EXPLORER CAPTAIN
JAMES COOK

CONTRIBUTORS

National Library Australia
State Library Victoria

George Evans
Kathie Maynes
Shez & Warren Tedford
David & Debbie Hibbert
CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

FACTS

TIMELINE

GALLERY

MEMORIALS

NEWSPAPER

OTHER
**HISTORIC FACTSHEET**

# INTRODUCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Captain James Cook</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Born:</td>
<td>7 November 1728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married:</td>
<td>1762 (Elizabeth Bates)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Died:</td>
<td>14 February 1779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Known for:</td>
<td>British Explorer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

James Cook was a British navigator, cartographer, scientist and Captain of the British Research Vessel the **HMS Endeavour**, and made the first recorded European contact with the eastern coast of Australia on 19 April 1770.

The British Navy Research Vessel - H.M.S. Endeavour was also known as the HM Bark Endeavour. Captain James Cook captained this vessel during his first voyage of discovery to Australia and New Zealand from 1769 to 1771.

*Painter:* Samuel Atkins (c.1760-1810)
*Titled:* HMS Endeavour off the coast of New Holland

---

James Cook was born on 7 November 1728 in Marton, Yorkshire, England, to parents James Cook and Grace Pace. He was the second of eight children. In 1736 he attended a small school in the village of Great Ayton, 12 km east of Middlesbrough which was paid for by his father's employer. Five years later in 1741 he began working for his father who was by this time a farm manager.
INTRODUCTION

In 1745, when Cook was 16 years of age, he moved to the seaside fishing village of Staithes to work as an apprentice to a grocer. It is possible that this is where he first fell in love with the ocean, something he had seen little of up until that time. In 1747, he moved to Whitby and was introduced to ship owners and coal traders John and Henry Walker. He was subsequently hired as an apprentice in the Merchant Navy and worked with a small group of ships shipping coal along the English coast.

After finishing his three year apprenticeship, he commenced work in ship trading on the Baltic Sea. After passing his exams, he quickly moved up the ranks of the Merchant Navy, obtaining the position of Captain on board the collier brig (two masted ship designed for transporting coal) Friendship before volunteering for the Royal Navy. He was officially accepted into the Royal Navy at Wapping in 1755.

Cook spent much time at sea having begun as Master's Mate on board the HMS Eagle. He was quickly promoted to Boatswain and then took and passed the Master's examination in 1757. As Master on HMS Penbroke during a voyage across the Atlantic Ocean, in record time to Nova Scotia, 29 men died from scurvy, a decease caused by a lack of vitamin C. This incident had a profound and lasting impact on Cook which influenced his future care for the welfare of his crews. He was subsequently given the position of Master on the HMS Solebay under Captain Robert Craig.

During the Seven Years' War, he successfully fulfilled his duties and partook in numerous successful endeavours. It was during this period that his skill for cartography and surveying became evident.

He followed on in the 1760s by surveying and mapping the coast of Newfoundland. In 1764 he mapped the coast between Burin Peninsula and Cape Ray. In 1765 and 1766 he mapped the West Coast of Newfoundland. It was around this time that he wrote that he intended 'to go farther than any man has been before me, but as far as I think it is possible for a man to go.'

First Voyage of Discovery
(HMS Endeavour)

In 1766 Cook was engaged by the Royal Society to observe and record the transit of
INTRODUCTION

Venus in the Pacific Ocean. Prior to leaving he was promoted to Lieutenant and Commander of the expedition. He sailed on 26 August 1768, later opened his sealed orders from the Admiralty which held further instructions once his first commitment was complete, and fulfilled his initial obligations by 13 April 1769.

Cook's further orders were to search the South Pacific for signs of the postulated rich Southern Continent of 'Terra Australis'. Cook first sailed to New Zealand where he mapped the complete coastline before sailing west and reaching the Southern Coast of Australia on 19 April 1770. In doing so, he had become the first European to record an encounter with the eastern coastline of the Continent of Australia.

Second in command aboard HMS Endeavour - Lieutenant Zachary Hickes (1739-1771) was on morning watch on 20 April 1770 and first saw land. This location on the Victorian Coast was named Point Hicks by Cook, who incorrectly spelt his name Hicks in his diaries. Hickes died of Consumption (Tuberculosis) on 21 May 1771 during their return trip to England.

Debate today questions the location of the first land sighting, with some preferring to believe that the land sighted was actually a bank of cloud and not land at all, and the first land sighting was more likely to be Cape Everand.

Sir Joseph Banks sailed with Cook on this voyage as an independent Naturalist. They remained friends and Banks was later interested and actively involved in all Pacific Ocean Exploration and early Australian Colonial Life. After completing his first Voyage of Discovery, Cook returned to England a hero, published his journals, was promoted to Commander (August 1771) and reconnected with family life.
**INTRODUCTION**

Cook made landfall in Botany Bay, New South Wales on 28 April 1770, also making first contact with Aboriginal Peoples of Eastern Australia. Cook’s journal records:

'At daybreak we discovered a bay, and anchored under the south shore about two miles within the entrance in six fathom water, the south point bearing S.E. and the north point East, Latitude 34° S. Longitude 208°37 W.'

*Endeavour* botanists Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander (the first recorded university educated scientist to set foot on Australia soil) explored the coastline around the landing site. Today the area is known as Kurnell Peninsula and is home to the Monument at Kamay Botany Bay National Park, a major tourism attraction.

The Kamay Botany Bay National Park on Kurnell Peninsula was included in the National Heritage List on 20 September 2004 and $50 million was allocated by the Turnbull Liberal Government in April 2018 to redevelop the site.

The current site includes a series of monuments, plaques and parkland with interpretative signage for visitors to learn from.
**INTRODUCTION**

**Second Voyage of Discovery**  
*HMS Resolution*

In 1772, Cook returned to the sea aboard *HMS Resolution* for what was to be remembered as his Second Voyage of Discovery. *HMS Resolution* sailed with the companion ship *HMS Adventure*. Cook’s mission from the Royal Society was again to find 'Terra Australis'. At that time it was assumed that the land mass Cook located on his first Voyage of Discovery was not 'Terra Australis' (Australia).

During this second voyage, Cook discovered, named and made landfall on Norfolk Island (named Norfolk Isle). Cook returned to Britain in 1775, finally dismissing the myth of a 'Terra Australis' as a southern continent located south of the continent he had already discovered on his first Journey.

**Third Voyage of Discovery**  
*HMS Discovery*

In 1776 Cook left on his third and final voyage (1776-1779). During this trip he discovered Hawaii on 18 January 1778 when he sailed past Oahu Island. He made landfall on the island of Kauai and named its group of islands the 'Sandwich Islands' after John Montague, Earl of Sandwich.

Cook returned to Hawaii and anchored in Kealakekua Bay on 16 January 1779. The indigenous people paddled their canoes out to see the two ships (*HMS Discover* and *HMS Resolution*). Later Cook made his way to land where the locals were intrigued by the men and especially their iron tools and weapons. During Cook's month long stay, he traded with the locals and was able to reprovision his ship with enough food and water for a year. He and his crew were initially treated as Gods, but relations became strained towards the end of their sojourn when a crew member died, exposing their mortality.

The ships sailed out of the bay on 4 February 1779 but returned on 11 February after the
foremast of *HMS Resolution* was damaged. This time their return was not welcomed, with the locals throwing rocks at the men, as well as stealing the cutter of *HMS Discover*.

**Death of Cook**

On 14 February Cook went ashore with some of his men to negotiate the return of the cutter, but negotiations collapsed. Cook then tried to take custody of the King of Hawaii, intending to trade him for the cutter, but the locals rose up and stopped Cook.

The resulting fight forced Cook and his men to retreat to their boats, but as Cook turned to help push one of the boats off the beach, he was struck on the head with an object and then fatally stabbed. He fell face first into the water where he died. Four of Cook's men were also killed during the short battle.

It is believed that a contributing factor to the aggression was that the islanders were celebrating the ancient festival known as 'Makahiki' or the 'Season of Lono' when the ships returned. Their return interrupted this significant ancient cultural event and may have caused angst against the visitors.

**Remembering Cook**

In 1982 a commemorative American Half Dollar coin bearing the bust of Captain James Cook was minted as part of Hawaii's 150th celebration of Cook's discovery of the islands.

Captain Cook was a successful Explorer, Navigator, Astronomer and Cartographer. His success as a ship's Captain was in part due to his fairness as well as being amongst the first captains to see a significant reduction in the number of deaths from the horrible decease scurvy aboard his ships. Attention to the health of his crew was maintained by good hygiene, warmth and nutrition. The British Navy was able to improve the conditions and reduce the death rate on their ships by applying the principals of Cook.

The island where Cook was killed was gifted to the English people by the American Government. A township close to the beach where he perished bears the name 'Captain Cook'. A 25 square feet portion of beach is chained off around a large memorial constructed in 1874 as a memorial to Captain James Cook.
INTRODUCTION

On Sunday 29 April 2018 the Turnbull Liberal Government announced a $50 million redevelopment to the Kamay Botany Bay National Park, the landing place of Cook, at Kurnell Peninsula in Botany Bay. The redevelopment will include a $3 million aquatic monument of Captain James Cook, a new Cook museum, upgraded Visitor Information Centre as well as the installation of ferry wharves. All the redevelopments will commemorate Indigenous Australians and offer focus on the early connection between the two cultures.

The opening is to be during the 250th Anniversary of the first contact between Australia's Indigenous Australians and the crew of the *HMS Endeavour* that brought Cook to our shores during his First Voyage of Discovery.
FACTS

Some Interesting Facts
Facts

• Captain James Cook had six children (James, Nathaniel, Elizabeth, Joseph, George and Hugh). Interestingly, James has no direct descendants, as his children either had no children of their own or pre-deceased him.

• While Cook was the first European to navigate and chart the eastern coastline of Australia, he was by no means the discoverer of Australia. A number of mariners are recognised as making contact with areas of the Australian continent. It is estimated that Cook was around the 54th ship to make landfall on Australian soil.

• Cook was a lieutenant when he navigated the eastern coast of Australia on his first journey of Discovery. He was promoted from Lieutenant to Captain after his return to England.

• It was Cook who proposed Botany Bay as a good place for a settlement.

• James named a number of places now well known in Australia. These include Point Hicks, Cape Howe, Botany Bay, Point Danger, Keppel Group, Cumberland Island, Whitsunday Islands, Repulse Bay, Magnetic Island, Trinity Bay, Endeavour Reef and Endeavour River.

• The Apollo 15 Command Service Module and the Space Shuttle Endeavour were both named after Captain Cook's ship the Endeavour that he sailed during his first Voyage of Discovery.

• The Space Shuttle Discovery was also named after one of Captain Cook's ships - the Discovery. This was the companion ship sailed by Captain Charles Clerke during Cook's third and final Voyage of Discovery.

• English exploratory ships involved with the discovery and exploration of early Australia had names that included Endeavour, Resolution, Discovery and Adventure.

• On Sunday 29 April 2018 the Turnbull Liberal Government announced a $50 million redevelopment to the Kamay Botany Bay National Park, the landing place of Cook, at Kurnell Peninsula in Botany Bay.
TIMELINE

Basic Timeline of Events
TIMELINE

7 November 1728  James Cook was born in England, second of eight children to James Cook and Grace Pace.

1736  He commences a small school in the village of Great Ayton, 12 km east of Middlesbrough.

1741  He begins working for his father who was by this time a farm manager in Great Ayton.

1745  In 1745 at age 16, James moved to the seaside fishing village of Staithes to work as an apprentice to a grocer.

1747  Cook moved to Whitby and was introduced to ship-owners and coal traders John and Henry Walker. He was subsequently taken on as an apprentice in the Merchant Navy.

1750  Cook begins working in ship trading on the Baltic Sea.

1752  After Cook passed his apprentice exams, he quickly progressed up the ranks of the Merchant Navy and became the Captain aboard the collier brig Friendship (two masted ship carrying coal).

1755  Cook volunteered for the Royal Navy at Wapping.

21 December 1762  Cook married Elizabeth Bates at St Margaret's Church in Barking Essex.

1760s  Cook honed his cartography and surveying skills during the Seven Years' War. His maps were used for over 100 years afterwards.

1766  Cook was engaged by the Royal Society to observe and record the transit of Venus in the Pacific Ocean and promoted to Lieutenant and Commander of the expedition. He sailed on 26 August 1768. He carried a sealed command that was to be opened once his first mission was complete. The second mission was to discover Australia.
### Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 April 1770</td>
<td>Cook made first contact with the coast of Australia. Lieutenant Zachary Hickes was on morning watch aboard the <em>Endeavour</em> and first sighted land at an area now known as Point Hicks, Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1772</td>
<td>Cook commenced his second Voyage of Discovery, returning to Britain in 1775.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 October 1774</td>
<td>Cook discovered, named and made landfall on Norfolk Isle, now known as Norfolk Island.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1776</td>
<td>Cook commenced his third and final Voyage of Discovery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1778</td>
<td>The ship <em>Endeavour</em> and 12 other ships were scuttled of Rhode Island in an effort by the British to create a blockade and prevent French Ships from making landfall on the Americas during the time of the French rebellion (known as the <em>American Revolutionary War</em> or <em>American War of Independence</em>). At the time of her scuttling, she was named <em>Lord Sandwich</em> 2 and previous to the scuttling she had been used as a British transport ship and prison hulk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 February 1779</td>
<td>Captain Cook was killed towards the end of this voyage in Hawaii by natives there, during a dispute. He was hit over the head and fatally stabbed as he fell face first into the water during a retreat to the beach and boats after a failed attempt to kidnap the King of Hawaii. They had planned to use him as a bargaining tool in order to retrieve a small boat stolen by the natives.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1934          | The 1750’s small cottage located at Great Ayton, Yorkshire, England and formerly owned by James Cook's parents was disassembled and moved to Melbourne Victoria, Australia where it was re-assembled in the Fitzroy Gardens. The structure was restored in time for Melbourne's 1934 Centenary celebrations. It was dismantled in 1933 and placed into 253 cases and 40 barrels. The cottage had been purchased in 1933 by Victorian Sir Wilfred Russell Grimwade for £800, after being put up for sale. A video
HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

of him talking about his purchase can be viewed here.

1969  A scientific expedition by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia discovered the lost canons from the ship *Endeavour*. They were thrown overboard after her hull was breached by coral while sailing through the Great Barrier Reef on Australia's eastern coastline. They were discarded in an effort to reduce the weight of the ship and keep her afloat until they could reach land and beach the ship and make repairs.

1982  In 1982 a commemorative American Half Dollar coin bearing the bust of Captain James Cook and was minted as part of Hawaii's 150th celebration of Cook's discovery of the islands.

19 July 2013  Artworkz began this factsheet.

24 January 2014  Captain Cook's Cottage was defaced with graffiti.

29 April 2018  On Sunday 29 April 2018 the Turnbull Liberal Government announced a $50 million redevelopment to the Kamay Botany Bay National Park, the landing place of Cook, at Kurnell Peninsula in Botany Bay. The opening is to be during the 250th Anniversary of the first contact between Australia's Indigenous Australians and the crew of the *HMS Endeavour* that brought Cook to our shores during his First Voyage of Discovery.

22 September 2018  It was publically announced by the Australian National Maritime Museum that the resting place of the *Endeavour* had likely been discovered off Rhode Island where it had been scuttled. By this time it had been renamed the *Lord Sandwich 2*. 
GALLERY

Basic Gallery
Point Hicks Memorial at the Point Hicks Lighthouse and photographed 9 January 2014.
The Glasshouse Mountains is a group of eleven hills rising abruptly from the coastal plain on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. They were named by Captain James Cook in 1770 because they reminded him of the glass furnaces in his home County of Yorkshire.
The barque *Earl of Pembroke*, which was later renamed *Endeavour* and used by Cook

Courtesy National Library Australia 2017
Joseph Banks, appointed botanist aboard Endeavour for the trip to Australia (1768-1771) at age 25

Courtesy National Library Australia 2017
The ship *Endeavour* commanded by James Cook and beached at the mouth of the Endeavour River in Queensland for repairs. The ship's hull was punctured on a coral reef on 11 June 1770 and Cook managed to get the ship to the beach through amazing seamanship. The detailed drawing was by botanical artist Sydney Parkinson (1745-1771), who travelled with Banks and Cook on this voyage. Parkinson died at sea on 26 January 1771.

Courtesy National Library Australia 2017
Cook's Hill, QLD

(Top) View from Cook's Hill at Cooktown in 2018
(Bottom) Endeavour River from Cook's Hill

See the following page for interpretive signage

Photographs © Shez Tedford 2018
COOK'S LOOKOUT

In 1770 James Cook and Joseph Banks stood on this spot and surveyed the dreadful predicament that they and their companions faced as castaways on these shores.

June 30th 1770

Cook – “In the a.m. I went myself upon the hill which is over the south point to take a view of the sea, at this time it was low water and I saw what gave me no small uneasiness which were a number of sand bank or shoals laying along the coast; the innermost lay about 3 or 4 miles from the shore and the outermost extended off to sea as far as I could see with my glass, some just appeared above water. The only hopes I have of getting clear of them is to the northward where there seems to be a passage for as the wind blows constantly from the south east we shall find it difficult if not impractical to return to the southward.”

OUR LIGHTHOUSE

“We understand that our Lighthouse is on board the “New Guinea”, which left Batavia on 27th of July for Queensland ports. We have another proof of the government’s desire to deal fairly with us. Before long the bright rays of our light will be glowing over the waste waters, carrying comfort and an assurance of safety to mariners who have to thread the intricate navigation of our coast – no better monument could be erected to the memory of Capt. James Cook. It is the one he himself would have chosen, as it will reach the gallant navigator and explorer every time it’s white tower of bright light is seen.” Cooktown Courier, 1885

IN THE LIMELIGHT

After shining its beam across the reefs for a hundred years, the threat of losing the lighthouse galvanised the Cooktown community in 1987. Faced with the Government’s plan to decommission the facility, a group of residents believing the Lighthouse to be of great local, national and international significance campaigned for nearly a year to save the Lighthouse for the community and visitors into the future. Receiving substantial media attention, support came from all over Australia. The power of a united voice prevailed and in 1988 the Lighthouse and the area around it, was “sold” to the Cooktown people for $100.

COOKTOWN'S LAST LIGHTHOUSE FAMILY

Harry Geater was the last employed lightkeeper at Grassy Hill lighthouse, serving from 1922-1927. In 1927, the Office of Lightkeeper was abolished when the lighthouse was fully automated with the original apparatus replaced by an open flame acetylene gas burner. Harry, his wife, Florence, and four daughters enjoyed their happy mainland life. The older girls had attended school with their long walk each day carefully watched over by Harry and his lighthouse telescope and a megaphone to hurry them along! Florence enjoyed the social life and services that a town provided. With their newly born daughter, the Geater family left their only town posting and moved to Goods Island (Pallagi) in the Torres Strait.

Images: Cooktown Historical Society
AUSTRALIAN MEMORIALS

Some of the Memorials Across Australia


Point Hicks Memorial Plaque in 2010. Point Hicks was named by Captain Cook after his Lieutenant Zachary Hicks reportedly first saw the Continent of Australia at this point on 20 April 1770. There is some debate about if this was the case as the coordinates recorded by Cook has him over 20 km out to sea.
The memorial to the first landing place of Cook's party on the southern shore of Botany Bay at Kurnell Peninsula.

Cook was attracted to the safety of the landing site and it was here that he made first recorded contact with Aboriginal peoples in Eastern Australia. *Endeavour* botanists Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander (the first recorded university educated scientist to set foot on Australia soil) explored the coastline around the landing site.

The Kurnell Peninsula was included in the National Heritage List on 20 September 2004 and $50 million was allocated by the Turnbull Government in April 2018 to redevelop the site.
Norfolk Island Memorial plaque and Cairn in 2014. Captain James Cook discovered the island, named it Norfolk Isle and made landfall on 10 October 1774.

Signage erected at the site tells us Cook named Norfolk Island in honour of Mary, the Duchess of Norfolk, the wife of Edward Howard - the 9th Duke of Norfolk. The Duchess had passed away the year before, on 27 May 1773.

The sign also informs the reader that Cook was the discoverer of the Hawaiian Islands, New Caledonia and Norfolk Isle. According to his ship’s log, Cook first signed Norfolk Island on 10 October 1774, 27 months into his second round-the-world Voyage of Discovery - his first aboard the HMS Resolution.

© Kathie Maynes 2017
St Kilda, Melbourne

Captain Cook statue looking out along St Kilda pier, St Kilda, Melbourne in 2017
HYDE PARK, SYDNEY

Bronze Captain Cook statue at Hyde Park, Sydney in 2018. It was produced by English sculptor Thomas Woolner (1825–1892) and unveiled on 26 September 1874.

The inscription (top left) reads:
CAPTAIN COOK
DISCOVERED THIS TERRITORY 1770
KILLED AT OWHYHEE 1779

This statue was erected by public subscription assisted by a grant from the New South Wales Government.

Note: It is not known why a button was left undone up on the inset photo.
Cape Hawke, NSW

Memorial near the Cape Hawke Lookout

© George Evans 2017
**HISTORIC FACTSHEET**

**Cooktown, QLD**

---

**THE SITE**

On the 11th June 1770, just before midnight on a calm moonlit night, the ship Endeavour commanded by James Cook struck the Great Barrier Reef.

11th June 1770

Cook: “At 11 O’clock in the a.m. being high water as we thought we tried to heave her off without success, she not being list to a foot or more notwithstanding by this time we had thrown overboard 40 or 50 ton weight, as this was found not sufficient we continued to lighten her by every method we could think of.”

12th June

Banks: “...the captain and windlass were manned and they began to heave: fear of death now stared us in the face.”

Cook: “About twenty past ten O’clock in the p.m. the ship floated and we have her off into deep water...”

13th June

Cook: “We now thought of nothing but ranging along shore in search of a harbour where we could repair the damages we had sustained.”

---

**SHIPWRECK**

---

**CAPTAIN JAMES COOK**

1728 - 1779

Commander, H.M.B. "Endeavour" which was beached and repaired near this site 17 June - 4 August, 1770.

"He left nothing unattempted.”

This statue was commissioned by BP Australia as a bicentennial gift to the people of Cooktown and unveiled by Mr. A.W. Gorrie, Chairman of the Board, Saturday 25 June 1988.

Sculptor: Stanley Hammond M.B.E.

---

**Cook statue at Cooktown in 2018**

Photographs © Shez Tedford 2018
Emu Park, QLD

The Australian Singing Ship at Emu Park on the coast east of Rockhampton in September 2020.

The metal cones are hollow and when the wind gets up, they produce a significant amount of sound that can be heard hundreds of meters away.

© Shez Tedford 2020
Thomas Woolner is recognised as the earliest sculptor in Victoria.

Thomas was a good friend of artist Bernhard Smith, even travelling to Australia and then the Victorian goldfields with him. Bernhard, also an artist, served as a Police Magistrate at Alexandra, Central Victoria, where he later died on 7 October 1885.

Thomas was one of the seven founding members of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood (PRB) and the only sculptor in the group at the time of its formation. Bernhard joined the group shortly after they were formed and was a more highly educated sculptor and artist than Thomas.

This article notes Woolner as the sculptor who created the 'colossal' statue of Captain Cook located in Hyde Park, Sydney. The statue was commissioned on 26 September 1874 and unveiled on 25 February 1879.
OTHER

Other Things of Note
Claiming Australia for King George III
22 August 1770 - Possession Island

"Having satisfied myself of the great Probabilility of a Passage, thro’ which I intend going with the Ship and therefor may land no more upon this Eastern coast of New Holland and on the Western side I can make no new discovery the honour of which belongs to the Dutch Navigators and as such they may lay claim to it as their property but the Eastern Coast from the Latitude of 38° South down to this place I am confident was never seen or viseted by any European before us and therefore by the same Rule belongs to great Brittan Notwithstand I had in the Name of his Majesty taken posession of several places upon this coast I now once more hoisted English Coulers and in the Name of His Majesty King George the Third took posession of the whole Eastern Coast from the above Latitude down to this place by the Name of New South Wales together with all the Bays, Harbours Rivers and Islands situate upon the same said coast after which we fired three Volleys of small Arms which were Answerd by the like number from the Ship."
Commission to Cook - Under King George III
30 July 1768

"Whereas there is reason to imagine that a Continent or Land of great extent may be found to the Southward of the Tract lately made by Capt'n Wallis in His Majesty’s Ship the Dolphin (of which you will herewith receive a Copy) or of the Tract of any former Navigators in Pursuit of the like kind, You are therefore in Pursuance of His Majesty’s Pleasure hereby requir’d and directed to put to Sea with the Bark you Command so soon as the Observation of the Transit of the Planet Venus shall be finished and observe the following Instructions. You are to proceed to the Southward in order to make discovery of the Continent abovementioned until’ you arrive in the Latitude of 40°, unless you sooner fall in with it. But not having discover’d it or any Evident sign of it in that Run you are to proceed in search of it to the Westward between the Latitude beforementioned and the Latitude of 35° until’ you discover it, or fall in with the Eastern side of the Land discover’d by Tasman and now called New Zeland. If you discover the Continent abovementioned either in your Run to the Southward or to the Westward as above directed, You are to employ yourself diligently in exploring as great an Extent of the Coast as you can, carefully observing the true situation thereof both in Latitude and Longitude, the Variation of the Needle; bearings of Head Lands Height direction and Course of the Tides and Currents, Depths and Soundings of the Sea, Shoals, Rocks and also surveying and making Charts, and taking Views of Such Bays, Harbours and Parts of the Coasts as may be useful to Navigation. You are also carefully to observe the Nature of the Soil, and the Products thereof; the Beasts and Fowls that inhabit or frequent it, the Fishes that are to be found in the Rivers or upon the Coast and in what Plenty, and in Case you find any Mines, Minerals, or valuable Stones you are to bring home Specimens of each, as also such Specimens of the Seeds of the Trees, Fruits and Grains as you may be able to collect, and Transmit them to our Secretary that We may cause proper Examination and Experiments to be made of them. You are likewise to observe the Genius, Temper, Disposition and Number of the Natives, if there be any, and endeavour by all proper means to cultivate a Friendship and Alliance with them, making them presents of such Trifles as they may Value, inviting them to Traffick, and Shewing them every kind of Civility and Regard; taking Care however not to suffer yourself to be surprized by them, but to be always upon your guard against any Accidents. You are also with the Consent of the Natives to take Possession of Convenient Situations in the Country in the Name of the King of Great Britain: Or: if you find the Country uninhabited take Possession for his Majesty by setting up Proper Marks and Inscriptions, as first discoverers and possessors."
Artworkz

Serving the community