



bushfire&natural  
**HAZARDS**CRC

# HOW DO ISLAND COMMUNITIES BALANCE DISASTER RESILIENCE AND WHAT CAN MAINLANDERS LEARN FROM THAT?

**Steve Sutton**

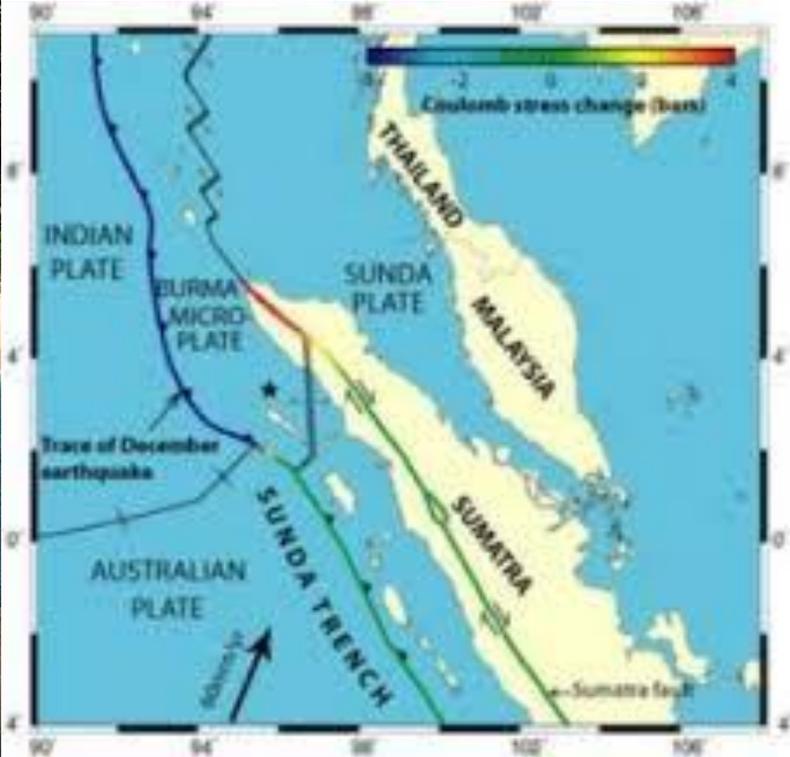
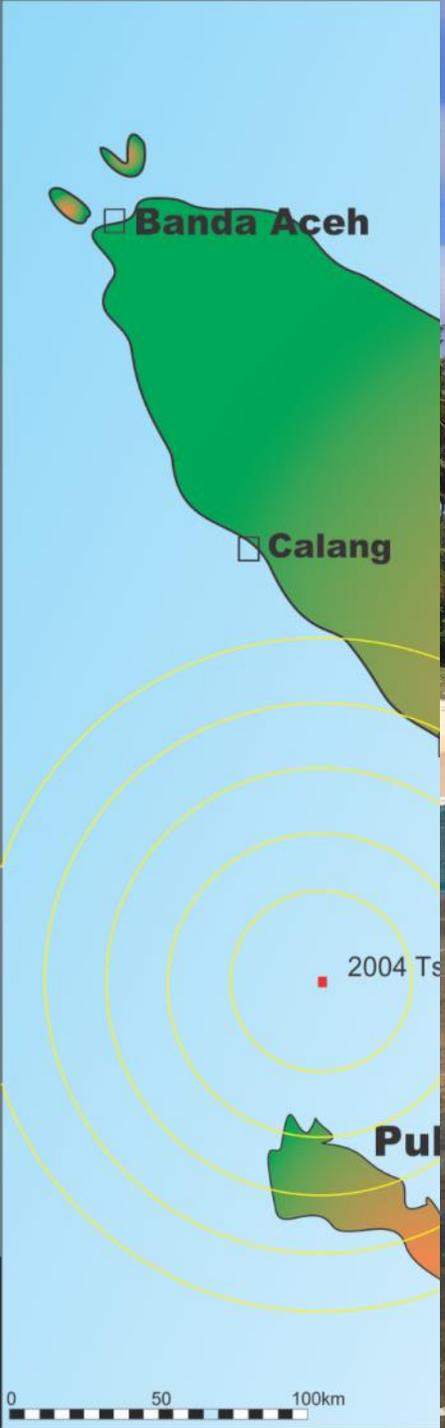
School of Psychological and Clinical Sciences

Charles Darwin University, Northern Territory

# Project Purpose:

## Identify cultural or social mechanisms that lead to disaster preparation

- Bushfire CRC & BNHCRC research into psychology and human behaviour relating to natural disasters.
- Overarching issue of failure to prepare
- Outstanding research has been taken up by agencies and applied in the real world and there is an improvement ...
- But overall levels of community preparedness remain too low.
- “Leave no stone unturned” to find ways to build resilience through disaster preparation





# science

20 May 2005

Vol. 308 No. 5725  
Pages 1073-1208 \$10



THE GREAT  
INDIAN OCEAN  
TSUNAMI



125  
YEARS OF GLOBAL  
Science

AAAS

# 2004 Tsunami...



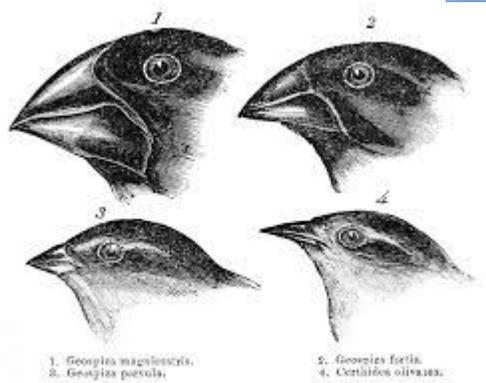
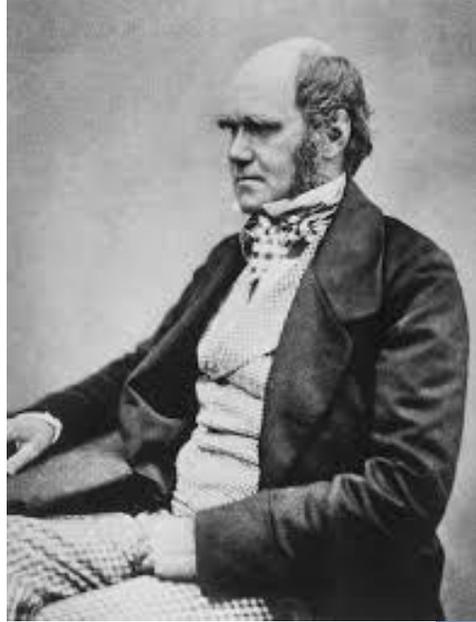
# Popular Perceptions of Islands



# Popular Perceptions of Islands



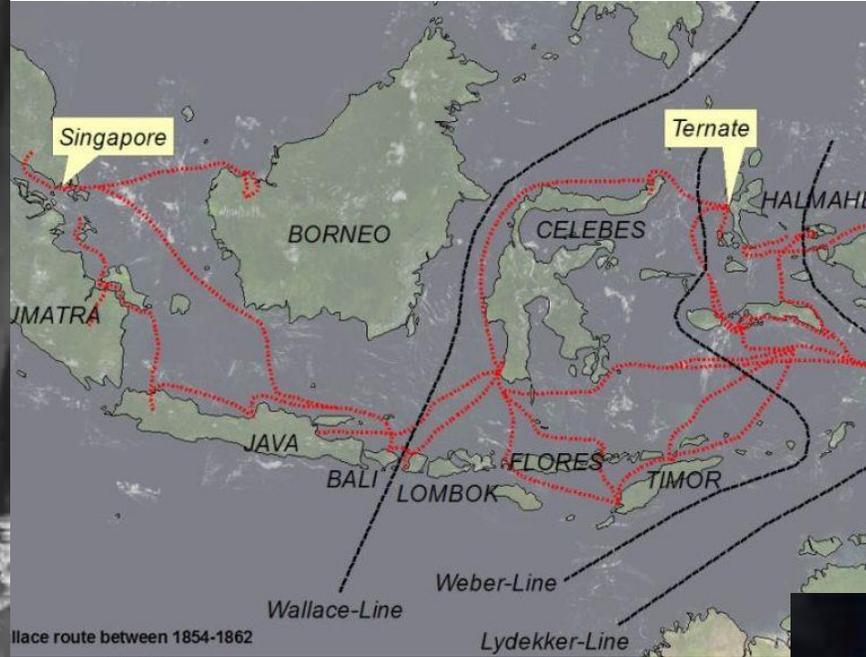
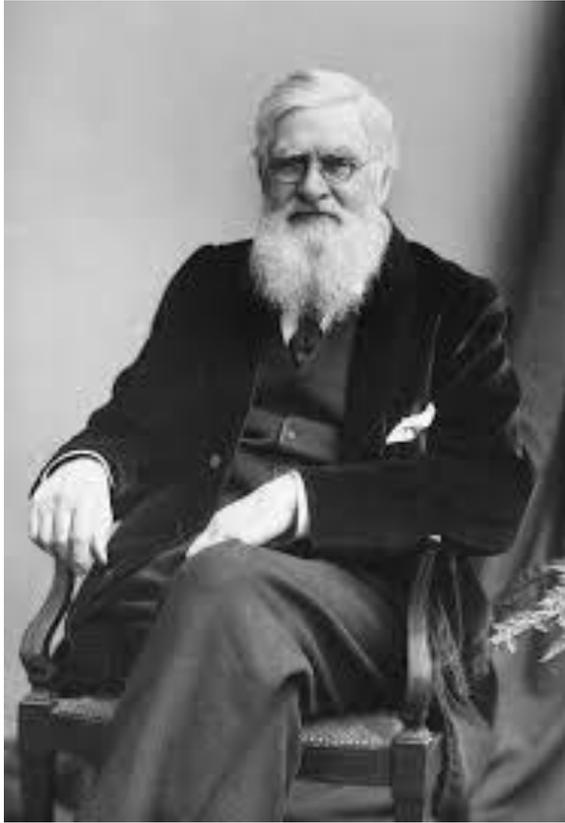
# Islands and biogeography



1. *Geospiza magnirostris*,  
2. *Geospiza pusilla*,  
3. *Geospiza fortis*,  
4. *Certhia olivacea*.



# Islands and biogeography



# Islands and Anthropology



# Islands and Disaster Risk Reduction



# Characteristics of Islands DRR<sup>1</sup>

- Small
- Exposed – ‘vulnerable’
- Isolated
- Neglected
- Self-reliant – ‘doughty’
- Knowledgable - of local conditions

# Simeulue Tsunami response characteristics

- What it is not:
- Not necessarily linked to other 'healthy' or 'safe' practices
  - Not visible in health statistics or day to day practices
- 'in your face' – its subtle
  - No billboards or broadcast media
- Corporate – its not sponsored by a cigarette company or incorporated into a logo
- Championed by the relevant government agencies\*

# Simeulue Tsunami response characteristics

- What it is not:
- Not necessarily linked to other 'healthy' or 'safe' practices
  - Not visible in health statistics or day to day practices
- 'in your face' – its subtle
  - No billboards or broadcast media
- Corporate – its not sponsored by a cigarette company or incorporated into a logo
- Championed by the relevant government agencies\*

# Simeulue Tsunami response characteristics

- What it is not:
- Not necessarily linked to other 'healthy' or 'safe' practices
  - Not visible in health statistics or day to day practices
- 'in your face' – its subtle
  - No billboards or broadcast media
- Corporate – its not sponsored by a cigarette company or incorporated into a logo
- Championed by the relevant government agencies outside Simeulue\*



# Simeulue Tsunami response characteristics

- Transmission at all levels of society
  - Bupati sings the “smong song”
  - Mothers croon about tsunami to their babies
  - Schools teach about tsunami response



bushfire&natural  
**HAZARDS**CRC

# HOW DO ISLAND COMMUNITIES BALANCE DISASTER RESILIENCE AND WHAT CAN MAINLANDERS LEARN FROM THAT?

**Steve Sutton**

School of Psychological and Clinical Sciences

Charles Darwin University, Northern Territory



An Australian Government Initiative





bushfire&natural  
**HAZARDS**CRC

- Consistent narrative
- Universal transmission
- Embedded into daily life
  - Part of individual ‘coherence’
  - “Normal”



An Australian Government Initiative



# Acknowledgements

<b>BNHCRC</b>	<b>TDMRC Banda Aceh</b>	<b>CDU</b>	<b>Institute Technology Bandung</b>
Richard Thorton	Kairul Munardi	Douglas Paton	Saut Sagala
Mike Rumsewicz	Ella Meilianda	Petra Buergelt	
Vaia Smirneos	Alfi Rahman	Tim Skinner	
Leanne Beattie		Andrew Campbell	<b>ANU</b>
David Bruce		Jeremy Russell-Smith	Andrew McWilliam
Nathan Maddock	<b>Syiah Kuala University</b>	Andrew Edwards	Jo Bushby
	Asrul Sidiq	Cameron Yates	
	Silfana Nasri	Bev Sithole	
		Kate Van Wezel	
		Trembley	
		Tahlia Timms	