

# Notre Dame Nulungu Talking Heads Seminar Series

*A New Partnership, William Roe, 1994*

## 'Lugger Language: 35 years on'

**Date:** Wednesday 31st August 2022

**Venue:** NDB11/L13

88 Guy Street, Broome

*Please advise if you need any special requirements to attend this event*

**Time:** 12.30pm – 1.30pm

**Also available via Zoom:**

<https://notredame-au.zoom.us/j/84016322025>

**Password:** 550191



### Presenters:

Tom Gannon & Thomas Saunders



## Abstract

Crews of Broome's pearl luggers came from different countries, speaking different languages. Often they had no language in common and some pearl divers and lugger crews used a Malay pidgin language containing elements of Japanese, English and other languages to communicate to each other.

During Shinju Matsuri, the Festival of the Pearl and 35 years after the article about Broome Pearling Lugger Pidgin written by linguist Komei Hosakawa (Hosakawa 1987), we revisit this topic, presenting some new research based on interviews with ex pearl divers and others connected to the pearling industry.

We describe the vocabulary and structure of Broome Pearling Lugger Pidgin/Lugger language illustrated with examples from Hosakawa (1987) and from more recent research conducted in Broome in 2021.

## References

Hosakawa, Komei. Malay talk on boat: an account of Broome Pearling Lugger Pidgin. p.287-296 of Laycock, Donald C. and Winter, Werner (eds) 1987. A world of Language: Papers Presented to Professor S. A. Wurm on his 65th Birthday. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics. Series C-100.

## Biography

**Tom Gannon** is originally from Richland, Washington, USA. Tom did his undergraduate in history at St. Meinrad College, Indiana, USA. He holds a Master's degree in pastoral ministry from the University of Portland, OR, USA and Master's in Leadership from the University of Notre Dame Australia. He has an interest in local history and the things that bring people and communities together. He's been working at the University of Notre Dame Australia since 2004.

**Thomas Saunders** is originally from Tasmania, but now lives in Broome. He has an Honors degree in linguistics from the Australian National University in Canberra. He has worked on several endangered Aboriginal languages from inland and coastal areas of the Kimberley.

Thomas currently works variously for Aboriginal Interpreting Western Australia, Wilinggin Aboriginal Corporation and as a consultant linguist.

He has been interested in pearling history ever since seeing the lugger *Cornelius* sailing off Cable Beach at sunset during his first trip to Broome.