



Notre Dame
Nulungu
Talking Heads
Seminar Series

A New Partnership, William Roe, 1994

‘Lugger Language: isolation and collaboration’

Date: Wednesday 2nd September 2020

Venue: UNDA Hall NDB10/101

Time: 12:30pm – 1:30pm

Also available via Zoom: <https://notredame-au.zoom.us/j/97446600471>



Presenter: Tom Gannon and Thomas Saunders

Abstract

Lugger Language celebrates the multicultural and multilingual nature of Broome’s pearling industry. Crews of the pearl luggers were of many ethnic groups: Japanese, Malay, Koepangers, Ambonese, Manilamen, Chinese, Aboriginal and more, who spoke a variety of languages. In this environment Broome Pearling Lugger pidgin developed. The isolation that men experienced on the luggers, and the tyranny of distance experienced by those on land back in port, brought people from all these backgrounds together in a variety of ways.

The majority of this seminar will be a panel of people talking about their involvement in the pearling industry. Their stories are an integral part of Broome’s remarkable history.

The Lugger Language event will venture beyond the spoken word and dip into some music of the pearling industry performed by select local artists.

Biographies

Tom Gannon

Tom is originally from Richland, Washington, USA. Did his undergraduate in history at St. Meinrad College, Indiana, USA. He has a master degree in pastoral ministry from the University of Portland, Oregon, USA and a Master's in Leadership from the University of Notre Dame Australia. He has an interest in local history and the things that bring people and communities together. He's been working at the University of Notre Dame since 2004.

Thomas Saunders

Thomas is originally from Tasmania, but now lives in Broome. He has an Honors degree in linguistics from the Australian National University. He has worked on several Aboriginal languages from inland and coastal areas of the Kimberley.

Thomas currently works variously for Aboriginal Interpreting Western Australia, and as a consultant linguist to Wilinggin Aboriginal Corporation and Batchelor Institute . He has been interested in pearling history ever since seeing the lugger *Cornelius* sailing off Cable Beach at sunset during his first trip to Broome.