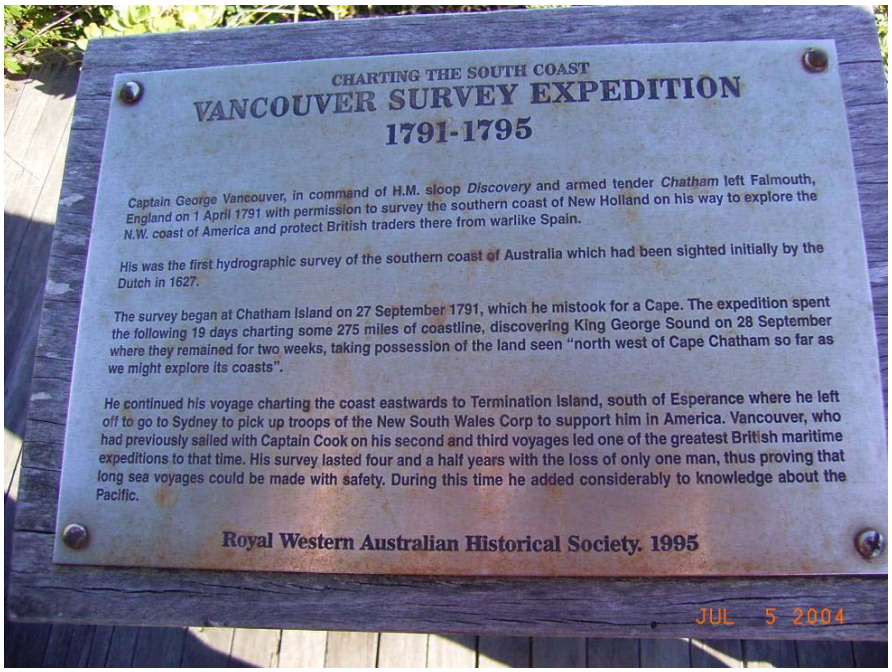
6.0 1829-1850 Early Exploration

6.1 Demographic Settlement

One of the first significant European explorers along the southern coast of Western Australia was Captain George Vancouver. He visited in 1791 and is credited with 'discovering' King George Sound. A French exploration party led by Bruny D'Entrecasteux came within view of the southern coastline of Western Australia in the late 1700s.[1] But it was not until 1826 that Western Australia was first settled with the establishment of a military presence at Princess Royal Harbour (later Albany). The Swan River Colony was established by Captain James Stirling in 1829.



The historical plaque that marks Vancouver's visits to the southern coast in 1791.
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In 1830 a townsite was established at Augusta. In 1831 Lieutenant Preston explored the southern coastline in a whaleboat. His party was forced to walk overland from west of Point D'Entrecasteaux to Augusta and in the process crossed the Warren and Donnelly Rivers. Also in 1831 part of the later Shire of Manjimup area was crossed by Captain Bannister and a Mr Smythe of the Surveyor-General's Department. However, despite these brief visits the area remained largely unexplored until 1852

[1] Berry, Christopher, *The History, landscape and heritage of the Warren District,* 1987

when the official survey of the Nelson District was undertaken. (The Nelson District was the name given to the area between the Warren and the Blackwood Rivers.)