

accomplished very little in the way of exploration, although he did climb Arthur's Seat to bestow it with that name in honour of Governor Arthur Phillip.

Most of Murray's exploration work was carried out from the cabin of his ship, the "Lady Nelson". Except for his climbing Arthur's Seat, where some of his men became involved in the first skirmish with the aborigines - a tactless one where the men humiliated the natives by laughing at them during an exchange of gifts - Murray had little to report that was of any material value when he eventually returned to Sydney. By some strange coincidence, however, Murray had left Sydney at practically the same time as two other expeditions from two different points, each of them thousands of miles away, to explore the same area from which he now returned.

One of these was Nicholas Baudin, whose journey was undertaken under orders from Napoleon. France had already made tentative claims to large slices of Australia, and referred to the coast from the south of Sydney to beyond Western Port as "Terre Napoleon". Baudin was in charge of "Le Geographe", a sailing ship belonging to the French Navy. The other party which was setting out for Australia was in command of Captain Matthew Flinders, whose earlier explorations of the continent had taken him back to England to present his charts to the British Admiralty.

In appreciation of Flinders' previous discoveries, the Admiralty had presented him with a much larger ship than the "Norfolk", in which he had returned. The new vessel was the "Investigator", and in it he was instructed to carry out a thorough survey of Australia. With all the pride of a captain in charge of a new ship, Flinders then set out determined to accomplish the command. He had already sighted the mainland and began charting it before he was to learn that Baudin was on a much similar mission as himself.

Reaching the coast some distance from King George's Sound, he travelled via the Great Bight to Kangaroo Island, and between here and the mainland the two captains sighted each other's ships. Friendly signals were exchanged and the vessels drew closely together. Baudin and Flinders met and discussed between them the discoveries that each had made. After this rendezvous they again sailed on independent courses towards the mainland, where Baudin sailed into Western Port; but the methodical Flinders, carefully following the coastline, found the elusive entrance to Port Phillip Bay and sailed between the Heads.