

Life B'long Ali Drummond A Life in the Torres Strait

Samantha Faulkner

Family is one of the most important things in Sam Faulkner's life. Ali Drummond is Sam Faulkner's grandfather, and this is his story.

Ali Drummond has been an extraordinary life, by any standards. Orphaned when young, Ali took to a life sea aged just fourteen. Originally taken on an apprentice, Ali applied himself to learning the skills he needed to survive and prosper in a sometimes dangerous life seeking pearl shells, trochus and bêche de mer. Alert to the Japanese divers' knowledge, Ali learnt well from them and went on to become an expert diver and skipper himself.

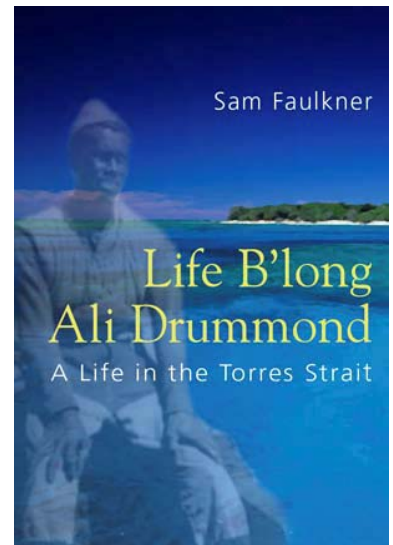
After years on the mainland, cutting cane and roadworking, supporting his growing family, Ali returned to his beloved Torres Strait. In those years he has been a strong supporter of his community, has enjoyed playing lawn bowls competitively and has provided advice about the maritime environment he knows so well – knowledge now keenly sought by scientists and others. Now 90, Ali is one of a handful of elders able to share these stories first-hand.

Two themes emerge strongly: the importance of Ali's wife Carmen and their family, and the desire to be out on the water, fishing. Sam Faulkner has rendered Ali Drummond's life with affection, skilfully weaving together Ali's stories with colourful reminiscences from his family.

Sam Faulkner is an emerging Torres Strait Islander writer. Her passion is to share the stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australia with other Australians and the international community.

SELLING POINTS

- A rare, colourful glimpse of the history and culture of the Torres Strait Islands.
- First-hand account of pre-war life in the Torres Strait: fishing, pearl shelling and deep sea diving.
- Includes snippets of music lyrics, and a potted snapshot of Torres Strait history and culture. Packed with evocative photos.
- Published on the anniversary of Ali's 90th birthday.



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