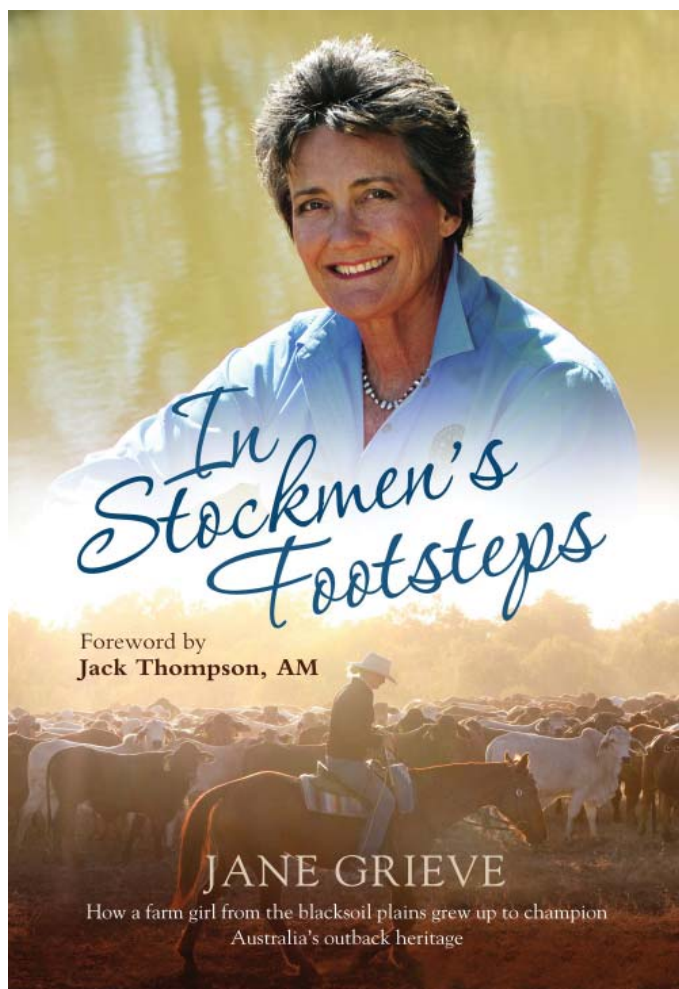


ALLEN & UNWIN



READING GROUP NOTES

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About the book

Peopled by many of the legends of the Australian outback, this is the extraordinary true story of how one ordinary woman grew up to champion Australia's outback heritage.

Jane Grieve was born and raised on a farm on the Darling Downs in Queensland. She grew up with the wind in her hair and the rich black Darling Downs soil between her barefoot toes, her vivid imagination captivated by the tales of her colonial forebears and the romantic notion of Australia's outback.

From the outset she was determined that her life was not going to run along conventional lines; and nor did it. While working for architect Bill Durack, brother of legendary Australian identities Mary and Elizabeth Durack, she met R.M. Williams. R.M. exhorted her to work with him, Hugh Sawrey, Mary Durack, Bob Katter Snr, Ranald Chandler, Sir James Walker and other prominent Australians to build a very special monument.

This is the previously untold story of the establishment of one of Australia's foremost Bicentennial projects - the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre - at Longreach in Queensland.

Told through the eyes of a person whose role in the inner sanctum was pivotal to its success, it is an extraordinary true story of the legendary identities, selfless determination and sheer hard work involved in the creation of what was intended as a Mecca for all Australians.

About the author

Jane Grieve has been appearing in print media and on the radio as a voice of the countryside for years. A columnist on rural living for the *Courier Mail*, she has also been featured in the *Australian Women's Weekly* and has had her blog broadcast on ABC radio.

Jane has previously self published a book of stories based around her *Courier Mail* columns and regularly speaks at various events. She was recently inducted into the Australian Stockman's Hall Of Fame.

For discussion

- ☞ The vivid recollections of *In Stockmen's Footsteps* may resonate with many people – particularly the age group who relate to the period and those who have had a rural upbringing. Has the author succeeded in capturing an era and an ethos through this memoir?
- ☞ *In Stockmen's Footsteps* includes a concise but entertaining run-down of colonial ancestry. Can you share any similar stories of coming from "somewhere else" at some time in your recent history?
- ☞ The author's style is dry, wry, and typically Australian. Does the use of humour succeed in moving the story along in an entertaining way?

- ☞ *In Stockmen's Footsteps* tells the story of a group of prominent Australians committed to creating a major public repository for Australia's ongoing outback story. Why do you think it is important to save our stories?

- ☞ There are some magical insights in the book about how the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame developed from an idea to become a multi-million dollar museum, library and art gallery on the outback plains. What do you think of the fact that it was built in the 'wide brown land', itself so seemingly remote and inaccessible?