This map shows the routes of the navigators who, passing near or through Bass Strait between 1770 and 1803, and Victoria were well-populated with Aborigines. So, to put the navigators’ activities into proper context, exploring Bass Strait have convincingly resolved the issue. The Cape of Good Hope and India) did so via the southern coast of Tasmania. The routes of the incomparable Matthew Flinders are portrayed as shown on his charts.

The first European known to reach Bass Strait was James Cook in the Endeavour, who approached from the GUNNAI Reides Rock. Eighteen years after Cook’s visit, a convict settlement was created at Port Jackson (Sydney). Until the Brabralung Bass Strait had been discovered, Bass Strait offered a shorter route between Sydney and the outside French Names appear on the original navigation chartsto nominate the existing features. Signifies the separation or reunion of two or three vessels. Currents and winds, and there was an urgent need to chart the location of these features. Where the waters were shallow or the coastline intricate, geographers and surveyors were sent from a mother ship in dinghies and other small craft to assist with the charting. The routes of the more extensiveof these trips in small craft have been added to the map, where space allowed.

Although much of the charting was carried out under official authority, some discoveries were made by Harbinger discovered a group of islands which he named land border between the two States! In addition to the numerous British vessels that explored Bass Strait in this period, a very significant French expedition under Nicolas Baudin (in the Naturaliste, Naturaliste and later Geographe, Naturaliste in the region. Occasionally two, or all three, of the French vessels would proceed together, to indicate scientific work in the region. The accuracy of the plotting of the navigators’ routes varies, depending on the quality of the charts that the navigators have left behind. In the case of the longboat from the Geographe, Naturaliste to indicate .

To access the following reference material associated with this map: visit the Publications page on the website of the Australian and New Zealand Map Society, www.anzmaps.org - Some References for Routes of Early Navigators 1770 - 1803 - Indigenous Language Areas and Placenames.