



# BEFORE THE DREAMING

## Australia was part of GONDWANA

### Pre 1622

Aboriginal Presence...Noongars in the South-west of Western Australia.

c. 7500 years ago: Evidence of Aborigines living in King George Sound...middens.

c. 4000 years ago: Fish traps at Broke Inlet and Wilson Inlet. Gnamma holes in rocks in the Gordon River. Frankland River had lizard traps...shallow crab-crushing depressions along the coast... native wells (soaks) eg Nornaculup.

### 1622

Dutch ship "Leeuwin" to Cape Leeuwin, English Captain unnamed...travelled east along south coast past Point D'Entrecasteaux possibly to Point Nuyts...First Englishman to see the South-west Coast.



TRIASSIC  
200 million years ago

### 1627

Nuyts: Official of East India Company (VOC) aboard "Gulden Zeepaard"... Captain Thysen...sailed east past Point Nuyts to the Bight...Nuyts Forest Block named after him (cancelled in 1981, restored in 1987) and Christmas tree (Nuytsia floribunda).

**1628**

Map – “t landt van P Nuyts” showed southern coastline from Cape Leeuwin east for 1600 kms.

**1788**

First Fleet sailed south of Pt D’entrecasteaux on its way to Botany Bay.

**1791**

George Vancouver...”Chatham” and “Discovery”... named Point Chatham (now Chatham Island).

**1792**

D’Entrecasteaux led French expedition in “Recherche” and “Esperance”...French map showed Point Nuyts, (Bellanger) Beach and Mount Clare.

**Early 1800’s**

Visiting sealers and whalers used Sealers Cove and Snake Island in Nornalup Inlet.

**1801**

Matthew Flinders: “Investigator”...Cape Leeuwin to Sydney...saw Point Nuyts and Cape Chatham.

**1808**

Baudin, “Geographe” and Freycinet, “Casuarina”...noted that King George Sound was the only safe harbour along the South-west coast... missed Nornalup Inlet.

**1809**

Australian Postal Service began.

**1820’s**

Fur sealers e.g. Williams and boat “Fanny”... used Freshwater Creek upstream on the ‘Deep River of the Sealers’ (later renamed Frankland River) to replenish water supplies...Aboriginal name ‘Nor-nor-nup’...norna: tiger snake...encountered Aborigines.

**1826**

King George Sound: Major Lockyer established first Western Australian settlement...Albany.

**1828**

Yankee Whalers in King George Sound...probably visited ‘Deep river of the Sealers’.

**1829**

Swan River Colony: Captain Stirling, Governor until 1839.

November: Captain Barker and Dr TB Wilson sailed East to Sydney...Stirling instructed them to look for ‘Deep river of the Sealers’.

December: Wilson climbed Mount Lindsay; Named Mount Frankland/Roe/Mitchell after Australia’s three Surveyors General...did not explore inlet or see mouth of the Deep River.

**1831**

January: Captain Bannister came overland from Perth to Broke Inlet and Cape Chatham then east to Albany via Nornalup Inlet (he called it ‘Nornorlip’)...found Walpole River and is credited with finding the Nornalup Inlet.

April: Lieutenant Preston and four others rowed into Nornalup Inlet in a whaleboat... killed swans and caught fish...met...’our friends the natives’ (sailed from Albany in ‘Sulphur’). Found a sealer named Isaac living on Saddle Island with an Aboriginal woman...named Walpole River.

**1830’s**

‘Deep River of the Sealers’ was named the Frankland River after a map-makers error...he called the ‘West River’ the Deep River (as we know it today).

Sealers along the coast may have used native freshwater soak (Nornacalup) at the Peppermints inside the Nornalup Inlet mouth...Sealers Cove.

**1833**

John Arrowsmith printed a map showing Bannister’s route overland from Perth to Albany...in 1839 Arrowsmith printed a map showing Surveyor-General Roe’s surveys (Mount Roe & Roe Forest Block were named after him).

July: Hillman named Nornalup Inlet, Nor-nor-nup...first surveyor and official party (5 others) to come overland from Albany...collected plant specimens...his notes referred to 'Frankland River' rather than 'Deep river of the Sealers'.

### 1835

Surveyor Hillman, Governor Stirling & Surveyor General Roe overland...tour of inspection.

Captain Stirling named Walpole Inlet, Broke Inlet, Shannon River...Lieutenant Preston had named the Walpole Inlet in 1831 after Captain Walpole RN who had served with Stirling during the Napoleonic Wars.

### 1841

Feb: William Nairne-Clark & Simon Aspinall rowed from Albany in Aspinall's whale boat...entered Nornalup Inlet...stayed on Snake Island (Newdegate Island). Landed on and named Saddle Island...killed mutton birds...noted fur seals and penguins. Walked overland...saw West River (Deep River), Broke Inlet & Chatham Island.

### 1842

Captain Brown, American whaler, suggested a road to Albany rather than a port at Nornalup Inlet for timber industry.

### 1845

George and Henry Landor set up camp on Snake Island to grow vegetables for sealers...made a second camp in Landors' Gully for cattle grazing...built 2 boats. Aborigines stole potatoes...one was shot. The Landors left in 1846.

### 1846

AC Gregory travelled down the Frankland River to inlets. Showed that the Frankland and Gordon Rivers were one.

Aborigines seem to have left the inlets area about this time.

### 1850's

Convict Transport to Perth began (1850-1868). Ticket-of-leave men helped settlers...some became shepherds for early Manjimup pioneers.

### 1851

Andrew Muir settled at Forest Hill...his sons went to Deeside and Lake Muir...stopovers for Government officials, surveyors and explorers travelling east/west.

### 1859

First attempt to ship karri planking and jarrah from inlet failed.

Thomas Muir settled in Manjimup area...pastoral leases secured...base camp at Crystal Springs on cattle track to the coastal hills.



### 1860

Baron Von Mueller described and named E. Ficifolia (Red Flowering Gum) sent to him by George Maxwell.

### 1861

E Brockman and C Bussell settled near Pemberton.



[Return to main page](#)