**Capricorn Drover – Cover design brief**

**Brief summary of *Capricorn Drover*, for your information only**

In 1878, when western Queensland was still ‘frontier’ territory, an epic droving trip was made from east to west across the colony. Its aim was to move fourteen hundred cattle from Waverley, a station owned by the entrepreneurial settler John Arthur Macartney, to another of his runs, Diamantina Lakes Station.

*Capricorn Drover* tells of this journey through the eyes of ordinary drover Edward Talbot, using Talbot’s diary which has only recently been transcribed and studied. Talbot’s account is straightforward and factual, yet also engaging and wryly humorous, and the book reflects this.

Also in the droving team were Herbert Marris, Ted Gooch, Tom Hardy, a cook, Aboriginal stockmen named Johnny, Billy and Jack, and the boss drover Tom Kelly. Curiously, Kelly’s wife also travelled much of the long and arduous journey. The men were members of that romantic group, long distance drovers or overlanders, pioneering Queensland’s pastoral industry. They faced many adversities on the trip: scarcity of water and food, flooding rains, accidents and potential stampedes, and also feared possible attacks by hostile Aborigines. There was, too, simmering tension between Talbot and Kelly, plaguing the trip from beginning to end.

The westward route of the trip roughly followed the Tropic of Capricorn, and the team travelled through the area now known as the Galilee Basin. The cattle were moved across the Connors Range, past Arthur Downs Station, Cotherstone Station, and bustling Clermont. Later they passed Bowen Downs, Mount Cornish, Vindex, Bladensburg, Elderslie, Cork and Brighton Downs stations, and travelled by the newly established townships of Muttaburra and Winton.

Ultimately the cattle were delivered successfully to Diamantina Lakes Station, and the men returned to the lives they had previously known. *Capricorn Drover* looks at their experiences afterwards - lives of diversity, of achievement, and of sorrow. For example, one of the team came to a tragic end while working for Macartney elsewhere in Australia. Their months working together on Macartney’s droving team will forever unite them in Queensland’s frontier history.

**Our ideas for the cover**

*Trim size*: 210 x 148 mm (A5)

*Words to appear on front cover (in Secret Scrypt One font):*

Capricorn Drover

From Waverley to Diamantina Lakes Station in 1878

Pam Garfoot Elizabeth Conway

*Images to appear on front cover (indistinct/faded only)*: image of drovers, portrait of Edward Talbot, map of droving journey which extends across to back cover

*Words to appear on the spine:*

Capricorn Drover

From Waverley to Diamantina Lakes Station in 1878

[authors’ names only if there is sufficient room – we’re not entirely sure how wide the spine will be as yet - current estimate is about 16 mm]

*Back cover blurb:*

A thousand miles to travel. Through scrub, floods and desert. No man-made water sources. More than a thousand head of cattle to deliver safely.

It is the year 1878 in outback Queensland and a small droving team must take a large mob of cattle on an epic journey inland, through frontier country. In the group are eight men, their cook, and even one woman. Dangers and challenges are ever-present. One drover keeps a diary. This is his story.

*Back cover images:* blurb (as shown above), map of droving journey (extending through from front cover), photo of authors (Elizabeth Conway on left, Pam Garfoot on right)

*ISBN:* ISBN and barcode will be provided.

*Overall mood of the cover:*

It would be nice to have it complement the cover of our 2012 book, *Making them real*, the cover design of which is provided. That is, the cover could include a montage of images and/or maps showing indistinctly in the background. Colours could be a bit different to *Making them real* so as to provide a point of difference - for example, perhaps gum-leaf greens and ochres, reminiscent of the outback countryside. A suggested colour palette is provided.

The book is designed for a general educated readership and possibly also upper high school students. The cover should give the overall impression of the historical context, the distant outback feel, and the flavour of the droving life.