

Bob Wooster's information & More

Bob is a gentleman that I first met some ten years ago on one of Peter Vernon's trips. He has for many years travelled annually with Peter on nearly all his outback trips and is a bushman with extensive knowledge of the land and the Aboriginal and early explorers' use of it.

During the trips that I shared with him he told me about many of the sites that he visited and the Aboriginal use of that land. He sent me a couple of videos that hold some photographs of the land and also sent a few hard copy photographs.

The following photographs (Bob's) of rock arrangements are found 14 kilometres east of Neale Junction on the Anne Beadell Highway. They are 100 metres north of the road near an old air strip.









The photograph below that shows a rock placed in a mulga tree was taken at Mingarua Soak. Bob mentioned that he has seen a few rocks placed in trees – purpose unknown.



I came across another photograph (shown in next photograph) that shows the use of trees for storage etc. This photograph was published in Donald Thompson's book, *Bindibu Country*. 1975.

8 Below: Shade shelter near Kundjari, used as a rack for spears and a storehouse for food.

9 Below: The dried pericarp of an unidentified *Solanum* threaded on twig and stored against possible food shortages.





Len Beadell took the photographs shown above. Bob Wooster in one of his videos showed this site. It had quite an eerie feel about it.

Len Beadell also found another site that I have been fortunate to see. It is a long line of rocks not far from Mabel Creek property. I have visited it twice and taken numerous photographs. Below are a couple of photographs from this site.





Anne Beadell mentioned that Len was friendly with a number of Aboriginal people. One man gave him important ritual objects to mind because he, the Aboriginal man, felt that he had no-one to pass them on to. Anne has never opened the parcel and it remains safe. On the next page is a photograph taken at Anne's home in 2001 showing some of the artefacts given to Len. His boots are next to them.



NEAR ALICE SPRINGS – PETROGLYPHS

Not far from Alice Springs near a clay pan (see below) is a large rock that has many petroglyphs etched into its surface. These belong to a period prior to the current traditional owners' time and knowledge. To me that appear to be similar to those that I saw at Thomas Reservoir area.



Following are photographs of the petroglyphs.









The next series of photographs were taken by AG Bolam and are found in his book, *The Trans-Australian Wonderland*. This book is written about Ooldea.



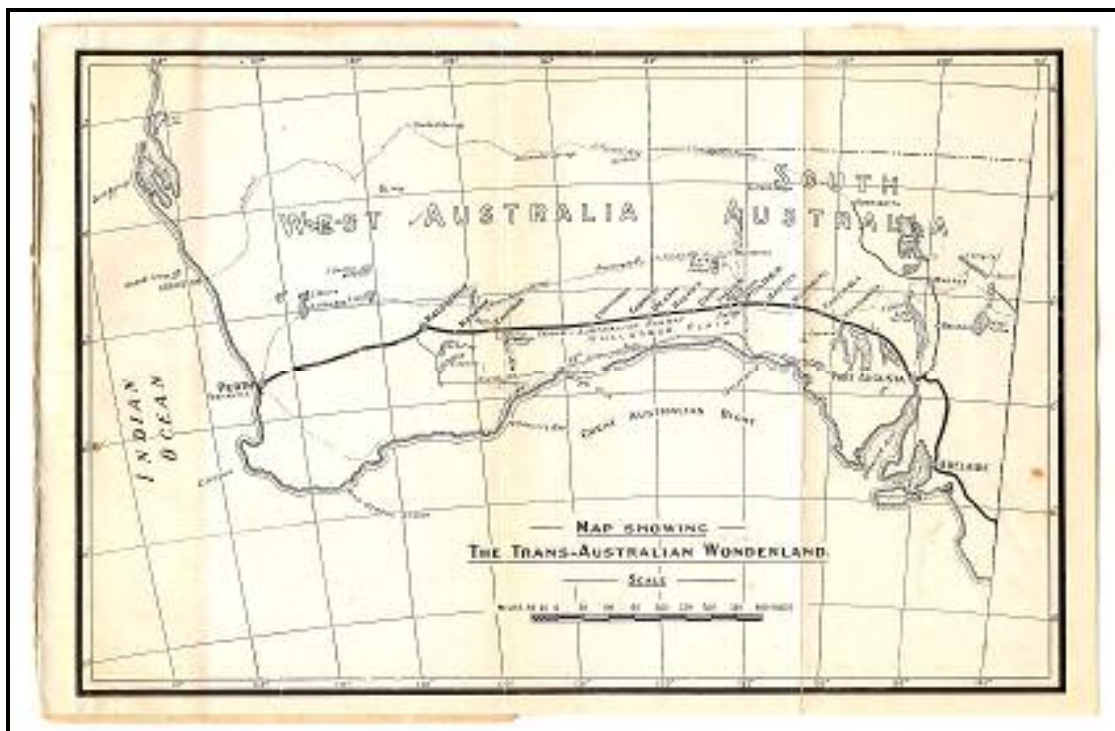
A Youth Partially Initiated into Manhood.
The Head Dress is Worn after the Ceremony.



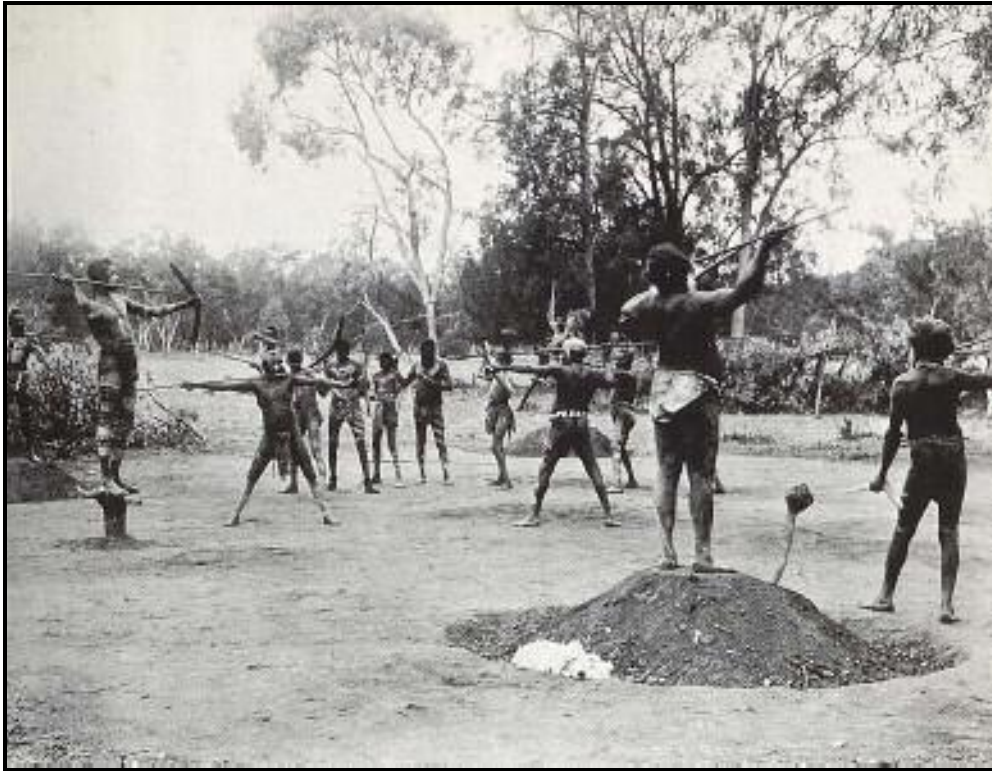
Aboriginals making Fire by the "Sawing Method."



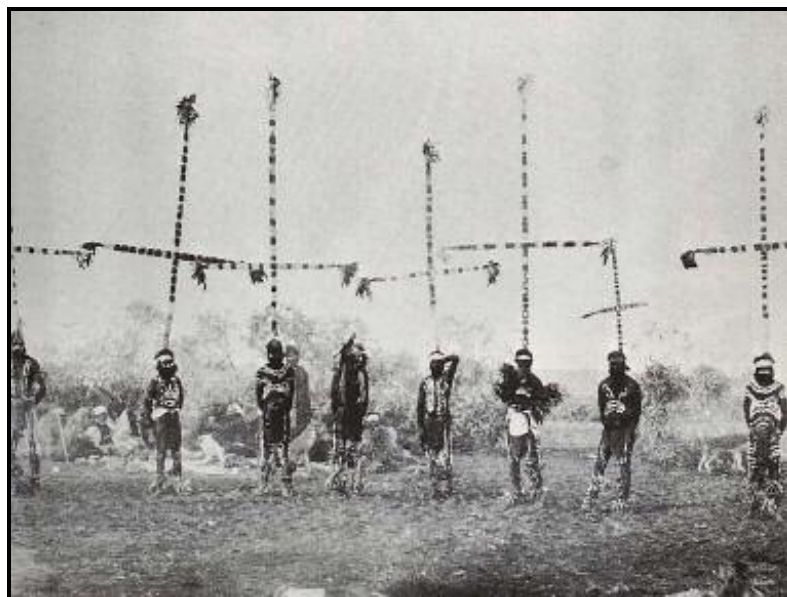
Blacks from all parts with their spears. Mrs. Daisy Bates in Centre.
The Fourth from the Right is Holding a Young Dingo.

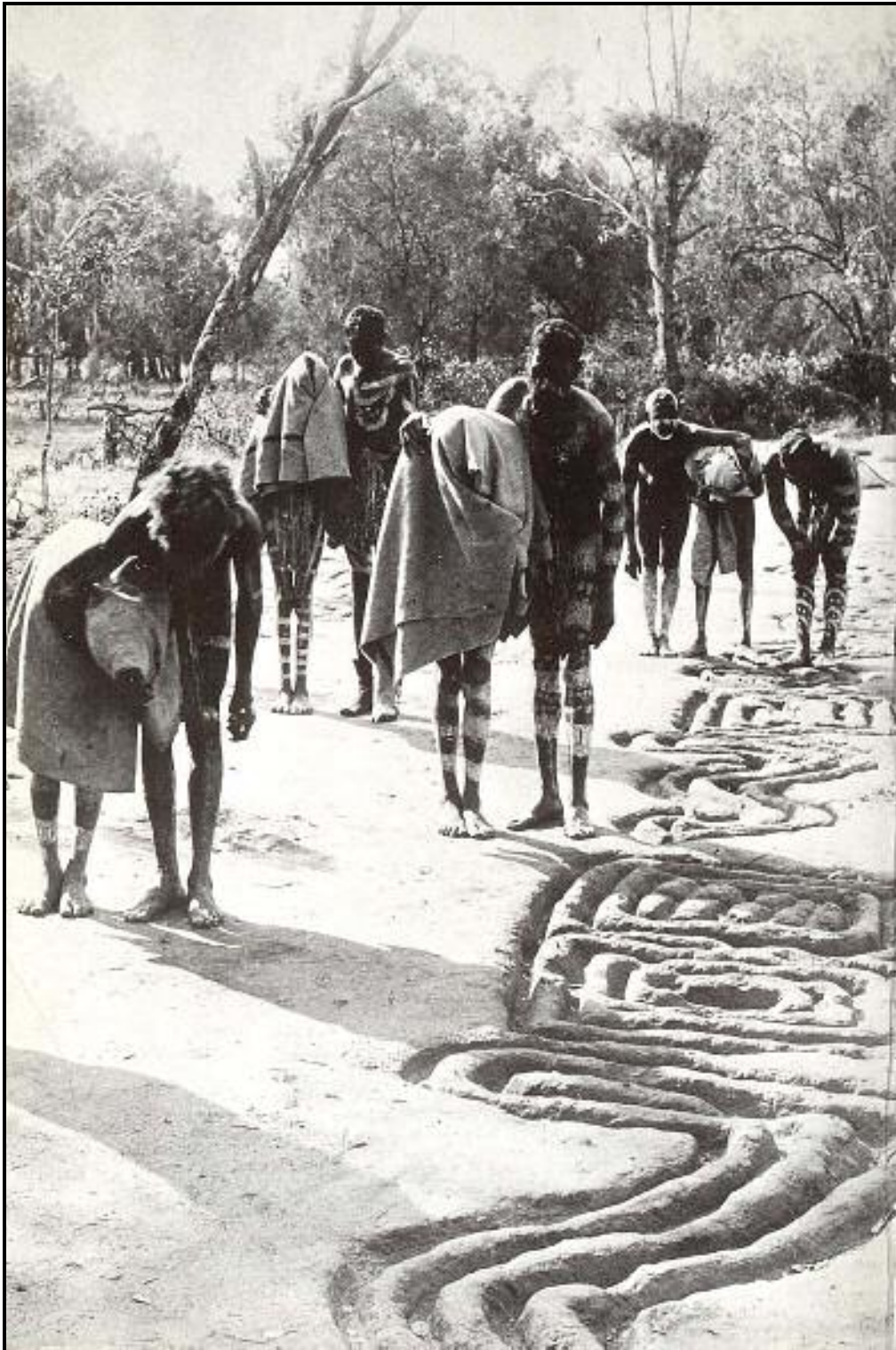


The next three photographs are found in a book, *Lament for the Barkindji* by Bobbie Hardy. The first, shown below, was taken around 1892 and shows a mock fight held during a tribal gathering at the Mole on the Macquarie River. Aborigines from Wilcannia on the Darling River attended. Collection by Kerry & Co (National Library of Australia).



Below is a corroboree on Wonnaminta Station July 1888. IRH Kennedy photograph.





Above – Initiation rites at the Mole on the Macquarie River, circa 1892. The ceremony was attended by Aborigines from a wide area. Collection by Kerry & Co (National Library of Australia).