



Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

INCLUSION OF A PLACE IN THE NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST

I, Ian Gordon Campbell, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, having considered, in relation to the place listed in the Schedule of this instrument -

- (a) the Australian Heritage Council's assessment whether the place meets any of the National Heritage criteria; and
- (b) the comments given to the Council under section 324G of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*; and

being satisfied that the place specified in the Schedule has the National Heritage value or values specified in the Schedule include, pursuant to section 324J of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the place listed in the Schedule in the National Heritage List.

Dated 28th Day of March 2006

[SIGNED]

Ian Gordon Campbell
Minister for the Environment
and Heritage

SCHEDULE

STATE

Local Government Area

Name:

Location / Boundary

Criteria / Values

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Northampton Shire

Batavia Shipwreck Site and Survivor Camps Area 1629 – Houtman Abrolhos:

About 5400ha, 90km north west of Geraldton, comprising an area bounded by a line commencing at the southern most point of West Wallabi Island, then directly easterly to AMG point 774000mE 6844800mN, then via Grid north to its intersection with the southern edge of Morning Reef, then north easterly via the eastern edge of Morning Reef to its northern most point, then directly north westerly to the southern most point of East Wallabi Island, then north westerly to the northern most point of West Wallabi Island, then south westerly and southerly via the western coastline of West Wallabi Island to the point of commencement.

Criterion

Values

(a) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history.

The *Batavia* and its associated sites hold an important place in the discovery and delineation of the Western Australian coastline. The wreck of the *Batavia*, and other Dutch ships like her, convinced the VOC (Dutch East India Company) of the necessity of more accurate charts of the coastline and resulted in the commissioning of Vlamingh's 1696 voyage.

Wrecked on 4 June 1629, it is the oldest of the known VOC wrecks on the WA coast and has a unique place in Australian shipwrecks. The sites consists of the wreck itself on Morning Reef, the survivors' camps and gravesites on Beacon Island, and the enclosures on West Wallabi Island.

Because of its relatively undisturbed nature the archaeological investigation of the wreck itself has revealed a range of objects of considerable value to the artifact specialist and historian investigating material in use by the Dutch in the first half of the 17th Century.

The reconstruction of the hull has taught us much about 17th Century shipbuilding techniques.

The remains of the cargo carried by the vessel have provided economic and social evidence of the operation of the Dutch port at Batavia in the early 17th Century.

The two ruined 'huts' on West Wallabi Island are the oldest structure built by Europeans in Australia.

As a result of their being marooned on the mainland, Wouter Loos and Jan Pelgrom de Bye are regarded as the first known European residents of the Australian continent.

Criterion	Values
(a) continued	<p>The human skeletal material recovered from Beacon Island has proved to be of considerable research significance. As the date and circumstances of most of the deaths on the island are known, the osteological evidence collected from the island has proved important as reference data for comparative osteological studies for other 17th and 18th Century Dutch burials.</p> <p>No other Australian shipwreck has the same associations with mutiny and murder such as the <i>Batavia</i> and this has fired public imagination.</p>
(c) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history.	<p>The number of archaeological discoveries made at Wallabi Islands sites indicate that they may still have potential to yield further information. The Western Australian Maritime Museum believe that there is still undiscovered skeletal material on Beacon Island as well as on West Wallabi Island. Continued investigation of the sites may have capacity to contribute further detail on 17th century Dutch lifestyle, diseases, and the hardships of the journey and the mutiny.</p>
(d) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of: (i) a class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or (ii) a class of Australia's natural or cultural environments.	<p>The <i>Batavia</i> provides one of the best Australian examples of the characteristics of a shipwreck site, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The wreck occurred after a long and arduous voyage where considerable hardship had already been experienced by the passengers and crew.- The vessel was wrecked at night on a coral reef that provided little by way of shelter and sustenance to the survivors.- The wreck contained what was for its time vast wealth in the form of silver coins and jewels of great value.- The survivors only hope of assistance was from an isolated Dutch outpost 900 nautical miles away, and to fetch this assistance required a superb feat of seamanship in open boats under considerable hardship. <p>The wreck of the <i>Batavia</i> is unique in the annals of Australian shipwrecks because of the consequential events of the Cornelisz-led mutiny and murders after the departure of Pelsaert to fetch assistance.</p>
(g) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.	<p>The <i>Batavia</i> wreck sites have social and cultural significance to members of the wider Australian community due to their role in defining the archetypal Australian shipwreck story. The places on which the events unfolded during and after the wreck of the ship, are associated with a nationally important story which graphically illustrates the dangers inherent in sea travel to Australia. The hardships inherent in this travel have become part of Australia's cultural traditions, expressed through books like Hugh Edwards' <i>Island of Angry Ghosts</i> and Henrietta Drake-Brockman's <i>Voyage to Disaster</i> and music, such as Richard Mill's opera '<i>Batavia</i>'.</p>

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being satisfied that the place specified in the Schedule has the National Heritage value or values specified in the Schedule include, pursuant to section 324J of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the place listed in the Schedule in the National Heritage List.

Dated 30th Day of March 2006

[SIGNED]

Ian Gordon Campbell
Minister for the Environment
and Heritage

SCHEDULE

STATE

Local Government Area

Name:

Location / Boundary

Criteria / Values

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Shark Bay Shire

Dirk Hartog Landing Site 1616 - Cape Inscription Area:

100km south west of Carnarvon, being that part of Dirk Hartog Island north of a line between AMG points 696200mE 7178500mN and 702200mE 7175800mN, and extending to the Low Water Mark.

Criterion

Values

- (a) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history.

Cape Inscription is the site of the oldest known landings of Europeans on the western coast of the Australian continent, and is associated with a series of landings and surveys by notable explorers over a 250 year period. Few places on the Australian coastline compare with Cape Inscription in terms of its associations with these prominent early explorers and surveyors:

Dirk Hartog in 1616;
Willem de Vlamingh in 1697;
William Dampier in 1699;
Francois de Saint-Allouarn in 1772;
Baron Emanuel Hamelin in 1801;
Louis de Freycinet in 1818;
Philip Parker King in 1822; and
Captain Henry Mangles Denham in 1858.

These landings had a profound effect on cartography and profoundly changed 18th century European worldview. As knowledge of the southern continent grew this led to French expeditions, such as Baudin's and deFreycinet's, whose primary purpose was one of discovery and scientific examination of the new continent and its flora and fauna.

The site comprises the cleft in the rock of the cliff top in which Hartog, Vlamingh, Hamelin, King, and Denham left memorials, the beach at Turtle Bay on which St Allouarne landed and the Dampier landing site at the beach on the south-eastern side of Cape Levillain.

- (b) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history.

The Cape Inscription area displays uncommon aspects of Australia's cultural history because of the cumulative effect its association with these explorers and surveyors had on growing knowledge of the great southern continent in Europe. The association of the site with these early navigators stimulated the development of the European view of the great southern continent at a time when they began to look at the world with a modern scientific outlook:

Criterion	Values
(b) continued	<p>Dampier's collection of plants marked the beginnings of scientific interest in Australian botany;</p> <p>The methodical collection of knowledge scientifically based on Australian botanical and zoological specimens and their taxonomic classification was commenced; and</p> <p>The growing interest in Australia stimulated by the discovery and charting of the Western Australian coastline led to expeditions of scientific discovery, such as those of Baudin and de Freycinet, specifically sent to explore and accumulate knowledge of the new continent.</p>
<p>(d) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of:</p> <p>(i) a class of Australia's natural or cultural places;</p> <p>or</p> <p>(ii) a class of Australia's natural or cultural environments.</p>	<p>The site has a special association with the work of a large group of early navigators. As a group, the work of these early navigators in the exploration and surveys of the Western Australian coastline around Cape Inscription was the first to accurately delineate the margins of the previously unknown 'Terra Australis Incognita'. This process changed world cartography and these navigators literally put Australia on the map, through:</p> <p>Dirk Hartog's chart of 1616;</p> <p>Victor Victorszoon's chart of 1697 drawn during Vlamingh's voyage;</p> <p>The French charts drawn by Ensign Rosily during the St Allouarne voyage in 1772, and by Hamelin and Baudin during their expedition in 1801;</p> <p>Philip Parker King's chart of 1822; and</p> <p>Captain Denham's chart of 1858.</p>
<p>(h) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural or cultural history.</p>	<p>The site has a special association with the work of a large group of early navigators. As a group, the work of these early navigators in the exploration and surveys of the Western Australian coastline around Cape Inscription was the first to accurately delineate the margins of the previously unknown 'Terra Australis Incognita'. These navigators changed world cartography and literally put Australia on the map, notably through:</p> <p>Dirk Hartog's chart of 1616;</p> <p>Victor Victorszoon's chart of 1697 drawn during Vlamingh's voyage;</p> <p>The French charts drawn by Ensign Rosily during the St Allouarne voyage in 1772, and by Hamelin and Baudin during their expedition in 1801;</p>

Criterion	Values
(h) continued	<p>Philip Parker King's chart of 1822; and</p> <p>Captain Denham's chart of 1858.</p> <p>Growing interest in Australia stimulated by the charting of greater stretches of coastline led to an extension of European scientific knowledge through the collection and classification of Australian specimens, many collected by expeditions sent to the continent specifically for the purpose of extending this knowledge.</p>

For a description of any references quoted above, and more information on each of the places please search the Australian Heritage Database at <http://www.deh.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl> using the name of the place.