

MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 1 AUGUST 2010

UNDER CORPORATE SKIES

A STRUGGLE BETWEEN PEOPLE, PLACE AND PROFIT

MARTIN BRUECKNER & DYANN ROSS

FOREWORD BY ERIN BROCKOVICH

I think standing up for your rights is the right thing to do but to what level of expense personally do you go? Is it your health, your wallet, your future? (former resident, Yarloop)

About the Book

Under Corporate Skies is about what happens to communities when they stand in the way of corporate profits. It is the story of a tiny town pitted against a strong corporate neighbour.

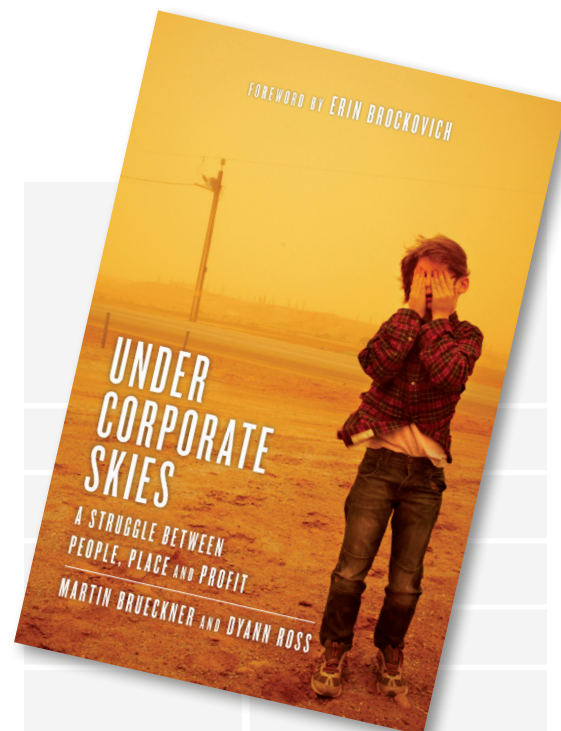
With the help of international campaigner, Erin Brockovich, the small town of Yarloop in Western Australia is preparing a civil class action against Alcoa World Alumina. The struggle is over social, health and environmental concerns surrounding Alcoa's Wagerup alumina refinery. As we live under expanding corporatised skies, this book shows that profits matter, but not more than people and place.

About the Authors

Martin Brueckner is a social ecologist working as a lecturer at Curtin University of Technology in Western Australia. Martin's research into sustainable communities, industry-community relations and corporate social responsibility is published both nationally and internationally. **Dyann Ross** works for the Queensland Department of Health as a Mental Health Clinical Educator. She also teaches at the University of the Sunshine Coast and holds an Adjunct position with Edith Cowan University as part of her research and writing activities.

Media Notes

- In Western Australia, Alcoa's workforce of about 4000 people produces around seven million tonnes or 13% of the world's total demand for alumina each year. Export earnings are estimated at \$2.8 billion.
- In 2009 lawyers acting on behalf of residents lodged a writ in the US court on the basis that Alcoa knowingly, negligently and recklessly operated its factory, poisoning surrounding communities with toxic emissions and that they concealed the toxic dangers of their refining operations. The case is pending.
- These are real stories told in the words of the residents, Alcoa management and government officials. The authors spoke to over 500 people involved in the conflict.
- The book questions the political emphasis on economic development at the expense of social, physical and environmental health.
- A story of local heroism, the book celebrates the achievements of a small number of community members who have stalled the political process in their quest to be heard. It explores the implications this has for modern democracy.



Pub. date:	August 2010
ISBN:	9 781 921 361 760
RRP:	\$26.95
Genre:	Non-fiction
Format	B format PB
Extent:	352 pp

For additional information contact:

Claire Miller
Media and Promotions Manager
T: (08) 9430 6331
M: 0419 837 841
E: cmiller@fremantlepress.com.au
www.fremantlepress.com.au

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