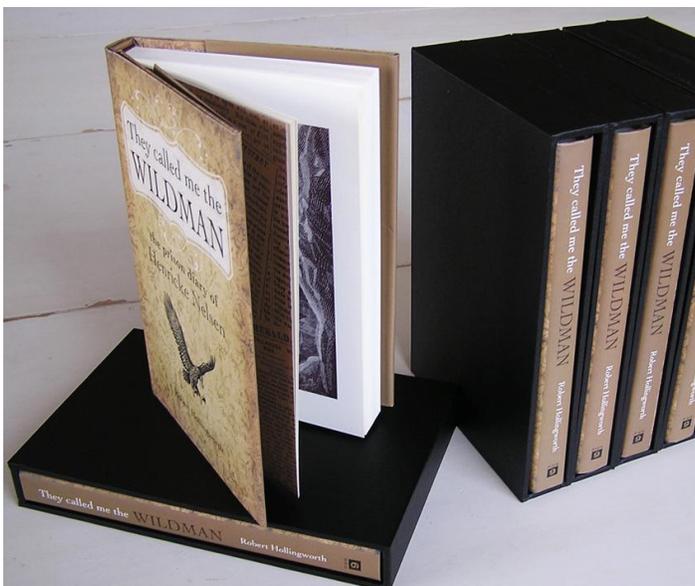


They Called Me The Wildman – The prison diary of Henricke Nelsen

Pub. Murdoch Books (Pier 9) Hardcover 2008

In 1861, Henricke Nelsen arrived in Melbourne, Australia from Sweden with his friend Carl Keihl. Soon after, Nelsen disappeared, only to be discovered 16 years later, living a reclusive life in an underground cave, deep in the Tallarook Ranges. This story painstakingly preserves actual names, dates, places and events to tell a real-life adventure in colonial times that is as credible as it is historically informative.



Limited edition boxed copies



Nelsen depicted in his dwelling cave, Mt Tallarook.
The Australasian Sketcher, 1880

"I Henricke Nelsen lately of the Tallarooks, do hereby take it upon myself to write..." Thus begins Nelsen's account of his strange and secret life hidden in the Tallarook Ranges. Here the Swede built an underground dwelling carefully concealing the entrance with a slab of stone – and he lived there undetected for some fourteen years until discovered in 1880. He was charged with vagrancy and sentenced to six months gaol, hard labour.

He was an exact contemporary of **Ned Kelly** who ranged in the same area and was hung while Nelsen was in jail.

No imaginary work could arrange a better cast of characters – yet Henricke Nelsen and all these people are real historical figures who were in the area at this time.

▪ **Selected for the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge 2009, 2010, 2011**

▪ **Shortlisted to six for the S.A. Premier's Literature Festival Awards 2010**

"Nelsen has a great fondness for the bush, tempered by an ambivalence regarding his place in it as an interloper. In the process of exploring this question, Hollingworth conducts an internal debate relevant not only to the 19th century but also to the 21st."

David Messer, Sydney Morning Herald 2008