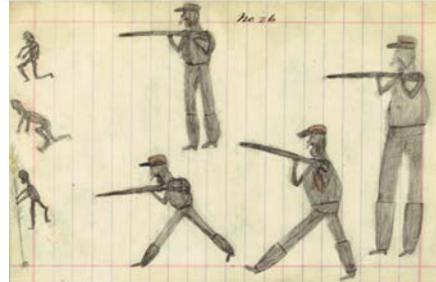


**The Queensland Native Police and strategies for recruitment on the frontier, 1849-1901**

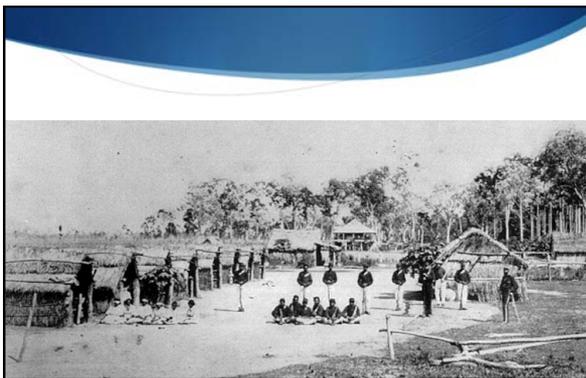
**Lynley A. Wallis, Noelene Cole, Bryce Barker, Heather Burke, Iain Davidson and Elizabeth Hatte**



**'No. 26 Dispersing usual way. Some good shooting'**



Oscar's Sketchbook, held in the National Museum of Australia



**NMP camp on the Lower Herbert River (aka Waterview or Cardwell) c.1882 (QSL Neg No 156880)**

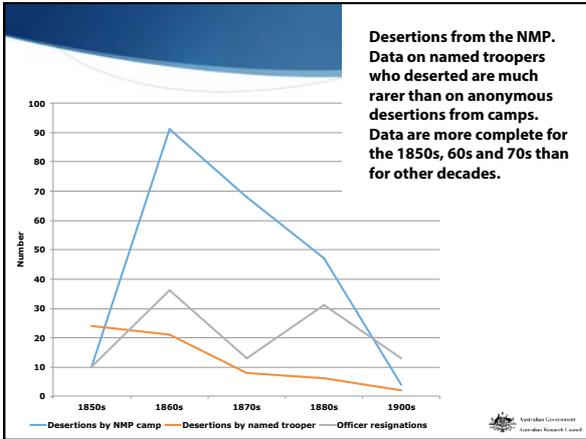


**Recruitment:  
another euphemism?**



**Forcible recruitment**





## Desertion

“I entered the native police about two years and a half ago, and continued a trooper until about December last, when the camp sergeant, a white man, having taken from me my gin, and, on my speaking to him about it, having cruelly ill-treated me, I left the force without leave of my officer ... I ran away because I knew that the Native Police had shot Boys who left the force without leave and I knew a Boy had been shot in the Camp under arrest for desertion and that I was threatened to be shot too.”

Queensland Government  
Queensland Research Centre

## The tyranny of distance

Queensland Government  
Queensland Research Centre

“I do not wish to remain in the native police any longer, and I would have left the force when my officer asked me if I wanted to leave, whilst in the Rockhampton district, but I was afraid of being turned into the bush naked amongst blacks who hated my people, and so far from my own tribe.”

Queensland Government  
Queensland Research Centre

## Inducements

“The gay dress – the constant itinerancy – the lazy life – the independence of the elders of the tribe – and last tho’ not least, the ability to make love to a choice of lubras in every tribe they visit, with perfect impunity.” (JP Wilkie to Henry Hughes, 25 October 1852)



Queensland Government  
Queensland Research Centre

## Death or enlistment

Queensland Government  
Queensland Research Centre

## Voluntary Enlistment or "Colonised Labour"

"... there is a very nice lad in this neighbourhood who is extremely ambitious of joining the N.P. He is a well knit, well set up, smart & very intelligent boy; his age about seventeen. He speaks English well, and has applied four or five times to be enlisted. He is at present with Coxon, who gives him a good character. He has a good open countenance, which is a great thing, & I have no doubt, would make a very active policeman."



## Men or Boys?



Qld Police Museum #PM0189



## Destruction of traditional lifeways and societies



## Acknowledgements

- ◆ Rinyiru Aboriginal Corporation, especially Les Harrigan
- ◆ Qld Dept of Environment and Heritage Protection (Permit WITK17361716)
- ◆ Qld Dept of National Parks, Sport and Racing
- ◆ The Australian Research Council
- ◆ Col McLennan (Jangga Elder)
- ◆ Staff at the Queensland State Archives and John Oxley Library
- ◆ Jonathan Richards, Lyndall Ryan, Steve Nichols and Dave Cameron

