

**AUSTRALIND:
WANDERINGS IN
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
AND THE MALAY EAST**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649123070

Australind: wanderings in Western Australia and the Malay East by Henry Taunton

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

HENRY TAUNTON

**AUSTRALIND:
WANDERINGS IN
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
AND THE MALAY EAST**

AUSTRALIND

Wanderings in Western Australia
and the Malay East

BY

HENRY TAUNTON

LONDON
EDWARD ARNOLD

1903

All rights reserved

DU
360
173

11. 2. 20. 1828
 25 of
 11. 2. 20. 1828

CONTENTS



CHAPTER I

	PAGE
The <i>Laughing Wave</i> —Land O 1—First Glimpse of Swan River Settlement—Rottneft Convict Island—On Shore once more—Fremantle—Fenian Convicts—Their Rescue by the <i>Catalpa</i> —Champion Bay—Geraldton—Queer Buildings—A House of Kerosene Tins—A Trip Inland—Iguanas—Black Cockatoos—Kangaroo—Mob of Wild Horses—Summer Floods—First Sight of Native Camp—The Huts—Wretched Constructions—Spears—Shields—“Kylis”—The Men—The Women— <i>Modes et Robes</i> —Their Faces—Animated Gargoyles—The Wannera—Its many Uses—Cooking Toads—The Children—How to get cool Water—The vast Wheatfields of the Greenough—Return to Geraldton	1

CHAPTER II

A Search for Employment—Jackaroos—M'Snitch and his Fortunes—Start for Nibi-Nibi—A solitary Ride—The Bush Scenery—Twenty-eights—Bush Songsters—Forest Trees—Eucalyptus—Flooded-Gums—Fluted and other Gum Trees—Black Boys—The Pass through the Range—Open Country—A Flock of Sheep—Nibi-Nibi at last—The Station—Possum Hunting by Moonlight—The Lambing Season—The Old Man's Goose—The Ten-mile

	PAGE
Well—The Sheep Camp—The Collie Dog and the Ewe Flock—The Hands	14
CHAPTER III	
First Night in the Bush—Chorus of Bull-frogs—Prowling Dingoes—The Break-o'-day Boy—The Morning Pipe—"Yahbagee"—End of Lambing—A good Increase—A Tramp through the Bush—Wild Flowers—The Shearing Season—A Stroll with the Gun—Only an Ants' Nest—The Reward of Curiosity—Notes on the West Australian Ants—Cockatoos—Adieu to Nibi-Nibi—Farming on the Greenough—Description of the Stripper—The Cockatoo Farmer	25
CHAPTER IV	
The new Squatter—Start for the Murchison River—Nimrod—Northampton—The Poison Lands—Our Camp at the Gum-tree Well—Damper and Tea—The foul Well—Saddle-up—Morning in the Bush—Flies—A deserted City—Red Tape <i>in excelsis</i> —The Great Salt Lake—Lynton—The Whaling Station—Mirage and Bogs—The Sand-plain—Kangaroos and Turkeys—Off-saddle—The Ocean—Arrival at the Station—The Buildings—The Garden—The mighty River—Black Swans—Wild Horses and wild Cattle—I ride a Buck-jumper—Pride has its Fall— <i>Favis coronat opus</i> —Trapping the wild Horses—A Night at the Trap—The sleeping Sentinel—The Four-legged Napoleon—Dingoes or Native Dogs—Shaming Death— <i>Resurgam</i> —End of the Play—Mooroomba	40
CHAPTER V	
Journey to Mooroomba—The Rocky Gorge—Great Heat—The wild Stallion—Paugs of Thirst—Lost in the Bush	

CONTENTS

vii

	PAGE
—My Despair—The Bush Fire—Still no Water—The Steed—Mooroomba—A long Drink—The One-legged Nigger—The Return—Notes on poisonous Snakes—My Bedroom—The Native and the Snake—The Farmer's Wife—Rapid Effects of the Poison—Roasted Snake—Lizards—My Snake-bite—The Islet—A Dash for Life—An anxious Night—Pioneers and the wild Blacks—Story of the Shepherd and the Flour-bag—Cattle Spearing—Neemya—Capture of Nooliagoo-wara—The Outlaw—I turn Policeman—Journey to Northampton—My Prisoner	61

CHAPTER VI

Notes on the aboriginal Natives of the Lower Murchison—Spear - making — Spear - throwing — Native Duels—Boojarri's Treachery—The Kyli or Boomerang—Feats of skilled Throwers—The Women and the Dogs—Husbands and Wives—Story of Boboowah and his Women—The Camp at Nungagee Spring—A warm Bed—Boboowah's mild Rebuke—Marriage—Slavery of the Women—Customs	81
--	----

CHAPTER VII

Life on the Murchison Station—Hunting wild Cattle—The Stock-horse—Work in the Stock-yards—Exciting Moments—Stand Clear—Wild Horses—The golden Bay—A long Gallop after Horses—I come to Grief—Yarding the golden Bay—"The great Ride"—The Down-river Flats—The Forty-mile Sand-plain—The dark-bay Colt—"Daydream's" Habits—The Plan of Campaign—Approach of the wild Horse—Headed off—Marvellous Endurance—A futile Chase—Diving Horses—Night Alarm—Baron von Mueller—The gloomy Policeman—Adieu to Murchison River	92
--	----

CHAPTER VIII

	PAGE
Good-bye to Murchison—Journey Overland—Irwin District —The Arrino—Victoria Plains—A Day's Routine—Flies —Wood and Water—Forest Scenes—Giant Trees—Wet Weather—Guildford—Arrival at Fremantle—Cattle Droving—A long Ride—The old Mare—Glentromie— The Spanish Mission—New Norcia—Brave Black Monks —Hard Times—Prosperity—The Mission To-day—Din- ner with the Bishop—Mission Wine—Corn Threshing— Remarks on the Object of the Mission—Shipping Horses to India—A Shipment to Java—Life on a Horse Ship— Calms—Mortality in the Hold—Anjer the doomed— Batavia—A Mutinous Welshman—The Pan-shoal— Singapore—Sail for Fremantle—The Schooner and the Skipper—Wrecked at Anjer—Anjer—A Stroll on the Beach—Sensitive Plant—"Der Mongkey und der Teeger"—Tigers—Sport in Java—An open Boat—The coast Scenes—Mountains—Volcanoes—Batavia—Night in the Cuul—Java Fever—Life in Batavia—Javanese Ladies—Europeans—School Girls—Natives—An Earth- quake—The French Mail Steamer—Friends at Sea— Singapore—Java Fever again—The <i>Laughing Wave</i> —The Great Eruption—Adieu to Anjer—Arrival at Fremantle	111

CHAPTER IX

Unfortunate Ventures— <i>Cantal Tacuus</i> —Light Marching Order—Journey Overland—Champion Bay—The <i>Harricot</i> —Sharks Bay—Pearl-Shell Fishery—The Poogie Tubs—North-West Cape—The Islands—The Flying-foam Passage—Mangroves—Oyster Trees— Devil's Gap and Pope's Nose—Across the Bar—Cossack —The North-Westers—Hotel Life—Flush Times—The

CONTENTS

ix

	PAGE
Pearling Fleet—Cockroaches again—Feeding the Fishes — Moving Sand Dunes—Sovereigns worth Twenty-two Shillings—The local Currency—"Shin-Plasters"—No Lawyers—Curious magnetic Disturbance—Roebourne— The Heat—A cool Reception—"Bumming"	143

CHAPTER X

Pioneer Squatters—An exploring Party—Arrival at Beagle Bay—Landing Horses, etc.—"Beach-combers"—Prepara- tions—The Kimberley District—Frisled Lizards—Hostile Natives—Escort Duty—"Native Companions"—Curious Dancing—Lake Louisa—Inland Mangroves—Off-saddle —Hut Building—A Stroll round the Lake—Emus—A mighty Nimrod—The Plague of Flies—Hostile Message — Notes on Natives—The Language—Weapons—A primitive Race—Spears—Tribal Customs	158
---	-----

CHAPTER XI

The Exploring Party—Dan the Interpreter—Riding through the Forest—Bush-craft—"Churchyard Flat"— The Fraser River—Alex. Forrest's Trail—Burying the surplus Stores—Waterless Camp—Salt Marshes—A thirsty Ride—Phantom Lakes—The Fitzroy River—Still no Water—A dismal Outlook—Wild Natives—Friends in need—Water at last—Off-saddle—The River Natives — A good Shot—A screaming Farce—Our Guides—Splend- id Pastures—Great Floods—Bamboos—Vampires— Wild Duck—A champion Duck-eater— <i>Toujours</i> <i>Perdrix</i> —Remarkable Cave—Mount Anderson—Native Drawings—The Return—Our Guides leave—Again no Water—The solitary Native Woman—Her Capture— Terror—The Wonderful "Yowadahs"—Dan re-assures her—She satisfies our Wants—End of the Expedition	171
---	-----

CHAPTER XII

	PAGE
Farewell to the Pioneers—Beagle Bay—A Pearl- ing Cutter—The Laccpede Islands—Guano—Eggs galore—Habits of the Sea Birds—Green-Turtle—Notes on Turtles— “Hauling-up”—Turning Turtle—Hawk-Bills—Snapper —Loggerheads—Eggs—Hatching out—The breeding Season—The Back-beach—Sail to Baldwin’s Creek— Beagle Bay—Bubbling Spring—Burglary—A long Traup—Native Fires—I escape—The Grass Seeds— Flooded Flats—A Halt—The Night Attack—Daybreak and Desolation—The deserted Camp—Blacks approach- ing—Discovery—Retreat—Shanks his Mare—Pursued— Facing the Niggers—All’s well that ends well . . .	188

CHAPTER XIII

Sail for King’s Sound—Tide-rips—An anxious Moment— Fierce Tides—Alligators or Crocodiles—Black Scurvy —A Cripple for Months—Recovery—The <i>Harriet</i> again—The Pearl-ling Industry—Mother-of-Pearl—Value in the old Times—Malay Divers—On a Pearl-ling Vessel— Equipment—Sail from Cossack—The <i>Geographie</i> —A narrow Shave—Port Osborne—Cascade Bay—The Pearling Fleet—Good News—A Day’s Shelling—A hard Life	208
--	-----

CHAPTER XIV

All about Pearls—My own Theory—The “Great Blister”— Barrok—Black Pearls—Straw-coloured Pearls—Pink Pearls—Cocoa-nut Pearls—The Pearl-Faker—Cleopatra —The Southern Cross Pearl—The Fable—The Truth . . .	220
---	-----