For six months in 1961 four young women from Tasmania travelled around Australia in a FE Holden station wagon. Mary French was one of them. On their travels they each kept a daily journal – this book is her one.

Fifty years is a long time and Australia has changed considerably during those years. Some of the people they met are now well known Australians such as Bill Harney, Ma Jenkins, Tom Quilty, the Duracks and others.

The book covers such topics as places, prices, life on the cattle stations, the Aboriginal people on cattle stations and on the missions as well as the climbing of Ayers Rock – as it was then called – before handrails or resorts. They also visited the Great Barrier Reef, the Ord River scheme, the Kimberley Research Station, the Albany Whaling Station and the Snowy Mountains Scheme and learned so much about different agricultural industries around the country.

Publishing this book had been a dream of Mary’s for many years. She hopes that you will find as much delight in reading it as she has in producing it.

PS. Antonio, by the way, was their faithful station wagon.

MARY FRENCH is a retired librarian having worked in university, special and school libraries in Tasmania, New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT. She is a well known storyteller in the ACT and Sydney region delighting people of all ages with her ability to transport them into the realms of the imagination. Many of her stories she writes herself.

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