

KEVIN BUZZACOTT, A PRODUCTIVE LIFE, AND SO WELL LIVED

A big thank you Kevin for helping our West Papua independence struggle with grace, thoughtfulness, and intelligence and for re-inscribing the historic relations between our peoples



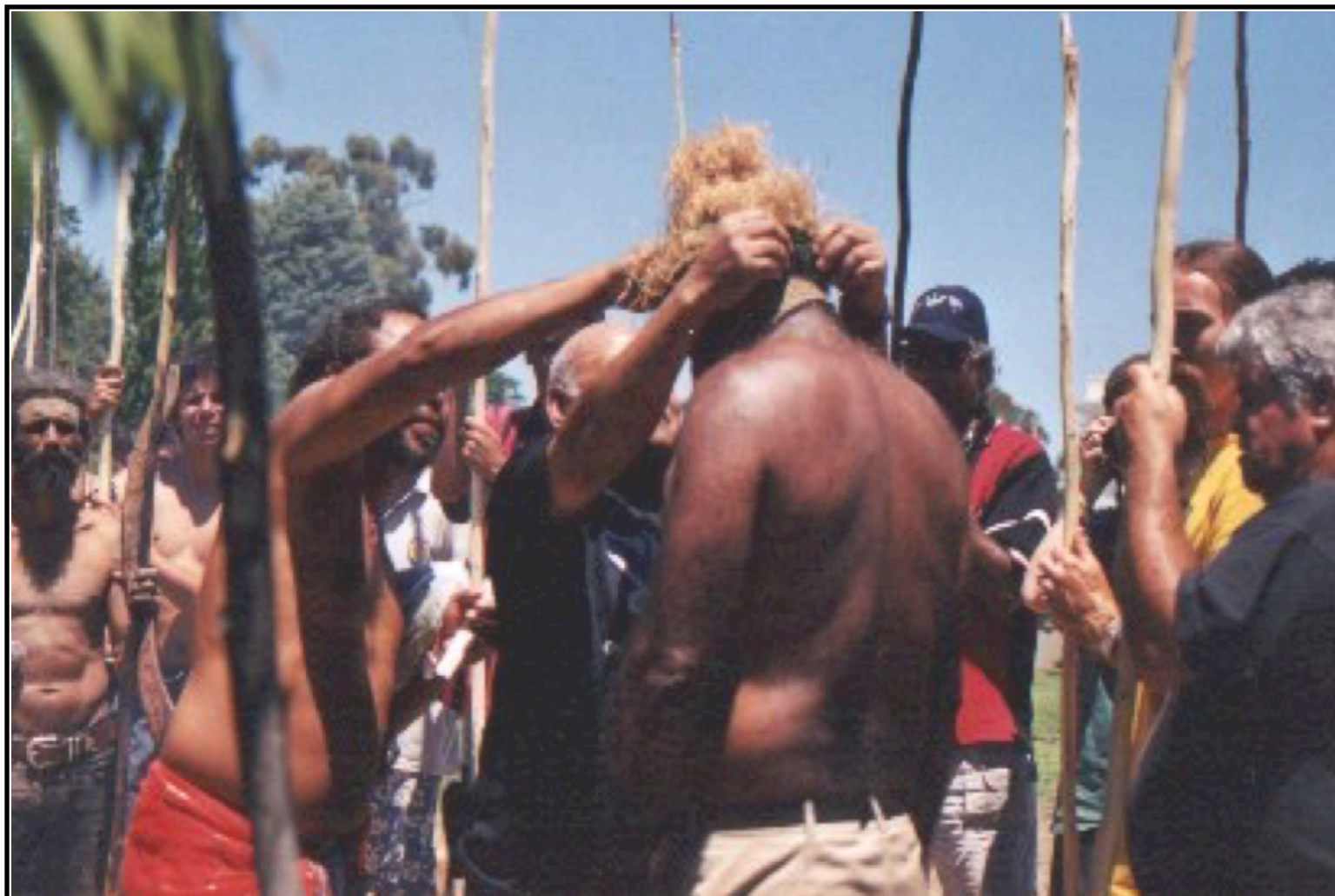
“There are dreamtime stories that travel down from the north and go back up to the north. That’s why we have a responsibility to care for our brothers and sisters from across the water” (Kevin Buzzacott)



Kevin Buzzacott and Jacob Rumbiak, West Papua Embassy, St Kilda, Victoria, 28 Nov 2008
© Tommy Latupeirissa

**Thirty-year Anniversary
Tent Embassy, Canberra, 26 January 2002**

Reuniting peoples separated by a dangerous
waterway for six-thousand years, and by
politics for two-hundred years.



Kevin Buzzacott, with West Papuans Rex Rumakiek
and Jacob Rumbiak. © Margie Gilchrist



The great fight with the Howard Government over 43 West Papuan boat people (Kevin won!)

Kevin in the RMIT Theatre in Melbourne arguing for the Australian Government to accept forty-three West Papuans asylum seekers who had crossed the Torres Strait in their traditional canoe ('Exodus') and landed at Mappoon on the west coast of the York Peninsula in Far North Queensland on 17 January 2006.

The West Papuans were granted permanent residence. Prime Minister Howard, who'd been outwitted by his Immigration Minister Amanda Vanstone, then formulated the Lombok Treaty with the Indonesian Government, outlawing the West Papua Morning Star flag in BOTH countries. No one in Australia has ever been charged with raising or holding or wearing a Morning Star flag, but the penalty in Indonesia is still fifteen years in prison.



WEST PAPUA.
AN ISSUE WHOSE TIME HAS COME
www.freewestpaua.com



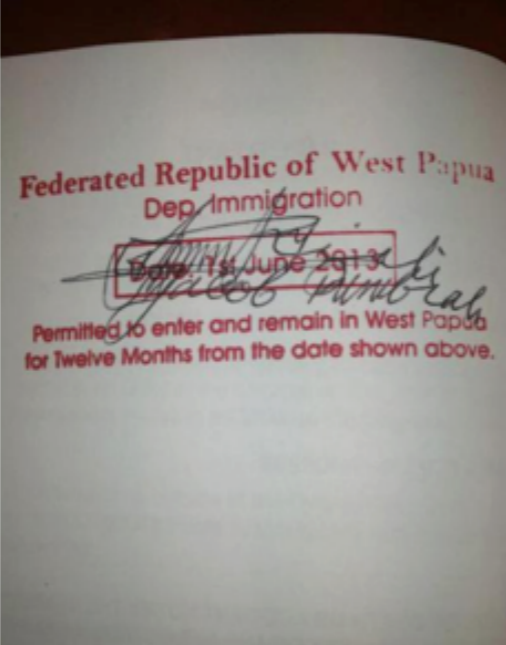
FREE WEST PAPUA

FREEDOM FLOTILLA, 2013

Indigenous Elders deliver Sacred Waters from a spring in Arabunna Land in Central Australia and Sacred Ashes from Tent Embassies to West Papuan political leaders during a short secret meeting in Torres Strait



Aboriginal passport and West Papua Visa Ceremony, Victorian Trades Hall, 1 June 2013



right — Collecting the Sacred Water in Central Australia, and passing to West Papua leaders just metres south of New Guinea coast © Izzy Brown





A worried Australian Customs Official Thursday Island, Torres Strait, 4 September 2013.

**Freedom Flotilla protesters head to Indonesian province of Papua
ABC News, 12 September 2013**

Protesters on a flotilla which left Australia last month are expected to cross the marine border of the Indonesian Province of Papua on Thursday.

The demonstrators have been warned by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade they won't receive any consular help if they're arrested.

Protest organiser Izzy Brown gave Pacific Beat an update from the flotilla's flagship on Thursday morning.

"We've just crossed the PNG border and we've picked up speed to about six knots. There's six people on the boat, and we're about 15 nautical miles from the Indonesian border." Ms Brown said.

"We're hoping we'll be able to enter into some negotiations with them via direct tech radio and at least talk to them and see what their response is."



The so-called Freedom Flotilla is heading for West Papua in protest at the charges of treason against four community leaders.

The Indonesian government has also said they could face five years in prison for violating their immigration laws.

Ms Brown said they are prepared for what they might face. "Surprisingly morale is quite good on board. I think there's an undercurrent of nervousness but so far the mission has been success and we've managed to draw a lot of attention to the situation in West Papua." Ms Brown said.

"If they do turn us back then that's something we'll have to deal with and hopefully we can negotiate something without being arrested and serving time."

FREEDOM FLOTILLA, 2013

A secret sacred five minute exchange, surrounded by enemy military forces (Australia and Indonesia with a bit of help from Papua New Guinea)



Evading the Indonesian navy, two tiny boats met near the Australia-Indonesia border to ceremonially reconnect the indigenous peoples of Australia and West Papua. The ceremony was the pinnacle of a 5000km journey beginning in Lake Eyre, in which sacred water and ashes were carried and presented to West Papuan leaders.

right—Daru Island, Torres Strait, 31 August 2013: Twenty-one Australian commandos landed by Hercules aeroplane on Daru Island with equipment, including seven Zodiac maritime craft. © West Papuan activist Fredrik Woirei hid in a coconut tree for two days to get this evidence. Indonesia sent four warships to Merauke to keep the Freedom Flotilla from berthing at the old World War Two base.



FREEDOM FLOTILLA 2, TWO YEARS LATER IN 2015

June Mills, Kevin Buzzacott and Jacob Rumbiak

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FREEDOM FLOTILLA 2, TWO YEARS LATER IN 2015

Fronting the American warship in Darwin Harbour

