

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910282240003321
Titolo	Island rivers : fresh water and place in Oceania / / edited by John R. Wagner and Jerry K. Jacka
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Acton, ACT : , : ANU Press, , [2018] ©2018
ISBN	1-76046-217-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (264 pages) : illustrations, maps
Collana	Asia-Pacific Environment Monograph ; ; 13
Disciplina	303.4832099
Soggetti	Maritime anthropology - Oceania Rivers - Oceania - Ethnology Rivers - Oceania Rivers Water - Religious aspects Crocodiles
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Sommario/riassunto	"Anthropologists have written a great deal about the coastal adaptations and seafaring traditions of Pacific Islanders, but have had much less to say about the significance of rivers for Pacific island culture, livelihood and identity. The authors of this collection seek to fill that gap in the ethnographic record by drawing attention to the deep historical attachments of island communities to rivers, and the ways in which those attachments are changing in response to various forms of economic development and social change. In addition to making a unique contribution to Pacific island ethnography, the authors of this volume speak to a global set of issues of immense importance to a world in which water scarcity, conflict, pollution and the degradation of riparian environments afflict growing numbers of people. Several authors take a political ecology approach to their topic, but the emphasis here is less on hydro-politics than on the cultural meaning of rivers to the communities we describe. How has the cultural significance of rivers shifted as a result of colonisation, development

and nation-building? How do people whose identities are fundamentally rooted in their relationship to a particular river renegotiate that relationship when the river is dammed to generate hydro-power or polluted by mining activities? How do blockages in the flow of rivers and underground springs interrupt the intergenerational transmission of local ecological knowledge and hence the ability of local communities to construct collective identities rooted in a sense of place?"

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