



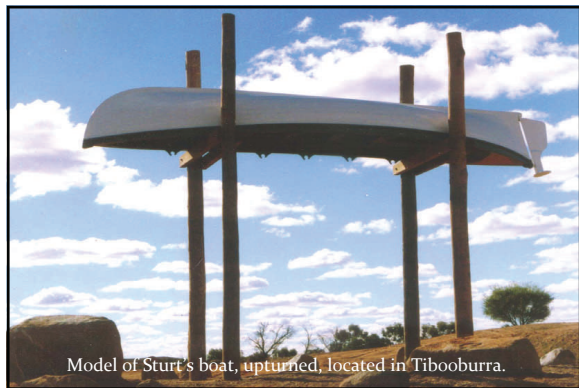
# Corner Country Exploration

## Sturt's Inland Expedition

### Sturt sets out from Adelaide

On August 10<sup>th</sup> 1844 Captain Charles Sturt led the Central Australian Expedition through the streets of Adelaide, then along the Murray and the Darling Rivers, before heading where no European had been before.

The quest was to find the inland sea which Sturt and his sponsors believed occupied the heart of Australia. Sturt carried a boat that he hoped would be sailed when the sea was found.

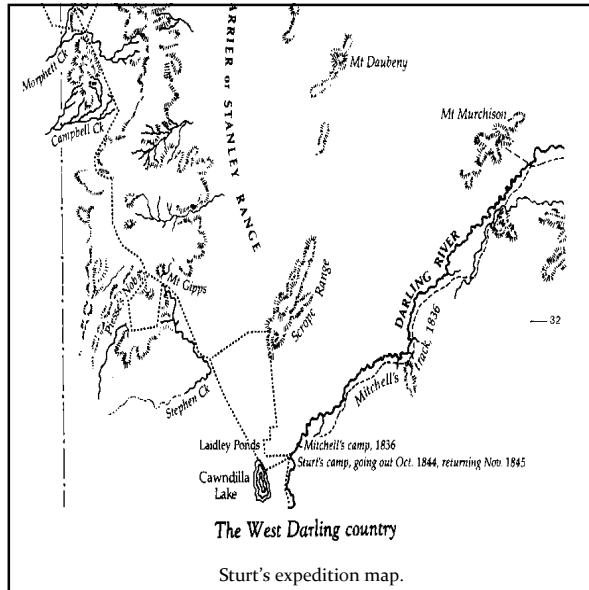


Model of Sturt's boat, upturned, located in Tibooburra.

The route to the east along the rivers had been chosen because it was believed that impenetrable Lake Torrens occupied the region to the west, north and east of the Flinders Ranges.

### Across the West Darling

Sturt was a careful explorer. The lives of sixteen men and a number of sheep, bullocks and horses depended upon the decisions he made, the most critical being the location of water in a hostile, arid environment.



Modern day view of the Barrier Ranges.

### Crossing the Barrier Ranges.

Small survey parties were sent in search of routes across the Barrier Ranges to the west, and for waterholes where the expedition would be able to make camp.

Once water was located, the expedition moved onwards over rocky gullies and narrow creek gorges until the Barrier Ranges were crossed and the expedition stood on the plain to the west, Mundi Mundi.

After leaving the safety of the rivers, Sturt travelled north-westerly from Menindie and set up camp on a waterhole east of present day Broken Hill on the edge of the Barrier Ranges.