

Mutton Fish

The surviving culture of Aboriginal people and abalone on the south coast of New South Wales

Beryl Cruse, Liddy Stewart and Sue Norman

DESCRIPTION

They used to gather mutton fish and trade with Chinese people . . . it would really be a family gather, where men would be diving, gathering mutton fish, bringing it to share and women and kids would be lighting the fires. So our people started trading way back then.

Mutton Fish is the story of the Aboriginal people of the south coast of New South Wales. Mutton fish, or abalone, is a subsistence food — easy to find and harvest, extremely rich in energy and accessible for as long as the beaches are freely open to all.

The people of the south coast of NSW have a long and complex relationship with the coastal environment; one that has nurtured them for thousands of years. *Mutton Fish*, unique in its breadth and accessibility, seeks to tell of this relationship and what has happened to the south coast people as their access to the coastal resources has been progressively restricted by European competition.

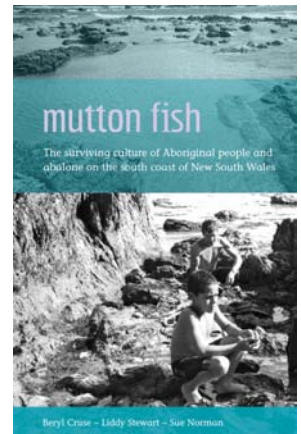
The authors have created a thoroughly researched, readable history of Indigenous life on south coast NSW. *Mutton Fish* includes lively interviews with Aboriginal people who have fished traditionally and taken part in the modern fishing industry. With clarity, it introduces some of the issues that arise when Indigenous cultural practice confronts white law.

AUTHORS

Beryl Cruse was born in Port Macquarie in 1934. Her mother came from the Campbell family of the south coast. **Liddy Stewart** was born in Gunnedah in 1941 and came to the south coast aged 17 years. **Sue Norman** was born in Melbourne in 1953 and moved to the south coast in 1982. Along with Beryl, Liddy and others, she helped produce the children's book, *Bittangabee Tribe*. All three women are at present working to establish an archive at the Monaroo Bobberrer Gudu (Keeping Place) outside of Eden and love to eat mutton fish.

CONTENTS

A Day on the Beach
What the Middens Tell Us
Early Contact
Land
Livelihood
Life on the Beaches
Put in for a Licence
Bag Limits
Court Case
The Future



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Format

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Target markets

- south-east coast NSW, especially fishing towns
- south-east coast Aboriginal communities
- local/regional history readers
- secondary and tertiary Aboriginal studies

Selling points

- first history of south coast NSW Indigenous culture
- lively first-hand accounts
- Indigenous co-authorship
- current issues of Indigenous sea rights

Categories

- Australian Indigenous history
- regional/local history

AIATSIS

Aboriginal Studies Press
GPO 553, ACT 2601
(Acton Peninsula, Canberra)
Tel (02) 6246 1111
Fax (02) 6261 4285
www.aiatsis.gov.au/asp
asp@aiatsis.gov.au