



South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council

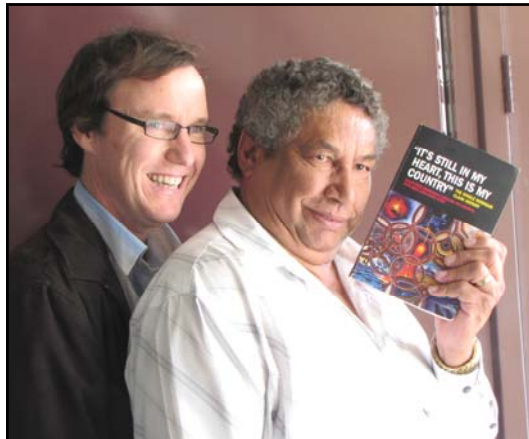
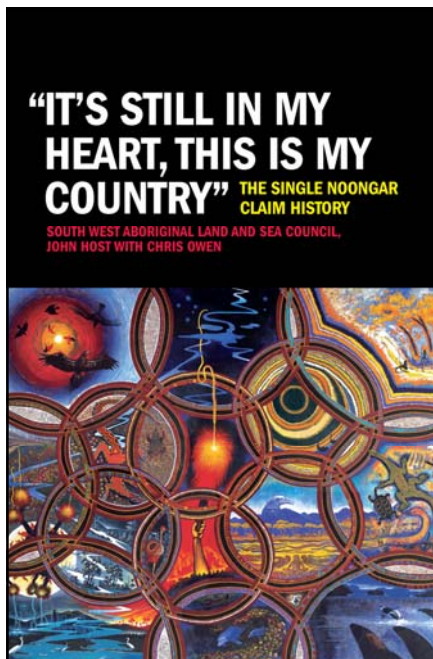
Media Release Friday 10 December

South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council Book wins Human Rights Commission Literature Award

It has today been announced that the book telling the story of the survival and resilience of the Noongar people, and their struggle to achieve recognition of their native title claims over Perth and the south west of Western Australia, has just won the 2010 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 historian John Host with Chris Owen, and published by the University of Western Australia Publishing for the Charles and Joy Staples Foundation. The book was also awarded the Margaret Medcalf award in May 2010 for excellence in the use of WA archives..

Diane Carlyle from Campus Bookseller and Publisher said the book tells the history of how Noongar people “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”.



(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 that the book had “led to a paradigm shift in the way Aboriginal culture and identity are defined”.

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