

HUME & HOVELL JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY TO PORT PHILLIP 1824 – 1825

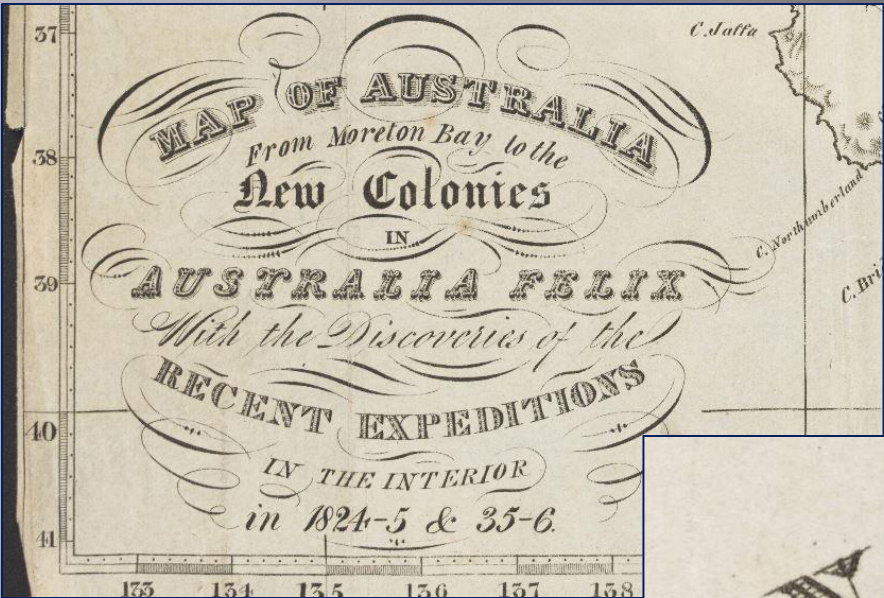
**THIS REPORT CHALLENGES THE WIDELY HELD
BELIEF THAT THE HUME & HOVELL EXPEDITION
TERMINATED AT CORIO BAY PORT PHILLIP
BUT IN FACT, TERMINATED AT THE WERRIBEE
RIVER.**

Researched & Prepared by Lance Pritchard August 2018

Revision A, January 2021
Revision B, May 2021
Revision C, December 2021
Revision D, February 2022
Revision E, February 2022
Revision F, April 2022
Revision G, May 2022
Revision H, June 2022

Revision I, July 2022
Revision J, September 2022
Revision K, January 2022
Revision L, March 2023
Revision M, January 2024
Revision N, April 2024
Revision O, February 2025
Revision P, September 2025

What prompted this investigation?



This map was part of an exhibition named the 'Changing Face of Victoria' held by the 'State Library of Victoria' in 2018.

Hume and Hovell
expedition route shown
highlighted and not
terminating at Corio Bay.



REFERENCE MATERIAL;

1. Digital copy of Hovell's Journal –

Available online at the Mitchell Library New South Wales website.

2. Hovell's Bearing Book – Hovell stated in his journal entry of 16 December 1824 '(refer to bearing book.)'

Research has been unable to locate this book, but information obviously from the bearing book has been included in Dr William Bland's publication. (Ref. 3) Obviously Bland was working from both Hovell's Journal and the Bearing Book. (Bland stated that he worked from all the material from the expedition.)

3. 'Journey of Discovery to Port Phillip, New South Wales, in 1824 and 1825' by WH Hovell and H Hume, Esquires.

Compiled and edited by William Bland 1789 – 1868.

Published 1837

Hovell quoted from this book when describing the expedition to a group gathered at the Hovell Banquet at Geelong in 1853.

This book is a rewrite of Hovell's Journal and includes the fold out map which prompted my research.

REFERENCE MATERIAL Cont.

4. In the book above was the fold out map, refer slide #2.

In May 2021 the State Library of Victoria (SLV) scanned this map titled –
Map of Australia
Australia Felix
Recent Expeditions

It is now available online at –

<http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/4209106>

As the map was not initially available on the SLV website I was granted copyright to use any images that I photographed from the book.

REFERENCE MATERIAL Cont.

5. Reprint of 'Dr Bland's Account' is available online at –

Project Gutenberg Australia
William Hovell & Hamilton Hume
Journey of Discovery to Port Phillip
<http://gutenberg.net.au/explorers-journals.html>

6. A book edited by Alan E J Andrews and is available at the SLV.

Hume and Hovell 1824
Edited by Alan E.J. Andrews
Published 1980
SLV 919.45 H88

This book has a transcription of 'Hovell's Journal' and also 'Dr William Bland's Account'.

REFERENCE MATERIAL Cont.

7. Map drawn under direction of Hamilton Hume, a copy of which is available online at –

<https://collection.sl.nsw.gov.au/record/74VvKQdQ6bZI>

8. Hume's document 'Brief Statement of Facts' at –

<https://viewer.slv.vic.gov.au/?entity=IE4109228&file=FL18259975&mode=browse>

9. National Library of Australia (TROVE)

Port Phillip Gazette, Saturday 5 October 1839, page2

Quotes from the article *PORT PHILLIP*

REFERENCE MATERIAL Cont.

10. National Library of Australia (TROVE)
Port Phillip Gazette, Saturday 17 April 1841, page 3
Quotes from the article - *MELBOURNE RACES*
11. National Library of Australia (TROVE)
The Geelong Advertiser and Intelligencer, November 5, 1855
Full article - *HOVELL AND HUME*
12. Map presented in Wikipedia as the expedition route.
By User: Lentisco - Own work, Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=19988674>
13. Journal of the Australian and New Zealand Map Society Inc.
The Globe, Number 90, 2021.
A 'peer review' of the first edition of my book 'Hume and Hovell Expedition Termination' published April 2020.

METHOD;

The location of the expedition on the 13th. December 1824 is quite accurately described, being the day when they finally crossed the range. This was also the day that their odometer, which they named Claude's wheelbarrow broke down.

It has therefore only been necessary to examine the last four days, particularly the day the expedition reached the bay, then examining the days before and after.

Indisputable evidence as to the location of the expedition on the afternoon of the first day of their return journey proves conclusively that the expedition on this day was at Point Gellibrand.

It would be impossible to walk from Corio Bay to Point Gellibrand in one day. Therefore, they were never at Corio Bay.

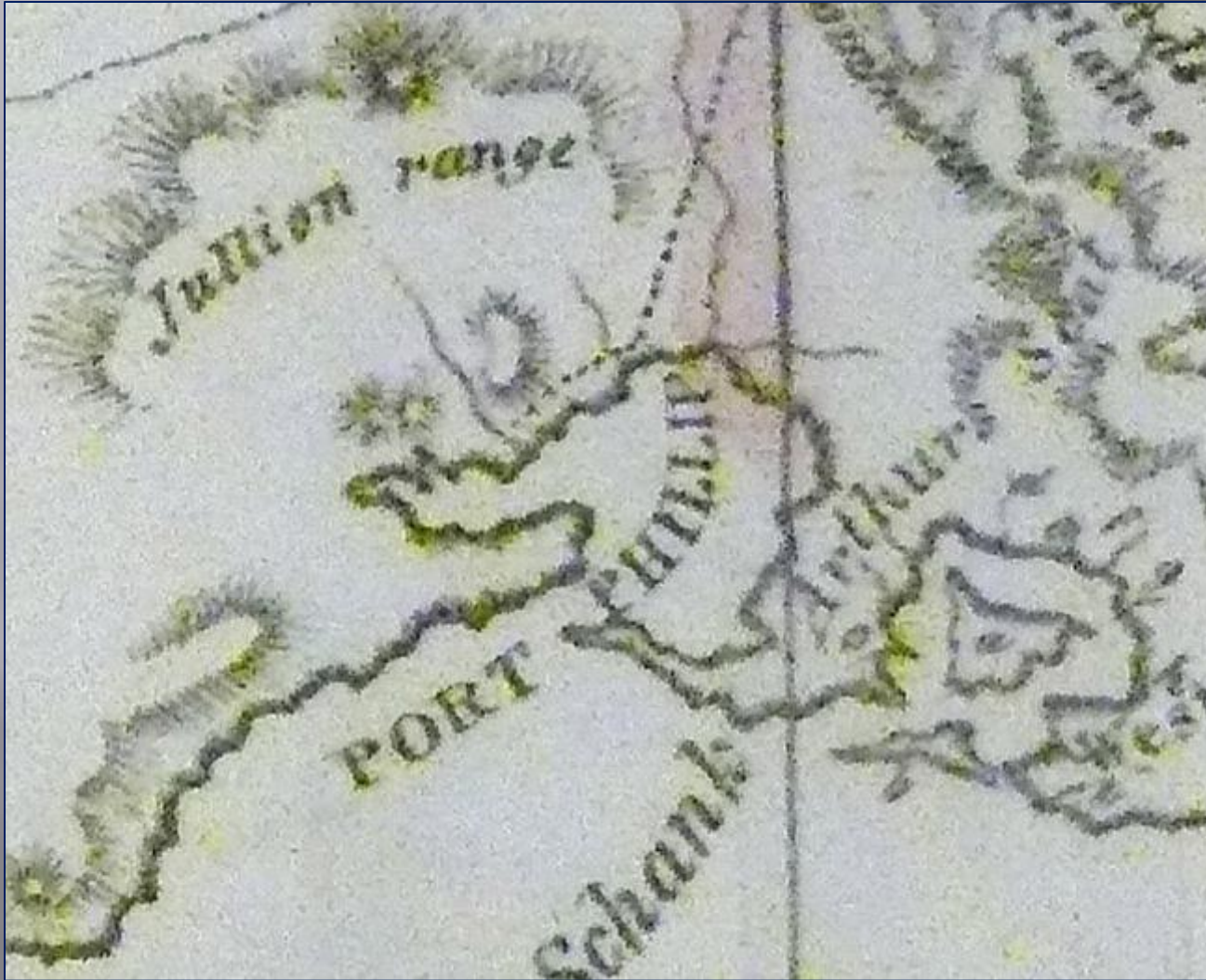
The relatively simple examination of this fact and other evidence has made it possible to come to a very clear conclusion as to the termination point of the expedition.



'Journey of Discovery to Port Phillip, New South
Wales, in 1824 and 1825'
by WH Hovell and H Hume, Esquires.
Compiled and edited by William Bland 1789 - 1868.
Published 1831 & 1837

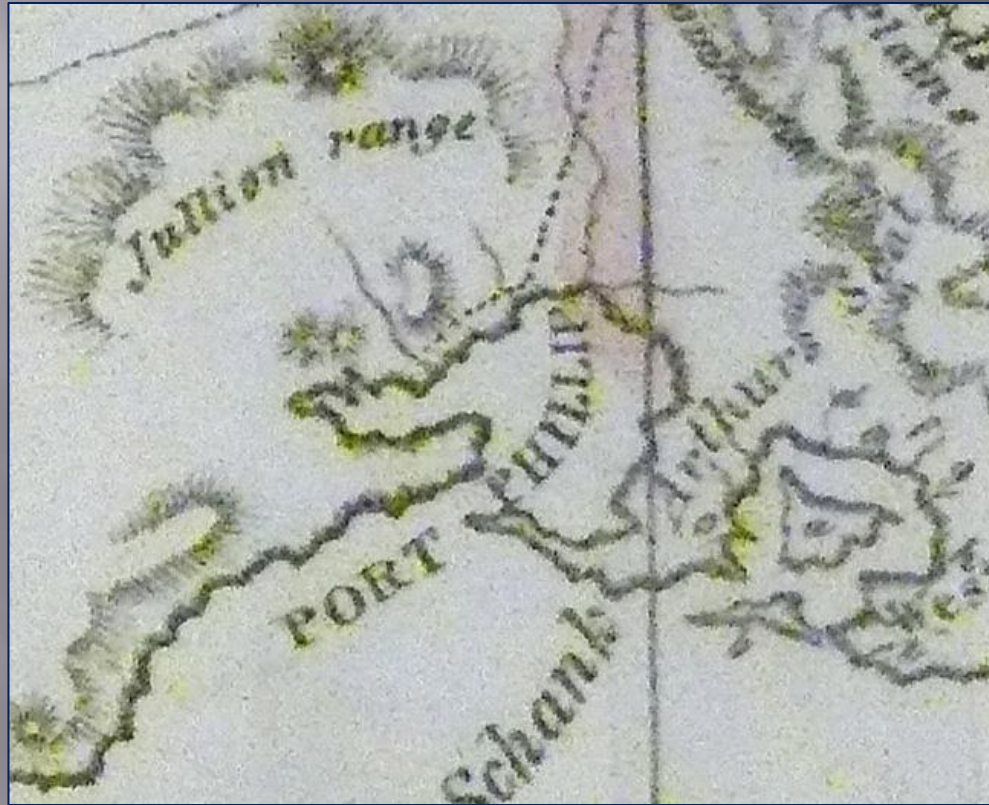


It is generally believed, and was written on the explanatory card with the book, that,
'After crossing the Victorian ranges, they arrived at Corio Bay near Geelong'.



This map does not confirm the above statement.

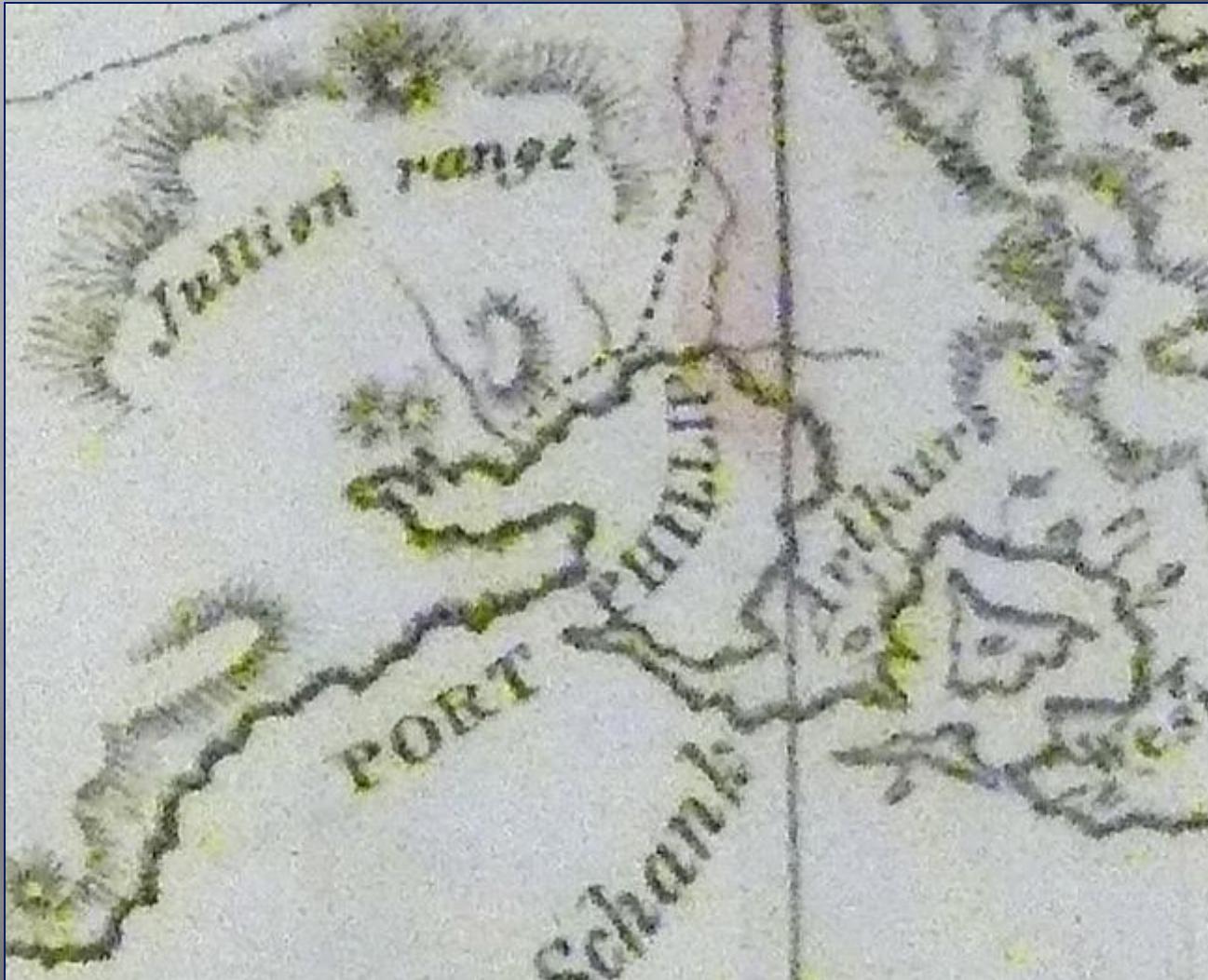
The map shows the expedition terminating at a river to the east of two small hills. The two small hills shown are in the correct location of the You Yangs, but the small creek now known as Hovell Creek is on the west side of the You Yangs at the western end of Corio Bay.



If the termination of the expedition occurred at the river shown, and it is thought to be Hovell Creek;

1. Where is the Werribee River and Little River on this map?
2. Both rivers/creeks on the west side of Port Phillip are shown in very much the correct location of the Werribee River and Kororoit Creek.
3. **There is no creek shown anywhere near where Hovell Creek is located.**

The map shows the expedition terminating at a river to the east of two small hills.
This is a very good representation of the Werribee River.



The previous slides were created using photographs of the map that was on display at the SLV in 2018, for which I was granted copyright.

Staff at the SLV requested that I present my research in book form as they would like it on their shelves.

The SLV scanned the map in May 2021 and it is now available online at –
<http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/4209106>

The following three images are screen shots from the map.

Screen shot from the State Library of Victoria website at
<http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/4209106>



Screen shot from the State Library of Victoria website at <http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/4209106>



On the previous map which shows the expedition terminating many miles to the east of a group of hills, can these hills be identified?

- | | | |
|----------------|--|------------------------------|
| Questions – 1. | Are there any hills to the north of Corio Bay? | Yes – the ‘You Yangs’ |
| 2. | Are there any hills between the You Yangs and Corio Bay? | No |

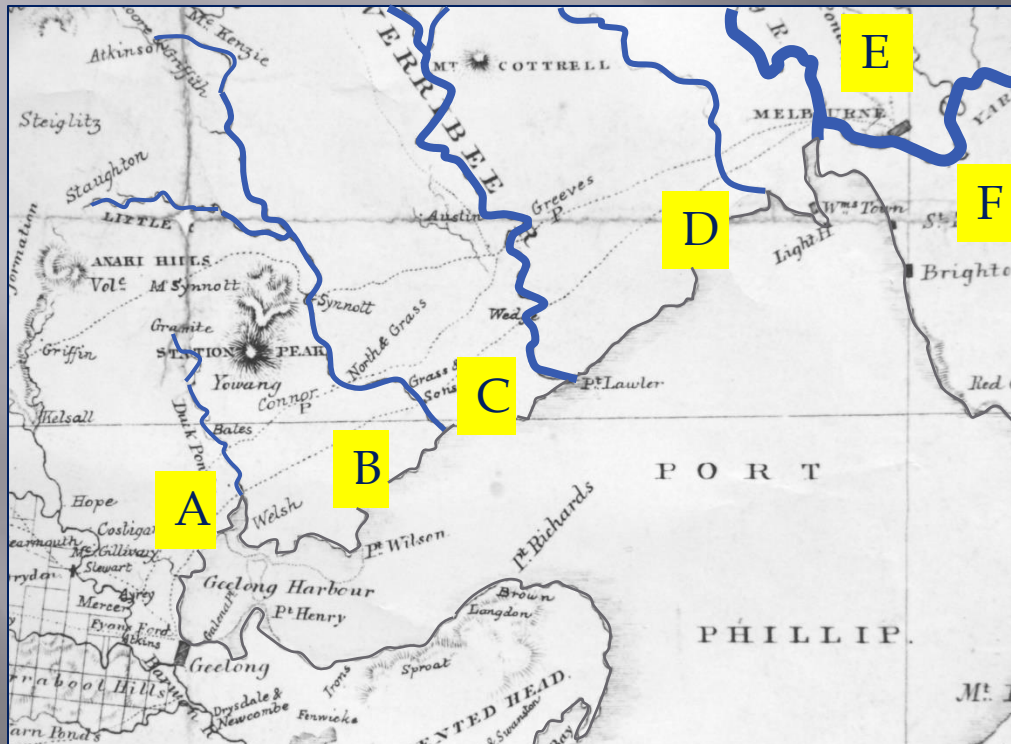


View from the mouth of the Werribee looking west – as shown on the previous map.

Is there a river running from the Jullion Range (Brisbane Ranges) in

1. a S.E. direction ? and
2. entering the bay to the north of what we now call the Bellarine Peninsula?

Yes, the Werribee River and the very much smaller Little River.



A. Duck Ponds now named Hovell Creek originates on the west side of the You Yangs.

The catchment area is minute compared to Little River.

B. Little River runs in the right direction but runs through the lower slopes of the You Yangs and catchment area is minute compared with the Werribee River.

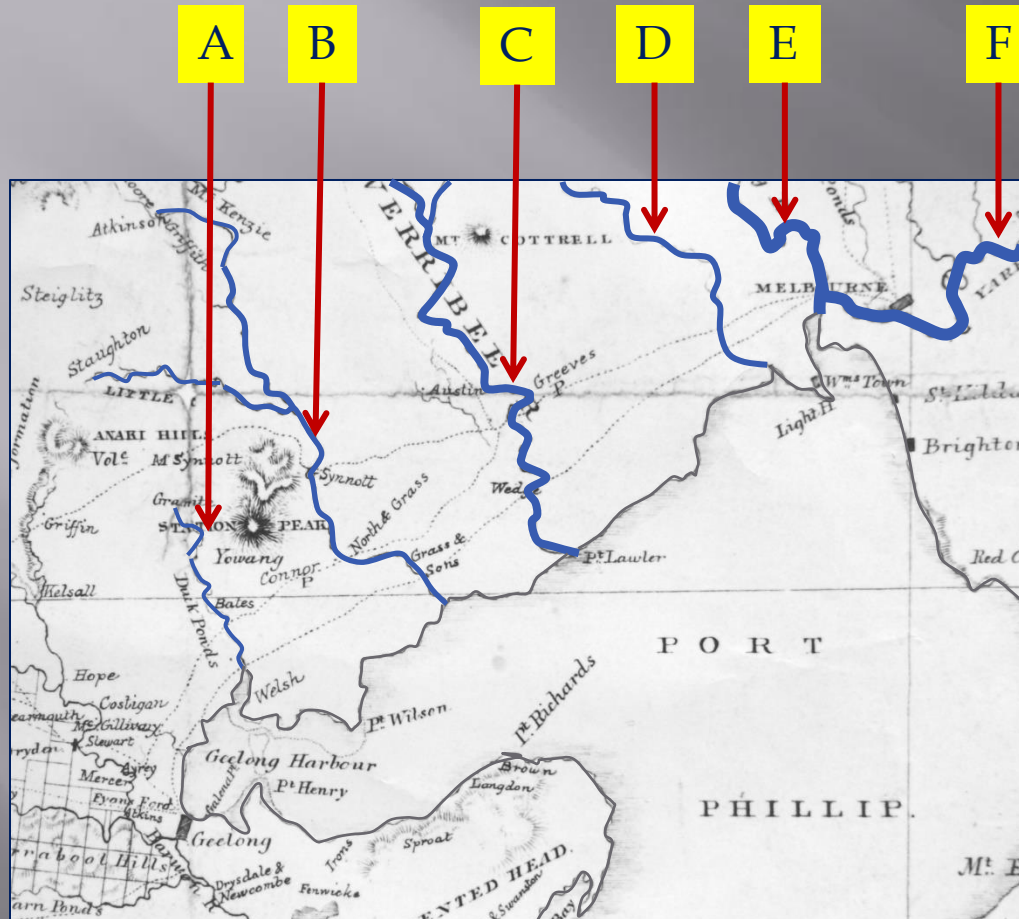
C. Werribee River runs in the right direction and passes on the west side of Mt Cottrell.

D. Kororoit Creek.

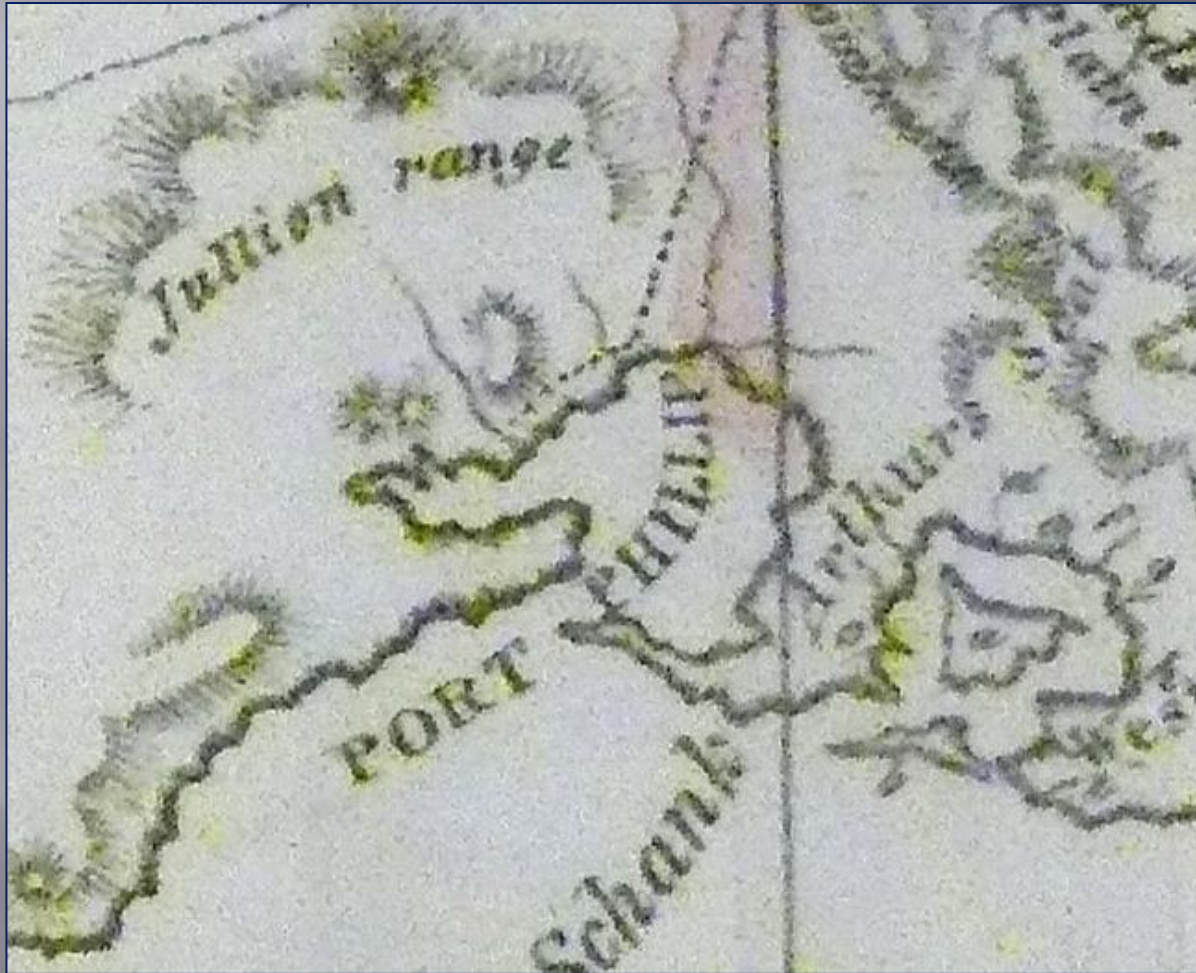
E. Maribyrnong River.

F. Yarra River.

The most logical comparison of creeks and rivers with the 1845 map and the map produced in Bland's account is as below.



The map extremely strongly suggests that the termination of the expedition occurred at the Werribee River.



- Note 1. Skeleton Creek is not shown on this map. (Once named Skeleton Water Holes Creek.)
2. Little River is not shown on this map.
3. Hovell Creek is not shown on this map. Named on the accompanying 1845 map as Duck Ponds. (The township of Little River was once named Duck Ponds.)
- Neither of these three would have been an impediment to the progress of the expedition.

The question has to be asked –

Does an analysis of Hovell's Journal and Dr William Bland's Account of the expedition either back up the above observations, or point to the expedition reaching Corio Bay?

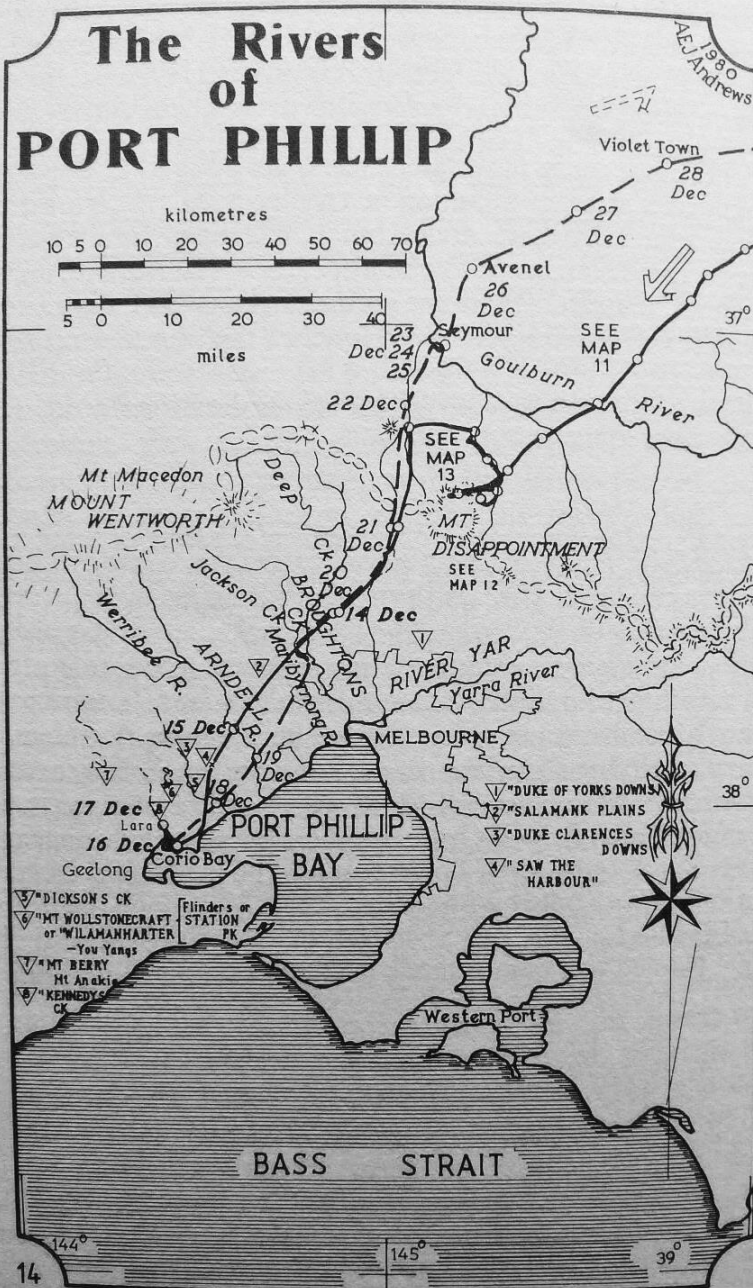
Hovell's Journal and Dr William Bland's Account has been reproduced in the book -

Hume and Hovell 1824
Edited by Alan E.J. Andrews
Published 1980
SLV 919.45 H88

Dr Bland's Account is available online at –

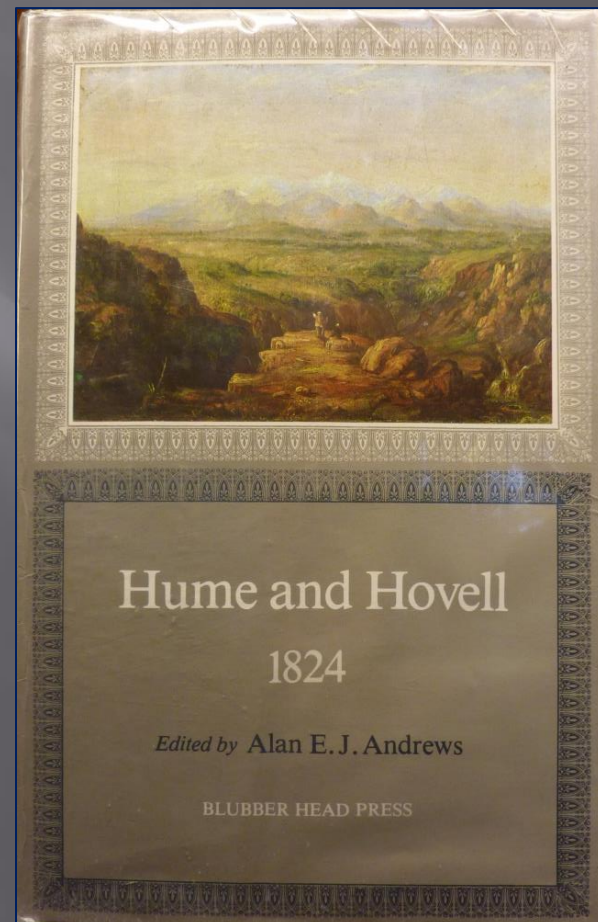
Project Gutenberg Australia
William Hovell & Hamilton Hume
Journey of Discovery to Port Phillip
<http://gutenberg.net.au/explorers-journals.html>

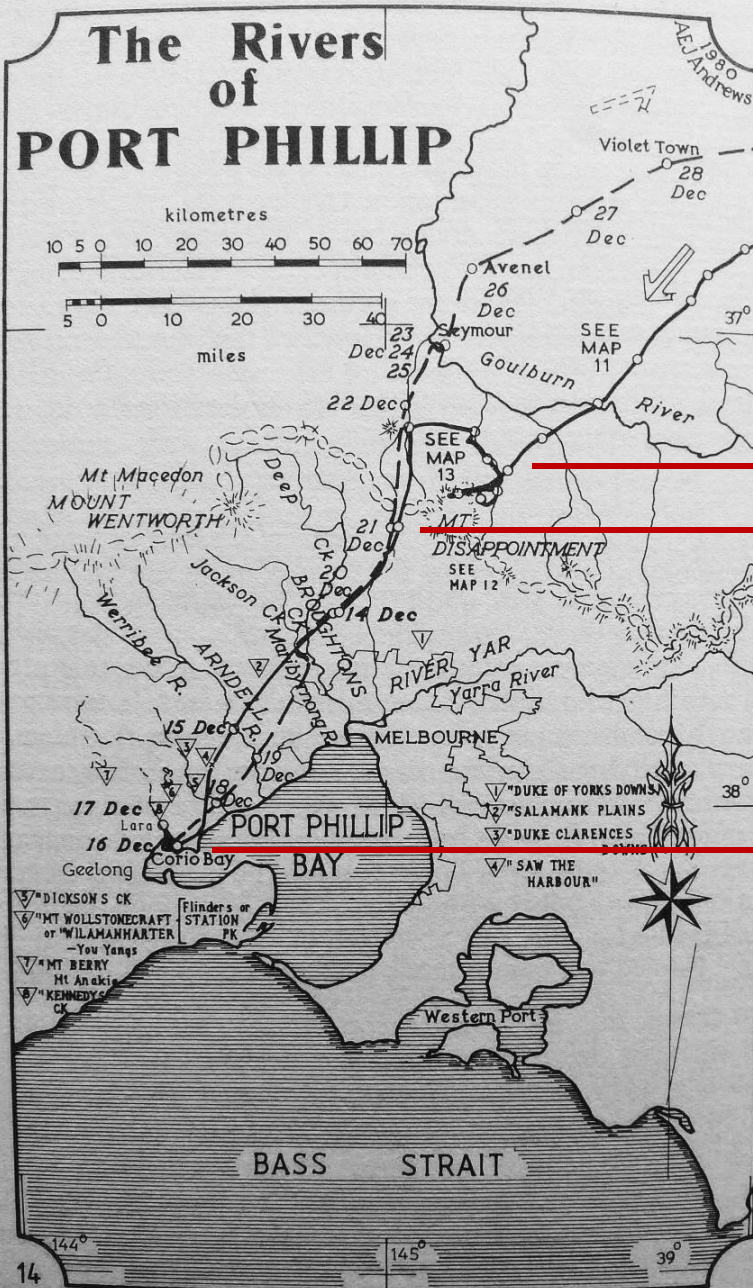
From Alan Andrews book, with particular reference to the days before the expedition was terminated, this review continues -



Map reproduced from page 202

Hume and Hovell 1824
 Edited by Alan E.J. Andrews
 Published 1980
 SLV 919.45 H88





During these six days the expedition travelled an average of 8.1 mile (13km), with the greatest distance travelled on any one day being 11.5 mile (21.7km). (This excludes the difficult section when negotiating the crest of the range.)

Over the last three days the expedition is represented as covering an average of 19.2 mile (30.9km) with the greatest distance travelled on December 15 being 23 mile (37km).

On this suggested route, during the day of the 15 December the expedition would have also had to negotiate the deep Maribyrnong River gorge.

It was the 15 December that the expedition commenced 2 hours late as the oxen were exhausted.

P203 - Note 148

12 December. Hovell's Journal.

"From here the odometer, 'Claude's Wheelbarrow' broke and the mileages assumed travelled thenceforth tend to become somewhat greater."

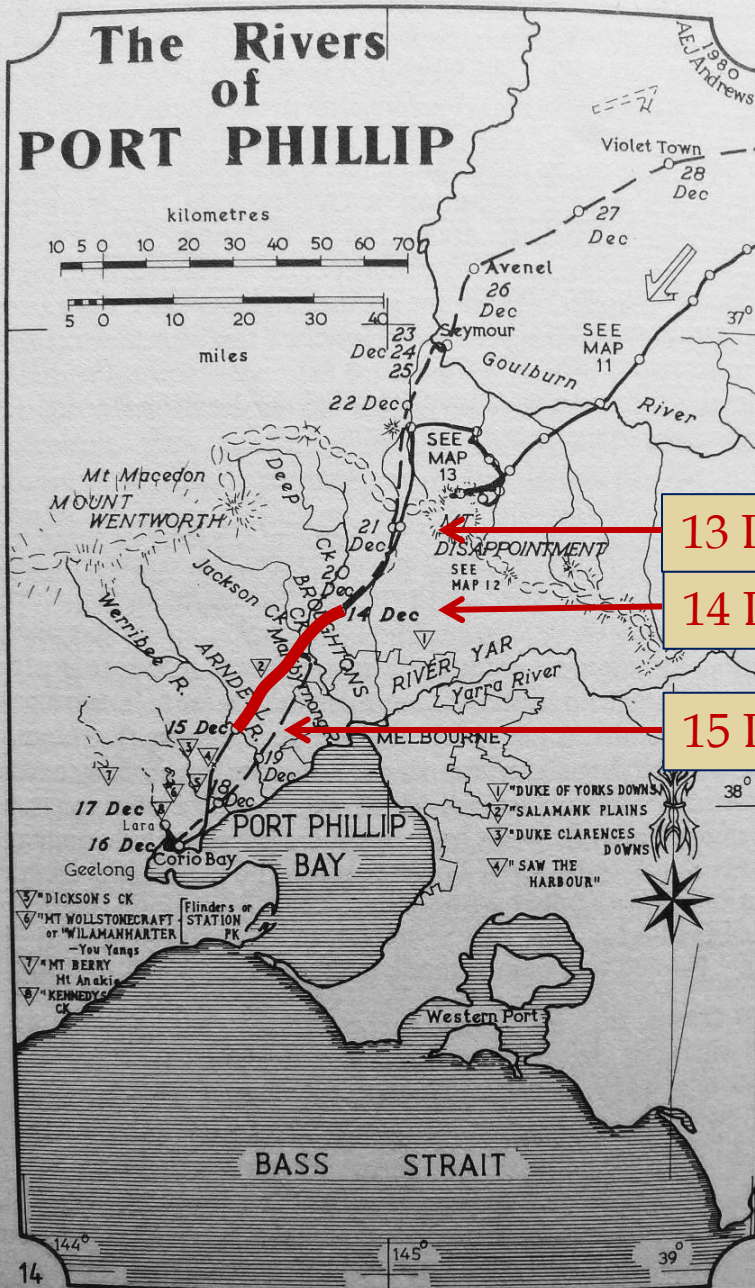


After crossing the range, this very first available map shows the expedition travelling in very much a straight line in a SSW direction until Port Phillip is reached, **as per Hovell's Journal being 'primary evidence'**.

On maps drawn after the death of Hume and Hovell, the expedition is shown travelling in a SW direction for approximately 35 miles (56km).

Why would the expedition head SW for approximately 35 miles (56km) towards the Brisbane Ranges and Mt Cottrell???

A general SW direction is not mentioned in either 'Hovell's Journal' nor 'Bland's Account' and is not indicated on the above map but this is what Hume said 30 years later.



P 204 Bland's Account P 207 Hovell's Journal
Dec 15 "Yesterday had been a difficult day and the cattle were so fatigued that they couldn't start until nearly 9.00am ."

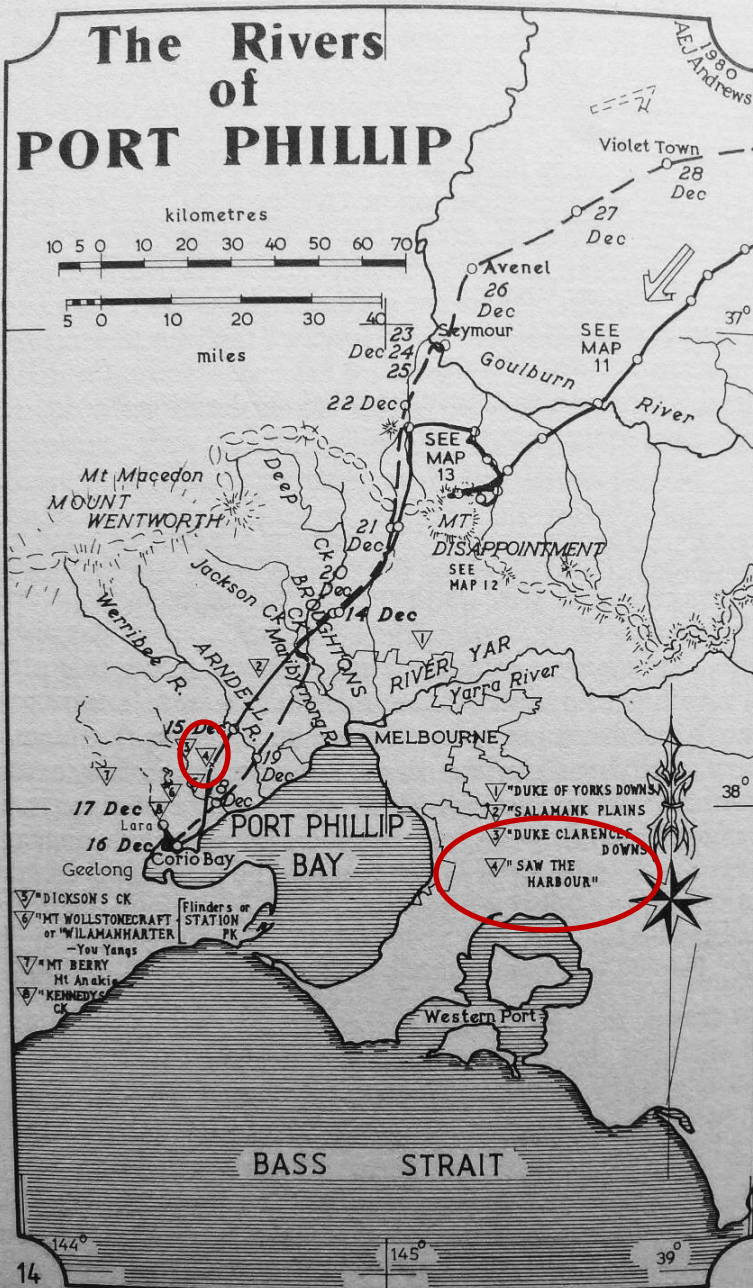
If the cattle were fatigued and they started around two hours late, how is it they negotiated the deep Maribyrnong River gorge and still managed to travel 23 miles (37km)?

Were the cattle fatigued from negotiating the many rises and falls on the crest of the range?

If they had a difficult day on Dec 14, how is it they travelled 14.5 mile (23.3km) when during the six days prior to negotiating the crest of the range, the greatest distance covered was 11.5 mile (21.7km)?

P204 Bland's Account Dec 14
"While towards the south, the land gradually dips."

If the land was falling away to the south, why would they start heading in a SW direction towards Mt Cottrell and the You Yangs?



No 4 "SAW THE HARBOUR"

AEJ Andrews' assumption does not make sense -

Both Bland's Account and Hovell's Journal quote that the harbor was sighted around 4pm on the 16 December.

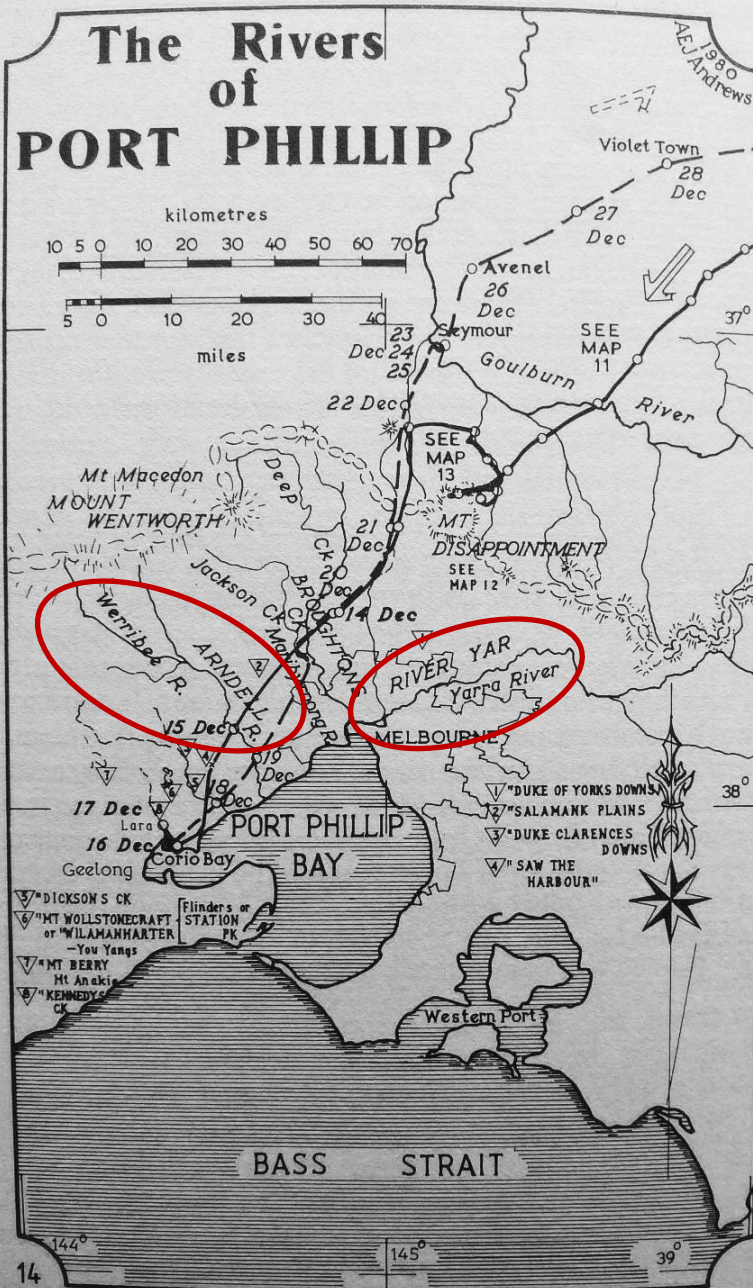
From the location suggested here, halfway between the Werribee River and Little River it would have been impossible to travel as far as Hovell Creek then on to their camp site, one mile inland in three hours.

This would be around 32km (20 mile) in three hours and not visiting Point Wilson for observations taken at 5pm. -

THEREFORE IMPOSSIBLE.

Bland's Account 16 December

"stopped for the night at seven o'clock, in a small wood about a mile from the beach, but there was no fresh water;"



One point however that Alan Andrews has picked up from Hovell's Journal is the fact that Hovell sighted the Yarra River which he named the 'River Yar'.

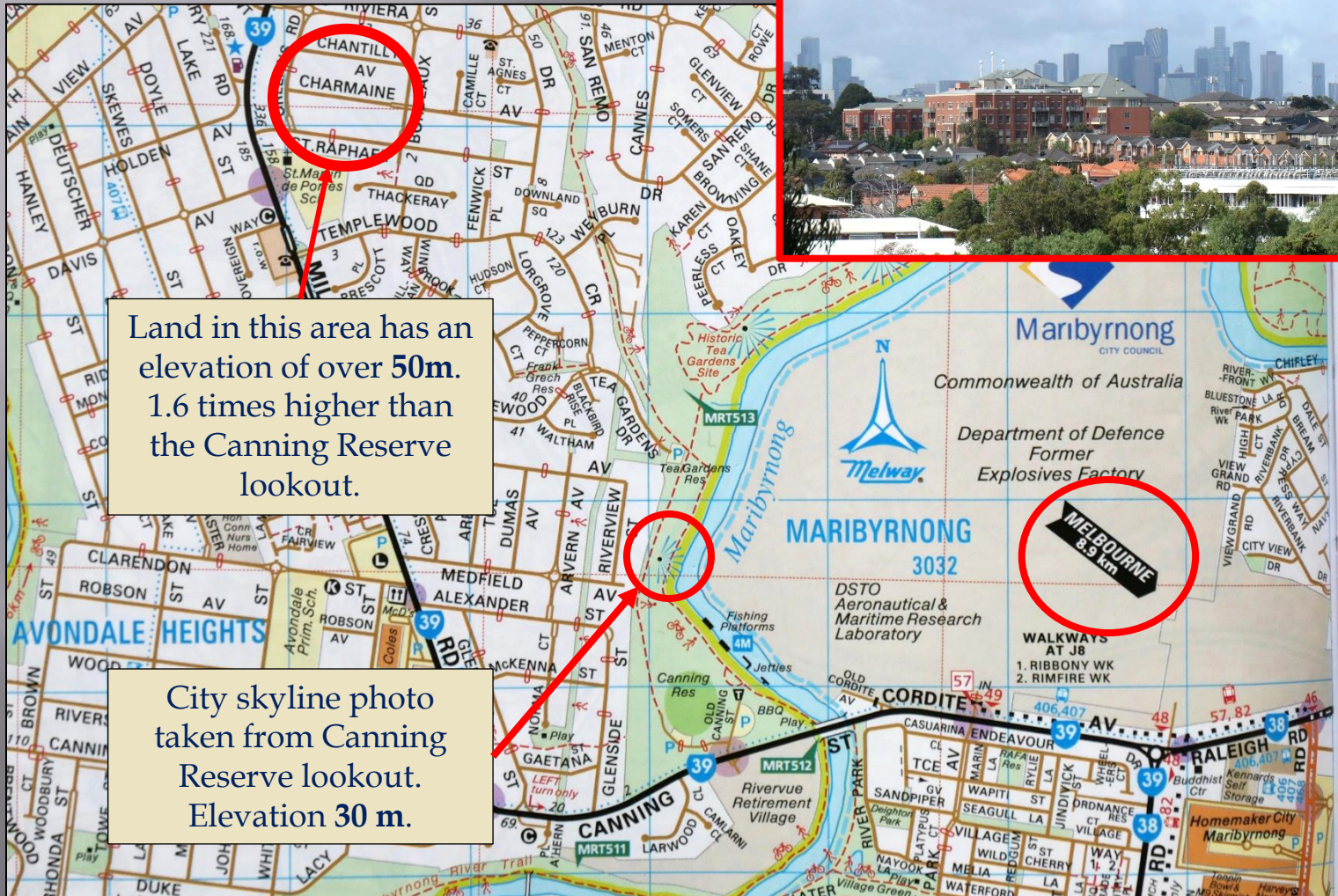
Unable to produce a logical explanation of how they could possibly see the Yarra River late in the afternoon of the 15 December, this piece of evidence is not mentioned again.

This approach of not mentioning the 'River Yar' has been adopted by all researchers prior to and following Alan Andrews.

Andrews shows that they were around 15km inland and approaching the Werribee River.

On the 15 December, the day before they reached the bay, they sighted the Yarra River, naming it the 'Yar', before camping that night at the river Hume named the Arndell.

Part Melway Map 27



P206 & 216 Bland's Account - Thursday 16 December 1824

"This morning they crossed the river or creek without difficulty, the water not taking the cattle more than chest high. Mr. Hume named this stream the Arndell"

Generally accepted as being the Werribee River, but considering the above analysis, was this the Maribyrnong River?

Yes it was the Maribyrnong River - see the following two slides.

"now proceed S.W. by S. through plains about six miles" - - - - -

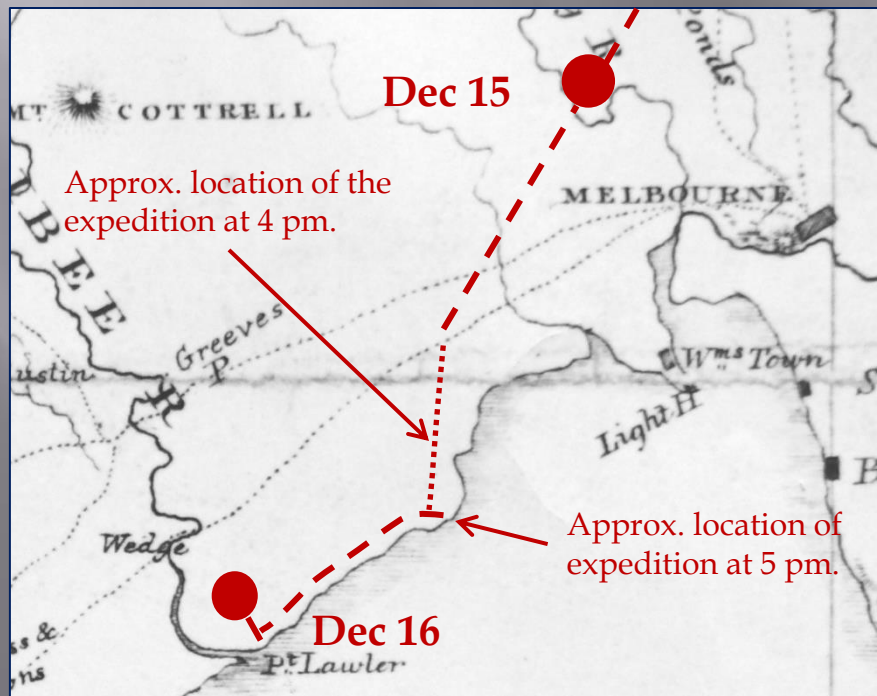
"now proceed S. and at four o'clock" "was that of water: and which, leaving the river a short distance, and directing their march from S.W. to S.S.W. they soon ascertain to be part of the sea,"

Hovell's Journal - Thursday 16 December

"we bore down, nearly South, and about 4 o'clock we could plainly perceive that, that which we thought was fire and smoke, was the very thing we were anxiously looking out for."

"alter their course to S.W. and travel six miles (9.6 km) in that direction along the shore," - - - - -

"stopped for the night at seven o'clock, in a small wood about a mile from the beach, but where there was no fresh water;" ●



"alter their course to S.W. and travel six miles in that direction along the shore"

This quote is extremely important in that it allows us to search Port Phillip for a matching shoreline.

Followed up at slides 30 to 33.

Bland's Account - Thursday 16 December 1824

"This morning they crossed the river or creek without difficulty, the water not taking the cattle more than chest high. Mr. Hume named this stream the Arndell"

National Library of Australia (TROVE)

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article225005442>

Port Phillip Gazette, Saturday 5 October 1839, page 2

Quotes from the article *PORT PHILLIP*

Evidence that the Maribyrnong River was the Arndell River.

"A geographical description of the newly constituted province of Port Phillip will at this time be particularly interesting, as will to our readers as to His Honor the Superintendent. We have compiled the following article from the work of Major Mitchell, the communications of settlers in the interior, and some little from our own observations. ..."

In the harbour of Port Phillip the rivers are the Yarra Yarra, the Arndell, and the Weirabee.

The **YARRA YARRA** springs from the lofty Alpine chain upon the southern coast of the continent, and flowing in the direction of W. by S., empties itself into Hobson's Bay. This river is navigable for eight miles for small vessels of 200 tons burden. A bar across the debouchure prevents the ingress of the heavier class, as this impediment however consists only of mud, so it is expected that the application of a dredge will remove the obstruction. Within two miles of its confluence it is joined by the

ARNDELL, so called by Messrs, Hovell and Hume, by the settlers generally termed the Salt Water River; the navigation of this stream is for a few miles equal in safety to that of the Yarra Yarra, an advantage which will no doubt be applied as soon as a village shall have formed upon its banks.

The **WEIRABEE**, by us called the Ex, flows north and south, and empties its water into the bay; it is navigable for cutters and heavy boats of ten to twenty tons, an advantage which will considerably facilitate the movements of such farmers or sheep holders as may purchase land upon its sides. ..."

At this period the course which had previously been laid out on the large flat under Batman's Hill, was removed two miles to the banks of the Arndell, (colonic Salt Water River.) the new course it was adjudged would in the event of rainy weather present a firmer ground, independently of the greater scope secured by its larger area.

The present year, the deeds of which we have at this writing taken pen in hand to memorialize, has besides the progressive attractions and better arrangements of its

obtained a claim on the public estimation for their exertions in establishing in so long a settlement these favorite sports of people. The year 1840 produced a meeting similar to those of preceding periods, which stand to the cause again open.

The number of horses had increased to twenty-one, and the total value of the stakes exceeded £300.

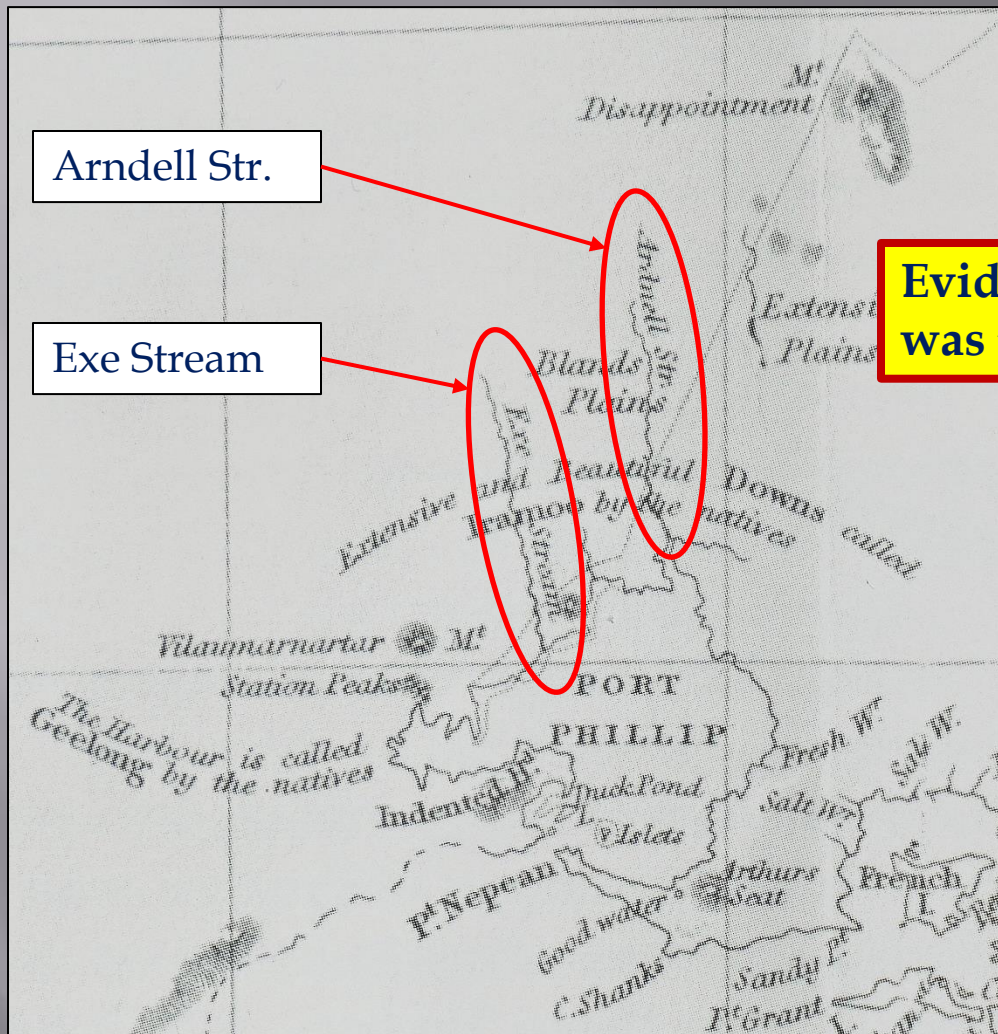
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The present year, the deeds of which we have at this writing taken pen in hand to memorialize, has besides the progressive at-

Evidence that the Maribyrnong River was the Arndell River.

TROVE;
Port Phillip Gazette
Saturday 17 April 1841
Page 3
Article title - MELBOURNE RACES

The original racetrack was relocated from the large flat under Batman's Hill to a site two miles away on the banks of the Arndell (Salt Water River) Now Flemington Race Course.



Evidence that the Maribyrnong River was the Arndell River.

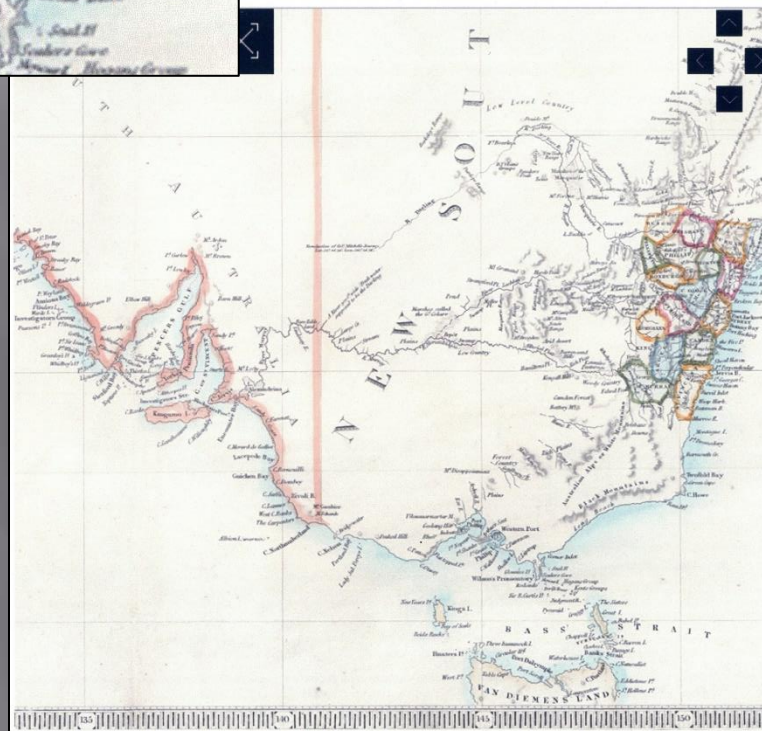


London, Pub^d 15 Feb^y 1832 by J. Arrowsmith, 33 East S^t Red Lion Square.

Published 15 February 1832 by John Arrowsmith



Evidence that the Maribyrnong River was the Arndell River.



James Wyld

Title

Map of Australia,
Compiled from the
Nautical Surveys,
Made by Order of the
Admiralty, and other
Authentic Documents
... 1838

Publication Place /
Date

London / 1838

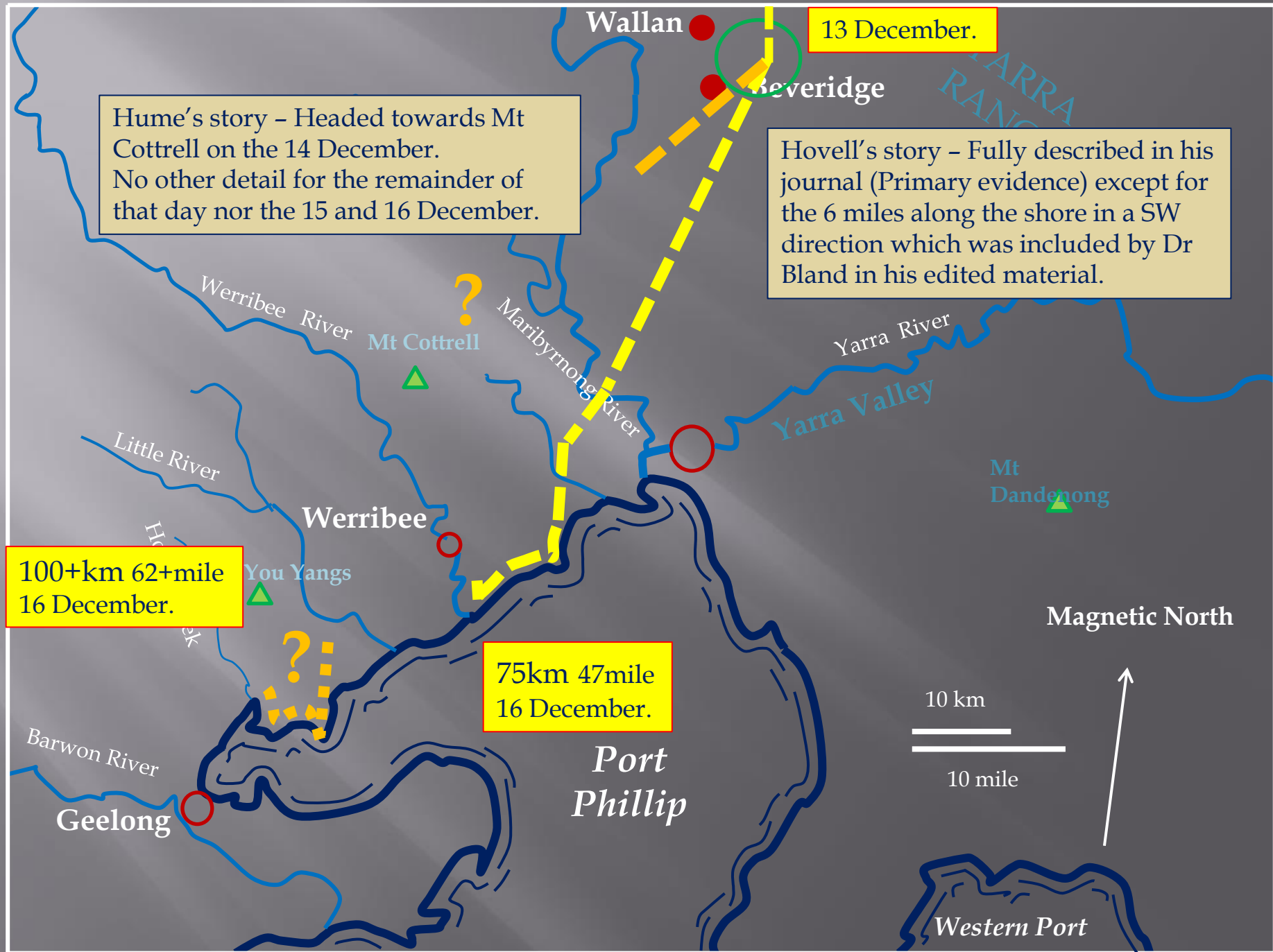
Image Dimensions

31.5 x 22 inches

Color

Hand Colored

Condition



It would be impossible for oxen to travel 100km from the Wallan / Beverage area in three days to Hovell Creek.

As a comparison, Major Mitchell stated that during his expedition his oxen 'may' travel 15 miles on a good day and as little as 7 miles on a bad day. (The oxen were pulling a heavy wagon carrying two whaling boats.)

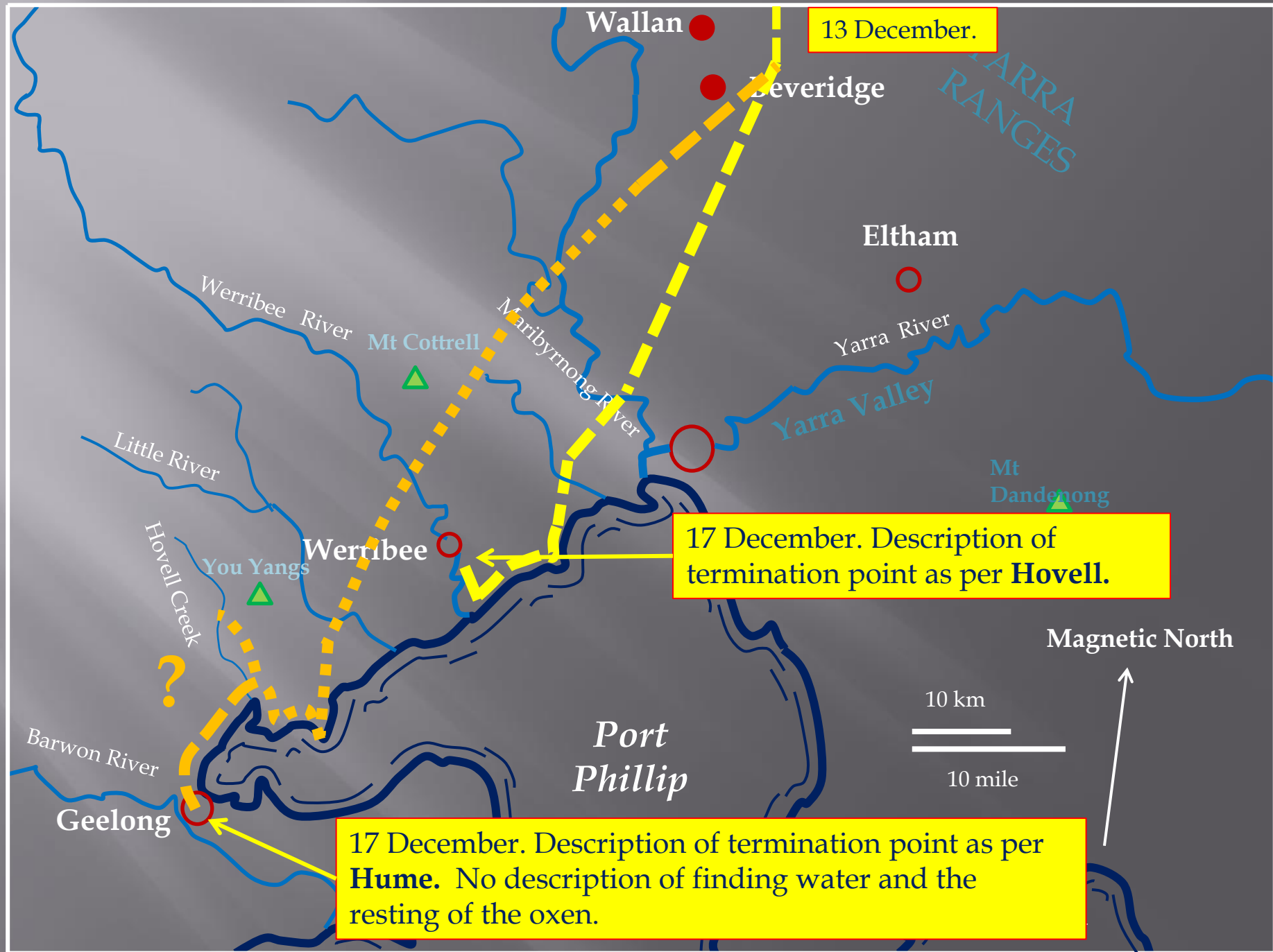
Therefore over three good days they may travel -
 $15 \times 3 = 45 \text{ miles (70km.)}$

To travel from the Wallan/Beverage area to the Werribee River the Hume and Hovell expedition needs to travel 75km over 3 days.

On the 15 December 1824 they started two hours late as '*the cattle were exhausted*'.

Therefore they only had two good days out of three, but in reaching the Werribee River still managed to travel 7% further than the Major Mitchell expedition was able to achieve over three of their good days.

To travel to Hovell Creek they would have to travel 38% (17 miles) further than the Major Mitchell expedition could cover in three days, and they started two hours late on the 15 December.



"alter their course to S.W. and travel six miles in that direction along the shore"

Question - Is there a 6 mile (9.6 km) long coast line running in a S.W. direction anywhere near Corio Bay?

Answer - **NO – Nothing like it.**

The coast line between Point Cook and the Werribee River matches the criteria perfectly, both in angle and length.



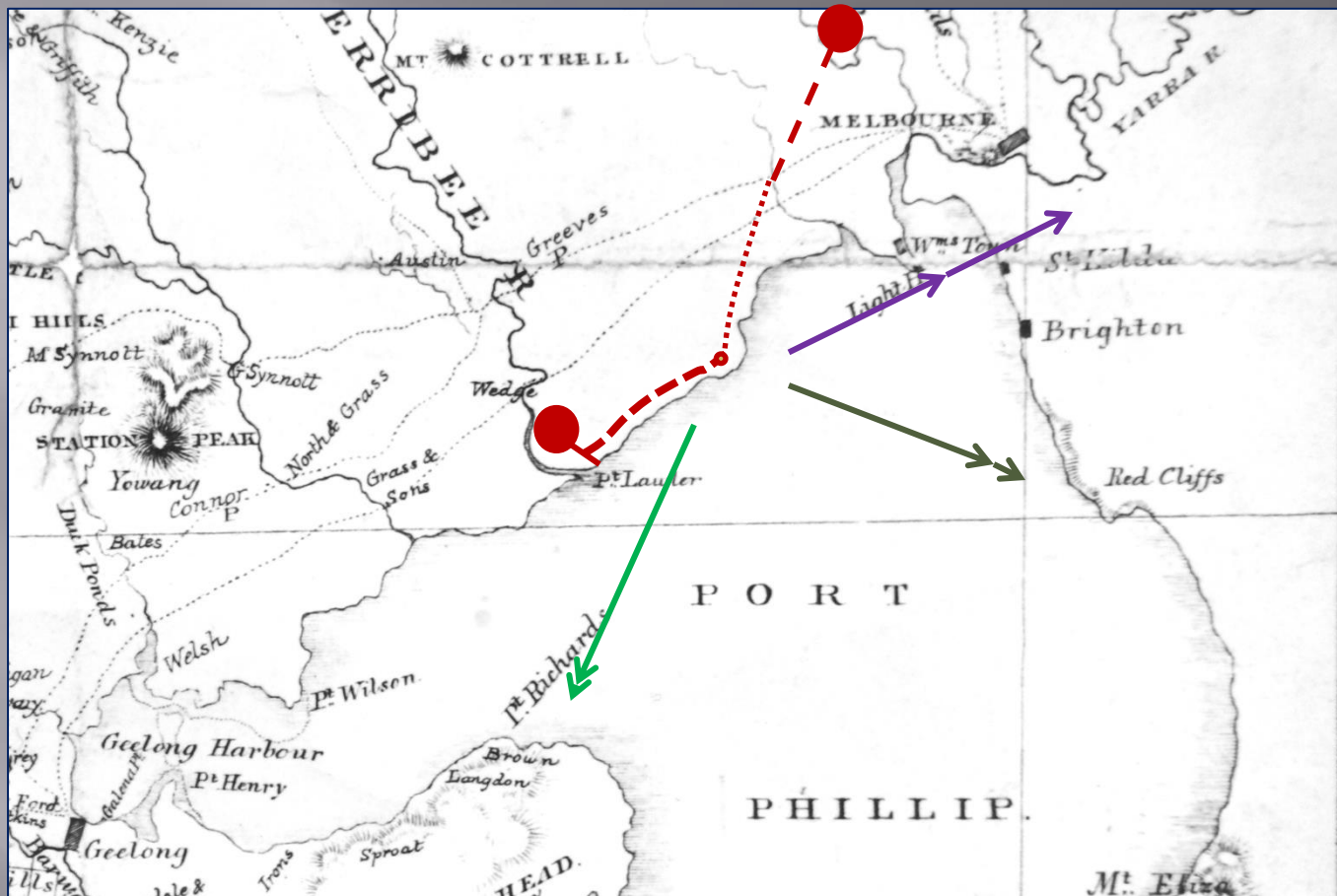
Examining the coast for a 6 mile (9.6km) straight section that runs in a S.W. direction after a point of land from which observations were made.

Continuing the examination of the map presented by Alan Andrews in 1980.

This map has been drawn incorrectly in an attempt to match the accounts of both Hovell and Bland and does not reach Point Wilson. It also does not address Hume's account of reaching Geelong.

"alter their course to S.W. and travel six miles (9.6 km) in that direction along the shore,"

1. Inconceivable that they would leave the bay and head inland, not knowing if they would ever see the bay again.
2. After reaching the bay (again??) they could not have travelled in a SW direction and reached Hovell Creek, it would have needed to be almost directly west and NW.
3. The route shown does not follow the shore.
4. After their camp one mile inland, Hume said their next camp was 'where the thriving town of Geelong now stands'.
5. After their camp about one mile from the beach, Hume does not mention reaching water and feed for the animals early on what would have been the 17 December 1824, resting for the remainder of the day, as the cattle were exhausted, before commencing the homeward journey, but tries to have us believe that their next camp was at Geelong.
6. Hume's story is completely at odds with Hovell's Journal and does not make sense.
7. Where is the point of land from which observations of the bay were taken from?



Hovell's Journal 16 December 1824

"at 5 oClock we came to the point of land which separate the S.E. from the N.W. Branches, on the opposite, but S.E. side I think not less then 8 or 10 Miles, and **about the same distance to the West Side**, but **higher up the S.E. branch** thenwhere we Stood it was one immense Sheet of Water, and Continued up as far as the Eye could reach,"

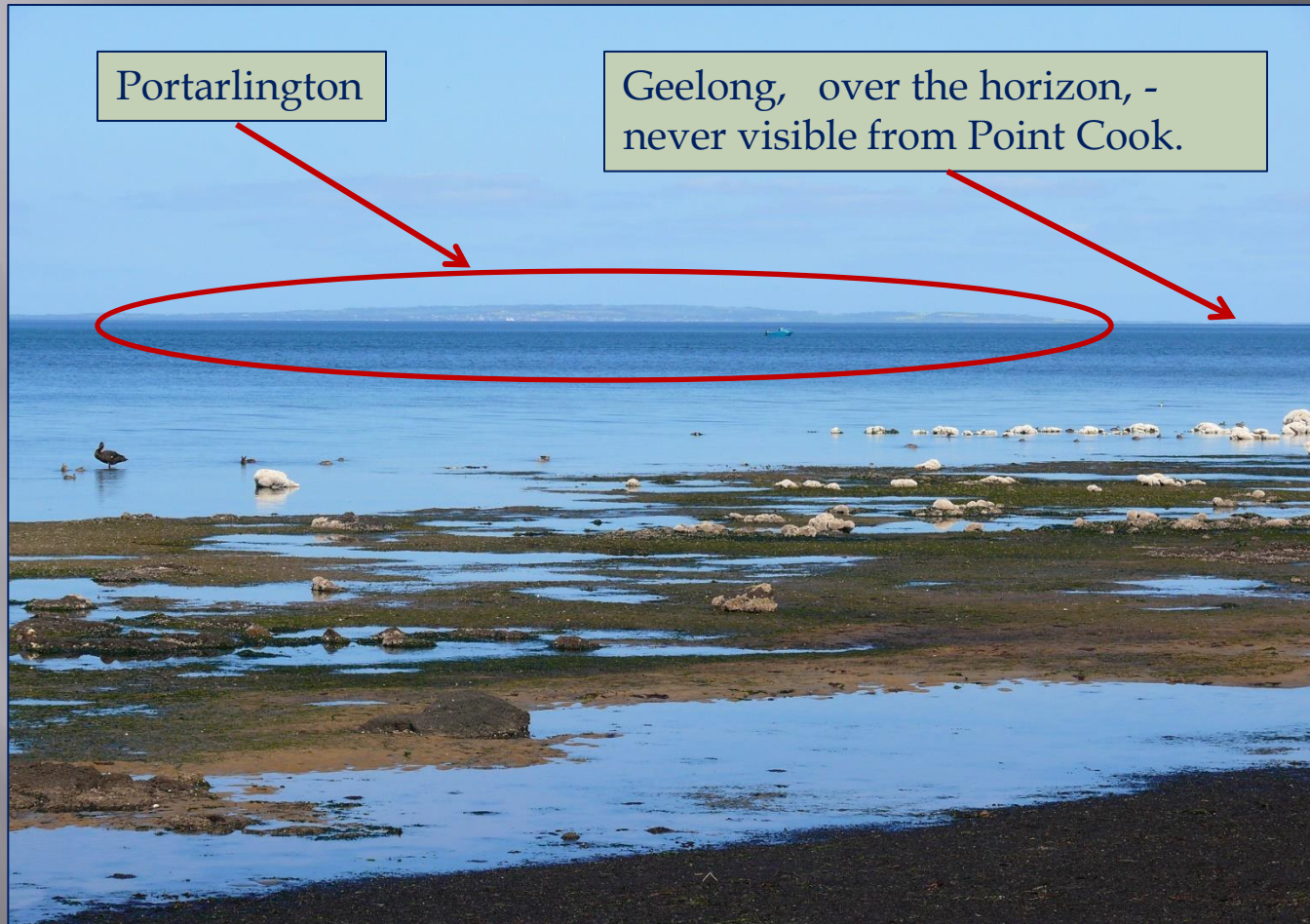
When viewing N.E. from Point Cook, the land on the east side of Port Phillip is quite low and the first land to be observed would have been the Dandenong Ranges.

*"S.E. side I think **not less than 8 or 10 Miles,**"*



100mm zoom image looking SE from Point Cook towards Beaumaris - 22km (**13.7 mile**).
The distance from Point Wilson looking SW towards Portarlington is only 10km (**6.3 mile**).

"and about the same distance to the West Side,"



80mm zoom image looking SW from Point Cook the distance is 25km (15.6 mile). The distance from Point Wilson to the western shore is only 8km (5 mile) to Pt Henry or 11.5km (7.2 mile) to North Shore, Geelong.



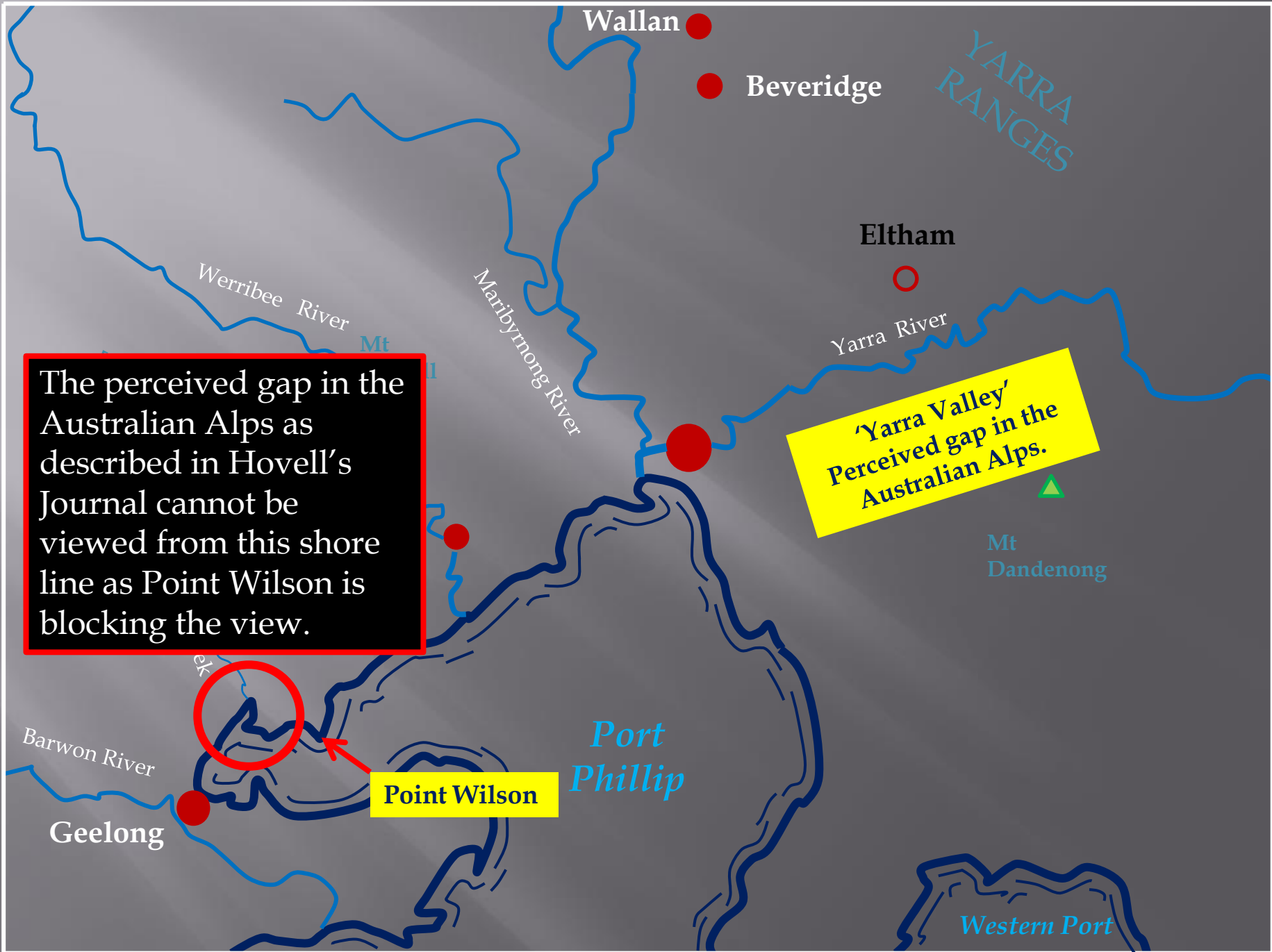
From this location they could **NOT** view -

1. *West*
2. *South West*
3. *"up to an opening near to the South end of the Australian Alps". Hovell's Journal 16 December 1824.*

a. A point of land within Melbourne Water Western Treatment Plant blocks the view of the opening near the south end of the Australian Alps.

b. If the observations were made from Pt Wilson, to observe the perceived gap in the southern end of the Australian Alps, due to the curvature of the earth, the observer would have to be standing 10 metres above sea level to observe the horizon at 50 km. The overall distance to the 'gap' that the observer would need to be able to distinguish, would be in excess of 80km.

Even from Portarlington it is impossible to see the perceived 'gap' (which is the Yarra Valley) in the Australian Alps. Only the top sections of the Melbourne skyscrapers are visible.



“higher up the S.E. branch then where we stood it was one immense Sheet of Water, and Continued up as far as the Eye could reach,”
“up to an opening near to the South end of the Australian Alps”.
Hovell’s Journal 16 December 1824.

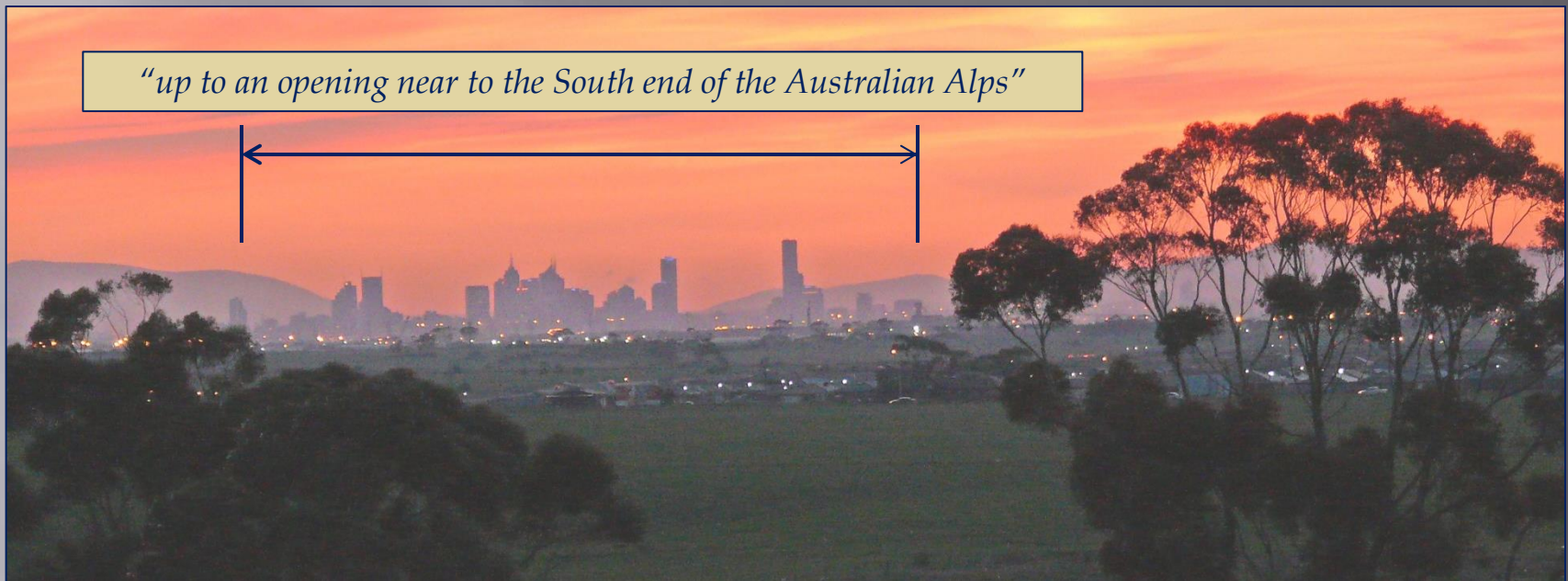
Apparent gap in the Australian Alps. (Yarra Valley)

Not visible from Point Wilson as it is a further 32km (20 mile) away.



Multi story buildings and tree planting
now make this shoreline visible.

Image looking NE from Point Cook



Hovell's Journal 16 December 1824

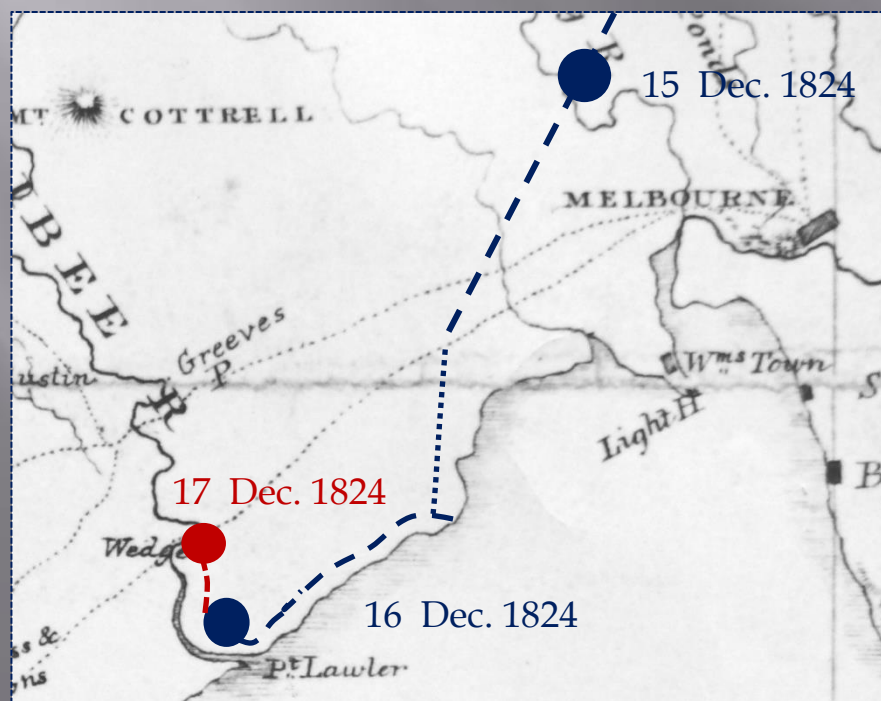
*"and as I thought **up to an opening near to the South end of the Australian Alps**, Should there be Water for Shiping {of a large tonnage} up this branch it is equal to any Harbour I have seen, and it will be the easy convayence"*

From the northern shore of Corio Bay it is impossible to see this apparent opening in the "South end of the Australian Alps"

This image taken from Tarneit Road, Tarneit, Melway Map 202 B3 has been included to demonstrate the apparent gap in the ranges. Today, when viewed from Point Cook, the city skyline obscures the rise in the ranges in the Eltham area. Mt Dandenong is the rise in the ranges to the right.

P216 Bland's Account - Friday 17 December 1824

They proceed this morning from the beach, in a direction about N.N.W. three or four miles, in quest for water, [Hovell states four or five miles] where they had the good fortune to find an abundance, both of good water and of grass. Here therefore they remained the day, in order to refresh the cattle, who were not a little in want of this timely relief, more particularly as it is proposed to commence their return to-morrow.



All accounts of the expedition; time of day, direction of travel and distance travelled on the 16th and 17th December match perfectly with what is presented here.

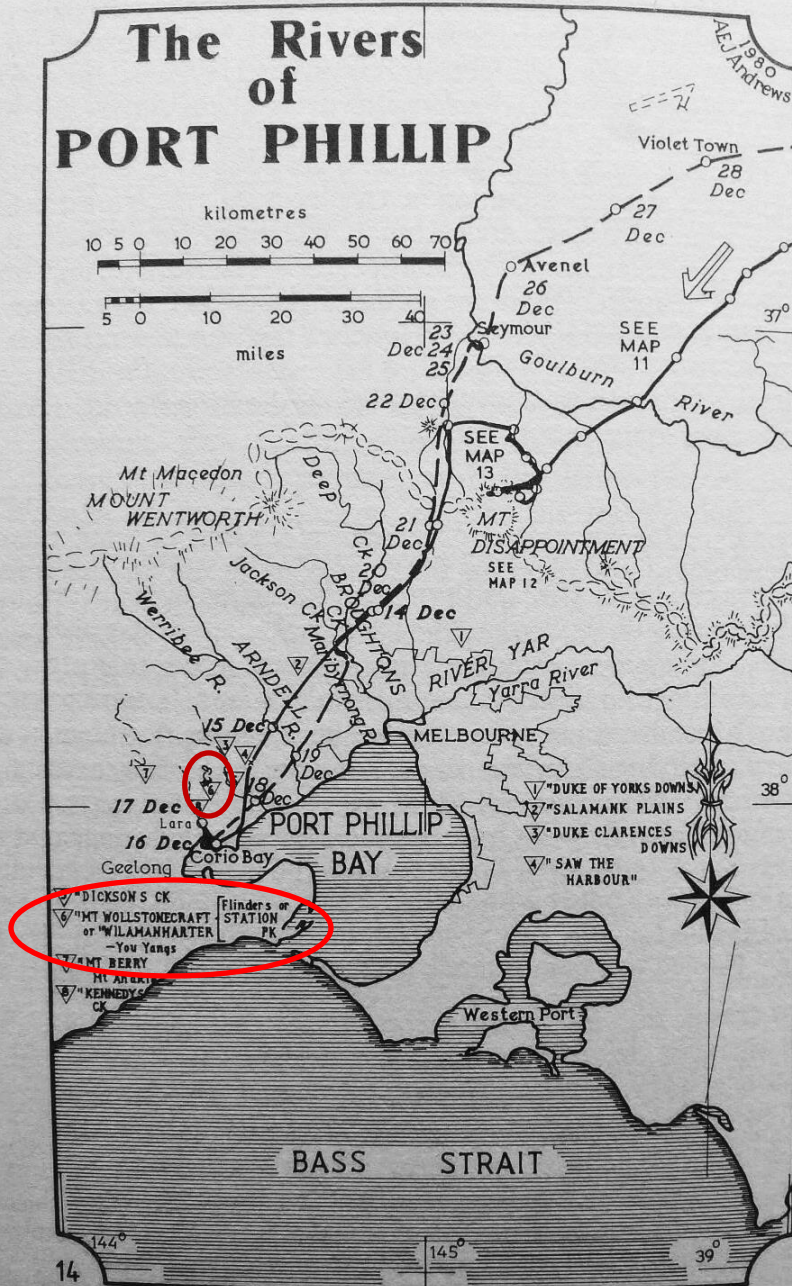
P216 Bland's Account - Friday 17 December 1824

They proceed this morning from the beach, in a direction about N.N.W. three or four miles, in quest for water, [Hovell states four or five miles] where they had the good fortune to find an abundance, both of good water and of grass. Here therefore they remained the day, in order to refresh the cattle, who were not a little in want of this timely relief, more particularly as it is proposed to commence their return to-morrow.

Points to consider –

1. If they were at Hovell Creek, around one mile inland, would they have found water another three to four miles inland? Five miles inland from the mouth of Hovell Creek puts them only three miles SW of Flinders Peak at the You Yangs.
2. This would have meant that they travelled five miles up a dry creek bed then found an abundance of both good water and grass. **Not likely!**
3. How does this match in with Hume's story that they camped where 'the thriving town of Geelong now stands'? **It Doesn't!**
4. Was the expedition around five miles NNW of Geelong? **Impossible!**
5. **Hume's story just does not make sense either geographically, or time and date wise.**

The Rivers of PORT PHILLIP



No 6

Suggest this is most likely Mt Cottrell north of the Werribee River.

The following examination of the description of the location of the tree into which both Hume and Hovell both carved the letter 'H' indicates that Mt Wollstonecraft is in fact Mt Cotterell.

Hovell noted that there were basalt ridges running from Mt Wollstonecraft therefore showing that it was a former volcano.

Flinders Peak at the You Yangs is a granite outcrop and does not have any stone ridges running from it.

Hovell's Journal 16 December 1824

Mr Hume and self marked each an H on a Tree, the only one sufficiently large for that purpose, it is cut with a Tomahauke, it is about 2 Miles from the Water Side, about N 10 W is the bearing of Mt Wollsonecraft, dist about 8 Miles this Tree bore about NE from the Point Hamilton.



Facts to be considered –

Tree was located around 2 miles from the bay. –

Bearing to Mt Wollsonecraft N10 W.
Perfect for Werribee River.
Completely wrong for Hovell Creek.

Distance to Mt Wollsonecraft.
Very close for Werribee River.
Completely wrong for Hovell Creek.

Bearing NE to or from the 'Extreme Point'
Assuming the Extreme Point is either Point Wilson or Point Cook –
Point Cook is good match.
Point Wilson is completely wrong.
Point Lillias is even worse.

- An examination of a map drawn under the direction of William Hume, a copy of which is available online at -

http://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?embedded=true&toolbar=false&dps_pid=IE3708707

This map also does not indicate a Hovell Creek termination as can be seen in the following examination of a 'part enlargement' of the above mentioned map.

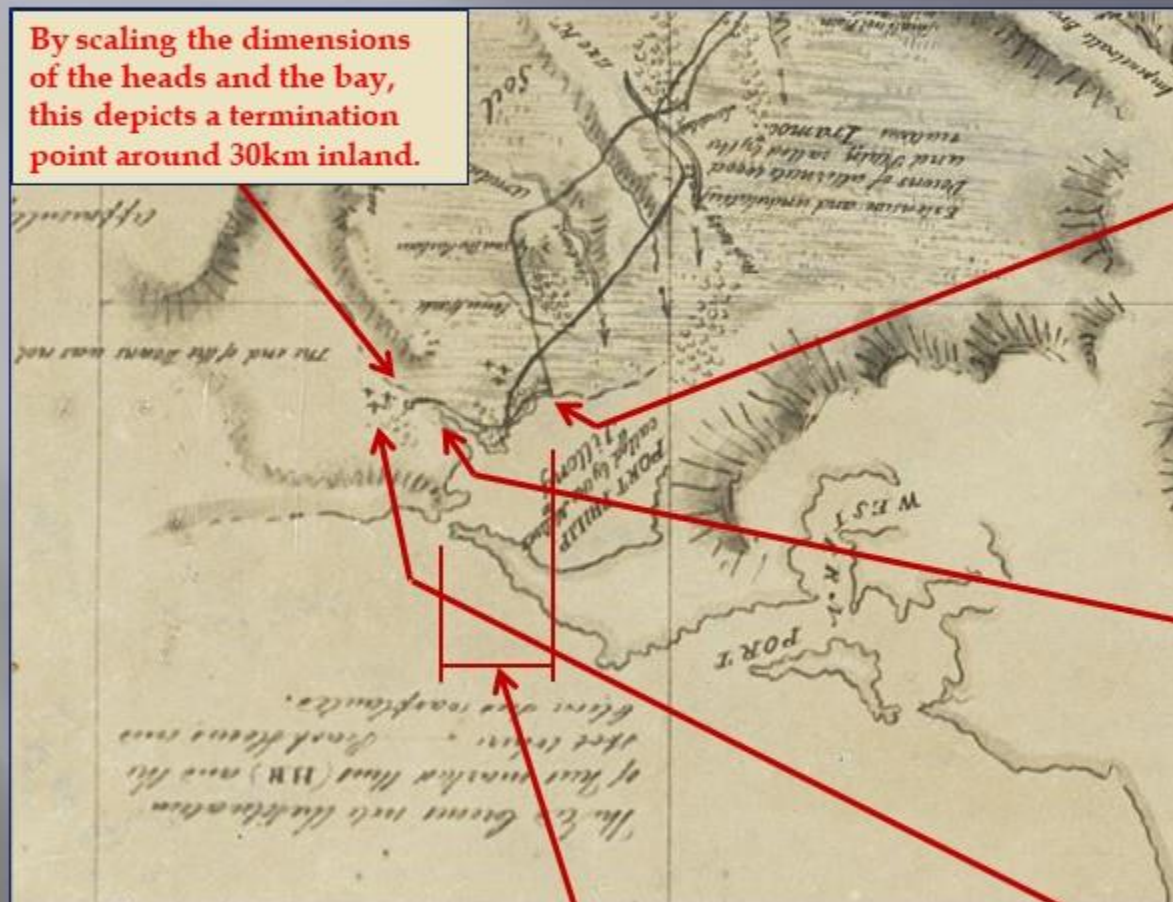
This part enlargement map, drawn under direction of Hume does not match Hovell's diary but also indicates a Werribee River termination in that there are hills depicted immediately to the west of the termination point.

The representation of the bay is extremely poor in comparison to the Bland/Hovell map.

This map was drawn with south at the top and north at the bottom, and has been reversed here for our easier clarification.

The question needs to be asked, 'How familiar was Hume with maps and map drawing?'

By scaling the dimensions of the heads and the bay, this depicts a termination point around 30km inland.



This shows the expedition reached Port Phillip at a location that is an extremely long way to the east of Port Phillip Heads.

This is completely wrong for a Hovell Creek termination.

This route does not come to any point of land from which it is recorded that observations of the bay were made.

This point was named in Hovell's diary as the Extreme Point and later referred to as Point Hamilton.

No easterly observation across water can be made towards the perceived gap in the Australian Alps.

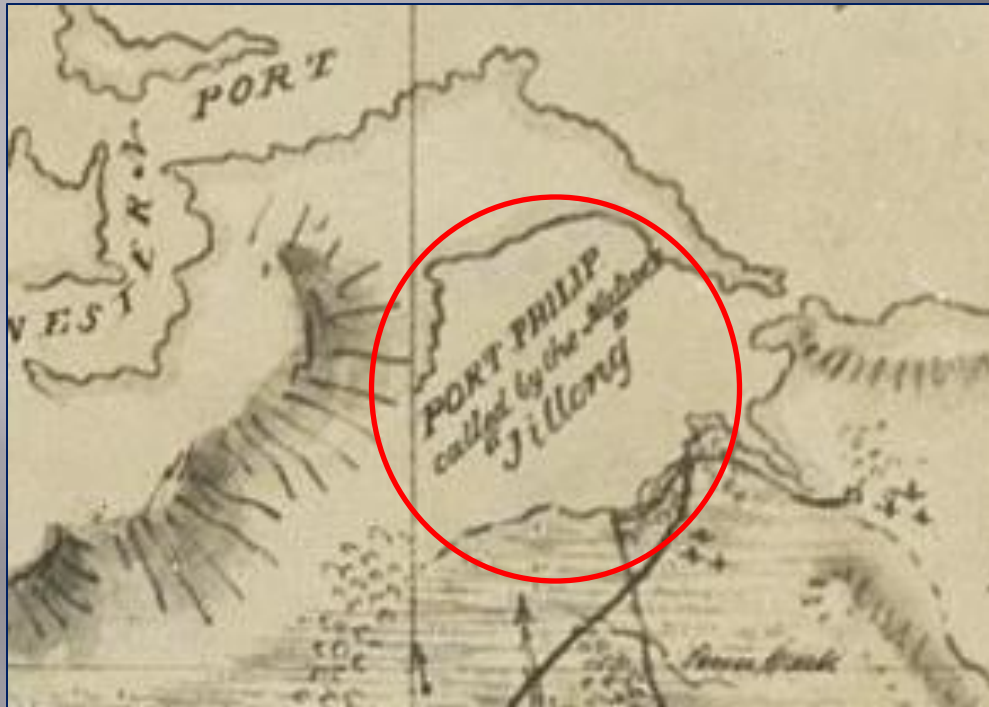
This map shows that after leaving the bay they travelled in a WNW direction then West. **NO, should be NNW.**

P216 Bland's Account - Friday 17 December 1824

They proceed this morning from the beach, in a direction about N.N.W. three or four miles, in quest for water, [Hovell states four or five miles]

This map shows far in excess of three to five miles and the direction is wrong.

This shows possibly the You Yangs directly to the west (or a long, long way to the east) of their inland search for water, but **Hovell Creek is on the west of the You Yangs.**



As explained on the previous slide, Hume drew his map with south at the top and north at the bottom.

Note on Hume's map states –

PORT PHILLIP
Called by the Natives
“Jillong”

It has taken me 18 months to have someone game enough to write a so-called 'review' of my book.

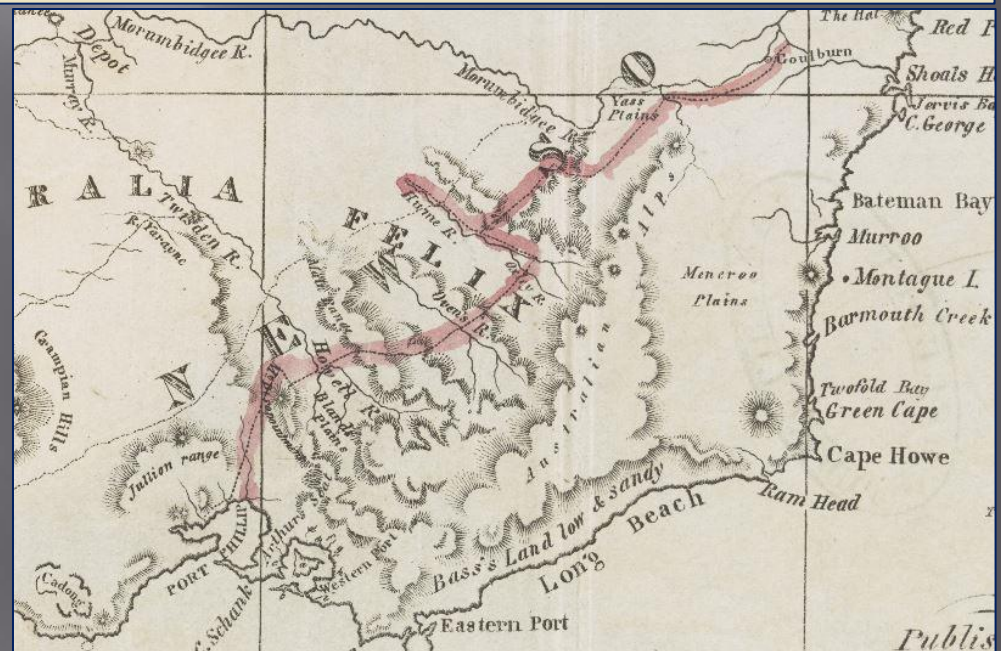
The review was written by Mr Greg Eccleston, Malvern, Victoria and printed in *The Globe*, Number 90, 2021, Journal of the Australian and New Zealand Map Society Inc.

The main comments on the map; <http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/4209106>

were -

- the title was 'florid'
- that 'it appeared that the highlighting of the route was made at some stage with a toenail dipped in pink ink.'
- 'Importantly, the western shore of Port Phillip is poorly demarcated.'

There was no comment that this map agreed with Hovell's Journal.





Mr Eccleston commented –
‘Importantly, the western shore of Port Phillip is poorly demarcated.’

Mr Eccleston suggests that this map is quite inferior to Major Mitchell’s own map of his 1836 expedition.

This is not the issue, we need to compare it to Hume’s map and with Hovell’s Journal.

If Mr Eccleston has issues with this map why did he not comment on the quality of the Hume map?

Reversed here for your convenience, but was **drawn upside down and totally out of proportion and scale.**



The Review written by Mr Greg Eccleston does not examine one of the many items of evidence and observations that I put forward in my book –
Hume and Hovell Expedition Termination
Published April 2020

Obviously if my research is accepted there will be many unhappy people. This factor for various reasons effects any review of my work.

Mr Eccleston occupies almost half of his two page review discussing, without challenging, material and maps written and drawn after Hamilton Hume started his character assassination of William Hovell.

Additional evidence has come to light since the first book was published. This material, some of which is presented in this 'powerpoint' presentation, is included in 'Hume and Hovell Expedition Termination Second Edition' Published April 2023.

HOVELL'S CRITICISM OF 'THE GEELONG ADVERTISER AND INTELLIGENCER.'

November 5, 1855

Below is Hovell's letter to the *Geelong Advertiser and Intelligencer* complaining about the fact that his 'REPLY' to "Mr H. HUME'S BRIEF STATEMENT OF FACTS" had not been made public. Hovell being especially critical of the Editor. A weak apology from the Editor follows. (But no offer to address Hovell's complaint.)

From TROVE - THE GEELONG ADVERTISER AND INTELLIGENCER. November 5, 1855
Article title -- **HOVELL AND HUME.**

To the Editor of the Geelong Advertiser and Intelligencer.

Sir,-On my landing here from the steamer this day, you(sic)paper of the same date was handed to me. In it there appears a letter with the initials A. H. M., couched(sic) in no very courteous terms towards myself, 1and evidently written with the intention to mislead the public as to the real facts which occurred, perhaps, before A. H. M. came into existence. With reference to the matter at issue, A. M. H. either considers "Mr H. HUME'SBRIEF STATEMENT OF FACTS" to "be true" or he has not read MY REPLY to that pamphlet, published a month or two after the circulation. If the latter, in which case he may be pardoned for that want of courtesy which I have a claim to, 2if only as a visitor to your beautiful district, and that he may not remain ignorant of there being a REPLY he can be furnished with a copy by applying to me, or to the office of the Geelong Advertiser, gratis, but if he is aware that 3Mr HUME'S FACTS had been contradicted by me, in this case his letter is an insult, for which I hold him responsible.

1 Hovell accusing Hume of intentionally misleading the public.

2 Hovell naming himself as a 'visitor' to the Geelong district.

3 Hovell stating that he had contradicted Hume's story.

HOVELL'S CRITICISM OF 'THE GEELONG ADVERTISER AND INTELLIGENCER.'

November 5, 1855 Continued -

And now, Mr Editor, a word to yourself – 4it appears by A.H.M.'s letter, that you reviewed Mr H. Hume's pamphlet, and sent it forth to the world. May I ask why 5on the receipt of my REPLY to that pamphlet, you did not review that also? Was it fair that you should have taken a one-sided view of the matter –had you acted otherwise perhaps the writer of the above letter would have been silent, and my feelings and trouble of writing this letter would have been spared.

W. H. HOVELL

4 Hovell expressing his dismay that Hume's story was sent out to the world.

5 Hovell querying the Editor on handling of the matter. (The Editor could have offered to review Hovell's 'REPLY' but obviously the Editor would have very much preferred a Geelong termination.)

Reply by the Editor which was part of the above article.

Geelong, 3rd Nov., 1855

[We beg to acknowledge receipt of two copies of "REPLY" to a "BRIEF STATEMENT OF FACTS." The allusion to the Geelong Advertiser by Capt. Hovell, on the review of "HUME'S BRIEF STATEMENT OF FACTS," we are open to accept, because assured that no intent to disparage either Captain Hovell or Mr Hume ever entered our minds. Why we did not give similar publicity to the "REPLY" arises simply from the fact that, we never saw it, or seeing it in the hurry of office business, mislaid and forgot it, and submit that the statement as an " amende honorable" to the gallant Captain. - Ed. G.A]

Both Hume and Hovell on their return to Sydney reported that they had reached Western Port Bay.

Hovell's instruments indicated that they reached a point around 10km north of Western Port Bay.

Thinking that they were at Western Port they would have expected to see the appearance of an island, French Island; and that is what they saw, the appearance of an island, but it was the tip of the Bellarine Peninsula with water each side.

The Bellarine Peninsula when viewed from Point Cook to the mouth of the Werribee River appears as an island.

Had they been at Corio Bay the shoreline is visible all around except for the very small gap of approx. 6° 30' looking towards Seaford. There is no appearance of an island.

Refer to the following four slides -

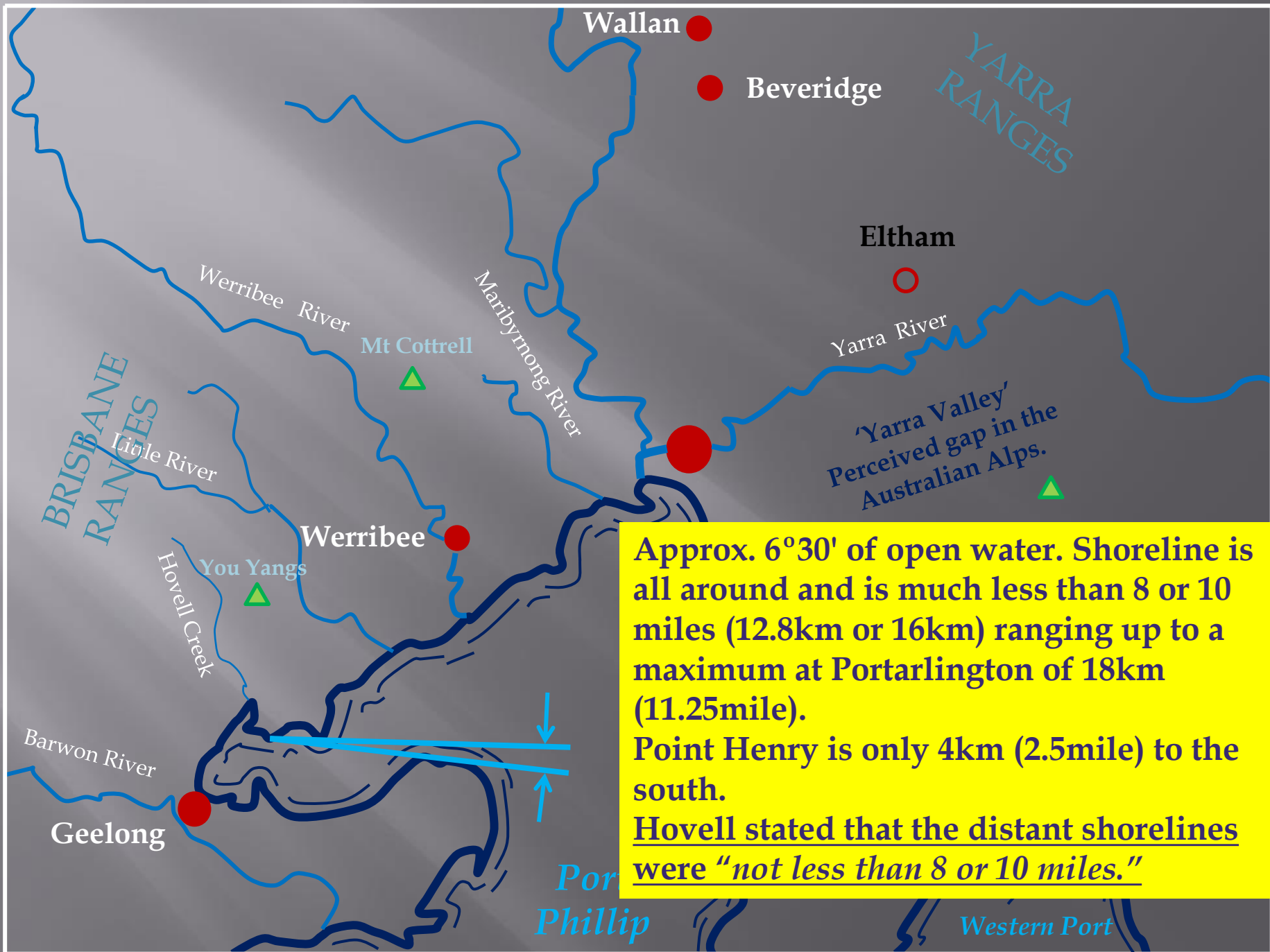
Land – The high portion of the Bellarine Peninsula around Portarlington appearing as an island.

Water

Water



The Bellarine Peninsula viewed from Point Cook.
[Hovell stated '*I think not less then (sic) 8 or 10 Miles,*']



Approx. 6°30' of open water. Shoreline is all around and is much less than 8 or 10 miles (12.8km or 16km) ranging up to a maximum at Portarlington of 18km (11.25mile).

Point Henry is only 4km (2.5mile) to the south.

Hovell stated that the distant shorelines were "not less than 8 or 10 miles."



WEST



SOUTH



Gap looking toward Seaford

EAST

Views from Point Lillias taken approx. every 20deg.



NORTH
EAST

Cont. - Views from Point Lillias taken approx. every 20deg. with a 100mm lens.

Hovell had a telescope thus the opposite shores would have been very visible.

At Corio Bay there is no appearance of an island.

The distant shore averaging only around **4 to 5 miles** (6.4 to 8km) is continuous all around except for the opening towards Seaford.

[Hovell stated '*I think not less then (sic) 8 or 10 Miles,*']

At their camp of the 17 Dec. 1824 Aborigines had indicated that there was, or had been, a sailing ship to the **southwest**.

Had the expedition been at Corio Bay they would have seen the sailing ship. Hume stated that they reached where the thriving township of Geelong now stands. This doesn't stand up for several reasons; one being is that there is no water for sailing ships in a southwest direction from Geelong.

During the first day of their return journey, they heard a ship's cannon fire. Therefore, there was a sailing ship, but they didn't see it. Therefore, they couldn't have been at Corio Bay.

Considering the material presented and outlined below, a very clear conclusion can be drawn.

1. An examination of what appears to be the first published map of the expedition, produced in 1837, twelve years after the event.
2. An examination of what would have been physically possible by way of travel, particularly during the last four days of the expedition.
3. An examination of the descriptions by Hovell and Bland of the route taken on the last days match extremely well for a Werribee River termination as does the SLV map.
4. An examination of any route arriving at Corio Bay just doesn't work.
5. An examination of a map purported to be drawn under the direction of Hume, for many reasons does not indicate a Hovell Creek termination.
6. Printed in the 'Port Phillip Gazette' 1839, a clear description of the Arndell River being what we know as the Maribyrnong River, and what we know as the Werribee River, being originally known as the Weirabee, and later called the Ex by the Europeans.
7. Printed in the 'Port Phillip Gazette' 1841, also a clear description of the Arndell River being the Maribyrnong River, in a description of the relocation of the horse racing course from near Batman's Hill to what is now Flemington Race Course.
8. Hovell's letter to the Editor of 'The Geelong Advertiser' complaining that his contradiction of Hume's story was not published, whereas Hume's story was 'sent forth to the world.'

A Werribee River termination is supported by an examination of the 18 December 1824, the day that the expedition commenced the return journey.

Bearings and observations taken at 4pm on that day cannot possibly work for a Corio Bay termination.

In his book – ‘Hamilton Hume Our Greatest Explorer’ p88 Robert Macklin writes

–
*Hovell's account is even less reliable, since it passed through the hands of a partisan editor in Dr William Bland and **became a rambling tale** designed to highlight Hovell's sound judgement and superior British common sense. It was not published until 1831, seven years after the event.*

Macklin's book of over 300 pages does not mention that Hume named what we know as Mount Fraser, Mount Bland.

Far more serious is that Macklin has disregarded Hovell's journal in relation to the last four days of the expedition before the termination point, dismissing it as ***a rambling tale.***

It only appears as a rambling tale if you try to reconcile it with Hume's story of a Geelong or Corio Bay termination.

Macklin does not acknowledge that Dr Bland apologised for the late publication due to illness and **lack of printing paper in the colony.**

There is considerably more evidence for a Werribee River termination in that Hovell recorded observations from the bay at 4pm on the afternoon of the 18 December 1824, the first day of their return journey. **These observations indisputably put the expedition's location at Point Gellibrand.**

This information is also not analysed by Macklin nor any other researchers.

P217 Bland's Account - Friday 18 December 1824

"This morning they commence their return, keeping between two and three miles to the south-east of their outward route; at four, having travelled about fifteen miles, they halt on the banks of a large creek taking its rise in Mount Wollstonecroft."

A note informs us that, before starting, (just after 4pm [see above]) they "took down the following bearings from the extremity of a low neck of land extending a considerable distance into the bay, on the left side of the entrance into the creek, viz.,

- 1. a low isthmus south by east, distant about fifteen miles. Carrum area.*
- 2. A bold bluff bank, part of the peninsula, forming the southern border of Port Phillip, distant about ten or twelve miles South East. Black Rock direction is correct, distance ? , Mt Martha distance is correct, direction ?.*
- 3. High land, distant between twenty and thirty miles S. 45' W., Portarlington & tip of the Bellarine Peninsula.*
- 4. 'Mount McIntosh', named after our late barrack-master, N. 76' E.; Mt Dandenong.*

5. *and 'Mount Campbell', after the late Mr. W, Campbell, of Harrington Park, N. 85' E., distant between thirty and forty miles; Mt Beenak.*
6. *'Mount Wollstonecraft', named after the late Mr. E. Wollstonecraft, of Sydney, N. 25' W. seven miles; Avondale Heights. (Name confusion?)*
7. *'Mount Berry', named after Mr. Alexander Berry, north-west fifteen miles; Mt Kororoit.*
8. *and finally, the Jullian Range, extending in the form of a crescent, from north-east to north-west, distant at its nearest point, about seventeen miles."* **Brisbane Ranges running around to the Great Dividing Range.**

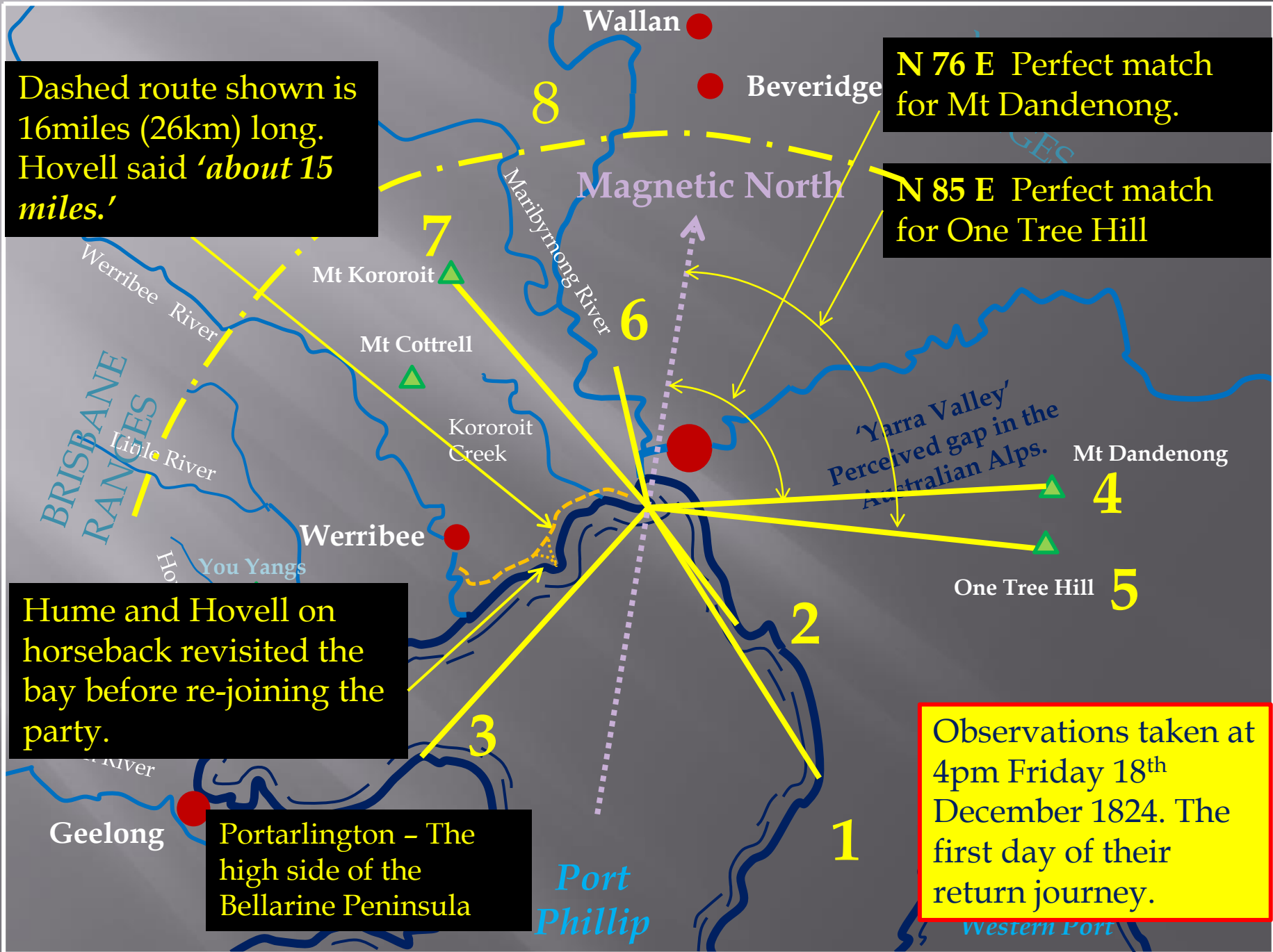
Observations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (High ground is correct but the name is questionable.), 7 and 8 are positive indicators that the expedition was at Point Gellibrand. **These distances and bearings cannot be reconciled for any other point along the western shore of Port Phillip, only Point Gellibrand.** (...*'bearings from the extremity of a low neck of land extending a considerable distance into the bay, on the left side of the entrance into the creek,' ...*)

Therefore at 4pm on the 18 December 1824 the expedition was at Point Gellibrand.

Dashed route shown is 16miles (26km) long. Hovell said '*about 15 miles.*'

N 76 E Perfect match for Mt Dandenong.

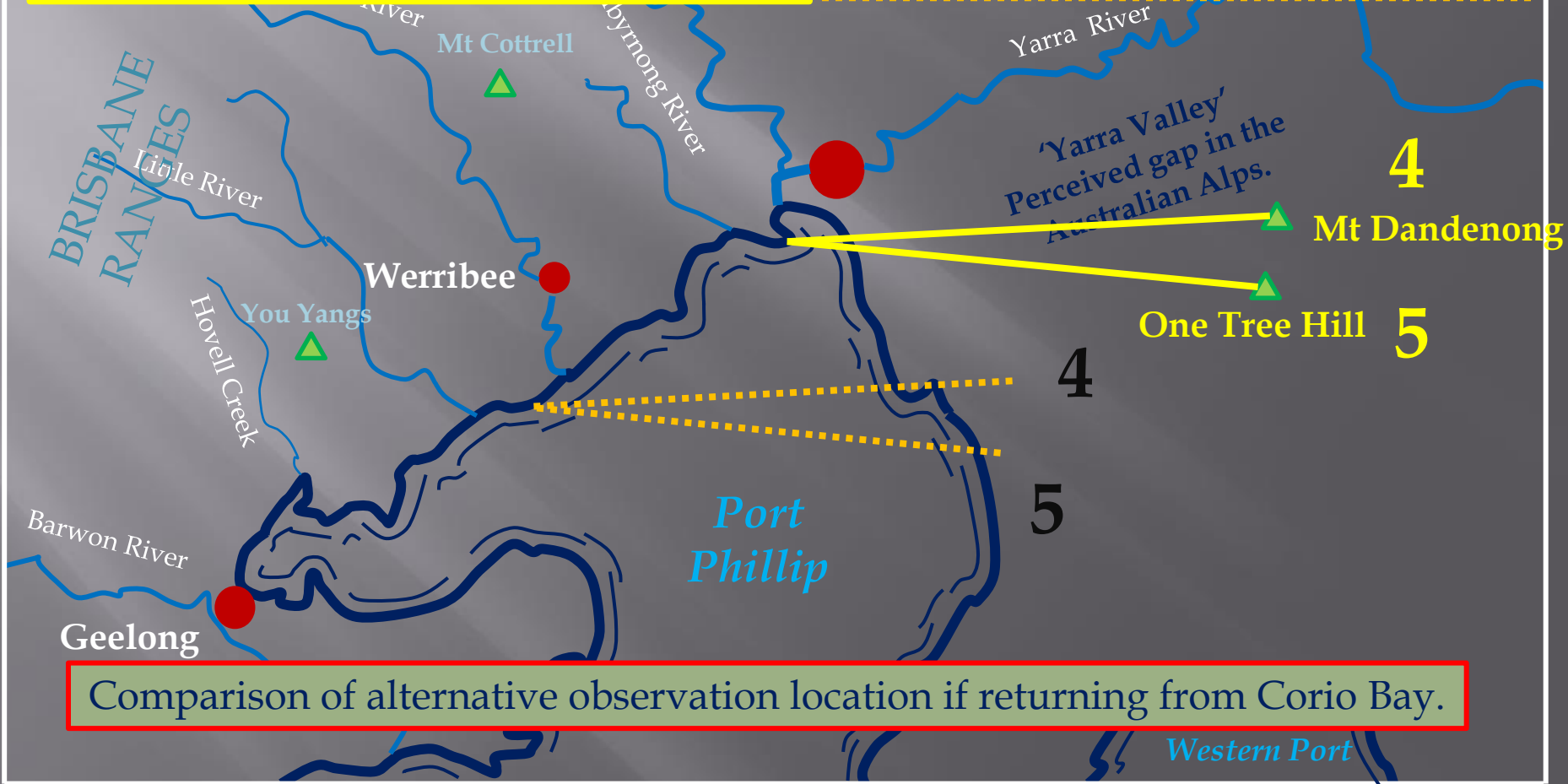
N 85 E Perfect match for One Tree Hill



Hume and Hovell on horseback revisited the bay before re-joining the party.

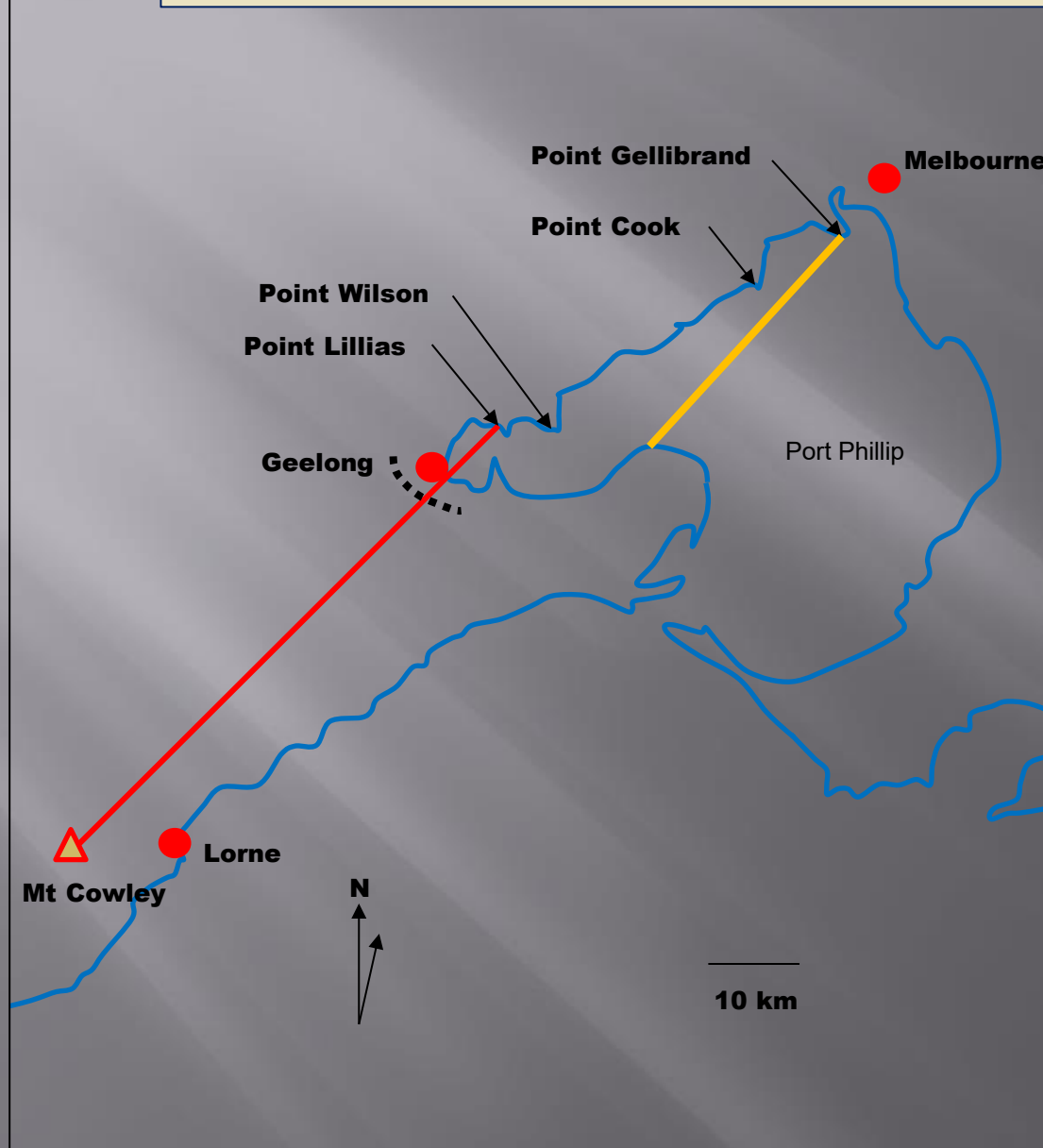
Portarlington - The high side of the Bellarine Peninsula

Observations taken at 4pm Friday 18th December 1824. The first day of their return journey.



Examining observation 3

"High land, distant between twenty and thirty miles S. 45' W.,"



1. The description is of high land, not a mount.
2. The distance is correct when taken from Pt Gellibrand to the high side of the Bellarine Peninsular.
3. The outer suburbs west of Geelong, (Elevation 130+m) block the view towards Mt Cowley.

Obviously, any researcher proposing a Corio Bay termination has never visited Point Lillias..

On the first day of the return journey, it is reported that at four o'clock they took bearings from a neck of land that protruded into the bay a considerable distance and having a creek on the left side.

This is a perfect description of Point Gellibrand with Kororoit Creek on the western side when returning from the neck of land and heading for where they camped that night a little further up Kororoit Creek.

To travel from the Werribee River to Point Gellibrand is 24km (15miles) Hovell states '*about 15miles*'.

If considering any other point other than Point Gellibrand, down the western side of Port Phillip, these observations do not work.

To walk from Geelong, the termination point as stated by Hume, the distance would be around 65km (40miles). **Impossible.**

Considering the presented evidence showing that-

1. It would be impossible to walk 100+km (62+mile) in three days.
2. Hovell's Journal (Primary Evidence) accurately describe by use of a 32 point compass rose, the route taken after crossing the range and arriving at Point Cook.
3. On the 15 December, the day before they reached the bay, they sighted the Yarra River, naming it the 'Yar', before camping that night at the river Hume named the Arndell.
4. Two unrelated documents, and one map, show that the Maribyrnong River was the Arndell.
5. Observations were taken from Point Cook.
6. A Werribee River termination and rest day for most of 17 December 1824.
7. Point Gellibrand was the location from which observations were taken at 4pm on the first day of their return journey. Obviously, they could not have walked from Corio Bay to Point Gellibrand in one day.

There can only be one conclusion -

The Werribee River was the termination point of the
Hume & Hovell Expedition of 1824 - 1825.

Lance Pritchard

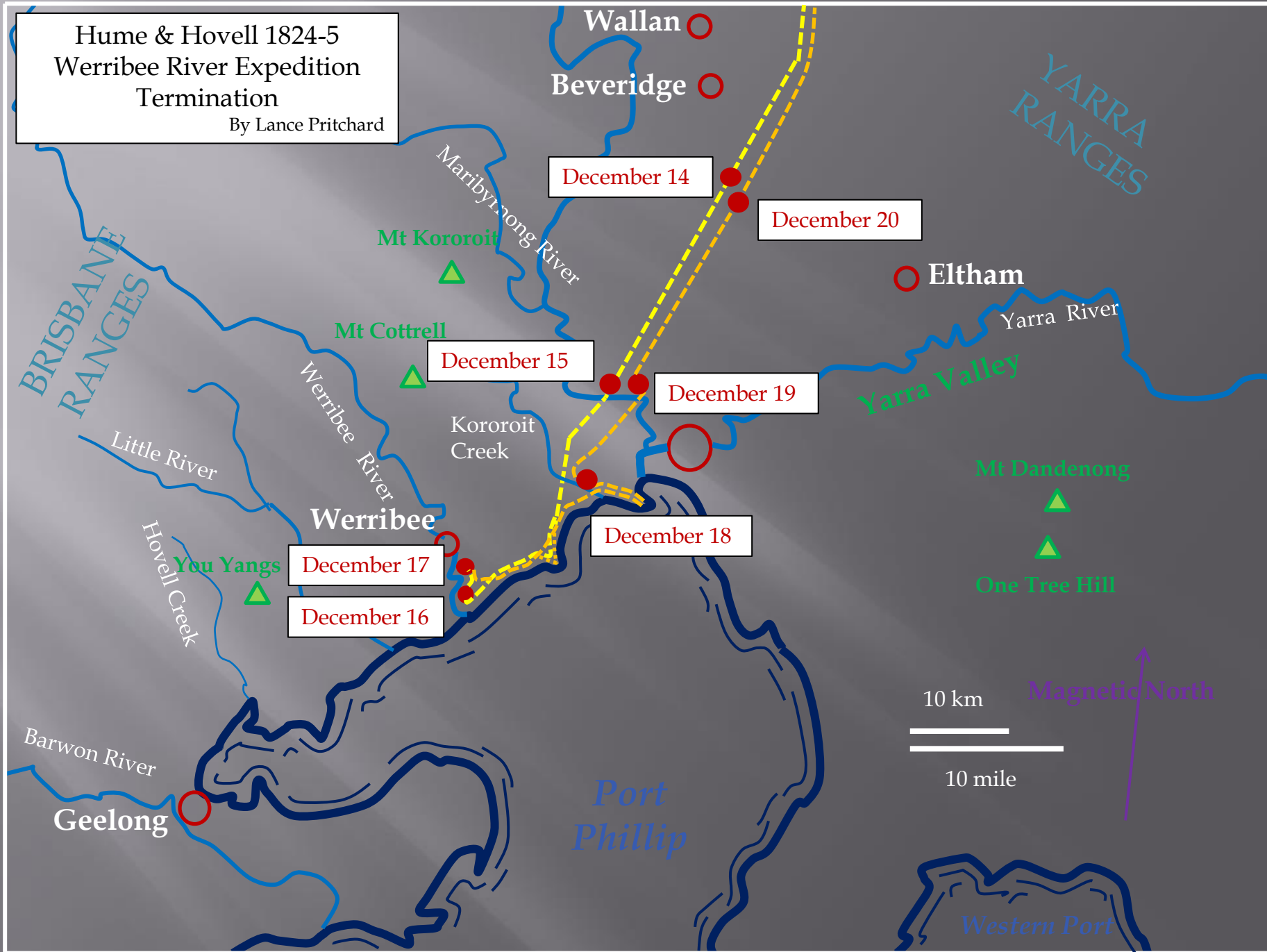
M 0468 435 090

E L_pritchard@optusnet.com.au

There is no restriction on the copying or forwarding on of this document.

Hume & Hovell 1824-5
Werribee River Expedition
Termination

By Lance Pritchard



If you wish to challenge what is presented here, and suggest an alternative route and termination point, I would request that you draw on a map your suggested route, scan, and email to –

l_pritchard@optusnet.com.au

I will be only to happy to comment on your suggestion.

Most importantly –

Please ensure that all observations and time frames detailed by Hovell are logical and accounted for.

Lance Pritchard

M 0468 435 090

E l_pritchard@optusnet.com.au