

# Beacon Island Project

In conjunction with WA Museum and Archaeology UWA

# Where





# Where



# Where





# Beacon Island



# History

- Left Texel on October 1628, captain Francisco Pelsaert.
- Jacobsz and Cornelisz planned to take the ship and start a new life with the gold and silver.
- Jacobsz intentionally steered the ship of course and had formed a band of men to mutiny.
- Struck reef near Beacon Island in 1629.
- 341 on board, 40 drowned.
- Captain and few crew left in search of fresh water. Failed to find water on the mainland and made their way to what is now Jakarta.
- In the meantime a mutiny had taken place on the Islands. Considered an attempt by Cornelisz to hide plans for the earlier mutiny.
- Cornelisz took control of all weapons, food and water. Moves soldiers to West Wallaby and abandoned them, expecting them to die there.
- End result was the murder of 110, planned to get the population down to sustainable 45.
- Soldiers were then attacked but repelled the mutineers, happened just as the rescue ship arrived.





# History

- Most of the mutineers were taken to Seal Island and executed.
- Some were taken to Jakarta and hanged or flogged.
- Jacobsz, despite being tortured never confessed.
- Pelsaert was considered partly responsible due to lack of authority and had his assets seized.
- Of the original 341, only 68 survived.
- Significance
  - Travelling in an open boat from Beacon to Jakarta is considered one of the great journeys.
  - Possibly the first permanent dwellings built in Australia.



# Modern day

- Part of the Abrolhos Islands, 122 islands.
- In the 1880's it was mined for phosphate, up to 40 workers from Malaysia.
- Became part of the Western Rock Lobster fisheries.
- Island dotted with 14 huts where the fishermen and some families lived.



# The project

- Detailed record of the islands as they currently exist.
- ~November all the structures are removed.
- Team returns to search for and excavate any graves.
- Stage 1: Create a virtual tour of significant sites across the Island
  - may use traditional multiple panorama techniques
  - may employ a new 3D approach that preserves spatial relationships
- Stage 2: Build an accurate virtual island based upon
  - topology being captured by surveyors
  - reconstructions from myself of objects hard to model (cairn, walls, ...)
  - textured dimensionally correct reconstructions of each building
- Use the virtual island as an interface to the other historical data held by the museum







# Getting there



# Getting there





# Getting there







# Getting there





# Home







# Sundowners















# Features: bottle house



~9000 bottles



# Features: bottle house





# Features: Cairn





Features: coral walls





Features: coral walls





Features: prison





# Assets: gigapixel photography





# Assets: gigapixel photography





# Assets: interior bubbles

- Captured every room of every building
- 8000 x 4000 pixels





# Assets: interior bubbles





# Assets: exterior bubbles

- Captured from over 40 positions across the island.
- Also Seal and Long Island.





# Assets: exterior bubbles





# Long Island

- Where the 10 women and children were abandoned and later murdered.
- Found nails from the gallows.
- Illustrate virtual tours and early “building”.





