NICHOLAS BOUTAKOFF (1903-1977)

Nicholas Boutakoff was born Nicholai Alexandrovich Butakov in New York in 1903 to an aristocratic Russian family. After the execution of his father in 1917, his family moved to France where he completed his schooling, then attended the University of Louvain in Belgium. He spent 6 years working in East Africa and writing a number of books. In 1948 he moved to Australia, where he worked for the Victoria Geological Survey (VGS). In 1953, in his role with the VGS, he visited the Rough Range oil discovery in Western Australia, where he became convinced of the potential of the North West Shelf. In the late 1950s he began consulting with a (then) small company called Woodside, joining them in 1962. Using his notes on the North West Shelf, he assisted Woodside to outline an application for the area which they were granted in 1963. He was of the belief that Woodside would compensate him with a large number of shares in the company for his assistance with the project. Woodside maintained that they asked Boutakoff as part of his employment to investigate the area, and he was therefore not entitled to the shares. After resigning in protest, Boutakoff spent much of the rest of his life pursuing compensation from Woodside.


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<td>4 March 1973</td>
<td>Letter from Nicholas Boutakoff to J.A. Lumsden, Esq., Chairman of Burmah Oil Company Limited. This letter asks for recognition of his role in pointing Woodside to take up acreage on the North West Shelf in the early 1960s.</td>
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</table>
| ACC 9748A/3 | 1954 | Exhibit 1 – 1954 Contents  
A. – The Beginnings.  
Aa. – List and Addresses of Witnesses.  
B. – Thomas E. Ward Sen., The Gulf Oil Corporation and the first Drafting of the Concession Map.  
C. – Gulf Oil Corporation’s Augustin Pyre’s Letter.  
D. – My December 1954 Lease Perimeter stressing:  
   Pencilled Perimeter of the Lease;  
   My pencilled handwritten Annotations for Co-ordinates and for Position of Western Australian Northern Marine Boundary. |
| ACC 9748A/4 | 1955 | Exhibit 2 – 1955 Contents  
A. – Northern Holdings PTY. LTD.: Introductory Submission stressing the point that the Company was registered solely for the purpose of Marine Leases acquisition in Western Australia and the N.T.  
C. – Companies Registrar’s Certificate.  
D. – Bruce Gandy’s Certificate.  
E. – Memorandum of Association.  
F. – Notice of Situation.  
G. – Special Resolution.  
H. – List of Nominee Directors.  
I. – Deed of Trust between N. Boutakoff and J. Colin Stedman regarding Northern Holdings PTY. LTD.  
M. – Northern Holdings PTY. LTD. Balance Sheet to 30th June 1955, exhibiting Expenditure of £200 for Leases Applications (£100 to Western Australia and £100 to Northern Territory). |
| ACC 9748A/5 | 1958 | Exhibit 3 – 1958 Contents  
A. – The Winding up of Northern Holdings PTY. LTD.  
B. – Petroleum Prospecting and Production Regulations for Western Australia and Northern Territory 1954-55 under which Application was made. |
| ACC 9748A/6 | 1962 | Exhibit 4 – 1962 Contents  
A. – Historical Precis of Events Submission.  
B. – September 1962 Report to Woodside Board: “The Off-Shore Ridges and Troughs of North-Western Australia” (Manuscript) with order-annotations for 1+5 copies; one copy for each Director.  
C. – Letter from Secretary for Mines, Western Australia, with Copy of my Original Map of December 1954 – April 18th-19th 1955, attached and certified as being the Application for Lease Map attached to my Letter B-10 on behalf of Woodside in 1962.  
D. – Concluding Submission. |
| ACC 9748A/7 | 1954-1972 | Exhibit 5 – 1954-1972 Contents  
A. – The Eighteenth Anniversary of Permit to Explore 213 – H.  
C. – Molan’s et al. presentation in 1970 of Boutakoff’s Perimeter.  
F. – Boutakoff’s Perimeter, November 1972.  
G. – Anniversary Announcement of Gas Reserves in Boutakoff’s Perimeter in 1972 (Scott Reef Reserves not yet included) |
| ACC 9748A/8 | 1963 | Exhibit 6 – 1963, Part 1 Contents  
A. – Introductory Submission.  
C. – First Page and Map of my APEA Address. The Map is a simplified version of the Map presented by Ward in 1954-1955 to Gulf Oil Corporation in London. (See Reference in Exhibit 1–C.)  
D. – Submission on the APEA Meeting of 1963; The subsequent visit to me of the late J.A. Dunn; and my discussions with Dr. J.J. Dozy at the Hague on September 20th, 1963. Visit to Burmah in London, 26th September, 1963.  
E. – Passport Pages, showing following visas:  
26th September 1963 entry to London.  
30th September 1963 exit from London.  
30th September 1963 visit to the Hague.  
30th September 1963 return to London.  
2nd October 1963 departure from London to New York.  
F. – Submission: The Climax of a Monstrous Fraud. |
| ACC 9748A/9 | 1972 | Exhibit 6 – 1972, Part 2 Contents  
B. – Fallacious Statements Photographically enlarged.  
C. – Strevens’ Protest regarding these Statements.  
E. – Withers’ Retraction after 19 days’ Silence on his part.  
G. – Submission: Comments regarding E.A. Webb’s Action.  
H. – Submission: Epilogue.  
I. – Judgment Handed Down From The High Court of Victoria’s Bench on 25/8/67 by His Honour Mr. Justice Gillard, in respect of R.B. Withers:  
| ACC 9748A/10 | c.1973 | Drafts and notes related to submissions to Burmah Oil Company Limited. Includes draft lists of exhibits |

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