

Portrait of Captain James Cook RN, 1782 by John Webber

This is one of three surviving Cook portraits by John Webber, the artist who, on Daniel Solander's recommendation, sailed on the *Resolution* on Cook's third and final voyage. Completed posthumously, it was acquired by the Commonwealth Government in 2000 with the assistance of Robert Oatley AO and John Schaeffer AO.

(National Portrait Gallery)

First contact - Captain Cook's arrival in 1770

It was on the southern shore of Botany Bay that the Dharawal people first made contact with Europeans on 29 April 1770 when Lieutenant James Cook of the Royal Navy arrived in HM Barque *Endeavour*, a ship that was about a third of the size of a Manly ferry, and yet carried 101 people and months of provisions. This voyage was just one episode in the story of Europe's expansion across the globe. It was made possible not only by Britain's mastery of the seas, but also by the brilliance of James Cook's navigational skills.

In the time – a little over a week – that the Englishmen spent at Botany Bay they explored some of the surrounding countryside, took on water and undertook a little refurbishment of the *Endeavour*. The two botanists Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander spent a good deal of their time in establishing what would become a plant collection of international significance. They also fished and hunted. In a rare break from plant collecting, Banks recorded how he made a 'small excursion in order to shoot anything I could meet with'.

No amicable contact was made between the Englishmen and the Dharawal people during the *Endeavour's* stay at Botany Bay. Their departure on 6 May must have been a relief, as Cook admitted, 'all they seemed to want was for us to be gone.'

There was one death amongst the crew of the *Endeavour* when seaman Forby Sutherland 'departed this life' on 29 April. Sutherland was buried, in the words of James Cook at 'the watering place which occasioned my calling the south point of this bay after his name'. Years later landowner Thomas Holt attached Forby Sutherland's name to his estate, and this in turn became the name of the local government area – Sutherland Shire – in 1906.

Reference:

- Pauline Curby, *Pictorial History of Sutherland Shire*, Kingsclear Books, 2004 (2nd edition 2007)