

EXPLORER



GEORGE BASS



**HERITAGE
EXPLORER
SERIES**

EXPLORER GEORGE BASS

CONTRIBUTORS

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National Archives of Australia
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CONTENTS

EARLY YEARS AND NAVAL CAREER

EXPLORATION YEARS

NATURALIST

MARRIAGE

TRADER

GEORGE BASES' FATE

PLACES NAMED AFTER BASS

TIMELINE

GALLERY

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

HISTORY

Name: George Bass
Born: 30 January 1771 Lincolnshire, England
Married: Elizabeth Waterhouse 1800
Died: After 5 February 1803 - fate unknown
Occupation: British Naval Surgeon, Botanist, Explorer of Australia and Entrepreneur

George Bass discovered Western Port Bay and the strait of water between Van Diemen's Land and the mainland of Terra Australis (Bass Strait)..



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Early Years

In 1771 George Bass was born at Aswarby, a hamlet near Sleaford, Lincolnshire. He was the son of George Bass, a successful tenant farmer and Sarah (nee Newman) who was a reported beauty. At six years his father died. He moved with his mother to nearby Boston, Lincolnshire and presumably had his schooling at Boston Grammar School until he was 16 at which time he was apprenticed to Patrick Francis who was a Surgeon and Apothecary (chemist) in Boston whose work would have been similar to a General Practitioner. In 1789 Bass was accepted as a member of the Company of Surgeons in London.

Naval Career

In June 1789 Bass sat and passed his naval medical examinations which allowed him to join the Navy immediately as *Mr Bass* in the capacity as First Assistant to a Surgeon on a first-rate ship. From June to November 1789 he served as Surgeon's Mate on board *HMS Flirt*, a 14 gun sloop and in 1790 was assigned to *HMS Gorgon*. On 1 July 1790 he successfully sat further medical examinations which now qualified him as a Second-Rate Naval Surgeon and allowed him to serve on a second-rate ship.

From October 1790 – September 1793 he served as Surgeon on *HMS Shark* 304 tons, where he attended 125 men on board with the aid of an assistant and he received an

HISTORY

annual salary of 90 pound. He was then transferred to *HMS Druid* which was a much larger ship where he had two assistants. He requested a transfer however to *HMS Reliance* when he heard it was going to New South Wales, which was granted and also requested and got a personal servant.

His duties as Ship's Surgeon on *HMS Reliance* were to attend to the health and wellbeing of the passengers and crew on board with the aid of Surgeon's Mate William Bayley and Bass' personal servant, 13 year old William Martin who also assisted with surgery. The type of illnesses they would have treated on board would have ranged from numerous infectious diseases, malaria, consumption, dysentery, scurvy, venereal disease, to broken bones and other injuries including the results of floggings which was one of the Surgeon's duties to attend.

Bass had proven to be a very popular crew member on the long voyage as apart from his attributes as Ship Surgeon, he was tall, athletic, good looking, sociable with a sense of humour, intelligent and possessed a great sense of adventure. He had the foresight of taking the opportunity on this voyage of learning the aboriginal language from Bennelong (an aboriginal passenger).

Bass was 24 when he arrived in Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour) on 7 September 1795 aboard *HMS Reliance*. The voyage took longer than expected due to rough seas which had kept Bass extremely busy due to the injuries incurred on board. Also on the voyage were Lieutenant Henry Waterhouse (his future brother-in-law), Matthew Flinders (Acting Second Lieutenant and Explorer who became his good friend), John Hunter (future Governor of NSW) and Bennelong who was returning home to Port Jackson.

Exploration Years

Bass' naval duties continued after his arrival in Port Jackson and he continued to study the latest medical books and associated with other highly regarded Surgeons there. Despite Bass' duties as Surgeon which were highly respected he seems to have been afforded the time and scope to pursue exploration while stationed at Port Jackson.

Being an Explorer was not for the faint hearted in a new country. Dangerous animals, annoying insects, harsh weather conditions, unchartered waters and just keeping themselves and equipment dry which included gun powder and ink for mapping were

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

HISTORY

huge challenges. All of Bass' exploration trips were hazardous, including dealing with hostile aborigines they encountered, inadequate food and water, dealing with their faulty vessels, encountering inclement weather conditions and all of the navigational problems which included just finding their way back to Port Jackson.

The *Tom Thumb*, was a very small boat which came out on the *Reliance*. It had an 8 foot (2.4 m) keel, 5 foot (1.5 m) beam and was about 10 foot (3 m) in length. In October 1795 Bass and Flinders, accompanied by William Martin sailed the *Tom Thumb* out of Port Jackson to Botany Bay and explored the Georges River further upstream than had been previously explored or settled by the colonists. Their reports on their return led to the settlement of Bankstown. The following month Bass was busy exploring for suitable cattle pastures.

Bass and Flinders journeyed in *HMS Reliance* to Norfolk Island which also had a penal settlement to take provisions and deliver their new Commandant. In March 1796 the same party who embarked on the first *Tom Thumb* voyage embarked on a second voyage in a similar vessel though slightly larger and called *Tom Thumb II*. During this trip they travelled down and charted the East Coast of Australia to Lake Illawarra, which they called Tom Thumb Lagoon and discovered and explored Port Hacking. Despite the success of the voyage it was not without its challenges. Bass suffered from severe sunburn due to his swimming efforts in assisting the vessel. They encountered thirst, drenching of their provisions and dealings with aborigines. Dangerous seas were another ordeal which their vessel was ill equipped for and it was only through their ingenuity and outstanding seamanship in handling their vessel that they survived.



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Later in 1796 Bass discovered good land near Prospect Hill, found lost cattle brought out with the First Fleet and failed in an attempt to cross the Blue Mountains. Prospect Hill is 30 km west of Sydney, was 131 metres above sea level before 180 years of quarrying the



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

HISTORY

volcanic stone for road stone and buildings and is now 117 metres above sea level at its highest point.

In September 1796 Bass and Flinders voyaged to Cape Town via Cape Horn in *HMS Reliance* accompanied by *HMS Supply*. They arrived back from The Cape of Good Hope in June 1797 (five weeks after *HMS Supply* due to atrocious weather conditions) having effectively circumnavigated the southern part of the globe. Their mission was successful in bringing back cattle and supplies for the colony.

Bass set out with two survivors in August 1797 of the merchant shipwreck *Sydney Cove* at Preservation Island, looking for coal which they had reported seeing on their epic journey to Port Jackson. Bass found and named Coalcliff which is near present day Woolongong.

George Bass and six crewmen sailed an open whaleboat (naval name given for the longboat on a ship) around Cape Howe (most south-eastern point of Australia) as far as Western Port Bay which they reached on 4 January 1798. If they had continued further in a westerly direction past what is today Flinders they could have ventured into Port Phillip Bay and discovered the future site of Melbourne. Observations of a rapid tide and the long south-eastern swell at Wilsons Promontory convinced Bass in his belief that the mainland was actually separated from Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). The journey took 11 weeks and despite the trip being in the summer months it was delayed by strong winds.

Later in 1798 in the sloop (single masted sailing vessel) *Norfolk*, Bass and Flinders circumnavigated Van Diemen's Land and confirmed this fact. During this voyage they also explored the Derwent River and upon their recommendation Hobart was founded there in 1803. The trip took 14 weeks and the whole area was charted by Flinders, and Bass made new botanical discoveries. It was a highly successful expedition as it also meant the voyage to England could be reduced by one week. On their return to Sydney and upon Flinders' recommendation to Governor John Hunter, the body of water between Van Diemen's Land and the mainland was officially named Bass Strait.

'This was no more than a just tribute to my worthy friend and companion,' Flinders wrote, 'for the extreme dangers and fatigues he had undergone, in first entering it in a whaleboat, and to the correct judgement he had formed, from various indications, of the existence of

HISTORY

a wide opening between Van Diemen's Land and New South Wales.' (Victoria at this stage was still NSW).

In May 1799 Bass joined the vessel *Nautilus* and returned to the islands of Bass Strait for sealing purposes and further discovering and mapping of these islands.

Naturalist

Bass was an enthusiastic Naturalist and Botanist and he forwarded some of his botanical discoveries to Sir Joseph Banks in London. 'In this voyage of fourteen weeks I collected those few plants upon Van Diemen's Land which had not been familiar to me in New South Wales,' he wrote to Banks, 'and have done myself the honour of submitting them to your inspection.' He was made an Honorary Member of the Society for Promoting Natural History, which later became the Linnean Society. Some of his observations were published in the second volume of David Collins 'An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales'. He was one of the first to describe the Australian marsupial, the wombat.

Marriage

In July 1800 Bass arrived back in London on the *Woodford* and was given 12 months leave by the Medical Board. It freed him up to work on his commercial ventures but also allowed time for a courtship. On 8 October 1800 he married Elizabeth (Betsy) Waterhouse at St. James Church, Westminster. She was the sister of Henry Waterhouse, his former shipmate on *HMS Reliance*. In January 1801 Bass again set sail for Port Jackson, leaving Elizabeth behind, and though the couple wrote to each other, they were never to see each other again.

Trader

Bass and a syndicate of friends had invested around £10,000 in the copper-sheathed brig (a two-masted vessel square-rigged on both masts) the *Venus*, and a cargo of general goods to transport and sell in Port Jackson. Bass was the owner-manager and set sail in early 1801. (Among his influential friends and key business associates in the Antipodes was the Principal Surgeon of the British colony on Norfolk Island, Thomas Jamison, who was subsequently appointed Surgeon-General of New South Wales).

HISTORY

On passing through Bass Strait on his 1801 voyage to Port Jackson, Bass modestly recorded it simply as Bass Strait, like any other geographical feature with no reference to himself discovering it whatsoever.

On arrival in Sydney Bass found the colony awash with goods and he was unable to sell his cargo. Governor King was operating on a strict programme of economy and would not take the goods into the Government Store, even at a 50 percent discount. King however contracted with Bass to ship salt pork from Tahiti. Food was scarce in Sydney at that time and prices were being driven up, yet pigs were plentiful in the Society Islands and King could contract with Bass at sixpence a pound where he'd been paying a shilling (12 pence) previously.

The arrangement suited King's thrift, and was profitable for Bass. He and his partner Charles Bishop, sailed from Sydney in the *Venus* for Dusky Sound in New Zealand where they spent 14 days stripping iron from the wreck of Captain Brampton's old ship the *Endeavour*. This was made into axes which were used to trade for the pork in Tahiti before returning with the latter to Sydney by November 1802.

In January 1803 Bass applied to King for a fishing monopoly extending from a line bisecting the lower South Island of New Zealand from Dusky Sound to Otago Harbour—now the site of the city of Dunedin—and including all the lands and seas to the south, notably the Antipodes Islands, probably on the basis of information from his brother-in-law Henry Waterhouse, the discoverer of the Antipodes Archipelago. Bass expected much from it, but before he heard it had been declined he sailed south from Sydney never to return. Bass and Flinders were both operating out of Sydney during these times, but their stays there didn't coincide.

George Bass' Fate

What became of Bass is unknown. He set sail on his last voyage in the *Venus* on 5 February 1803 and was not seen again. His plan was to go to Tahiti again, and perhaps onto the Spanish Colonies on the coast of Chile to buy provisions and bring them back to Sydney. Bass still had much of the general cargo he'd brought to Sydney in 1801 and he may well have been tempted to take some to Chile for trading. Two of his last letters have hints at a venture which he could not name. He had departed with a

HISTORY

diplomatic letter from Governor King attesting his bona-fides (official documents proving authenticity) and that his sole purpose if he were on the West Coast of South America would be in procuring provisions.

As many months passed with no word of his arrival Governor King and Bass' friends in Sydney were forced to accept that he had met with some misfortune. In England in January 1806 Bass was listed by the Admiralty as lost at sea and later that year Elizabeth was granted an annuity from the widows' fund, back dated to when Bass' half-pay had ended in June 1803. (Bass had made the usual contributions to the fund from his salary.)

Tributes to George Bass

It took many years before the efforts of George Bass were fully appreciated and in 1912 a stone monument was constructed in appreciation of his efforts which reads:

Bass and Flinders

Monument commemorates explorers Bass, Flinders and the boy Martin. Matthew Flinders and George Bass explored and mapped the coastline and Port Hacking estuary in 1796 and the southernmost point of Cronulla is named Bass and Flinders Point in their honour.

Matthew Flinders undertook his first voyage of discovery with George Bass, with whom he had struck up a friendship on the way to Australia on the Reliance in 1795. At this time Bass was 24 and Flinders 21. They sailed out of Sydney Heads in the Tom Thumb, a boat of keel 8 feet (2.5m) only one month after their arrival in Sydney. Along with Bass' general assistant (or servant), the boy William Martin, they reached Botany Bay and managed to travel 20 miles (32 kms) further upstream along the Georges River than any previous explorer. Martin also travelled with Bass and Flinders on the second Tom Thumb expedition to Lake Illawarra, and seems to have been a competent sailor. He is the youngest explorer of Australia's early colonial history.

In 1963 he was honoured on a postage stamp issued by Australia Post, and again in 1998 with Matthew Flinders. A re-enactment of the whaleboat voyage was conducted on the 200th anniversary of Bass' voyage, and arrived at Western Port Bay 5 January 1998,



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

HISTORY

using a 9 metre (30 ft) similar vessel called *Elizabeth* skippered by Bern Cuthbertson. A plaque commemorating this was added to the Bass and Flinders' memorial at Flinders. An Australian 50 cent coin was minted to commemorate the anniversary.

Perhaps it is appropriate that the final tribute to George Bass should come from one of the greatest mariners, Matthew Flinders who could fully appreciate the enormity of his discovery of Western Port Bay, access to which was made possible by his discovery of Bass Strait. Flinders summed up this particular achievement of Bass very adequately.

'A voyage expressly taken for discovery in an open boat, and in which six hundred miles of coast, mostly in a boisterous climate, was explored, has not perhaps its equal in the annals of maritime history.'

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

NAMED AFTER GEORGE BASS

Bass Strait, Australia

Bass, Victoria (town)

Bass River, Victoria

Bass Highway (Victoria)

Bass Highway (Tasmania)

Bass Coast, Victoria

George Bass Coastal Walk, Victoria

George Bass Memorial Park, Victoria

Bass Point, NSW

Bass Hill, New South Wales

Division of Bass, Tasmania (Federal)

Division of Bass, Tasmania (State)

Bass and Flinders Point (southern most point of Cronulla)

George Bass Court, Victoria

TIMELINE

BASIC TIMELINE OF EVENTS

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

1771	Birth of George Bass to George and Sarah Bass (nee Newman).
1777	Death of George Bass Senior.
2 April 1789	Accepted as a Member of the Company of Surgeons—MCS London.
June 1789	After passing naval medical examinations joins the Navy and given the title <i>Mr Bass</i> , First Assistant to a Surgeon on a first rate ship.
1790	Assigned to <i>HMS Gorgon</i> .
1 July 1790	Success with further medical examination - now qualified as a Second-Rate Naval Surgeon allowing him to serve on a second-rate ship.
8 October 1790	Served as Surgeon on <i>HMS Shark</i> 304 ton ship—receiving an annual salary of 90 pound.
30 September 1793	Transferred to <i>HMS Druid</i> .
1793	(Overseas therefore no direct involvement with the war).
April 1794	Discharged to <i>HMS Reliance</i> , 304 ton ship—59 man crew.
March 1795	On board <i>HMS Reliance</i> and accompanied by <i>HMS Supply</i> travelled together and arrived at Teneriffe, Canary Islands.
7 September 1795	<i>HMS Reliance</i> and <i>HMS Supply</i> arrived at Port Jackson.
26 October 1795	Bass and Matthew Flinders explored the Upper Georges River and due to their findings were instrumental for the settling of Bankstown.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

November 1795	Bass explored for cattle pastures.
February 1796	Bass and Flinders journeyed to Norfolk Island in <i>HMS Reliance</i> .
25 March 1796	Bass and Flinders explored and charted more of the East Coast to Lake Illawarra in <i>Tom Thumb II</i> .
1796	Bass discovered land at Prospect Hill. Found cattle left by the First Fleet and failed in crossing The Blue Mountains.
September 1796	Bass and Flinders voyaged to Cape Town via Cape Horn with orders to procure more cattle and supplies for the colony.
20 June 1797	<i>HMS Reliance</i> arrived back at Port Jackson five weeks later than <i>HMS Supply</i> due to atrocious weather conditions.
August 1797	Bass explored in a whaleboat and reported coal deposits on the south coast which he found and named Coalcliff.
5 December 1797	Bass with William Martin and six crewmen sailed between Van Diemen's Land and the mainland to Western Port Bay.
25 February 1798	Returned to Port Jackson.
7 October 1798	Bass and Flinders set out in <i>HMS Norfolk</i> to prove Van Diemen's Land an island.
12 January 1799	Returned to Port Jackson.
May 1799	Bass joined <i>Nautilus</i> to return to islands of Bass Strait for sealing purposes and discovering and charting islands.
July 1800	Bass arrived back in London on the <i>Woodford</i> and was given 12 months leave by the Medical Board freeing him up to work on his commercial ventures.



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

8 October 1800	Married Elizabeth Waterhouse.
January 1801	Sailed in <i>Venus</i> to Australia going via New Zealand.
September 1801	Arrived in Port Jackson.
5 February 1803	Sailed in the <i>Venus</i> to Tahiti never to be seen again.
1806	The Admiralty listed George Bass as lost at sea.
late 1806	His wife Elizabeth Bass commenced receiving his pension.
1912	Memorial stone erected at Flinders in Victoria in recognition of Bass' discovery of Western Port Bay.
1963	Postage stamp of Bass printed by Australia Post.
1998	Postage stamp printed of Flinders by Australia Post.
5 January 1998	200th year re enactment of Bass' voyage to Western Port Bay. A commemorative plaque placed at the original stone monument.
21 July 2013	Commenced work on this factsheet.

GALLERY

SMALL GALLERY OF IMAGES

NEW SOUTH WALES

The track is that of Colonial Schooner Francis in 1798
Sloop Norfolk in 1798
The single is the whaleboat's track by G. Bass Surgeon of H.M.S. Reliance
The shore from Port Jackson to Western Port was coasted by M. Bass in a whaleboat, the water shaded parts are copied from his eye sketch. The Ram Head being placed according to Capt Cook's Longitude & taken as a fixed point. The long beach is extended beyond its limits in a former chart to bring Wilson's Promontory into the relative position with Furneaux's Islands which they seem to require. A dead reckoning must necessarily be incorrect in the way of such a ride as runs here, & it is by its authority only that they are thus placed. The islands are carried to the Eastward of their situation by Capt Furneaux, they are placed according to the Lunars in Port Dalrymple & the run of it from Swan Island. The beginning & end of a Lunar Eclipse observed at the east end of Preservation Island gave 148° 37' 30".



The Whaleboat's track travelled by George Bass (Surgeon of HMS Reliance) in a whale boat is shown on this c1798 map produced by Matthew Flinders.

BASS'S

STRAIT

VAN DIEMENS LAND

Circumnavigated in the Colonial Sloop Norfolk by M. Flinders, 2nd Lieut. of H.M. Ship Reliance. By order of His Excellency Governor Hunter, 1798-9-10.

Port Dalrymple is laid down by 7 sets of Lunars on each side of the Moon by two sextants. The rest of the North & West sides are by nothing better than a dead reckoning corrected by bearings along the coast. But on making the S.W. Cape we found an error of only 5' out from its situation in Capt Cook's last voyage, the whole remains as we made it. Adventure Bay is copied from Capt Cook's sketch Out. Edit. Dublin. Swilly Rocks or Pedro Blanco is placed 33' of Long east of S.W. Cape according to the table there given which agrees with an indistinct bearing we had of it. The unshaded east coast was laid down by Capt Furneaux & is copied from a chart of New South Wales on a scale of about 1 inch to a degree of Longitude. The water shaded part about Oyster Bay is copied from a plan of about 17 inches to a degree by J. H. Cox Esq. published by M. Dalrymple in 1791. The parts touched with yellow are copied from a manuscript chart by M. J. Hayes who visited the S.E. end of Van Diemens Land in a ship called the Duke, from Bengal, their accuracy I cannot answer for. Henshaws Bay & Cape Hanson in his chart are reallied to Frederick Henry Bay & Cape Pillar. A few other alterations are made in the names where examined in the Sloop, his ports & bays are called coves, & his rivers, creeks.

High water Element 8' rises 4 or 5 feet. The tides are weak and do not seem always to coincide with the rise and fall but sometimes to run contrary. The had reason to suspect a counter current at the bottom. Van 8th Dec. 1798 9. 18.1 by theodolite.

CHART

OF

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND

AND PART OF

THE SOUTHERN COAST OF AUSTRALIA

The Original by
Lieutenant Flinders.

Bass 1797-8

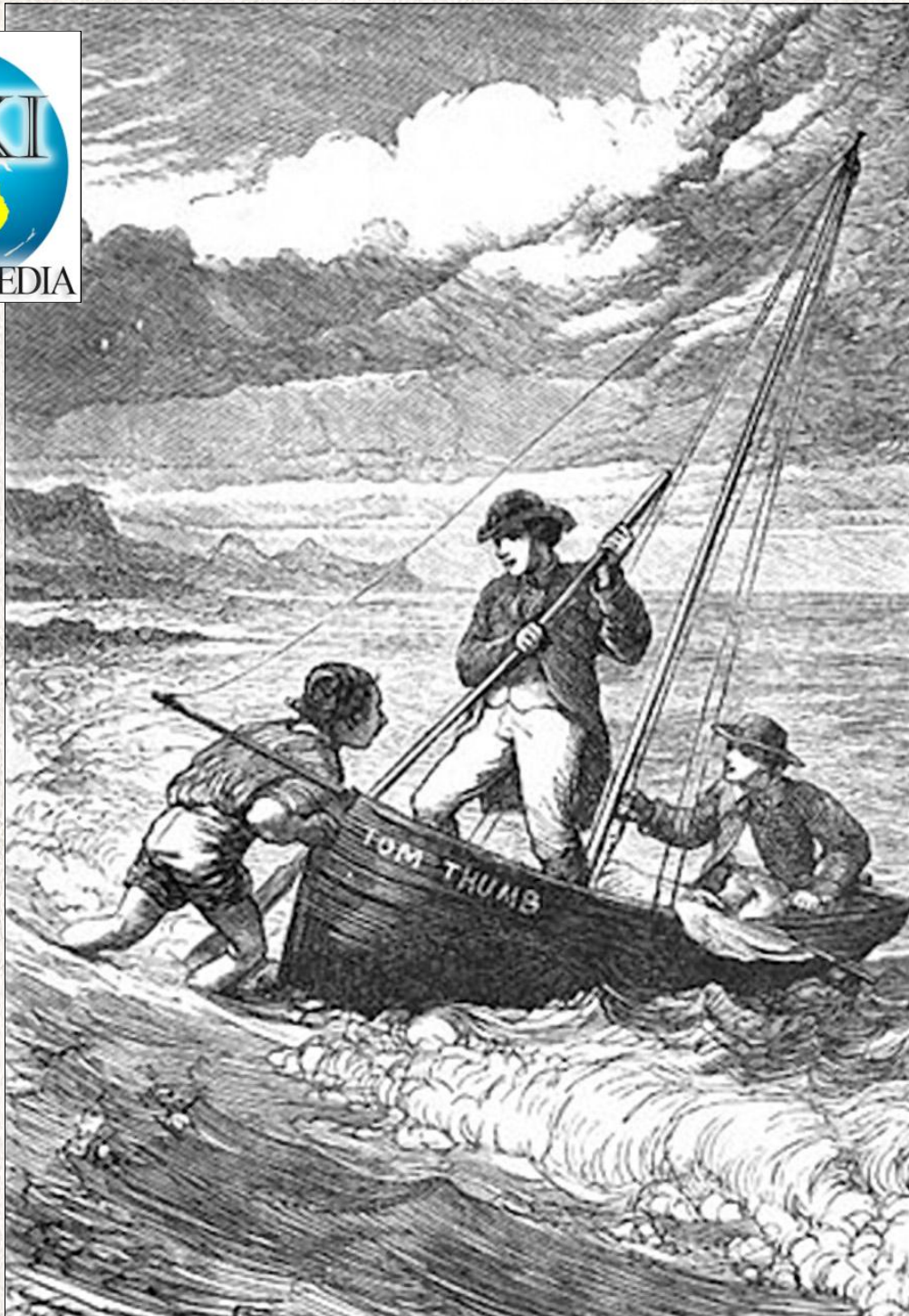
Bass & Flinders 1798-9

VAN DEMEN'S

LAND

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



George Bass and Matthew Flinders leaving aboard the *Tom Thumb*

Public Domain Image

1797-8

1798-9

VAN DEMEN'S

LAND

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY

IN COMMEMORATION OF
THE DISCOVERY AND NAMING OF WESTERN PORT
— BY —
SURGEON GEORGE BASS.
JANUARY 4, 1798.
AND THE PASSAGE OF BASS STRAIT, THE SAME YEAR, BY HIM AND
LIEUT. MATTHEW FLINDERS.
(BOTH OF H.M.S. "RELIANCE").
ERECTED BY THE PEOPLE OF FLINDERS.
ASSISTED BY THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION.
— 1912. —



Memorial to the discovery of Western Port on 4 January 1798 at Flinders, Victoria in 2010

Courtesy Peter Ellis
WikiCCL 3.0 2018

Bass 1797-8

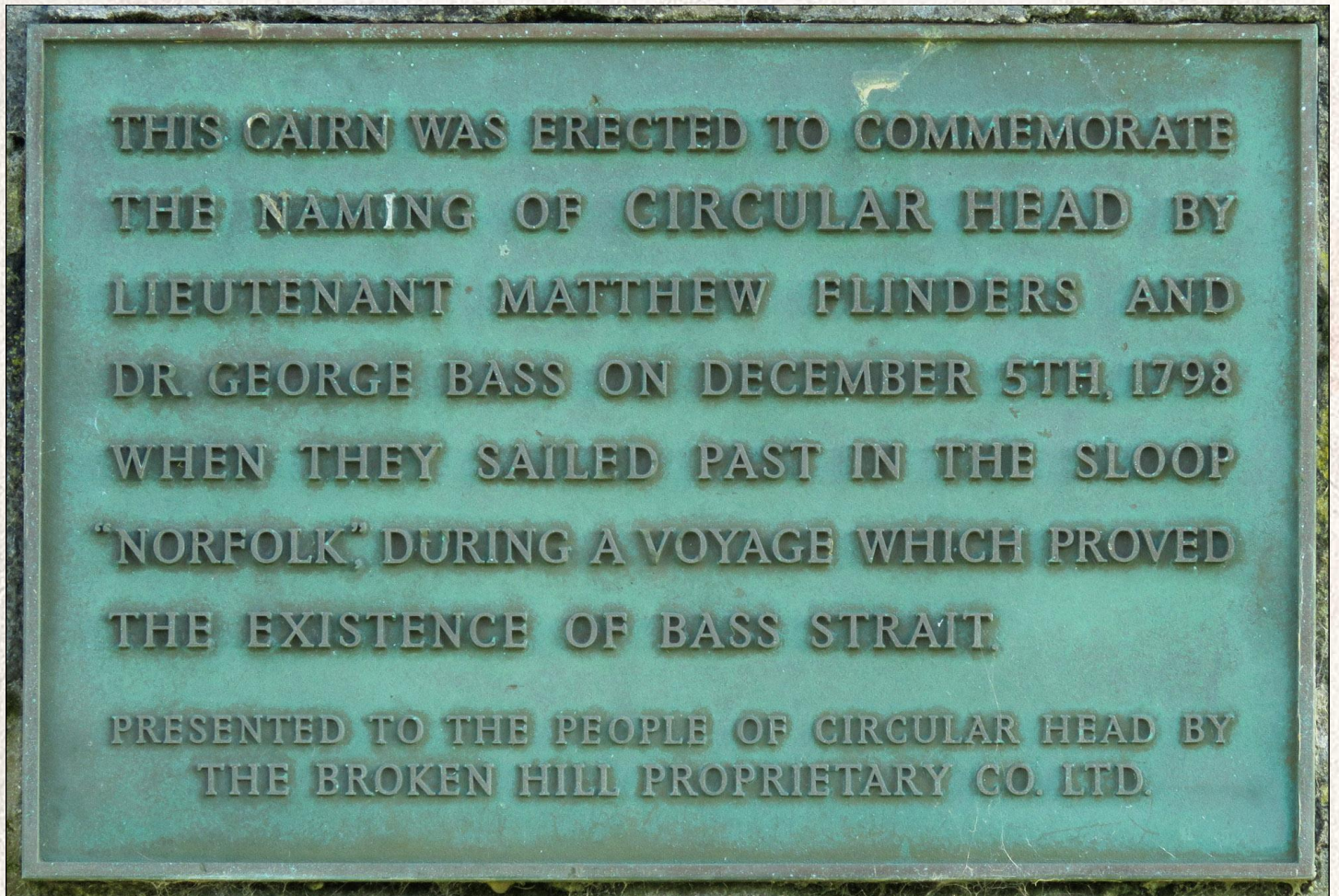
Bass & Flinders 1798-9

VAN DEMEREN

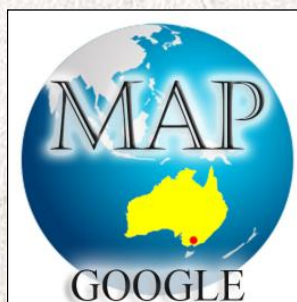
LAND

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Bass & Flinders memorial plaque, Circular Head, Stanley, Tasmania



Bass 1797-8

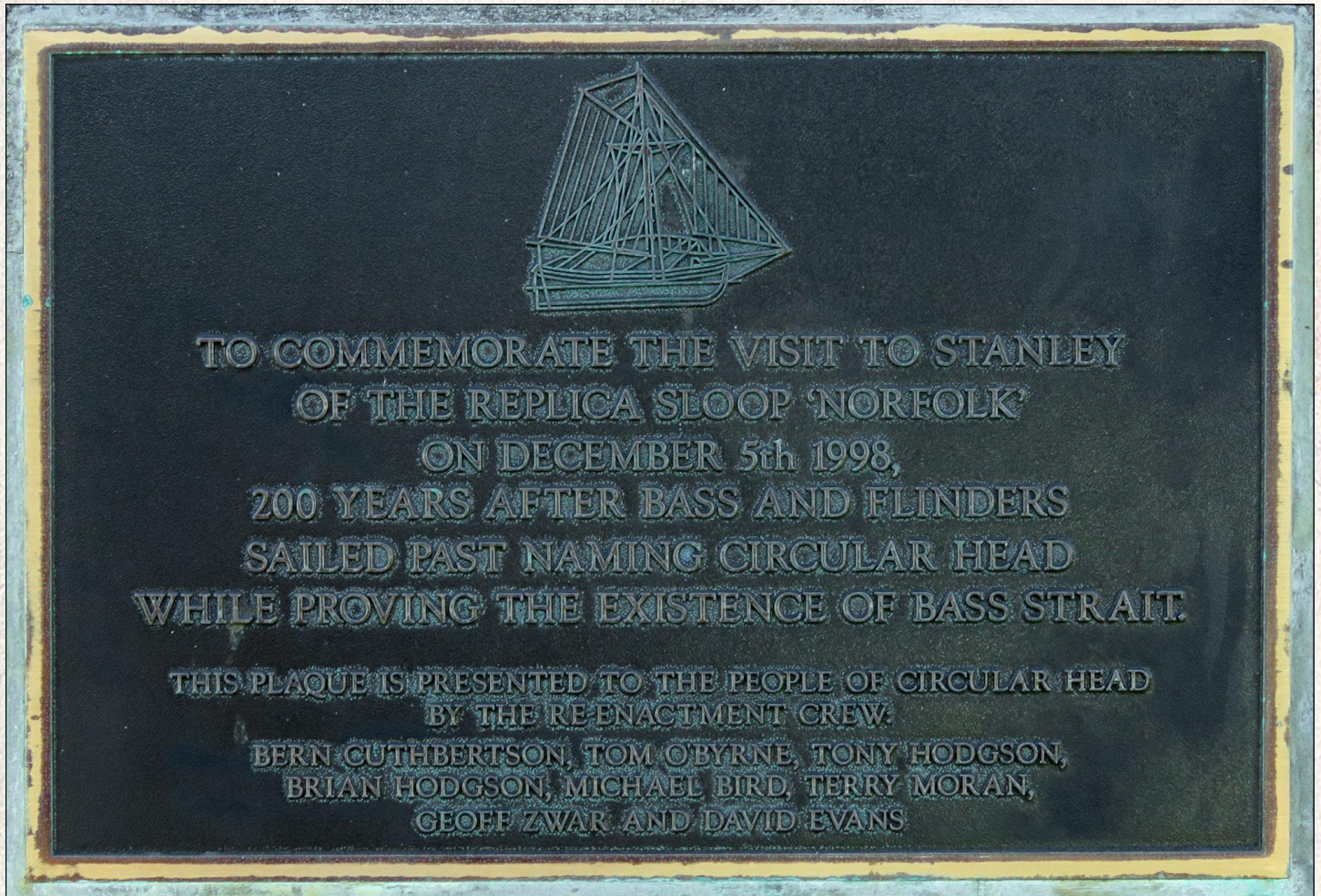
Bass & Flinders 1798-9

VAN DEMEN'S

LAND

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



**Bass & Flinders replica sloop memorial plaque,
Stanley, Tasmania**



Bass 1797-8

Bass & Flinders 1798-9

VAN DEMEN'S

LAND

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



TO COMMEMORATE THE DISCOVERY OF THIS PORT
BY SURGEON GEORGE BASS 4 JAN 1798
AND THE VISITS PAID BY
LIEUT. JAMES GRANT MARCH 1801
LIEUT. JOHN MURRAY DEC. 1801
THE FRENCH UNDER CAPT. BAUDIN APRIL 1802
AND CAPT. D'URVILLE NOV. 1826
ALSO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TEMPORARY
BRITISH SETTLEMENT (FORT DUMARESQU) DEC. 1826.

Bass memorial at Rhyll in 2019

© John Norbury 2019



Bass 1797-8

Bass & Flinders 1798-9

VAN DEMEREN

LAND

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY

George Bass, aged 27, surgeon of H.M.S. Reliance was authorised by Governor Hunter to take six seamen and six weeks provisions in a 27 foot 8 inch whaleboat to explore the coast south of Sydney and as far as he could go with safety and convenience.

They left Sydney at 6 pm on Sunday December 3rd 1797.

They reached the San Remo area on Jan 5th 1798.

George Bass sailed from Port Jackson to South America in 1803.

He disappeared and his fate remains a mystery.



GEORGE BASS HERITAGE TRAIL MARKER #1

Bass memorial plaque at San Remo in 2019

Bass 1797-8

Bass & Flinders 1798-9

VAN DEMEREN

LAND

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY

George Bass, aged 27, surgeon of H.M.S. Reliance was authorised by Governor Hunter to take six seamen and six weeks provisions in a 27 foot 8 inch whaleboat to explore the coast south of Sydney and as far as he could go with safety and convenience.

They left Sydney at 6 pm on Sunday December 3rd 1797.

They reached this point, Red Rocks on Jan 18th 1798.

George Bass sailed from Port Jackson to South America in 1803.

He disappeared and his fate remains a mystery.



GEORGE BASS HERITAGE TRAIL MARKER #4

Bass memorial plaque at Red Rocks Beach on Phillip Island in 2019

Bass 1797-8

Bass & Flinders 1798-9

VAN DEMEREN

LAND

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY

George Bass, aged 27, surgeon of H.M.S. Reliance was authorised by Governor Hunter to take six seamen and six weeks provisions in a 27 foot 8 inch whaleboat to explore the coast south of Sydney and as far as he could go with safety and convenience.

They left Sydney at 6 pm on Sunday December 3rd 1797.

They reached this point Rhyll on Jan 18th 1798.

George Bass sailed from Port Jackson to South America in 1803.

He disappeared and his fate remains a mystery.



GEORGE BASS HERITAGE TRAIL MARKER #6

Bass memorial plaque at Rhyll on Phillip Island in 2019

By ©Kathie Maynes 2013

