

**Journal de Louis Freycinet, Archives nationales de France, série Marine, 5JJ49-50**  
**Journal Nautique Tenu à Bord de la Corvette le Naturaliste**  
**Par Louis Freycinet, Officer de Marine**

Translated by Dr David Gillieson, PO Box 131, American River SA 5221

**From 6 to 7 Nivose year XI of the Republic [27-28 December 1802]**

We did not reach Le Géographe until 3:50 p.m. At 3:55 a.m., broken down, a canoe from the Le Géographe came on board, looking for Mr Boullanger. He also gave me the following letter from Mr. Baudin:

"6 Nivose year XI. We are going to head for the island of kangaroos located in the eastern part, by the latitude of 39° 53' 10" & by the longitude of 142° 12' 30". This island is easy to recognize by its extent from east to west, which is about 30 leagues and the latitude that I am indicating to you is that of the northern part. There are a few islets to the east of this Island which you have to be careful of when approaching it, but as they are high, you can always see them in time to avoid them. It is on the eastern coast that I intend to look for an anchorage, and where I will give you an appointment in case of separation in the short journey to be made to get there. The continental lands in this part are high, very steep & it is necessary to dock preferably at the islets although they are also very steep. It is from the northern part of this island that the gulfs which you have heard of and which are found on the mainland begin.

Your fellow citizen, Signed "N. Baudin".

I instructed Mr. Boullanger to tell the Commandant that I had almost no water left & that I had counted a lot during my mission to the Hunter Islands, on the promise he had made to me to supplement my water, on my return to King's Island. I also asked the commander if there was no mistake in the position he had just fixed for me for the island of kangaroos. The Géographe's canoe is returned on board. Soon after, he returned; He brought me two tierçons of water, fresh bread, and this Note from Mr. Baudin:

"It is by mistake that I put 39° 53'10" & 142° 12' 30" the latitude and longitude of Kangaroo Island is 35° 39' 50" & 135° 58' 0" longitude. Signed "N. Baudin".

**From 9 to 10 Pluviose Year XI of the Republic [29-30 January 1803]**

Variable time wind alternately. Pretty fresh and almost calm is heading out of the port of Mr Flinders. At 2 o'clock, we had doubled the last tip of the entrance. At 3:45 in the afternoon, the calm forced me to anchor. Back under sail at 4:40 a.m. & headed for Kangaroo Island.

**From 11 to 12 Nivose, year XI of the Republic [January 1-2, 1803]**

At 5 a.m. in the morning sighted the island of kangaroos, ahead of us.

Good weather, beautiful sea, nice fresh wind. Sailed near Le Géographe. At 7:30 a.m., the Commandant gave me the order to land at the land we had in sight (it was Kangaroo Island), and to rally in the evening. Immediately after this order, I set out all possible sails and approached the coast of Kangaroo Island, the geography of which I mapped. At noon the Géographe was at (8.0) miles in W 3° S.

**From 12 to 13 Nivose, year XI of the Republic [January 2-3, 1803]**

Cloudy sky, rough seas, fresh wind. I continued to do the geography of the Kangaroo Island coast until 6 am. of the evening. I then held the closest & tacked to rally Le Géographe who remained upwind to me at (9.0) miles away. I tacked all night without joining Le Géographe, at 5.30 am I saw this escarpment in the ESE at (10.8) Miles away. I continued to do the geography of the coast in view, always substantially following the route of the Commandant.

**From 13 to 14 Nivose year XI of the Republic [January 3-4, 1803]**

Fine weather, heavy seas. Wind Good fresh. Continued my work around Kangaroo Island. At 9:30 in the evening, I joined Le Géographe who had anchored. This morning at 7 a.m. I continued to visit the Kangaroo Island coast. At noon the Commandant was around (1.0) in the NE to us./.

**From 16 to 17 Nivose year XI of the Republic [January 6-7, 1803]**

Good weather, fair sea in the afternoon, light breeze. Quiet at night then pretty cool & good breeze./ Continued to follow and examine the coast of Kangaroo Island until 8.30 o'clock in the evening when I anchored to wait for daylight, in order to be able to distinguish if Le Géographe was anchored on the coast. Cast off under full sail at 5 a.m. in the morning. At 7:30 a.m., I saw Le Géographe at anchor around (8.0) in the SE. I made my way to join him. At 9.15 a.m. passed aft of Le Géographe. The commander gave me the order to anchor near him; a little later I dropped anchor in the 9 fathoms of water with a sandy bottom. A canoe of Le Géographe came on board with carpenters & caulkers to make various necessary repairs to the hull. The carpenters took the measurement of the topmast spars to make new ones since those in place are worth nothing. The caulkers couldn't do anything because of the bad weather. I had the masts derigged. I took advantage of Le Géographe's embarkation to go talk to the Commandant. I made a request to him for a large number of useful objects, both for my supply and for my installation & repairs of my hull. Several of my requests have been refused. Among the objects which were granted to me, I obtained to cover the bridge of the vessel with a tarpaulin. (Mr Baudin had considered this article useless when I asked him for it in Port Jackson). Le Casuarina makes a lot of water in the sea. In bad weather it has made up to 11 and 12 inches per hour, this is almost entirely due to the crude way in which all the planks are assembled & the wide opening of the seams . I obtained to seal various parts of the hull that needed it. Mr Baudin told me about our separation on the coast of Kangaroo Island, which took place on the evening of the 14th, he asked me how I had managed to lose sight of him. I replied to the Commander that it was not me who...

