



Corner Country Exploration

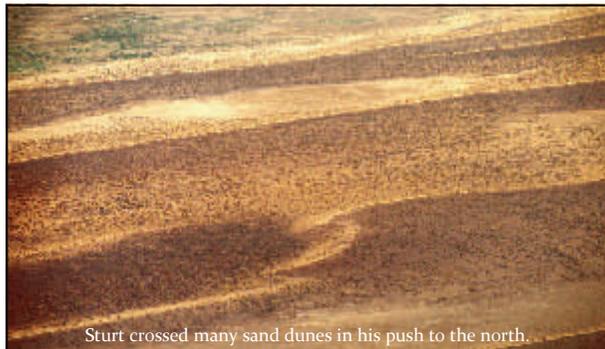
Sturt's Inland Expedition

Sturts looks to the north-west.

Whilst most of the members of the expedition remained at Fort Grey, Sturt moved to examine the country to the north-west of Lake Torrens, traversing sandhills and salt creeks. He found no passage to the north and returned to camp.

Soon after, accompanied by Browne, Flood, Lewis and Cowley, Sturt again struck out for the north-west. On September 8th 1845 they reached their most northerly point on the edge of the barren Simpson Desert before retreating to Fort Grey.

Before long, Sturt and three others again set out to scout to the north and east. Browne remained in charge at Fort Grey.



Sturt crossed many sand dunes in his push to the north.

Sturt returns to Cooper Creek

Following his old course to Strzelecki Creek, Sturt moved on toward the Cooper Creek. Rain had recently fallen and he was encouraged to head further north, but dry conditions again soon forced them to retreat.



Arid gibber plains forced Sturt's retreat.

On return to Fort Grey, Sturt found that Browne also had been forced back to The Depot where they met up again a few days later. Plans were made for their return to Adelaide.

Browne and Flood rode on to Flood's Creek in search of water and returned to The Depot with good news.



Sturt retreated back along the route west of the Barrier Ranges.

The final retreat.

Four bullocks were killed and their skins made into large water vessels for the journey. Too ill to ride his horse, Sturt was now confined to a bed on one of the drays.

The retreat was successful, and assisted by some wild berries found on bushes near Morphett's Creek, Sturt's health improved. On January 19th 1846, he was able to ride his own horse into Adelaide.

Sturt did not locate an inland sea, but he opened up vast areas of Australia for future exploration and settlement.