

FENCES OF AUSTRALIA

by JACK BRADSHAW

ABOUT THE BOOK

From stone to post and rail, from the utilitarian to the sculptural, a well-built fence is a thing of beauty and a monument to workmanship. These practical but symbolic structures are part of the story of Australia.

Starting with 7,000-year-old Aboriginal fish traps and ending with a look into the future in a chapter on virtual fencing, Jack Bradshaw traces the history of Australia's fences in words and pictures.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jack Bradshaw is a retired forester from the south-west of Western Australia. He worked for the Department of Conservation and Land Management and its predecessor, the Forests Department of Western Australia, before becoming a consultant in native forest management and silviculture. Jack has travelled extensively in Australia with his wife, Sue, over a number of years, with a particular interest in photographing rural fencing and exploring its history.

KEY POINTS

- Jack Bradshaw is the author of *Jinkers and Whims: A pictorial history of timber-getting* (Vivid Publishing, 2012).
- Perfectly sized for tourists wanting a gift book featuring Australian landscapes, this book will fit beside the till for last-minute Christmas purchases.
- Bradshaw brings his decades-long experience as a forester in regional Australia to this pictorial history of Australian fences.
- *Fences of Australia* has 90 full-colour photographs from around the country.



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FENCING FOR WATER

A dominant feature of the Western Australian wheatbelt and goldfields is the presence of large, bare granite rock outcrops scattered across the landscape. Their potential as a source of water was first exploited by explorer/surveyor Charles Stuart when he established a series of twenty-



THE FIRST FENCES

The first fences in Australia were built by Aboriginal people. The first to be recorded were those in Oyster Harbour near Albany, Western Australia, by the navigator Captain George Vancouver in 1791. These were in the form of fish traps used to contain fish in estuaries and rivers so they could then be caught at leisure. Numerous traps were observed in the harbour and in the Kalbarri River. Some were made of sticks stuck into the sand at close intervals, while others were made of stone or a combination of both. Fish either entered the trap at high tide and became trapped as the tide ebbed or were herded into it before the trap was closed. The fish were then either speared or caught by hand and thrown ashore.