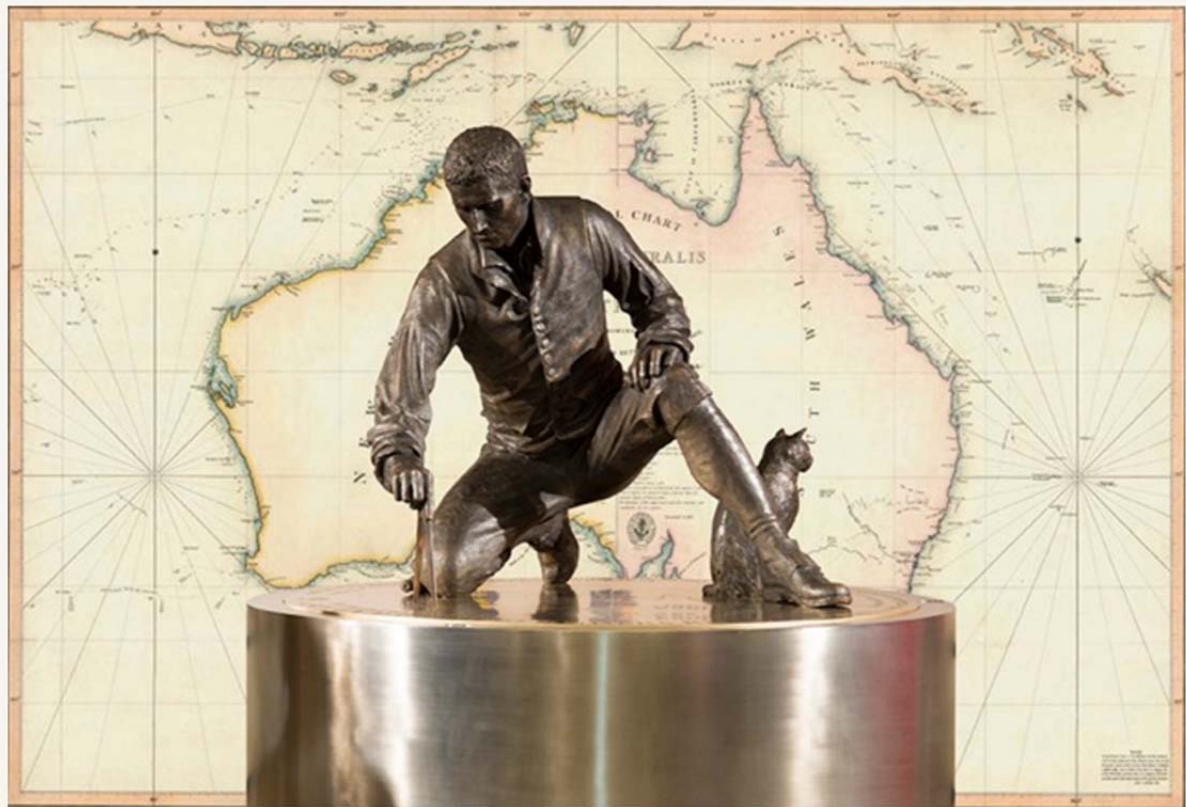


A NEW CONCEPT FOR THE CELEBRATION OF AUSTRALIA DAY



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Preamble

In recent years in Australia, usually in January, debate erupts in the media concerning the appropriateness of the selection of January 26th as our national identity day, Australia Day.

The debate usually separates two sides.

On one side are a great many indigenous Australians who view the day as inappropriate as it marks the anniversary of the 1788 arrival of the First Fleet of British ships at Port Jackson, New South Wales and the raising of the Union Jack at Sydney Cove by Governor Arthur Phillip.

These Australians refer to the day as Invasion Day and the beginning of the attack on themselves, their culture and their traditional stewardship of the land.



On the other side of the debate are Australians who support the retention of January 26th as being entirely appropriate as it marks the genesis of the building of a complex modern Australian society, with all our social institutions having their roots entrenched in the British traditions.

There are many calls for the date to be changed so that all Australians, indigenous and non-indigenous, can celebrate the day as a day of national significance. If the calls are to be taken seriously, what date should be chosen?

This paper presents an argument in favour of a new concept for the future celebration of Australia Day as a totally inclusive national identity day, which will unite all Australians, regardless of ancestral origins.

Disclosure

If an Australian asks around among family and friends the question:

Who was the person who named Australia “Australia”?,

then on most occasions, one would be met with blank faces.

It is simply not a well-known fact among Australians that the answer is, of course, Matthew Flinders, the great British adventurer, scientist, navigator and cartographer. However, we might remember from primary school social studies that he completed a circumnavigation of the Australian continent in 1802 and 1803 in his sailing ship the ***Investigator***.

His chart “General Chart of Terra Australis or Australia” published January 1st 1814 was the culmination of years of his own personal cartography including Tasmania (1798-1799 in the ***Norfolk***) the south, east, and north coasts (1802 and 1803 in the ***Investigator***) and the linking and coordination of the charts of other explorers such as the Dutchmen Dirk Hartog (1616), Frederick de Houtman (1619), Abel Tasman (1644), and Englishmen William Dampier (1699), Captain James Cook (1770).



130°

Published according to Act of Parliament by Cap: Hurd R.N. Hydrographer to the Admiralty - Jan: 1st 1814.

Notice that at the time of publication, 1st January 1814, the western half of the continent was known as “New Holland” and the eastern half as “New South Wales” which Flinders separated by longitude 135° East

This is the first published map of the full continent of Australia and Tasmania depicting areas explored by Matthew Flinders between 1798 and 1803. The map is entitled 'GENERAL CHART OF TERRA AUSTRALIS OR AUSTRALIA'. The different ships and routes that Flinders took while charting the coastline of the continent are included, as well as details of dates, meteorological information and navigational information. The map was first published in London in 1814 as part of Matthew Flinders' book 'A Voyage to Terra Australis'.

- The title of the map includes what was probably the first use of the word 'Australia' in a published work to describe the actual continent rather than a wider unknown area of the South Pacific region. The name 'Australia' had first been used by Alexander Dalrymple in 1771 to describe the South Pacific and was later used by George Shaw and Sir James Smith, in 1793, when they wrote a botanic history of 'Australia, Australasia or New Holland'. It was Matthew Flinders, however, who promoted the official use of the name, first in private communication with his brother in 1804 and later that year in a chart 'of Australia' that he sent to Sir Joseph Banks. That chart forms the basis of this revised version, published in 1814.
- Flinders used both 'Terra Australis' and 'Australia' on his chart because British authorities preferred the name 'Australis', the Latin word for 'southern', which came from the term 'Terra Australis Incognita' (unknown southern land). It was not until this map was published in Flinders' 1814 book that the name 'Australia' became well known by the public. Three years later the New South Wales Governor, Lachlan Macquarie, proposed that the name be formally adopted, although it would take another seven years before the British Admiralty officially agreed to the name in 1824.
- The map records numerous explorations made between the years 1798 and 1803 by Flinders aboard the **Norfolk**, the **Cumberland** and the **Investigator**. After his role circumnavigating Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) in 1798, Flinders was given command of the sloop HMS **Investigator** in 1801, in which he made one of his most significant voyages, where he was able to sail along the western and southern coastlines, as well as to rechart the eastern coast previously explored by James Cook. As a result of his voyages, Flinders proved that New Holland and NSW were part of the same landmass, and effectively outlined the shape of the whole continent.
- Flinders charted areas along the coast of modern-day South Australia, including Spencer Gulf and the northern coast of Kangaroo Island. It was near here that he encountered the French explorer Nicolas Baudin in **Le Géographe**, Baudin having been sent to map the southern coast by the French Government. This meeting, at a place Flinders later called Encounter Bay, was peaceful despite both Flinders and Baudin believing that Britain and France were at war.

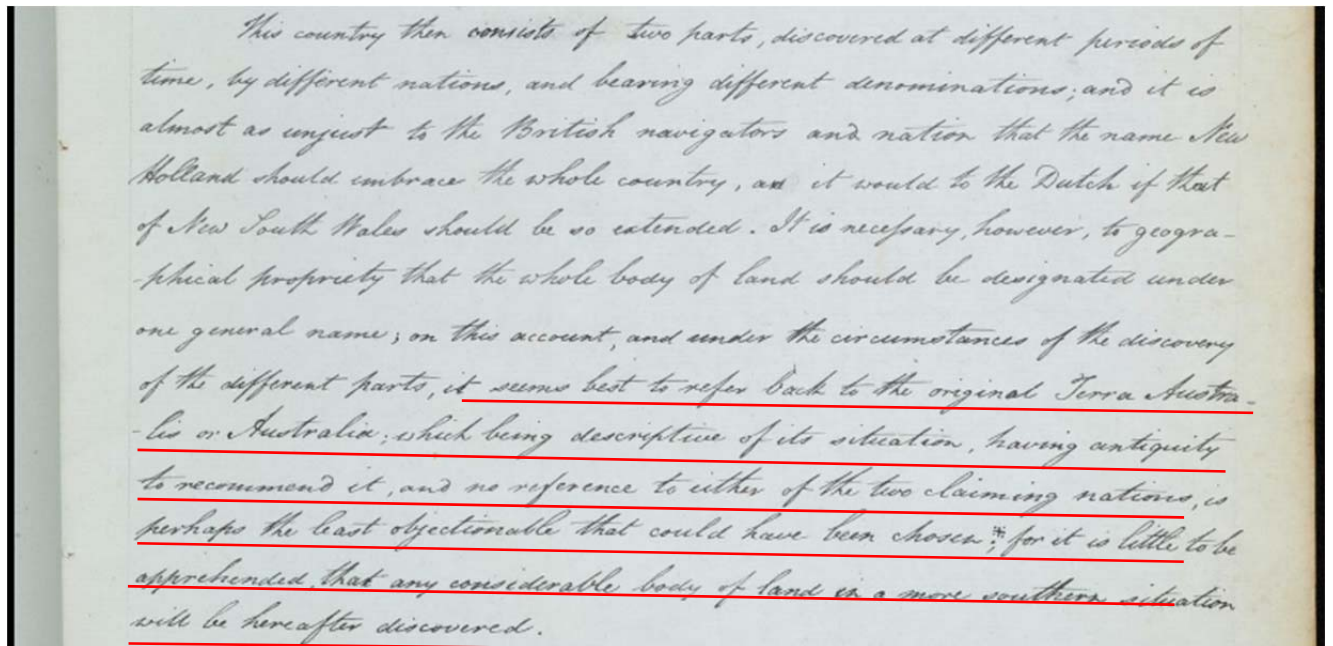
- The map shows complete details of Bass Strait, which separates Van Diemen's Land, now called Tasmania, from the mainland. Until Flinders circumnavigated the island in 1798 on board the sloop **Norfolk**, Van Diemen's Land was believed to be part of the mainland. This discovery was important as it meant that the journey between Sydney and India could be shortened by a week.
- The placenames on the map are those in use in the region in 1814 and while many placenames are familiar today, including Timor, Java and the Gulf of Carpentaria, this is not the case for all the placenames, Port Jackson being used instead of Sydney for example.
- The name 'New Holland' continued to be used on many early maps, particularly for the western part of the continent. Flinders' map reveals that he differentiated New Holland from NSW along longitude 135 degrees east. It was not until about 1820 that the name 'New Holland' was dropped from regular use.
- The map is taken from Flinders' book 'A Voyage to Terra Australis', published in London in 1814. The main reason for the long delay between the voyages of exploration and publication of the resulting maps and book was that while returning home to England in 1803 Flinders was captured as a spy by the French governor of Mauritius, General Decaen, and imprisoned on the island. He was not released until 1810. Upon his release, Flinders worked on this book for four years despite ill health. He died the day after the book was published, on 19 July 1814.
- Flinders provided detailed nautical information on the map, adding details on the movements of his ship as well as the wind direction, depth of ocean, currents and shoals that he encountered on his voyages. He also included placenames and dates, showing details of the route and direction that he took in exploring the coastline. This type of detail is often missing in other commercially produced maps and indicates Flinders' intention to preserve information for later navigators and his commitment to the scientific exploration of Australia.

Ref 5

In naming the continent “Australia”, Flinders’ motivation was one of unification.

He wanted to make the land mass known by a name that would not pay attention to the names recognising European colonial powers of Holland and Great Britain. He believed the continent should be named in recognition of its status as the only significant land mass in its location, and refer to a version of historical name “Terra Australis Incognita” –Unknown Great South Land whose existence was supposed to be necessary for the equilibrium of the globe.

In his handwriting:

A photograph of a handwritten manuscript page in cursive script. The text discusses the naming of Australia, arguing for a single name over 'New Holland' or 'New South Wales'. It recommends 'Terra Australis' or 'Australia' as the most appropriate name. The text is underlined in red ink.

This country then consists of two parts, discovered at different periods of time, by different nations, and bearing different denominations; and it is almost as unjust to the British navigators and nation that the name New Holland should embrace the whole country, as it would to the Dutch if that of New South Wales should be so extended. It is necessary, however, to geographical propriety that the whole body of land should be designated under one general name; on this account, and under the circumstances of the discovery of the different parts, it seems best to refer back to the original Terra Australis or Australia; which being descriptive of its situation, having antiquity to recommend it, and no reference to either of the two claiming nations, is perhaps the least objectionable that could have been chosen; for it is little to be apprehended that any considerable body of land in a more southern situation will be hereafter discovered.

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Ref 3

Proposal

In order to select a new day for the celebration of Australia Day, satisfying certain necessary criteria is critical. Preferably the day should highlight some historical event of which the nation can be proud. It should be a day that unifies all Australians regardless of ancestral origin and it should be in a traditional month in the Australian calendar.

I propose that Australia Day should be celebrated on a floating day...the last Monday in January every year.

The selection of January satisfies the traditional month that all Australians recognise is the month for Australia Day.

The selection of January satisfies the historical event of the publication of Matthew Flinders' "General Chart of Terra Australis or Australia" arguably the major achievement of his life's work, along with his book "Voyage to Terra Australis".

The significance of Flinders' contribution to the exploration and mapping of the continent deserves to be elevated to greater height in the consciousness of all Australians. His naming of our country "Australia", motivated by the quest for unification, should be an event of immense national pride worthy of greater recognition.

The selection of the last Monday in January is twofold.

Firstly, Australians are used to having a January public holiday for Australia Day and there is a tradition of this holiday "floating" to a Monday. In all states of Australia, the official Australia day holiday floats to a Monday if it falls on a Saturday or Sunday. **Indeed in 2019 and 2020 the Australia Day national holiday floats to Monday 28th January and Monday 27th January respectively.**

Secondly, the last Mondays of January in Flinders' circumnavigation of the continent in the *Investigator* in 1802 and 1803 hold, up to this point, a hidden symbolic significance to indigenous Australians.

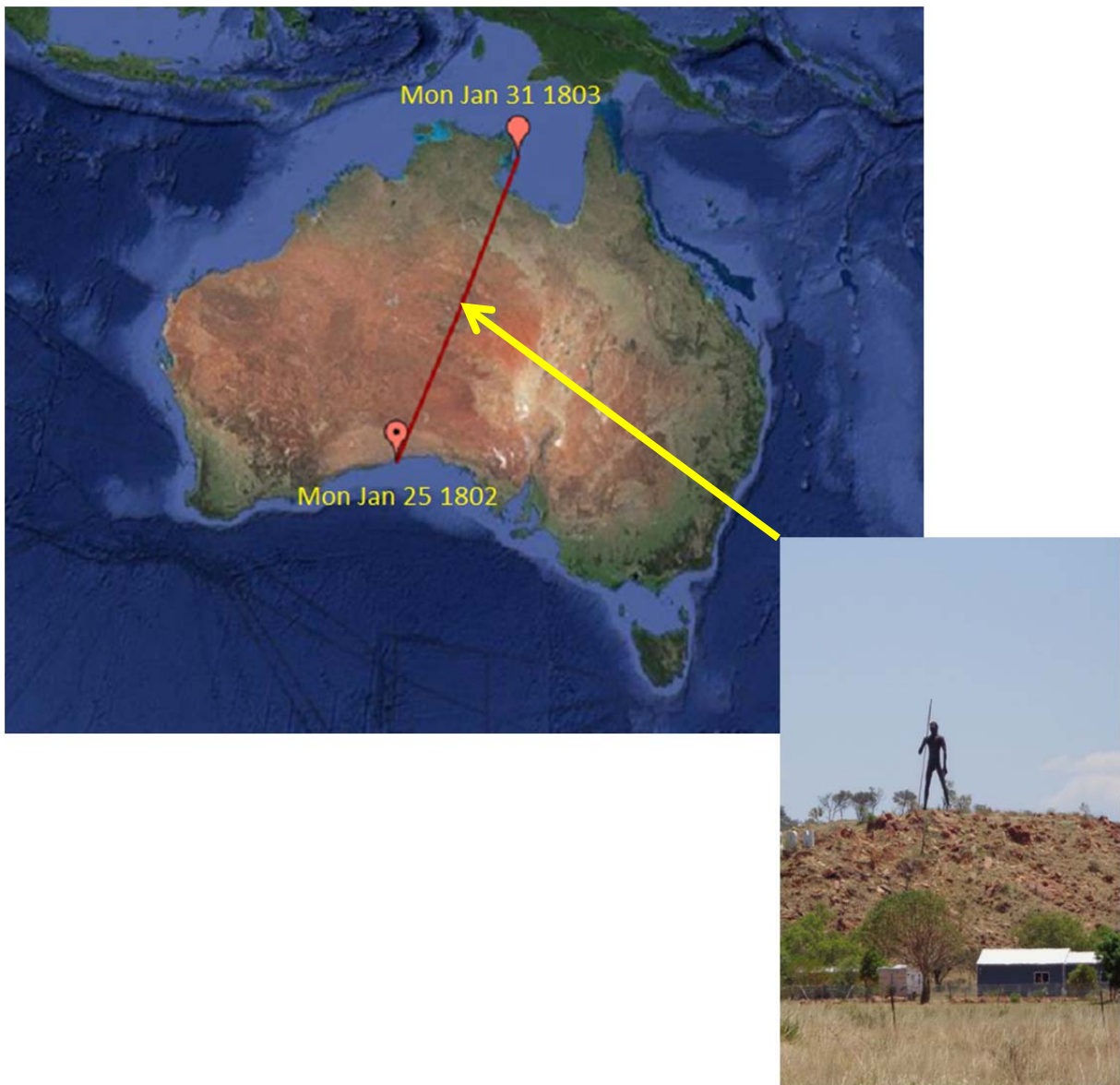


Anmatjere Man with woman and child, Aileron NT

This statue of Anmatjere Man, along with the accompanying Anmatjere woman and child, is located at Aileron, a small settlement in central Australia 150 km north of Alice Springs. These statues are arguably the most imposing and powerful Aboriginal monuments in Australia.

Coincidentally, Aileron is only 4 km from the mid-point of the *Investigator's* locations on the last Mondays in January 1802 and 1803 in Flinders' circumnavigation of Australia, so the statues could easily become major indigenous Australian symbols associated with an Australia Day which integrates the original inhabitants of the land with Flinders' voyage of exploration in the *Investigator*.

See Appendix 1



Conclusion

There is an obvious need to elevate the name “Flinders” and prominently promote his achievements in the national psyche.

Flinders’ lasting legacy is the name “Australia” which he gave to our country. He wrote to his brother: “I call the whole island Australia or Terra Australis”

In his voyage of exploration he did not name one place after himself, but he gave us the greatest gift of the name “Australia” and it is a shame that not many of us know that fact, even though we take great pride in being known as Australians.

It is ironic therefore that we have reciprocated that gift back to him by the way that his name has been perpetuated across the country. His name appears everywhere. We have streets, lanes, drives, roads, avenues and highways named after him. We have parks, suburbs, and towns named after him. We have islands named after him. We have a bay and a peninsular named after him. We have a river named after him. We have national parks named after him. We have a range of mountains named after him.

We have a local government shire and a federal electorate named after him. We have primary and secondary schools named after him. Within those schools we have houses named after him. We have a university and hospital named after him. We have a theatre named after him. We have hotels and motels named after him, and a golf club. We have football and soccer clubs named after him. Without us really realising it, the name Matthew Flinders already permeates just about all aspects of Australian society. We know his name but don’t really know what he did.

Hence in the light of the fact that many question the suitability of 26th January being our national day, the resolution to the debate is staring us in the face.

Australia Day should be a celebration of the naming of our country. It should be floating as the last Monday of January every year, celebrating Matthew Flinders seamanship in the *Investigator*. It should be a day to celebrate unification, just as Flinders unified New Holland and New South Wales on his general chart under one name.

Finally, it should be a day of significance and celebration for indigenous Australians, the first people of this country, as acknowledged by Flinders. (see appendix 2) For indigenous Australians, this will be achieved with the knowledge that Anmatjere Man surveys the land from Aileron (N.T.), the average location of the *Investigator* on the last Mondays in 1802 and 1803.

Anmatjere Man should be declared a national monument as a consequence.

The case is clear. We need to make this change as soon as possible.

Appendix 1

ANMATJERE MAN'S HIDDEN ASSOCIATION WITH THE LAST MONDAY IN JANUARY 1802 and 1803

On Monday 25th January 1802 the *Investigator* was sailing along the south coast near the SA/WA border in the Great Australian Bight, named by Flinders.

On Monday 31st January 1803 *Investigator* was sailing off the north east coast of Arnhem Land, modern day Northern Territory.



By using the latitude and longitude records in the *Investigator* log on those days, the mid-point is located in central Australia 4 km from a small roadhouse settlement called Aileron. On a small hill behind the service station is the statue of an aboriginal warrior of the local Anmatjere people, and on the flat foreground are the statues of an aboriginal woman and child.



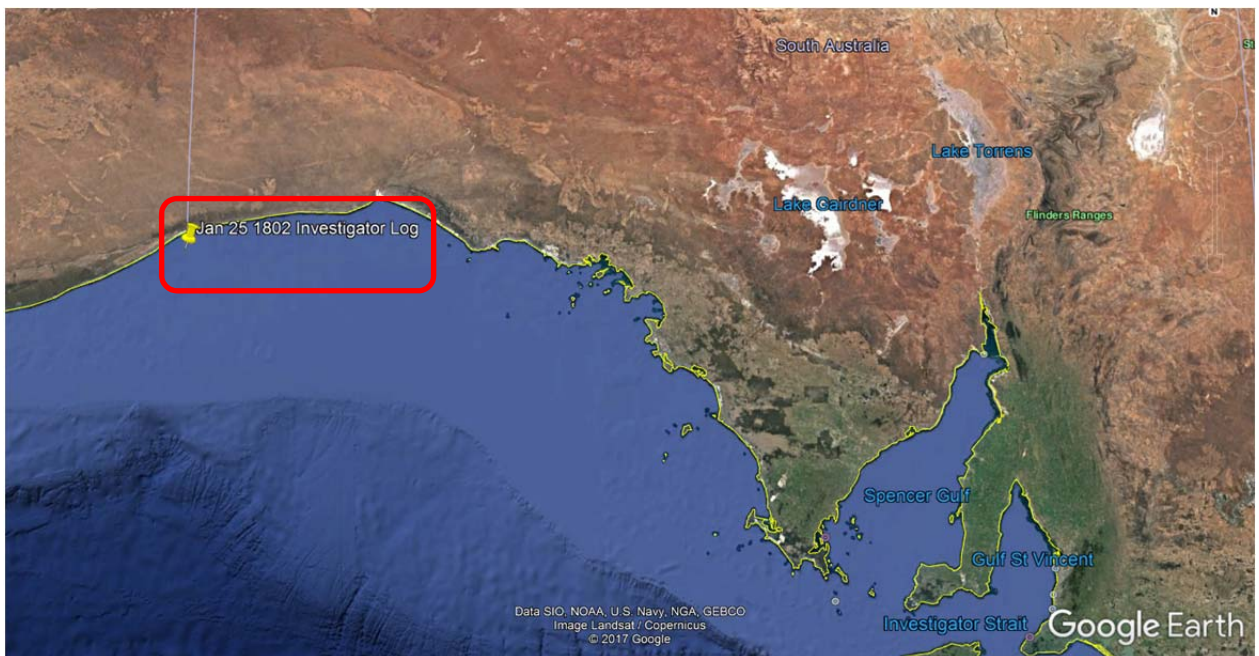
The *Investigator* log Monday January 25th 1802 (Ref 7)

25th Investigator - beating to windward along the 1st 1/2 of bay of land

H	KF	Course	Wind	Sea	Remarks	TIME	Lat	Long	Other
1	1	N 60 E	SE	2	Breeze fresh and weather clear.	08:00	31° 52'	128° 59'	Bar 30.0
2	1	N 60 E	SE	2	Bar 30.0	09:00	31° 52'	128° 59'	Bar 30.0
3	2	N 60 E	SE	2	Bar 30.0	10:00	31° 52'	128° 59'	Bar 30.0
4	3	N 60 E	SE	2	Bar 30.0	11:00	31° 52'	128° 59'	Bar 30.0
5	3	N 60 E	SE	2	Bar 30.0	12:00	31° 52'	128° 59'	Bar 30.0
6	2	N 60 E	SE	2	Bar 30.0	13:00	31° 52'	128° 59'	Bar 30.0
7	2	N 60 E	SE	2	Bar 30.0	14:00	31° 52'	128° 59'	Bar 30.0
8	2	N 60 E	SE	2	Bar 30.0	15:00	31° 52'	128° 59'	Bar 30.0
9	2	N 60 E	SE	2	Bar 30.0	16:00	31° 52'	128° 59'	Bar 30.0
10	2	N 60 E	SE	2	Bar 30.0	17:00	31° 52'	128° 59'	Bar 30.0
11	2	N 60 E	SE	2	Bar 30.0	18:00	31° 52'	128° 59'	Bar 30.0
12	2	N 60 E	SE	2	Bar 30.0	19:00	31° 52'	128° 59'	Bar 30.0
13	2	N 60 E	SE	2	Bar 30.0	20:00	31° 52'	128° 59'	Bar 30.0
14	2	N 60 E	SE	2	Bar 30.0	21:00	31° 52'	128° 59'	Bar 30.0
15	2	N 60 E	SE	2	Bar 30.0	22:00	31° 52'	128° 59'	Bar 30.0
16	2	N 60 E	SE	2	Bar 30.0	23:00	31° 52'	128° 59'	Bar 30.0
17	2	N 60 E	SE	2	Bar 30.0	00:00	31° 52'	128° 59'	Bar 30.0
18	2	N 60 E	SE	2	Bar 30.0	01:00	31° 52'	128° 59'	Bar 30.0
19	2	N 60 E	SE	2	Bar 30.0	02:00	31° 52'	128° 59'	Bar 30.0
20	2	N 60 E	SE	2	Bar 30.0	03:00	31° 52'	128° 59'	Bar 30.0
21	2	N 60 E	SE	2	Bar 30.0	04:00	31° 52'	128° 59'	Bar 30.0
22	2	N 60 E	SE	2	Bar 30.0	05:00	31° 52'	128° 59'	Bar 30.0
23	2	N 60 E	SE	2	Bar 30.0	06:00	31° 52'	128° 59'	Bar 30.0
24	2	N 60 E	SE	2	Bar 30.0	07:00	31° 52'	128° 59'	Bar 30.0
25	2	N 60 E	SE	2	Bar 30.0	08:00	31° 52'	128° 59'	Bar 30.0

Day Log Latitude 30 Longitude each Var. 1.8° W. Bar 30.0. Bearings to ...

The ship's location is recorded by Flinders as Lat 31° 52' S Long 128° 59' E which puts it off the south coast near the current border of SA and WA.



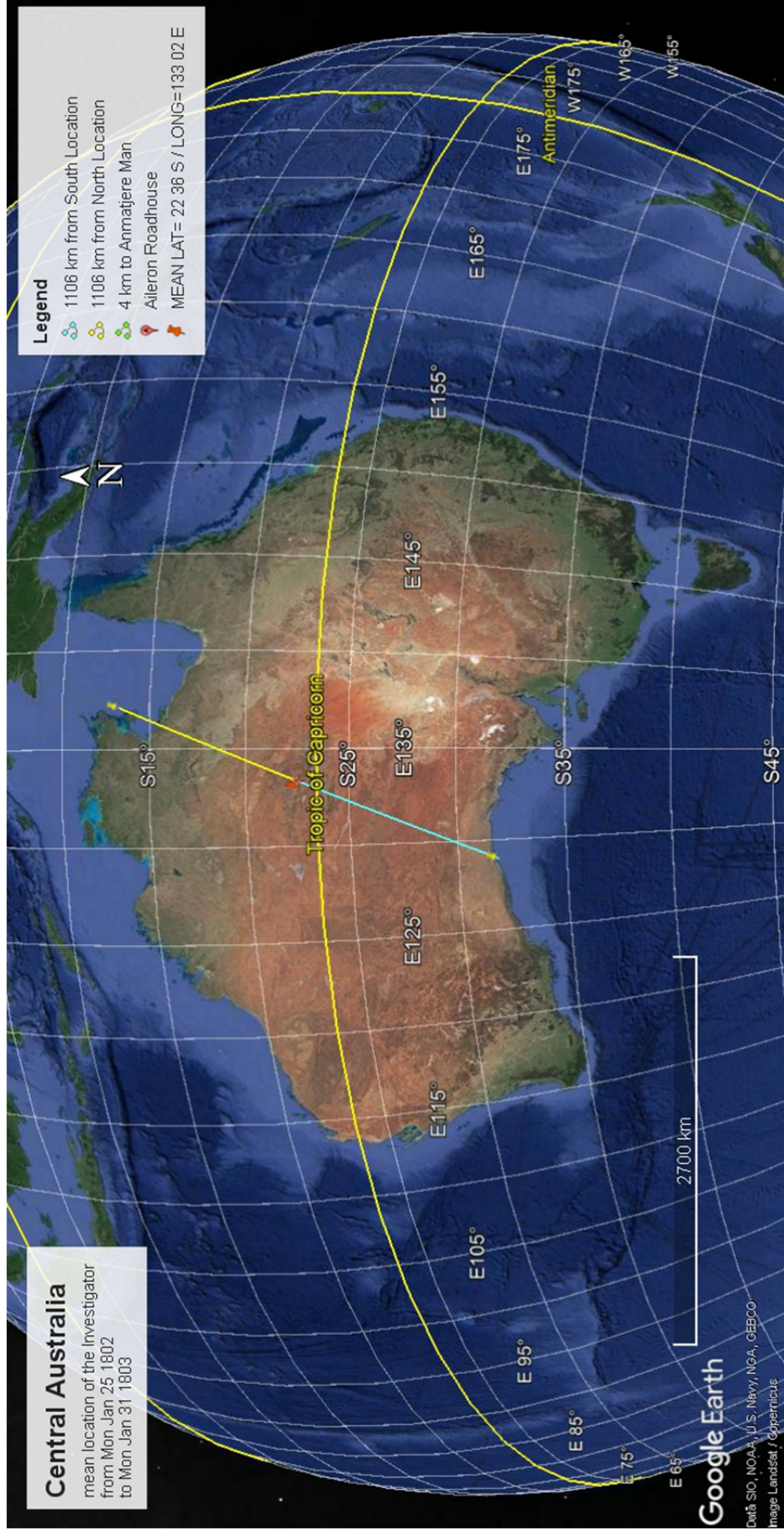
The **Investigator** log Monday January 31st 1803 (Ref 7)

Date		Course		Distance		Direction		Wind		Weather		Remarks		Observations		Miles		Barom		Ther		Bearings		G.C.	
1	2	S 11° E	12	12	12	12	12	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11
2	4	S 11° E	24	24	24	24	24	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
3	6	S 11° E	36	36	36	36	36	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
4	8	S 11° E	48	48	48	48	48	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
5	10	S 11° E	60	60	60	60	60	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
6	12	S 11° E	72	72	72	72	72	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
7	14	S 11° E	84	84	84	84	84	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
8	16	S 11° E	96	96	96	96	96	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
9	18	S 11° E	108	108	108	108	108	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
10	20	S 11° E	120	120	120	120	120	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
11	22	S 11° E	132	132	132	132	132	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
12	24	S 11° E	144	144	144	144	144	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
13	26	S 11° E	156	156	156	156	156	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
14	28	S 11° E	168	168	168	168	168	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
15	30	S 11° E	180	180	180	180	180	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
16	32	S 11° E	192	192	192	192	192	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
17	34	S 11° E	204	204	204	204	204	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
18	36	S 11° E	216	216	216	216	216	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
19	38	S 11° E	228	228	228	228	228	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
20	40	S 11° E	240	240	240	240	240	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
21	42	S 11° E	252	252	252	252	252	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
22	44	S 11° E	264	264	264	264	264	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
23	46	S 11° E	276	276	276	276	276	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
24	48	S 11° E	288	288	288	288	288	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
25	50	S 11° E	300	300	300	300	300	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
26	52	S 11° E	312	312	312	312	312	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
27	54	S 11° E	324	324	324	324	324	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
28	56	S 11° E	336	336	336	336	336	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
29	58	S 11° E	348	348	348	348	348	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	
30	60	S 11° E	360	360	360	360	360	Light breeze	cloudy	with a fog	increasing	swell from the East	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	at 11	

The ship's location is recorded by Flinders as Lat 13° 20' S Long 137° 05' E which puts it off the north west coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria.



An overview of the mean location of the *Investigator* from Monday, January 25th 1802 to Monday, January 31st 1803.



Anmatjere Man statue at **Aileron Roadhouse** 4 km from the mean location of the **Investigator** from Monday, January 25st 1802 to Monday, January 31st 1803.



The hidden indigenous symbol behind Matthew Flinders' circumnavigation of Australia using the *Investigator's* location on the last Mondays in January in 1802 and 1803.



Anmatjere Man is a sculpture standing 17 metre tall striking an impressive figure overlooking Aileron and the surrounding countryside. The figure is 12 metres high, with the tip of the spear taking it to 17 metres.

This statue, along with the adjacent Anmatjere woman and child could easily become a major indigenous Australian symbols associated with an Australia Day which integrates the original inhabitants of the land with Flinders voyage of exploration in the *Investigator*.

Anmatjere woman and child:



Both statues were built by local sculptor Mark Egan, who in the commissioning ceremony said he wanted to pay tribute to the area's traditional people.

The World Today - Monday, 12 December, 2005 12:45:00

Reporter: Sara Everingham

KAREN PERCY: It's a small town with a big statue and some modest hopes.

Aileron, just north of Alice Springs, is now the proud owner of a 17-metre high sculpture of an Aboriginal man which sits on a hill overlooking the town. It's based on a traditional man from the local Anmatjere tribe.

Locals hope the statue will help bring in tourists and maybe even a little rain.

Sara Everingham reports.

SARA EVERINGHAM: Anmatjere man cuts an impressive figure.

MARK EGAN: Well, he's just a big tall Aboriginal man standing up on the top of the hill with a spear, looking out over the beautiful countryside and, yeah, contemplating something.

SARA E: The statue stands just behind the Aileron roadhouse about 150 kilometres north of Alice Springs.

Yesterday 300 people came to Aileron, to see Anmatjere man rise up.
(Sound of clapping)

SARA E: Anmatjere man's creator, Mark Egan, says he wanted to pay tribute to the area's earlier traditional people.

MARK E: Well um I've been lucky. I was sort of brought up all over the country with my father having all sorts of jobs here and there. And now I got to see the sort of Aboriginals in their, when they were in their perfect situation, and out in the country just doing what they do best, and they're just amazing. And I suppose that must have inspired me from a young age.

SARA E: Mark Egan's been building the sculpture for a year, but says he has had the idea for some time.

MARK E: Well it's something I've thought about for years. I've thought about building a big statue just like that. But I could never think of anywhere to put it and any place that it would look good. And then I ran into a kangaroo up the road here and I got talking to my old mate Greg Dick, who owns the roadhouse here at Aileron, and he's as mad as I am so, after we were talking for a while, yeah, we'll put the big black fella up on the hill.

GREG DICK: A lot of people say why put that there? Well I said well I don't know really. I was going to put a kangaroo. It wouldn't look right in the dimensions of a big size.

SARA E: Greg Dick owns the Aileron roadhouse and financed the project.

GREG DICK: A big Hereford bull or something that wouldn't look right. And yet the man turns out to be the picture and plus it suits the country.

(Sound of singing)

SARA EVERINGHAM: The Anmatjere people have named the sculpture after Charlie Quartpot - a rainmaker who once lived in this area.

The Chairman of the Anmatjere Council, Tony Scrutton.

TONY SCRUTTON: I think it's just an amazing thing that it stood up today.

I think in the future he'll become a popular man.

At the Aileron Roadhouse Greg Dick is hoping that will be true.

ROADHOUSE CUSTOMER: How you going mate? Can I have a beer please?

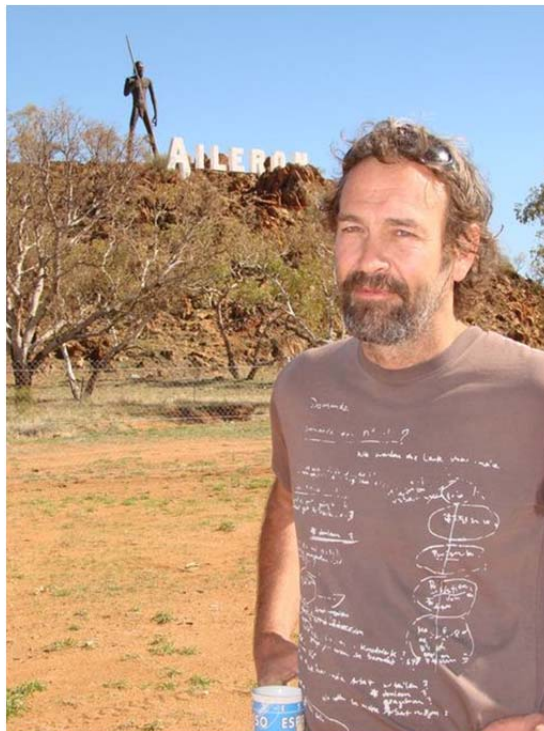
GREG DICK: Oh, I certainly do, because, well, as you know we're off the road and it's very, we only get about 25 per cent of the passing trade. It's a very costly place to run.

SARA E: Is there anything you hope people will get from it if they're driving past or come to have a look?

MARK E: Um, **maybe it will just get them to think a little bit about how the Aboriginals live in this country**, and, yeah, that's all, just something to brighten up their day maybe and something different.

KAREN PERCY: Artist Mark Egan, ending that report from Sara Everingham.

(Ref 4)



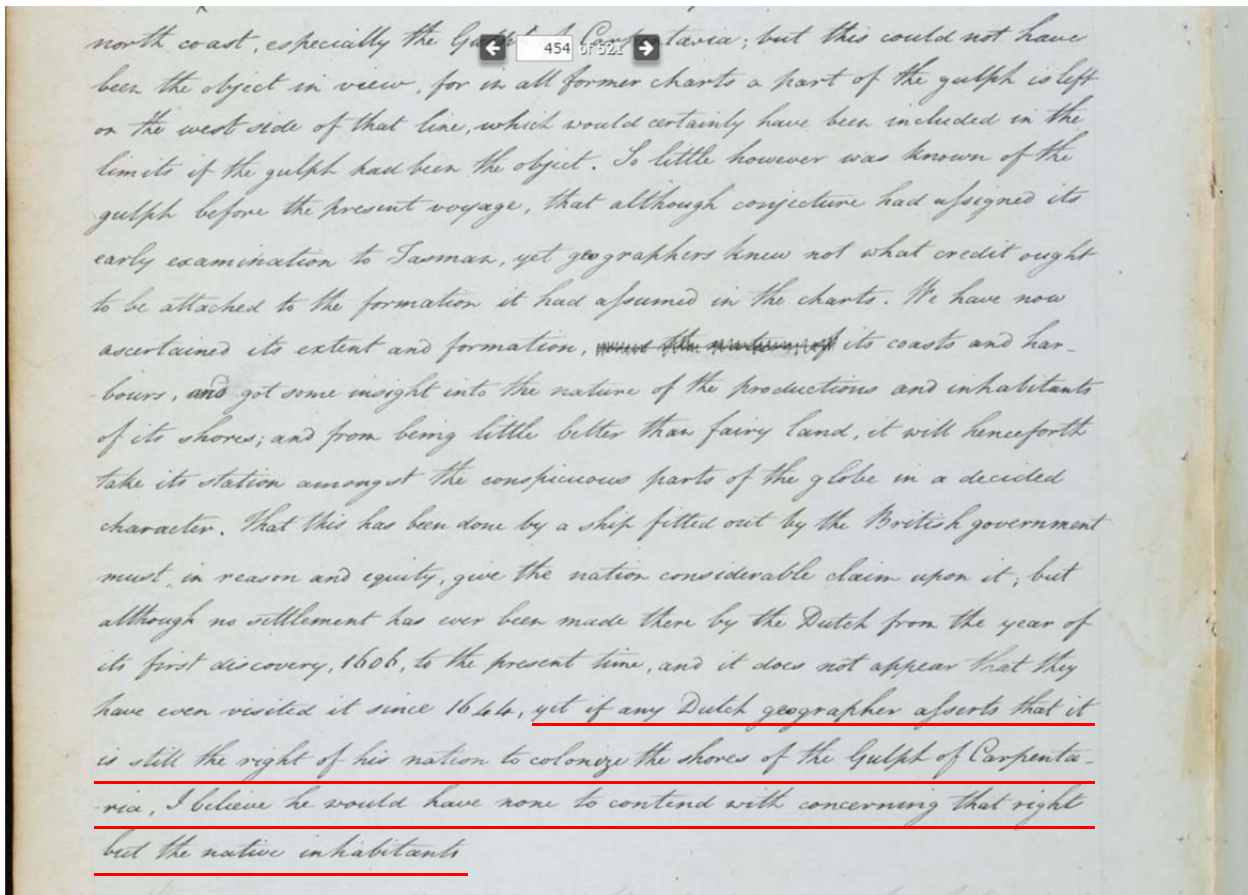
Mark Egan with his statue in 2005

Appendix 2

MATTHEW FLINDERS ON NATIVE TITLE TO THE LAND.

Matthew Flinders, even in his role as an agent of the British Government in command of a ship of the predominant European power, in an era of European colonisation of various parts of the world, still had a sense of native title to the land he was exploring.

In his memoir manuscript he records his thoughts on the potential Dutch right to colonise the Gulf of Carpentaria



Ref 3

“..., yet if any Dutch geographer asserts that it still the right of his nation to colonise the shores of the Gulph of Carpentaria, I believe he would have none to contend with concerning that right but of the native inhabitants.”

Clearly Flinders was aware of the prior native title to the land even though his voyage of exploration was commissioned by the British government which had already colonised New South Wales.

MATTHEW FLINDERS FRIENDLY CONTACT WITH NATIVE INHABITANTS.

Flinders was also an explorer who had an appreciation of the native inhabitants of the land. One of his crew on the *Investigator* in the circumnavigation of Australia was aboriginal man, Bungaree.

Bungaree was an Aboriginal Australian from the Broken Bay area, who was known as an explorer, entertainer, and Aboriginal community leader.^[1] Bungaree first came to prominence in 1798, when he accompanied Matthew Flinders on a coastal survey as an interpreter, guide and negotiator with local indigenous groups.^[3] He later accompanied Flinders on his circumnavigation of Australia between 1801 and 1803 in the *Investigator*.^[4] Flinders was the cartographer of the first complete map of Australia, filling in the gaps from previous cartographic expeditions, and was the most prominent advocate for naming the continent "Australia". Flinders noted that Bungaree was "a worthy and brave fellow" who, on multiple occasions, saved the expedition.

Bungaree From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Just prior to his departure from King George Sound (WA) on 5th January 1802, Flinders put on entertainment for the natives whom he referred to as "our friends".

"Our friends, the natives, continued to visit us; and the old man, with several others being at the tents this morning, I ordered the party of marines on shore, to be exercised in their presence. The redcoats and white crossed belts were greatly admired, having some resemblance to their own manner of ornamenting themselves; and the drum, but particularly the fife, excited their astonishment; but when they saw these beautiful red and white men, with their bright muskets, drawn up in a line, they absolutely screamed with delight; nor were their wild gestures and vociferation to be silenced, but by commencing the exercise, to which they paid the most earnest and silent attention. Several of them moved their hands, involuntarily, according to the motions; and the old man placed himself at the end of the rank, with a short staff in his hand, which he shouldered, presented, grounded, as did the marines their muskets, without, I believe, knowing what he did. Before firing, the Indians were made acquainted with what was going to take place; so that the volleys did not excite much terror."

(Ref 6)

In late February and early March 1802, Flinders and the *Investigator* spent some time in Port Lincoln (SA) charting the port surrounds and searching on-shore for water. Later in his book “Voyage to Terra Australis” published in 1814, he referred to the local aborigines at Port Lincoln as “these Australians”. It was the first time that the term “Australian” had been used in print to describe a member of the population of the land.

“Many straggling bark huts, similar to those on other parts of the coast, were seen on the shores of Port Lincoln, and the paths near our tents had been long and deeply trodden; but neither in my excursions nor in those of the botanists had any of the natives been discovered. This morning, however, three or four were heard calling to a boat, as was supposed, which had just landed; but they presently walked away, or perhaps retired into the woods to observe our movements. No attempt was made to follow them, for I had always found that the natives of this country to avoid those who seemed anxious for communication; whereas, when left entirely alone, they would usually come down after having watched us for a few days.

Such seemed to have been the conduct of **these Australians**; and I am persuaded that their appearance on the morning when the tents were struck, was a prelude to their coming down; and that had we remained a few days longer, a friendly communication would have ensued.”

(Ref 7)

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