

History of the First Australians 52

# Fishing Yarns

Ken Jones

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PO Box 50, Sandgate, Queensland 4017 Australia

p. +617-5568 0288 f. +617-5568 0277 email: sales@kbs.com.au

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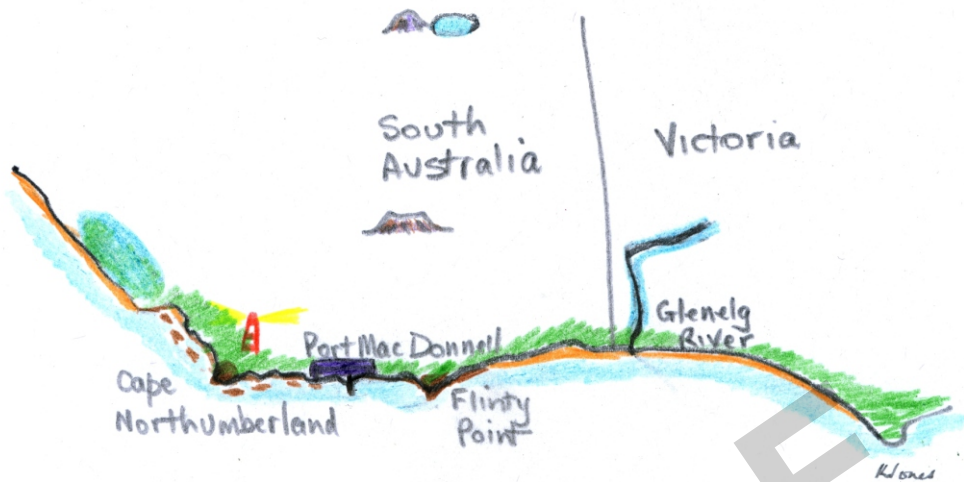
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My name is Ken Jones and I'm a proud Elder from Boandik Country in South Australia. My family lived close to the sea at a place called Port MacDonnell. Dad made a living as a commercial fisherman for many years. He mostly fished for crayfish. They were plentiful in the area.

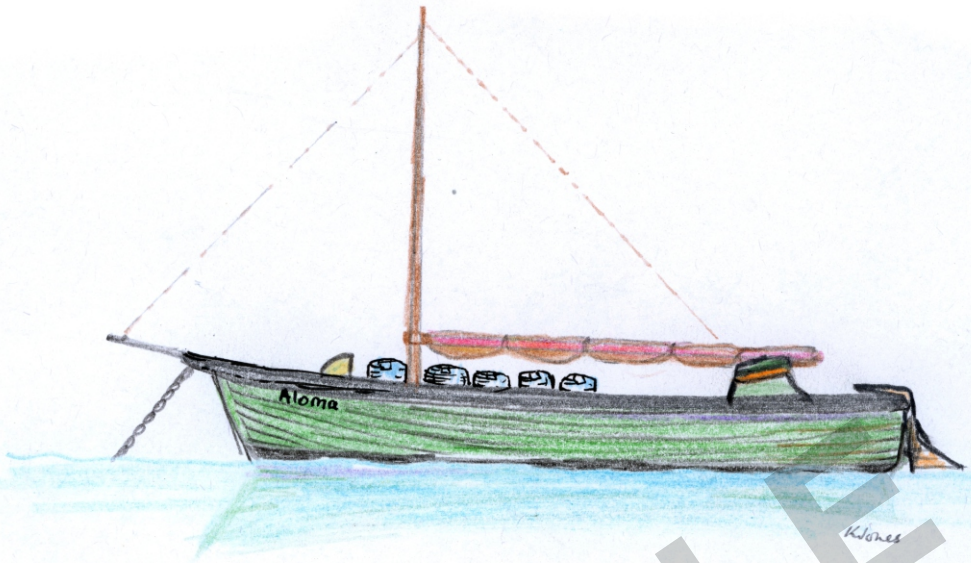
SAMPLE



SAMPLE

In 1947, Dad and my older brother Frank, fished on an old sailing ketch called the “Aloma”. They were often seasick in the very rough seas. It was a tough life for them. I was only 18 months old when Frank was killed in a trucking accident. It affected us all badly and Dad took it really hard.

SAMPLE



SAMPLE

When I was 13 years old, my Dad decided to build his own wooden dinghy. He was good at many things and boat building was just one of them! Dad borrowed a dinghy from his mate Bert and we copied the design. We built five similar boats. We sold four of them and kept one for ourselves. We launched the dinghy off the beach at Deep Creek and we rowed out to sea.





SAMPLE

## Word bank

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Boandik

Australia

Port MacDonnell

commercial

fisherman

crayfish

plentiful

ketch

“Aloma”

accident

dinghy

design

similar

barracouta

dragnet

limestone

Land Rover

bounty

delicious

Licence

specially

woven

suitable

eventually

continue

livelihood

Defiance

average

Fisheries

Inspector

illegal

disappointed

cherish

adventures

**Reading Recovery Level:** 28

**Word count:** 767

**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:**

Fishing Yarns is a personal recount of Ken's time as a child spent crayfishing with his Dad. Ken explains in detail the skills he learned from his Dad, including how to build a dinghy and how to construct their own crayfish pots. He tells of their many adventures on the ocean and how they made a living from crayfishing in Boandik Country, South Australia.

**Discussion points for consideration:**

1. Discuss your favourite part of the story and why.
2. Talk about how Ken's relationship with his Dad helped him to become the person he is today.
3. What questions would you like to ask Ken about his story?

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

Boandik, Australia, Port MacDonnell, commercial, fisherman, crayfish, plentiful, ketch, "Aloma", accident, dinghy, design, similar, barracouta, dragnet, limestone, Land Rover, bounty, delicious, Licence, specially, woven, suitable, eventually, continue, livelihood, Defiance, average, Fisheries, Inspector, illegal, disappointed, cherish, adventures.

**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.

## Fishing Yarns

*Fishing Yarns* is a personal recount of Ken's time as a child and teenager spent crayfishing with his Dad. Ken explains in detail the skills he learned from his Dad, including how to build a dinghy and how to construct their own crayfish pots. He tells of their many adventures on the ocean and how they made a living from crayfishing in Boandik Country, South Australia.

### 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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