

History of the First Australians 51

Growing Up in Boandik Country

Ken Jones

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PO Box 50, Sandgate, Queensland 4017 Australia

p. +61 7-5568 0288 f. +61 7-5568 0277 email: sales@kbs.com.au

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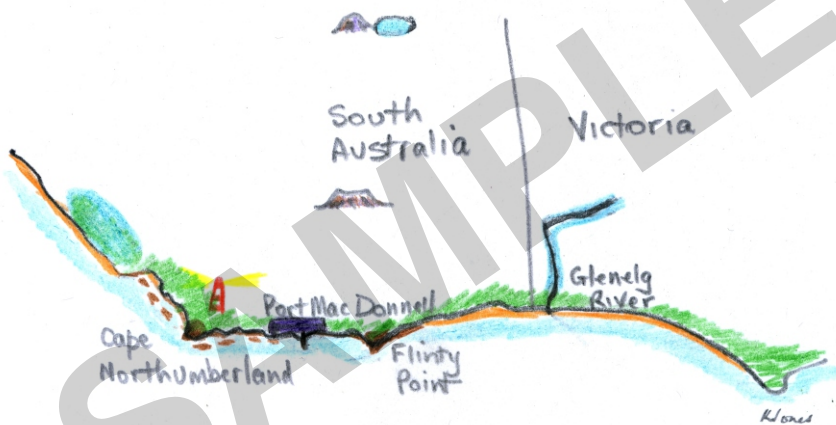
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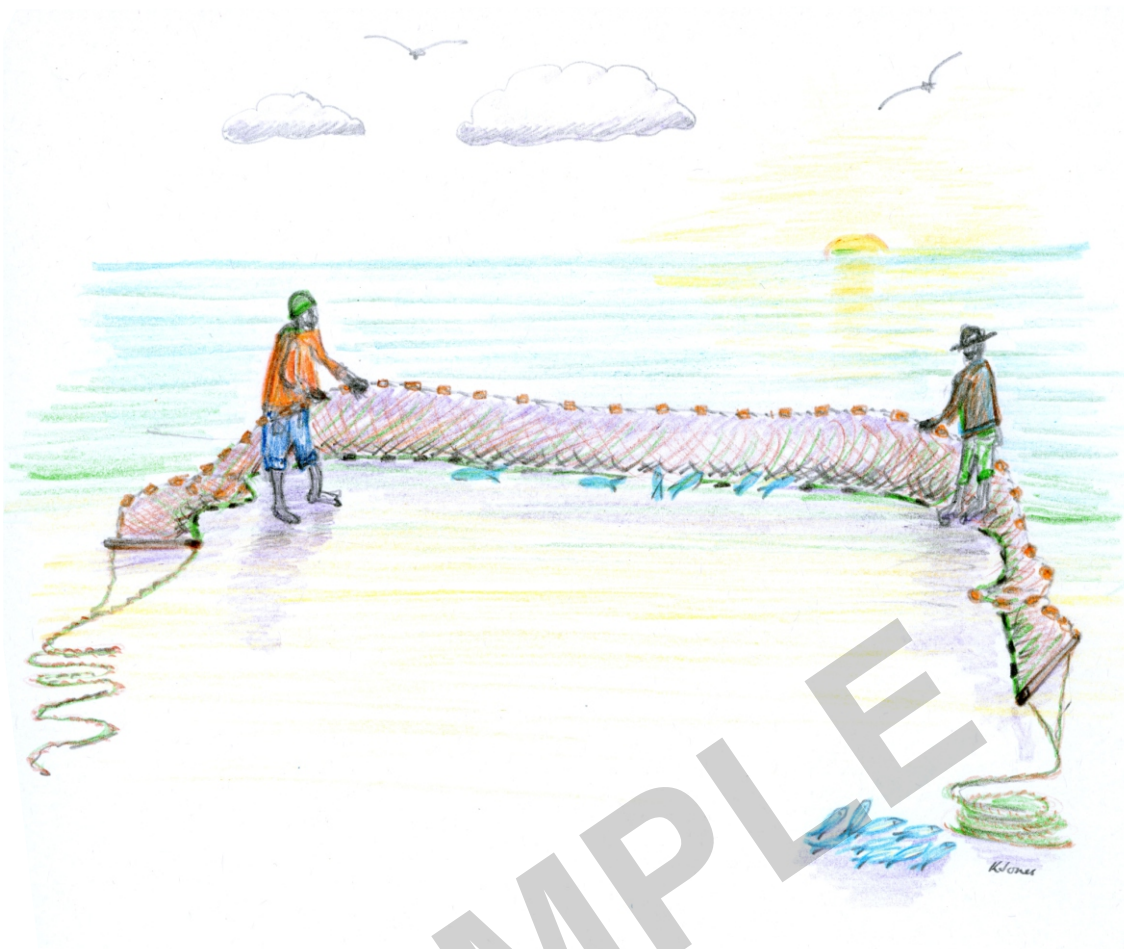
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Hi, my name is Ken Jones. I'm a proud Aboriginal Elder from Boandik Country in South Australia. I was born in 1951 in a place called Mount Gambier to a loving family. I had three older siblings and a younger brother. We lived on a small bush block near Port MacDonnell. I spent much of my childhood exploring this amazing area. My childhood adventures also planted the seed for my love of nature, and the importance of *Caring for Country*.



I can recall many happy memories of my times exploring and fishing. These memories often included my Dad, Bill. He taught me so much about the sea and the environment. Dad taught me how to sling a dragnet to catch fish at Pebble Point. He also taught me how to build eel traps and weave craypots so that they would withstand the forces of the ocean.



I remember going fishing with Dad when I was only four years old. Dad accidentally trod on my big toe. I cried noisily until he put three little tommy ruffs in a bucket to keep me amused. It worked and I stopped crying. I can still remember those three little fish swimming around in circles and looking up at me. I'm sure they wondered what all the fuss was about!



Word bank

Aboriginal	delicious	foreign
Boandik	billabongs	buoys
Australia	gathered	sisal
Mount Gambier	dozen	Kerr's Cave
siblings	smokehouse	elephant
Port MacDonnell	ancient	leopard
adventures	tradition	penguins
importance	continued	albatross
exploring	medicines	petrels
environment	preserved	South Georgia
dragnet	sought	driftwood
withstand	visitors	banjo fiddler ray
accidentally	Labrador	kaleidoscope
noisily	retrieve	flotsam
wondered	cartridges	jetsam
Flinty Point	wedgetail	
commercial	orphaned	
fisherman	ringtail possums	
freshwater	beachcombing	
prickly	especially	

Reading Recovery Level: 29

Word count: 830

Content: Personal Recount

ACARA F-10 references:

Learning Areas: English; Science; Humanities and Social Sciences; The Arts; Languages.

General Capabilities: Literacy; Critical and Creative Thinking; Personal and Social Capability; Intercultural Understanding.

Cross Curriculum Priorities: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures; Sustainability.

Teacher Notes:

Growing Up in Boandik Country is a personal recount of Ken's time as a child exploring, hunting and fishing the coastline of his South Australian home of Port MacDonnell. Ken relives some beautiful memories of the many times he spent with his Dad and explains how fishing, hunting, and trapping helped to sustain their livelihood.

Discussion points for consideration:

1. Talk about the differences between Ken's childhood and that of today's children.
2. Find examples of where Ken's family lived sustainably off the land and the sea.
3. What questions would you like to ask Ken about his story?

Difficult words to be introduced and practised before reading this book:

Aboriginal, Boandik, Australia, Mount Gambier, siblings, Port MacDonnell, adventures, importance, exploring, environment, dragnet, withstand, accidentally, noisily, wondered, Flinty Point, commercial, fisherman, freshwater, prickly, delicious, billabongs, gathered, dozen, smokehouse, ancient, tradition, continued, medicines, preserved, sought, visitors, Labrador, retrieve, cartridges, wedgetail, orphaned, ringtail possums, beachcombing, especially, foreign, buoys, sisal, Kerr's Cave, elephant, leopard, penguins, albatross, petrels, South Georgia, driftwood, banjo fiddler ray, kaleidoscope, flotsam, jetsam.

Acknowledgement of the First Nations' People: We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Sensitivity Notice: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are **warned** that the following series may contain images - photographs and illustrations and text about deceased persons.

Growing Up in Boandik Country

Growing Up in Boandik Country is a personal recount of Ken's time as a child exploring, hunting and fishing the coastline of his South Australian home of Port MacDonnell. Ken relives some beautiful memories of the many times he spent with his Dad and explains how fishing, hunting and trapping helped to sustain their livelihood. While living off the land and the ocean, Ken and his family still managed to maintain an important respect for the environment around them.

Author's Bio:



Ken Jones is a proud Boandik Elder from South Australia. Ken has always shown a keen interest in the importance of sustainability and the environment and his current work as an educator reinforces and extends this passion. His knowledge of Australian flora and fauna is extensive and his achievements are many and varied, including his award for 2019 **NAIDOC Male Elder of the Year**, Boandik Community.

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