

THE EVOLUTION OF SOME HISTORIC SITES

RECHERCHE BAY, TASMANIA

1792 to 2006

ASSOCIATED WITH

THE D'ENTRECASTEAUX EXPEDITION,

1792 & 1793.

Peter MacFie

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HERITAGE TASMANIA

Anna Gurnhill

Allison Ryland

DIPWE

Mike Nash

Fiona Preston

LANDS TITLES OFFICE

Eileen Nichols

RECHERCHE BAY

Bruce Poulson

Greg Hogg

PROFESSIONALS

Parry Kostoglou,

Geoff Lennox (ret)

INSTITUTIONS

Ross Smith, Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery, Launceston

Denise Gaughwin, archaeologist, Forest Practices Authority

Graeme Wilkinson, manager FPA

Fred Duncan, botanist Forest Practices Authority

CONSERVATIONISTS

Bob Graham

OTHERS

Angus Downie

INTRODUCTION

'In brief, the name Recherche Bay points us toward a rich legacy of precious information.'

Geoff Lennox, Interpretation Officer,
Parks, Wildlife & Heritage, 1990.

This study is an attempt to synthesise the various reports and histories on Recherche Bay, done with a view to:

Documenting historic sites connected principally with the D'Entrecasteaux expeditions, and

Provide historical material and documentation for a planned archaeological survey of French sites at Recherche Bay.

Recherche Bay has attracted recent attention over the supposed French Garden near Crescent Beach. However, old and new members of the local community have a deep attachment to Recherche Bay as their home, reinforced by a strong folk memory. This has been tapped into by Bruce Poulson in his recent book on Recherche Bay. Many stories are still to be collected.

Several people have recently brought the wider community and the world's attention to the significance of the French visit to Recherche Bay in 1792 and 1793. Bruce Poulson, former teacher (including the author's matriculation history teacher) and college principal has an abiding love of the area and is immersed in the local community, even in its division over whether North East Arm should be conserved.

Through patient research, former Sydneysider and now Recherche Bay resident, Geoff Hogg has been able to specify the exact location of many of the sites connected with the D'Entrecasteaux expedition. History, as we know, is written by winners. In the case of the D'Entrecasteaux expedition, its history was written by those who survived its catastrophic finale in Java, when many members died. The survivors went on to write their history of the expedition, leaving out the achievements of

those who had died. Geoff Hogg was astute enough to see the weakness in this version of history. He sought out the varied drafts of maps of the expedition, including semi finished drafts which contain more detail than those in the formal Atlas of Beautemps-Beaupre. His interpreting the significance of the unfinished map of Rocky Bay by the French draftsman, Jouveney, Beautemps-Beaupre draftsman is a case in point. Reproduced in Plomley & Piard-Bernier, the map enabled the pin-pointing of several unique positions at Rocky Bay during the 1793 return visit. Sites previously overlooked, and resurrected by Geoff Hogg include the forge at Mott's Point, and the two observatories at Adams Point and Snake Point in Rocky Bay. These and other recommendations were sent to Heritage Tasmania.

We all owe a debt in absentia to the late NHL Plomley, historian, author and former head of the QVM, Launceston. Plomley was able to see the value of many aspects of early colonial Tasmania when others didn't, including its aboriginal and contact history, and the experiences- often related- of French expeditions, including Baudin and D'Entrecasteaux. His 1993 work *The General* co-written with French historian Piard-Bernier, collates all known sources from the D'Entrecasteaux expedition, and has been pivotal in creating an understanding of this unique time in Tasmania's history.

Another whose earlier research should not be over-looked is Geoff Lennox, former interpretation officer for the governments department of Parks and Wildlife and Heritage. In 1990, Geoff completed a detailed study of the Recherche Bay, including the D'Entrecasteaux expedition's role. His research- including map references were spot on, and probably much more than was expected at the time of writing in 1990.

Parry Kostoglou's milestones in studying the archaeology of whaling station and sawmill sites in southern Tasmania have been a constant and reliable source for historians- and anyone interested in this period in the island's history. Parry's sawmill field work was completed for the Forest Practices Authority, under the auspices of Forestry Tasmania. These studies covered many areas of Tasmania, including near Recherche Bay and the southern forests. The thoroughness of Parry

Kostoglou's fieldwork and reports, coupled with his amiable nature which drew so much from local memory, has allowed his material to be accessed by supports of either side of the environmental/ forestry debate, and –hopefully- has brought the two sides into an appreciation of the deeply felt history of forestry workers and their families, and the passion for the love of 'what could be' by environmentalists.

Edward Duyker's Citizen Labillardière brought to life a key scientist and individual on the D'Entrecasteaux expedition, and who, after all, was the first to identify the *Euc globulus*, the blue gum and state emblem – although the indigenous people were probably aware of its medicinal characteristics.

All the above studies and support have allowed this report to be completed within a limited time-frame.

I thank the above authors for their support and hope the study adds and gives context to an understanding of the history Recherche Bay.

Peter MacFie

March 2006

SECTION ONE

BENNETT'S POINT /OBSERVATORY POINT VICINITY

1792-2006

One can hug Observatory Point as close as one likes, there being 4 fathoms of water a longboat length from the point....

Lt Denis de Trobriand , Recherche Bay, 1792

Introduction

The Bennett's /Observatory Point site is overlaid with over 300 years of European historical usage and occupation, from the 1792 French astronomical observatory, to ship-building on Bennett's Point in 1863, to the operation of the Crescent Sawmill nearby from 1898 to 1910. The mill tramway¹, documented by Kostoglou 1993 would appear to have run very close to the supposed French Garden site. Later Bennett's Point was owned by Dalco, then the Ryan family with their neighbours, former policeman Thomas Driscoll at Sullivan's Point- itself a former whaling and then a police station site.

Known Structures. Situated on and adjacent to Bennett's Point are several known and a few un-explained features. The two unexplained man-made features are two embankments or walls of stones, one at the BP, and another on the small Maid of Erin Reef point. (see over) Several ruins relating to the Crescent Sawmill c 1900 exist, and have been documented by Kostoglou as recently as this year (2006.) (see below). Other structures may also be documented in title and survey documents The author uncovered at least 7 huts known as 'Crescent City' which existed next to the saw

¹ Kostoglou 1993.

mill- see over. Nearby, the Ryan family lived in a two storeyed house on their block near Bennett's Point.

Nomenclature.

Observatory Point /Bennett's/Ryan's Point. Confusion exists over the naming of Bennett's Point, with locals remembering the name as Ryan's Point.² However, a title for 1863 indicates the occupier at the point as 'W. Bennett,' and the locations was formally gazetted 'Bennett's Point ' in 1877.³ However, the land at the point was purchased at auction by Joseph Dalco. (see below) A fourth name, perhaps a surveyor's error, annotated on a title, refers to the point as 'McIntyre's Point.'⁴

Strategic Advantages. Protected by the Maid of Erin reef and Sullivan's Point, Observatory Point offered the French expedition several advantages:

- Ideal Location for Observatory
- Safe Anchorage
- Ready Access to Forge and Workshops

Rendezvous Point

1. Location. On 26 April 1792, only four days after making landfall in Recherche Bay - the location was described by a member of the French expedition as 'Observatory Point.' Siting of the observatory on what is today known as Bennett's Point was a fortuitous juxtaposition. Jutting into Recherche Bay, Bennett's Point was an uninterrupted space for the magnetic trials. Denis de Trobriand recorded:

² Poulson, Bruce Recherche Bay, A Short History, Melbourne, 2004.p. 66.

³ Pretyman Nomenclature index, AOT.

⁴ Diagram of Actual Survey, County of Kent, Parish of Purves, 27/26, 28/4/1902. (This title however labels Bennett's Point as 'McIntyre's Point'- presumably an error?)

The position of Observatory Point has been determined with great precision. The large number of astronomical observations of meridian elevations of the suns and stars taken with the astronomical circle of Mr Borda have given 43°.32'32" south latitude...⁵

2. Safe Anchorage. In addition, sheltered by nearby Sullivan's Point, a protective anchorage was provided inside Observatory Point. The safety of the location is made clear in several references by expeditioners, typified by those of Huon de Kermandec on Recherche Bay.

The best anchorage for ships which need to carry out a lot of repair work is that which we took, about a cable length and a half back from the point which forms the entrance to the bay. In this position a ship finds itself closed in on all sides and seems anchored in a lake of quiet water in the midst of a forest, so that whenever wanted, the smallest boats can always be sent to this low entrance point without any danger.

2 Ready Access to Forge & Workshops. To coordinate repairs and lessen travel, workshops were established at or near Observatory Point.

We have named it Observatory Point because it was on this spot we erected the tents of the astronomers of the two ships, so they could work together in making observations, and as well we assembled here the various workshops needed by the two ships. We set up a repair shop, our[small] boats being in a very bad state and also needing to be made higher.⁶

Rendezvous Point. Observatory Point was also used as a departure point for land based parties, both the ship repairers and those returning from scientific exploration. For example, the point gave access to the nearby forges, while, after exploring the D'Entrecasteaux River area collecting specimens, Labillardière's party found return

⁵ Plomley, Brian & Piard-Bernier, Josiane *The Visits of the Expedition led by Bruny D'Entrecasteaux to Tasmanian Waters in 1792 and 1793*, Launceston, 1993, p. 80.

⁶ Plomley & Piard-Bernier, p.114-117.

to the ship blocked by coastal marshes, which 'forced them to take an alternative inland course back to Bennett's Point where the observatory was located.'⁷

Known Structures 1792. Beautemps-Beaupre's map of 1800 indicates the survey mast was erected at the tip of Observatory Point. Piron's drawing of the 1793 observatory in Rocky Bay shows three tents erected to house the scientists- probably typical of the small establishment of the previous year.⁸

Descriptions below are by expeditioners, drawn from Plomley and Piard-Bernier (1993) indicate the operation of the first scientific trial on Australian soil.

Recherche 23 April 1792

Mr Rossell and the officers attached to the observatory went ashore with the instruments so as to profit from the favourable conditions which offered today...

Mr Trobriand and Mr D'Auribeau went to fix the most suitable place for putting up tents and after examining several we decided to place them all together on the southern point of the entrance. (ie Bennett's Pt) The shore there is easily approached and at the same time the frigates are close enough to protect the working people and the astronomers, being no more than two cable lengths away.⁹

Recherche 24/4/1792

In the afternoon the astronomers went ashore with their instruments and the observatory tent was erected.

Esperance

⁷ Duyker, Citizen Labillardière A Naturalist's Life in Revolution and Exploration 1755-1834, Melbourne University Press, 2004, p. 100.

⁸ Plomley & Piard Bernier, p. 29. Rocky Bay January 1793. View of the Esperance (right) and the tents of the observatory (left). A sharper reproduction is available in Marchant p. 94. (see below)

⁹ Plomley & Piard Bernier, p.60.

We sent everyone ashore on the point to starboard of the entrance to prepare a suitable place for our observatory tent.¹⁰

Esperance 26/4/1792

The astronomical instruments were taken to the observatory, as well as the necessary supplies. A few paces away from this establishment we set up two forges by the seashore, and a repair yard for our boats, which were in a bad state.¹¹

Recherche 8/5/1792

The astronomers have profited by this fine night to observe satellites and star distances.¹²

The D'Entrecasteaux expedition visited Western Australia in between the 1792 visit to Recherche Bay, and their return in 1793. There they also established a similar scientific station on Observatory Island. Any reports on this location may be useful in reference to the expedition's sites at Recherche Bay.¹³

1793 Revisiting Observatory Point

Rendezvous Again. Although s anchored in Rocky Bay to the south, the 1793 return visit to Recherche Bay saw Observatory Point used repeatedly as a rendezvous- for botanising, and developing contact with indigenous people. For example, when Labillardière and Lahaie returned in 1793 to botanise and to inspect the garden laid out the previous year, access to the small peninsula was apparently via Bennett's Point. Duyker writes, that after crossing to Southport Lagoon, collecting plants and

¹⁰ *ibid.*, p. 63-4.

¹¹ *ibid.*, p. 65.

¹² *ibid.*, p. 73.

¹³ Marchant Lesle *France Australe, the French search for the Southland and subsequent explorations and plans to found a penal colony and strategic base in south western Australia 1503-1826 with colour illustrations and explanatory maps*, Perth, 1996, p. 94.

engaging in contact with the indigenous people, the party were escorted by Aborigines 'on the naturalist's walk to their rendezvous with the ship's boat at Observatory Point.'¹⁴

Appearance of Observatory Point , 1793. Du Portail recorded:

Nothing was seen in the port to indicate that the natives had made extensive incursions since we were there. The foundations at Observatory Point were still there and so too the flag pole on which inscribed the latitude and longitude. The face which the master gunner had carved on a stone there had been respected; the burnt grass around it seemed to show that it had attracted the attention of the natives.¹⁵

The presence of the old foundations and the flag pole at Observatory Point are possible indicators for archaeological work.

Aborigines and French Contact at Observatory Point.

This location has great significance for the first repeated and amicable contact between indigenous and European cultures. To the French, the Tasmanian aborigines reinforced the Republican ideal of 'hard primitivism' reflected in tribal communities, rather than the softer 'noble savage,' then also fashionable image. These interpretations were developed by Labillardière with his with the publication in 1800 of his memoirs.¹⁶

Contact between the French and aborigines at Observatory Point is perhaps symbolised in the human head carved by the master gunner appears to have been at or near Observatory Point. The carved head caused much consternation to the

¹⁴Duyker, op. cit., p. 148-9.

¹⁵Plomley & Piard-Bernier, p. 299.

¹⁶Smith, Bernard *European Vision and the South Pacific, 1768-1850, A Study in the History of Arts and Ideas*, Oxford, 1960, pp. 110-111.

aborigines.¹⁷ In 1831, the impact of the carved human head on the Recherche Bay people was explained to Aboriginal Conciliator, GA Robinson. His information came from Woorredy, 'chief of the Recherche Bay people,' and present when the French visited in 1792. Robinson:

Woorredy says there s a large tree at Recherche Bay on which is cut the head of a man in large size, and also children, that the natives call it *wraeggowraper* [devil] and that the children cry when they see it, that the natives destroyed it, and that this was done by the first white men.¹⁸

As noted, Observatory Point was the rendezvous and departure point for the 1792 visit, for crew and aborigine alike and this role continued on the expeditions return in 1793.

Observatory Point appears to also have a significance for the indigenous people. In 1793, Trobriand of the *Esperance* recorded the long visits the 'gentlemen' ie scientists, had meeting the natives at Observatory Point. On a visit there on 8 February 1793, the diarist recorded:

In the evening the dingy returned and the gentlemen told us they had seen the natives and had stayed with them for a long time. They found them settled near Observatory Point , behind it. There were about 40 of them, as many children as women and older people. They had no kind of arms.¹⁹

On the 10th February, a similar visit was recorded in the Recherche's journal:

At 7 am Mr D'Auribeau left with several officers in the launch, ... in all thirty persons, and went to Observatory Point , that is the little port where we had anchored the previous year, so as to make contact

¹⁷ Plomley & Piard-Bernier, op. cit., p. 298.

¹⁸ Ryan, Lyndall *The Aboriginal Tasmanians*, University of Queensland Press, 1981, p. 217.

¹⁹ Plomley & Piard-Bernier, pp. 160-161.

with the natives who are in the neighbourhood.... We found the long boat of the Esperance had arrived, a few moments earlier and whose crew was already surrounded by several natives. Everything passed off with the best will in the world....²⁰

Crews' Diet at Recherche Bay

Frequent references are made in the expeditioners journals to the high consumption of fish from Recherche Bay by the crew, as exemplified by the following by Huon de Kermandec who lists fish caught by the ship's crew which included:

elephant fish, scads, large mullet, trout, rays, small soles and excellent crayfish and others [including sharks]. ... between Observatory Point and the anchorage there was a considerable bank of rock oysters of excellent quality which we fished with great ease when it was low tide. We were also able to pick up there a considerable quantity of mussels and other very tasty little shells.²¹

Any archaeological excavation at Recherche Bay therefore should anticipate the existence of fish bones at sites associated with the French – at Bennett's Point or the Rocky Bay sites. This guideline is especially indicative of possible French occupancy as the aboriginal inhabitants were known to collect only shellfish rather than scale fish.²²

²⁰ *ibid.*, p.162.

²¹ *ibid.*, p.114-117.

²² At an archaeological dig at the Military Barracks at Port Arthur Historic Site in 1985, a large collection of fish bones were found in an excavated ash-pit. Soldiers were known to fish to vary their diet at the former convict station. (Based on author's involvement as a member of the Port Arthur Conservation Project- and co-worker on the ash-pit site.)

Other Sites, Observatory Point 1792

Workshop, Forges, Slip-yard and Charcoal Kilns

To facilitate the quick turn-around of ships at sea, service workshops were located adjacent to the observatory. This also allowed for ready access for crew for meals and sleeping quarters- and if need be for protection of the shore based parties of astronomers, surveyors and botanists.

The forges, workshops and temporary slipway are described by expeditioners.

Location of the charcoal kilns was nearby but their exact location is as yet unknown.

Workshops & Forge

These structures appear to have been established near Observatory Point.

Esperance

We explored the coast to find a suitable place for setting up the workshops on land.²³

Esperance 24/4/72

As well, we looked for a place to set up the forges , repair yards and other installations.²⁴

Recherche 26/4/1792

The chief mate went to Observatory Point to erect the tent for the forge and the others needed for the different works.... The General visited the place where the tents had been erected on shore, and he seemed satisfied with everything.²⁵

Esperance do

The astronomical instruments were taken to the observatory, as well as the necessary supplies. A few paces away from this establishment we set up two forges by the seashore, and a repair yard for our boats, which were in a bad state.²⁶

Charcoal Kilns

Location of the charcoal kilns – to fire the blacksmith's forges- is un known, but appears to have been near Observatory Point, perhaps above Crescent Beach.

Recherche 28/4/1792

²³ Plomley & Piard Bernier, 1993, p.60.

²⁴ *ibid.*, p. 63-4.

²⁵ *ibid.*, p. 65.

²⁶ *ibid.*, p. 65.

Two men have been preparing kilns in which to make charcoal for the two frigates. Others have been preparing suitable places for washing our linen.²⁷

Recherche 11/5/1792

... The charcoal burners have dismantled their kiln but we had not so much charcoal as we had hoped. All the wood had not been consumed and there was much still unburnt; it seems unlikely that we will be able to take it on board before Sunday or Monday.²⁸

²⁷ *ibid.*, p. 66.

²⁸ *ibid.*, p. 74.

Recherche 14/5/1792

The crew having had their breakfast early, they were immediately occupied afterwards with taking down all the tents we had on shore. The charcoal oven produced 15 sacks and we would have had more if we had not pulled down the oven before all the wood had been used up. The astronomical instruments and then everything else on shore were brought on board....²⁹

Sail Drying Rocks? Poulson suggests the relatively level platform of rocks dividing Crescent Beach, was perhaps used to mend and dry the ships sails.³⁰ This possibility is implied in the following journal extract:

Recherche 28/4/1792

Two men have been preparing kilns in which to make charcoal for the two frigates. Others have been preparing suitable places for washing our linen.³¹

This location was later used as a sawmill jetty. See over.

BRITISH SETTLEMENT 1803-2003

Whaling Era 1803-1850

Recherche Bay became a major bay whaling site during the 1820s, and in addition timber cutters also worked the shores of the bay. Whether Observatory Point was occupied over this period is uncertain. The first description of the location is in 1838.

²⁹ *ibid.*, p. 75.

³⁰ Pers comm, Feb 2006.

³¹ *ibid.*, p. 66.

Lady Jane Franklin & Observatory Point, 1838.

In December 1838, Jane Franklin, wife of the Lt Governor on board the Vansittart en route to Macquarie Harbour, sheltered in and explored Recherche Bay. On 18th December she and others intended:

To land on Observatory Point on the eastern side of the entrance of Port du Sud (D'Entrecasteaux anchorage) where the astronomers of the expedition made their observations.

Lady Franklin indicates the well-used nature of the locality, suggesting a temporary shelter:

By their emptied oyster shells, the cleared and trodden grass, and the remains of cinders and wattled windscreens it appears to be resorted to as a place of bivouacking (sic), as was lately the case with a boat going to Port Davey.³²

Although the description given by Franklin suggests the area has been used by whalers, or piners enroute to Port Davey in the Far South. Labillardière records the reliance of the indigenous people on shellfish, and their erecting 'windscreens.' These were sheets of bark woven through stakes.³³ The wattled screens consisting of small branches woven together, however, suggests a British or European tradition.³⁴

³² Mackenness, George 'Some Private Correspondence of Sit John and Lady Jane Franklin, Part 1', Sydney, 1977, pp. 47.

³³ Plomley & Piard-Bernier, p. 268.

³⁴ In Tasmania, flexible branches – usually tea tree – were used- and are still used for make crayfish /lobster pots.

RYAN'S/BENNETT'S POINT

19TH & 20TH CENTURIES ACTIVITIES

MARITIME HISTORY

Timber Port. After initial small scale timber getting, the mechanisation of mill at the north of Recherche Bay necessitated large scale shipping. Access to sawmills for the export of sawn timber was restricted due to shallow water. However, the deep harbour and shelter behind Bennett's Point allowed loading of sawn timber when. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, punts loaded timber from mill jetties at Moss Glen and Leprena, then off-loaded the timber onto local ketches known as barges. (These were then taken to deep water ports for export to the UK.) According to a resident John Hitchens, the deep water between Bennett's Point, Shag Rock and (the current) Ryan's Pt was the favoured location.

Hitchens recalled:

They had big square loading punts for shipping the timber away, and it had a vertical boiler and steam winch. The Louis (a small tug) towed them down to nearly what is called Ryan's Point opposite the Crescent Mill where the deep water was. The big boats couldn't get any closer to the mills [Leprena etc] and they used to lay off Shag Rocks... the (ships) Kermantie and the Alma Doepel... the timber would be loaded onto the punts from the wharf and towed for to them.³⁵

Bennett's Point For Sale. In 1863, Crown land on the arm were subdivided into lots by Surveyor George Innes and put up for auction. Most blocks did not immediately sell. The lot nearest Bennett's Point, although occupied by W Bennett as mentioned, was purchased by Joseph Dalco, while adjacent blocks on fronting the Crown

³⁵ Hitchens, John in Kostoglou, Parry *Historic Timber Getting Between Cockle Creek and Lune River Block 1*, Forestry Commission, Tasmania, 1993, p. 132.

reserve were eventually purchased by John Ryan, G Cooper, and W Domeney. The area from Domeney's block to Sullivan's Pt was purchased by Thomas Driscoll, the former emancipist policeman. (see Sullivan's Point section)³⁶

Joseph Dalco. A five acre lot (no 2559), was occupied in the point of Bennett's Point. At the time of the subdivision, 3 huts stood on the western boundary of the Dalco block, adjacent to the craft being built there. Whether Dalcos constructed dwelling etc on his 5 acres itself is uncertain.

Ryans Long standing residents of Bennett's Point were JD (John Desmond) Ryan and family who occupied 18 acres between Dalco and Sullivan's Point, giving the location the name remembered by locals - Ryan's Point. With their son and daughter, the Ryans cultivated a productive garden. John snr and his son worked at the Leprena Sawmill. Mrs Ryan was known for her generous afternoon teas.³⁷ The Ryans subsequently purchased the two large bush blocks above the one first chosen, including those on which the assumed French garden, convict coal mine and sawmill stood.

G Cooper title. Not researched.

Driscolls Point. See Sullivans Pt

³⁶ Kent Recherche Bay, Parish of Purves, K/28, George Innes, 1863. LDRB/LTO, Hobart.

³⁷ Pers comm., Bruce Poulson, Feb 2006. Miss Ryan later ran the Leprena Post Office.

Ship Building at Recherche Bay

Recherche Bay was known as a ship-building locality, with Thomas Moreland and partners constructing two ships there in the 1850s.³⁸ Another, hitherto undocumented location for ship-building was on Bennett's Point, where a title deed dated 26/7/1863 reveals the point was occupied by a W (William) Bennett.

Ship Building at Bennett's Point 1863. A Crown Reserve is shown stretching along the foreshore between Sullivan's Point to and including around Bennett's Point. On this reserve, situated at the tip of Bennett's Point, a small fully rigged schooner/ketch style ship (ie with two masts) was sketched under construction by Surveyor Innes, with the words, 'craft building' annotated. The craft's bow is pointing to the immediate inside cove of Bennett's Point, perhaps indicating the direction of a slipway for its eventual launching. Adjacent are three structures –also on Crown land - and the word 'huts' indicated. According to scale, this craft is approx 60 feet long to the bowsprit.³⁹ see enclosed.

Black Warrior? This ship may have been the Black Warrior registered in Hobart in 1862 by William Bennett and William Cheverton. She was a ship of 50ft by 13 by 4.7 ft that Mr Bennett of the New Wharf' was constructing. However, this ship was claimed to have been built in Hobart. The ship immediately set sail for Port Davey. A year later it was skippered by William Bennett's son, Thomas when wrecked on 23 August 1863 at 'Rocky' Heads.⁴⁰

³⁸ Woolley & Smith, A History of the Huon and the Far South, Volume 1, Before the Orchards Grew, Huonville, 2004, p. 123.

³⁹ Diagram from Actual Survey, County of Kent, Parish of Purves, No 3/17, Lot 5146, 5 acres. FPA, Forestry Tasmania, 2005.

⁴⁰ Broxam, G. and Nash M, Tasmanian Shipwrecks, Vol 1 Canberra 1998 p. 137.

Ownership/Usage at Bennett's Point. s

William Bennett of Bennett's Point appears to have been an employee of George Chase, operator of a whaling station at Recherche Bay. At the 1848 Hobart Regatta, William Bennett (of South Arm) competed as steersman in a whaleboat race for 'Native Youth' under 18 years of age, using a whaleboat apparently owned by George Chace, suggesting Bennett was a whaler.⁴¹ In a second race, the Lady Denison was steered by 'Chase.' George Chace was stationed at Recherche Bay, as a Hobart newspaper reported on June 26 1846 that 'Mr Chace's whalers at Recherche Bay captured 3 whalers (sic) trying 3 tuns of oil.'⁴² In addition, W Bennett and George Chace are listed among a new range of whalers at Recherche Bay in the 1840s.⁴³ The Chase whaling station is not referred to in Kostoglou 1995. However, its location is given by Lennox as being at 'the centre of the large block of allotments (925748).'⁴⁴

Was the ship being constructed on Bennett's Point perhaps being built for George Chase, or for Bennett?

William Bennett's Whaling Station. Bennett's Point was probably occupied by the same William Bennett who established a whaling station near Waub's Harbour (now Bicheno) on Tasmania's east coast in 1848. His station was described as the 'North whaling station at Waub's Harbour.' This station was apparently located on an

⁴¹ Broxam, Shipping Arrivals and Departures, Tasmania, Vol3 1843-1850, Woden ACT, 1998p. 468. (Note 'The Chandler built 5 oared whaleboat Lady Denison and the 4 oared gig Hippolyta will challenge any boats of their class in the colony for £30-£40 before 6/6/48. Wm Bennett, South Arm.' Col Times 7/12/1848.' The Lady Denison was rowed at the regatta by G Chase. Broxam p. 114.)

⁴² Broxam, Graeme, op. cit., p. 74.

⁴³ Lennox, Geoff 'Recherche Bay: Some Notes and references to the early history, with compiled material,' DPIWE, 1990 p. 4. AOT.

⁴⁴ Lennox, *ibid.*, p. 16, footnote 13.

island off the coast. Here there were several huts and garden sites. Another site is Governors Island, suggesting there were two locations.⁴⁵

The Bennett's Point 'Walls'

An hitherto unexplained long stone wall exists on Bennett's Point. Its purpose has also escaped from the memory of local folk lore. A smaller wall has been identified on the point adjacent to the Maid of Erin reef. However, the 2006 study by Kostoglou, probably explains the purpose of the largest wall at Bennett's Point.

Dimensions and Function. Archaeologists Galipaud (2005) and Kostoglou for the Forest Practices Authority (2006) both measured the Bennett's Point wall.

Galipaud 2005. The wall was measure by the French archaeological team of Galipaud ad Richard. The describe the stone structure as:

21.4 metres long, .6 m high and 1 metre wide aligned north south.
The structure has horizontal paving 1 metre wide on the eastern side.⁴⁶

Kostoglou 2006. Archaeologist Parry Kostoglou has recently undertaken an assessment of North East Arm, including the Bennett's Point vicinity. He notes the wall runs north-south and described it:

The wall measures approx 35 by 2.6 by .65 metres in height. A curvature at the southern end of the feature implies that the wall formed a 'U' shaped return at this point.

⁴⁵ Evans, Kathy, Shore Based Whaling in Tasmania Historical Research Project, Vol 2, 1993, DPIWE p. 55. Being on an island suggests he was a junior player – or a late comer to the whaling game. PM

⁴⁶ Galipaud, Jean-Christophe & Richard, Helene, 'Evidence from the D'Entrecasteaux expedition to Tasmania- Report on an evaluation mission at Recherche Bay, 31 July- 5 August 2005.' Heritage Tasmania, translation, January 2006.

Because of its unusual profile, Kostoglou postulates: 'The most plausible explanation would therefore have this wall supporting the keel and hull of the vessel during construction.'⁴⁷

Similar Walls. The connection with ship-building is worth pursuing – both research and archeologically, as a similar site may exist on Gagen's Point. There a long rock wall also stands. This is located on the site of a former whaling station operated by Thomas Moreland.⁴⁸ As noted, he was also a shipbuilder at Recherche Bay.

Caution. Yachtsman Peter Costello, owner of a craft built by himself has sailed the waters of southern Tasmania for 30 years. He has explored Recherche Bay, and visited the Bennett's Point walls. Extremely interested in the locality's history, Peter nevertheless is sceptical of the shipbuilding explanation for the origin for the wall.⁴⁹

Other Explanations. Although its purpose seems logical, until confirmed, other explanations are worth bearing in mind. These include:

Ballast. Shipping records refer to ship calling at Recherche Bay for 'ballast'. If this refers to loading, or off-loading ballast, one of the few locations where large vessels could make close inshore anchorage was at Bennett's Point. The walls may have used these rocks as a source.

Jetty for mill machinery. In 1904 the Crescent Sawmill listed 3 large steam powered engines at the mill. How these machines were brought to this remote mill site needs explaining. The shallow Recherche Bay harbour precluded an easy landing. An overland trip eg from Southport Bay would have been laborious. Alternatively, off-loading on a jetty / wharf at

⁴⁷ Kostoglou, Parry Archaeological Inspection Bennett's Point to Coal Pit Bight, Recherche Bay, Final Report, Forest Practices Authority, January 2006, p. 14.

⁴⁸ Kostoglou, Parry, Shore Based Whaling Stations in Tasmania, Archaeological Research Project, Tasmanian Parks & Wildlife Services, 1995 II, p. 55-56.

⁴⁹ pers comm., 2006.

Bennett's Point would require intense labour but offer a feasible alternative access route to the nearby mill.

Livestock pens? In remote areas observed on earlier field work by the author, stone walled pens were used to contain livestock. These were noted in 1982 on isolated semaphore stations at Jimmy's Hill, Forestier Peninsula, and Mt Communication, Tasman Peninsula. Animals penned typically included a (milking) goat, sheep and pigs.⁵⁰ Stone fences instead of timber in such a wind swept location would seem a logical - if laborious - alternative.

Later History. Whether Bennett's Point itself was permanently occupied after 1863 is uncertain, however the adjacent block was occupied by the Ryan family. Perhaps, as Jane Franklin found, Bennett's Point was a convenient shelter and boat harbour for generations of sailors.

⁵⁰ MacFie, PH Historical Survey of Forestier and Tasman Peninsula, NPWS, 1982.

SITES RELATED TO BENNETT'S POINT

Land north of Bennett's Point was developed in the late 1890s as a large but short-lived sawmilling complex. Some of these sites may impinge on the Observatory Point / Forge complex of 1792.

Crescent Sawmill 1898-1910

Kostoglou 1993 documents the operation of the Crescent Sawmill and related structures near Bennett's Point.⁵¹ He has recently documented these sites in greater detail.⁵² The Crescent Mill was an adjunct to the much larger Hopetoun Mill, also begun by Kemsley for the foreign owned Tasmanian Timber Co. When the larger mill was up and running, Kemsley was sent to establish the Crescent Mill.⁵³

An agent for the British based Tasmanian Timber Co, John Cole Kemsley began the mill and related structures in 1898, purchasing a 5,000 acres timer lease in the vicinity of the D'Entrecasteaux River, a 400 acres block on the southern shore of Southport Bay and a sawmilling lease at 'The Crescent.'

The mill's location near Bennett's Point appears to have been motivated by access to water (for steam engines) in nearby former coal shafts, and especially access to a deep water jetty. Timber for the mill was not cut on The Crescent, but logged from the hills to the north of the Crescent Mill, the logs being brought south along the steel rail track. From here the sawn timber was initially shipped to a jetty near on Crescent Beach.

⁵¹ Kostoglou, Parry Historic Timber-Getting between Cockle Creek and Lune River, Block 1, Tasmanian Forest Research Council, Forestry Commission of Tasmania, 1993, pp. 80.

⁵² Kostoglou, 2006.

⁵³ Beechey, Norm & Baker, Dorothy, A History of Dover and Port Esperance, Tasmania, Vol 1, Earliest Years, 1845-1875, Dover, 1977, p. 21.

With the company in early financial difficulties, Kemsley left the company in 1904 when the ownership reverted to the British based Tasmanian Timber Corporation. In 1910, the TTC assets reverted to its receivers, the British Transvaal and General Finance Co. As no buyer could be found, the assets were taken over briefly by the local sawmiller and industrialist, Henry Jones and Co, who finding no bidder, abandoned the mill. This company made an abortive attempt to erect a second sawmill midway between the Crescent Mill and their mill at Leprena.⁵⁴

Operation of The Crescent Mill (also listed as the Recherche Mill)

Location: Behind the narrow beach on the western side of the small Crescent Peninsula on which Bennett's Point is located. The mill site is 'less than 10 metres from the water's edge.' (see map)

First Jetty, Crescent Beach. To try to gain access to the deepest water on the eastern side of Recherche Bay, a jetty was constructed over the rocky platform at Crescent Beach. This location is within the range of the French workshops area. (This site is not documented by Kostoglou.)

Second Jetty, Deep Bay. When the Crescent Beach jetty proved inaccessible for ocean going ships a new long tramline was constructed north east of Blackswan Lagoon to Deep Bay near Southport. (61) Here a new jetty giving access to ocean going ships was constructed.⁵⁵

Jetty No 3. A third jetty stood toward the head of Pigsties Bay.

⁵⁴ Kostoglou, 1993, p. 80.

⁵⁵ Kostoglou, *ibid.*, Figure 27 p. 76. A third mill, Gourlay's Mill (44) operated by Joseph Gourlay. He appears to have been a silent business partner of Kemsley. His Southport Tramline ran north of the Crescent Mill and wharf, ending at Deep Hole Jetty, in Southport Bay, crossing through Gourlay's lease. This line was transferred to the Tasmanian Hardwood Co in 1906. p. 76.

Crescent Mill Machinery 1904

Engines: A vertical 10hp, portable 12 hp and 14 hp plants.

Horses: H Jones intended using six horses in harness (presumably to drag logs to the tramway)⁵⁶.

Sawmill: A bench 30 by 22 m. 'This area has been further excavated to create a series of parallel earthen cuttings used to remove sawdust from the milling precinct'. A sequence of 'remnant mill posts marks the western edge of the mill shed'.

Sawdust heap: A substantial heap of sawdust 50 by 30m surrounds the mill.

Other Crescent Mill Related Sites

Steam Winch (42): Mounted on a tramway bogie frame and mostly intact.⁵⁷

Wharf: (43) 100m south of the unfinished mill. A sleeper progression leading from the main Crescent tramline down to the waterline. Large bed logs have been laid parallel to the coastline and the tramline laid down –over them to achieve an easier grade down to the dock. Large number of red bricks, rusting ferrous items and unsquared timber pylon sections lie in the waterside terminus.⁵⁸

Jones & Co unfinished mill: (41) Construction of a new sawmill was begun by Henry Jones in the 1920s, but not completed. However a mill was begun and uprights supporting a shed (24.5 by 9m) and internal bed-logs resembling a skidway survive.

⁵⁶This indicates the location of a stable nearby.

⁵⁷ *ibid.*, p. 87.

⁵⁸ *ibid.*, p. 87.

Tramline: (40) Sections of line running south following the coastline toward the winch were found.⁵⁹ The first or main tramline appears to run very near the assumed 1792 French garden site.

Other Crescent Sawmill Sites

A range of other sites which may have been in the vicinity of the French workshops surround the former mill. These are:

Mill Manager's House Site. A red brick chimney measuring 3 by 1.5m is located 20m south of the mill site. (Valuation rolls for 1905 indicate the occupier of the cottage was Charles Hay of Southport.)⁶⁰

A photo of the mill site c 1920 taken from the water shows two houses, with a barge, apparently being loaded from a punt in the foreground.⁶¹

Sites Not Documented

Crescent Mill 'Huts City' (sic). Field notes for Radcliff's 1905 survey of the block of John Ryan reveals interesting details. This includes a series of seven huts adjacent to the Crescent Mill, and inscribed as 'Huts City.'⁶²

School Reserve. A school reserve adjacent to Bennett's Point is indicated on maps. However, whether a school operated there is uncertain. Given the isolation of the Crescent Mill, allocation of a school reserve seems prudent, and suggests a more elaborate sawmilling establishment than that which eventuated.

First Jetty, Crescent Beach. This jetty is not documented in the 1995 study.

⁵⁹ *ibid.*, p. 87.

⁶⁰ *ibid.*, p. 81-4.

⁶¹ Pers comm., Bruce Poulson & Gloria Heather, 2006.

⁶² Diagram of Actual Survey, County of Kent, Parish of Purves, 30/23, LDRB/LTO, Hobart.

Crescent Mill Tramlines

Two tramlines ran from the Crescent Mill- one north along Coal Bight Beach toward a steam winch and wharf; while a second line departed from this line north of Recherche Bay, cutting across Southport Lagoon toward a jetty and Deep Hole on Southport Bay.

Both sawmill tramways appear to have traversed the general area of the French garden site.

BENNETT'S POINT'S CONTINUING SIGNIFICANCE

20TH Century Scientific Recognition. The international significance of the experiments in geo-magnetism conducted by the French scientists at Observatory Point in 1792 are today recognised world wide. To celebrate the bicentenary of these experiments, on 10 May 1992 a 3 day symposium was organised in Hobart, Tasmania, by the Geological Soc of Australia. To coincide with the conference, a ferry excursion was arranged to Recherche Bay for 170 delegates and partners. The next day, the exact anniversary, 21 members crossed in a Zodiac craft organised by the Australian Antarctic Division landed at Observatory Point, and a small plaque was fixed on an outcrop on the foreshore.⁶³

MAPS OBSERVATORY POINT /BENNETT'S POINT

Diagram of Actual Survey, County of Kent, Parish of Purves, 27/26, 28/4/1902. (This title however labels the feature as 'McIntyre's Point'-presumably an error?)

Marchant Lesle France Australe, the French search for the Southland and subsequent explorations and plans to found a penal colony and strategic base in south-western Australia 1503-1826 with colour illustrations and explanatory maps, Perth, 1996, p. 92.

Diagram from Actual Survey, County of Kent, Parish of Purves, No 3/17, Lot 5146, 5 acres. FPS, FT.

KENT Recherche Bay, Parish of Purves, K/28, George Innes, 1863. LTO, Hobart.

Diagram of Actual Survey, County of Kent, Parish of Purves, 30/23, LTO, Hobart.

⁶³ Lilley, FEM (Ted) and Day, Allan A *D'Entrecasteaux, 1792: Celebrating a Bicentennial in Geomagnetism*, EOS. Transactions, America Geophysical Union, Vol 74 Number 9, march 2, 1993. (Greg Hogg)

Galipaud, Jean-Christophe & Richard, Helene, "Evidence from the D'Entrecasteaux expedition to Tasmania- Report on an evaluation mission at Recherche Bay, 31 July- 5 August 2005." Heritage Tasmania, translation, January 2006.

SECTION TWO

SULLIVANS POINT (ORIGINALLY DRISCOLL'S POINT)

WHALING STATION, POLICE STATION and

PRIVATE RESIDENCES

Location. Adjoining South Lagoon Wildlife Sanctuary, southern tip of North East Arm.

Introduction. Starting as a short lived whaling station, Sullivan's Point became a police station c1854, then a land grant and finally a grant and private home of the former policemen Thomas Driscoll. (A further link with French history exists through Thomas' son, Darcy Driscoll, who joined the Australian Imperial Forces in World War I, surviving the battlefields of Gallipoli and the Western Front, France.⁶⁴)

History

During the 1830s, the growing number of men at the Recherche Bay whaling stations 'were a source of concern to local authorities.'⁶⁵ The misconduct of the whalers were seen as hampering the industry. At the request of the whale station owners, Lt Gov John Franklin established a police station at Recherche Bay, posting a Police Magistrate there. The man chosen was Captain James Smith, also a whaler. The whale station operators would pay the magistrate's salary, while the colonial coffers would cover the expense of paying constables and erecting buildings.

⁶⁴ Poulson, p.27. Returning to Tasmania, Darcy Driscoll became a sea captain, with ship specialising in timber trade in southern Tasmania, including the Kermadie which regularly sailed from Recherche Bay.

⁶⁵ Kostoglou, 1993, p. 60.

The location of the police station was moved however, to Southport, and Recherche Bay would be served by visits from the magistrate. Whether any buildings were initially erected on Sullivan's Point is uncertain.

Following closure of the Southport police establishment in 1854, the Sullivan's Point Police station was commissioned, when a building plan was drafted. (see over. From 1869 to c 1889, Thomas Driscoll, a former convict, enforced his frontier law. At this time the police station was moved to the western side of the Recherche Bay to Moss Glen.⁶⁶ Driscoll then purchased the former police station site at Sullivan's Point.

⁶⁶ *ibid.*, p.61.

Sites

Whaling Station. As only referenced in a 1936 newspaper, the station's period of operation is uncertain. Kostoglou documented the whaling station site as part of the Forest Practices Plan of 2004. see enclosed.

Site Description. Located above the beach at Quiet Cove.

Structures.

On the shore at Quiet Corner, Everall's (sic misprint for Sullivan's?) Point, was a 3 by 3m by 4 m high pile of nodular stones. Possibly a fisherman's fireplace, and the only structure located there.⁶⁷

However, this site has been identified by Lennox as the Lock-up. See below. (Other possible explanations are discussed below.)

Deep well, surrounded by perfectly masoned stone, providing the only fresh water 'for miles'⁶⁸ Date and purpose unknown, possibly associated with the coal mine or later sawmill.

Lock Up, Recherche, 1853. The small weatherboard lock up with separate water closet (toilet) was surrounded by a (paling?) fence. The lock up houses the constable's room, lock- up, two cells and store all under the one roof. The dimensions of each section are incomplete, however, the constable's room is 16 ft long, the lock-up 12 ft square, cells 7 ft long.

Driscoll's Point History 1854- 2000.

Sullivans /Driscoll's Point Police Station. Date 1854?? Originally named Driscoll's Point after Special Constable Thomas Driscoll, policeman and emancipist who lived there.

⁶⁷ Kostoglou, 1995,II p. 60.

⁶⁸ Kostoglou, 1995, II p. 60. See Huon Times Centenary Supplement, 1936.

Structures. Police Lock-up or Goal. See enclosed.

Sullivan's Point 'Lock Up' or Temporary Gaol. A small weatherboard lock-up or goal was built at Sullivan's Point, with a plan for the structure extant.⁶⁹ Lennox documented in departmental notes, the location of 'Driscoll's Gaol' at Driscoll's Point. (see attached)⁷⁰ Poulson also verifies the existence of chimney rubble and footings at this location.⁷¹ As indicated, this is in the location identified by Kostoglou as being associated with the whaling station period.

Driscoll's Point. During his occupancy, the location became known locally as Driscoll's Point. A survey map of 1863 records subdivision of Sullivan's Point south of Blackswan Lagoon. The Driscolls occupied the 15.5 acre area on the point. The adjoining property of 39 acres to the north was initially purchased by Richard Finn, then transferred to William Lemuel Domeney.⁷²

Thomas Driscoll, Irish Convict. In 1852, Driscoll aged 20 was transported from Ireland to Tasmania on the Lord Dalhousie. He was tried in 1848 for stealing frieze 7 yards (ie in length). He had previously been imprisoned for stealing apples (2 months) and a shirt (1 month.) Thomas was 5 foot 5 inches tall, a farm labourer from County Cork, Ireland. After arrival he committed no other offences and was immediately made a constable.⁷³ He left behind a father Michael and a brother

⁶⁹ Lock Up Plan, 'Lock-up Recherche Bay.' n/d, PWD 266/1633, AOT.

⁷⁰Lennox Folder AP 234/1, former NPWS, now DPIWE, Hobart.

⁷¹ Pers comm., February 2006.

⁷² Kent 28, Parish of Purves, George Innes, 1863. LDRB//LTO. No separate field notes exist for this title survey.

⁷³ Con 33/109, AOT.

Cornelius.⁷⁴ Thomas Driscoll was appointed a constable within a short time after arrival in VDL.

The Driscolls of Quiet Cove. Several references refer to Driscoll and his wife living at this location. In March 1869 a shell collector visitor reported in a Hobart newspaper on a trip to Recherche Bay, visiting various sites and personalities around the bay. He wrote that:

My next trip was across the bay to Driscoll's, where we left the point where we coasted it (sic) as far as Sullivan's Point, which we crossed.... Returning to Driscoll's, where we again took the boat.⁷⁵

In May 1885, a journalist under the pseudonym of 'The Traveller' visited the Driscoll family at Quiet Cove. He travelled from Hastings, past Southport Lagoon to the beach opposite The Images and Actaeon Reef. From there he took a 'bush track cut I suppose by the mailman who lives a dozen chains away on the bay side brings me to his cottage and the end of a days journey.' The visitor could not understand why Driscoll, the constable and mailman, was still stationed at 'Quiet Bay' rather than on the western side of Recherche Bay where the new sawmills were being established. He portrayed the life of Driscoll and his wife rather patronisingly:

Thomas Driscoll, mailman and special constable for Recherche (or Research with the emphasis on the Re) is a spare built sinewy man of between 50 can 60, and has been connected with the police service nearly 32 years, principally in this part. He has a numerous family, several by a former wife, grown up... and a young progeny of five, the second batch.

The Traveller didn't appear to know that Thomas Driscoll's first wife (Ann Leary) died in tragic circumstances, during childbirth aboard Capt Domeney's Ripple in a failed bid to make a doctor in Hobart Town. His second wife at the time of the

⁷⁴ Con 33/45 AOT.

⁷⁵ LeGrand, W The Weekly News, March 8 1869 p. 9. Correspondence file, AOT.

journalist's visit in 1885 was Euphemia McKenzie, who kept house and educated her two families at home.⁷⁶

The writer complained of the 'pittance' paid to Constable Driscoll, and his reliance on an aged horse which nevertheless still ploughed the ground at Quiet Cove using an Eagle plough. Referring to the whaling days he continued:

In days mourned in Recherche it was a rendezvous for whale-ships and also a bay whaling station. Driscoll had to keep busy, sometimes quelling row at the public house on Domeney's Point, at others admonishing disaffected whalers on board or pursuing deserters. By himself and many miles from police assistance, he resorted to an original method of keeping the peace. When two or more of them fell out, he secured sheath knives or other weapons and let them adjourn to the convincing ground, where officious mates saw fair play.

The writer noted Thomas Driscoll crossed the water from Sullivan's Point to the western shore of Recherche Bay by either a punt or a whaleboat, 'using one or the other according to the weather. As the mail carrier to and from Southport he must deliver the bags at the west side, but does more, delivering the letters to the mills 3 miles apart, and to places between.'⁷⁷

Tapping into oral sources at Recherche Bay, local historian Bruce Poulson records that Constable Driscoll 'had a large garden and stored his fruit in the cells (ie of the Driscoll's Point lock-up.)'⁷⁸

As noted, Special Constable Driscoll and family lived for many years in the isolated location at Quiet Cove, before being transferred to a new police station and post

⁷⁶ Poulson, p. 27.

⁷⁷ The Traveller, No 95, Tasmanian Mail, September 19 1885 p. 26.

⁷⁸ Poulson, p. 66.

office at Leprena on the western side of Recherche Bay, where foundations of the buildings still exist.⁷⁹ Nearby, a creek is name after the family.

The Domeney's of Quiet Cove, Sullivans Point. Capt William Domeney was one of Recherche Bay early settlers and entrepreneurs, chartered the ketch Ripple, owned The Rams Inn at Gagen's Point, Rocky Bay. Later he moved briefly to his property at Sullivan's Point where Domeney built a short-lived boarding house at Quiet Corner.⁸⁰ This site also corresponds with the ruin found at the site by Kostoglou and Lennox.

20th Century History. The Ryan family were near Sullivan's Point until the 1920s, running cattle and entertaining the occasional visitors. The location continued to be used as a resource by Recherche Bay residents. Herbert 'Honey' Smith recorded the following entries in his diaries. Note that he used Sullivan's Point and Driscoll's Point interchangeably.

1916. To Sullivans (Point) got box pure blue gum honey.

1916. 8 bags of grit from Sullivan's Point.... Score of cray (crayfish or rock lobster) at Shag Rock.... 4 score (ie of crayfish) at Driscoll's Point.

1920. Went to Sullivans Point looking for Jennie. Found her with bull calf on neck. (ie the point). Saw 47 cattle.⁸¹

1924 Ryans Leave. Herbert Smith records that in 1924 John Ryan died, and later that year he moved Mrs Smith (from Bennett's Point) to Leprena.⁸² From this date on, Sullivan's Point appears to have had no permanent residents.

⁷⁹ Poulson, p. 27.

⁸⁰ Poulson, p. 22.

⁸¹ Poulson, p. 49.

⁸² Poulson, p. 49.

Ryan to Vernons 1951. The Ryan family retained ownership of much of North East Arm until October 1951, when the blocks were purchased from JD Ryan's estate by 'Greville Rupert Vernon, Investor of Lindisfarne, Tasmania.' Since then the area has been owned by his sons, Robert and David Vernon, residents of Launceston.⁸³

MAPS SULLIVAN'S POINT

KENT 28, Parish of Purves, George Innes, 1863.LTO.

Plan PWD 266/1636, 'Lock-up Recherche Bay.' n/d. AOT.

⁸³Titles, Vol 672 Fol 20, New title issued 2304, Vol 96, 22/4/1952. LDRB/LTO.

SECTION THREE

ASSUMED) FRENCH GARDENS

I) CRESCENT BEACH, COAL PIT BIGHT

II) PIGSTIES BAY

Background History

D'Entrecasteaux Expedition. In 1792, Expedition gardener Lahaie planted a wide range of European vegetable seeds at Recherche Bay, some thrown at random. However the large formal attempt at a kitchen garden was behind Crescent Beach, documented in the 1792 plan of Recherche Bay. Although focus has been on this garden, existence of a second garden planted during the first visit is apparent.

1792 Garden Location. Duyker states that 'According to Beautemps-Beaupre's map, Lahaie's garden was some 1.3 kilometres north east of Bennett's Point.'⁸⁴

Size. A translation of Lahaie's journal states:

On my arrival I sowed some cress which germinated well after three days; after eight days tow men and myself tilled , with great difficulty, a piece of land measuring 28 feet square.⁸⁵

⁸⁴Duyker p. 102-3.

⁸⁵Duyker, Explorations p. 36.

The original of the above map in the 1800 expedition Atlas shows the garden furrows running at right angles to each other.⁸⁶⁸⁷

Seed Types. These included cress, plus 'celery, chervil, chicory, cabbages, grey romaine lettuce, different kinds of turnip, white onion, radishes, sorrel, peas, black salsify and potatoes.'⁸⁸

Other Garden Sites. Lahaie also sowed vegetable seeds 'thrown at random' and 'in large quantities everywhere in the woods' where he 'believed they could succeed.'⁸⁹ This appears to have been on Crescent Peninsula.

Journal Accounts

10/5/1792

Two men and a gardener were ordered to prepare the soil so that some trees and other European plants could be put in the ground.

The place selected is shown on the chart of the bay.⁹⁰

The kitchen garden was located in Coal Pit Bight, and according to Plomley and Piard-Bernier, situated 'about 150m' from the shore.

The instructions given to gardener- botanist Mr Lahaie made clear that he was not only to collect plants at the various places where landfalls were made but was to present useful European plants to the peoples of the countries he visited, and to establish gardens for such plants for them. The purpose of these gifts was to benefit

⁸⁶ Beautemps-Beaupre, CF Atlas of the Voyage of Bruny D'Entrecasteaux, Paris, 1807. Tasmaniana Library, Hobart.

⁸⁸ Duyker, Explorations, p. 36

⁸⁹ *ibid.*, p. 36.

⁹⁰ Plomley & Piard Bernier, p. 74.

the peoples of those places and to provide a futures resource for mariners who would visit them.

The garden at Recherche Bay measured nine meters by seven meters and was divided into four plots. Labillardière reported that it was well dug, but he thought the soils contained too much clay for success, and he also criticised Lahaie's choice of site on the grounds that it should have been closer to a rivulet nearby; at the cress should have been planted there....When the garden was revisited in 1793 there remained only a few cabbages and potatoes and some sorrel.⁹¹

At a later date, Labillardière described the first garden.

I visited in company with the gardener, the spot where he had sown different kinds of European grains. It was a plot of ground 27 feet by 21 feet, divided into four beds. The soil was rather too full of clay to insure the success of the seed.⁹²

Failure of Plantings. The expeditioners were also aware that the Aborigines fired the bush regularly. Rossel thought the natives may mistake the plants for 'other weeds which it seems they destroy by fire.'⁹³

Labillardière also described the return visit to investigate the 1792 garden site. This time he was accompanied by an observant aborigine who was able to distinguish native plants from those struggling European vegetables planted. The garden site marks the first occasion when European and indigenous 'gardeners' shared a common interest in plants.

As we were very near the garden, which had been formed the preceding year by Citizen Lahaie, gardener to the expedition, we

⁹¹ Plomley & Piard-Bernier, p. 98-9.

⁹² Labillardière, *M Voyage in Search of La Perouse 1791-94*, London 1800, reprinted New York, 1971 p.122.

⁹³ Plomley & Piard-Bernier, *op. cit.*, p.99.

resolved to visit it, and took the opportunity, when the savages had seated themselves. We wished to leave them with our two sailors, lest they should go and do any injury to such vegetables as might have succeeded; but one of them was resolved to accompany us. He examined attentively the plants in the garden, and pointed them out with his finger, appearing to distinguish them perfectly from their indigenous vegetables. We saw, with regret, that there remained only small number of cabbages, a few potatoes, some radishes, cresses, wild chicory, and sorrel, all in a bad condition; no doubt they would have succeeded better had they been sown nearer a rivulet, which we observed to the west. I expected to have found some cress at least on its bank; that I did not must surely have been owing to the forgetfulness on the part of the gardener.⁹⁴

SECOND GARDEN, COAL PIT BIGHT - PIGSTIES BAY 1792

Background. The existence of a second French garden from the 1792 visit has been debated for at least 100 years, but not discussed in the present controversy over the first garden. With the 1793 garden, this makes three formal French gardens at Recherche Bay. Although Labillardière and Lahaie refer to the first garden — and to the random planting of seeds, they do not refer to a second 1792 garden. However La Motte du Portail refers to how:

The gardener of the Recherche has made two little gardens and has sown in it different European seeds which on our departure in [1792] (sic) had not yet germinated.⁹⁵

This suggests another garden - location unknown.

⁹⁴Labillardière, JJH Voyage in Search of LaPerouse 1791-1794, London, reprinted New York, 1971, pp., 301-2. TL.

⁹⁵ Plomley & Piard-Bernier, p. 99.

BRITISH SETTLEMENT - 1803- 2006

Seeking the French Gardens 1838. Although not formally mentioned until 1838, the existence of the 1792 garden was well known among the British scientific intelligentsia, as the following makes clear. With her husband a noted explorer, Sir John Franklin, Jane Franklin was well aware of the detailed scientific work done by the D'Entrecasteaux expedition at Recherche Bay.

On the same visit in 1838 when she explored Observatory Point , Jane Franklin also sought out the location of the French garden. Her attempts in identifying the gardens planted 50 years earlier were led by RC (Ronald Campbell) Gunn, himself a noted botanist.⁹⁶ At first, Gunn led them to the Pigsties Bay garden which Jane Franklin's party initially took to be THE French. Gunn led Franklin to a location at the head of the bay where:

We now directed our course to the supposed French garden planted by La Haye, botanical gardener to the French. 'On looking at the map, I find it cannot be far beyond the beach of prettifications, but overshooting our mark we turned a point which embays this part of the shore and proceeded to within a mile distance of the mouth of a creek in a nook formed by another projections which is at the entrance of D'Entrecasteaux River.

The group led by Gunn made their way through some thick cutting grass to a small ascent where:

Under the shade of two gums , a semicircular patch of sloping ground appears to have been entrenched from the cutting grass bottom below, and Mr Gunn thinks it have been once dug.

⁹⁶ Pike D (ed.) Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol 1 1788-1850, Melbourne University Press, 1977, p. 492.

The soil was of a most wretched description, white clay mixed with stones.... Nothing like a European plant or vegetable was seen.⁹⁷

Despite more attempts by Gunn to find a garden, he was unsuccessful.

1922. Rumours of the second garden persisted into the period of British settlement. These were fuelled by ambiguous descriptions by expedition diarists like Du Portail. He described planting potatoes, 'in the gardens (sic), in the places where we had cut wood and in the bay where it had been intended to sow them.'⁹⁸ Is he referring to the main garden, or the Pigsties location of a bay next to Bennett's Point? In 1922, local settler and identity Herbert 'Honey' Smith found what he thought was a garden site at the head of Pigsties Bay.⁹⁹ In 1926 Smith showed the site to Clive Lord, president of the Royal Society and director of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart.

2005 Discovery. Bushwalker and environmentalist Bob Graham, (who with his partner, Helen Gee found the first French garden) believes he recently found a second garden in the north east corner of The Pigsties. A smaller site than the first garden, this plot is situated behind an inlet, located opposite the former sawmill town of Leprena. Here a small stream enters, the dug ground located slightly to the north of the creek.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁷ Mackenness, George ed, *Some Private Correspondence of Sir John and Lady Jane Franklin, Tasmania 1837-1845, Part 1*, Sydney, 1947 p. 48.

⁹⁸ Plomley & Piard-Bernier, p. 80.

⁹⁹ Poulson, pp. 64 & 66.

¹⁰⁰ pers comm., Bob Graham & Helen Gee, March 2006. Graham was accompanied by Greg Hogg.

. Local families claimed to have known where the site was, and Honey Smith may have known about Lahaie's first garden, as well as claiming to have found the second 1792 garden.¹⁰¹ See over

¹⁰¹ Poulson, p.66-67.

CRESCENT BEACH / FRENCH GARDEN

SETTLEMENT PERIOD

1803-1950

Background. The 'soft footprint' of the French visitors contrasted with the severe impact of British settlement after 1803. Bay whaling was followed by coal mining while logging occurred concurrently. These three industries effected the various sites associated with the earlier D'Entrecasteaux expedition.

COAL MINING RECHERCHE BAY 1840-1940

Recherche Bay has seen over a 100 years of coal mining, at Catamaran, and across the Pigsties, at Coal Pit Bight. The first attempts at coal mining at Recherche Bay began with a convict mine at Coal Pit Bight in 1840. These workings have probably intruded on the original landscape the French experienced.

Convict Coal Mine 1840-1843

Location. Kostoglou has recently carried out an archaeological survey for the Forest Practices Authority, and has documented many of these mine workings.¹⁰² However, their relationship to the convict mine and later workings such as the Crescent Sawmill is a more complex task..

Historical Detail. The location of a coal seam had first been noted by Labillardière at South Cape in 1793.¹⁰³ The coal had been again observed in the northern end of Recherche Bay in 1838 by a mariner, Captain George King, captain of the

¹⁰²Kostoglou, 1993, map of Crescent Sawmill and tramways, p. 85.

¹⁰³Duyker, Citizen, p. 145.

government vessel *Eliza*.¹⁰⁴ His discovery was reported by Lady Jane Franklin, wife of the Lt Governor, saying King had 'discovered signs of coal in the 'northern part' of Recherche Bay (now called Pigsties Bay, but then know as North Port).'¹⁰⁵

Mining Syndicate. In 1840 a syndicate led by Charles Swanston and eight others approached the colonial government with a view to mining coal at Recherche Bay , although the coal was marketed as 'Southport Coal.'¹⁰⁶ A team of convict miners and an overseer from the Tasman Peninsula Coal Mines were lent to the syndicate. News of the operation drew satirical comment in Hobart newspapers.¹⁰⁷ On Feb 9 1840 Joseph Lacey, (brick maker and convict transported per *Asia* in 1827 for highway robbery), and former overseer at the Tasman Peninsula Coal Mines was recruited to inspect the Recherche Bay seam. Reporting favourably, his opinion was relayed by local magistrate James Smith to Hobart. By May that year coal extraction had begun. By June 1841, the main shaft had been sunk to a depth of 120 feet.¹⁰⁸

A report from and un-named mine overseer at the Coal Mine, Coal Pit Bight and dated June 1841 outlines 5 day's work program and mine operations. The workforce totalled 43, with seven miners. The gangs worked in three shifts, including a night shift mustered at 10pm. Men were sinking No 3 shaft which had reached a depth of 106 feet. Others laboured on levelling the 'gin race.' Two pairs of sawyers were at work, one near the mine, the other across on the western shore. The biggest group of labourers – 15- were employed in 'keeping the shaft dry.' On Sunday 20th, the men did not work but were mustered 4 times, the last being at 6pm when they were

¹⁰⁴ Bacon, Carol and Banks, Maxwell, *A History of Coal in Tasmania*, P & P of the Royal Society of Tasmania, Vol 123, 1989, p. 178. (Dept of Mines 928802)

¹⁰⁵ Woolley & Smith, p. 163.

¹⁰⁶ Woolley & Smith, p. 164.

¹⁰⁷ Bacon, and Banks, *ibid*, p.158-9.

¹⁰⁸ *ibid.*, p.159.

'mustered to their huts.' Blacksmiths (indicating a forge) prepared picks and other tools. The operation had run out of gunpowder, when on the Monday 25 June Supervisor Lacy arrived on the brig Tamar. Three horses for the mine works were off-loaded, including 'forage' for the horses kept in a 'store.'¹⁰⁹

At least 1,200 tons of coal was brought to the Hobart market. The mining venture collapsed, owing £4316 for the services of the convict miners, tools and stores - all supplied by the Government.¹¹⁰ Strzelechi in 1845, however, wrote of 2 shafts in operation.¹¹¹ When this period of mining at Coal Pit Bight finally ended is uncertain.

Recherche Bay – Early 20th Century Mining

Witham believes that 'presence of coal on the Catamaran area on the western shore of Recherche Bay was undoubtedly known to the timber getters toward the end of the (19th century). In 1900 local amateur miner, Major L Hood began mining at Catamaran. The same year GH (Honey) Smith discovered coal at Moss Glen, Recherche Bay, and was given an 'award lease.'¹¹² The extent of these workings is uncertain. The Hood workings ran from 1900 to 1910, while Smith's Moss Glen operation ran from 1902-1912.¹¹³ In 1902 Government geologist WH Twelvetrees reported on coal mining prospects for the area. (These are listed in the Witham article on the Catamaran Coal Mine- see below. Twelvetrees report resulted in test shafts being sunk, two at the Moss Glen field - and two at Catamaran River.¹¹⁴

¹⁰⁹ DPIWE files, Lennox, Folder 454- 1.

¹¹⁰ Bacon op. cit., p.159.

¹¹¹ Bacon op. cit., p. 178.

¹¹² *ibid.*, p. 183. DM 882782. Department of Mines lease files.

¹¹³ *ibid.*, p. 186.

¹¹⁴ Twelvetrees, WH 1902

Post World War I. Mining continued in the Coal Pit Bight vicinity during the 1920s. Herbert Smith recorded in his diary of 1922: ‘.(Steamer) Melba arrived with loco for Catamaran mine.... Mr Daley and Algie (ie Herbert Smith’s son.) boring at Coal Pit Bight.’¹¹⁵ In 1922 the circular masonry lined main shaft from the old workings was still in good order, an indication of the quality of the workmanship.¹¹⁶

Kostoglou has recently identified two shafts, one a stone lined shaft bearing a strong similarity to that at the Coal Mines, near Saltwater River , Tasman Peninsula.¹¹⁷ This is perhaps not surprising, as Lacey and the miners had worked at the coal mine near Salt Water River on Tasman Peninsula.¹¹⁸

The mining at Coal Pit Bight continued at the same time as more complex mining operations at Catamaran were carried out. The iron hulled James Craig was bought to Recherche Bay for use as a hulk between Recherche Bay and Hobart. However, she was found unsuitable, and beached at Coal Pit Bight where she remained until salvaged for restoration in the 1980s.

(a) Report on Occurrence of Coal near Catamaran River, Recherche Bay, Appendix to RSM, 1901-02

(b), Report on the Coal Field in the Neighbourhood of Recherche Bay, Appendix to RSM, 1901-02.

¹¹⁵ Poulson, p. 22.

¹¹⁶ Witham, Lindsay The Catamaran Colliery and Its Transport Systems, Tasmanian Historical Research Association, June 1983, Vol 30, No2 p. 69.

¹¹⁷ Pers comm., Gaughwin, 2006.

¹¹⁸ Heard, Dora The Journal of Charles O’Hara Booth, Commandant at Port Arthur Penal Settlement, Hobart, 1981, n 256 p. 256.

The above detail indicate the area has a number of drill holes covering a 100 year period of coal mining. Some of these workings have probably intruded on the original landscape the French experienced.¹¹⁹

Crescent Sawmill's Impact

The Crescent Mill Tramway. The two tramway from the Crescent Mill near Bennett's Point ran north and northwest from the mill near Bennett's Point, with the first travelled parallel with the coast along Coal Bite Bay.¹²⁰ Its route lay close to the site of the assumed French garden. (see Bennett's Point chapter). With the demise of the Crescent Sawmill, the tramway easement continued for some years along the tramway, but was discontinued, and a later right of way placed along the Ryan's boundaries, rather than along the line of the tramway.

Ryan's Acquisition. Surveys of blocks above Bennett's Point acquired by Ryans indicates that the tramway associated with the Crescent sawmill ran parallel to the coastline. As was traditional, the tramway reserve was one chain- or 22 yards or 66 English feet – wide. In addition, a small right of way from the tramway to Coal Bight Beach was also formalised. This appears to be near the site of the supposed French garden.¹²¹ This relationship is indicated in a map attached to the Forest Practices Plan prepared for the Vernon brothers by the Forest Practices Authority in 2005.¹²²

¹¹⁹ In addition, the drill holes and shafts present a safety threat if not secured.

¹²⁰ Kostoglou, 1993, map of Crescent Sawmill and tramways, p. 85.

¹²¹Diagram of Actual survey, County of Kent, Parish of Purves, Title 30/23, 10/7/1905. LDRB/LTO.

¹²²Forest Practices Plan No TR1035, Forest Practices Authority, 3/3/2005, p.6. see enclosed.

20TH CENTURY USE OF NORTH EAST ARM

Tasmanian 'Hunter-Gatherers.' During the late 19th century, local families used North East Arm for their own versions of 'hunter gathering.' In addition to his mining interests, Herbert 'Honey' Smith from Moss Glen also made a living from collecting honey, (hence his name) but in addition fished, killed livestock and sold vegetables. Herbert recorded in his dairies the following entries of his 'hunting & gathering' on The Crescent:

1916. To Sullivans (Point). Got box pure Blue Gum honey.

1916. 8 bags of (shell?) grit from Sullivan's Point.... 4 score (ie of crayfish or rock lobsters) at Driscoll's Point.

1920. Went to Sullivans Point looking for Jennie. Found her with bull calf on neck. Saw 47 cattle.¹²³

Recreational Use. Coal Pit Bight was also used by local families as a picnic area. In 1914, for example Herbert Smith recorded in his diary, '1914 Had tea (ie evening meal) at Coal Pit Bight.'¹²⁴ The Ryans two storeyed house near Sullivan's Point was also an unofficial 'tea - house', and families from Rocky Bay and Moss Glen visited to be spoilt by the afternoon teas of Mrs Ryan.¹²⁵ Residents also recall picnics at Bennett's Point.¹²⁶

1924 Ryans Leave. Herbert Smith records that in 1924 John Ryan died, and later that year he moved Mrs Smith (from Bennett's Point) to Leprena.¹²⁷

¹²³ Poulson, pp. 41- 49.

¹²⁴ Poulson, p. 46.

¹²⁵ Pers comm., Poulson, and Eileen Jaeger. 2006.

¹²⁶ Poulson, p. 58.

¹²⁷ Poulson, p.49.

The Crescent Cattle Run. This area appears to have been used by Herbert Smith as a cattle run. In 1928 he recorded: 'Balldie (ie the bull) died at Crescent probably bit by snake.'¹²⁸ This was perhaps a verbal agreement with the Ryan family. As mentioned above, he also saw a herd of 47 cattle there.

¹²⁸ Poulson, p. 50.

RECENT DEBATE REGARDING FRENCH GARDEN

CRESCENT BEACH 2003-06

Background. Debate over location of the 1792 garden has ebbed and flowed from 1803 until today. The finding of the site of an apparent garden site, framed with boundary stones in the form of a rectangle by Bob Graham and Helen Gee in 2003 has aroused local and international interest- but also contrasting a degree of scepticism by others.

The Vernon brothers' former ownership of the bulk of the Crescent resulted in logging, botanical and heritage assessments being performed by the Forest Practices Authority, while those areas along the coastal reserve and outside the Vernon's property – were managed by DPIWE for the Crown Heritage assessments.

Historic surveys of the Crescent, and the garden site in particular, were carried out staff or consultants attached to DPIWE. In addition, members of the Recherche Bay Protection Group and local historians Bruce Poulson and Greg Hogg, also carried out their own field work, based on an intimate knowledge of the French records with which the local topography was interpreted.

RECENT STUDIES OF THE ASSUMED FRENCH GARDEN 2003-2006

Archaeologists. Four archaeologists have made tentative surveys of the assumed French garden:

Greg Jackman (Port Arthur Management Authority 2005)

Denise Gaughwin (Forest Practices Authority 2005.)

Jean Christophe Galipaud 2005

Parry Kostoglou (consultant, Forest Practices Authority 2006.)

Their reports are appended.

Historians. In addition, several historians have also measured and/or taken an interest in the site- and the implications of its being uncovered. These include Recherche Bay historians:

Greg Hogg (unpublished)

Bruce Poulson

Edward Duyker

Poulson's views are expressed in his publication. Hogg's are in private correspondence to the author but available on request. Their publications re contained in the bibliography.

FRENCH GARDEN MAPS

'Jardin'- Beutemp-Beaupre's map of Recherche Bay, 1800.

Diagram of Actual Survey, County of Kent, Parish of Purves, Title 30/23, 10/7/1905.

Crescent Sawmill and Tramways, Kostoglou, p. 85.

Diagrams French Garden

Jackman 2005

Gaughwin, D Coupe Plan 2005

Kostoglou, 2006.

FRENCH GARDEN DEBATE

Current debate over whether the 2003 French Garden is that of the French expedition can be outlined as follows. Disputes have been over the French garden's:

Locations

Size

Location - Distance from the Sea

Plomley & Piard-Bernier, state the garden was 'about 150 m from the shore.'¹²⁹

However, they do not substantiate the distance with a source, by appear to estimate the distance based solely on Beautemp-Beaupre's chart which depicts the garden.

Poulson 2004 argues that the current garden:

... is 75 metres in direct line from the northern end of Crescent Beach and is not a great distance from the coal deposits discovered by the French and later mined by convict labour.

Poulson further argues that this estimate of 150m:

.... is a miscalculation brought about by taking literally the indicative drawings of the garden on a hydrographic map which used the pre-Revolutionary measurement of toises (roughly six French feet equivalent to 1.949 metres or six and 2/5th English feet.) In other words, Plomey used the marine scale to measure the distance on land. The error is self evident as the size of the garden would be far bigger than the dimensions given in the official journals.¹³⁰

Poulson insists that this error has been repeated more recently by 'two recent writers' as well as by 'the Forest Practices Board's archaeologist....' This is in turn has been used to draft the current reserve around the proposed area for logging.¹³¹

Duyker here appears to agree with Poulson's interpretation of the measurement system used by the expedition:

(Forest Practices Board archaeologist) Gaughwin has questioned whether the stones actually mark the garden site. She and the owners of the land have seized on a discrepancy between the site's distance from the shore (about 80 metres) and the

¹²⁹Plomley & Piard-Bernier, p. 98.

¹³⁰Poulson, p. 64.

¹³¹ Poulson, p. 63-4.

location of the garden indicated on a manuscript map drafted by (expedition) hydrographer Beautemps-Bernier (some 80 toises = circa 146 meters.)'

Duyker postulates that a receding shoreline may account for the discrepancy.¹³²

Poulson further argues that Duyker, in Citizen Labillardière, has confused reports of the first and second gardens.¹³³

The question of the distance of the garden from the sea at this stage is unresolved.

Garden Size

Dispute over the garden size has been a major source of friction between the protagonists on the 'Save Recherche Bay' vs log Recherche Bay argument. The views have been exacerbated by lack of explanation of the measuring systems in pre Revolutionary France. These differences became aligned along ideological lines, whether pro-conservation or pro logging.

The issues are outlined as:

Plomley & Piard-Bernier, quoting Labillardière, records the garden size as 9 by 7 m.

On 14 May 1792:

I accompanied the gardener to the ground where he had sown the different European seeds. This spot, which is very well dug for an extent of nine metres by seven, had been divided into four patches; it afforded a soil in which clay is too prominent to ensure the success of the seeds that had just been committed to it.¹³⁴

¹³² Duyker 2004, p. 15.

¹³³ Poulson, Pers comm., Jan 2006.

¹³⁴ Plomley & Piard Bernier, p. 99.

Duyker's recent publication, *The Gardener's Journals*, is a transcription of Layhe's (Duyker's spelling) notes on his visit to Recherche Bay. Included are his description of the garden at Crescent Beach:

On my arrival I sowed some cress which germinated well after three days; after eight days tow men and myself tilled, with great difficulty, a piece of land measuring 28 feet square.

I sowed plants suitable for the season, which are celery, chervil, chicory, cabbages, grey romaine lettuce, different types of turnips, white onion, radishes, sorrel, peas, black salsify and potatoes.¹³⁵

The significant passage is '28 feet square.' Several points need to be born in mind, which finally lead to the interpretation that the size of the garden here is similar to that indicated by Labillardière, and not dissimilar to the 2003 garden.

Lahaye's journal indicates the following:

'28 feet square' is not '28 square feet'- or just 7 by 4 feet in size- obviously too tiny to be logical for the amount of seeds and root vegetables planted.

Lahaie apparently meant '28 foot square', or 28 by 28 feet.

The term 'feet' in pre Revolutionary France was 0.3248 metres.

28 feet squared –that is 28 by 28- is a garden approximately 9 by 9 metres.

This is similar to the 9m by 7m indicated by Labillardière, and also

Similar to the 9.3 by 8.4 metre garden measured at the assumed site by Mr Galipaud.¹³⁶

¹³⁵ Duyker, *The Gardener's Journals*, in Explorations the Institute for the Study of French-Australian Relations, No 37, December 2004 (issued 2005) p. 36.

¹³⁶ Pers comm., Greg Hogg, Feb 2006.

However, none of the expedition journals refers to the garden being stone-lined as is the 2003 garden.

A Resolution? Archaeologist Kostoglou has recently offered the following recommendations:

Closer scrutiny of primary sources

A rigorous searching of area surrounding the assumed garden

Rigorous landscape comparison between this and other gardens of the period

An assessment of the surrounding regrowth by botanist or trained forester to better judge the age of the site's abandonment.¹³⁷

¹³⁷ Kostoglou, 2006, p.11.

SECTION FOUR

FRENCH WATERING PLACES 1792

MOSS GLEN

Fortunately for posterity, D'Entrecasteaux expedition cartographers marked places associated with their visit on excellent maps of Recherche Bay- and other coastal areas of southern Tasmania. The expedition's first two 1792 *aiguades* or watering places in Recherche Bay were located at what is now known as Moss Glen, the first to the north of the most productive.

First Watering Place, 23/4/1792.

The first watering place was difficult to access, and a second more substantial stream was located nearby shortly after.

Journal Extracts

Recherche 23/4/1792

We inspected the stream of fresh water which Mr St Aignan had discovered, but found it would be necessary to prepare the site so as that the water could be collected because the boats could not come close in and the barrels would have to be rolled to them. [ie allowing salt water into the fresh] ... This seemed the best place for the purpose.¹³⁸

Recherche 26/4/1792

After the crew had their breakfast an officer was sent with a party to repair everything for taking our water as soon as possible. Men from

¹³⁸ Plomley & Piard Bernier, 1993, p. 62.

the Esperance joined us and the work was advanced a great deal during the day.¹³⁹

Recherche 27/4/1792

During the morning the chief mate went to the watering place to complete everything necessary so that we would be able to take our water at the first free moment. We have also set up a forge on shore (ie at Bennett's Point) and sent to cut a supply of wood.¹⁴⁰

Labillardière also described difficulties at the first watering place:

On the 13th I went to the place where our men were taking in their water. It was furnished by a small rivulet, which discharges itself into the harbour, after flowing amongst the trunks of fallen trees with which the country is covered. The rotten wood gives the water of this rivulet a brownish tinge. They were obliged to roll the cask upwards of a hundred yards to the boats, as these could not come nearer to the shore on account of the shallowness of the bottom.¹⁴¹

Second Watering Place

Background. The first watering place in the north supplied poor water which was difficult to collect, requiring much labour. A week later, the second outlet was found by Mr D'Auribeau to the south.

Journal Extracts.

The various journals reveal why the first site was unsatisfactory, and a second sought- at what is now Moss Glen.

Recherche 30/4/1792

¹³⁹ *ibid.*, p. 65.

¹⁴⁰ *ibid.*, p. 66.

¹⁴¹ Labillardière, JH Voyage, *ibid.*, p. 117. TL.

The longboat went to the watering place directly after the crew had had their meal and was way only three hours. It is difficult tot take this water, the crew being obliged to fill the casks at the stream and then carry then to the longboat...

The longboat made a second trip to the watering place... While walking along the shore, Mr D'Auribeau discovered some distance from the watering place a stream which seemed suitable to him and much more convenient for taking water than where we were at present. (being) less laborious to collect from running water, Mr D'Auribeau resolved to return with workmen the next morning to get it ready.¹⁴²

Recherche 1 May 1792

Mr D'Auribeau went with eight or ten men to make the necessary preparations for taking water from the stream he had discovered yesterday evening. Two hours later saw its completion, part of a mast being used in carrying out the work. In this way we can obtain a steady supply of water; no longer will there be a risk of mixing it with seawater and the site is every way preferable to the stream at the old watering place.¹⁴³

¹⁴² *ibid.*, p. 67-8.

¹⁴³ *ibid.*, p. 69.

EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT

MOSS GLEN

1803-2006

Background. The site of the second 1792 watering place on the western side of The Pigsties later became known as Moss Glen, an area then heavily forested.

TIMBER INDUSTRY.

Timber Cutters 1850-70. After the arrival of British settlement in 1803, the upper reaches of Recherche Bay were too distant from the open sea for whaling stations. Although timber cutters were working at Recherche Bay in the 1820s, the site of the 1792 Watering Place appears to have experienced little documented development until a timber boom of 1850s. This phase of timber getting was pre mechanisation and labour intensive, relying on timber cutters (often emancipists) and bullock teams working close to the coast.

The land at the head of Recherche Bay, later known as The Pigsties, was subdivided into 500 acre lots in the 1850s, and became the centre of a short lived timber industry. (This boom was caused by demand for timber due to the gold rushes in Victoria.)

The purchaser of the land adjoining the French site was TW (Thomas Warwick) Brown.¹⁴⁴ In 1853, he – and other Recherche Bay lessees - had a number of convicts assigned as labourers. For example, Brown had assigned Thomas Duke per ship Blenheim 3, Jerome Delphine per Ocean Queen, William Douglas and James Dewer, both per Maria Soames,¹⁴⁵ Brown also advertised for two bullock drivers and four

¹⁴⁴ LSD 1/63 pp 362-4, AOT. (Lennox files DPIWE.)

¹⁴⁵ POL 379/1 AOT. (Lennox files DPIWE.)

labourers in October 1853.¹⁴⁶ An indicator of the work the labourers were being used for is given with an advertisement from Dr William J Huxtable, another lessee at Recherche Bay. He sought sawyers and splitters 'in any number' promising to pay them 'the highest wages', but cautioned that 'none but good workmen need apply.'¹⁴⁷ Brown, unlike other tenants eventually purchased the land. The Recherche Bay population exploded from 31 to 500, but subsided by 1860, coinciding with the end of the gold rush boom.

Capt James Smith. Retired sea captain, Smith settled at Moss Glen c 1878. His son Herbert 'Honey' Smith later acquired land on which the 1792 watering place was located (see below). Relatives of the Smith family , including Mrs Gloria Heather, still live at Moss Glen, adjacent to the Watering Place.¹⁴⁸

MINING

The coal seams on Crescent Beach, developed unsuccessfully c 1841, continued across onto the mainland to the Catamaran area, where they were exploited by a later settlers. George Smith, an energetic local, attempted to develop the coal fields of Catamaran over an extended period. In 1902 the mining potential was surveyed by Government geologist WH Twelvetrees, who recommended a number of test shafts be dug. These included two at Moss Glen, of which ' very little has since been heard,' suggesting the trial shafts had proved fruitless.¹⁴⁹ Some of the pits and boreholes are indicated in Kostoglou's plan of the Moss Glen area, and includes a borehole located at or very near the mouth of the 1793 Waterhole Creek.¹⁵⁰ See map.

¹⁴⁶ Woolley & Smith, p. 141.

¹⁴⁷ *ibid.*, p. 141. Dr Huxtable leased land at the mouth of the D'Entrecasteaux River.

¹⁴⁸ Poulson, p. 25, and pers comm., 2006.

¹⁴⁹ Witham, *op. cit.*, 1983 p. 71.

¹⁵⁰ Kostoglou, 1995, Figure 44 page 124.

SAWMILLING 1903-1941

The Moss Glen area saw two sawmills constructed on/near the site of the 1792 watering place, beginning in c1903 and ending c1941.

Smiths Sawmill c1903. The first sawmill with its extensive tramway network was built by George Herbert Smith c 1903, but was reported idle by 1907. However, the mill apparently still cut timber until c1910. Although an extensive mill, very little remains today. Rotting pylons mark the site of the mill jetty.¹⁵¹

H Jones & Co Sawmill 1905. Conveyance deeds for the former TW Brown block of 640 acres (recently examined) indicate the former sawmill owned by Herbert Smith was sold to H Jones and Co in 1905. The conveyance deed refers to George Herbert Reid agreeing to sell a 600 acre portion of the 640 acres, 'together with the sawmill and plant thereon to... (bank manager) David Barclay,' but reserving the right for himself to the remaining 40 acres 'and the homestead thereon.' This was subject to the right of David Barclay to 'make and use a tramway along, over and upon the said 40 acres.' Smith was also not to undertake a sawmilling business 'or general store', nor 'be engaged in the businesses a sawyer or splitter for ten years... within five miles radius from the Mill at present erected on the 600 acres.' Smith was to be allowed to sell milk or vegetables grown on his remaining 40 acres. In addition, Smith agreed to the transfer all the 'waggon, horses (and other property) used in connection with the said sawmill....'¹⁵²

David Barclay was the Commercial Bank manager in Hobart, a friend and banker for Henry Jones, owner of 'IXL', Tasmanian's largest fruit and timber company. Both

¹⁵¹ Kostoglou, 1995, p. 125.

¹⁵² Conveyance 11/1956, 28/7/1905. LDRB//LTO, Hobart.

were also friends and business associates of sawmiller Henry (Harry Gray) a large investor in sawmills of the far south.¹⁵³ (see Kostoglou 1995)

Smith & Heather's Sawmill c 1935. The fate of the first mill is unknown. However, a second mill was erected on the same location opened c1935. A photo c 1940 shows the mill in operation. After the mills closure in c1941, George Heather built another mill at Cockle Creek. A description in Kostoglou however suggests the second mill was built inland to access better timber more easily.¹⁵⁴ See map

Herbert Smith of Moss Glen. A long term resident of the site at Moss Glen was Herbert 'Honey' Smith, the son of Capt James Smith. Extracts from his journals from 1910 to 1930 reveal a multiskilled bushmen who made his living principally from collecting and selling honey (hence his name), prospecting and hunting.¹⁵⁵ In addition to these activities, Smith also had 'extensive garden at Moss Glen c 1920.¹⁵⁶ Smith also believed he had found the site of a French garden opposite Leprena in 1922.¹⁵⁷

Transfer of Watering Hole property 1943. The 40 acres excised from the original large block covering the Waterhole site was transferred in 1943 as a 'gift from George Herbert Smith, farmer of Recherche Bay, to Algernon Herbert Smith, bushman of Leprena.'

¹⁵³ Brown, Bruce, I Excel! the Life and Times of Sir Henry Jones. Hobart 1991 p. 40.

¹⁵⁴ Kostoglou, p. 125. See map p. 124.

¹⁵⁵ Poulson, pp. 45-51.

¹⁵⁶ Poulson, p. 63.

¹⁵⁷ Poulson, p. 66.

CURRENT STATUS

From the above descriptions, the 1792 site has been considerably altered from 1792. Today Moss Glen area is occupied by modern shack owners. Only one house appears to date from the sawmilling era. All properties have extensively mown lawns, but with the wet forests still at the backdoor. The foreshore is covered by a very narrow reserve. Into this, the un-named creek which supplied the 1792 expedition flows into the bay through two concrete pipes.

Current Owners. Current landowners on either side of the creek are ?? and ?. In addition, as noted earlier, Mrs Gloria Heather, a descendant of Herbert Smith still lived adjacent to the 1792 creek.

TITLE INFORMATION

A survey of the TW Brown block of 640 acres dated June 1855 shows a small 40 acres section surrounding the 1792 watering place. The stream is marked and labelled 'fresh water.'¹⁵⁸

1792 WATERING PLACE MAPS

LSD 1/63 pp 362-4, AOT.

Kostoglou, 1995 Figure 44 p124.

Conveyance 11/1956, 28/7/1905, LTO.

¹⁵⁸ Kent, Parish of Blakeney, 1/15, June 1855, surveyor W E Ballantyne. LDRB//LTO.

SECTION FIVE

1793 WATERING PLACE

WATERHOLE COVE

Historical Background. Having nearly run out of water surveying the southern section of western Australia, D'Entrecasteaux was anxious to return to the known watering places in Recherche Bay, VDL. Arriving on 19th January 1793 however, the creeks on the north of the bay used the previous year had dried up, and after searching, water-courses in the south of the bay proved more reliable.

Journal Extracts

D'Auribeau 24/1/1793

The first care of the General, before even the ship was moored, was to visit all parts of the bay so as to assure himself that there was good water there, for we had the greatest need of it, everyone on board not excepting our Chief being reduced to absolute essentials.

The search was successful, Mr Trobriand discovering at the entrance of a deep bay on the western shore a little stream of very good water where, after two hours making a channel, we filled with the greatest ease, our longboats, which had drawn up under the outflow without difficulty and not having to take the state of the tide into consideration.¹⁵⁹

The water was obtained using 'a rig from one of the (longboats) spars to a fixed point near the little stream, leading it in this way to the shore.'¹⁶⁰

Labillardière records the collection system at Waterhole Cove in more detail:

¹⁵⁹ Plomley & Piard Bernier, p.196

¹⁶⁰ *ibid.*, p. 150.

the *Esperance* had already found a watering place, in a little cove to the north west (of our anchorage) where there was good water easily procured. The brook that furnished it fell into the sea from a height of more than three feet, so that it would run readily into the long boat through wooden troughs.¹⁶¹

La Motte du Portail of the *Esperance* also records the collection method, which seems at slight variance with Labillardière's - and also brings out the rivalry between the two ships' companies:

To decide whether to bring in the *Recherche*, one of the officers and the surgeon had to go and look at the stream, and what is really excellent is that, although they scoured the shore, they still did not find it and they had to come on board and beg us to take them there!

Mr Trobriand who was going there with some labourers, led them to the place. In no more than an instant everything was cleaned out and made ready for the guide poles to lead the water to the longboat with no more effort on the part of the sailors than to direct the hose into the bungs of the barrels. Mr D'Auribeau arrived just when the work was finished and he could not deny the convenience of the stream, it was really too obvious!¹⁶²

¹⁶¹ Labillardière, 1800 p. 282.

¹⁶² Plomley & Piard Bernier, p. 337.

EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT

Whaling.

A rush for acquisition of sea-front land for bay whaling stations at Recherche Bay saw most clustered along the beaches and promontories facing the open sea. By 1840, uncontrolled slaughter saw a rapid decline in number of the right whale.

Survey 1837. The first map of the area is by J Calder, dated 1837 and shows allotments and whaling stations. In Waterhole Cove (not designated) four allotments are drawn, with the words 'old huts' annotated near the southern head of the bay, while the 1793 creek is annotated 'watering creek.'¹⁶³

Brown & Griffiths Whaling Station Site. However, in 1841, toward the end of the land based whaling period, Brown and Griffiths applied for a whaling station 'southeast of the Watering Place on the NW side of Recherche Bay' ie at Waterhole Cove.¹⁶⁴ Brown and Griffiths were majors players in the whaling industry, with earlier stations at Schouten Island off Tasmania's east coast as well as at Recherche Bay and other locations.¹⁶⁵ However archaeologist Kostoglou was unable to identify the location for this station, nor find any remains.¹⁶⁶ The description 'southeast of the Watering Place' however suggests the whaling station may have been in the Mott's Beach area.

¹⁶³ EM (Exploration Map) Kent, Recherche Bay, 'by Mr Calder,' n/d c 1837. LDRB/LTO.

¹⁶⁴ Kostoglou, 1995 II p. 62.

¹⁶⁵ MacFie, PH Schouten Island, An Historical Survey, 1800-1967, Department of Parks, Wildlife & Heritage, 1991, p16.

¹⁶⁶ Kostoglou, 1995 II p. 62.

Sawmilling 1854-1940

Background. In 1793 D'Auribeau commented on the size of trees at this watering place, one of which was '27 feet in circumference, (and this was not the place of its largest diameter). They were also tall and perfectly straight.'¹⁶⁷ These forests attracted early timber workers and the first sawmill in the far south.

Extracting timber from forest in the area occurred with the large labour force of convicts at the nearby Probation Station established at Southport initially in 1841. By 1847 there were over 300 men and boys working there.¹⁶⁸ The next phase occurred in the post convict era of the 1850s, prompted by the gold rush in Victoria and housing boom. Locally the fledgling timber industry involved employment of skilled bushmen, usually former convicts, in exploiting the timber resources. In 1850, for example, over 40 ticket of leave convicts are on muster records.¹⁶⁹ The third phase attracted sawmills to the area, with a skilled manager usually backed by an investor based.

Waterhole Cove Sawmills.

In this context, British settlement saw a succession of sawmills also located there, beginning in 1854 and concluding in the 1940s.

Waterhole Sites, Burgess Title 1854. In 1854 John Burgess applied for land at Waterhole Cove, Recherche Bay. These were acquired in October 1854.¹⁷⁰ Surveyor William Tully subdivided the Waterhole Cove section of the intended village of Ramsgate into six blocks. These were purchased sawmiller John Burgess. The title

¹⁶⁷ Plomley & Piard-Bernier, p. 198.

¹⁶⁸ Brand, Ian Convict Probation Stations of VDL, 1839-1854, Hobart p. 263 footnote 17.

¹⁶⁹ Lennox, op. cit., 1990 p. 9.

¹⁷⁰ LSD 392, LSD 194/2, AOT, in W & S p.147.

shows a small creek is identified as 'watering hole.' The surveyor's field notes add 'waterhole –no perceptible stream.' In addition two other small 'streams' are shown.¹⁷¹ From the unfinished 1793 chart of Recherche Bay drawn by Esperance cartographer, Jouveny, the stream nearest the cove mouth is that used by the French.¹⁷²

Burgess' Waterhole Sawmill & Jetty 1854-1868

The first sawmill at the 1793 Waterhole site was Burgess steam powered sawmill. Requiring access to a good freshwater supply, he probably located his mill adjacent to the former Watering Place at Waterhole Cove. The 1855 mill was the southern most in the region, begun by John Burgess, a former convict, who had started as a sawyer at Petchey's Bay in 1841. He was partly funded by William Lindsay, a later owner of his Recherche Bay mill.¹⁷³

The initial burst of sawmilling was short-lived, and by 1869 a visitor W LeGrand noted in a newspaper article that:

The principal support of the place has been sawing and splitting, but the splitters say that, with the exception of the Pigsties (Moss Glen) all the timber within a reasonable distance has been used up.¹⁷⁴

The extent of Burgess sawmill remains only in description, as no archaeological remains were found.¹⁷⁵ A sale notice of 1859, however, indicates the scale of the mill:

¹⁷¹Land District of Kent, village of Ramsgate, applicant J Burgess, B4/72n, July 1854. LDRB/LTO.

¹⁷² Plomley & Piard-Bernier, p. 145.

¹⁷³ Woolley & Smith, p. 147.

¹⁷⁴ LeGrand, W op. cit., Of interest to note that a member of the French expedition of 1792-3 was Ensign LeGrand of the Esperance.

¹⁷⁵ Kostoglou, 1993, p. 18-20.

SALE NOTICE

STEAM SAWMILL TO BE LET OR SOLD

To be let or sold by tender that valuable establishment at Ramsgate, Recherche Bay, known as

BURGESS'S STEAM SAWMILLS

The machinery comprises circular and vertical saw frames, with all modern appliances and an abundant supply of working tools

The mills are driven by two horizontal engines of combined nominal power of 24 horses, but from the arrangement for the three boilers, each of which can be independently worked, and the application of the most recent improvements, a much higher actual power can be obtained.

The mill is close to water carriage, and the timber can thus be shipped from the jetty without the necessity of any tramway or road.

The land consisting of 64 acres, comprises six township allotments. It was selected by an experienced hand for the peculiar excellence and advantageous position of the almost inexhaustible bed of timber which it abounds.

The buildings are in good repair and ready for immediate occupation.....¹⁷⁶

The mill was initially purchased by Messrs Andrewartha and Gibbs, with Gibbs eventually becoming sole owner, and occupying a house adjacent to the mill.¹⁷⁷ The 1869 Valuation Roll lists Abraham Gibbs as owner and occupier of 'House, land and

¹⁷⁶ *ibid.*, p. 21.

¹⁷⁷ *ibid.*, p. 21.

Sawmill' at Ramsgate, the 62 acre property valued at £45.¹⁷⁸ Structures are also shown in an undated map associated with later owners of the period, including the 'old mill sight' (sic). A large dwelling, possible the house referred to above, is also drawn.¹⁷⁹ The 1869 visitor also reported:

A sawmill was formerly at work here, but is now standing idle. All the machinery is removed, and there is a bullock road leading to it. This is the only road in the bay, all the others are mere tracks partly in the bush and partly on the beach.. there are a great many empty huts which I am told were all used when the sawmill was at work.¹⁸⁰

McDougall's Bros Waterhole Sawmill c 1920.

The second phase of timber getting required mechanical means of moving logs to the mill from distances inland, and occurred with the new technology associated with tramways, winches and steam locomotives from the 1880s. The sketch plan referred to above relates to a sawmill on the site and leased from 1900 to 1921, and then taken over by John Hay. Despite searching, no archaeological evidence was found.¹⁸¹

McDougall's Tramway. A tramway running from Waterhole Bay to a rise known as McDougall's Hill appears to have been built by the brothers between 1910 and 1920.¹⁸²

Brown Bros Box Mill 1930s. George and Hedley Brown worked land between the Waterhole and Catamaran River from 1932, using a small mill which cut apple box

¹⁷⁸ Hobart Town Gazette 1869, Valuation Roll District of Franklin, Southport Portion p. 203.

¹⁷⁹ Kostoglou, 1993, Fig 5 p. 22.

¹⁸⁰ LeGrand, W The Weekly News, March 8 1869 p.??

¹⁸¹ Kostoglou, 1993, p. 24.

¹⁸² *ibid.*, p. 24.

cases. As box-mills were mobile, moving to available trees, typically little survives from these transient mill. Such is the case with this mill.¹⁸³

CURRENT STATUS.

A foreshore and road reserve fronts Waterhole Cove. The boundary / fence above the roadway is not clearly delineated, but backs onto the Recherche Bay State Recreation Reserve. However, access by the French in 1793 would appear to have been largely confined to the foreshore.

A mis-located sign installed near the 1793 waterhole by the former Department of Parks & Wildlife directs visitors to the wrong site.

¹⁸³ *ibid.*, p. 25.

MAPS 1793 WATERING PLACE

Jouveny chart, Plomley & Piard-Bernier, p. 145

1 EM (Exploration Map) Kent, Recherche Bay, 'by Mr Calder,' n/d c 1837.
LTO.

Kostoglou, Whaling Stations, p62.

(Land District of) Kent, village of Ramsgate, applicant J Burgess, B4/72n,
July 1854. LTO.

Kostoglou, July 1993, Fig 5 'Undated Survey of Waterhole Cove vicinity
showing locations of Burgess' Waterhole Sawmill', p22.

Ibid Fig 6 'Sites Formerly Located in Waterhole Cove', p. 23.

POSS? Map in Mott file??

SECTION SIX

FORGE SITE 1793 MOTT'S POINT

Background. After finding a watering place at Waterhole Cove in January 1793, the captains of the *Esperance* and *Recherche* looked for a suitable places for establishing their observatories, a forge and other working sites. Unlike the previous year when they two ship's companies shared the observatory, disputes between the officers saw two separate observatories established at Rocky Bay.

Journal Extracts

D'Auribeau of the *Recherche*:

We looked for a suitable place for setting up our various establishments and found a little stream in a bay where everything was completely accessible at all times. The situation seemed advantageous under all circumstances for the setting up of our tents....

However the officers chose to establish their ship's observatory across the bay.

The *Recherche* journal reports that on the 22 January 1793 that Mr D'Auribeau:

Made a complete tour of the bay looking for a suitable place to set up a washhouse, forges, charcoal burning and so on, and came across a very suitable site towards the head of the bay where there was a good size stream which would furnish plenty of water for those who would be washing; as well there was wood and the ground was suitable for the whole establishment.¹⁸⁴

¹⁸⁴Plomley & Piard Bernier, p. 149.

Comments.

'Forges' (*plural*). Indicating there was either a forge for each ship in different locations, or two forges at the same site.

'good sized stream.' A small un-named stream runs into the bay near Motts Point, which is 'at the head of the bay.'

'The whole of the establishment.' This phrase suggests that as well as the forge, the other services required for work on the ships were erected in the one area. As can be seen from the incomplete map in 'The General,' this forge site is that on Forge Point, Mott's Beach, a site not annotated on the published map in the Atlas the expedition at Rocky Bay.¹⁸⁵

Recherche or Esperance site? The description is unclear as to whether the workshop facilities was just for the Recherche, or the Esperance as well.

While this was being set up D'Auribeau recorded: 'On the 25th, all the tents needed for the work were erected in the cove, in particular the smith, the armourer, the charcoal burners, the wash house etc'¹⁸⁶

Two Observatories – but How Many Forges?

Jouvençy's chart indicates there were separate observatories established by each ship. The observatory attached to the Esperance was on Adam's (now Whale) Point, and the Recherche station near Snake Point.¹⁸⁷ On the 22 January 1793 the Recherche reported: 'During the afternoon the observatory was set up on shore as well as the other work we needed. Firewood was obtained from the bottom ie head of the

¹⁸⁵ Plomley & Piard-Bernier, Chart of Rocky Bay, Recherche Bay, January 1793, *ibid.*, p. 145. (Thanks to Greg Hogg for pointing out this subtle but essential difference. PM)

¹⁸⁶ Plomley & Piard-Bernier, p. 196.

¹⁸⁷ Plomley & Piard-Bernier, Chart, *ibid.*, p. 145

bay.¹⁸⁸ This is reinforced by D'Auribeau's comments: We cut our supply of firewood at the head of the bay near the cove where our establishments were.¹⁸⁹

The Esperance journal reports that the same day:

We set up our observatory, a tent for our blacksmith and another for the carpenter opposite us.¹⁹⁰

Comment.

'Our blacksmith,' possibly suggests a separate workshop for the Esperance tradesmen, away from the Mott's Beach site.

However, the location of the Esperance charcoal kiln appears to have been in the southern end of the bay, as the Esperance recorded: 'We have appointed two men to make charcoal and they have established themselves at the head of the bay.'¹⁹¹

D'Auribeau commented on the need for facilities to be in close proximity to each other to save labour, 'avoiding the need for trips by the oared boats.' While there, they 'took ashore some goats and two sheep still remaining.' He continued, 'We cut our supply of wood at the head of the bay (ie at the southern or lagoon end) quite near the cove where our establishments were. Its quality was excellent and we had no difficulty in finding the quality we wanted, and it was with the greatest ease it was loaded into the long boats, which came ashore, being run aground without any danger on very fine sand.'¹⁹²

¹⁸⁸ *ibid.*, p. 150.

¹⁸⁹ *ibid.*, p. 197.

¹⁹⁰ *ibid.*, p.150.

¹⁹¹ *ibid.*, p.150.

¹⁹² *ibid.*, p.196ff.

Forge Work. Much of the time at the forge was spent in repairing the ships' damaged rudders and other metal equipment. The stem pump from the Recherche which had been 'unshipped by the sea' was worked on by the carpenters. This work however this may have been aboard ship, rather than on shore.¹⁹³ On being replaced at the ships stern, 'we fixed it in place and set it in motion to see there was no play in it, and found the repairs were perfect', the work reflecting favourably on the 'skill of our carpenters and blacksmith.'¹⁹⁴ The Esperance also sent her damaged anchor chains ashore for repairs.¹⁹⁵ The large dingy went to the places where the armourer had been working. Fresh charcoal having cooled for three days, was also brought on board the Recherche.¹⁹⁶

¹⁹³ *ibid.*, p. 153.

¹⁹⁴ *ibid.*, p. 156. NB. The Heritage site listing (Reference 10957) refers to the 'steam pump', rather than 'stem pump', as in Plomley & Piard-Bernier.

¹⁹⁵ *ibid.*, p. 153.

¹⁹⁶ *ibid.*, p.161.

BRITISH SETTLEMENT

1803 - 2006

Rocky Bay to Ramsgate. The land on which the 1793 sites were situated later became part of the planned village of Ramsgate, a name first used in the 1830s.¹⁹⁷ The village reserve bounded the shores of Rocky Bay, from the Catamaran River on the northern boundary and Fisher's Point on the south-east. The 1793 sites included Waterhole Cove and the forge site at Mott's Beach.¹⁹⁸

The first map of the area is by J Calder, dated 1837 and shows allotments and whaling stations. In Waterhole Cove (not designated) four allotments are drawn, with 'old huts' annotated near the southern head of the bay. The 1793 creek is annotated 'watering creek.' Around the corner at what became Mott's Beach, a small stream is indicated, while another is shown near Mott's Point.¹⁹⁹

The next map found is dated 18th February 1858, and shows the beginnings of surveyed allotments. Although the Burgess allotments in Waterhole Cove are shown as acquired, those at Mott's Point were then vacant.²⁰⁰

Richard Mott, Emancipist. The point on which the forge was located was acquired by Richard Mott, a former convict. Transported on the *Maria Soames* in 1844 for larceny – thefts all involving food - he was described as a labourer who could plough. He was 5 ft 8 ins tall, and from Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire. He left a

¹⁹⁷ Woolley & Smith, p.58.

¹⁹⁸ See LSD 1/63 363. AOT

¹⁹⁹ EM (Exploration Map) KENT, Recherche Bay, 'by Mr Calder,' n/d c 1837. LDRB/LTO.

²⁰⁰ Ramsgate, Lots for sale at Hobart Town, Thursday 18th February 1858, LDRB/LTO.

wife Esther, father John and mother, Mary, with sisters Esther, Sarah and Mary at Aylesbury and Alice and Ann at Oxford.²⁰¹

Mott served time for various offences, including at the convict probation station at Cascades on Tasman Peninsula. Here prisoners were occupied with producing sawn timber. In July 1849 Richard was charged with 'refusing to work with another man as sawyer – and widower,' indicating his new occupation. He also worked at Peppermint Bay (near Woodbridge in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel) also a noted timber getting area. Richard Mott married in 1855, when his occupation was again described as sawyer.²⁰² (Mott was perhaps working at the first sawmill established in the area, that of Burgess at Waterhole Cove.)

The adjoining block at Mott's Point was granted to William Mott, whose relationship with Richard is uncertain at this stage - perhaps a son.

At the time of his second marriage to Rosanna Murphy, a convict from County Tipperary, Ireland he also used the name Michael. Two years before the marriage, a child (Eliza) had already been born to the couple.²⁰³ Richard Mott is recorded as having died in 1882 aged 73.²⁰⁴

(A Richard Mott however re-partnered a third time with Alice Doherty, producing another three children, one of who was Richard William Mott (b Recherche Bay 1887), perhaps the owner of the neighbouring block.²⁰⁵)

²⁰¹ Con 14/22, AOT.

²⁰² Con 33/57, AOT.

²⁰³ Mott Correspondence file, AOT.

²⁰⁴ RGD 35/211/1882, 15/5/1882. AOT.

²⁰⁵ Tasmanian Pioneer index, RGD 33/1884, 1389.AOT.

Mott Titles. Richard Mott acquired his five acre block in 1863.²⁰⁶ The two titles were later transferred to Richard Mott's widow, Alice Mott.²⁰⁷

Mott's Structures. William Mott apparently built a house upon his allotment, while Richard's remained undeveloped.²⁰⁸ However a later plan indicates that Richard owned both titles on the Motts Beach point. Although the Heritage Tasmania site listing refers to only one house being built on the site, local historian Bruce Poulson believes there were two.²⁰⁹

Mott's Beaches and Esplanade. The title deeds show a wide esplanade around the foreshore, encompassing the two titles, along two small beaches broken by a rocky outcrop.

Mott's Garden. The Mott family were known for a 'sizeable commercial garden' selling vegetables to timber workers.' (Poulson suggests that this site may earlier have been the location for Lahaie's second garden.)²¹⁰

Later Occupants.

After the Mott family sold Forge Point, (c 1940) the land was occupied for many years by the family of 'Dooey' Leary. (This occupancy has not been proven by title deed.) Leary was the bearer of many 'tall' stories from the district. One involved a ghost, another the sighting of a flying saucer behind Motts Beach. The site of the supposed 'flying saucer' was apparently barren, and local historian Bruce Poulson has theorised that the ground may in reality have been from the effects of the French

²⁰⁶ Certificate of Title, Vol 11, Fol 181, 8/10/1863. LDRB/LTO.

²⁰⁷ Certificate of Title, 28 /1/1928, Vol 349 Fol 133, LDRB/LTO.

²⁰⁸ Register entry, Heritage Tasmania. (Un sourced claim.)

²⁰⁹ Pers comm., 2006.

²¹⁰ Poulson, p.66.

charcoal kiln of 1793.²¹¹ However, as documented earlier, the kilns were apparently erected 'at the head of the bay,' thus making the above theory doubtful.

CURRENT STATUS

The 1793 forge and related sites are located on private land, though some may be situated on the foreshore reserve.

Current Owner. The present owners have fenced off previously open access routes to Mott's Beach and the foreshore reserve. This has aroused local anger.

MAPS 1973 FORGE, MOTTS BEACH

Chart of Rocky Bay, Recherche Bay, January 1793, *ibid*, p. 145.

LSD 1/63 363. AOT.

EM (Exploration Map) KENT, Recherche Bay, 'by Mr Calder,' n/d c 1837.
LTO.

Ramsgate, Lots for sale at Hobart Town, Thursday 18th February 1858,
LTO.

POSS map Mott file?? + Certificate of titles??

²¹¹Pers comm., Bruce Poulson, 2006.