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RIVER BOATS



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RIVERBOATS

by

IAN MUDIE

PADDLE-STEAMERS once ran on four thousand miles of the rivers of the Darling-Murray basin, travelling to such outback ports as Bourke, Wilcannia, Wahgunyah, Wagga Wagga, and Walgett. They were manned by a colourful race of rivermen—humorous, hard-working, and proud of their steamers.

The chapters of this book—crammed with yarns of river-skippers and their crews—give a vivid picture of life on the riverboats during the eighty years in which they played an important part in Australian life.

Here, too, are the stories of the pioneering voyages of Captain Randell, Captain Cadell, and others along the then almost unknown rivers, and of dramatic incidents such as the burning of the *Rodney* by striking shearers, and the three-year voyage of the *Jane Eliza* from Morgan to Bourke.

Hundreds of steamers and skippers come out of the vanished past and steam across the pages of *Riverboats*, carrying stores and passengers to isolated stations and townships, and throbbing back to Victorian and South Australian river-ports, loaded high with wool.



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