



Cook

his achievements
1758- 1779

Who really put Australia's
eastern coast on the world's
maps 250 years ago?

An exhibition at the
**Royal Geographical Society of
S.A.**

L2 South Mortlock Wing
State Library of South Australia,
North Terrace Adelaide

27 April to 31 May 2020

Captain James Cook 1728 - 1779



SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S
**HISTORY
FESTIVAL**
27 APRIL - 31 MAY 2019

Tue to Fri 10 am to 12:30pm

www.rgssa.org.au

Ph 8207 7266

Terra Australis/New Holland/New South Wales

Our island continent's western and northern shores were slowly mapped from about 1600, possibly earlier if Chinese records are creditable.

The European powers in the 17th and 18th centuries were searching for raw materials and trade opportunities as Europe's population changed from agrarian to industrial. These powers knew that whoever found access to the most of these material sources would be first to dominate world trade. Coupled with this search was the quest for scientific knowledge of the natural world as the Age of Enlightenment dawned.

What *was* that land generally known as Terra Australis to the south between the Indian and Pacific Oceans - was it just a series of islands, an isthmus or was it a part of another as yet undiscovered land? Britain one of the world powers climbing towards the acme of its development was to find out a bit more.

James Cook (1728-1779), navigator, was born on 27 October 1728 at Marton-in-Cleveland, Yorkshire, England, the son of a Scottish labourer and his Yorkshire wife. He grew up on a farm at Great Ayton, attending the village school, and at 17 was apprenticed to a shopkeeper at Staithes.

After eighteen months, with the consent of all concerned, he gave this up for a more enticing apprenticeship of three years under John Walker, a Quaker coal-shipper of Whitby. Here he made some headway with mathematics and navigation and served two years before the mast in the Baltic trade.

In 1755 Cook joined H.M.S. *Eagle* and within a month was master's mate. After two years on the Channel service, he was promoted master of the *Pembroke*, and in 1758 crossed the Atlantic in her and took part in the siege of Louisburg and the survey of the St Lawrence River that led to the capture of Quebec. Transferred to the *Northumberland*, he began surveying the coasts of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, in the winter months at Halifax reading solidly in his chosen subjects. (*ADB*)

By 1765 Captain Cook's ship, was the *Grenville*, and Joseph Banks' ship the *Niger*, were in the same waters in Canada in 1765/66, so that a friendship was established. This grew into a relationship that saw Banks accompany Cook on the voyage to 'Terra Australis' in the *Endeavour*.

Members are invited to view original records of Cooks' voyages.

Records are from:- The Endeavour

Joseph Banks

The Polynesian races

The Florilegium

and many more, don't miss out May, every Tuesday to Friday 10am to 12:30pm.
Why not bring your community group and friends and make a coffee stop with the visit!
