



# South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council

Media Release 18 November 2010

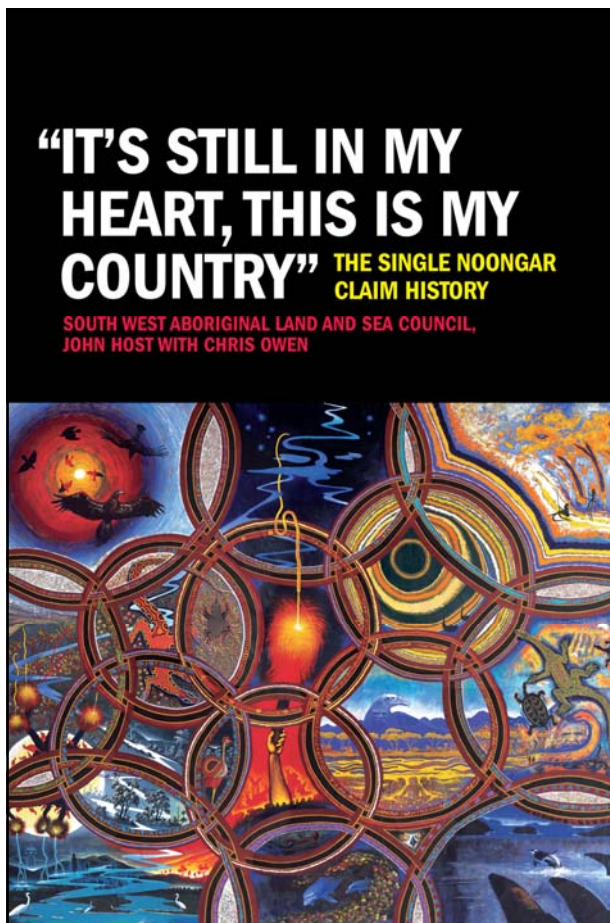
## Award winning book shortlisted for Human Rights Award

The book telling the story of the survival of the Noongar people, and of their struggle to achieve recognition of their native title claims over Perth and the south west of WA has been shortlisted for the 2010 Australian Human Rights Commission Non-Fiction Literature Award.

Titled “It’s still in my heart, this is my country”: The Single Noongar Claim History , was produced by the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC), written by historians John Host and Chris Owen, and published by University of Western Australia Publishing for the Charles and Joy Staples South West Region Publications. The book has already won the Margaret Medcalf award in May.

Diane Carlyle from Campus Bookseller and Publisher said the book tells the story of the Noongar people’s native title claim over the south west and metropolitan Perth, and how “they adapted creatively to new realities—working as guides and trackers, rural labourers, police and mail service employees; fully acculturating the offspring of interracial unions, sending their children to school where the option existed—the fundamentals of their lifeways were retained, with individuals recognised as ‘cultural transmitters’ ... reinforcing that whatever racial purity-obsessed anthropologists, caste conscious administrators, lawmakers or wider settler society did or thought, Noongars actively survived, adapted and thrived”.

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(above left) Chris Owen, SWALSC Research Manager, with Kevin Fitzgerald, SWALSC Cultural Counsel, pictured at the presentation of the 2010 Margaret Medcalf award for work that showed excellence in the use of WA archives. WA Arts Minister, Mr John Day said at the award presentation that the book had “led to a paradigm shift in the way Aboriginal culture and identity are defined”.