Appendix D - A history of the Cape Range





# **History of Cape Range and Exmouth**

# Where exploring and passion go hand in hand

Rogé Kempe – Executive Manager Community Engagement





# **Providing you a Sense of Place**

- 1. More than 35,000 years of Human History
- 2. Who are the people of the Cape; what is this Place?
- 3. What about the Future?



# YOU DON'T REALLY WANT TO BE HERE..!!

You are too excited! You want to go out and explore... Get your hands dirty See what is out there Be amazed by the unknown

### You are like so many people before you!





#### More than 35,000 years of Human history

The region provides the earliest evidence of human ornamentation found in Australia.

Shell beads discovered at Mandu Mandu Creek rock shelter at Cape Range have been dated to more than 32,000 years before present time.





#### How the Cape was 'found'

#### 1618

Dutch Sailor Haevik Claeszoon van Hillegom records the first sighting of Northwest Cape on June 24.

This Wednesday it will be 397 years ago!



#### We are on the Map!



#### 1696

Willem de Vlamingh charts Vlamingh Head

Well, amongst all other things he did, like: Discovering and naming Swan River & Rottnest Island

and also 'doing the dishes' at Dirk Hartog island near Shark Bay









#### It's getting busy; we are getting more names!

# 1801

Nicholas Baudin names **Cape Murat** on the northwest tip of the Cape and **Muiron Islands** 

### 1811

The Rapid (an American 3 masted wooden vessel) was wrecked near **Point Cloates** 

### 1818

Philip Parker King surveys the Cape and names **Exmouth Gulf** after the 'noble and gallant Count' in England; also **Bay of Rest**.



#### ...but they are not getting this Place !!!

#### 1818

French vessel Uranie visits North West Cape "Not a bird in the sky, not a wild beast or any harmless four-footed thing, not the murmur of the least cold water spring to gladden the earth! Desert everywhere with its cold heart-freezing solitude and its vast echoless horizons. The soul is oppressed by this sad and silent spectacle of nerveless, lifeless, nature evidently issued but a few centuries from the sea..."

French artist, Jacques Arago from the vessel Uranie commenting on this coastline in 1818



#### ....and some just never made it!





#### People start moving into the area!

**1870-1912** Pearling and Pastoral Settlement

Thomas Carter (a famous ornithologist) acquired the first pastoral leases on the North West Cape in 1891;

Carved them up 20 years later, thus creating Ningaloo, Exmouth and Yardie stations

Pearling Luggers move into the Exmouth Gulf area from the north.

















#### Lighting up the North West Cape

#### **1912** The Lighthouse born out of disaster.





#### War comes to the Cape

#### 1942



**Operation Potshot Commences** 

Airstrips, radars, anti-aircraft guns and servicing/fuel for submarines

Radar station at Vlamingh Head was built.

**Operating Jaywick (Krait)** 









#### First Mainland Oil strike!

#### **1953** -Rough Range struck oil.



California.

The announcement said that West Australian Petroleum Ltd. had been testing oil showings in sand at 3605ft. to 3620 ft. at Rough Range No. 1-the company's first wildcat. In a 25-hour test, oil rushed through a quarter-inch pipe at the rate of 20 barrels an hour. This is roughly 700gal, an hour - about average for a new well.

overnight as much as 39/- (Perth) and 102/-(Melbourne),

Premier Hawke was jubilant at the news. remer reasons was particularly for Western Acat. The result news, particularly for Western Acat. This said. "The future developments could play a mendous part in the fitste's progress." Latter, told the Legislative Assembly that action would taken to meane that the State and its people all get subtensial benefit from the discovery. Kelly and his dep

card rempariz

#### Long-Term Concession covery well, Bough Range No. 1 is an explore-



**All Capitals** AMPOL Exploration shares jemped 29/- up to 56/-change comed at 11.50 a.m. today. In Adviside

#### BLACK AND YELLOW GOLD

The discovery of oil at Exmouth Gulf is certainly the most important development in this State — indeed in all Australia — in this century.

Its importance has been ranked above that of the discovery of gold in the second half of the last century, but only history will prove whether or not this high claim is justified.





#### The Birth of a Town

## 1963

agreement was reached between the Australian and USA Governments to establish a VLF Communications Station at NW Cape.

The town of Exmouth was created to support this facility.

Both were officially opened in **1967**.





You are to go to the world's most remote capital city. Then go another 700 miles (1100 km) or so north, and build a technological and engineering manuel oh, by the way, you will need to build a town. roads, a power station and a pier. And did Imention the heat and the cyclones?"

> Brian Humphreys in "Calls to the Deep"

















#### More Recently.....!!!!!





### Exmouth today

2,5000 people, and still many of the old pioneers from the 60ies

Many arrive here as a tourist and never leave, or come for a short term job and stay

Tourists explore the natural wonders





#### What would I ask of you...?!

Please show **Respect** for this land's rich cultural and environmental values

How can **Young People** benefit from your conference and your future activities, knowledge and skills?

Be curious and let our community know what you discover – how about a **Community Newsletter**?



#### What holds the Future?

# Let's hear it from young people from Exmouth