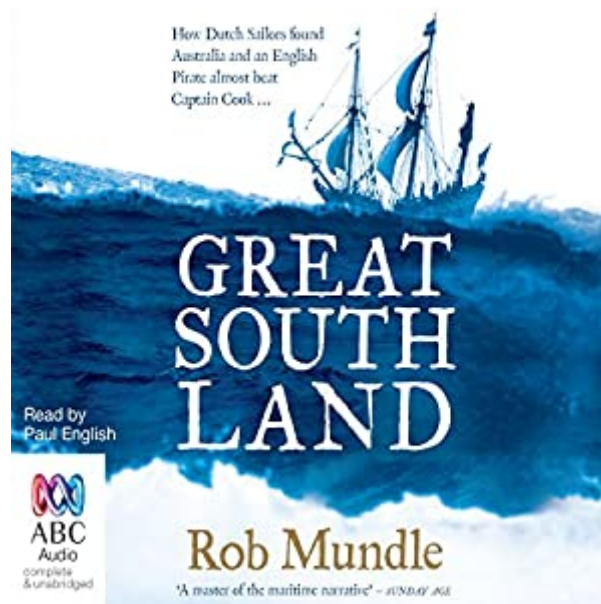




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Great South Land



Synopsis

For many, the colonial story of Australia starts with Captain Cook's discovery of the east coast in 1770, but it was some 164 years before his historic voyage that European mariners began their romance with the immensity of the Australian continent. Between 1606 and 1688, while the British had their hands full with the Gunpowder Plot and the English Civil War, it was highly skilled Dutch seafarers who, by design, chance or shipwreck, discovered and mapped the majority of the vast, unknown waters and land masses in the Indian and Southern Oceans. This is the setting that sees Rob Mundle back on the water with another sweeping and powerful account of Australian maritime history. It is the story of 17th-century European mariners - sailors, adventurers and explorers - who became transfixed by the idea of the existence of a Great South Land: "Terra Australis Incognita". Rob takes you aboard the tiny ship, Duyfken, in 1606 when Dutch navigator and explorer Willem Janszoon and his 20-man crew became the first Europeans to discover Australia on the coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria. In the decades that followed, more Dutch mariners, like Hartog, Tasman, and Janszoon (for a second time), discovered and mapped the majority of the coast of what would become Australia. Yet, incredibly, the Dutch made no effort to lay claim to it or establish any settlements. This process began with British explorer and former pirate William Dampier on the west coast in 1688, and by the time Captain Cook arrived in 1770, all that was to be done was chart the east coast and claim what the Dutch had discovered.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My first Mundle book, and I am hooked. Australian history is one of my major interests, and there is quite a lack of information on this, so this book is great. I can't put it down, and have put aside everything else I'm reading to concentrate on this...and it's an eBook. Yes, I am old school and like to have actual paper, and not paper white. But this is definitely worth getting out of my comfort zone. It's not for everyone. Basically, if you look at this and say "Australian history? I'd like to learn more about that", then pick it up.

Very interesting overview of WA European discovery. The navigation side was explained clearly but not too weightily for readers like myself who are not familiar with sea-faring. His portrait of William Dampier was especially good - an intriguing, clever man whose importance has been under-played in other accounts.

Another great book from Rob Mundle, just love his writings.

Rob writes a great nautical yarn....so much so I've been progressing through all his books

Brilliant , an incredible read .

For those who love nautical adventures and Australian history, Rob Mundle's books are generally terrific. His down to earth narrative style and his experience as a sailor and give his books real quality and perspective. His previous works Bligh, Cook and Flinders are some of all time my favourites in books of this kind and, while it's not quite in that league, Great South Land is still very good. Highly recommended.

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