

History of the First Australians 53

# Caring for Country

Ken Jones

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Hi, my name is Ken Jones. I'm a proud Aboriginal Elder from Boandik Country in South Australia. I've lived here all my life and I truly love this part of the world. Boandik Country has influenced me from the time I was a young boy, right through to my time now as a father and an educator. It's part of me.

SAMPLE



During my childhood, I was constantly exploring and fishing much of this amazing area. My family also relied on the environment to make a living. Spending so much time outdoors in nature instilled in me the importance of looking after and respecting our environment. We call it *Caring for Country*.

SAMPLE



During my later teens, I started helping my Dad on his crayfish boat. Dad was a great fisherman and he taught me many things. One of the most important lessons he taught me was to never take more than we needed from the ocean. We practised this for many years and it meant that there was always plenty of fish for everyone. It also meant that the crayfish populations stayed strong and healthy.





SAMPLE

## Word bank

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Aboriginal	navigation	activity
Boandik	identification	stake-out
Australia	biology	suspicious
influenced	Certificate	trekked
educator	illegal	Academic
constantly	vigilant	University
environment	commercial	appreciate
instilled	recreational	generations
importance	Port Lincoln	cherish
respecting	communication	
populations	industry	
conscious	Government	
eventually	National	
Fisheries	volunteers	
Officer	establish	
extensive	challenging	
Adelaide	Asian	
Assistant	abalone	
Inspector	helicopters	
responsibilities	monitor	

**Reading Recovery Level:** 30

**Word count:** 656

**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:**

*Caring for Country* is a personal recount of Ken's time as an adult in which he spent many years as a Fisheries Officer in South Australia, educating the public about the importance of looking after their marine environment. He worked with both commercial and recreational fisherman to spread his message about sustainability and the importance of *Caring for Country*. In his later years as an educator, Ken continues to spread this important message, far and wide.

**Discussion points for consideration:**

1. Discuss your favourite part of the story and why?
2. Why was Ken's role as a Fisheries Officer so important - list some examples.
3. What questions would you like to ask Ken about this period of his life?

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

Aboriginal, Boandik, Australia, influenced, educator, constantly, environment, instilled, importance, respecting, populations, conscious, eventually, Fisheries, Officer, extensive, Adelaide, Assistant, Inspector, responsibilities, navigation, identification, biology, Certificate, illegal, vigilant, commercial, recreational, Port Lincoln, communication, industry, Government, National, volunteers, establish, challenging, Asian, abalone, helicopters, monitor, activity, stake-out, suspicious, trekked, Academic, University, appreciate, generations, cherish.

**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.

## Caring for Country

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### 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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