
BRENTLEY FRAZER

IRUKANDJI SAILS

A Ranger found
four hundred ghost nets
on a seventy kilometre stretch
of beach, south of Aurukun.
Says the local women, with the
subterfuge of moonlight sharks
collect them to make art for tourists.
Goes on to mention they've been
substituting Pandanas leaves and Flax
cactus with the strings. Countless
generations of knowledge, an
ancestral understanding of flora trapped
in a nylon paradox, drowned fish and
hundred year old turtles, mere
empty shells in days.
They drift over from Aceh
down into Southern Indonesia, tumble
ashore...as though the ocean tossed up
her hair, some of them five ks long, like
immense Irukandji, or underwater sails.

