



Annie Boyd has investigated the disappearance of the SS *Koombana* in her new book published by Fremantle Press.

AUTHOR EXAMINES MARITIME MYSTERY

AVID readers who love a good unsolved mystery will love Annie Boyd's new book, *Koombana Days*.

The book follows the S.S. *Koombana*, which arrived in WA in March, 1909, and spent three years on service before the ship and her crew disappeared in a cyclone off the Pilbara coast.

To date the ship and her crew have never been found and the details surrounding what happened on the day it sunk remain a mystery.

Boyd said a chance mention of the ship at a meeting

AN UNTOLD STORY OF THE SEA

sparked her interest in the unsolved-mystery, prompting her to spend months investigating wrecks off the WA coast and chasing leads for the book.

"At the outset I saw *Koombana* as little more than a shipwreck-hunting challenge because I couldn't see how a 4000-ton steel ship could escape discovery for so long," she said.

"But in the course of the research, my interest shifted and after meeting the descen-

dants of some of those lost, I began to see a significant untold story."

Although the book has the *Koombana* story as its core, maritime history is not its sole focus and the eighteen chapters are also free-standing essays spanning politics, law, religion, race relations, industrial relations, and the emerging sciences.

Koombana Days is available from Fremantle Press at www.fremantlepress.com.au.