

Waterside Press, Hampshire

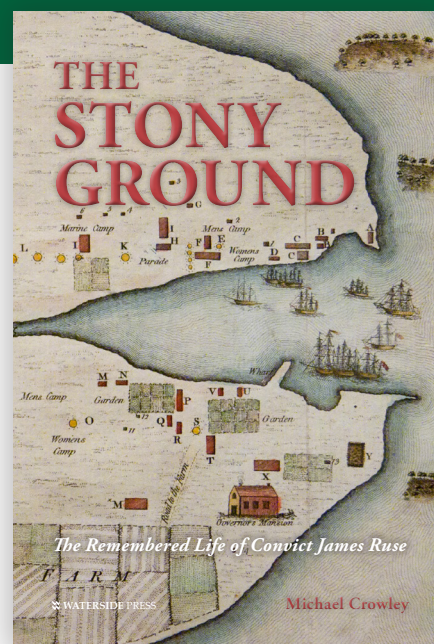
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## Advance Information

<b>Title</b>	The Stony Ground	
<b>Subtitle</b>	The Remembered Life of Convict James Ruse	
<b>Author</b>	Michael Crowley	
<b>Publisher</b>	Waterside Press Ltd	
<b>Format</b>	Paperback 234x156mm, 200 pages (TBC)	
<b>ISBN</b>	978-1-909976-57-3	
<b>Price</b>	£14.99	<b>Rights</b> Worldwide
<b>Publication</b>	20 June 2018	<b>Edition</b> 1st
<b>Category</b>	Crime & Punishment, Penal Affairs, Social History, Transportation	
<b>Subjects</b>	FV=Historical fiction; HBJM=Australasian & Pacific history	
<b>Who will buy it?</b>	Penal and social historians, people interested in crime and punishment, libraries, students, those interested in the beginnings of Australia.	



*The Stony Ground* is the story of Cornish farmworker James Ruse, reprieved from the hangman's noose and transported to Botany Bay on the First Fleet in 1788. Ruse, commemorated as a pioneer in his adopted country, was reputedly the *first* prisoner ashore, carrying an officer on his back. Eventually pardoned, at Experiment Farm he became Australia's *first* settled farmer, the *first* ex-convict to be granted land and the *first* settler to become self-sufficient, bringing him into conflict with indigenous people. In this gripping historical novel the life of Australia's most symbolic convict is described in Ruse's own voice.

### Key Selling Points

- **The story of Australia's most symbolic convict.**
- **A highly original narrative of exile and survival from rural England to New South Wales and the Tasman Sea.**
- **Fills a gap in the literature of transportation.**
- **Records a key period in British penal history.**

### Reviews

'A fascinating, compelling and important account of a violent and bloody history. It's a real achievement – a thorough account of a whole life, framed by questions of economics, authority, social-class, church and Law — successfully occupying an imaginative space that feels both documentary and fictional' — *Andy Croft, poet and novelist.*

### Author

Michael Crowley is a writer and dramatist who has worked in theatre, youth theatre, prisons and elsewhere. He lives in West Yorkshire. His writings include *The Man They Couldn't Hang* and *Behind the Lines: Creative Writing with Offenders and People at Risk* (both Waterside Press) and his poetry *Close to Home* and *First Fleet*.



Bertrams



**WATERSIDE PRESS**  
*Putting justice into words*