

Captain Cook's Landing Place

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These photographs were taken by Max Darby on the shore at Kernel in Botany Bay, Sydney,
in January 2013

The location shown in these photographs is the traditional landing place of Captain James Cook on his first exploratory journey to Australia. The monument is located just off the shore on the South side of the Bay where Cook reportedly anchored his ship Endeavor in April, 1770.

It is interesting that in the distance in one photograph can be seen the monument to Frenchman La Perouse who landed on the opposite, Northern side of the entrance to Botany Bay in 1788 where the suburb named after him exists. La Perouse sailed away into the Oceanic regions and his ship was never seen again. It was later discovered that his 2 ships were wrecked off the Northern coast of the New Hebrides.

Locations such as this provide students with many opportunities create artworks of an historical or narrative nature. The capacity to tell stories and to record events and information is important to the value of the visual art in schools. Even addressing topics related to the near and local history of the school can be a worthwhile and challenging project. The historical and narrative works of Australian and overseas artists can be introduced and discussed during such projects. What might your own students undertake and where can information be located to assist?

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