

Daniel Solander



Daniel Solander (1733-1782) was born in the Old Town of Pitea (Ojebyn), where his father and grandfather were schoolmasters and rectors of the Lutheran Church. Indeed, Pitea was a "church village" where farmers gathered from the surrounding district to attend festive services, living overnight in small wooden houses clustered around the church. Continuing isostatic uplift at a rate of about a metre a century has left Old Pitea more than 10km from the sea and urban development has followed the retreating coast.

Young Solander enrolled at the University of Uppsala, living with his uncle who was Professor of Law. Carl Linnaeus, who had visited Pitea in 1732, meeting the Solander family, persuaded Daniel to study botany.



Collinson and Ellis in London asked Linnaeus to send one of his students to apply his new classification to British plant and animals. Solander was chosen, arriving in 1760. John Ellis, F.R.S. sponsored the young Swede, who was soon widely known for his knowledge and charm and became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1764.

When Cook's Endeavour voyage was planned, Joseph Banks persuaded Solander to

accompany him as a naturalist in his team, which included several artists, one of whom, Hermann Sporing was also Scandinavian. The achievements of Banks and his companions are well known from the journals of Cook and of Banks himself. Solander described and named many plants, birds and fishes.



Back in London, on the staff of the British Museum, he also helped Banks, as his librarian; supervising completion of unfinished paintings and preparation of manuscripts for the grandiose publications Banks planned. Unfortunately nothing was printed, but after his early death other biologists based published work on these resources.

Strict application of modern rules of nomenclature has left few names under Solander's authorship, but many plants and a few fishes and birds were named after him by later writers and modern interest in the history of science ensures that his name is not forgotten.



In addition to plants, such as *Rhabdothamnus solandri*, and a petrel (*Pterodroma solandri*), the Solander Islands in Foveaux Strait, New Zealand, keep his name alive.

In 1983, Sweden commemorated Solander's achievement with an international symposium at Pitea, including excursions to islands in the Gulf of Bothnia and a traverse of Swedish Lapland from the coast to the mountains of the Norwegian frontier. The

Solander Symposium was attended by delegates from Canada, Australia, Portugal, Finland, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, and by scholars from several parts of Sweden.

A bus excursion followed the meeting, linking an historical celebration with a study of land-use changes in the two centuries since Solander's death.

Solander's memory will be perpetuated by a bust in the town square in Pitea, unveiled by Dr William T. Stearn, British Museum botanist and Honorary Member, Royal Society of Scientists of Uppsala.

Sir Charles Fleming,
Victoria University Journal,
Wellington, New Zealand,
1983

From information supplied by Jim Quinn

Day Dream Island

On 9 June, 1946 a ceremonial cairn was unveiled on Day Dream Island, off the Queensland coast, to commemorate the discovery and naming of the Whitsunday Passage by Captain James Cook on 3 June, 1770.

To mark the event philatelically a commemorative envelope was issued by the Royal Geographical Society of Australia (Queensland branch). Specially printed flimsies were also prepared for attaching to the legs of a flock of homing pigeons which made a special flight for the occasion.

The birds were released at 2.30 p.m. as the cairn was unveiled and the majority of the birds made it safely back to Mackay (on the mainland) at 3.30 p.m., although 13 birds fell victim to hawks.

Surviving records do not state how many pigeons or flimsies were involved. On arrival in Mackay the flimsies were collected and placed in the commemorative envelopes and were then mailed from Prosperpine, the nearest post office to Day Dream Island.

The flimsies were 2.25 cm x 6.25 cm printed in black on white paper with the following message:

QUEENSLAND'S FIRST PIGEONGRAM
Greetings of Goodwill
from
Day Dream Island
Barrier Reef.
9th June 1946

Carried by Homing Pigeon to the mainland on the occasion of the unveiling of a Cairn and Plaque, commemorating the 176th Anniversary of the Discovery and naming of

Whitsunday Passage by Captain James Cook RN.

Each flimsie had a tag for sealing after the item was wrapped around the leg of the pigeon.

From information supplied
by Jim Quinn

Thank you !

It doesn't hurt to say thank you,
And give credit where credit is due,
We all take a lot for granted,
Including us, members of the C.C.S.U.
Let's take a look back through the years,
At the articles, covers and such,
So many folk have shared their views
Of "Cook", and have given us much.
Penfriends many, have been stared,
Because of our mutual friend "Cook",
And grown to lifelong friendships,
All from this quarterly book
So to Ian, and all his stalwarts,
May we say a sincere thank you,
We know it's a real team effort,
And appreciate all that you do.
We read the "Log" repeatedly,
Searching for knowledge anew,
That elusive stamp or cover,
Well, that's "Cook" mania for you.
So when the seas get choppy,
And blue skies hard to find,
Just remember "Resolution" and
"Endeavour"
And what they did for mankind.
So keep those tit-bits flowing,
Your thoughts and ideas to share,
Together we will ride the waves,
"Cook's Log", we salute you, we 'CARE'.

Verna Philpot