

Heart of Arnhem Land A Memoir

Author	François Giner
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In 1974, François Giner had his first taste of northern Australia, not realising that it would be the start of a 36-year sojourn and adventure, far from his hometown of Lodève, in southern France.

As a teenager, Giner had set out to discover new horizons and people. He encountered Tuaregs and Peuhls in the Sahara Desert, and Momoktobecs in the New Hebrides. Now he headed across Australia to discover its indigenous heart.

“As beautiful as Australia was, for me it remained silent without the voice of its original inhabitants. I knew nothing of them, I had read nothing about them, I was not an ethnologist, and had no preconceived ideas to distort my perception of Aboriginal culture. I wanted to live beside them and understand their values - especially those that we ourselves have lost.”

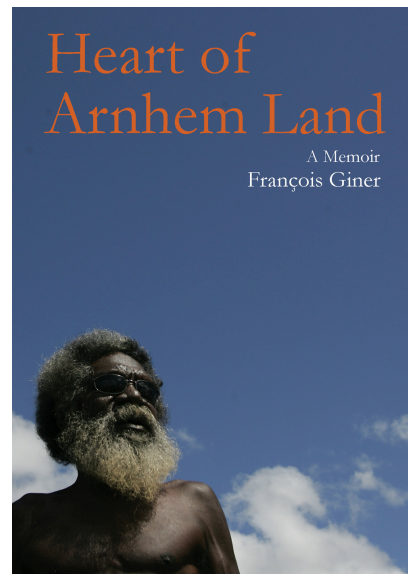
With the blessing of the local Aboriginal community, he established Bodeidei Camp, to receive visitors interested in experiencing something of indigenous culture and country, or others wanting to hunt buffalo. **Heart of Arnhem Land** shares Giner’s experiences of living and working in this remote region.

Heart of Arnhem Land is a personal journey of discovery and self-discovery, but above all it is a cry for a beloved community whose culture lies on the edge of extinction. Giner’s memoir aims to remind people that those swaying black shadows with haggard eyes crossing streets in Katherine, Alice Springs or Darwin, were once free men, who have been deprived of their bearings and their dreams.

En Terre Aborigène has sold over 15,000 copies in France alone, now this best-selling book is published in English for the first time.

Selling points

- François Giner 36-years of living and working in Central Arnhem Land gives him a rare insight into local culture and the changes he has seen in the lives of local indigenous communities.
- Engaging personal story of a modern white-black encounter on aboriginal land.
- Hard-hitting on aboriginal politics and government policy regarding indigenous affairs.
- Regretfully Giner sees little hope for the survival of truly traditional Aboriginal culture.
- The author is known in France for his writing in major media including *Le Monde* and *Paris Match*.
- Books available for purchase Angus & Robertson from March 18 The Galleria Shop T18 The Mall Darwin.



Heart of Arnhem Land **A Memoir**

Book Launch

Date: Thursday 17 March, 2011

Time: 5pm – 6.30pm

5.30pm Official Launch by His Honour Mr Tom Pauling AO QC, Administrator of the Northern Territory

Place: Angus & Robertson. The Galleria Shop T18 The Mall Darwin, NT 0800

Media Opportunity:

Francois is available for all interviews at the Media Launch or prior to the event .

Please contact him directly on : Francois balangbushman@yahoo.fr or Telephone: 0448538908

For more information regarding Bodeidei Camp and Dreamtime Safaris visit <http://www.bodeideicamp.com/>

About the Author

Born in 1943 in Lodeve in southern France, Giner set out as a teenager to discover the world, with a first job in the Sahara for an oil exploration company, and first encounter with indigenous people. His curiosity took him later to Asia, where he built and managed a small hotel in Ceylon; and then to the Pacific, where he lived for a period with indigenous people on a remote New Hebrides island in the early 1970s. Finally to Australia, and in Darwin in 1974 he owned and operated restaurants, before moving to central Arnhem Land in the 1990s and establishing a tourism operation there.

