Welcome to the "Autumn" 2011 edition of Map Matters, the newsletter of the Australia on the Map Division of the Australasian Hydrographic Society.

If you have any contributions or suggestions for Map Matters, you can email them to me at: fgeurts@vtown.com.au, or post them to me at: GPO Box 1781, Canberra, 2601

Frank Geurts
Editor

News

The Freycinet Map symposium: marking the 200th anniversary of the publication of the first full map of Australia

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the publication of what is known as the Freycinet Map. This map, published in Paris in 1811, was the first map to be published which showed the full outline of Australia, preceding Matthew Flinders' map "Terra Australis or Australia" by three years. The Freycinet Map was the product of centuries of the charting of Australia’s coasts by Dutch, English and French navigators.

The Australia on the Map Division has launched a number of initiatives over the past year to make Australians more aware of the anniversary, its historical significance and the map itself.

When it was published the map actually ignited a bitter controversy, as well as some
embarrassment. The controversy related to the geographical names used on the map. Numerous French appellations were applied to features and localities that have been discovered and named by others, particularly Matthew Flinders in the course of his exploration from Nuyts Archipelago, off Fowlers Bay in South Australia, to Encounter Bay in 1802. So one sees Kangaroo Island called Îles Decrès, Spencer’s Gulf called Golfe Bonaparte and St. Vincents’ Gulf, Golfe Josephine. Why this was done is still a matter of great debate. However François Péron, the principal author of the official account of the French expedition, *Voyage de Découvertes aux Terres Australes*, is often seen as the person responsible. But the cartographer whose name is forever linked to the map that resulted was Louis-Claude de Saulses de Freycinet.

The Freycinet Map of 1811 (Courtesy of National Library of Australia)

Louis de Freycinet joined the French navy in 1793 and was recruited to the Baudin expedition as a Sub-Lieutenant in 1800. The Baudin expedition, led by Captain Nicolas Baudin, left Le Harve on 19 October 1800, in the renamed *Géographe* and *Naturaliste*. There were great expectations of the expedition, the hope that they could emulate, perhaps even outshine Captain Cook’s feats, and they would complete the charting of Australia’s coasts. The stretch of the south coast, from Nuyts Archipelago to Western Port Bay in Victoria was still a blank on maps of New Holland, and Bass Strait was just emerging.

Baudin’s instructions were to proceed to Tasmania but he was delayed in Mauritius and when he reached Cape Leeuwin in early winter, he steered north instead. They made their way up the west coast, the over-enthusiastic scientists keen to explore, but also charting previously unknown parts of the coast, such as Geographe Bay. At the end of this leg they diverted to Timor but were severely affected by dysentery and fever, with many casualties. From there they made for Tasmania, completing much of the mapping of Tasmania and engaging in extended contact with the Tasmanians.

Once their work was finished Baudin headed for the continent’s uncharted south coast in the *Géographe*, while Captain Hamelin took the *Naturaliste* to Port Jackson. Soon after commencing the examination of the south coast Baudin rendezvoused with Matthew Flinders in the *Investigator*. Unbeknownst to Baudin, Flinders had also been commissioned to chart the Australian coast. Even though he had left nine months later than Baudin he had managed to effectively gazump the French in charting most of the uncharted parts of the south coast. Returning to Sydney shortly
after, Baudin sent Hamelin and the Naturaliste home, buying a schooner, Casuarina, for more effective inshore surveying. Louis de Freycinet, now a Lieutenant, was put in command. They returned to the western part of the south coast, ran up the west coast again, carried out much valuable charting in the north west of WA and tried to make for the Gulf of Carpentaria. Fickle winds led to the expedition returning to Timor before trying again to enter the Gulf, but it was the wrong time of year as the south east trades had set in. So finally Baudin decided to set sail for France. Alas Baudin died on the return voyage.

Back in France, François Péron was charged with writing the official account of the expedition, while Louis became its cartographer. The resulting publication, Voyage de Découvertes aux Terres Australes, three volumes and several atlases published between 1807 and 1816, was, and still is, highly controversial, because Péron wrote Baudin out of it, he is never mentioned by name. The famous map appeared in the second part of the volume entitled Atlas Historique, published, as mentioned, in 1811.

As noted earlier, the map itself was controversial, because it applied French names to landmarks and parts of the coast first charted by Matthew Flinders. This appears to have been done at the insistence of Péron and a later version, published in 1824 after Péron had died, "restored" the names to those places Flinders had charted. Another interesting feature was the naming of St. Vincent's Gulf as Golfe Josephine, after Napoléon Bonaparte's wife. Unfortunately, by time the map was published, Napoléon had divorced Josephine, and so the application of that name was somewhat of an embarrassment.

One of the highlights of the commemorations of this important anniversary is a symposium, "The Freycinet Map of 1811 – 200th Anniversary of the Publication of the First Map of Australia", which will be held at the National Library of Australia on Sunday 19 June. This will also mark World Hydrography Day and is being conducted in collaboration with the National Library and the French Embassy, both of whom are providing generous support.

The symposium will have some notable speakers, including Emeritus Professor Margaret Sankey and Martine Marin, of the “Friends of Nicolas Baudin” in France. But we are also very fortunate and privileged indeed to have as a speaker Henry de Freycinet, the last male descendant of Louis de Freycinet, who will speak on the history of his famous family and their role as explorers. It will be undoubtedly an interesting day.

Further details will be forthcoming a little closer to the time, but I would suggest you book early, it is sure to be a popular event.

Rupert Gerritsen
For more information about the project go to: www.heritage-activities.nl.

AOTM to be part of international heritage project

From the late 16th century the Dutch embarked upon a phase in their history that began with tentative trading forays and which ultimately led to the formation of the Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie (Dutch East India company—the VOC), the development of a maritime empire, forging of complex alliances and trading partnerships, and the colonisation of a number of places. This expansionary period led to the Dutch having a profound impact on the history of many countries, such as Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Surinam, to name a few. As a result of that shared history, a shared heritage also evolved.

The Dutch Government has now embarked on a project spanning the globe to record the shared heritage between the Netherlands and a range of countries including Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, Ghana, Russia, Brazil, Sri Lanka and Surinam. This project is being undertaken on behalf of the Dutch Government by the Centre for International Heritage Activities and will involve the development of an inventory and database of interested organisations, in a Wiki format. It is hoped that this may well provide the basis for a valuable resource for research and collaboration between the many participating stakeholders.

A small part of the recently returned Dutch shipwreck material
(Courtesy of the Centre for International Heritage Activities)

Australia has rich heritage deriving from its interaction and engagement with the Netherlands, beginning in 1606 and continuing into the post-war period. Some of that was on show recently when the Dutch Government returned its share of material recovered for 17th and 18th century Dutch shipwrecks on the coast of Western Australia.

Koosje Spitz, Project Officer, Centre for International Heritage Activities

To gauge interest in Australia and explain the concept Koosje Spitz, a Project Officer from the Centre for International Heritage Activities, with the assistance of the Royal Netherlands Embassy, has been conducting consultations in Australia. Between February and May a series of public meetings were held in Geraldton, Perth, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Hobart, Melbourne and Canberra. The Chair, Rupert Gerritsen, and another Australia on the Map Division member, Stavros Geogiadis, attended the Canberra meeting on 2 February, and the Chair and Secretary Peter Reynders met with Koosje a few days later. Of course searching questions were asked, but these helped to draw out the benefits, synergies and innovations that could result from involvement in a project of this nature. As a result, the Australia on the Map Division has agreed to participate and has already taken the first steps in becoming one of the project’s partners.

Rupert Gerritsen and Peter Reynders
A recent visit to New Zealand led me to some maritime history discoveries and comparisons with Australia which may be of interest to all Australasian Hydrographic Society members.

Firstly, I discovered the Edwin Fox Museum at Picton (in the north of South Island). Like the Australia on the Map Division, this is a fine example of a small group of enthusiasts doing great things. The Edwin Fox is a Calcutta built East Indiaman, or what is left of her, mainly a wonderful copper sheathed hull. Billed as the 9th oldest ship in the world (built in 1853, the claim seems extravagant to me but I guess it depends on what you mean by "ship"), she is also supposedly the only surviving vessel of those carrying convicts to Australia (Fremantle in 1858), so is an important Australian maritime icon. The ship is in a dry dock, giving free access to the exterior and interior, and there is a well organised and informative museum as well as a website at http://www.edwinfoxsociety.com, all well worth a visit. This got me thinking that a valuable addition to the Australia on the Map Division website would be a links page to websites for important ships and replicas; Edwin Fox, Endeavour, Batavia, Duyfken etc.

Before I went to New Zealand, I discovered and read an excellent book, James Cook and New Zealand by A. Charles Begg and Neil C. Begg, published by the NZ Government Printer in 1969 for the Cook Bicentennial. I mention this book as an excellent model of government funding of research and publication for important maritime history anniversaries—perhaps something Australia could learn from.

The NZ Government funded the Beggs to research the book and they did a brilliant job, as acknowledged by the venerable J C Beaglehole in a thoughtful Foreword. I particularly liked:

The present authors have worked hard on the material in the ordinary way. They have done more than that—and this I find admirable: they have put sweat and acuteness into their field work... have gone out to sea and looked at the coastline as Cook looked, have climbed hills and taken his charts to the top of them. There is no substitute for this sort of fieldwork in studying the history of discovery. You can go so far with paper, you may write with vividness and point; but in the end, to be safe, you have to go and look.
The book has some great photos of Cook sites in the 1960s, including some from sea and air. Also reproduced are corresponding sketches made on the voyages. As a result of their fieldwork, they did valuable new work in identifying precisely what Cook saw and where. Generally I found Cook better commemorated on the coasts of New Zealand than in Australia (though my sample was a bit small!).

Ship Cove, on Queen Charlotte Sound near Picton, where Cook stayed five times for a total of 170 days, is excellent. There is a huge memorial planted by public subscription in the early 20th century.

This is supplemented by a superb modern multi panel interpretative display with remarkably accurate information. The site is exquisite, virtually as it was when Cook was there and, despite its relative remoteness, much visited.

I also climbed to the top of nearby Motuara Island where Cook raised the flag and claimed the area for George III, a far less visited site as the island is now a bird sanctuary.

There are several other important sites in this area, including the hill which Cook climbed to discover the Cook Strait, and Grass Cove where 10 members of the crew of Adventure were killed, cooked and eaten, none of which seem to be on the tourist circuit.

On North Island, south east from Auckland, I visited Firth of Thames first charted by Cook. Here Cook sailed up a river, which he named the Thames, through magnificent forests. So magnificent in fact that the East India Company pillaged them from the 1790s for shipbuilding, so that now there isn't a tree for miles. Like Edwin Fox, this was another interesting link to the far flung tentacles of the East India Company.

New Zealand has a richer Cook heritage than Australia as he spent more time there and formed closer contacts with the inhabitants. Tasman’s voyage and several French voyages have also left a trail of names on the coasts. As in Australia, there are still valuable tourism and heritage protection opportunities to be derived from a better, and wider, local understanding of what happened where. A “NZ On The Map Division” of AHS would certainly have plenty of material to work with and it seems
likely that links with the Australia On The Map Division could afford considerable benefits to both groups.

Trevor Lipscombe

[Trevor Lipscombe is author of On Austral Shores (Annandale: Envirobook, 2005), which traced the exact routes and places visited along the coasts of Victoria and New South Wales by the earliest European maritime explorers. He was also a most active and skilful Treasurer for the National Steering Committee of Australia on the Map: 1606-2006, our forerunner. Trevor now lives in England but still keeps in close touch with our activities in Australia and is an Associate Member.]

Putting Broughton Islands on the Map, 1770-1851

Although the east coast of Australia was placed on the map by James Cook during the voyage of His Majesty's Bark Endeavour in 1770, it took a long time for the individual features of the coast to be accurately identified and surveyed, as may be shown by the case of Broughton Island.

Broughton Island with its associated reefs and islets, Little Broughton Island and Looking Glass Isle, North Rock and Inner Rock, is located approximately eight nautical miles north east of Port Stephens and is a part of the Myall Lakes National Park. It is an island of sandy beaches, volcanic peaks and stunted, wind-swept vegetation. During the summer, tourist cruises to the island depart from Nelson Bay, Port Stephens. Many visitors come for what lies below the water: snapper, drummer, kingfish, flathead and groper. For scuba divers there are undersea caves, coral, sponge gardens, boulders, sandy gutters, ledges, sheer walls and marine life of every type. Just recently, there has been a successful campaign to rid the island of non-native rats and rabbits. Archaeology indicates that the Worimi Aboriginal people inhabited the island for at least 2,000 years, but their name for it does not seem to have been recorded.

Broughton Island (or, more strictly, Broughton Islands) is named after William Robert Broughton who, in command of His Majesty’s Frigate Providence, visited and surveyed nearby Port Stephens in August 1795. Providence Bay, between Port Stephens and Broughton Islands, commemorates his ship (which had previously been commanded by William Bligh on his second breadfruit voyage to Tahiti in 1790-92). Broughton was taking the Providence from England to the North West Coast of America to assist George Vancouver in his exploration of the coasts of that region: he needed to rest and refresh at Port Jackson but adverse winds carried the Providence north past Sydney to Port Stephens, which he took the opportunity to chart before proceeding to Sydney. An edition of Broughton’s journal of his voyage has recently been published by the Hakluyt Society of London.¹

It is apparent from his journal that Broughton himself never visited Broughton Island.

James Cook’s biographer, J.C. Beaglehole, notes that it was seen by Cook on the evening of 11 May 1770: in the poor light with the sun setting behind it he mistook it for a headland and called it Black Head. It was apparently not discovered to be an island until much later: it appears as Black Head Island on John Oxley’s 1822 map of New South Wales.²

Its insularity was officially recognized on the 1852 Admiralty chart, *Australia, East Coast. Broken Bay to Sugarloaf Point, from a Running Survey by Capt. J. Lort Stokes, H.M.S. Acheron, 1851*, where it is called Broughton Islands, retaining the name Black Head for a point on the island. Providence Bay also appears for the first time on this chart.

John Lort Stokes, in command of HMS *Acheron*, performed a running survey of the coast of New South Wales from Sydney northward to Sugarloaf Point to the north of Port Stephens during June-July 1851, following his extensive survey of the west coast of the South Island of New Zealand. Stokes report on this survey to the Colonial Secretary, written in Sydney, 20 July 1851, was published in *The Maitland Mercury* of 11 December 1852. In it, he said:

> Having the advantage of Captain King’s company, who had surveyed Port Stephens and the adjacent coast, we were, by his valuable assistance, enabled to extend the survey, with little delay, to Sugarloaf Point, beyond Port Stephens.³

It would therefore appear that the re-naming was done by John Lort Stokes in 1851, perhaps in consultation with the naval hydrographer and first Australian-born Admiral, Phillip Parker King, son of Governor Philip Gidley King, who was then residing at Port Stephens as local manager of the Australian Agricultural Company. Stokes visited King at his residence at Tahlee in Port Stephens. Previously Stokes had visited Port Stephens in June 1839, as Lieutenant and Surveyor on HMS *Beagle* under the command of John Wickham. He remarked in the book he subsequently wrote that: "We found the Admiralty chart of the coast in the neighbourhood very defective, some islands being completely omitted, whilst others were much misplaced".⁴

Stokes’s journal of his 1851 voyage in the *Acheron* is held at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich and there is a copy at the Hocken Library, University of Otago, Dunedin: it has not been published. It would be interesting to know if he mentioned in it his identification of Black Head as an island and his naming of it after

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³ Stokes to Colonial Secretary, Sydney, 20 July 1851, *The Maitland Mercury*, 11 December 1852.
This one example goes to show that the process of putting Australia on the map has been a lengthy one, with not all the steps in it clearly on the record.

Robert J. King

Projects update

A snapshot of AOTM Division projects initiated or underway.

National Events Corporation

To seek to have a National Events Corporation established to provide a permanent governmental structure and funding stream for commemorations of national significance. Proposal has been put before the Government and Opposition. Strategy to be reviewed. Government has set up a "commission" for Anzac 100th that may be a model for NEC. Will discuss with PM if opportunity arises.

Explorers Commemorative Area in Parliamentary Triangle

To have an area set aside within the Parliamentary Triangle for statues, monuments and other commemorative structures to mark significant landmarks in the maritime discovery, contact and exploration of Australia. Information received that Windsor Walk has been designated, letter written to the Prime Minister as Chair of National Memorials Committee urging designation of a more prominent and visible location. Final draft of new guidelines being considered by National Memorials Committee, to be signed off by PM. NCA now under review. Strategy to be reviewed.

Freycinet Map 200th Anniversary 2011

To foster exhibitions and events to mark the publication of the Freycinet Map, the 1st complete map of Australia. To take place in 2011. Strategy of engaging with French community and alerting libraries and museums and other interested parties implemented. Papers written for Journal of Australian Naval History various conferences and symposia. Continued awareness raising, drawing attention to the 1811 map. Papers to be published/presented. Symposium to be held in June 2011

5. Journal of Captain John Lort Stokes, HMS Acheron, on the surveying voyage from Plymouth to New Zealand, 1848 to 1851, transcribed by She
in conjunction with National Library and French Embassy.

2014 – The Naming of Australia—The Flinders Map of 1814

To foster suitable commemorations of the 200th anniversary of the publication of Matthew Flinders’ map of Australia, which led to the adoption the name of Australia. National Library considering proposal for major exhibition based on theme of "Naming Australia/Nommer l’Australie". Await outcome of submission to NLA.

2016 Dirk Hartog 400th Anniversary

Consultations have taken place with other stakeholders, including discussions with the Dutch Ambassador. Organisational structure being developed, notional events program has been developed. Aims and objectives finalised. Statement on historical significance finalised. Ongoing consultation, coordination and collaboration with other stakeholders and interested parties to take place through the Cultural Heritage Contact Group Event program to be developed through this body.

Refuge Bay Project

To ensure an appropriate memorial is placed at “The Basin” in Sydney Harbour in recognition of the formulation of the first draft of the Australian Constitution at that location. Working group formed, historical significance documented, historical maps located, bay resurveyed, article written. National Heritage List nomination prepared and submitted. Awaiting outcome of nomination for National Heritage List

Lord Howe Island

A project to document and display the maritime history of Lord Howe Island. Scope of project has been agreed. Work to continue on preparation of material for posting or publication on early history and heritage of Lord Howe Island.

Search for Deadwater Wreck

To stimulate or, if necessary, organise a search for the remains of the “Deadwater Wreck” north of Busselton, WA. Project now in implementation phase. Contractual arrangements being finalised. Archaeological consultant to complete desktop study. Archaeological research design to be completed shortly.

Early Indigenous/Indian Contact

To research pre- and early post-colonial contact and interaction between Indigenous Australians and people of Indian descent. Research plan developed. Prehistory research component and historical research component to be completed.

Research on Sailors/Aboriginal Interaction in WA (linguistics, genetics, biogeography, epidemiology, oral traditions)

Collaboration with possible research project in this area. At least two DNA testing projects in progress or to commence soon. One project has received media attention. One project has also indicated results will be published in September. Awaiting outcome of testing and possible publication of results by one of the research projects.

Voyage Representation Project

A project that will:
- create graphic representations of all voyages from 1606-1814 involving contact, exploration and charting of Australia, with explanatory details, on AOTMwebsite.
- place illustrations of vessel types involved in all voyages of contact, exploration and charting on website, also including explanatory illustration of the principal structural components of such ships
- arrange publication and widespread distribution of the “Dunny Door” version of map of significant early voyages and maritime exploration of Australia’s coasts.

Project reformulated to current form. Hard draft of maps and information bites have been finalised. Design of map and information hierarchy has been developed. Ship types and main structural components identified and drawings completed and
scanned. Plotting and graphical representation of voyages continuing. Information bites to be linked to voyages. Drawings of ship types and main structural components to be added section on website

Translation Projects
Translation of selected texts relating to early Australian maritime contact and exploration. First translation (La VOC—Eylandt’s Mauritius and Rodrigues) has commenced. A number of small amendments to online translation of VOC Charter made on expert advice. La VOC translation to continue.

Curriculum Development
Fostering inclusion of early history framework in a national curriculum. National Curriculum issued, includes two units on early contact. Units now have been included in ACT curriculum. Will review curriculum content in other states when made public.

Centre of Excellence in Hydrography that incorporates a component of historical cartography
To have a Centre of Excellence established which teaches hydrography and cartography and related disciplines and technologies and incorporates a component of historical cartography. Strategic alliances have been explored. Renewed interest in concept. Discussed in last meeting. Developments to be monitored.

Documentaries and Feature Films
To foster the production of TV documentaries and feature films on relevant aspects of early Australian history. One documentary on Janszoon and Cook voyages has gone to air. Provide continuing assistance for documentary on visit by Dirk Hartog in 1616 and Hartog Plate. Collaboration with documentary makers to take place re search for Deadwater Wreck.

Members welcome
Meetings of the Australia on the Map Division Council are open to all AOTM members who can and would like to attend.
Meetings are held on the first Friday of the month, at 12.30pm in the Friends Lounge of the National Library of Australia in Canberra.

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