

AUGUSTA'S HARDY INLET

Captain James Stirling, Governor of Western Australia, selected Augusta to be the third settlement in Western Australia following on from King George's Sound (Albany) and the Swan River Colony (Perth). The Governor and his party arrived here on 2nd May 1830 and remained here for 4 days while they explored the inlet and its river. Many of the names given to various sites have a naval influence based on the Governor's own career and the people who influenced his life.

ADELPHI – A Cairn near Alexandra Bridge marks the site of the Adelphi house built and named by John Bussell. It was destroyed by fire in 1833. The Bussells moved north to The Vasse (later named Bussellton) which offered more suitable agriculture land.

ALEXANDRA BRIDGE – Named after Princess Alexandra, Princess of Wales. The first bridge was built by Wishart and Davies in 1897. A new bridge was built for re-alignment of the Brockman Highway in 1969. The old bridge was kept for a tourist attraction but was washed away in floods in 1982.

AUGUSTA – Reputedly named after Princess Augusta (1768-1840) daughter of King George III and Queen Charlotte. This was later (2003) challenged and it is now believed that Augusta, in the county of Sussex, was named after the Duke of Sussex's wife, Lady Augusta Murray who died on the 5th March 1830.

BLACKWOOD RIVER – Western Australia's longest river which rises at Lake Dumbleyung some 800 Km away. Named by Governor Stirling after Captain (later Sir) Henry Blackwood of the Royal Navy and with whom Governor Stirling served as a youth in 1808-1810.



DICK ISLAND – Origin of name unknown.

DUKE HEAD – Possibly named after Prince Frederick (1763-1827) Duke of York and Albany, or The Duke of Sussex after whom the Shire was named. Both were brothers of George IV.

HARDY INLET – Named after Sir Thomas Masterman Hardy KCB who served as Flag Officer to Admiral Lord Nelson and was Captain of HMS Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar 1805. Hardy went on to become Britain's First Sea Lord in 1830.



IRWIN POINT – Named after Captain Frederick Chidley Irwin, Commanding Officer of the detachment of the 63rd Regiment of Foot (West Suffolks) who arrived in Augusta on HMS Sulphur. Later he was the Commanding Officer of Troops in WA (1839 -55). He had served in the Peninsular War against Napoleon 1809 -1814.

LEEUWIN – First sighted by the Dutch explorers in 1622 from a ship called Leeuwin. (The Lioness) Mathew Flinders named the cape "CAPE LEEUWIN" when charting the coast in his Sloop "INVESTIGATOR" in December 1801.

LION ISLAND – origin of name unknown.

POINT DALTON – Named after Georgiana Molloy’s grand parents and her favourite brother. She had wanted to call the main island Dalton Island but John Molloy returned from Perth to inform her that the island was to be called MOLLOY ISLAND

POINT ELLIS – Named after one of the pioneer families who settled and farmed the area between this point and the Augusta Hotel.

POINT FREDERICK – Named after Prince Frederick, Duke of York and Albany, second son of George III, He died before his eldest brother, George IV, so was never crowned King. His younger brother became William IV.

POINT PEDDER – Named after Lieutenant William Pedder of the 63rd Regiment of Foot who arrived in the Colony on HMS Sulphur in June 1829.

POINT TRAFALGAR – Named after the battle fought against the French and Spanish Navies in 1805.

SCOTT RIVER – Possibly named after Lt. Scott who explored the river in 1830. Captain Molloy confirmed this journey in his letter to Governor Stirling.

SEINE BAY – Origin not known. Possibly named after the “fishing net which hangs vertically in the water with floats at the top and weights at the bottom edge, the ends being drawn together to encircle the fish.”