

Charles Howe Fremantle

In 1829, at the age of 29, Captain Charles Howe Fremantle was placed in charge of the *HMS Challenger*, one of the three ships involved in the founding of Western Australia.

Once reaching Western Australia, the *HMS Challenger* anchored in Cockburn Sound and under the guidance of Fremantle exploration of the Swan River commenced. On 2 May 1829 Captain Fremantle took formal possession of the whole of the western coast of Australia in the name of King George IV of Britain.



When Lieutenant-Governor James Stirling arrived in June of the same year a decision was made to develop the area which is now Fremantle into a port. The new capital, which was named Perth, was situated 18kms up the Swan River on fertile soil below Mt Eliza.

The town of Fremantle was named in August 1829. The first gaol in the Swan River colony was situated in Fremantle and completed in 1831. The Roundhouse, as the gaol is known today, is a well recognised Fremantle landmark which is visited daily by locals and tourists.

For more information about Fremantle and the Fremantle prison, please visit the sites below:

www.fremantleprison.com.au

www.fremantle.wa.gov.au