



Australian Government

# Kurnell Peninsula Headland



*National Heritage List*

[www.heritage.gov.au](http://www.heritage.gov.au)




Site of the first recorded contact between Aboriginal peoples and British explorers in eastern Australia, Kurnell Peninsula is where Lt. James Cook made first landfall in 1770.

Cook's expedition led to the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788 and the British occupation of the Australian continent. The site symbolically represents the birthplace of a nation and the dispossession of Aboriginal peoples. Kurnell Peninsula received Australia's highest heritage honour when it was included in the National Heritage List on 20 September 2004.

### A site of history and discovery

- The *Endeavour* sailed into Botany Bay in 1770 in search of safe harbour and fresh water.
- Home to Aboriginal people for thousands of years, the Kurnell Peninsula is significant as the place of the first recorded contact between Aboriginal peoples and British explorers in eastern Australia.
- Cook's expedition resulted in the first maps and surveys of the east coast of *terra Australis* and the relationship to neighbouring islands. The area around Kurnell Peninsula was the first site on the east coast explored by scientists from Britain.

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- The landing and the exploration of the area surrounding Botany Bay led to the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788 and British colonisation of Australia.

## A place of powerful symbolism

- Cook's voyage and landing has a strong association with the birth of the Australian nation.
- For Aboriginal Australians Cook's landing represents the British colonisation of Australia and the dispossession of Aboriginal peoples.

## A tribute to significant people

- Significant as the place where Cook first set foot on Australian soil, the area is also associated with other important figures in Australian history.
- The warriors who confronted Cook in 1770 are significant to Aboriginal peoples. Their response to Cook's arrival clearly demonstrates ownership and defence of their land.
- The lure of first-type flora and fauna captivated *Endeavour* botanists Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander and artists Sydney Parkinson, Alexander Buchan and Herman Sporing. Banks and Solander collected 132 unique plant specimens. The *Banksia* species and native *Viola banksii*, discovered near the landing site, are named in honour of Banks. Botany Bay's Cape Banks and Point Solander also recognise their outstanding scientific contribution.
- The 325 hectare site contains numerous memorials to the early explorers, scientists and Aboriginal people associated with the arrival of Cook's expedition in 1770.

# National Heritage List

The National Heritage List recognises and protects our most valued natural, Indigenous and historic heritage sites. It reflects the story of our development, from our original inhabitants to the present day, Australia's spirit and ingenuity, and our unique, living landscapes.

Each place in the List has been assessed by the Australian Heritage Council as having outstanding heritage value to the nation, and is protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. This means that approval must be obtained before taking any action that may have a significant impact on the national heritage values of the place. In this way, we can retain our heritage for future generations.

To ensure ongoing protection, each listed place should have management arrangements in place to conserve and interpret the heritage values of the site.

The National Heritage List enables all Australians to value, protect, and celebrate our unique heritage.

**For further information visit [www.heritage.gov.au](http://www.heritage.gov.au)**

Kurnell Peninsula Headland: Botany Bay National Park,  
Cape Solander Drive, Kurnell NSW | Tel: (02) 9668 2000