

You are invited to the launch of

# Overturning Aqua Nullius: Securing Aboriginal Water Rights (Aboriginal Studies Press, 2017)

By Dr Virginia Marshall, PhD (Law) LLM GDLP LLB BA  
(Hons) Principal and sole Legal Practitioner for Triple BL Legal



**WEDNESDAY 12 APRIL**

*5.30pm for 6pm start*

*Panizzi Room, UOW Library*

*[RSVP here](#)*

## About the author

Virginia Marshall is a Wiradjuri Nyemba woman who commenced legal practice in 2003. In 2005 she became an Executive Officer leading the Aboriginal Water Trust and was a member of the inaugural Indigenous Water Summit established by the National Water Commission. Since 2013 she has been the Principal Solicitor of Triple BL Legal specialising in intellectual property and traditional knowledge and commercial and contracts law. Marshall undertook a Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice at the University of Wollongong, to a Master of Law at Australia National University, and was the first Aboriginal woman to graduate from Macquarie University with a PhD in Law. For over a decade she has been an active member of the Law Society of NSW for whom she has written and taught in criminal, environmental law and conveyancing practice.

## About the book

Aboriginal peoples in Australia have the oldest living cultures in the world. From 1788 the British colonisation of Australia marginalised Aboriginal communities from land and water resources and their traditional rights and interests. More recently, the national water reforms further disenfranchised Aboriginal communities from their property rights in water, continuing to embed severe disadvantage. Overturning aqua nullius aims to cultivate a new understanding of Aboriginal water rights and interests in the context of Aboriginal water concepts and water policy development in Australia. Drawing on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the author argues that the reservation of Aboriginal water rights needs to be prioritised above the water rights and interests of other groups. It is only then that we can sweep away the injustice of aqua nullius and provide the first Australians with full recognition and status of their water rights and interests.



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