

Traders, Pirates and Blackbirds: Maritime connections between Colonial Sydney and the Pacific, 1788-1888.

*Dr Wayne Johnson
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In the port we saw several vessels recently arrived from different quarters of the world... Here from the banks of the Thames or the Shannon were some about to proceed to the foggy shores of New Zealand, and others... about to sail for the Yellow River of China; some laden with coal for the Cape of Good Hope and India; many of the smaller build ready to depart to Bass's Strait, to collect furs and [seal]skins obtained there by men left on the different islands ... there was all bustle to fit out store-ships for the Navigator, Friendly and Society Islands, to bring back to the colony the exquisite salt pork of those islands. Already the road to Port Jackson had become familiar to the Americans, their flag was incessantly flying in this port throughout the whole course of our stay. (François Péron, 1802)



Spanish 1 Real (c1772-90)



Bengal 1 Piece (1796-1800)

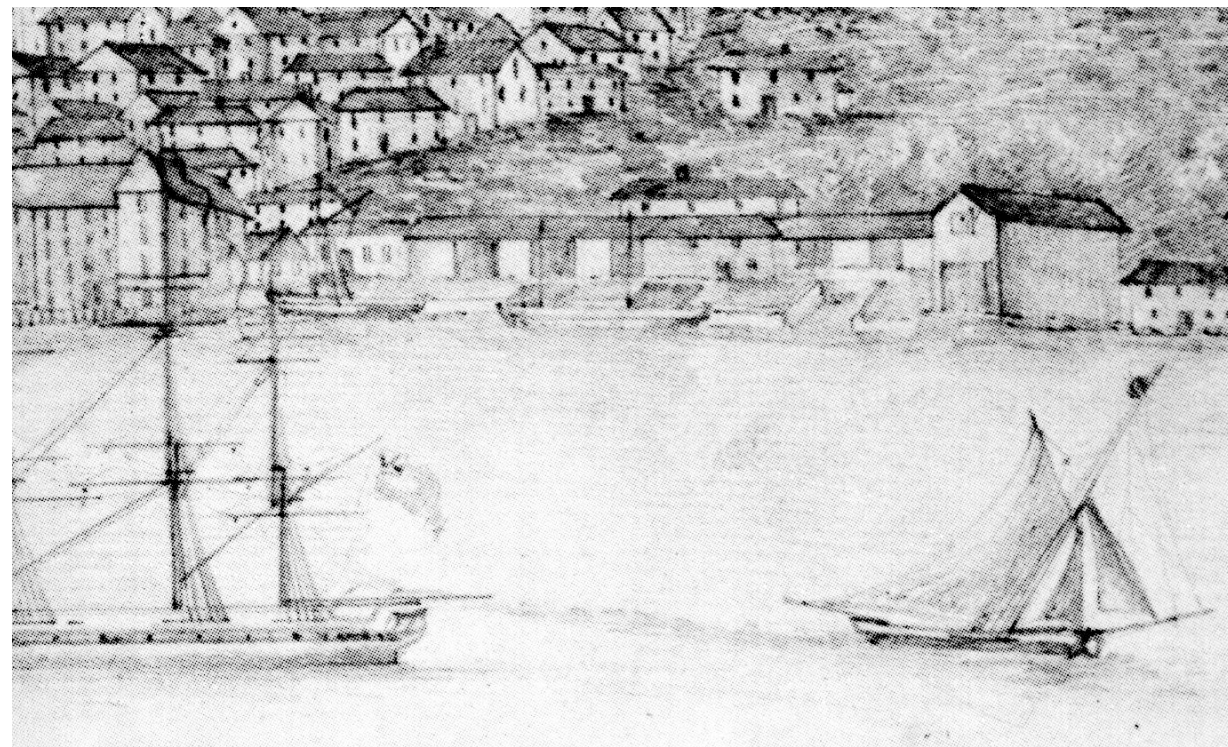


Dutch East Indies ¼ Stuiver (1790)



A VIEW OF SYDNEY COVE, NEW SOUTH WALES.

From the Original Picture on the left side of James Cook's Log.



T. S. M. Allen
Old & New



EOWEN'S FIRST GOVERNMENT HOUSE, RISDON, IN 1804.



Ships visiting Sydney in 1804

Time of entry.	Vessel's name.	Master's Name.	Built.	No. of			Where and when built.	Where and when registered.	Owner's name.	General cargo.	From whence.	Where bond given.
				Tons.	Guns.	Men.						
6 Jan.	Union	J. Pendleton ..	Foreign	99	4	22	Barnstable	New York ..	Fanning & Co. ..	5,000 sealskins	King's Island.	Sydney.
9 "	Harrington ..	Wm. Campbell.	"	180	6	40	Calcutta ..	Calcutta ..	Messrs. Chace & Co.	Sugar and treacle ..	Madras	"
22 "	Ferrett.....	Philp. Skelton..	British..	208	10	23	....	London	David Bennett ..	Ballast	Cape Barren..	"
24 "	Mary.....	Saml. Balch ..	Foreign	211	4	14	Boston	Boston	Bordman & Co. ..	General merchandise	Boston	"
25 "	Rose	J. Carey	"	305	8	21	Nantucket	Nantucket	Paul Gardiner ..	70 tons ebony wood, 3,690 skins, 270 bundles whalebone	Isle of France	"
9 Mar.	Union	J. Pendleton ..	"	99	4	22	Barnstable	New York	Fanning & Co. ..	114 casks pork	Norfolk Island	"
31 "	Scorpion	Wm. Dagg	British..	343	14	32	London....	London	Messrs. Mathers	4,750 skins, 20 barrels oil, 10 tons salt.	New Zealand..	"
16 April	Mersey	Jas. Wilson....	Foreign	350	10	73	Chittagong	Fort William	Jas. Wilson	General merchandise; 5 horses, one of which was a pure bred Arab, value £350.	Bengall	"
8 May	Coromandle	Geo. Blakey ..	"	522	12	44	" ..	London	Reeve & Co.	General merchandise	England ...	"
13 "	Britannia....	Geo. Quedstedt..	British..	301	6	24	Dorset	"	Enderby & Co. ..	120 tons oil, 7 firkins butter.	Fishing	"
21 "	Alexander ..	Rt. Rhodes ...	"	301	6	32	Newcastle..	"	Messrs. Harrys ..	105 tons oil ..	"	"
28 "	Fair American	J. Farrell	Foreign	300	10	34	.....	Mannilla	J. E. Farrell	General merchandise	Manilla	"
12 June	Buffalo	Wm. Kent	"	"	"	"	"	"	H. M. Ship	Cattle, &c.	Bengall	"
17 "	Lady Barlow	A. McAskill ..	Foreign	500	14	80	Pegu	Bengall	Campbell & Co. ..	General merchandise	Calcutta	"
25 "	Experiment	J. F. Withers..	British..	568	14	54	.....	London	Wigram & Co. ..	General merchandise	England	"
29 "	Union	J. Pendleton ..	Foreign	99	10	22	Barnstable	New York	Fanning & Co. ..	12,000 sealskins	Bass's Straits..	"
1 July	Schooner Independence.	O. F. Smith ..	....	35	..	16	Kangaroo Islands.	.....	Fanning & Co. ..	Ballast	Sealing	Sydney.
5 "	Albion	E. Bunker .....	....	362	10	26	Deptford ..	London....	Messrs. Champions..	1,400 barrels oil	Whaling	"
22 Aug.	Pilgrim ..	Saml. Delano ..	Foreign	62	6	8	Boston ..	Boston ..	Bradbury & Co. ..	Ballast	Bass's Straits	"
24 "	Ocean ..	Jno. Mertho ..	British	481	12	35	Howden Pans.	Newcastle ..	Messrs. Harrys ..	"	River Derwent	"
25 "	Adonis ..	Rt. Turnbull ..	"	290	..	24	Sunderland	London ..	.....	1,000 barrels sperm oil.	Fishing ..	"
2 Sept.	Lady Barlow	A. McAskill ..	Foreign	500	14	18	Pegu ..	Bengall ..	Campbell & Co. ..	Ballast	River Derwent	.....
15 "	Scorpion ..	Willm. Dagg ..	British	343	14	32	London ..	London ..	Messrs. Mathers	4,750 skins, 94 tons oil.	Fishing ..	.....
1 Oct.	Pilgrim ..	Saml. Delano ..	Foreign	62	6	8	Boston ..	Boston ..	Bradbury & Co. ..	Ballast	Bass's Straits	.....
19 "	Myrtle ..	H. Barber ..	"	280	12	30	East Indies	Fort William	Willm. Kinlock ..	General merchandise	.....	.....
25 "	Union ..	DL. Wright ..	"	99	4	19	Barnstable	New York ..	Fanning & Co. ..	Ballast	Tongataboo ..	.....
17 Nov.	Policy ..	C. S. Foster ..	British	275	10	28	Dartmouth	London ..	Robt. Sparrow ..	50 ton oil, 10 ton wax	Fishing ..	.....
17 "	Swift ..	J. Lawrence ..	Foreign	240	8	13	Taken by the Policy, 12 Sept., 1804, off Sumba.	Condemned at Sydney, N.S.W., 1804.	.....	General merchandise	From Batavia, bound to Amboyna.	.....
....	Buffalo ..	Wm. Kent ..	....	"	"	"	.....	.....	H. M. ship ..	Ballast	Port Dalrymple	.....
14 Dec.	Alexander ..	Rt. Rhodes ..	British	301	6	32	Newcastle	London ..	Messrs. Harrys ..	210 ton oil, 70 ton bone.	Fishing ..	.....
27 "	Æolus ..	Andw. Mather	Foreign	487	6	28	Somerset ..	New York ..	Champlin & Minturn	General merchandise	New York ..	.....

J. HARRIS, Act'g Naval Officer.

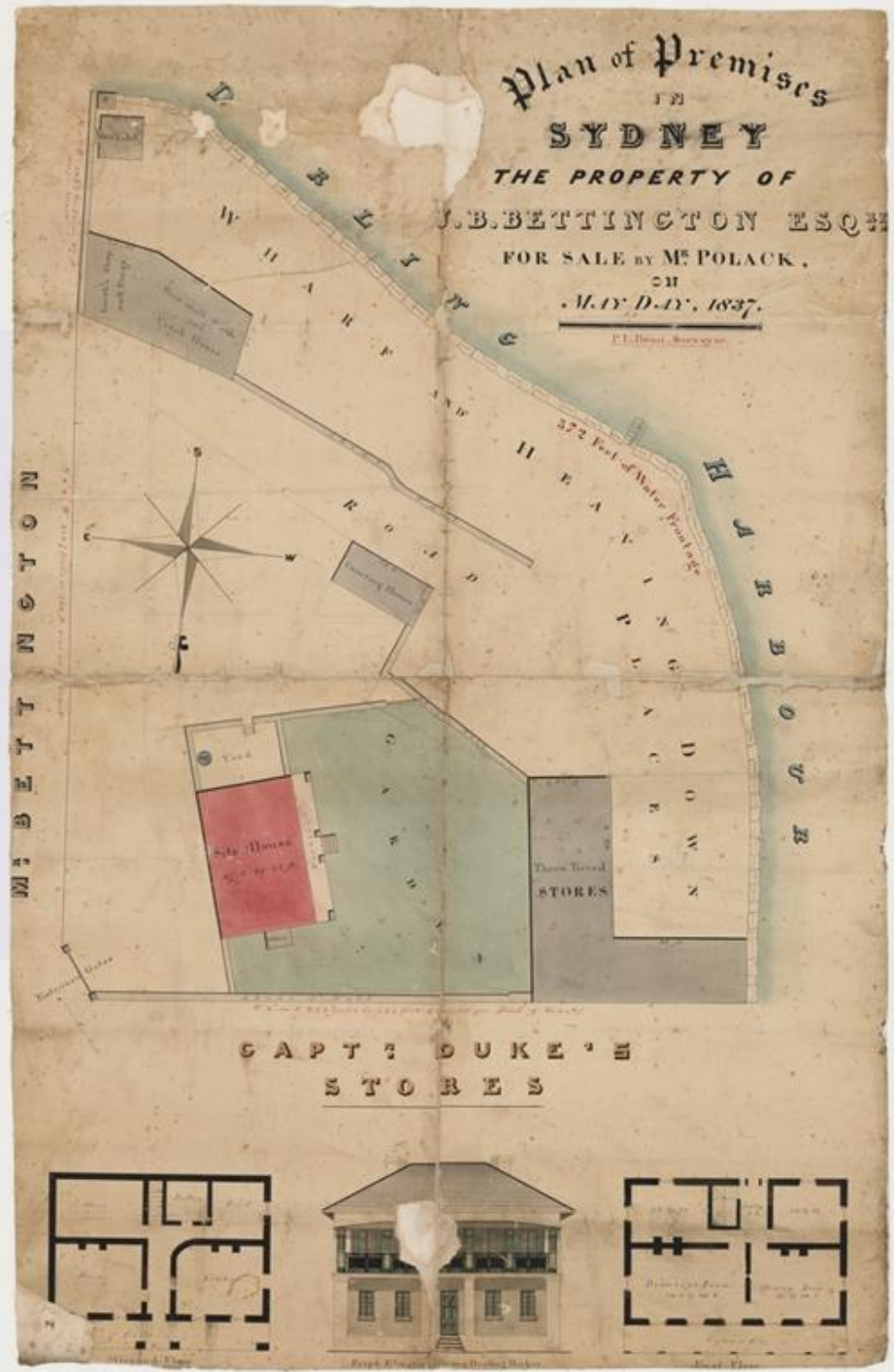


Sydney Gazette, 23 Oct 1808, p2 'Brig Elizabeth arrived from Fiji with about 120 tons of sandalwood from "Sandalwood Bay"' (Bua Bay, Vanua Levu)



BUA, FEEJEE.

(1851- Wesleyan Juvenile Offering VIII: p60)



**SALES BY AUCTION.
BETTINGTON'S WHARF,
STORES,
HEAVING-DOWN-PLACE,
AND COTTAGE.**

A. POLACK,
Has just received instructions from the Proprietor, James Brindley Bettington, Esq., who has retired from business to the interior, to dispose of at Public Auction, without any reserve, in one Lot, the whole of the above extensive and valuable water-side Premises, known as Bettington's Wharf, on **MONDAY, the 1st of May, at 12 o'clock precisely, on the Wharf,**

THE Stores are capacious and substantially built, containing a ground floor, and two stories over; also, a Cooper's Shed and Blacksmith's Shop, and Men's Dwelling, Coach house, Stabling, &c. with left over all, admirably adapted for a Sail Loft, detached Office, containing two rooms fitted with Desks, Stove, &c., with patent copying Machine, &c.

The Heaving-down place has been prepared at considerable expense, is very complete, and capable of heaving down vessels of the greatest magnitude, and from the depth of water alongside, ships of the heaviest tonnage may load and discharge with the greatest facility. A very powerful Crane has also been erected thereon.

The cottage contains an Entrance Hall, with fixed sideboards, one Dining Room, with separate entrance into a Drawing Room, two back Bed Rooms, under which is an excellent Kitchen, with large range, oven, &c., complete, and in excellent repair; a large sized Pantry, and two servants' Bed Rooms, with an entrance Hall or large Passage from the garden, with an enclosed Yard, in which is an excellent well of pure Water.

The Dining and Drawing Rooms are fitted up with French Windows, opening into a balcony, overlooking the Wharf, Darling Harbour, &c., &c.

The Garden is in front of the Cottage, is of good size, surrounded by a stone wall, capable of great improvement, and in which is erected a Water Closet, with patent Cistern, &c. &c.

Title a Grant from the Crown.

A. POLACK begs to remark that 'Bettington's Wharf' is so well known, that no comment is required from him; he will, therefore, merely add, that should any gentleman, desirous of purchasing the Wharf, Stores, &c., conceive that the cottage is too small, that there is sufficient space to allow of considerable additions thereto.

A Plan of the whole is in the hands of the Surveyor, which, as soon as completed, with further particulars, will be made known in a future advertisement.

TERMS.—Ten per cent. cash deposit on the fall of the hammer; half of the purchase money may remain on mortgage, at Ten per cent., for one, two, or three years, the residue by approved bills at three, six, nine, and twelve months, with security on the property. Purchasers to pay their own conveyance.

AFTER WHICH:
An Allotment of Land in Darling Harbour, adjoining the above, having a frontage of 29 feet to the river, by a depth of 55½ feet.
Terms made known at the time of Sale.

ALSO,
On the same day, at Eleven o'clock precisely, at the same place, the following Goods, to close all shipments and consignments:—
Six thousand yards Brown Canvas
One bale Twine
Two bales Woolpacks
Fifteen Whale Lines
Sundry Whaling Gear (new and old)
Spades, Harpoons, and Launces (by Blythes)
Try Works, Frames, Door &c.
Ship's Anchor, 2½ cwt., by Flinn and Co.
Chains
Three Boats, Long Boat, Jolly Boat and Wherry
Patent Felt, by Borradaile
Sheet Copper
Three hundred Beef Tierces
Tierce Hoop Iron
Bar, Rod, and Hoop Iron, assorted
Old Casks, of sizes
Two Carronades
Five tons Chalk
One Patent Windlass, complete
Four Iron Knives
Three barrels Tar
Capstan Bars
Tar and Paint Brushes
Old Rope, Junk, &c.
Shipwrights' Carpenters' and Coopers' Tools
Flints—Musket and Pistol
Sail-needles, fish-hooks
Ship Chandlery of various descriptions
Stove and Sack Trucks
Spirits and Wine (out of bond) consisting of—
One hogshead Rum
One puncheon Whiskey
Two pipes Port Wine
Twenty-two cases ditto
Fourteen quarter casks Sherry
Two hogsheads ditto
Three pipes Vinegar
Forty tierces Packing Salt
One case Eau de Cologne
One case Tumblers and Wine Glasses
One case Mustard
One Crane Wheel
One Surveying Compass
few Deals, spars, and old Timber
ALSO,
Two splendid Marble Chimney Pieces, complete

TERMS.
All Purchasers under £30, Cash; above £30, three months; above £100, three and four months.
The day of Sale of the Furniture, Carriage, &c. will be notified as soon as arrangements can be made for that purpose.



Town's Place warehouse excavations 2010.

Rocks merchant, and ex-convict, James Simmons (1795–1849) commissioned a dinner service, c1830-31, featuring a coat of arms and the inscription:

Ships, Colonies & Commerce

For Sydney

New South Wales

James Simmons





Millers Point and Darling Harbour, 1858



PUBLIC NOTICE.

MR. RICHARD KEMP respectfully announces to his Friends, and numerous Patrons, that he has carried on the Business of **SAIL MAKER** and **SHIP CHANDLER**, since the 31st December, 1827, ON HIS SOLE ACCOUNT, and he respectfully solicits their distinguished Patronage and Support to his present Undertaking.

Wharf, 1st February, 1828.



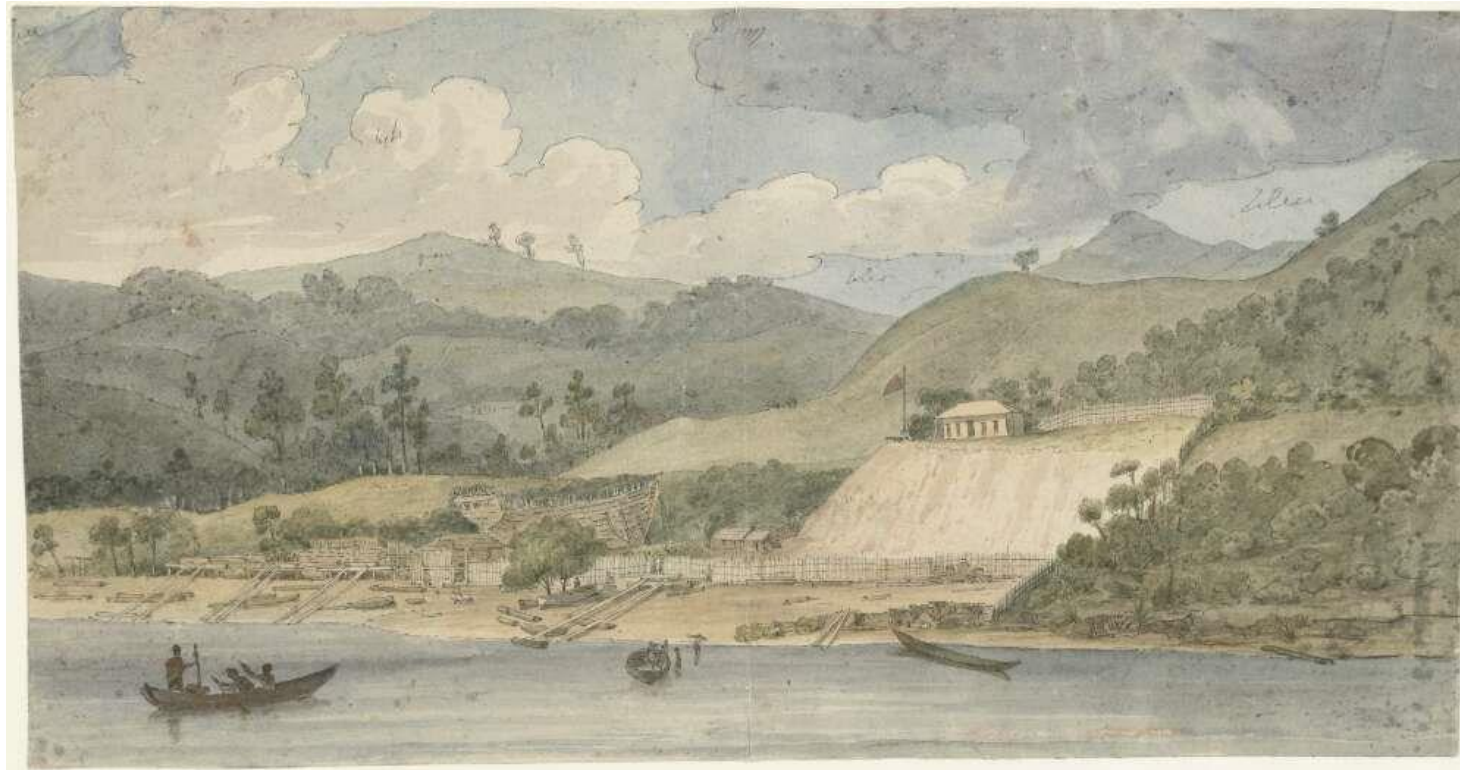
Lieutenant Hanbury Clements (1793-1847): Collectors Chest, made in Sydney for his collections, 1825-35.



Self-portrait sculpture of Hongi Hika, carved at Parramatta in 1814 from a fence post.



Hongi Hika (centre) with Thomas Kendall (right), 1820



“Deptford Dockyard” at Hokianga, New Zealand. Painted by Augustus Earle in 1827, the dockyard was constructed by Sydney merchants Captain Ranulph Dacre (1797-1884), Thomas Raine (1793-1860), David Ramsay (1794–1860) and Gordon Davies Browne (d1841), to build and repair their trading vessels.

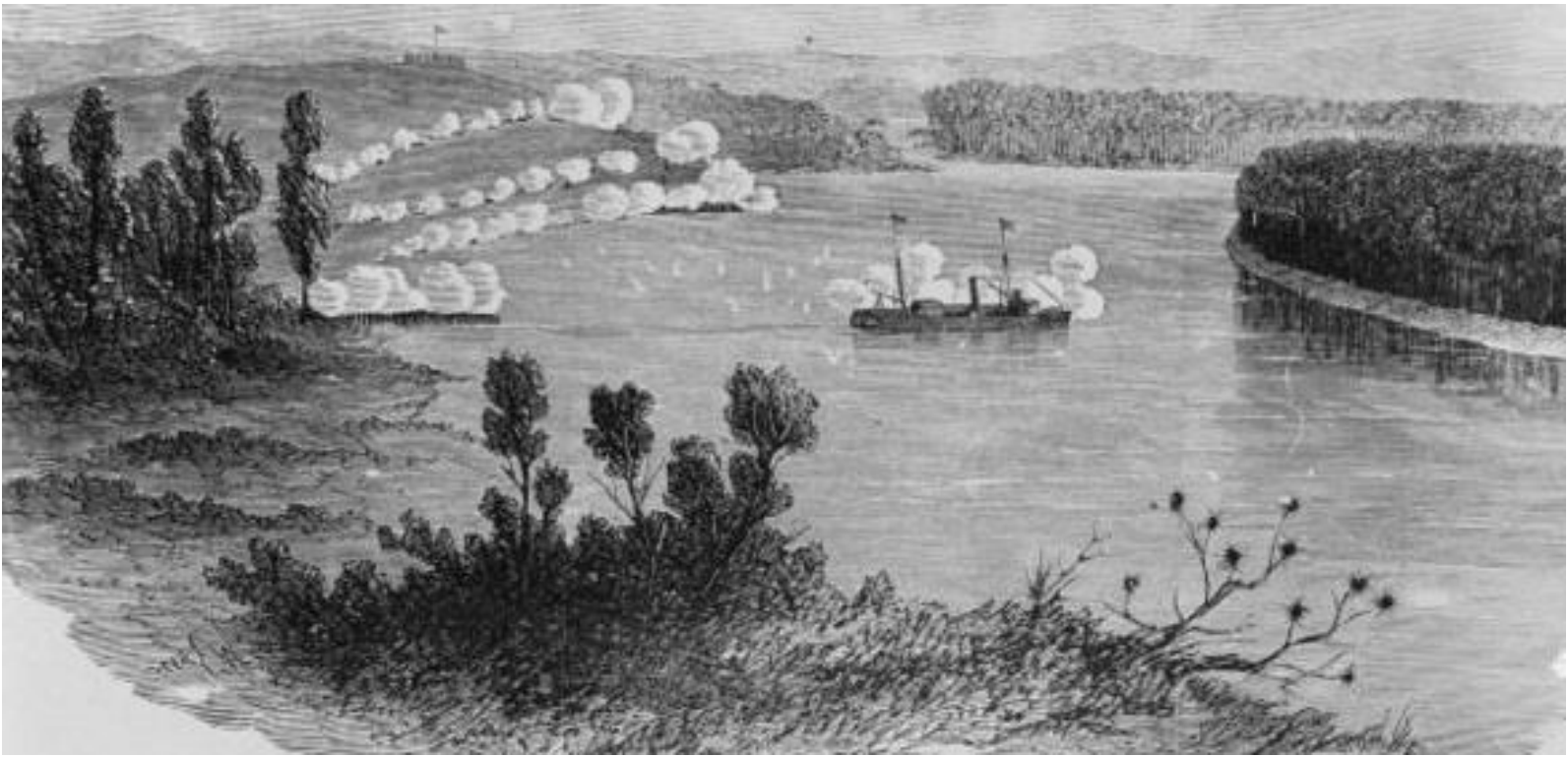




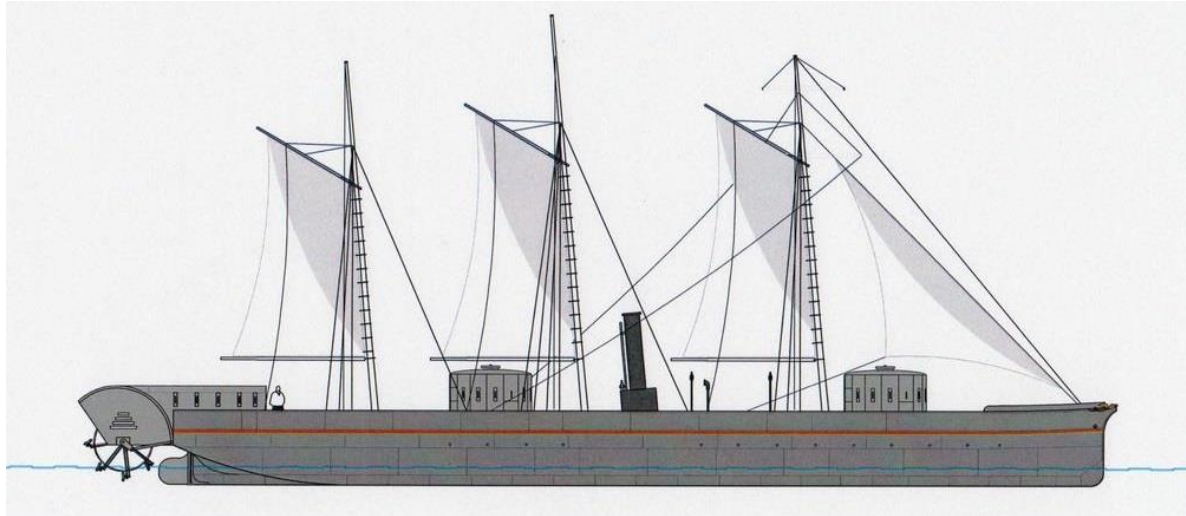
Long's Lane ("Maori Lane")

... from the fact that a colony of Maori whalers lived in and adjoining it. ... Mr. Cotton ... was known as the friend of the Maoris on the Rocks. For some reason not explainable at this distance in time, the little colony of New Zealanders became stranded, stone broke in fact, when Mr. Cotton stepped in and relieved their wants. One of the Maori women died in the lane, and as was the native custom, the body was wrapped in mats, and was being conveyed to the burial ground, when Mr. Cotton interfered, and had the remains properly coffined and decently interred at his own expense. (Truth 22 Jun 1902)





“Pioneer”, built by ASNCo at Darling Harbour in 1863



“Pioneer” gun turrets preserved at Ngaruawahia and Mercer, NZ

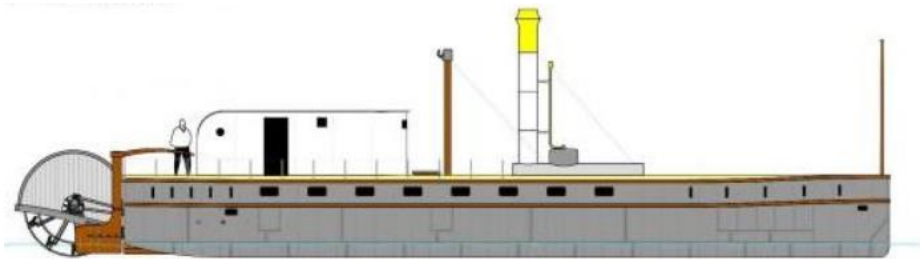


Rangariri Pa, Waikato River

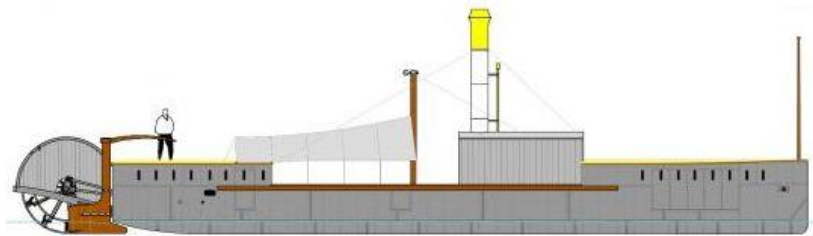


The River Gunboat "Rangiriri"

"Rangiriri" & "Koheroa", built by PN Russell, Darling Harbour, 1864.



RANGIRIRI



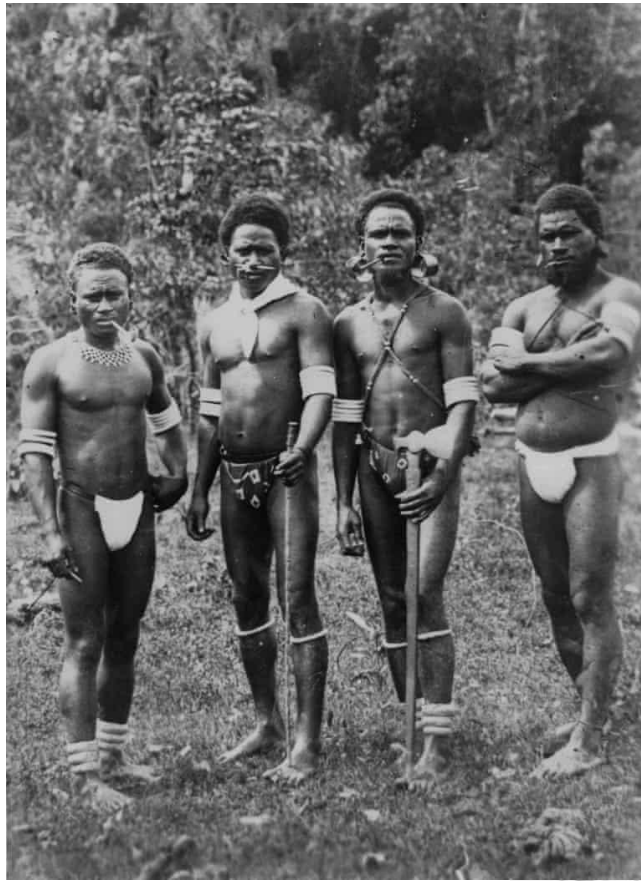
KOHEROA

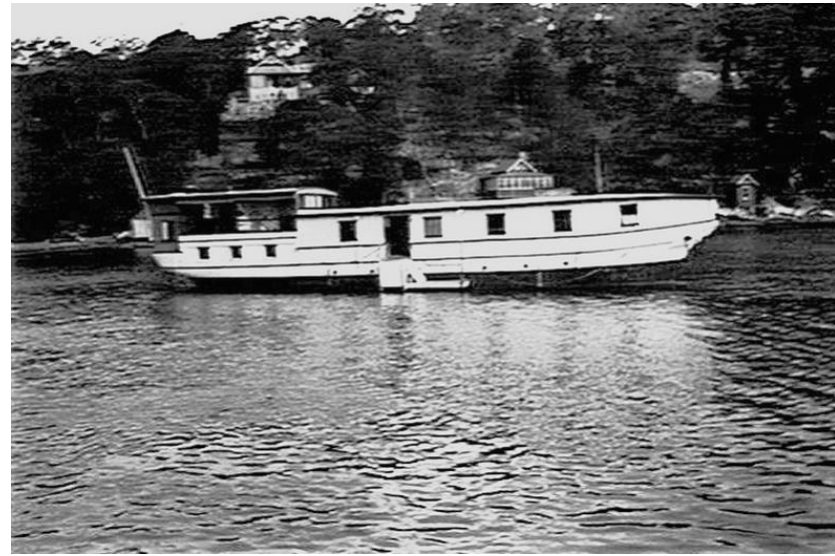


"Rangiriri" remains preserved at Hamilton, NZ.



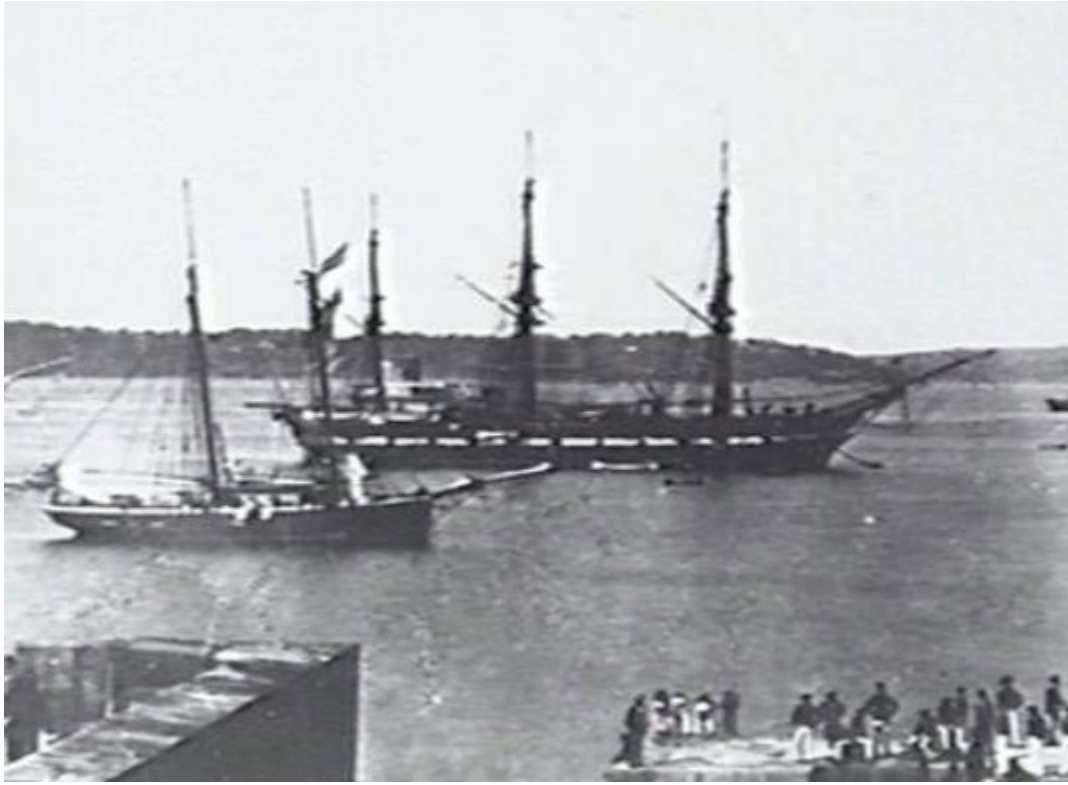
Royal Naval House ("Goodenough House"), The Rocks





HMS Alacrity, built as a schooner in 1873, (29 crew) patrolled the Pacific against “Blackbirding” until 1882, later used as accommodation during WWII, scrapped after 1945. (Graeme Andrews)

HMS Beagle, built as a schooner in 1873, (27 crew) patrolled the Pacific against “Blackbirding” until 1883, sold and last heard of in South America.



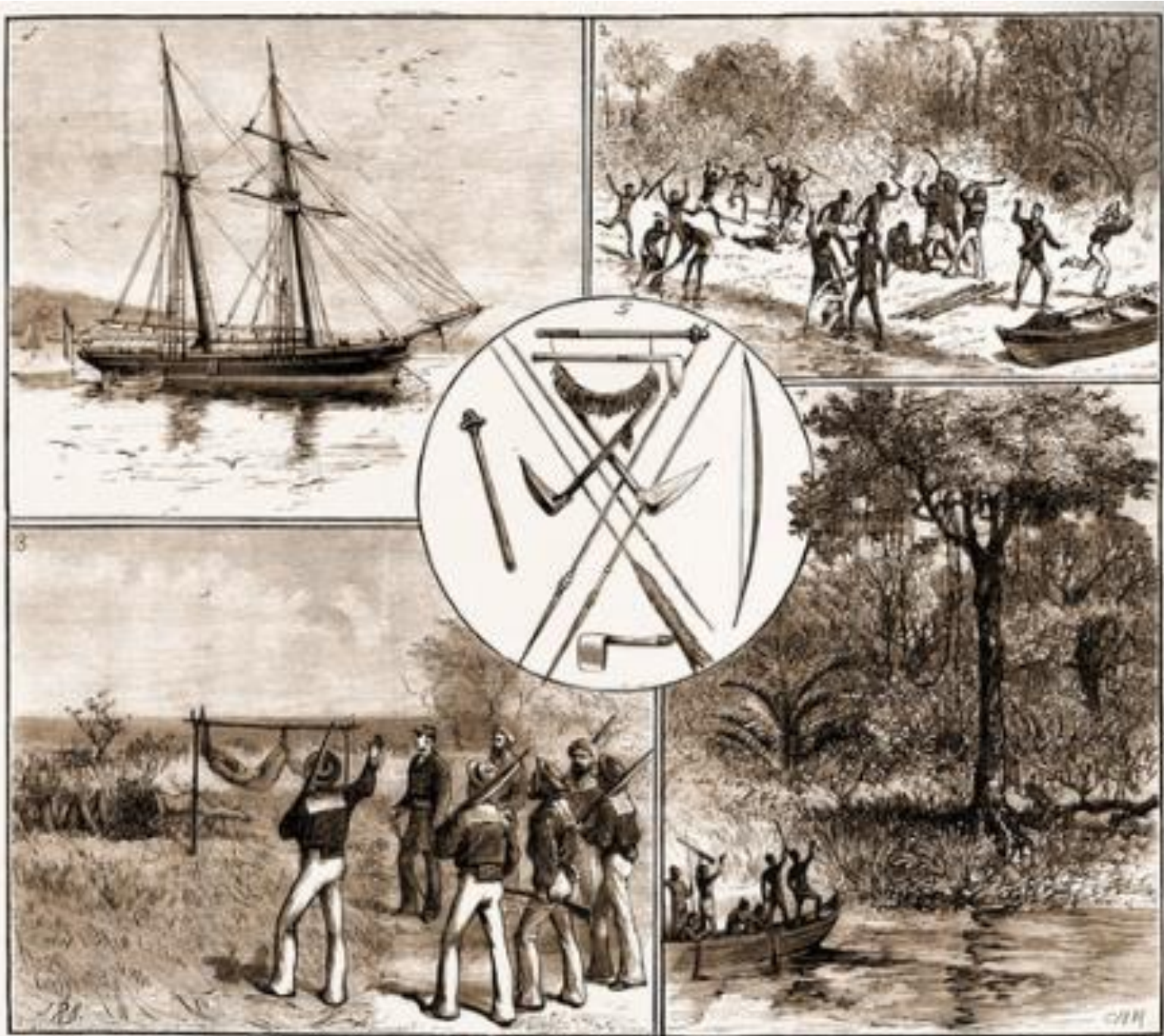
HMS Conflict, built as a schooner in 1873, (27 crew) patrolled the Pacific against “Blackbirding” until 1882, when it was sold, and was wrecked between Suva and Levuka in that year.

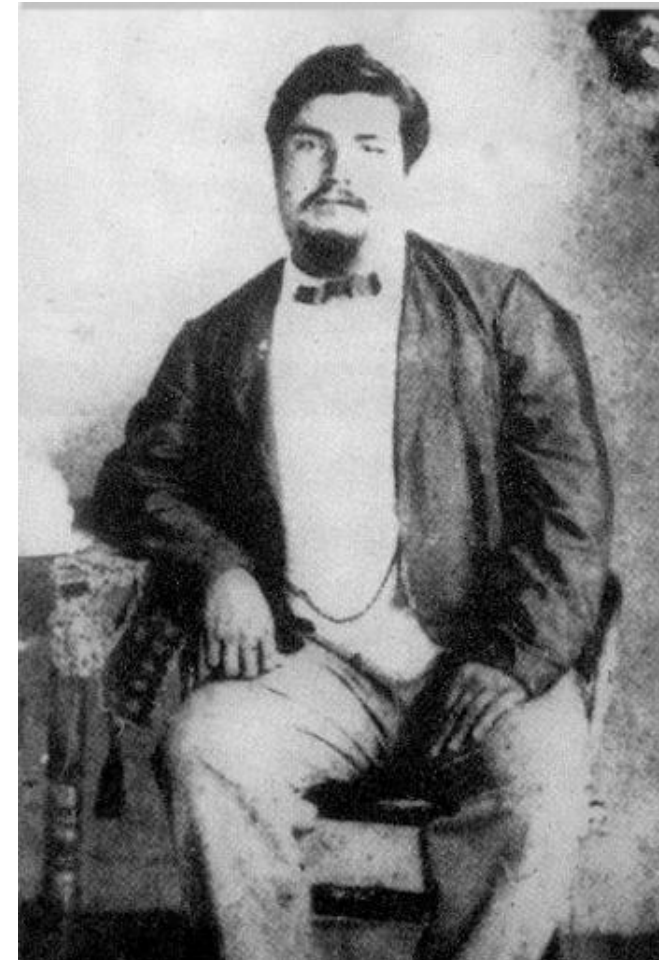
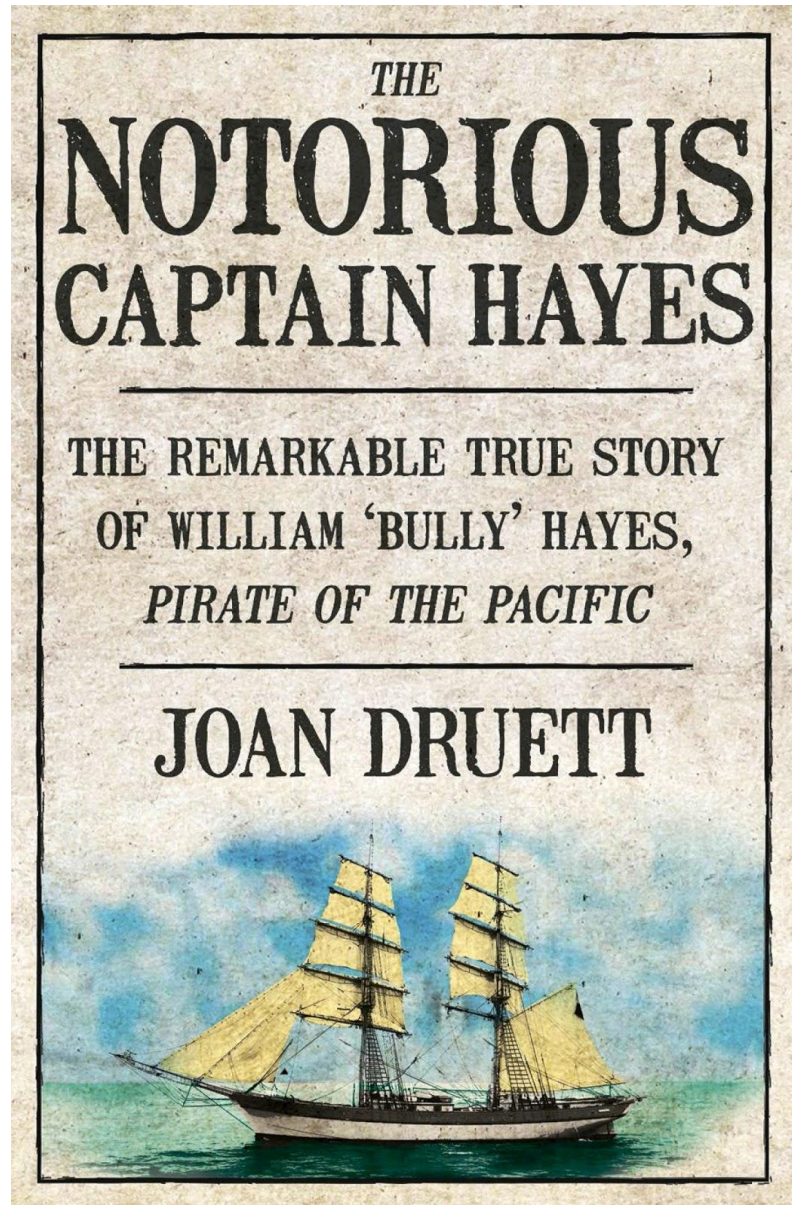


HMS Renard, built as a schooner in 1873, (27 crew) patrolled the Pacific against “Blackbirding” until 1883, later used as a trading vessel in Solomon Islands. Model made c1880s, now in National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.



HMS Sandfly, built as a schooner in 1872, (27 crew) patrolled the Pacific against “Blackbirding” until 1883, sold and used as a trading ship in Samoa.





William Henry "Bully" Hayes (c1827-1877). American sea captain, engaged in kidnapping Pacific Islanders from Tahiti, Fiji and Samoa in 1866-77 to work in Queensland. *HMS Renard* was sent to capture him in Tuvalu in 1876 but unsuccessful. Hayes was killed in a fight in Kosrae (Federated States of Micronesia) the following year.



Aunty Emelda Davis and Aunty Shireen Malamoo, descendants of South Sea Islanders blackbirded from the Pacific to work in Australia.

(Photograph: Ben Doherty for the Guardian, 2017)



Social Activist **Faith Bandler** (1918-2015) was a descendant of South Sea Islanders. At the age of 13, her father was kidnapped from the island of Ambrym, in what is known as Vanuatu, and brought to Australia to work as an unpaid labourer in the Queensland cane fields.

