

Naming of Places: Throughout this book, where known to me, I have named the location according to the local First Nation's name (for which there can be spelling variations) followed by the relatively recent British given name. Where the First Nation's name is not known to me, I have recorded "Name since Time Immemorial ?" followed by a caption with the British given name. This is because I feel it is important to consider and reflect upon the fact that people have been living on this land for possibly 120,000 plus years before the present day, through the last Ice Age around 18,000 years ago and beyond and that these places had/have their own names, before what is today recognised by many as their 'official' name on maps that were created by the colonisers. I find it curious to compare how the naming of a place in the British mindset is often associated with conferring some kind of ownership over it (eg: Griffith's Island) or naming it in honour of a person with which the name giver wishes to solidify a certain relationship with (eg: Queenscliff), whereas for First Peoples the name has meaning associated with the description of the landscape (eg: Wurdi Youang meaning 'big mountain in the middle of a plain') and/or the path of Ancestral Beings that created the landscape (eg: Budj Bim meaning 'High Head').

A curious story: Prior to Captain Matthew Flinders exploring and 'naming' many features in South West 'Victoria', a French explorer Nicholas Baudin had previously sailed past and mapped and 'named' some coastal features. Flinders was angered by the use of French names on Baudin's chart and declared it "an injustice to our Nation in general and to Lieutenant Grant and me, in particular ..... for the greater part of the coast was discovered by us". (Learmonth, op cit, page 18, Learmonth - First Mayor of Portland.)