

# **Crossroads of Rural Crime**

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# **Crossroads of Rural Crime: Representations and Realities of Transgression in the Australian Countryside**

EDITED BY

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# Acknowledgements

An inter-disciplinary social sciences workshop – *Understanding Crime and Rural Communities: Theory, Policy and Practice* – was hosted by Federation University on 7 and 8 February 2019. Held at Churchill in the Gippsland region of Victoria, the event included 21 scholars from 12 different universities across four Australian states and one international rural criminologist.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous sponsorship of the *Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia* for fostering this ‘meeting of the minds’ through their workshop grants scheme. The workshop also generated the present volume.

Accepting the Academy’s challenge to intellectually exchange ideas, explore connections between research and policy, support early career researchers and establish and develop ongoing collaborations for research, the workshop convenors – Alistair Harkness, Naomi Smith, Bec Strating and Rob White – crafted a workshop programme to unpack an array of issues around rural crime, communities and criminology in a non-urban Australian context.

One participant, Lisa Waller, observed in the closing session of the workshop the emergence of the notion of ‘roads’ and ‘crossroads’ which was, as it inadvertently happened, woven throughout each panel session. This was an astute and welcome observation, as ‘crossroads’ serve as a metaphor for networks and intersections, overlaps and trajectories: this is outlined in Chapter 1 and drawn upon throughout the book.

Seven of the papers presented at the Workshop were selected for inclusion in a special edition of the *International Journal of Rural Criminology* (Volume 5, Issue 1) published in November 2019. The remaining Workshop papers have been carefully themed and curated for this edited collection.

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*Alistair Harkness and Rob White*