



## FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

NPA Environment Centre

16 November 2018

### Indigenous Memories of Ancient Events

As science successfully determines ever more precise ages for events that occurred in the distant past – many thousands of years ago – so it is becoming clear that human memories of those events exist among the bodies of oral knowledge preserved in many societies. This is the focus of Patrick Nunn's new book, *The Edge of Memory*, which celebrates the demonstrable longevity of oral stories in Indigenous Australian societies as well as many others.



Patrick Nunn who is Professor of Geography at Sunshine Coast University is this week's guest speaker at Noosa Parks Association, Friday Environment Forum on November 16. His talk explains the nature of many ancient stories to which science has been able to assign precise minimum ages. Ranging from stories about ancient volcanic eruptions and meteorite falls, this presentation focuses on stories about coastal drowning – in Australia and northwest Europe – that have been told for more than 7000 years.

The astonishing demonstration that human memories can – through group cooperation and determination – be retained in recognisable form for many millennia has many implications. One is that we have underestimated the power of human memory. Another is that, since we became literate, we have generally been dismissive of oral knowledge, even though so little of this has ever been written down.

Finally, we might ask **where is 'the edge of memory'**, that point in time beyond which memories can endure no longer and information once known must be re-discovered.

**Friday Environment Forum is held at the Noosa Parks Association Environment Centre, 5 Wallace Drive Noosaville starting at 10.30am.** Patrick Nunn's book, *The Edge of Memory* will be available to purchase. Coffee and tea from 10am and the forum concludes at 12.15pm.



*Baie des Trépassés (northwest France), one of the possible locations of the submerged city of Ys.*

Interpretive birding with Valda starts at 8.30am in the carpark. All welcome.