

# FLINDERS' POEM

*by Burketown State Schoolchildren  
Read by Alex, Anna, Ernest, Jordan & Renee*

*(Teachers - Mr Ree & Miss Paremain)*

Now let us tell of a story of a man worth noting for.  
A man of bravery to say for Australia he opened doors.  
The man to us is famous, the man is known to all  
As Flinders the explorer, born in 1774.  
He was the first to map Australia, the "Investigator" was his boat.  
From Port Jackson or Sydney, he began to float.  
For 17 long months my mate battled the unknown,  
No music, TV, no Gameboy. The ocean telling stories was his only thought  
of home.  
To circumnavigate Australia was Flinders' lifelong dream,  
but only way he'd make it was by working as a team.  
For 40 years he lived but finally came to his end  
With his map that looked so great, his interpretation would depend.  
He named islands and ranges, even rivers and oceans too.  
He is really just a normal man, like me or just like you.  
Flinders came across native land, his journey was almost done,  
It was time to show that this country was all but one.  
So when he arrived home, he had some interesting news.  
He had written in his diary on the last page: "I had nothing to lose."  
So here today we celebrate his journey non-stop right now,  
This is the end of our poem and time to take our bow.

*On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2002, this poem was recited during the plaque  
dedication ceremony on Sweers Island commemorating the visit of the  
Windeward Bound on the occasion of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Matthew  
Flinders circumnavigation of Australia.*