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First Footprints: The Epic Story of the First Australians

By Scott Cane

Allen & Unwin. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, First Footprints: The Epic Story of the First Australians, Scott Cane, Some 60,000 years ago, a small group of people landed on Australia's northern coast. They were the first oceanic mariners and this great southern land was their new home. Gigantic mammals roamed the plains and enormous crocodiles, giant snakes and goannas nestled in the estuaries and savannahs. First Footprints tells the epic story of Australia's Aboriginal people. It is a story of ancient life on the driest continent on earth through the greatest environmental changes experienced in human history: ice ages, extreme drought and inundating seas. It is chronicled through astonishing archaeological discoveries, ancient oral histories and the largest and oldest art galleries on earth. Australia's first inhabitants were the first people to believe in an afterlife, cremate their dead, engrave representations of the human face, and depict human sound and emotion. They created new technologies, designed ornamentation, engaged in trade, and crafted the earliest documents of war. Ultimately, they developed a sustainable society based on shared religious tradition and far-reaching social networks across the length and breadth of Australia.



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Scott Cane, *First Footprints: The Epic Story of the First Australians*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2013. Josephine Flood, *Archaeology of the Dreamtime: The Story of Prehistoric Australia and its People*, HarperCollins Publishers, Sydney, 1999 (revised edition). Peter Hiscock, *Archaeology of Ancient Australia*, Routledge, London, 2007. John Mulvaney and Johan Kamminga, *Prehistory of Australia*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1999. The National Museum of Australia acknowledges First Australians and recognises their continuous connection to country, community and culture. The epic story of Australia's Aboriginal people, as told through astonishing archaeological discoveries, ancient oral histories, and the largest and oldest art galleries on earth. Some 60,000 years ago, a small group of people landed on Australia's northern coast. They were the first oceanic mariners, and this great southern land was their new home. Gigantic mammals roamed the plains and enormous crocodiles, giant snakes, and goannas nestled in the estuaries and savannahs. This is the epic story of Australia's Aboriginal people. It is a story of ancient life on the driest continent in Australian History. The first humans are believed to have arrived in Australia over 40,000 years ago. These people arrived via land-bridges and/or sea crossings from Southeast Asia, and became the indigenous people known as "aborigines". The first British colony was established in New South Wales on January 26th, a day that is now remembered as "Australia Day". The British formerly claimed the western portions of Australia in 1859, and during the 19th century a whole series of separate British colonies were established around the continent. *First Footprints: The Epic Story of the First Australians*. By Scott Cane. Allen & Unwin Academic Released: October 1st, 2014 Paperback (328 pages). The prehistory of Australia is the period between the first human habitation of the Australian continent and the colonisation of Australia in 1788, which marks the start of consistent written documentation of Australia. This period has been variously estimated, with most evidence suggesting that it goes back between 50,000 and 65,000 years. This era is referred to as prehistory rather than history because of the lack of written documentation of human events. As no metal technology was developed, the First Footprints: The Epic Story of the First Australians has been added to your Cart. Add a gift receipt with prices hidden. Buy used. This is a beautifully illustrated account of the first 60,000 years of history for the First Australians. To put that into perspective, the period since the British settlers arrived could be represented by just one page of this large book. There is a very long and fascinating history prior to 1788, dating back to the first arrivals, their journey perhaps precipitated by the devastating eruption of Mt Toba in Sumatra. And the author describes the journey through the archipelago of Indonesia to the Australian continent (which was then considerably larger than its current size), utilising sea currents.