

Map Matters



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Here is the Autumn 2016/17 edition of *Map Matters*, the newsletter of the Australia on the Map Division of the Australasian Hydrographic Society.



Dear Readers,

Here is the autumn issue for 2017 with contributions from Robert King and Peter Reynders. King writes about a proposal that, if implemented, would have resulted in Tasmania and all of us in the region speaking French instead of English.

The article from Peter Reynders is also about Tasmania, focusing on its name. We learn in school that Tasmania was first called Van Diemens Land, and later the name was changed to Tasmania. But it wasn't quite that simple.

It would be really nice if *Map Matters* would have articles from a bit more diversity of authors. If you provide the text, I can provide suitable images to complement it.

Please send contributions or suggestions for *Map Matters* to me at the email address at the bottom of this newsletter, or post them to me at: #130, PWA Village, 58 Collingwood Rd, Birkdale Qld 4159.

Enjoy reading.

Marianne Pietersen
Editor

News

Duyfken Summer Sailings

Duyfken will be back sailing the tranquil waters of the Swan River from mid-October 2017 through to late March 2018. She will be sailing from the South of Perth Yacht Club in Applecross on Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons /evenings. It will be the best 3½ hours you will experience this year.

From July 1, 2017, tickets will be available for purchase online via the *Duyfken* website and Ticketek.

For more details and to book, go to www.duyfken.com/sailing.

Hartog Portrait?

This speculative portrait from *Cyclopedia of Universal History* is one of several used to represent Henry Hudson. It has also been used to depict Dirk Hartog.

All the portraits used to represent Henry Hudson were drawn after his death. No contemporary painting or portrait of Henry Hudson has ever been found and even the oldest we have were painted after his death, by people who probably based their artwork solely on a description.

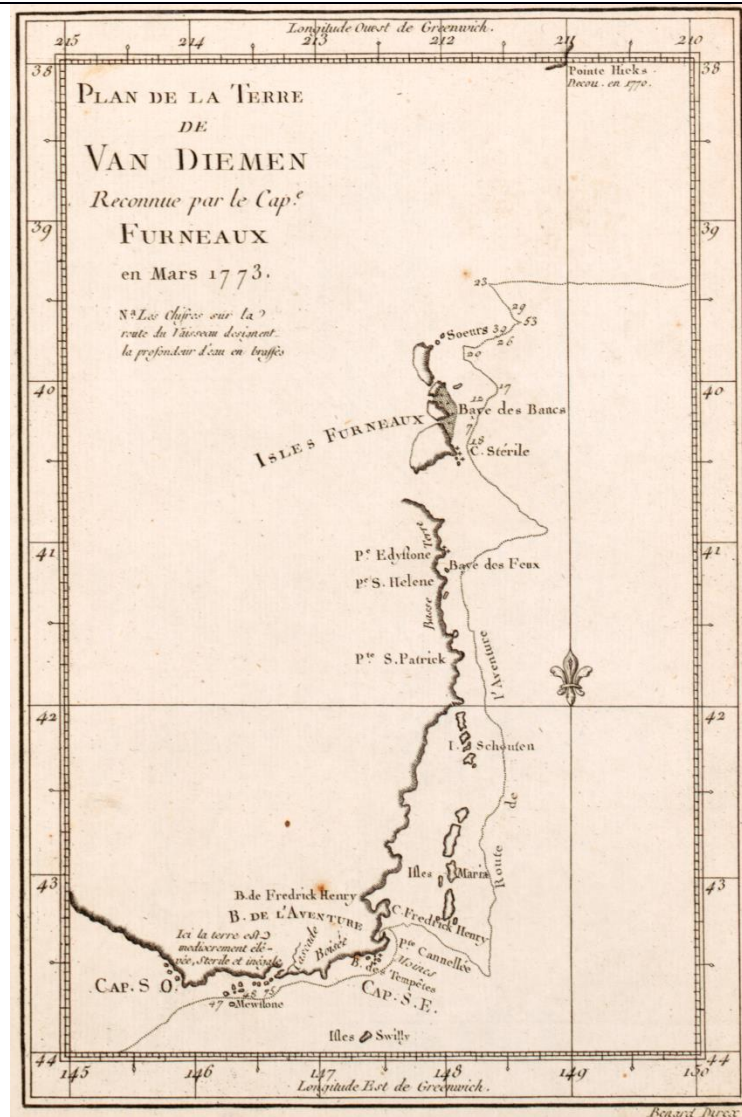
No portraits of Dirk Hartog exist at all.



	More Tasman NZ Commemorations
	<p>This year, New Zealand is busy commemorating the visit of Abel Tasman 375 years ago. Under the title "First Encounter 375" they have a flurry of activities planned. The main event is happening on 16- 19 December, 2017, at Golden Bay/Mohua, where the commemorations will be attended by the Netherlands Ambassador to NZ, Rob Zaagman and his wife Monique.</p> <p>Plans/details are still being developed around a visit by Grootegast officials, and two travelling exhibitions: "Through Tasman's Eyes" and "Welcome Aboard".</p> <p>For more information about activities planned visit following websites: www.tans.org.nz/oranjehof-the-dutch-connection-centre.html, or write an email to info@goldenbaymuseum.org.nz or tasman1642.nz@gmail.com.</p>

Articles

	Henri Peyroux de la Coudrenière and his plan for a colony in Van Diemen's Land
	<p style="text-align: right;">Robert J. King</p> <p>A Spanish Tasmania? Or a French Tasmania? If Henri Peyroux de la Coudrenière had had his way either of these two possibilities could have eventuated in the 1780s at just the time Captain Arthur Phillip was establishing a British colony at Botany Bay.</p> <p>Some time in 1784-85, Henri Peyroux de la Coudrenière wrote a "Mémoire sur les avantages qui résulteraient d'une colonie puissante à la terre de Diémen". A précis of it was published in 1927 by Paul Roussier.¹ Unfortunately, Roussier did not divulge where he had located the manuscript. Apparently, previous to submitting it to the French government, Peyroux had proposed it to the Spanish government, in whose service he was in Louisiana at the time. This was mentioned in a 1939 article by Ernest R. Liljegren. Again, Liljegren did not reveal the location of the manuscript.² Peter Tremewan published an article on Peyroux's proposal in 2013, using Roussier's summary of it.³</p> <p>Although Peyroux's proposal fell on deaf ears at the time, it was probably no coincidence that subsequently the two consecutive French expeditions commanded by Bruni D'entrecasteaux and Nicolas Baudin should have spent time investigating Van Diemens Land (Tasmania). Baudin was probably acquainted with Peyroux as, like him, he was involved in bringing Acadian refugees (who had been expelled from New France by Great Britain during the Seven Years War) to re-settle in Louisiana. In 1785, Baudin was captain successively of the <i>St Remy</i> and the <i>Caroline</i>, which transported Acadian settlers from Nantes to La Nouvelle Orléans.⁴ Peyroux was born in Nantes c.1743-44 and came to Louisiana in 1784 as interpreter for the Acadians. Shortly after, he wrote his memoir on the advantages to be gained for the Spanish crown by the settlement of Van Diemen's Land.⁵</p> <p>Paul Roussier said that the memorandum he found was unsigned and undated. It was designed to demonstrate to the responsible French minister the advantages that France would gain from the settlement of a strong colony in Van Diemen's Land. Roussier put its composition as being no earlier than 1784, the date of the publication of the third Pacific voyage of James Cook, to which the author referred, or later than the year 1790 because the author was ignorant of the settlement of Botany Bay in 1788 by Arthur Phillip and he advocated establishing the institution of dukes and counts in his new colony, which he would no longer have had in mind in 1791 after the French Revolution.</p>



Furneaux map of Van Diemen's Land

Peyroux was identified as the author of the memorandum in a 1935 article by George Verne Blue, who noted that a powerful colony such as proposed would prevent the English from occupying a base from whence they could conquer Peru and Mexico, and would likewise hold back the Russians who were threatening a southward advance from Kamchatka.⁶

Peyroux took service in the Spanish army and was commandant in Ste. Geneviève, Louisiana, 1787-1794. He was removed from this command as politically suspect, cleared and appointed commandant in New Madrid but dismissed in 1803 and returned to France. His date and place of death are unknown.⁷

There are numerous references to him in the Spanish archives cited by historians of this period of Louisiana's history, and perhaps one day his memorandum will be found there. A search of French archives may reveal the French version of it.

Meanwhile, the following translation of Roussier's summary of it may stimulate a search in the relevant archives, and remind us that by the 1780s colonization of Australia was seen as feasible and desirable not only in Britain, which actually carried it out, but in other European countries.

RJK

Henri Peyroux de la Coudrenière
Memoir on the advantages that would result from a strong colony in Van Diemens
Land [1784-1790]

The foundation of a strong French colony in the South Sea is needed, first, "to remove from the English the ability to make settlements that could one day procure for them the conquest of Peru and Mexico". It is much to be feared that if they were so inclined and turned their minds to this, they would soon become more redoubtable than they have ever been; the only way to stop them is to prevent them while we have sufficient forces in India; and secondly, to arrest the "formidable increase in strength of Russia in Kamchatka and in the province of Okhotsk that threaten the South Sea in an alarming way. Finally, the purpose of this proposed settlement should be to provide to the French nation every facility to trade in the South Sea with the rich countries that border it, China, Japan, Mexico, Peru, and with all the islands of the southern hemisphere that are unfrequented by either European or Asian fishers.

To assure to France the dominance of these most important seas, she would have to found a strong, durable colony, which would be a genuine New France in the antipodes and not a mere trading post like the settlements in India. Where would this colony be located? At the southern tip of New Holland, "which the maps designate with the name Van Diemens Land."

The advantages which the author of the memoir found in Van Diemens Land were numerous. First, its position: situated at one of the entrances of the South Sea, it prevailed from this point of view over the Straits of Magellan, the eastern entry, which was at all times difficult and dangerous, and over the northern passage through the Sunda Islands, "sown with reefs and therefore closed because of the winds and sea currents that are always contrary there and force ships to tack constantly, so that it takes considerable time to get to the seas of Japan from our Indian settlements", in contrast to Van Diemens Land and New Zealand, where "there is always a following wind to get there. The position is also favourable for closing off access to the South Sea, as the southern tip of the continent approaches to latitude 45° from the South Pole, and the southern passage is practicable only for a few months of the year, from late November until the end of April. In any other season, it is almost impossible to double this point, which makes it much more important than the Cape of Good Hope, which is at no more than 34½ degrees latitude".

"This land is so happily placed that we could from thence make the most brilliant trade with Africa, Asia, America and a countless multitude of islands". These advantages of position on the best sea route are complemented by the possibility of establishing a base in Van Diemens Land in a particularly favourable site: "we find an excellent harbour, called Frederick Henry Bay, where one can anchor in 14 fathoms sheltered from the wind. The country offers an enchanting appearance and the climate is pure and healthy. We read in Cook's voyages that the soil is fertile; it produces the largest and the tallest trees in the world, their trunks are seen to be 90 feet high without any forks. The natives cultivate flax, so a huge quantity of sails and cordage could be made; timber for construction would cost only the effort of felling and working the trees, and it could be used to build a powerful navy inexpensively and in a short time. Another no less important object is the whale, seal and other fisheries with which these seas abound. In sending, from the beginning, a great number of fishers there, a new source would suddenly be opened that would enrich the nation and form an excellent nursery for seamen".

After comparing the invaluable benefits he expected from Van Diemens Land to those the Cape of Good Hope offered to the Dutch, "a barren land, full of sand and rocks, where arable land is extremely rare and where there is not enough wood to even build boats", and remarking that if the small Isles of France and Bourbon had been able up till then to support French power in India, much more could be expected from the important settlements that he proposed, our author himself made the objection: "would it not require immense sums to bring this great project to execution? "

"No", he replied, "I know the colonies; I have lived there eight years and I have applied myself to the study of everything that can harm or promote these new settlements. Ten million livres

disbursed would be sufficient, and with a few rights to import and export that would be necessary to set up and a financial operation in the nature of a bank, it would not take ten years for the settlements in Van Diemens Land and the South Sea to be able to remit every year at least twelve millions of revenue to the King, in addition to the necessary costs of fortifications, payment of troops and other indispensable expenses”.

It was in Frederick Henry Bay that the principal settlement should be formed: it was this valuable port that should form the centre and soul of all the French forces in the East; it was from thence and from France that fleets and armies could then easily be transported to the coasts of all the continents and islands of the known world.

This future naval base must be prepared in secret; “we must hide from foreigners for a year or two our designs on these countries”. That could be done if the first settlers, soldiers, sailors, artisans, farmers, carpenters and shipbuilders were sent not from France, but from the Isles of France and Bourbon. The provisions would come from Europe and Madagascar, and in the first year some ships would go to purchase them in New Zealand. Nevertheless, so as to manage consumption until the new colony could feed its people, it would be as well, to start with, to send no more than a few women to Van Diemens Land.

The problem of labour, a constant concern of all founders of colonies, would find in this part of the world an easier solution than elsewhere. “If it were desired to introduce the use of slaves, it would be easy to procure them for trifles, especially in New Zealand where fathers sell their children for a few nails. In any case, all the peoples of the South Seas are much cleverer, smarter and stronger than the Negros and there is no fear of retarding the race by miscegenation with them because they resemble Europeans by their features, their beards, their hair, and they are only a little more tanned, but for strength and agility they are second to no people of Europe”.

The question of trade by the colonies with the homeland and foreign countries, the author believes could be resolved in a liberal sense: “It would be appropriate to allow the new colonies in the South Sea to plant vines and have their own manufactures, because these countries, being more neighbours to Asia than to Europe, would be able to obtain their needs more cheaply from them than our merchants would be able to do for them. Besides, this would be the most effective way to prevent foreigners from trading in contraband and removing money from these colonies. Each country always has some productions and some branches of industry particular to them. Thus France could always do a good trade in local navigation from one island to another, from one colony to another, and would maintain more French sailors than if priority were to be given to stifling industry by sending more goods from France. We currently have enough outlets for our wines and our manufactures in Europe, in Africa, at Philadelphia, Boston and in our American colonies. So we should think about making Van Diemens Land a New France that could carry on the commerce of the nation in all ports of the continents and islands of the Indian Ocean and South Sea”.

The advantages that France would draw from the economic freedom granted to its new colony would ensure its rapid development. “The number of families that would go to settle from Europe and Asia, if one encouraged trade, fishing, arts and manufactures, would soon form a great nation who would pay annually a considerable treasure into the King's coffers. We would clandestinely carry on a prodigious trade on the coasts of Peru, Chile, Mexico and California”. Fishing and trade was the way for France to be able to maintain, “within ten years, a hundred thousand sailors,” in the South Sea.

“Then we could easily seize the whole continent of New Holland. As this vast country is very imperfectly discovered, perhaps there are civilized nations to be found there? At the very least, it seems that the English have not released a great part of the discoveries they made during the third voyage of Cook, as the author of the first account of that voyage says that upon arrival in Macao the commander had all the journals, notes, maps and drawings relating to the countries they had come from observing sealed up and forbade all his people to answer questions that would be put to them. It therefore seems that important matters have been hidden from us. In any case, it is

	<p>certain that there is a large number of islands in the South Sea whose inhabitants are more than half-civilized; they speak the same language, which is a great advantage for trading with them. The climate and fertility of the soil permit cultivation of the richest productions, and in the current state of civilization of these countries the inhabitants only lack iron to quickly excel in the arts, agriculture and navigation.</p> <p>It would therefore be easy for France, if she had a considerable settlement in Van Diemens Land, to establish her sovereignty over all these islands. Forts would be maintained only on those which were the most important because of their size or the goodness of their ports. Alliances would be contracted with the natives, their industry perfected, their policing would be achieved and their property defended against those pirates who would wish to devastate these seas. The chiefs of each island would easily submit to the Crown if it gave them more wealth and consideration. Their children would be educated in the French language and manners, and each of these hereditary chiefs would have the title of count or duke.</p> <p>"By these beneficial means a strong empire would be formed almost immediately in this part of the world, without bloodshed, which would assure to us forever the affections of all these nations, superiority in India and sovereignty of the seas. Soon the French tongue would be spoken in all corners of the world and the entire nation would reach a point of splendour which no maritime power has ever attained".</p> <p>Tobias Furneaux and Robert Bénard, <i>Plan de la Terre de Van Diemen reconnue par le Cape. Furneaux en Mars 1773</i>; from: Jacques Cook, <i>Voyage dans l'Hémisphere austral, et autour du Monde fait sur les Vaisseaux de Roi, l'Adventure, & la Resolution, en 1772, 1773, 1774 & 1775</i>, Paris, 1778, Pl. 11. nla.gov.au/nla.obj-232573727</p> <p>-----</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paul Roussier, "Un projet de colonie française dans le Pacifique à la fin du XVIII^e siècle," <i>Revue du Pacifique</i>, Année 6, No.1, 15 Janvier 1927. 2. Ernest R. Liljegren, "Jacobinism in Spanish Louisiana, 1792-1797," <i>Louisiana Historical Quarterly</i>, vol.22, no.1, 1939, pp.47-97, p.85. See also Oscar William Winzerling, <i>Acadian Odyssey</i>, Baton Rouge, 1955; re-issued by Louisiana State University Press, 2015, pp.90-108; and Ronald R. Morazán, "Records of the Cabildo: Miscellaneous Documents Relating to River Pirates", <i>Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association</i>, vol.42, no.2, Spring 2001, pp.209-216, p.212. 3. Peter Tremewan, 'La France australe': From dream through failure to compromise', <i>Australian Journal of French Studies</i>, vol.50, no.1, April 2013, pp.100-114. 4. Carl A. Brasseaux, <i>The Founding of New Acadia: The Beginnings of Acadian Life in Louisiana, 1765-1803</i>, Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Press, 1987, p.109. 5. Abraham P. Nasatir, <i>Spanish War Vessels on the Mississippi: 1792-1796</i>, Yale University Press, 1968, p.88. 6. George Verne Blue, "French Interest in Pacific America in the Eighteenth Century", <i>Pacific Historical Review</i>, vol. 4, no.3, September 1935, pp. 246-266, p.262. 7. Carl J. Ekberg, <i>Colonial Ste. Genevieve: an Adventure on the Mississippi Frontier</i>, Patrice Press, Tucson, Ariz., 1985 (2nd edn. 1996).
	<p>Abel Tasman</p>
	<div data-bbox="395 1624 880 2004" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="917 1758 1292 1848" data-label="Caption"> <p>Portrait of Abel Tasman, attributed to Jacob Gerritsz Cuyp, 1637. (not authenticated).</p> </div>

Why the name Tasmania?

Peter Reynders

The name *Tasmania* for the island and former colony was formally approved by Queen Victoria and her government in 1855 to replace the name Van Diemen's Land (VDL). The first suggestion for this alternative name was arguably made about half a century earlier in England, but by whom is not clear. The new name was adopted and used for decades prior to the official name change by many especially in the colony of VDL. This story summarizes why the name was changed.

Tasmanian Librarian Terry Newman wondered who first thought of and documented the name *Tasmania*. He researched it and wrote a 160 page A4 size book about it, also documenting the lead-up to the name change. But the precise origin of the first coinage of the name remains a mystery.

Name changes were common

Why did the British Government make an exception here and name one of their colonies after a Dutchman and not after one of their own? Many Dutch names indeed had been removed from the map of our continent that had accumulated there from 1606. Particularly during the government of Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger, who was also, at 24, the youngest ever Prime Minister of Britain, many Dutch names were removed and replaced on the charts by those of later English navigators and cartographers. Pitt died as PM in 1806. The name VDL was already during Pitt's government considered as temporary hence destined for replacement.

This too is the conclusion of Newman, where he refers to a letter of 1802 by 'William Bentik (sic), the 3rd Duke of Portland', which refers to '...this group of islands known at present as Van Diemen's Land'. This is for Newman strong evidence that a name change was contemplated, as VDL was not any more considered a coast of the mainland but known to be an island since the first circumnavigation of the island by Bass and Flinders in 1798. Newman also observed that countless place names were in a state of flux during the colonial era including in VDL, and Australian history generally.¹



William Bentinck, 3rd Duke of Portland,
As Prime Minister of the UK (1807-09)

Earliest found reference to Tasmania

The earliest written evidence of the name *Tasmania* was on a bi-hemispheric map published in 1808 by Laurie and Whittle, of Fleet Street, London. It states *Tasmania or Van Diemen's Land*. The most likely period therefore, that someone other than this map's publisher would have coined the name Tasmania, is between 1798 and 1808, indeed possibly in London. If so, that suggestion may not have been related to the wish to change the name VDL because of its status as a penal colony.

The 3rd Duke of Portland was Lord President of the Privy Council, a cabinet position in the Pitt government. He became a great-great grandfather of Queen Elizabeth II. More interestingly for this story, he was the grandson of Hans Willem Bentinck, the first Duke of Portland, who in 1688, as a key adviser of the Dutch Stadtholder Prince William of Orange, had crossed with him from Holland to England with a huge Armada of ships, without encountering much resistance. William, subsequently became the leader of the *glorious revolution* and King William III of England.



Tasmania, Detail of map by Laurie & Whittle

The letter is dated within that period and Bentinck no doubt was conscious of his Dutch Heritage and had some idea of Dutch history. If so, he may have known that Tasman was not only the first European to discover VDL, but also that he was Dutch. Speculation as to whether the third Duke of Portland could therefore have launched the name *Tasmania* first, will at best score a 'perhaps', unless further supporting evidence is added. There are many other likely candidates for having first thought about the name *Tasmania*. For example, George Bass and Matthew Flinders. Flinders more than most, removed (or did not use again) many long standing Dutch names with his updates of the Australian coastline, first on his manuscript map of 1804 and then the published version of 1814. So, a suggestion that it was Flinders would imply a rare deviation from this practice. He did not take his chance to rename the island, as he did for the continent, New Holland, and kept the name VDL.

Van Diemen and Tasman

The reader will be familiar with the two historical Dutch names Abel Tasman and Antonio van Diemen and their place in the history of Australia. Abel Tasman was the first European to circumnavigate Australia and chart much of the coast of the land he named VDL on his voyage of discovery in 1642-43 that was ordered by his boss the VOC's Governor-General of the Indies, Antonio van Diemen.

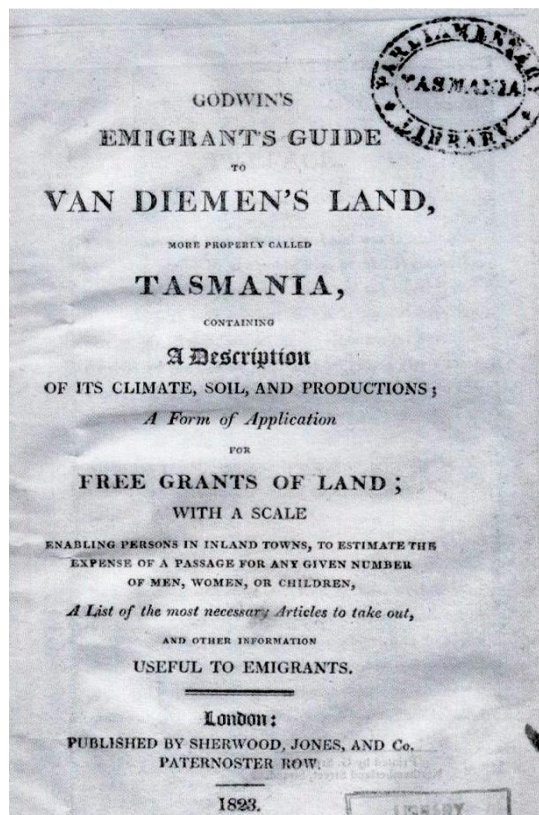
Cook, Phillips, King, Bowen and Collins

In Lieutenant James Cook's 1770 ceremony at Possession Island he claimed the *east coast of New Holland* for Britain, where his log's detailed description makes clear this did not include VDL. Governor Arthur Phillip later claimed more of the mainland for Britain, including VDL, even though he had never been there. He still assumed it was a part of the mainland.

The later Governor Phillip Gidley King of NSW sent Lt John Bowen to start a penal settlement at VDL at the mouth of the Derwent River, to be part of the NSW penal colony system. King had suspected that the French would settle the island and wanted to beat them to it, even though Nicolas Baudin, who visited the island in 1802, had expressed doubt in a letter to him whether such a populated island could legally or morally just be colonized. King subsequently ordered Lt David Collins, who replaced Bowen to name the camp set up by Bowen with 48 people, half of them convicts, after the Minister of the Colonies, Lord Hobart. Thus, Hobart became Australia's second oldest town.

VDL the penal colony

VDL as a penal colony was now a fact. Courts in NSW started to issue sentences for transportation to VDL, so that in February 1805 there were 310 convicts in the European population of 469 under leadership of Collins. King had written to the influential Joseph Banks in 1803 that he would open the colony for free settlers as well, which happened. The first shipload of convicts from England arrived in VDL in 1812. Four decades later a total of 65,607 convicts had been transported to VDL, approximately 80% of them male.



Title page from *Godwin's Emigrant's Guide*, 1823
Tasmanian Parliamentary Library

Godwin's Emigrant's Guide 1823

Source: <http://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/php/BecomingTasmania/>

Three political key issues of a divided community

VDL's population grew. It now consisted of free settlers, the military i.e. the jailers and their families, incarcerated convicts and convicts who had finished their time, but also a kind of half free or 'leave card' convicts, who were allowed to provide their own roof over their head and work in the community provided they report to the police regularly. Finding work and housing was not easy for this last group.

Then there were groups who considered themselves a kind of middle class or a bit more 'respectable', having slightly more money, and those who aspired to that. There was also a small group who had large rural properties and saw themselves as gentry. At the same time because one had accepted VDL as their home, many grew attached to the beautiful island and hence wanted to improve the social and economic aspects of it. Issues imposed by Sydney or London that any of these groups did not agree with could give rise to the setting up of politically active groups to try and change this.

Three of the interlinked political issues that crystallized from this soon after the island became a penal colony were:

- VDL to become a separate colony,
- ending of the penal colony status, and
- a change of the name of the colony.

People who traveled outside the island to Sydney, London or elsewhere, had discovered that the reputation of VDL was atrocious: The very words Van Diemens Land were considered synonymous with a hell hole where criminals and crime were rife and life was tough for everyone. As a result, they advised their friends and family to pretend they came from elsewhere, or to proudly declare: "I am from Tasmania". The contaminated name VDL had to be avoided. In that atmosphere the habit developed to use the name Tasmania. Political action to change the name to *Tasmania* started.

'Tasmania' during the first half of the 19th century

Newman found evidence of a great many instances of the early use of the words *Tasmania* and *Tasmanians*.

These names could be found in many articles of the local newspapers, in published poems, in official letters, in the names of clubs, and utility organizations, work titles including of church employees, names of businesses including banks and a steamboat company, names of buildings, of hotels, even on gravestones, too many to describe here in detail.²

The London published *Godwin's Immigrant Guide to van Diemen's land more appropriately called Tasmania* was dated 1823. The so called Degraes and MacIntosh's Coin, a medallion showing a kangaroo and the word Tasmania dated 1823, is still in the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.

Separate colony and cessation of sending convicts

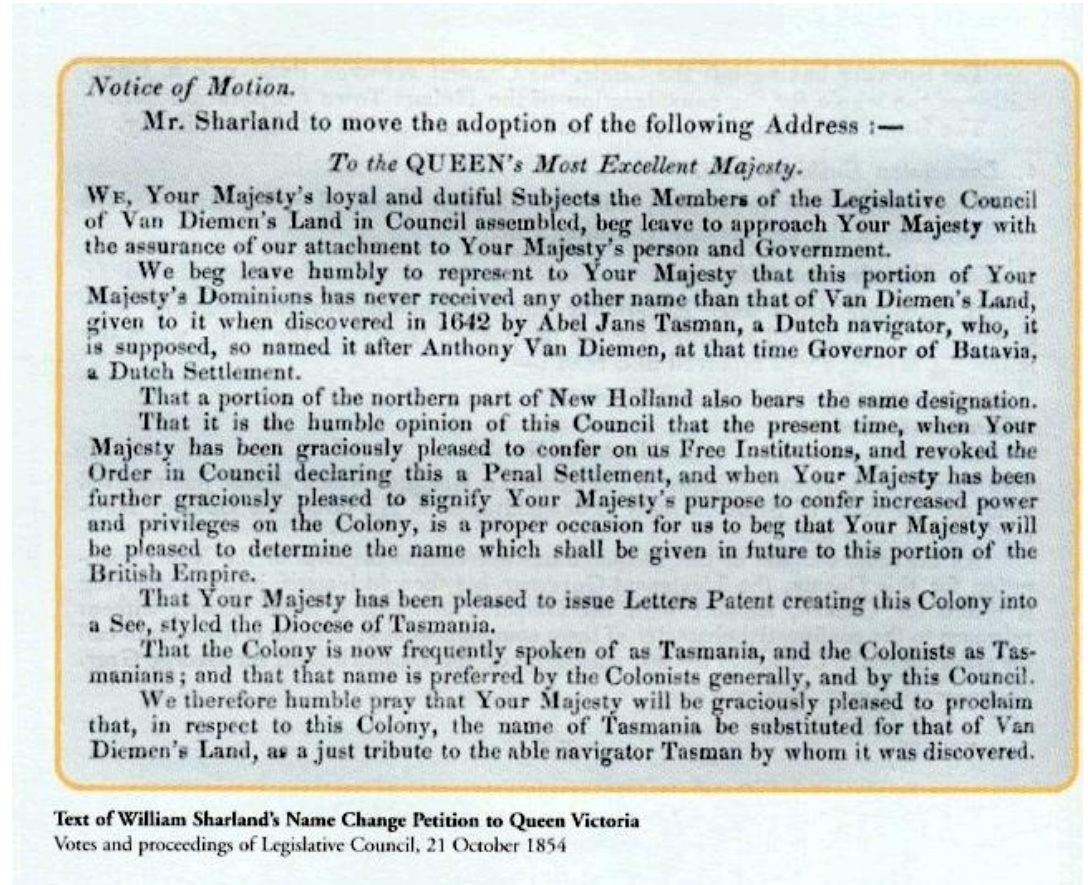
Political action to become a separate colony was successful, and from October 1824 VDL was a colony directly under the responsibility of the Minister for the Colonies. The action to get rid of the penal colony status took much longer. The cost of food, guarding and housing of the convicts had to be substantially carried by the citizens. In October 1845 during the budget debate of the (single) Legislative Council six members did walk out of the meeting, leaving it without a quorum to legally continue. They also resigned afterwards and gained some kind of hero status with the nickname *the patriotic six*.

The British Government announced that for two years no ships with convicts would be sent. However, they kept arriving. In other penal colonies similar actions had been taken. Finally in 1853 came news that Queen Victoria had asked in November 1852 that the Government discontinue 'at no distant time' the sending of convicts to VDL. Although on 21 April hundreds of convicts had still arrived by ship from England, the government decision was announced in the Hobart Gazette of 3 May 1853. The removal of a hated stain on VDL's heritage had started.

Feelings after the penal colony and further action

The penal colony situation did have a great influence on the reputation of the island and on the social and emotional feelings of the inhabitants. The negativity was all reflected and felt to be represented in the name VDL. Action to change the name continued, not without obstruction from the pro-transportation Governor and certain groups who had always believed in the economic benefits of the penal colony.

In March 1854 did one Thomas Gregson MLC move a motion in the Legislative Council with a text for a letter to the Queen thanking her for her role in the cessation of transportation to VDL. He used the name *Tasmania* in the letter. Francis Smith MLC moved an amendment to change the text by removing the name *Tasmania* and using VDL. Smith lost the amendment 13 to 5 votes. Other hurdles were thrown up against the progress of the name change, political as well as legal ones.



Source: <http://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/php/BecomingTasmania/>

Sharland's petition motion succeeds

Finally 21 October, 1854, William Stanley Sharland MLC, a former surveyor now keeping sheep, moved a motion to send a petition to the Queen to ask that the name be changed to *Tasmania*. It was carried and Governor Denison, previously against the name change, sent it to England with the recommendation that the Queen *accede to the Prayer of the Petitioners* because the name *Tasmania* had earlier been recognized in letters to the Bishop and that the name VDL carried a certain stigma.

On 21 July, 1855, the Queen and her ministers considered the petition and was *graciously pleased* to grant the name change. The new name would become law on 1 January 1856.

Did Queen Victoria know that Tasman was not a Brit and consider this at the time?

After all, colonial and later early 20th century governments, particularly in the eastern states, did teach that James Cook 'discovered' Australia. Abel Tasman is easily perceived as an English name, even today. I have not seen evidence that on that agenda item in cabinet the nationality of Tasman came up in the discussion. But it did not matter, the distant colonials were made happy.



William Stanley Sharland

Feast

A great feast was organized to celebrate the name change in the form of an "International Grand Regatta" along the Derwent River. 'International' as also all foreign ships in the harbour were invited to send a crew to compete. The event is still being held annually as the *Royal Hobart Regatta*, which this year took three full days with events on and above the water.

The last Tasmanian convict jail, Port Arthur, only closed in 1877 when still the 'residence' of many elderly convicts.

The story about the disappearance of all of the already then called *Tasmanian* Aborigines from the colony, perhaps totalling about 7000 people, which played itself out during the same half century, shows a much less positive development. No feast there, where a name change could not hope to remove that stain.

Four verses of a ballad were published, appropriately enough in Van Diemen's Land in the local newspaper the *Launceston Advertiser* of 21 November, 1839.

One version of the Australian/British folksong:

'Van Diemen's Land':

They chain us two by two, and whip and lash along,
They cut off our provisions if we do the least thing wrong,
They march us in the burning sun, until our feet are sore,
So hard's our lot now we are got upon Van Diemen's shore.

We labour hard from morn to night, until our bones do ache.
Then every one, they must obey, their mouldy beds must make ;
We often wish, when we lay down, we ne'er may rise no more.
To meet our savage governors upon Van Diemen's shore.

Every night when I lay down, I wash my straw with tears,
While wind upon that horrid shore do whistle in our ears
Those dreadful beasts upon that land around our cots do roar;
Most dismal is our doom upon Van Diemen's shore.

Come all young men and maidens, do bad company forsake,
If tongue can tell our overthrow, it would make your heart to ache;
You girls, I pray, be ruled by me, your wicked ways give o'er,
For fear, like us, you spend your days upon Van Diemen's shore.

~~~~~

In his *'Folk Song in England'* A.L.Lloyd writes:

For wounding a keeper a man could be hanged; for taking a squire's pheasant or hare he could be transported to the penal stations of Van Diemen's Land, Norfolk Island, Botany Bay, Moreton Bay. In the three years alone between 1827 and 1830, more than 8,500 men and youths were convicted as poachers, and a high proportion of them shipped away in broad-arrowed felt suits, shackles on their ankles.

The above is just one version of the Australian folk song and all are set in a minor key. Others indeed tell of poachers, either from Liverpool or Ireland. They tend to have this sentence in common: "When you go a-hunting with your dog, gun and snare" as well as the words "Van Diemen's Land" or "- Shore" in the last line of each stanza.

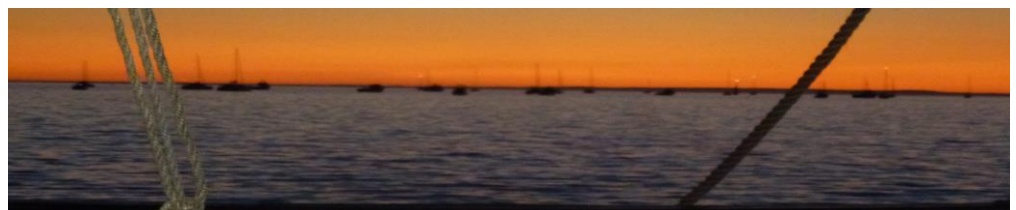
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- 1 Newman, T.A. *Becoming Tasmania -renaming Van Diemen's Land*, Parliament of Tasmania, Hobart 2005 p7
  - 2 Ibid pp 37-53

## Photography Corner



The Union sculpture at its unveiling in Denham, WA, October 2016.  
The name 'Union' was chosen to symbolize the maritime links between Netherlands and Australia, and was also inspired by the name of Dirk Hartog's ship "Eendracht", which means 'unity'.



Shark Bay Sunset





Replica of the Batavia Long Boat in Denham. Usually resides in Geraldton.  
Six men sailed her from there to Denham for the Hartog festival.



Shark Bay from Space. Photo by NASA.

## AOTM Monthly Meetings - Members welcome



Meetings of the Australia on the Map Council are held on the first Thursday of the month, at 2.00pm in a meeting room on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the National Library of Australia in Canberra.  
All AOTM members and interested parties who would like to attend are encouraged to do so.

## How to contact AOTM

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[www.australiaonthemap.org.au](http://www.australiaonthemap.org.au)

facebook:  
<http://on.fb.me/1pbripQ>

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