Aboriginal history and Australian places studies. He is the author of *A Rape of the Soul So Profound: The Return of the Stolen Generations* (1999) and *Returning to Nothing: The Meaning of Lost Places* (Cambridge University Press, 1996), which was shortlisted for several Australian literary awards.

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*It comes from the heart. May it go to the heart*  
Beethoven, Missa Solemnis

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For Jessie and Bridie

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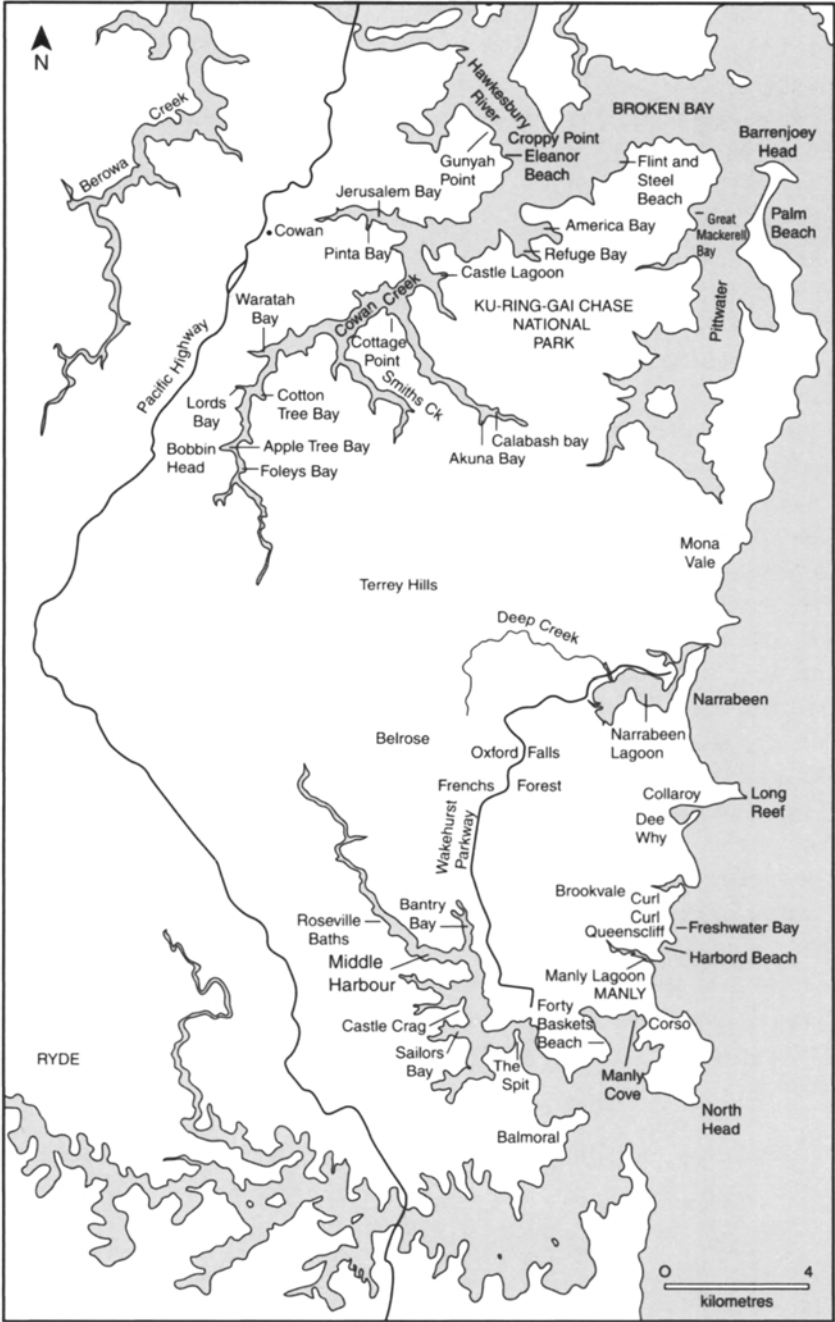
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The Proper Country of Dennis Foley and Peter Read