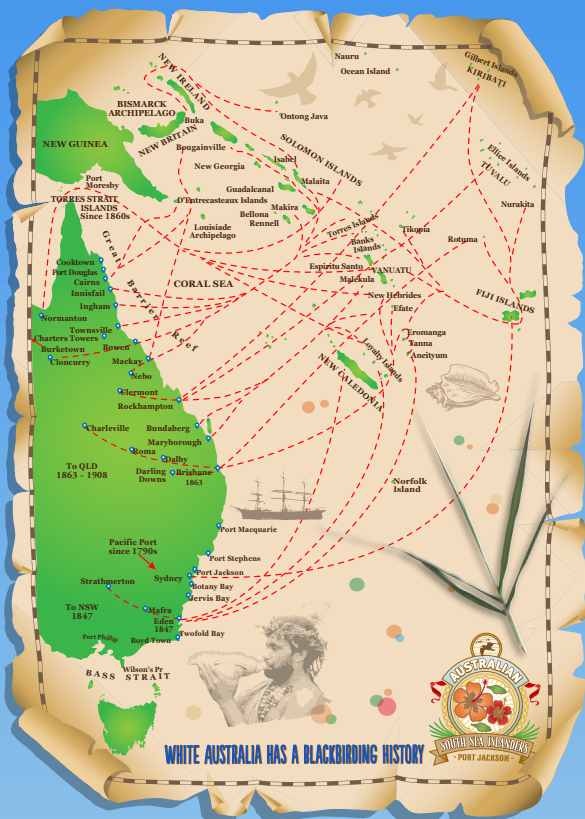


2016 MARKS 169 YEARS SINCE THE FIRST SOUTH SEA ISLANDERS WERE BOUGHT TO EDEN NSW AUSTRALIA



HISTORICAL FACTS

- 62,000 individual South Sea Islanders, 95% men, were kidnapped, tricked and coerced from Vanuatu, Solomon's and 80 surrounding islands starting in NSW in 1847, with the majority entering Queensland between 1860 and 1908.
- 30%, around 15,000 people, died due to lack of immunity and maltreatment deceased estate wages were used to pay for the Commonwealth Government's inhumane mass deportation of up to 10,000 islanders under the White Australia Policy.
- Mandatory deportation required Islanders to pay a portion of their return fare from their pittance of a wage.
- The Australian Census doesn't reflect the 50,000 plus surviving descendants today.
- ASSI have an identified kinship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, given they worked in the same areas, were placed on same missions, and under the same Acts of parliament.
- They built direct bloodlines through these interracial marriages. Torres Strait Islanders have the most prominent ASSI ancestry, as ASSI were taken into the Torres Strait from 1860 onwards for the pearling and bêche-de-mer industries as well as through the London Missionary Society.
- The most significant ASSI 'colony' is on Mua (St Pauls) Island in Torres Strait, established by the Anglican Church in the 1900s.
- ASSI also worked closely with Aborigines in the pastoral industry.