Something Rich & Strange: Sea Changes, Beaches and the Littoral in the Antipodes

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About the authors
Beaches are places of contact, play, confrontation and friction: first comers always arrive on a beach. They are places of edgy encounter and ambivalence, symbolised most powerfully in the Western tradition by Robinson Crusoe’s discovery of that single footprint on what he had thought of as his deserted beach. After Europeans moved into the Antipodes, the littorals were the first frontiers to be defined; in Australia the outline of the land mass had been drawn, the charting completed, the blank map inscribed with names that celebrated and codified the European discovery and conquest long before the inland was travelled. Flinders’ circumnavigation in 1802 had mapped ‘Australia’, revealing the land as ‘girt by sea’, as the national anthem continues to remind us. All kinds of ideas about the littoral, beaches, sea changes, holiday places and islands swirl and eddy in this collection.