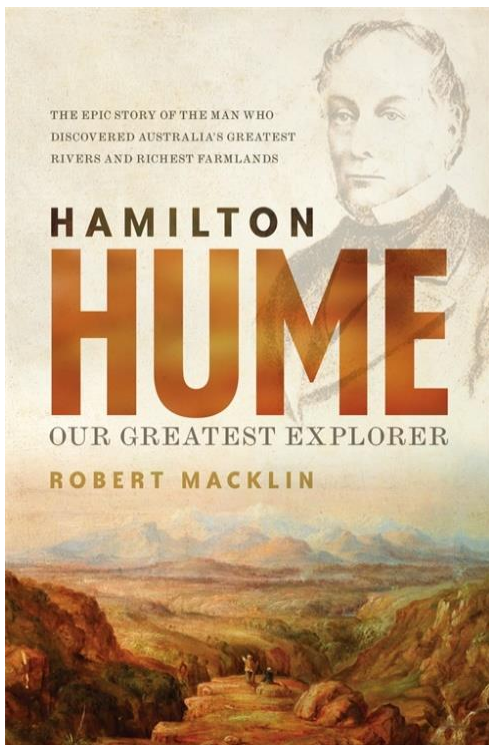


Hamilton Hume: Our Greatest Explorer

Robert Macklin

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The untold story of Hamilton Hume — the Australian-born explorer who truly opened up the nation.



While English-born soldiers, sailors and surveyors have claimed pride of place among the explorers of the young New South Wales colony, the real pathfinder was a genuine native-born Australian. Hamilton Hume, a man with a profound understanding of the Aboriginal people and an almost mystical relationship with the Australian bush, led settlers from the cramped surrounds of Sydney Town to the vast fertile country that would provide the wealth to found and sustain a new nation.

Robert Macklin, author of the critically acclaimed history of Norfolk Island, *DARK PARADISE*, tells the heroic tale of this young Australian man who outdid his English "betters" by forging a land route from Sydney to Port Phillip; leading Charles Sturt to the discovery of the Darling which opened up western New South Wales; and by finally crossing the Blue Mountains. His contribution to the development of the colony was immense but downplayed in deference to explorers of British origin. *HAMILTON HUME* uncovers this brave man's achievements and reveals an intriguing and at times shocking portrait of colonial life, by the author of the bestselling *SAS SNIPER*.

Robert Macklin was born in Queensland and educated at University of Queensland and the Australian National University. He has worked as a journalist at the *COURIER-MAIL*, *THE AGE* and *THE BULLETIN*, and was associate editor of the *CANBERRA TIMES* until 2003.

He is the author of 27 books, including *DARK PARADISE*, *HAMILTON HUME* and four works focusing on the SAS and Australia's Special Forces: *SAS SNIPER*, *REDBACK ONE*, *SAS INSIDER* and *WARRIOR ELITE*. He lives in Canberra.

'Hamilton Hume was no cringing colonial. He was an Australian, the very first to show by deed and word the challenge and beauty of his country. With an admiration I share, Robert Macklin lets a great native son speak again.'

— Bill Gammage, author of *The Biggest Estate on Earth*

For further information please contact Jessica Skipper on 02 8248 0883 or
Jessica.Skipper@hachette.com.au

10 facts about *Hamilton Hume*

1. This is the FIRST biography of our greatest explorer.
2. It is the life and times of Hamilton Hume (born 1797) so covers the first 80 years of the colonisation of Australia. But it is 'Australian history' as opposed to 'the British history of Australia' usually taught in our schools.
3. The expedition for which Hamilton Hume is best known – the journey with William Hovell from Sydney to Port Phillip – was a struggle from the first time they encountered the Murrumbidgee. Three times Hovell wanted to turn back and twice tried to rouse the six convict members of the party to mutiny.
4. Unique among explorers, Hume greatly respected and cooperated with the Aboriginal people. He had been friends with them since his boyhood. They assisted him in his endeavours in contrast to the understandable aggression they showed to the other intruders who held them in contempt.
5. Hume's association with Surveyor-General Thomas Mitchell led to his ordering his staff to choose Aboriginal names for geographical features and districts wherever possible.
6. As Deputy leader to Charles Sturt, Hume guided the expedition that discovered the Darling and opened up western NSW to settlement.
7. Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson did not cross the Blue Mountains. They only reached halfway. Surveyor Evans and William Cox continued in their track, but it fell to Hume to discover the best way over.
8. The book reveals for the first time the 'bushranger revolution' that rebelled against the British class-ridden society of the colonial era.
9. The anti-Chinese 'riots' of the gold rush in Hume's Yass-Young district are revealed as far more murderous than is generally known.
10. The Hume Highway is a fitting memorial; his Yass home 'Cooma Cottage' is a National Trust treasure open to the public.