

Termination of Hume & Hovell Expedition

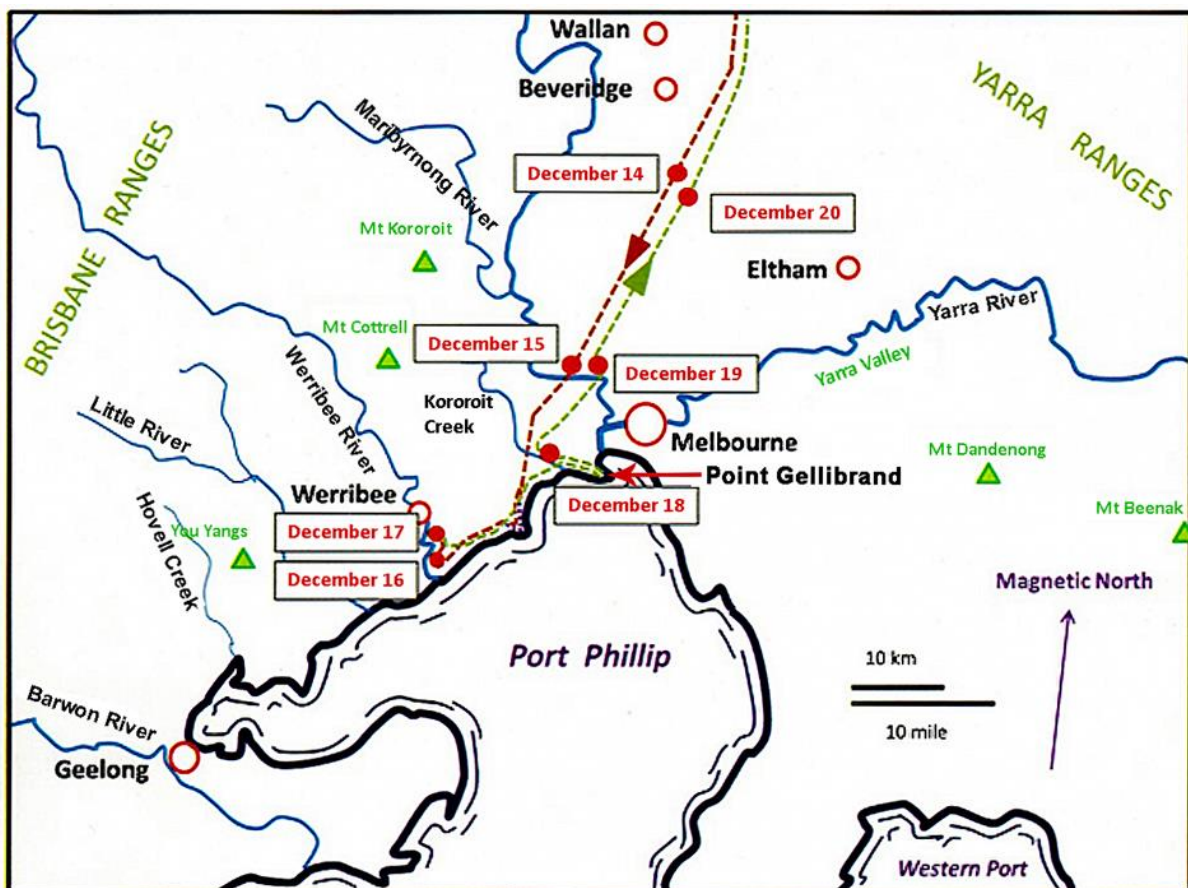
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My research into the topic of the termination point of the Hume and Hovell expedition of 1824 began when I visited the State Library of Victoria in 2018.

During this visit, a map on display outlined the Hume and Hovell expedition route. It is the earliest available map of the route, first published in 1837. The fold-out map was printed in the book *Journey of Discovery to Port Phillip, New South Wales, in 1824 and 1825* with Hume and Hovell listed as the authors and William Bland as editor. The map showed the Hume and Hovell expedition terminating at the Werribee River and not Corio Bay

Hovell's Journal is the only available 'primary evidence' from the expedition, with Bland's book being very strong secondary evidence. Both sources indicate the termination point as the Werribee River.



Upon sighting a 'PowerPoint' presentation of my research, the State Library of Victoria requested that I present my findings in book form. In the first edition of my book *Hume and Hovell Expedition Termination* published in April 2020 I did not criticize the work of other historians but simply presented my findings.

In the second edition, published March 2023, I commented on the research of other historians, added a transcript of relevant pages from Hovell's journal and added several additional items of research.

One such item is the analysis of the bearings taken on the afternoon of the first day of their return journey, December 18, 1824. Two bearings, N76E and N85E line up perfectly with Mt Dandenong and Mt Beenak if taken from Point Gellibrand, Williamstown, north-east of Werribee River. As there is no other location on the western shore of Port Phillip from where these bearings line up with two mounts, they could not have commenced their return journey from Corio Bay.

From 'primary evidence' in Hovell's Journal, on the afternoon of December 15, 1824, before camping at the Arndell River (Maribyrnong River), Hovell sighted a river which he named the 'Yar' and on December 21, while reminiscing about the expedition, he goes into detail about this river. Clearly, he was describing the Yarra River sighted from the Avondale Heights area. This location is confirmed when studying land elevations and Hovell's description of directions of travel after crossing the range.

The research presented in my book, and strongly supported in the 'Forword' written by Dr Keith Bell, former Surveyor General of Victoria, substantiates my theory that the expedition terminated at the Werribee River.