

1 First Discovery of Cook Bay and  
Macquarie Harbour by James Kelly  
on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 1815 -  
James Kelly sailed from Hobart Town  
in a small sized open five oared  
Whale Boat to examine the then  
unknown West Coast of Van D. Land  
accompanied by the following named  
four Men as the crew

- John Griffiths a Native of the Colony
- George Briggs D.
- William Jones Englishman
- Thomas Towns D.

on the 13<sup>th</sup> we attempted to haul the  
Boat up on the South Side of -  
"Richards" Bay but was prevented  
by a large Body of Natives giving  
us a tremendous Volley of Stones  
and Spears" we were obliged to retreat  
to the North Side of the Bay and

Haul up for the Night  
on the Morning of the 14<sup>th</sup> Launched  
and proceeded Round the South Coast  
of Van Diemen Land, with a fresh Breeze at  
South East at Sun set the same  
Evening Hauled up in a Small Sandy  
Bay to the Northward of the Largest of  
the De Witts Isles Here we had a  
Friendly Reception from a Large  
Number of Natives - we made them  
a few presents of Some Sugar and  
Biscuit But the Surprising Sight of  
them Pulling down by Handfulls, from  
their Heads and Beards and Eating them  
which they seemed to Enjoy more than  
the Sugar and Biscuit, in fact it  
seemed like a Regassing at them being  
their new Visitors, but they did not  
seem the least Hostile as they Brought  
Down their Women and Children



2 - to see us, which denotes friendship  
in these Savages, at dusk they took their  
leave of us and pointed to a small rising  
Hill about a Mile distant signifying  
that they intended to sleep there ~~but~~  
we thought it was only a decoy to pull  
us off our guard but we kept a good  
watch during the night in case of an  
attack but we saw no more of them\*.

at Day light of the 15<sup>th</sup> -

We launched and proceeded to the Westward  
towards the South West Cape about Noon  
we put into a Bay about Eight or nine  
Miles to the Eastward of S W Cape  
which was named New Harbour but  
on sounding found it very Shoal and  
only fit for small vessels although  
looking well to the eye after  
getting inside we remained in this

Place only two or three Hours and  
then proceeded on to the Westward -  
at Sun set Hauled up on a Small  
low Island about four Miles Eastward  
of NW Cape where we Remained the  
Night this is a good Boat Harbour  
being only Separated by a Boat Passay  
from the main Land, with a good  
Stream of fresh Water and Plenty of Wood  
on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup>  
Launched and stured to the Westward -  
at Noon Rounded the NW Cape  
Distant about a quarter of a Mile  
with a fair Wind at South East  
and stured along the Shore to the  
North West in the Evening Hauled  
up on a Small grassy Island for  
the Night about seven Miles to the  
NW of the Cape this Island nearly  
Joins the main, Separated only by a



Small Boat Passage and not a  
good Boat Harbour

at Daylight of the 17<sup>th</sup> Landed  
and Stoved along Shore to the North West  
at Noon Entered a large inlet which was  
Named Port "Davy" in Honor of the  
then Lieutenant Governor of Jam<sup>s</sup> Land  
in the Evening we Hauled up on a low  
sandy point three miles up the North  
Side of the Harbour where we remained  
~~the~~ the night, inside of a thick scrub  
we cleared away about two Rods of  
Rich ground and sowed a quantity of Garden  
Seeds this was named Garden Point  
in consequence. We remained in the  
Harbour three Days the 18<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> -  
Sounding and Making a Sketch of its  
Extent the Eastern arm was named  
Bathurst Harbour in Honor of  
Lord Bathurst Secretary for the

Colonis" the Inner West Point of that  
Bay was named Point Lucy" in  
honor of Miss Davy (Daughter of the  
Lieutenant Governor) During our stay  
in this place we caught a great quantity  
of Wild fowle" Black Swans Ducks tur  
and plenty of Eggs and fish

on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December we  
took our departure with a Light breeze  
at East from Port Davy" and staid  
along the coast to the Northward in  
the Evening we landed on a low  
Grassy Island about five miles to the  
Southward of Low Rocky point and close  
to the main Land, here we fell in <sup>with</sup>  
two Natives aboriginis, they seem'd  
very much alarmed at seeing us they  
were above six feet high their  
Stomach's very large Legs and arms  
very thin and seem'd as if they -



4 Were nearly Starved we gave  
them two Black Swans of which  
we had a good stock in the Boat they  
seem Delighted with the present  
on Landing on the Island we intended  
to Remain the Night but fearing  
there were more of them on the Island  
it was thought best to Leave it where  
we did and hauled up for the Night  
in a small Creek half a mile to  
the Southward of Low Rocky Point  
this was named Crow fish Creek  
in consequence of the Immense Number  
of Crow fish that lay at the Waters  
Edge they appeared to have been  
gathered the day previous which must  
have been done by the Natives there  
was above three tons in one  
Heap

on the Morning of the 22<sup>d</sup> Launched

and then along the Land to the Northward  
at Sun. It Hauled up in a snug Cove  
near High Rocky point on the 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>  
Heavy Swell Rolling in from the Westward  
Which prevented us from proceeding along the  
Coast, 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day -  
Strong Gale from the Westward and a Heavy  
Sea Heaving into the Cove, this Day we  
Had a Glorious Feast for Dinner Two Black  
Swans, one Roasted Stuck up the other  
a Sea Pie a three Dishes in the large  
Iron Pot a first Rate Christmas Dinner  
on the West Coast of, San Dumans Land  
after Dinner we named the Cove Christmas  
Cove by throwing a Glass of Brandy into  
the Salt Water and Three Hearty Cheers for  
the occasion - on the 26<sup>th</sup> the Gale  
abated - on the 27<sup>th</sup> in the Morning we  
Launched with a Light Breeze from the  
Southward and proceeded along Shore to the  
Northward



5  
In the fore noon the Wind freshened  
and blew strong at N E we Run close  
along Shore untill the Evening where we  
up on a small Sandy Beach, inside of some  
high Rocks that lies a little distance from  
the Shore and about six miles to the Southern  
of "Marys Bay" Harbour - at noon this day  
"Cape Point Hills" close too and examined  
it - on the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup> Landward  
Weather calm pulled along Shore to the  
Northern - at noon "Round", ~~the~~  
a projecting point ~~the~~ which opened to an  
Inlet to the South East, we found a  
"Strong Current" Running out which  
made us believe there must be a large  
River in the South East Direction -

The whole face of the Coast  
was on fire and lucky it was for us it  
was on fire, for the smoke was so thick  
we could not see a hundred yards

a Head of the Boat, on pulling into  
the "Narrows" at the Small Entrance Island  
We Heard a Large Number of Natives  
Shouting and making a great Noise  
as if they were Hunting Kangaroos;

It was lucky the Smoke was  
so thick for had the Natives seen the  
Boat passing through the Narrow Entrance  
it is possible they would have killed  
Every Person on Board by Dolly's of  
Stones and Spears in their usual way  
in the afternoon the Smoke  
cleared off a little we found ourselves in  
a Large Sheet of Water near a Small  
Island where we landed and found plenty  
of Black Swans on their Nests, ~~and~~  
and plenty of their Eggs' we Remained on  
the Island, the night which kept us safe  
from the Natives — on the 29<sup>th</sup> the  
Morning was Clear we could see nearly



all over the Harbour this Island  
was named Elizabeth Island in honor  
of Mrs Gordon Wife of James Gordon Esq  
of Port Water in Van Diemen's Land, the Harbour  
was named Maryquarie Harbour in  
Honor of the then Governor of New  
South Wales - we launched and pulled to  
a point on the South Shore nearly opposite  
the Island where we caught about a  
dozen fat Black Swans to Eat we  
had four of our Stock Apts that we  
brought from Port David after catching  
a fresh Supply we gave those four their  
Liberty in Maryquarie Harbour and  
named the Point - Liberty Point in  
Consequence - at Sun <sup>Day</sup> We Hoisted up on  
an Island about twenty five Miles up the  
Harbour which was named Sarah's Island  
in Honor of Mrs Birch Wife of Tho<sup>s</sup>  
William Birch Esq of Hobart Town

On the Morning of the 30<sup>th</sup> Launched  
and proceeded further up the Harbour  
untill we came to the mouth of a  
fresh Water River. Made a Sketch of  
it and named it Gordon's River  
in Honor of James Gordon Esq  
of Oak Water, he having kindly  
lent his Boat for this particular  
trip of discovery Round. Land Land

This day we proceeded up an  
Inlet to the Southward of Gordon's River  
which was named Bircha Inlet in  
Honor of M<sup>r</sup> Birch - on the 31<sup>st</sup> we  
went Round <sup>the</sup> Harbour ~~the~~ made  
a sketch of it and found it to be a  
Bar Harbour only for vessels of a light  
draft of water we also found plenty  
of Huon's pine growing on the Banks  
of the Harbour  
on the Morning of 1 January 1810



7 We left Mayne Harbour  
with a fresh Breeze at South East  
This day we Run a Long Buntine to the  
North West Having a Strong fair Wind—  
at 8 P.M. attempted to get into a River  
which was named "Retreat" River being  
nearly Lost on the Bar in a Heavy Surf  
During the night of the 1<sup>st</sup> January it  
blew a Strong Gale from the Southward  
We were obliged to Heave the Boat  
Too by a Raft made of the oars with  
about forty five fathoms of Rope—  
where the Lay Berry Inrig, During  
the night, the Men taking it in  
turns to attend the "Stur-oar" to  
keep the Boat End on to the Sea  
and Having a good Tarpaulin that  
covered the Boat all over the Lay  
Berry Dry— at Day Light of  
the Morning of the 2<sup>d</sup> of January  
Hauled the Raft in, set the

Rapid Lug" and started in for the  
West point of Van Diemen's Land with  
a Heavy Sea Running; as we neared  
the Shore we had to Pass through  
Heavy tide Rips the tide Running  
to the Southward against the Wind  
made it more Dangerous -

We got within 500 yards of  
the Shore, the Boat was propped  
by a Heavy Sea that filled her to  
the thoughts - and had a look  
Bun for the "Precaution" taken -  
Before we left Hobarton "that was  
of Having three good Buckets Slung  
with Lanyards and fastened to the thoughts  
for the purpose of Bailing the Boat  
on such an Emergency" we must all  
Have Bun look" However by the quick  
use of the Buckets the Boat was soon  
Bailed out - we got under the lee of  
the



point and landed on a small sandy beach  
& hauled the boat up and began to  
examine our clothes blankets provisions  
& arms all of which was well and nearly well  
fortunately the Ammunition was in a small  
box in the stern of the boat that was  
water tight which preserved it otherwise  
we should have been beddy off -

We now thought we were  
<sup>so</sup> safe and had just got a large fire  
made to dry ourselves when to our great  
astonishment we were accosted by six  
huge men, black natives each of them  
above six feet high and very stout  
made their faces greasy and blacked  
they had a spear in each of their right  
hands and two in their left they were  
quite naked and appeared quite ready  
for war or mischief - our men got  
greatly alarmed and called out what  
was to be done - it was thought

But to make gestures to them to  
Come Closer to us" they were standing  
Behind a Low thick Scrub and did  
not seem inclined to come any  
nearer, our arms all wet and no  
means of depending ourselves we were  
in a very Dangerous Situation -

it hapent that Luck was  
Still at our side we had 9 or 10  
Black Swans" and a Large Wombat  
in the Boat that we brought from  
Maquarie Harbour for fresh Provisions  
on Showing them one of the Swans they  
seemed Delighted and came nearer  
to the Boat after they came out of  
the Scrub" we saw more of their  
War Implem<sup>ts</sup> as each of them  
had a spear Between the Great toe  
of each of their feet (dragging them  
along the ground we supposed -  
they



Had never seen a white man

Before, it was thought best to try  
 to Barter with them for their Spears  
 that if we got Possession of them they  
 could not hurt us - we Luckily -  
 Succeeded - and gave them four Swans  
 and the Wombat for all their Spears  
 they seemed much pleased with their  
 Bargain they went away holding  
 up one hand as a sign of friendship  
 we were Equally pleased when they  
 were gone we saw no more of  
 them, During the Evening a great  
 number of Snows were made  
 along the Coast which we thought  
 to be Signals Between the Natives

We Remained on the Beach  
 that Night and got our arms dried  
 and put in firing order - Keeping  
 a good Watch, in Case the Natives  
 should pay us another visit -

on Examining our Bred flour Tea  
sugar &c we found it nearly all  
spoiled which caused us to go on  
short allowance" -

on the Morning of the  
3<sup>d</sup> of January at Day light we  
launched and proceeded to the Northward  
towards Cape Grim" it was nearly  
calm during the day with a heavy  
swell from the Westward we had  
to pull nearly the whole of the  
day in the Evening haul up in  
a small hook about 9 miles to  
the Southward of Cape Grim" -

on the Morning of the  
4<sup>th</sup> launched and stood to the  
Northward with a light Breeze at  
South East - about Noon  
Rounded Cape Grim" we passed  
between two Cannonical Rocks



that lies near the Cape we  
 were nearly filled in a tide Rip  
 going through but luckily escaped  
 we pulled along shore to the Eastward  
 untill we came to the South End of  
 the largest Hunters Island we landed  
 on a point opposite on the main -  
 land on a large flat of Cobble Stones  
 to Boil our Kettle and take a Rest  
 there was a great many fires  
 along the <sup>shore</sup>, we kept the Boat -  
 afloat and the arms steady in  
 Case of an attack by the Natives  
 Toornis and Jones" were left to take  
 Care of the Boat and have the  
 arms in Readiness; we had just  
 got a fire lighted when we saw  
 a Large Body of Natives at least  
 fifty in Number standing at  
 the Edge of the Bush about  
 fifty yards from us they were

all armed with Spears and Waddies  
We immediately Brought the arms  
from the Boat and put ourselves  
in a State of Defence Near the  
fire they Began to advance Slowly  
towards us We held up our Spears  
and made Signs to them not to Come  
any Closer they held up their  
Spears in Return with Loud  
Laughing and Jesting at us as if  
they thought we were afraid of  
them at seeing them so formidable  
We thought it best to Retreat to the  
Boat; When all of a sudden they  
Laid Down their Spears and Waddies  
in the Edge of the Bush, and holding  
up both their Hands as if they did  
not mean any Mischief, at the  
Same <sup>time</sup> Making Signs to us to lay  
Down our arms which we did



11 To Satisfy them for if we had  
Retreated to the Boat quickly they  
must have killed Every one ~~we~~ ~~were~~  
~~there~~, Before we could have got <sup>out of</sup> the  
Reach of their Spears. + they then Began  
to come to us one by one Holding up  
Both their hands to show they had no  
Weapon. But we kept a good look out  
that they <sup>had</sup> no Spears between their toes  
as they had on a former occasion  
but they had none" - there was

20 Twenty two came to the fire (we  
made signs to them that no more should  
come), upon that being understood two  
more came from the Bark together  
one of them seemed to be a Chief a  
stout good looking man about six  
feet high 30 years of age, the other  
an old man about six feet seven  
inches high with scarcely a bit of  
flesh" on his Bones, When the Chief

Came he ordered them all to sit down  
on the ground which they did and  
formed a sort of "Circle" round the  
fire, the Chief ordered the old man  
to dance and sing, as if to amuse  
us which he did, making ugly faces  
and putting himself into most singular  
attitudes, while the old man was  
engaged in his dancing and singing we  
~~it~~ found it was only to take our attention  
off what the Chief and his men were  
doing, he ordered them to gather pebble  
stones about the size of Hen's Eggs and  
put them between their legs where  
they sat for the purpose as we supposed  
to make an attack on us with the  
stones at this our men began to get  
alarmed and expecting some mischief  
would be done, We planned it to  
give them a few "warri" and get  
off



12  
as well as we could - Briggs -  
Brought two Swans from the Boat  
one under each arm, when the Chief  
saw them he rushed at Briggs to take  
the Swans from him but did not  
succeed he then ordered his men to give  
us a volley of stones which they did by  
him giving them the time in most  
beautiful order by him calling -  
With the swing of the arm three times  
yah! yah! yah! and a severe volley  
it was, I had a pair of large Bussing  
Cistols in my coat pocket loaded  
with two Balls each and seeing there  
was no alternative I fired one  
amongst them which dispersed them  
the other I fired after them as they  
ran away, two of them dragged  
Briggs along the ground a little  
distance to get the Swans from  
him but did not succeed -

the Chief - and his men then  
into the Bush and was quickly out  
of sight - on looking round after  
they had all Ran away we found  
the 6 feet 7 Inch Dancing Gentleman  
Laying on his Back on the ground  
We thought of course "he was dead"  
but on turning him over to Examine  
his Wounds found he had not a  
Blow on him, his Pulse was  
going at 130 it must have been the  
Report of the Pistol that frightened  
him, We then set him on his feet  
to see if he could Walk he then  
opened his Eyes and trembled very  
much We led him a few steps  
towards the Bush he stood up  
straight looked around him and  
took one Jump towards the Bush  
the next Leap he was out of  
sight



as soon as he was out of sight  
 the hills around Echo's with  
 shouts of joy" from the voices of  
 men Women & Children that the  
 Baning" gentleman had Escaped -  
 We measured the first jump the  
 old man took, it was exactly  
 Eleven yards but the second one  
 must have been more this was  
 more like the jump of a  
 Kangaroo" than a man -

We found several marks  
 of Blood on the Stones in the distance  
 that the Natives run away when  
 the shot was fired, some of them  
 must have been Wounded, we got  
 into our Boat, just as we were  
 pulling away we received a  
 volley" of Stones and spears from  
 the Natives one Spear went  
 through the side of the Boat

But Luckily" no one was hurt  
We landed on a small Rock  
Covered with Birds they were  
Laying we got six Buckets full  
of fresh Eggs a good supply"

This turned to spend  
the natives as a number of Women  
Came down on a point of Rocks  
and abused <sup>"us"</sup> us very much for taking  
their Eggs. We pulled to a small  
Island 3 miles to the North East"  
one of the Hunters Islands where  
we hauled up for the night

on the 5<sup>th</sup> at Daylight we  
launched with a Light Breeze at N. W.  
and went into Robins' Passage -  
Examined it, in the Evening hauled  
up for the night in the East End  
of the Passage -

on the 6<sup>th</sup> in the Morning  
We launched with a Light Breeze



at South West and pulled - 7<sup>th</sup> at  
1/4 along Shore towards Circular  
Head at Sun set Hauled up for the night  
on the Beach at the South East side  
of the Head - on the 7<sup>th</sup> at Day  
Light Launched with a Strong Breeze  
from the Westward and Run along  
Shore all the Day to the Eastward -  
at Sun set Hauled up on a Pebbly  
Beach about, Forty Miles from Circular  
Head - The 8<sup>th</sup> Strong Breeze from the  
Westward, at Day Light Launched and  
Run along Shore to the Eastward, this  
Day Run a Long Distance at Sun set  
arrived at what was called the Fish  
Western River - We hauled up for the  
night this River has since been called  
Port Jorell -

9<sup>th</sup> at Daylight Launched Wind  
North West and Steered towards ~~land~~  
Port Dalrymple at Noon -

arrived at George's Town, on  
Landing at the Wharf, we were  
Hailed by a man like a Soldier -  
Who, are you What Boat is that  
Before we had time to answer  
Eight men Rushed from Behind an  
old Building with Muskets and fixed  
Bayonets in their Hands saying  
if you Move we will Kill every  
Man of you, one of them seemed  
to be an officer he had a double Barrel  
in his hand, himself and the Rest  
were all dressed in Kangaroo Skin  
and a Puffian like Mob they  
were, the officer said have you  
any arms in the Boat the answer  
was yes plenty, he then said let them  
handcuff them all and have the  
arms out of the Boat - we were  
handcuffed two & two as we came  
out of the Boat But the - 01



Captain of the Boat had the  
 Honor of being Handcuffed by himself  
 when we were out of the Boat  
 Standing on the Wharf the officer  
 said now my Lad's what have you to  
 say for yourself? I have been a long  
 time looking for you and have got  
 you at last - you are the Collyer's  
 of Michael Horne the Beerbringer and  
 if you do not give me all the Informa-  
 tion - where we can find Horne  
 and his party I will send you  
 all to Hobart Town in Double Irons  
 I told him we knew nothing of Horne  
 and that we were on a voyage of  
 Discovery Round the West Coast of Van  
 Dieman's Land he laughed at this and  
 said that story won't do for me I  
 then Recognised him to be, Major  
 Stuart Esq. Regiment Commandant  
 at Launceston - I put my hand -

into my Waistcoat Pocket to find the  
Key" of the Ammunition" Box" Where  
our Port Clearance" Was kept, he in  
a flurry said Sergeant "Mind he  
is putting his hand in his Pocket I  
suspect the Gallant Major" thought  
I was going to take out a Pistol to  
shoot him the Sergeant seized  
my hand and said what are you going  
to do - I said there is the Key of the  
Box" that will give you all the  
Information" you Require

the Sergeant unlocked the  
Box and took out the Ammunition"  
the Journal" and Port Clearance"  
which he handed to the Major - it  
was a printed form in the usual  
way filled up and to the following  
Effect -



16  
Commandant's office  
Military Barracks Robert Town

Those are to Certify to all  
Whome it may concern that the  
Boat "Elizabeth" Commanded by  
Mr James Kelly was Cleared out  
for the West Coast of San Domingo  
Land on a voyage of Discovery after  
Having paid the Acustomed dues

Given under my hand  
this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December 1815  
in the absence of the Lieutenant

Governor  
Wm. Davis  
Captain 40<sup>th</sup> Regiment  
Commandant

The Names of the following  
Persons who comprised the  
Crew of the Boat was Written

in the Margin of the Clearance  
John Griffiths  
George Briggs  
William Jones -  
Thomas Jones

When the Major received the Clearance  
from the Sergeant he turned Round  
and Walked a few paces turning to  
Examine it very minutely in a few  
minutes he returned - and said -

How Long have you been from  
Hobart Town - the answer was -  
from the Date of that Clearance.

Have you seen any Military parties  
in search of Burroughs, not any  
Have you seen any Boats or vessels  
on the Coast, not any  
When you left Hobart Town were  
you aware that Burroughs's



17 Was out) Yes" (Where was  
the Lieutenant Governor, <sup>he said</sup> it was  
he was gone to the Lakes" he asked several  
other questions, he then said Serjeants  
took the handcuffs off those ~~men~~  
men the order was obeyed (he said  
Which of you is the person in charge  
of the Boat M<sup>r</sup> Kelly, answered I am  
are you the Person who was Master of  
the Brig Sophia" Some time ago  
at Hobart Town) I am (Have you  
Ever seen me before) M<sup>r</sup> Kelly  
) ayes Repeatedly (Where  
at Hobart Town I have dined  
with you often at M<sup>r</sup> Birches" in  
the Cottage) Still holding the  
Clearance in his hand reading it  
and could scarcely believe it he said  
is it usual at Hobart Town to give  
Clearances" such as this to open"  
Boats going Round the Coast

Mr Kelly answered it was and  
was always the case since Martial  
Law Commenced in this Island -  
he then called the Men Names -  
over one by one from the Charamel  
and asked them a great many  
questions. till looking very  
suspiciously at them

The Major said now Mr  
Kelly are you quite sure you  
know who I am the answer  
was O yes I cannot mistake -  
you you are Major Stuart  
of the 46<sup>th</sup> Regiment - Commandant  
at Launceston - the Major then  
said Mr Kelly I am quite satisfied  
who you are give me your  
hand and I am very sorry for  
what has hapened that was putting  
yourself and your men in Irons



But had it not been for <sup>the</sup>  
 the "Cast Clearance" I certainly  
 could not have, Believed, But you  
 were an-associate of Michael, How  
 the Bushranger, However you must  
 come up to the Government Cottage  
 and accept of a knife & fork & a bed  
 at my quarters while you remain  
 at George Town - Sergeant you  
 will haul M<sup>r</sup> Kelly's Boat up Close  
 to the Barracks - let the oars &  
 with the arms be secured in the  
 Guard house and let his men live  
 with the soldiers, give them -  
 plenty to Eat and Grog" but Don't  
 let them get Drunk,

There was a Change in the  
 "State of affairs" M<sup>r</sup> Kelly a "Prisoner"  
 in Handcuffs and in a few Hours  
 Released and seated at the Major's  
 table Dining and partaking of

a Bottle of his Best Wine" after  
Dinner the Major" related to Mr  
Kelly that he had only returned to  
to George Town, the Bay previous  
that he had been out with a strong  
party of Military for the last  
Six Weeks Round the North East  
Coast in Search of Howe and his  
party but heard nothing of them

that he had received -

Information, that Howe Intended  
to lay Wait at the Entrance of the  
Tamer" to Capture a Boat or a  
Vessel that he might make his  
Escape over to the Coast of New  
Holland — Mr Kelly spent the night  
in the Major's quarters and Having a  
good Night's Sleep on a good Bed —  
Having been sleeping in the open  
air by a fire side for twenty



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five Nights Previous he  
 awoke in the Morning and  
 found himself very much Reproved  
 his men was also well housed and  
 good Biding in the Soldiers Barracks

18<sup>th</sup> January We Remained  
 this Day at George Town under the  
 Magor's Hospitable Roof During the  
 Day he ordered the Sargeant to open  
 the Public Store and Issue to us  
 as Much Provisions, such as flour  
 Tea. Sugar Beef Pork Mutton & as  
 we thought proper to ask for he  
 also, remarked that the Men's Bedding  
 and Cloathing were not sufficient  
 for such a Voyage as we were on  
 he ordered the Sargeant who was  
 the Store Keeper to Issue to Each Man  
 one Pair of Blankets and one Suit  
 of Clops, this Being all Public  
 Property, We Offered to give a Draft

on Hobart Town for the whole  
amount, of the Supplies we had  
Received but the Generous Major  
said No you shall not pay any  
thing for what you have Received I  
will account to the Government  
for all you are on a Voyage of  
Discovery what you are doing is  
for the Public Good and for the  
good of the Colony — in the Evening  
Every thing was ready ~~ready~~  
to Start the Next Morning and  
took another Night of the Majors  
Hospitality — The Major prepared a  
Despatch address'd to the Lieutenant  
Governor at Hobart Town" informing <sup>him</sup>  
of what he had done with Mr Kelly  
and that Mr Kelly had offered his Services  
in the Event of him falling in with  
Hone and his party to Return to George  
Town <sup>in the</sup>



or proceed on to Hobart Town  
 which ever might be most convenient  
 to inform the Government of Hovis's  
 Position - Mr Kelly was also Requested  
 that in the Event of him coming  
 in Contact with the Bushrangers to  
 Destroy the Despatches for fear of them  
 falling into Hovis's hands -

It was not often that  
 Communication could be had by the  
 Government between Hobart Town  
 and George Town in consequence of  
Hovis's formidable Position in the  
 Bush and Repeatedly sending threatening  
 Letters to the Lieutenant Governor  
 telling him that he should open all  
 his Despatches - and the armed  
 Messengers who conveyed them if they  
 were Soldiers he would hang them  
 up by the heels to a tree let their  
 Inwards out and leave them hanging

Just as he would do a Kangaroo"  
and that he would serve the Governor  
or any of his officers in the same way  
but more particularly Mr Humphrey  
the Police Magistrate" Who he termed  
his Bitter Enemy -

11<sup>th</sup> January 1816. all this day  
it blew a strong gale from the  
Northward which prevented us from  
launching but got our Boat and  
gun in good order to start the first  
fair wind - 12<sup>th</sup> January after  
partaking of a good Early Breakfast  
with the Major we launched with  
a fine breeze from the Westward  
and was soon clear of Port Dalrymple  
having taken leave of Major  
Stuart" and all his party thanking  
him and them for their kindness  
we staved along the coast to the Eastward  
and in the evening hauled up on  
Waterhouse Island where we



21 Remained the Night, before  
We landed a Smoke was seen from  
the Island on the Main land which we  
thought might have been Howe and  
his party but on looking with the  
the glass we saw it was a large  
Mob of Natives walking along the Beach

13<sup>th</sup> January at Daylight  
Launched with a fine Breeze from  
the Westward and Clear Weather and  
Run along the Shore to the Eastward  
at Noon Landed on Ringarooma  
Point there we suddenly fell in  
with a large Mob of Natives who  
at the first appearance sumed Hostile  
but on seeing Briggs they all knew  
how well particularly the Chief  
whose Name was Lamabunganah  
he sumed belittled at seeing Briggs  
and told him that he was at War  
with his own Brother, Tolobunganah

Who was then on the Coast Near  
Eddystone point, a most powerful  
Chief who Briggs also knew very  
well, Briggs at this time had on the  
Island two Wives and five Children that  
he had left during his absence to  
Hoback Towne and had taken this trip  
in the Boat Round the West Coast thinking  
he might fall in with some of his  
"Black Relations", Near Cape Portland  
one of his Wives was a Daughter of  
the Chief "Lamanbunganah" we just  
fell in with, Briggs generally called his  
father in Law "Laman" for that name  
the Chief made Enquiry after his Daughter  
and was told that she and her Children  
were safe over on Cape Barrow "Laman"  
said he knew that for he saw her Smokes  
almost every Day - after some  
further Discourse "Laman" asked  
Briggs if



22 if he had any five arms  
in the Boat he told him we were  
well armed Laman said he was glad  
of that - as he had heard that five or  
six white men well armed was with  
his Brother - Tolobungana at Edenton  
Coast and that they intended to come  
and attack him and kill them all  
he intreated Briggs to join him and  
go and attack them and fight it out  
Briggs of course declined telling  
him that he had no control over the  
Boat and that M Kelly could not agree  
to any such proposal at this, Laman  
seemed very much disappointed and told  
Briggs in a very hostile tone that he  
had often before gone with him to  
fight other Tribes when he wanted  
Warrior - Laman then gave a loud  
Cooc and in two minutes we were  
surrounded by above fifty natives

Laman said to Briggs now we  
will force you to go with us and  
fight Tolo" he meant the Chief  
his Brother the White Men thought  
that of course thought must be Howe  
and his party, Briggs asked if they  
had a Boat Laman said No

We now got much alarmed  
at the dangerous situation we were  
in, and as an excuse to get away—  
Briggs told Laman that we would go  
over to Cape Barron and fetch  
his Wife Laman's daughter also that  
we would get five or six of the Indians  
to join us with plenty of fire arms  
we would come over and fight them  
Laman seemed much pleased and  
asked when we would go, Briggs  
said we would start directly—  
slip to eight or ten Island  
and tomorrow morning go over  
To - 46



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to Cape Barron and Return  
 on three Days Laman and all  
 his Mob was much pleas'd at this  
 arrangement, the Boat was launched  
 We pull'd to Swan Island and hauled  
 up for the Night, Much pleas'd -  
 with the Escape we made from -  
 Lamanbunganah and his Mob -  
 Had we refus'd or Resist'd his proposal  
 to fight he would have taken the  
 Boat and killed Every man of us  
 as it was Impossible we could have  
 stood against such a Number of Natives.

Briggs had been Employed  
 as a "Scaler" on the Island in Bass  
 Straits for many Years. Previously  
~~and~~ and had acquir'd the Native  
 Language of the North East Coast  
 of Van Diemens Land fluently, in  
 Consequence of often having gone  
 over from the Island to Cape

Or stand to Barter with the Natives  
for Kangaroo Skins also to purchase  
the Young Grower up Native females  
to keep them as their Wives and  
for Hunting Kangaroo's and Catching  
Seals, Both for their Skins they  
were Wonderfully Dextrous"

The Custom of the Sealers"  
in the Straits was that Every man  
should have from two to five of  
those Native Women for their own  
and to select any of them they  
thought proper to Cohabit with as  
their Wives - In fact a large Number  
of Children had been produced between  
those people the White man and -  
the Black Woman and a fine active  
Race of People they were Both for  
Hunting Kangaroo's and Catching Seals  
the men good Boatmen the Women  
good - &



assistants to them they were of  
 a light Copper Colour and Generally  
 very good looking — 14<sup>th</sup> January, Sailed  
 from Swan Island with a Moderate Breeze  
 at North West and steered along Shore to the  
 South East, soon after leaving the ~~Island~~  
 Island we saw Smokes on the Shore and  
 some Natives walking on the Beach which  
 we supposed to be our friend Laman  
 and his tribe they called and made  
 signals to us to come on Shore but we  
 took no notice of them having had so-  
 narrow an Escape the Day before just  
 before Sun set we hauled up on King  
 George Island or Rocks on a small Sandy  
 Beach not wishing to give a Chance to  
 M<sup>r</sup> Tolobingamab<sup>s</sup> to serve us as M<sup>r</sup>  
 Lamanbunganab<sup>s</sup> had done the Day-  
 before for while we were on the Island  
 we were safe from their attacks —  
 Here we found a large Number of

Seals baying on the Rocks Basking  
in the Sun, but having no talk  
with us to cure the skins we thought  
it useless to kill them, on the following  
Day the — 15<sup>th</sup> January the Wind set  
in at South East and fine Weather

We thought it useless to bay  
"Idle", with a foul Wind and being —  
Provided with knives Sticks & Clubs and  
Being all old Hands at sealing into  
the Bargain, we commenced killing  
and flinching the skin from the Body  
and stretching it out on the grass with  
Wooden pegs it was dried in the Sun  
and in one day became perfectly cured  
this day by the above process we killed  
flinched and pegged out thirty skins  
the following Day — 16<sup>th</sup> January we  
killed flinched and pegged out twenty five  
seal skins — Wind southerly & fine  
Weather several smokes on the



Shore opposite the Island and  
 a large number of Natives on the  
 Beach. This day caught ten young  
 Cape Barron Gulls which afforded us  
 fresh grub and with a little of the  
 Major's fine pork we lived sumptuously

17<sup>th</sup> January this Day -  
 Wind South East and fine Weather  
 found the Seals getting shy of coming  
 up on the Rocks we gave them a Reb  
 as it would not do to storm them  
 only at Low Water - at Noon -  
 Launched the Boat and went over  
 to see the Natives and took with us  
 four Seals Carcasses that had been  
 skinned and four young pups alive  
 about three weeks old, we did not  
 go closer to the Beach than Musket  
 Shot for fear of being surprised  
 by a shot from Howe and his  
 Party" Bragg stood up in the

Boat and called out to the Natives  
in their language to come to the  
Water side, they swam, till  
he told them who he was When an Old  
Man. Rushed up to his Middle in the  
Water. Briggs called to him to Swim  
to the <sup>Boat</sup> Whisk. he did we hauled him in  
turned out to be the Old Chief  
"Tolobunganak" he was overjoyed at  
Seeing Briggs and asked if he had  
Seen his Brother Laman" he said  
No" "Tolo" asked where we came  
from Briggs said from Cape Barrow  
by way of Swan Island "Tolo" said I know  
that I saw you come from there  
We then pulled a little distance along the  
Beach" to a small Rock that lay off  
about fifty yards from the ~~shore~~ shore  
Tolo"



25 Continued from first Book

17<sup>th</sup> January 1816 from first Book

Continued, Tolobungana" stood up in the Boat and called to the "Natives" about twenty of them came down to the water side they all knew Briggs and seemed glad to see him, we made Tolo" a present of the four dead seals and the four live pups at which he seemed much pleased - Immediately after they got the seals six women came down to the water side each with a dead kangaroo" on their shoulders Tolo" ordered them to be brought to the Boat - and said that we must have in exchange for the seals" we had given ~~the~~ them, that they had no more kangaroo" but tomorrow they would catch plenty, Tolo" seemed anxious that we should come on shore  
We Declined

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17<sup>th</sup> January 1816 Continued

by telling the Natives that we  
We did not wish to come in contact  
with the six white men they had  
~~the~~ "Sun" "Tolo" asked if we were  
frightened of them Briggs said no -  
but they were bad men and we wanted  
to know whereabout they was -  
all those "Eusus" we was  
obliged to make to get all the friendly  
information we could from the  
Natives relative to Howe and his  
Party as we were still of opinion  
that they was near at hand but the  
Natives assured us that they was gone  
a long distance to the South and towards  
Saint Patrick's head we took leave  
of "Tolo" and his Mob. in the Evening  
and told them that we should come  
over next day and bring them -  
stone seals at which they turned



Delighted and said that if we brought  
them plenty of Seals, they would give  
us plenty of Kangaroo and their skins  
in return - the Wind being fair we  
Run over to the Island Hauled the Boat  
up and had a good Kangaroo Steamer  
for Supper the fish we had this voyage

18<sup>th</sup> January 1816 at day light

it being low water there was a good  
number of Seals up on the Rocks we  
Stormed them, and killed twenty which  
we skinned and pegged out to Dry the  
Weather was very fine Wind from  
the South East, this day found the  
fresh Water on the Island getting short  
and very Broakish, launched the Boat  
and put our three Water Kegs into her  
to get the Water in to fill them with  
fresh Water we also put into the  
Boat twenty of the Seals' Carcases to

Baxter

No 27 With the Natives for Kangaroo  
skins, we also took six young  
Seal pups alive. as presents, Early  
in the morning Signal Smoke  
was made on the Beach for us to  
Come over according to Promise

on arriving at the Beach  
We did not see a Native which made  
us think there was something the  
matter we waited about half an hour  
When we saw Totobunganaki —  
Make his appearance on the Beach  
We called to him to come to the Rock  
where he had been the day previous  
he came we asked him why he did  
not come to the Boat when we first  
arrived he said that all the Natives  
was in the Bush Hunting Kangaroo  
and getting skins but they would be  
Here Shortly, we had still a suspicion  
that Howi was with the Natives



but Tolo" assured us he was not we  
told him we wanted our three Kegs  
filled with fresh Water and that we  
would bury all the Kangaroo Skins he  
had; in about twenty Minutes the  
Whole tribe came down on the Beach  
there was about Two Hundred Men  
Women and Children and at least  
fifty Dogs on seeing them approach  
we pulled the Boat out from the  
<sup>shore</sup> a little distance leaving Tolo" on  
the beach and got our Arms and  
Examined them, to see that they were  
in firing order We held up 3 or 4  
Seals Carcasses and told them we wanted  
to Barter for Kangaroo Skins Tolo" ordered  
Ten Women to go into the Water each Loaded  
With Kangaroo and Skins we then gave  
the Women the Seals Carcasses we Brought  
over they Carried them to the Mob  
~~they~~

and Returned Immediately To the Boat  
With another Load of Skins as Payment  
for the Seals" we then Requested Tolo to  
fill our kegs with fresh Water Which he  
Did but we would not let them take  
away more than one keg at a time for  
fear they should <sup>not</sup> Bring them all Back  
at which Tolo" Turned Displeas'd

The Natives asked if we  
would Bring over more Seals Tomorrow  
Briggs told them they were getting scarce  
and shy of Being Caught. Tolo" told Briggs  
We had Better take some Women over to  
the Island to assist in catching Seals" at  
which they were very Dextrous" this  
Being agreed on Tolo" order'd six stout  
Women to go into the Boat which they  
Did and seem'd Delighted the Wind being  
fair We Run over to the Island Haul'd the  
Boat up, and Oiled the Kangaroo" Skin



out to Dry, the Women on Seeing the  
Seals on some of the outer Rocks were  
Very anxious to Commence Catching  
them, Briggs having Been a long time  
on the Islands in Bep' Straits with the  
Native Women as a Sealiv was well  
acquainted with the mode of them  
Catching Seals and a most singular  
mode it is, It is here Described

We gave the Women Each a Club that  
We had used to Kill Seals with they went  
to the Waters Edge and Wet themselves  
all over their head and Body as they said  
to prevent the Seals from Smelling them  
as they Walked along the Rocks ~~they~~  
they were being cautious not to go to  
Windward of them as they said a Seal  
would sooner Bite his Nose than  
his Eyes when a Man or Woman came  
Near him, the Six Women Walked  
into

The water two & two and I went to  
three Rocks about 50 yards from the  
Shore Each Rock, had about 9 or 10 Seals  
on it they were all Laying apparently  
asleep, Two Women went to Each  
Rock with their Clubs in hand Each  
of them Crept Slowly Close up to their  
Seal and Lay Down with their Club  
alongside them some of the Seals  
arose their heads up to Look at their  
New Visitors and smell them scratched  
themselves and Lay Down again this  
was done by their fin or flipper  
the Women went nearby.

through the same Motion as the Seal  
Did by holding up the Left Elbow  
a little and scratching themselves  
with their left hands keeping the  
Club firm in the Right hand ready  
for the attack - the Seals turned -



very cautious; Now & then lifting  
up their heads looking around watching  
themselves with their flippers and laying  
their heads down again, the Women  
went through the same motions  
as men as possible - after they had  
been laying on the rocks for nearly an  
hour the sea scationly washing over  
them and they quite waked we  
could not tell their meaning for  
remaining so long all of a sudden  
the Women arose up on their seats  
their Clubs up at arms length -  
Each struck a Seal on the nose which  
killed him, and in an instant they  
all jumped up as if by Magic and  
killed one more each, after giving the  
the Seal several blows on the head  
and scouring them, they commenced  
loud laughing and dancing as if

They had gained a great Victory over the  
Seals, Each of them dragged a Seal into  
the Water and Swam with it to the Rock  
Where we was standing and then Swam  
Back to the Rock and Brought one more  
Each Which made twelve Seals the  
skins of Which being worth one pound  
each in Hobart Town Was not a bad  
beginning by the Black Ladies, the six  
Women then went to the top of a small  
Hill and made Smoaks as signals  
to the Natives on the main that they  
had been killing Seals Which was soon  
answered by Smoaks on the Beach We  
skinned the Seals and pegged them out to  
Dry the Women then commenced  
Cooking their Supper Each cut a  
Shoulder off a young Seal Weighing  
three or four pounds and threw them  
on the fire Where they were about



Half Done they commenced devouring  
them and Rubbing the oil on their  
skins saying they had a Glorious Meal

19<sup>th</sup> January 1816

at Daylight being Low Water the Women  
Began Killing Seals they would not let  
us Come Near untill they had killed all  
that could be got on the Beach they killed  
twenty six before Breakfast, the Weather  
being fine Wind South East, the Remainder  
of the Day was spent Catching and Skinning  
Seals Principally by the Women

20<sup>th</sup> January 1816

at Sun Rise Smoaks were made  
on the main, the Women said -  
they were Signals for us to Come -  
over we were Employed untill Noon  
Killing & Skinning Seals Mostly by the  
Women Swimming to the outer  
Rocks

Rocks the seals getting very shy we  
only succeeded in getting sixteen skins  
in the Evening launched the Boat and  
Went over to the main took two of the  
Women and Loaded the Boat <sup>with</sup> Carcasses  
of the Seals we had Skined, on arrival  
at the Beach ~~and~~ "Tolobungamah" was  
there the two Women told him what  
we had Done he was Delighted to  
See the Boat loaded with Seals he  
told us he had plenty of Kangaroo and  
Skins for us in payment for the Seals  
We throw the Seals into the Water the  
two Women dragged them to the Beach  
Tolo ordered the Mob, to take them  
all into the Bush in a few Minutes  
they Returned with ten Dead Kangaroo  
and about Ninety Skins Tolo Enquired  
how long we should want the Women  
we told him about two or three days  
as the Seals were getting scarce



We should not stay longer he ordered  
the two Women to go over with us and  
stop as long as we Required them the  
Wind being from the Westward we Run  
over to the Island and hauled the Boat up  
The four Women we left on the Island  
informed us that During our absence  
they had caught six Seals

21<sup>st</sup> January 1816.

During this Day fresh Breezes at  
a South West and fine Weather—  
Employed Drying and packing Skins  
in Bundles Ready for a Start, killed and  
skined Eleven Seals the Women Employed  
Roasting a Large Number of Seals—  
Blippers and Shoulders Ready to take over  
With them they informed us that if  
We gave them some Seals for the trouble  
they had been at in Catching them  
the Chief Tolo would ~~would~~ not let  
them

Keep them but of the Shoulders and  
flippers were Roasted they might  
keep them and do as they please with  
them so the Ladies were Determined to  
have a good Stock of fresh Meat to  
take home with them

22<sup>d</sup> January 1815

During this Day the Wind blew -  
Strong from the Eastward and thick  
Weather, killed & Skined Eleven Seals  
the <sup>Men</sup> Employed Roasting Seals Shoulders  
and flippers

23<sup>d</sup> January 1815

first part of this Day fresh Breezes  
from the Southward & fine Weather  
the Women killed five Seals on the  
outer Rocks at Noon loaded the  
Boat with Seals Carcasses the Women  
and their Roasted Meat and took  
them over to the Main



on our arrival at the Beach  
"Tolo" and all his Mob came down  
they had a few Dead Kangaroos -  
and about fifty Skins they were  
very much pleased to see the Boat  
loaded with Dead Seals, we threw  
them out of the Boat "Tolo" ordered  
them to be put in a heap on the  
Beach, he also ordered the six Women  
to take their Roasted flippers and  
Shoulders unto the Bush, Briggs -  
then told "Tolo" that we should -  
start Tomorrow from the Island  
and that we should now take our  
leave of them at which the Women  
all began to cry" in fact the whole  
Mob turned full of sorrow that we  
were about to leave them. "Tolo" then  
told Briggs not to go away until they  
had a Dance, the whole Mob

about three Hundred in Number  
formed a line in three Divisions  
the Men in one the Women in one  
and the Children in one Solo-burgomah  
then gave the signal to - Commence  
the Dance and a most Singular -  
Dance it was, the Women began in  
the Center with a long joining their  
hands forming a Circle and Dancing  
Round the Heap of Dead Seals then  
throwing themselves down on the Sand  
and putting themselves into most  
Singular attitudes Beating the lower  
part of their Bodies with their hands  
and kicking the Sand over Each other  
with their feet the Men and Children  
Laughing very much seeming to Enjoy  
the Sport the Women then all Sat  
Down - the Children had a similar  
Dance to the Women and Sat Down



the men then commenced a sort of sham  
fight with spears and waddies then -  
Dancing round the heap of Dead Seals  
and sticking their spears into them as  
if they were killing them all this  
lasted about an hour. To then told us  
the dance was over he asked Briggs  
where we were going when we left  
the Island Briggs told him we were  
going to Cape Barren and if he saw the  
White Men Meaning Howe and his party  
to tell them so this was to deceive  
them in case they should try to waylay  
us on our way to Hobart Town the  
Wind being fair we run over to the  
Island hauled the Boat up and began to  
pack our skins ready for a start next  
morning if the Wind and weather  
should permit

24<sup>th</sup> January 1856

at Sun Rise the Wind North West  
and fine Weather launched the Boat  
got all the Skins Provisions & into her  
after Breakfast started with a fine  
Breeze at North and stood along shore  
to the South and the Natives made  
three croaks to say good bye

We found after leaving King George  
Island and Rocks we had been three  
Nine Days and had procured one  
hundred & seventy two Seal skins &  
two hundred & forty six Kangaroo  
skins from the Natives, the whole  
value of which is £180 at Hobart  
Town we then to the Southward  
until Sun set when we hauled  
up for the night on a small sandy  
Beach at the South side of the  
Bay of Fires -



25<sup>th</sup> January 1816

Throughout this day strong -  
Breezes from the Westward at Sun  
Rise launched and stood along shore  
to the Southward under the Reefed  
Sails in the Evening squally with  
Rain hauled up on a small Beach  
under Saint Patrick's Head for the  
Night

26<sup>th</sup> January 1816

all this Day strong Breezes from  
W & S W, at Sun Rise launched and  
pulled along shore to the Southward  
a heavy Swell setting from the  
Southward in the afternoon hauled  
up in Waul's' Boat Harbour a  
heavy Surf on the Beach half  
filled the Boat Landing which -  
Wet all the Skins

27<sup>th</sup> January 1816

all this day fresh gales at South West Employed drying the skins and cleaning the arms in the Evening a small party of Natives came along the Beach close to us but on seeing our Numbers they Returned and went into the Bush

28<sup>th</sup> January 1816

all this Day light Breezes at North West and fine weather at Daylight Landed and stood along Shore to the Southward at Sun Rise Wine Glass Breezes light pulling along Shore to the Southward at Sun Set Hauled up on the North Side of Schouten Island in the Book Harbour for the Night Saw a large Number of Natives on the Island which caused us to keep Watch during the Night for fear of an attack by them



29<sup>th</sup> January 1816

at Daylight a fine Breeze from the  
Northward, launched and Hood Round  
the West End of the Island at 8 A M —  
Landed on the White Rock in oyster bay  
and killed six Seals put their Skins  
into the Boat and Made sail to the  
Southward Saw several Natives on Maria's  
Island Running along the Beach Calling  
to us to come on Shore which we Declined  
in the Evening Hauled up in the Inlet  
Near East Bay Neck and <sup>then</sup> to carry our things  
over the Neck Ready to Haul the Boat  
over Next Morning —

30<sup>th</sup> January 1816

at Daylight Hauled the Boat over  
East Bay Neck got all the things into  
her and Made sail for Hobash Town  
With a fine Breeze from the Northward

at noon passed Iron Pot Island and  
Entered the Harbour at 6 PM arrived at  
Hobart Town Discharged the Boat & hauled  
her up - This Day finishes our Voyage  
of Discovery Round Van Diemens Land  
Having been Forty Nine Days absent  
Without meeting with any accident or  
Danger further than what is contained  
in this Journal which is a true  
Narrative of what Transpired

James Kelly