



The Library Hour with Stephen Cutting

**Laura Jean McKay
The Animals in That Country**

Our fortnightly program 'The Library Hour' on UGFM normally runs from 10am on the second and fourth Friday of the month. It is not currently running in its usual format, but interviews continue to be recorded via skype and shared with the UGFM audience.

Laura is the author of *The Animals in That Country* (Scribe, 2020) and *Holiday in Cambodia* (Black Inc. 2013), shortlisted for three national book awards in Australia. Laura is a lecturer in creative writing at Massey University, with a PhD from the University of Melbourne focusing on literary animal studies. She is the 'animal expert' presenter on ABC Listen's *Animal Sound Safari*. Her debut novel, *The Animals in That Country*, imagines a world in which humans and animals might finally understand each other.

The Animals in That Country follows Jean, a hard-drinking grandmother who is working as a guide in a remote wildlife park when the country is struck by a strange flu, and people begin to understand what animals are saying — first mammals, then birds and insects, too. Jean and Sue the dingo take off across country in search of their kin

