

# MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 8 February 2018

## **History Talk: The people and landscapes of the Cooks River**

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Come and hear Ian Tyrrell talk about his new book *River Dreams* which explores the complex history of the Cooks River in south-eastern Sydney — a river renowned as Australia's most altered and polluted.

While nineteenth century developers called it 'improvement', the sugar mill, tanneries, and factories that lined the banks of Sydney's Cooks River had drastic consequences for the health of the river.

Local Aboriginal people became fringe dwellers, and over time the river became severely compromised, with many ecosystems damaged or destroyed.

Later, a large section was turned into a concrete canal, and in the late 1940s the river was rerouted for the expansion of Sydney Airport.

Much of the river has been rehabilitated in recent decades by passionate local groups and through government initiatives.

It continues to be a source of controversy with rapid apartment development placing new stresses on the region.

*River Dreams* is a timely reminder of the need to tread cautiously in seeking to dominate, or ignore, our environment.

This talk is presented in conjunction with the Botany Historical Trust.

### **River Dreams: The people and landscape of the Cooks River**

Saturday 17 March from 2pm – 4pm

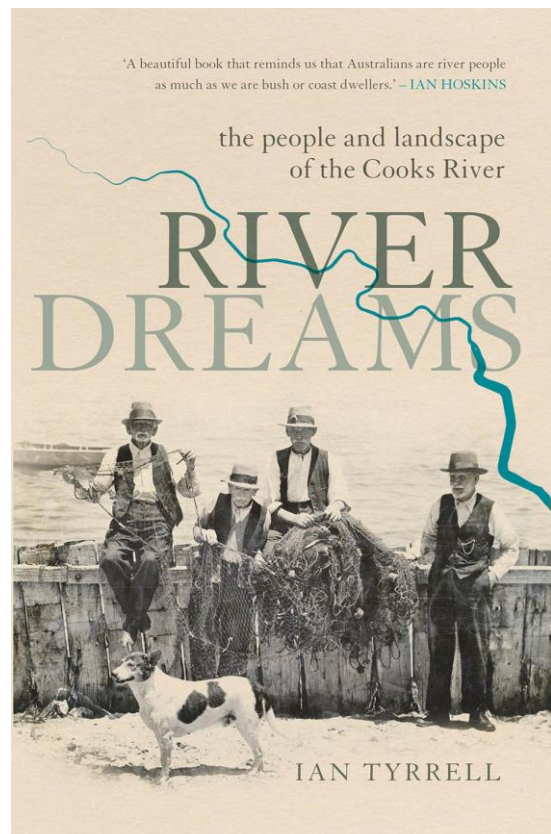
Mascot Library

2 Hatfield Street

Mascot, NSW 2020

*More info:*

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/history-talk-river-dreams-the-people-and-landscape-of-the-cooks-river-tickets-42656692315?aff=ebapi>



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### **For more information:**

City Media & Events

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