

# OUR ISLAND HOME OUR COASTAL HERITAGE

As the only island continent, Australia has a rich maritime and coastal history which can be traced back some 60,000 or more years to the arrival of Aboriginal people. They were followed later by the Macassans, who came to fish Australia's northern waters.

The charting of Australia is an exciting story of adventure and exploration during the race to find new worlds. Early European maps showed only a huge, single land mass at the bottom of the world called the "unknown southern land". In the 16th century, Europeans sailed south in search of valuable spices. By the beginning of the 17th century, Dutch explorers began to uncover the secrets of the Australian continent

— starting with Willem Janszoon and his crew of the *Duyfken*.

For the next 250 years, Dutch, French and English navigators continued to discover, chart and expand the world's understanding of the Australian coastline, and European settlements began to form along the Australian coast from 1788.

Today most of us still live along or near the coast; a coast that supports much of the nation's social, tourist and recreational activity, and informs our identity as a nation.

From Indigenous sites to places associated with European settlement, from lighthouses to shipwrecks, and from wharves to historic buildings — our coastal and maritime heritage tells the many stories of how modern Australia took shape.



The replica of the *Duyfken*.

**ACTIVITY** Choose from one of the following explorers who helped discover our nation: Willem Janszoon, Luis Vaez de Torres, Dirk Hartog, Abel Tasman, William Dampier, James Cook or Matthew Flinders. Write a summary of who they were, when and where they lived, and what they discovered.

## BELOW THE WAVES

Over 6500 shipwrecks lie below the waves just beyond Australia's shores. Few of us will ever see them, but each one has a unique story that forms an important part of our heritage.

The earliest recorded shipwreck is the English vessel *Trial*, which foundered in 1622 on the North West Coast of Western Australia. Other wrecks followed in the 17th and 18th centuries, including several Dutch East India Company ships which also came to grief on the rocky coast of WA.

After Captain James Cook's 1770 voyage in the *Endeavour*, Australia's coastline became the focus for hundreds of ships from the Northern Hemisphere. But some of these small European sailing ships venturing into Australia's often treacherous waters never returned.

These shipwrecks and associated relics often provide us with what may be the only means of documenting and understanding important aspects of our history.

Some, like *HMS Pandora* off the Great Barrier Reef or the Japanese I-124 submarine in the Northern Territory, are also internationally important for their historical associations.

The Australian Government protects these shipwrecks and also provides funding to the states and territories so we can continue to research and tell the stories of our shipwrecks through books, virtual tours and information on the Internet, heritage trails, exhibitions and catalogues of artefacts from shipwrecks.



The wreck of *The Adolphe* in Newcastle, New South Wales and *Vito Loscocco* (inset) who helped rescue all aboard in 1904.

**ACTIVITY** Select from one of the following shipwrecks: *Batavia*, *HMS Pandora*, *Loch Ard*, *I-124*, *Sirius*, *Yongala* or *Falls of Halladale*. Research it, and write a story about the ship, including where it came from, what its mission was, and how and where it sunk. There are shipwrecks off the coast of every state in Australia. Can you discover which shipwreck is closest to you? Here's a place to start looking: [www.deh.gov.au/heritage/shipwrecks](http://www.deh.gov.au/heritage/shipwrecks)

LEARN ABOUT OUR MARITIME HERITAGE BY VISITING —

[www.duyfken.com](http://www.duyfken.com)

[www.heritage.gov.au](http://www.heritage.gov.au)

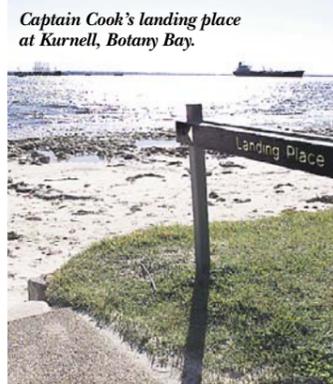
[www.deh.gov.au/heritage/publications/great-southern-land.html](http://www.deh.gov.au/heritage/publications/great-southern-land.html)

[www.anmm.gov.au](http://www.anmm.gov.au)

[www.australiaonthemap.org.au](http://www.australiaonthemap.org.au)



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Captain Cook's landing place at Kurnell, Botany Bay.

## BIRTHPLACE OF A NATION

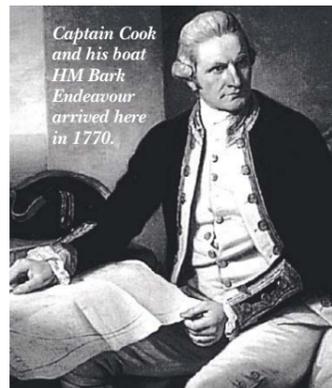
Captain James Cook was one of the world's greatest explorers and navigators. In the late 18th century, his expeditions changed our understanding of the world. His voyages to the South Pacific brought two hemispheres together, contributing enormously to European knowledge of the southern hemisphere, its geography, plants and animals, and Indigenous civilisations.

Cook first approached eastern Australia in 1770, on his return voyage from New Zealand. Rough surf foiled an attempt to land on April 28, 1770, so Cook sailed the *Endeavour* around to a calm bay — now known as Botany Bay. This is where on April 29, 1770 Cook and his crew first set foot on Australian soil.

To commemorate the birthplace of modern Australia, the Australian Government is sponsoring a design competition for a national monument at Kurnell Peninsula, Botany Bay in NSW.

A design is sought that can be developed into a permanent monument on the site where Australia's modern journey began.

The monument is to capture the magnitude of the moment when James Cook and his crew — including Sir Joseph Banks and Dr Daniel Solander — first set foot on Australian soil. It will be a symbol of the importance of James Cook's first connection



Captain Cook and his boat *HM Bark Endeavour* arrived here in 1770.

with the Australian continent, befitting the site that witnessed the first recorded contact between Britain and eastern Indigenous Australians, and the beginning of scientific exploration in Australia.

This is your chance to showcase your design skills to national and international visitors for generations to come.

## WIN \$10,000

Competition rules and guidelines are available from [www.heritage.gov.au](http://www.heritage.gov.au)

- The competition is open to all Australian residents.
- Entry is free but all entrants must register.
- Competition closes February, 2007.

## SITES OF SIGNIFICANCE

Did you know that Australia has a National Heritage List? It's a list of our most significant natural, historic and Indigenous places.

Each place on the list must be of outstanding heritage significance to Australia; places that help give Australia our national identity. They are a living and accessible record of our evolving landscapes and experiences.

Our national heritage is all about important moments in our development as a nation. It reflects the achievements, joys and sorrows in the lives of Australians. The National Heritage List also includes places that reveal the richness of Australia's extraordinarily diverse natural heritage. Places on the list are known as national heritage places and they are protected by law.

**ACTIVITY** Visit [www.deh.gov.au/heritage/national](http://www.deh.gov.au/heritage/national) and review the list of places in the National Heritage List. Select one of the listed coastal and maritime sites: North Head, Kurnell Peninsula, Recherche Bay, Dirk Hartog Landing Site 1616, *Batavia* Shipwreck site and North Head. In groups, research the site, and present to the class on why it is a place of great significance to our nation.



The first recorded European contact with Australia was in 1606 when *Duyfken*, a small, feisty ship commissioned by the VOC (United East Indies Company) set sail to discover "the great land of Nova Guinea and other unknown east and south lands."

Skipped by Willem Janszoon, and with 20 crew onboard, she headed south-east from the Indonesian Banda Islands on a course that took her to the northern coast of Australia.

*Duyfken* (meaning "Little Dove") headed down the west coast of Cape York Peninsula as far as Cape Keerweer (Dutch for "turnagain"), and Janszoon surveyed and mapped 350 kms of coastline. The voyage pre-dated the better known voyage of Dirk Hartog by 10 years.

On the 400th anniversary of the trip a replica of *Duyfken* will visit 25 ports around Australia, giving those who visit the ship a deep appreciation of history and the skills of the 17th Century seafaring explorers.

You can experience *Duyfken's* modern day voyage by reading the Captain's Log at [www.duyfken.com](http://www.duyfken.com).

The Australian Government is proud to be a major sponsor of this amazing voyage. We hope teachers, parents and school students enjoy reading this supplement, and learning more about our nation's important maritime heritage.

### INSIDE

- DUYFKEN'S PORTS OF CALL
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- BUILDING THE REPLICA
- STUDENT ACTIVITIES