

Richard Flanagan

SYDNEY STUDIES IN AUSTRALIAN LITERATURE

Robert Dixon, Series Editor

The **Sydney Studies in Australian Literature** series publishes original, peer-reviewed research in the field of Australian literary studies. It offers engagingly written evaluations of the nature and importance of Australian literature, and aims to reinvigorate its study both locally and internationally. It will be of interest to those researching, studying and teaching in the diverse fields of Australian literary studies.

Alex Miller: The Ruin of Time

Robert Dixon

Australian Books and Authors in the American Marketplace 1840s–1940s

David Carter and Roger Osborne

Colonial Australian Fiction: Character Types, Social Formations and the Colonial Economy

Ken Gelder and Rachael Weaver

Contemporary Australian Literature: A World Not Yet Dead

Nicholas Birns

Elizabeth Harrower: Critical Essays

Ed. Elizabeth McMahon and Brigitta Olubas

The Fiction of Tim Winton: Earthed and Sacred

Lyn McCredden

Richard Flanagan: Critical Essays

Ed. Robert Dixon

Shirley Hazzard: New Critical Essays

Ed. Brigitta Olubas

Richard Flanagan

Critical Essays

Edited by Robert Dixon



SYDNEY UNIVERSITY PRESS

First published by Sydney University Press

© Individual contributors 2018

© Sydney University Press 2018

Reproduction and Communication for other purposes

Except as permitted under the Act, no part of this edition may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or communicated in any form or by any means without prior written permission. All requests for reproduction or communication should be made to Sydney University Press at the address below:

Sydney University Press
Fisher Library F03
University of Sydney NSW 2006
AUSTRALIA
sup.info@sydney.edu.au
sydney.edu.au/sup



A catalogue record for this book is available from the
National Library of Australia.

ISBN 9781743325827 paperback
ISBN 9781743325964 epub

Cover image by Joel Saget.
Cover design by Miguel Yamin.

Contents

The Novels of Richard Flanagan: An Introduction	1
<i>Robert Dixon and Liliana Zavaglia</i>	
1 Circles of Violence: Historical Constellations in <i>Death of a River Guide</i> and <i>The Sound of One Hand Clapping</i>	21
<i>Robert Dixon</i>	
2 Greening a Narrative Mode: Antipodean Magical Realism and Ecocriticism in Richard Flanagan's Fiction	43
<i>Ben Holgate</i>	
3 "Smashing and singing and sobbing and howling": Sound and Richard Flanagan's Tasmania	59
<i>Joseph Cummins</i>	
4 Spatial Anxieties: Tourists, Settlers and Tasmania's Affective Economies of Belonging in <i>A Terrible Beauty</i> , <i>Death of a River Guide</i> and <i>Gould's Book of Fish</i>	73
<i>Laura A. White</i>	
5 Rewriting History: <i>Gould's Book of Fish</i>	87
<i>Bill Ashcroft</i>	
6 Richard Flanagan's "Post-post" and the Mapping of the Altermodern	103
<i>Salhia Ben-Messahel</i>	
7 Contestations of Authority: Richard Flanagan's Australian Biofictions	119
<i>Marc Delrez</i>	
8 The Genealogy of Wanting	135
<i>Margaret Harris</i>	
9 Terror, Paranoia and Manipulation: The Politics of Fear in <i>The Unknown Terrorist</i>	155
<i>Nathanael O'Reilly</i>	
10 Sydney, a City without Love: The Unknown Terrorist in <i>The Unknown Terrorist</i>	169
<i>Theodore F. Sheckels</i>	

11	“Fireless flame gone amorous”: War amid Love in <i>The Narrow Road to the Deep North</i> <i>Nicholas Birns</i>	179
12	“Out of the tear-drenched land”: Transnational Sites of Memory in <i>The Narrow Road to the Deep North</i> <i>Liliana Zavaglia</i>	193
	Contributors	221
	Index	223