

Central Mount Stuart

Central Mount Stuart is a [mountain](#) in the south of the [Northern Territory, Australia](#). It can easily be seen from the nearby [Stuart Highway](#), which is about 6 km away. The mountain is made from dark red [sandstone](#).

The mountain is named after the explorer [John McDouall Stuart](#) who reached the area on 22 April 1860. He worked out that a point about 4 km (2.5 miles) south-southwest of the mountain was the centre of Australia.^[1] Modern geographers do not agree with this and now place the centre at Finke.^[2]

Stuart climbed to the top on 23 April 1860, writing in his journal:

"Took Kekwick and the flag, and went to the top of the mount, but found it to be much higher and more difficult of ascent than I anticipated...Near the top of the cone I placed a small bottle, in which there is a slip of paper, with our signatures to it, stating by whom it was raised. We then gave three hearty cheers for the flag, the emblem of civil and religious liberty, and may it be a sign to the [natives](#) that the dawn of [liberty](#), [civilization](#), and [Christianity](#) is about to break upon them."^[1]

The slip of paper was found in 1871 by John Ross during the building of the [Australian Overland Telegraph Line](#). It is now in the Library of South Australia.^[2]

Stuart called the mountain Central Mount Sturt, after his former expedition leader [Charles Sturt](#). The name was changed on a suggestion from the [Governor of South Australia](#), Sir [Richard MacDonnell](#).^[2] This happened soon after Stuart's return to [Adelaide](#) at the end of the expedition. *Central Mount Stuart* is the name that was printed in the published expedition journal.^[3]

References

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- ↑ 1.0 1.1 Stuart, John McDouall (1865). ["Explorations of Australia"](#). project Gutenberg. Retrieved 21 February 2016.
- ↑ 2.0 2.1 2.2 ["Taking it to the edge: did you know? Central Mt Stuart and the geographical centre of Australia"](#). *samemory.sa.gov.au*. 13 May 2010. Retrieved 28 March 2011.
- ↑ 1 [Northern Territory Place Names Register](#). Retrieved 1 October 2007

Other websites

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- [Image of Central Mount Stuart on Google Maps](#)

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