

He entered the Bay scarcely six weeks after Murray's strange visit and climbed Arthur's Seat, just as Murray had done, but explored it more thoroughly. Flinders then used the hill as a mapping station from which he surveyed the surrounding countryside. Later he moved on to Snapper Point (Mornington) and eventually sailed right around to Queenscliffe, calling at Corio Bay and climbing the You Yangs, which he also used as a mapping station, and built a cairn before leaving. Entering the open sea again, the "Investigator" headed for Sydney, where Flinders made known his "find" to Governor King. King, impressed by the improvement on Murray's efforts, sent a message to England recommending the establishment of a settlement at Port Phillip, a decision which was, in no small way, also prompted by the presence of French ships in Australian waters.

"Le Geographe" had arrived in Sydney ahead of "Investigator". Her crew, most of them stricken with scurvy, was a sorry sight. Sailing down Middle Harbour they passed another French ship, "Le Naturaliste", which, like herself, had brought to the port a scurvy-stricken crew. Both ships were at the mercy of local authorities, from whom their captains would seek permission to allow refits to be carried out. Baudin, no doubt, wondered what kind of a reception awaited him, especially when he realised that England and France were still at war and in entering Sydney Harbour his ship was virtually entering an enemy port.

It was, however, still 1802, and a certain gentleman's rights were still to be observed, even in rum-reeking Sydney. An explorer was not to be regarded as an enemy, even if the country from which he came was engaged in a faraway battle with the mother country of the one he visited. Both ships were refitted, while the scurvy-sick crews were admitted for treatment at Sydney Hospital. Still, there was the problem of arranging a settlement for Port Phillip, but that should not take long. There was a message now well on its way to England requesting that immediate action be taken in this regard, and at the same time the Acting Surveyor-General, Charles Grimes, had been sent to the locality to carry out a land survey of the area--a sort of conclusion to Flinders' splendid shipboard and mountain-top survey.