

Kangaroo Island place names from the voyages of Matthew Flinders and Nicholas Baudin

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In the early 19th century two major expeditions visited and charted the coast of Kangaroo Island. Lieutenant Matthew Flinders sailed from England on 19th July 1801 in the *Investigator*, and circumnavigated the continent of Australia, arriving at Kangaroo Island on 23rd March 1802. On Monday 5th April Flinders and Robert Brown took a cutter from an anchorage in Eastern Cove to examine Pelican Lagoon and ascend Prospect Hill. Flinders had previously mapped the north coast of Kangaroo Island prior to meeting Commander Nicholas Baudin in the *Le Géographe* at Encounter Bay on 9th April 1802, and provided Baudin with draft copies of his maps. The approach of stormy weather and a shortage of supplies prevented Flinders from mapping the south and west coasts of Kangaroo Island. Only fifteen of the approximately 135 coastal features in South Australia named by Matthew Flinders received their names at the time of discovery, from January to April 1802 (Table 1). On his rough charts the remainder were identified by numerals, letters and Greek characters. The corrected charts (Figure 1) with full nomenclature did not appear until the publication of his *A Voyage to Terra Australis*, in 1814.

On the 19th October 1800, the Baudin Expedition set sail from Le Havre in Normandy, France with two ships, *Le Géographe* and *Le Naturaliste*. A schooner *Le Casuarina* was subsequently purchased in Port Jackson in 1802. Twenty five scientists were engaged from the domains of astronomy, botany, zoology, mineralogy, horticulture and geography. Baudin's expedition secured the most valuable natural history collection of its time, with more than 200,000 specimens of flora and fauna collected. The expedition charted nearly two thirds of the Australian coastline, filling in gaps on the rudimentary Dutch maps, making the first detailed charts of the west and north west coasts of Western Australia and of the south-eastern coast of Van Diemen's Land. Baudin was twice in South Australian waters, first in April-May 1802, and again, accompanied by Louis de Freycinet in *Le Casuarina*, in January-February 1803. The north coast of Kangaroo Island was mapped by Freycinet and Boullanger in 1802 and the south coast in 1803 (Table 2). After completing the survey both *Le Géographe* and *Le Casuarina* sailed west to King George Sound (modern Albany) where they met the brig *Union* and Capt. Isaac Pendleton from Stonington, Connecticut. Baudin provided Pendleton with his charts of Kangaroo Island (Figures 2 and 3) and advice on the anchorage at Pelican Lagoon. Pelican Lagoon was called Port Daché by Baudin and mapped in detail (Figure 4).

Table 1: Places named by Matthew Flinders on or near Kangaroo Island in 1802.

| Name | Rationale for name |
|---------------------|--|
| Investigator Strait | named after the ship |
| Kangaroo Island | "in gratitude for so seasonable a supply of meat" |
| Nepean Bay | Sir Evan Nepean, 1st Secretary of Admiralty |
| Point Marsden | William Marsden, 2 nd Secretary of Admiralty |
| Kangaroo Head | "a small projection near the ship" |
| Pelican Lagoon | "a hidden lagoon of an uninhabited island" |
| Prospect Hill | "a sandy eminence" |
| Cape Willoughby | for Captain Sir Nesbit Willoughby RN |
| Antechamber Bay | "a private entrance to the two gulfs" |
| Backstairs Passage | "without side of the passage" |
| The Pages | "small islets" |
| Gulf St. Vincent | for Admiral John Jervis, 1st Earl St. Vincent |
| Cape Jervis | First Lord of the Admiralty in 1801 when Flinders sailed |
| Troubridge Shoal | for Rear-Admiral Sir Thomas Troubridge |
| Encounter Bay | "in consequence of our meeting here (8-9 April) I distinguish it by [this] name" |

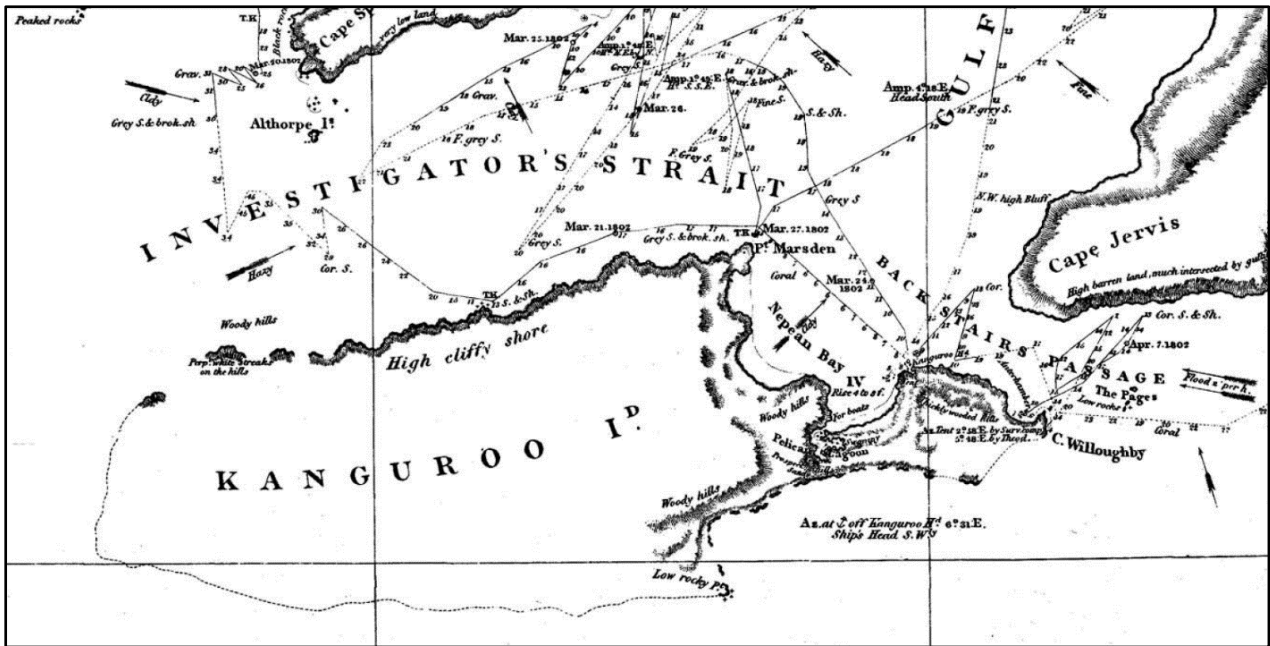


Figure 1: Matthew Flinders map of Kangaroo Island, from *A Voyage to Terra Australis*, 1814.

Table 2: Places named by Nicholas Baudin on or near Kangaroo Island in 1802 and 1803.

| French name | Rationale for name | Modern name (if different) |
|----------------------|---|----------------------------|
| L'Île Decres | Admiral Denis Decres, Napoleon's Minister for Marine 1801-1815 (1761-1820) | Kangaroo Island |
| Anse des Haute-Fonds | Beach with shoals | Bay of Shoals |
| Cape du Géographe | After the ship <i>Le Géographe</i> | |
| Anse des Phoques | After the abundance of long-nosed fur seals | Western Cove |
| Cape des Kangaroos | After the abundance of kangaroos | Point Morrison |
| Port Daché | After François Robert de Daché, ensign in command of the <i>Clairvoyant</i> at the Battle of the Saintes, 9–12 April 1782 | Pelican Lagoon |
| Cape Delambre | Jean Baptiste Joseph, chevalier Delambre mathematician, astronomer, historian of astronomy, and geodesist (1749 – 1822). | Kangaroo Head |
| Anse des Sources | Freshwater springs at back of beach | Hog Bay |
| Baie Du Guai Trouin | René Duguay-Trouin, Sieur du Gué, French privateer, Admiral and Commander in the Order of Saint Louis (1673–1736) | Antechamber Bay |
| Cape D'Orvillier | Louis Guillouet, comte d'Orvilliers was a French admiral (1710 – 1792) | Cape St. Albans |
| Cape Sané | Jacques-Noël Sané, French naval engineer. He conceived standardised designs for ships used by the French Navy (1740–1831) | Cape Willoughby |
| D'Estrees Bay | Vice-Admiral Victor-Marie, duc d'Estrees (1660-1737) | |
| Cape Linois | Rear-Admiral Charles Durand, comte de Linois (1761-1848) | |
| Cape Gantheaume | Vice-Admiral Honore, comte de Gantheaume (1755-1818) | |
| Vivonne Bay | Vice-Admiral Louis Victor de Rochechouart. duc de Mortemart et de Vivonne (1636-1688) | |
| Cape Kersaint | Annand, comte de Kersaint. French naval family | |
| Cape Bouguer | Pierre Bouguer, astronomer (1698-1758) | |

| French name | Rationale for name | Modern name (if different) |
|--------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Cape du Couedic | Chevalier du Couedic, naval captain (1739-1780) | |
| Casuarina Islets | named after the schooner <i>Le Casuarina</i> | |
| Maupertuis Bay | P.L. Moreau de Maupertuis, mathematician and astronomer (1698-1759) | |
| Cape Bedout | Rear-Admiral Jacques Bedout (1751-1818) | |
| Ravine des Casoars | after the numerous 'cassowaries' (dwarf emus) seen on the island | |
| Cape Borda | Jean-Charles de Borda, mathematician and naval officer (1733-1799) | |
| Cape Forbin | Claude, comte de Forbin, Admiral (1656-1733) | |
| Cape Prony | Baron Gaspard Clair François Marie Riche de Prony, mathematician and engineer (1755 – 1839) | Cape Dutton |
| Cape Cassini | Family of French astronomers (three of whom became Director of the Paris Observatory) | |
| Cape d'Estaing | Admiral Jean-Baptiste, comte d'Estaing (d.1794) | |
| Cape Vendôme | After the Le Roux family of vigneron, whose home was in the Vendôme area in France | North Cape |
| Cape Rouge | from the reddish granite on the coast | |

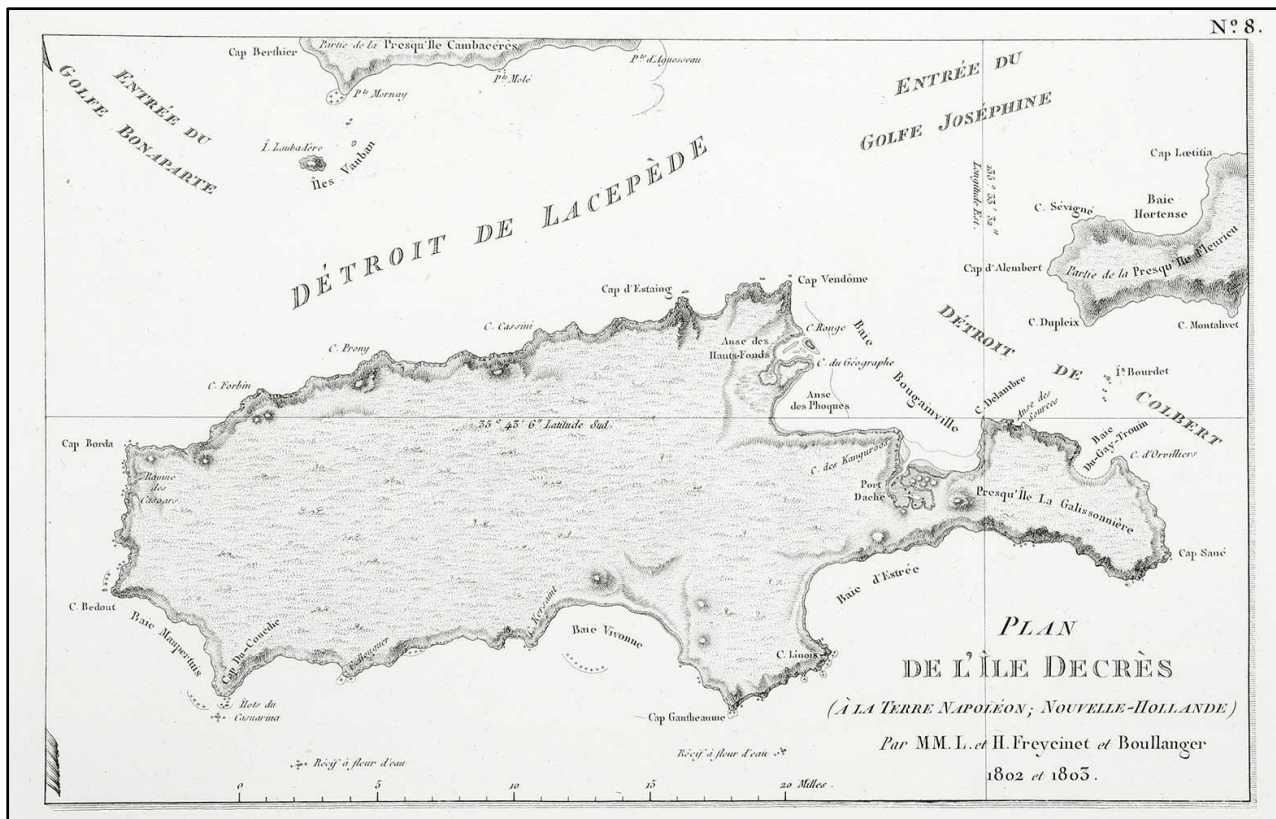


Figure 2: Map of L'Isle Decres (Kangaroo Island) by Freycinet and Boullanger, 1802-1803.



Figure 3: Cartouche from the Freycinet and Boulanger map, clearly derivative of L'Isle Decres



Figure 4: Enlargement of the Port Daché (Pelican Lagoon) part of the Freycinet and Boulanger map

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