First Discovery of Old Barrow and
Maryvane Harbour by James Kelly
on the 12th December 1815 -
James Kelly sailed from Nootka Town
in a small signed 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 70
William Jones Englishman
Thomas Toombs 130

On the 13th 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 15th. Sailed and proceeded round the South Coast of Van Diemen, with a fresh Breeze at South East at Sun Set the Same Evening Haul'd up in a Small Sandy Bay to the Northward of the Slang of the De Witts Isles where we had a Friendly Reception from a Large Number of Natives—We made them a few Presents of Sorru Sugar and Biscuit But the most distressing sight of them Ruling them by Handfuls 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 Rebowing all them being their own Visitors, but they did not turn them from Women and Children
to see as which Betters friend ship on these Savages at first they took their leave of us and pointed to a small Rising Hill about a mile distant signifying that they intended to hide there but we thought it was only a decoy to put 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 15th We launched and proceed to the Westward towards the South West Cape about noon we fell 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 Shallow and only fit for small Vessels although looking well to the Eye after sitting inside we remained in this
Place only two or three Hours and then proceed on to the Westward—
all Sunk it. We landed up on a Small
low Island about four Miles Eastward
of NW Cape. Where we remained the
night. Now this is a good Boat Harbou-
ner being only Separated by a Boat Passage
from the Main Land, with a Good
Stream of fresh Water, and Plentiful Wood
on the Morning of the 16th
launched and thun to the Westward—
at Noon, rounded the NW Cape
Distant about a quarter of a Mile
with a fair Wind at South East.
and thun 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
W of the Cape, this Island nearly
joins the Main, Separated only by a
Small Boat Barge and not a good Boat Harbour

(Daylight of the 17th Amundi)

and turned along shore to the Scott Hills

At noon entered a large inlet which was

named after Davy in honor of the

then lieutenant governor of Van Diemend

in the evening we anchored up on a low

sandy point three miles of the North

side of the Harbour Where we remained

the Night, inside of a thick forest

we cleared away about two Rods of

Rich ground and found a quantity of Garden

Seed this was named Garden Point

in consequence We remained in the

Harbour three days the 18th 19th and 20th

Sounding and Making a Sketch of its

extent the Eastern arm was named

Bathurst Harbour in Honor of

Lord Bathurst Secretary for the
Colonies the Inner West Point of that Bayy was named Point Lucy in Honor of Mrs. Bayy (Daughter of the Lieutenant Governor). During our stay in this Place we caught a great quantity of Wild Fowl: Black Swan Ducks but and plenty of Eels and fish.

On the 21 of December we took our departure with a Light Barge at East from Port Bayy and Steered along the coasts 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 two Native aborigines, they Named Very Much AAlarm'd at Seeing us they were above Six feet high their Stomach's Very Large Legs and Armes Being Thin and Turn'd as if they—
Weir Nearly Harvest we gave them two Black Swans of which we had a good Pike in the Boat they
seemed delighted with the present on landing on the Island we intended to remain the night but seeing there were more of them on the Island it was thought best to leave it when we quit and hauled up for the night in a small brush half a mile to the Southard of Low Rocky Point this was named brush fish creek in consequence of the Immense Num
of brush fish that day at the Waters Edge they appeared to have been gathered the day previous which must have been done by the natives their was about three tons in one.

on the Morning of the 2nd November
and hung along the land to the northward at 2 P.M. Hauled up in a Sargeboro Near High Rocky point on the 23rd. Heavy Swell rolling in from the Westward, which prevented us from proceeding along the coast. 25th December Christmas Day. Strong gales from the Westward and a heavy sea, breaking into the bow, this day we had a glorious 7th of July dinner. Two Black swans, one roasted, the other a sea pie a threequarter in the large iron. At a first rate Christmas dinner on the west coast of, (San Domingo) land, after dinner we drank the toast Christmas toys by throwing a glass of Brandy into the salt water and three hearty clinks for the occasion; on the 26th the sail estabt. On the 27th in the morning we launched with a light breeze from the southwest and proceeded along shore to the northward.
In the fore noon the Wind freshend and Blev strong at 15 8 we Run close along Shore untill the Earning Where Yachted up on a small Sandy Beach, inside of some high Rocks that lies a little distance from the Shore an about Six miles to the Sound to of Maryvane Nartour at noon this day Papin Point Hills close too an Examentill on the morning of the 28th Launtry Weather calm & Pull along shore to the Northward at noon Roundin a projecting Point Where open to to an Inlet to the South Earl, we found a strong current Runing out Which made us believe there must be a large River in the South East Parth 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 "Karrar" at the small entrance Island. We hear a large number of Natives howling and making a great noise as if they were hunting Kangaroos. It was lucky the smoke was high so thick for had the Natives seen the boat passing through the narrow entrance it is possible they would have killed every man on board by dolleying their 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 plenty of their eggs. We remained on the island, the night which kept us safe from the Natives — on the 29th the morning was clear we could see vastly...
all over the Harbour this Island was named Elizabeth Island in honor of Mrs. Gordon, wife of James Gordon "by of Pit Water" in Fan Island, the Harbour was named Macquarie Harbour in honor of the then Governor of New South Wales—we launched and pulled to a point on the South Shore nearly about the Island where we caught about a Dozen fat Black Swans to eat we had four of our Hook Lift that we brought from Port Davey after catching a fresh supply we gave them four thousand Liberty on Macquarie Harbour and named the Point—Liberty Point in Consequence—at Sun. We would go on an Island about twenty five Miles up the Harbour which was named Sarah’s Island in honor of Mrs. Birk, wife of Mr. William Birk, Esq. Hobart Town
On the Morning of the 30th AD 1815 and proceeded further up the Harbour until we came to the mouth of a fresh water river. Made a sketch of it and named it Gordon River in honor of James Gordon Esp. of Gil Water, he having kindly lend his boat for this particular trip of consulting Round. Land.

This day we proceeded upon an inlet to the Southland of Gordon River which was named Birch's inlet in honor of W. Birch — on the 31st went Round the Harbour made a sketch of it and found it to be a Bar Harbour only 5 fathoms of a light craft of water we also found plenty of Kelp trees growing on the Banks of the Harbour.

On the Morning of 1 January AD 1816
We left Maryland Harbour
With a fresh Breeze at South East
This day we Run a long Distance to the
North West Having a Strong Fair Wind—at 9 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 January it
Blow a Strong Gale from the Southward
We were obliged to Change the Boat
Too by a Raft made of the Bows with
about forty five Paltons of Rope
Where the Bayerry String (During the Night, the Men taking it in turns to attend the Thoar to
Kneel the Boat End on to the Sea
and Having a good Tarbakerin' that covered the Boat all over the Day
Every Day—at 1ay Light of the Morning of the 2 of January
Hauled the Raft in Set the
Rupt Leg" and thar we in for the Wish point of San B Land with a Heavy Sea Running, as we Near 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 soap by a Heavy Sea that filled her to the thoughts— and had all not been for the precaution taken before we left Hobarton that was of having three good Buckets Sling with lanyard and fastened to the boat, for the purpose of Bailing the boat on such an emergency, we must all Have Ben do" However by the quick use of the Buckets the boat was soon Bailed out— we got under the deck.
landed on a small Sandy Beach. We lifted the boat up and began to examine our clothes, blankets, provisions, arms, and the ammunition. Fortunately, the ammunition was in a small bottle in the stern of the boat that was water tight which preserved it otherwise we should have been badly off.

We now thought we were safer 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 grand and black in, they had a gun 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 matters worse 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 set and no means of defending ourselves were we in a very dangerous situation --- it happened that luck was still at our side we had 9 or 10 black "savages" and a large Warcat in the boat that we brought from Marguerite Harbour for fresh provisions on showing them one of the savages they seemed delighted and came nearer to the boat after they came out of the scrub we saw some of their War Implements 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 Arrows 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 down and pull in firing order—keeping a good watch, in case the Natives should lay us another visit.
on Examining our Bread House Tea sugar it we found it nearly all
molasses which caused us to go on
most allowance—
on the morning of the
3d January at day light we
launched and proceeded to the Northward
Toward Cape Grinn it was nearly
calm during the day with a heavy
smell 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 Grinn—
on the morning of the
4th launched and stood to the
Northward with a light breeze at
South East—about noon
Rounded Cape Grinn we passed
between two Conical Rocks
that lies near the Cape we were nearly filled in at the Riff going through but luckily escaped. We pulled along here to the Eastern until we came to the South End of the largest Hunters Island and landed on a point opposite on the main and on a large plot of Pebble stone to boil our Kettle and take a rest there was a great many fires along the shore kept the Boat aflame and the arms tho' in Care of an attack by the Natives Tomm 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 Bank about fifty yards from us they were
all armed with Arrows and Harpins. 

We immediately brought the arms from the Boat and put ourselves in a State of Defense near the fire; they began to advance slowly towards us. We held up our Arms and made signs to them not to come any closer—they held up their "Shoes" in return with loud laughing and jeering at us as if they thought we were afraid of them at seeing them so formidable. We thought it best to Retract to the Boat; when all of a Sudden they laid down their Arrows and Harpins in the edge of the Beach, and held up both their Hands as if they did not mean any Mischief, at the Same time Making Signs to us to lay down our arms. Which we did.
To satisfy them for if we had
Retreated to the Bush quickly they
Must Have killed Every one
Before we could have got the
Reach of their Arrows; they then Began
to come to us one by one, Holding up
Both their Hands to show they had no
Weapons But we kept a good Lookout
that they had none between their toes
as they had on a former occasion
but they had none—there was the
20 Thirty two came to the fire I gave
Made Signs to them that no more would
come upon that being understood two
more came from the Bush together
one of them seemed to be a Chief a
About good looking Man about Six
full High 30 years of age— the other
an old Man about Six full Som
Inches High with Scarce a Bit of
Hair 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 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 as this our man began to get alarmed and expecting some mishap would he done. He planned it to give them a few stones, and get off.
as well as we could—Briggs—brought two Indians from the back
one under each arm. When the chief
saw them he rushed at Briggs to take
the Indians 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
of fire I had a pair of large Bucking
Bullets in my coat pocket and did
with two Balls each and seeing them
was no alternative I fired one
amongst them which dispersed them
the other I fired after them as they
ran away two of them started
Briggs along the ground a little
distance to get the Indians from
him but did not succeed—
The Chief and his men ran into the Bush and was quickly out of sight — on looking round after they had all Run away we found the Sixth Indigenous 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 Blotch on him, his pulse was going at 130 a much have been the Report of the Battlers that frightened them. 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 step he was out of sight
as soon as he was out of sight the hills around echoed with shouts of joy from the voices of men women and children that the dancing 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 than that was more like the jump of a kangaroo than a man we found several marks of blood on the stones in the kavity that the natives ran 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 arrows 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.

Carried with birds they were

saying we got six buckets full

of fresh eggs a good supply.

This seemed to irritate

the natives as a number of women

came down on a point of rocks

and abused "Sorry much for taking

their eggs. We pulled to a small

island 3 miles to the North East

one of the Hunter's Islands where

we anchored for the night.

On the 5th daylight we

launched with a light boat & W.

and went into Robin's Passage -

examining it, in the evening hauled

up for the night in the E. end

of the Passage -

On the 6th in the morning

we launched with a light boat &
at South West and pulled along more towards Circular Head at Sun Set Hauled up for the Night on the Beach at the South East Side of the Head. On the 7th 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 Bubbly Beach about Forty Miles from Circular Head. The 8th 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 Whak was Called the First Western River. We Hauled up for the Night this River has Since been Called Old Torrell.

9th at Daylight Launched Wind North West and Hauled towards Fort Dalvynble at Noon.
arrive at George 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 field
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 band
in his hand himself and the rest
were all dressed in Kangaroo skin
and a Russian like coat they
were the officer said have you
any arms in the Boat the answer
was yes plenty he then said sergeant
handcuff them all and hand the
arms out of the Boat—more men
handcuffed two & two arms came
out of the Boat But the—
Captain of the Boat had the honor of being handcuffed by himself when we were out of the Boat.

Standing on the bank, the officer said now my lad, what have you to say to yourselves? I have been a long time looking for you and have got you at last; you are the Colleagues of Michael Moro the Bucherager and if you do not give me all the Information—where we can find Moro and his party I will send you all to Hobart Town in double Iron. I told him we knew nothing of Moro and that we were on a voyage of discovery round the West Coast of Van Diemen's Land; he laughed at this and said that they would do for me. I then recognised him to be Major Stewart of the 46th Regiment Command at Launceston; I shook my hand—
into my breastcoat Pocket to find the key of the Ammunition Box. Where our coat clearance was kept, he in a flurry said Sergeant! Right! He is putting his hand in his Pocket! I support the gallant Major thought I was going to take out a Pistol to shock 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 requires. The Sergeant unlocked the Box and took out the Ammunition, the Journal and Coat Clearance, which he handed to the Major. It was a printed form in the French Way filled up and to the following Effect —
Commandant, Office
Military Barracks, Hobart Town

This is to certify to all
Whose it may concern that the
Boat Elizabeth' commanded by
Mr. James Kelly was cleared out
on the West Coast of Van Diemen
Land on a Voyage of Discovery after
Having Left the Acustomed Shores

Given under my hand
the 11th day of December 1815
in the absence of the Lieutenant
Governor.

Mr. Smith
Captain 46th Regiment
Commandant.

The Names of the following
Persons who Complied with
Order of the Boat were 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 iterry minutely in a few minutes he returned and said—

How long have you been from Hobart Town?—the answer was—

Have you seen any Military Parties in search of Bushrangers? not any.

Have you seen any Boats or Depots on the Coast? Not any.

When you left Hobart Town were you aware that Bushrangers?
Was out) Yes (where was the Lieutenant Governor) it was said he was gone to the Lakes. Having asked several other questions he then said Sergeant Task the handcuffs off those men the order was obeyed (he said which of you is the person in charge of this Book). A. Kelly, answered J. A. and are you the person who was Master of the Brig Sophia. Some time ago at Hobart Town. I am (I have you ever seen me before J. W. Kelly) A. yes repeatedly (where at Hobart Town I have dined with you often at Mr. Birches in the Castle) Still holding the clearance in his hand reading it and could scarcely believe it. He said it is 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 same, since martial law 'Commanded' in this Island—
he then called the men names one by one from the cheers and asked them a great many questions.

Suspiciously of them all, the Major said now: Mr. Kelly, are you quite sure you know who I am the answer?

Yes, I cannot mistake you, you are Major Stewart of the 46th Regiment. Commandant at Launceston—
the Major then said: Mr. Kelly, I am quite satisfied who you are, give me your hand and I am sorry for what has happened, that ever putting yourself and your men in prison.
But had it not been for the Capt. Glassman I certainly could not have, Beloved. But you were an associate of Michael. Howe the Bushranger, however you must come up to the Government Cottage and accept of a Knapsack & Pole & a Bed at my quarters while you remain at George Town. Sergeant you will hand Mr. Kelly's Book up close to the Barracks. All the arms to with the arms be Scound in the Guard house and let his Men live with the Soldiers, give them plenty to Eat and Grog and let them get drunk.

Here was a change in the State of affairs. Mr. Kelly a Commoner in Handcuffs and in a few hours Released and seated at the Major's table drinking and partaking of
a Bottle of his Best Wine, after Dinner the Major Related to Mr. Kelly that he had only returned 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 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 Tanner to Capture a Boat or a Defile 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 pitching in the open Air by a fine Side for Twenty Four
First Night. Previous to awaking in the morning and found himself very much refreshed. His men was also well housed and good riding in the Soldiers Barracks 10th January. We remained there the day at George town under the Major's hospitable roof. During the day he ordered the Sergeant to put the public store and issue to us as much provisions such as flour, tea, sugar, beef, Pork, and mutton as we thought proper to ask for. He also, remarked that the musketry and clothing were not sufficient for such a voyage as we were on he ordered the Sergeant who was the store keeper to issue to each man one pair of blankets and one suit of flaps, this being all public property not inferior to giving a draft.
on Hobart Town for the whole amount of the supplies, we had received but the Governor's Major said no, you shall not have anything 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 to start the next morning and took another night of the Major's hospitality. The Major provided a despatch to the Lieutenant Governor at Hobart Town informing him of what he had done with Mr. Kelly and that Mr. Kelly had offered his services in the event of him falling in with someone and his party to return to George Town.
or proceed on to Hobart Town
which Ever might be most convenient
to inform the Government of Noree's
Position—Mr. Kelly was also requested
that on the Event of him coming
in Contact with the Bushrangers to
Destroy the Bushrangers for fear of them
calling into Noree's Hand
it was not often that
Communication could be had by the
Government between Hobart Town
and George Town; in consequence of
Noree's formidable Position in the
Bush and Repeatedly sending threatening
Letters to the Lieutenant Governor,
telling him that he should order all
his Bushrangers and the Armed—
clergymen who conveyed them, if they
were Soldiers, he would hang them
up by the hulks to a tree, let them
Inflicts out and leave them Hanging
Just as he went to a Kangaroo and that he would serve the Govern or any of his officers in the same way but more particularly Mr. Humphry the Police-Magistrate who he termed his bitter enemy.

11th January 1816 - all this day it blew a strong gale from the Northward which prevented us from launching but got our boat and gear in good order to start the first fair wind.

12th 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 bright Balanympie. Having taken leave of Major Stuart and all his party thanking him and them for their kindnips we steered along the coast to the Eastward and in the evening sailed up on Watervouse Island where we
Remained the Night before

We landed at the place we was run into the Island on the Main land which we thought might have been home and his party but on looking with the flag we saw it was a large Mot of natives walking along the beach.

13 January at Daylight

Launched with a fine Breeze from the Westward and Clean walked and run along the Shore to the Eastward at Noon Landed on Rinsarooma Point where we suddenly fell in with a large Mot of natives who at the first appearance seemed hostile but on seeing Briggs they all known well particularly the chief whose name was Kamanunganah. He jumped delighted at seeing Briggs and told them that he was at War with his own Brother, Potobunganah.
Who was then on the coast near Edisto point, a most powerful chief. Who Briggs also knew. Willy Briggs, at this time, had on the island two wives and five children that he had left during his absence to Nobal Ironia, and had taken this trip in the Bok 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 Samaubungamah as well as fell in with. Briggs generally called his father-in-law Sama. In that trip the Chief made inquiry after his daughter and was told that she and her children were safe over on Cape Barron. Sama said he knew that for he saw her smoke almost every day after some further discourse Sama asked—Briggs Q1.
22 if he had any fine arms in the Boat, he told him we were well armed Laman said he was glad of that as he had heard that one of our White Men well armed was with his Brother Tobobunganah at Edston Point and that they intended to come and attack him and kill him all he entreated Briggs to join him and go and attack them and fight it out Briggs of course declined telling him that he had no Controle over the Boat and that M'Kelly could not agree to any such proposacal at this Laman learned very much defeated and told Briggs in a very hostile tone that he had often before gone with them to fight other 'bees' when he wanted 'Women' Laman then gave a loud 'cool' 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. Tol' he meant the chief, his brother, the white men, the white men they thought must be there 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 Barrow and pitch his wife Laman's daughter also that we would get five or six of the Indians to join us with plenty of five arms. We would come over and fight them. Laman seemed much pleased and asked when we would go, Briggs said we would start directly. Sled to Night and from there Island and tomorrow morning go over.
To take barrin an arms all 

An he may much plow as to do.
Outland to Barter with the Natives for Kangaroo skins also to purchase the young grown up Native females to help them as their Wives and for Hunting Kangaroos and Catching Seals. Both for their Skins they were wonderfully Bounteous.

The Custom of the Sealers in the Straits was that every man should have from two to five of these native women for their wives 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 these people the white man and the Black woman and a fine active Race of people they were both for hunting Kangaroos and catching Seals.
assistance to them they were of a light copper colour and generally very good looking. 14th January, anchored from, luan Island with a moderate breeze at North West and steered along shore to the South East, soon after leaving this island we saw canoes 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 anchored on King George Island or Rocks on a small sandy beach. Not wishing to give a chance to Mr. Tolobungankahe to serve us as Mr. Lamantungankahe had done the day before, for while we were on the Island we were safe from their attacks there we found a large number of
Seals laying on the Rocks Basking in the Sun, but having no Salt with us to cure the Skin, we thought it would be to Kill them, on the following Day the 15th January the Wind set in at South East and fine Weather. We thought it would be to day 11th with a foul Wind and being provided with Knives, Holes & Clubs and being all old Hands at killing into the Bargain, we commenced Killing and Flinching the Skin from the Body and stretching it out on the graps with Wooden Pegs it was dried in the Sun and in one day became Perfectly Curd this day by the above Process we killed fifteen Planche and Piged out thirty Skins the following Day 16th January we killed Planche and Piged out twenty five Seal Skins North twenty five Seal Skins Southerly ten.
These spots - the Island and a large number of Natives on the Beach this day caught ten young Cape Barren Geese which afforded us fresh grub and with a little of the Major's fine fruit we paved triumphantly 17 January this Day - Wind South East and fine Weather I found the Seals getting dry of coming up on the Rocks we gave them a Rich as it would not do to storm them only at low Water at Noon I launched the Boat and went over to see the Natives and took with us four Seals Carcasses that had been Minds and four young Chicks alive about three weeks old we didn't go lower to the Beach than Munthey Not for fear of being Surprised by a shot from house and his Party - Briggs stood up in the
Boat and called out to them, in their language to come to the Water Side, they turned at first till he told them who he was, then an Old Man rushed up to his Middle in the Water, Briggs called to him to Swim to the Middle, he did so, hauled him on. Turned out to be the Old Chief. Jotobunganaki he was overjoyed at seeing Briggs and asked if he had seen his Brother Laman. He said No. Joto asked where we came from. Briggs said from Cape Barrow by way of Swan Island. Joto said I know that I saw you come from there. Within called a little distance along the Beach to a small Rock, that lay off about fifty yards from the Shore. Joto.
17 January 1816 from first Book

Continued Toldbunganah 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 turned steal to see him. We made Tolo a present of the four Dead Seals and the four live Seals 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 them, that they had no more Kangaroos but tomorrow they would catch plenty. Tolo seemed anxious that we should come on shore. We declined.
17th January 1816. Continued.

By telling the Natives that we did not wish to come in contact with the six white men they had seen. "Tolo" asked if we were frightened of them. Briggs said no — but they were bad men and we wanted to know whereabout they were — all these excuses we were obliged to make to get all the friendly information we could from the Natives. Relative to Moore and his party as we were still of opinion that they were near at hand but the Natives assured us that they were quite a long distance to the Southward towards Saint Patrick's head. We took leave of "Tolo" and his Mot. in the evening and told them that we should come over next day and bring them more seals at which they seemed
Delighted and said that if we brought them plenty of Seals, they would give us plenty of Kangaroo and their Skin in return—the Wind being fair we Run over to the Island pulled the Boat up and had a good Kangaroo Steamer for Supper the first we had this Voyage

18th 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 Mined and peged out to. Off the Weather was very fine Wind from the South East, this day found the fresh Water on the Island getting short and very Brockish, launched the Boat and put our three Water Kgs onto her to get the Water, to fill them with fresh Water we also put into the Boat twenty of the Seals because.
Nr 21. With the Natives for Kangaroo Mine, 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 as we waited about half an hour. When we saw Tubadungangad— 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 Kangaroos and getting Minds but they would be there shortly. We had with a surprise that more was with the Natives.
but Tolo assured us he was not we told him we wanted our three Kogi filled with fresh water and that we would buy all the Kangaroos within 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 Bogis on seeing them approach we pulled the boat out from the close little (btmam) leaving Tolo on the rock and got our arms and examined them to see that they were in fighting 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 our then gave the women the seals' carcasses we brought over they handed them to the mob
and returned immediately to the boat
with another load of skins as payment
for the seals" we then requested Tolo to
fill our kigs with fresh water which he
did but we would not let them take
away more then one kig at a time for
fear they should bring them all back
at which Tolo turned displeased.

The natives asked if we
would bring 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 being delicious. They
being agreed on Tolo ordered six strong
women to go into the boat which they
did and seemed delighted the wind being
fair we then went to the island loaded the
boat and ordered the Kangaroo Skin
out to Play, the Women on seeing the Seals on some of the outer Rocks were very anxious to communicate. Catching them, Briggs having been a long time on the Island in Baffatstraits with the Native Women as a Sealer 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 Water's 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 were very cautious not to go to Windward of them as they said a Seal would sooner Believe his Nose than his Eyes. When a man or Woman came near them the Six Women Walked into
The water two or two and Curve to three Rocks about 50 yards from the shore. Each Rock had about 8 or 10 sides on it they were all lying apparently asleep. Two Women went to each Rock with their Clubs in hand. Each of them crept Slowly close up to this 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, scratch themselves and lay down again. This was done by their fin or flipper—the Women went nearly through the same motion as the seal did by holding up their left hand a little and scratching themselves with their left hands keeping the club firmly in their right hand ready for the attack. The Seals turned—
Very cautious. Now & then lifting up their heads looking around, twitching themselves with their flippers and laying their head down again, the women went through the same motions as soon as possible—after they had been laying on the rocks for almost an hour, the sea motionly washing over them, and they quite naked we could not tell their meaning for remaining so long all at a sudden the women arose up on their feet, 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 seals several blows on the head and securing 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 were standing and then swam back to the rock and brought one more each which made twelve seals the three of which being worth one pound each in Hoback Town was not a bad beginning by the Black Lades, the six women then went to the top of a small hill and made smokes as signals to the natives on the main that they had been killing seals which was soon answered by smokes on the beach we pinned the seals and lugged them out to boy the women then commenced cutting them off. Each cut a shoulder off a young seal weighing three or four pounds and threw them on the fire when they were about
19th January 1816

At daylight being low water the Women began killing Seals they would not let us come near until 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 Killing Seals Principally by the Women.

20th January 1816

At Sun Rise Smocks were made on the Main, the Women said they were Signals for us to Come over we were Employed until Noon Killing & Skinning Seals mostly by the Women Swimming to the outter Rocks.
Rocks the Seals getting being they we only succeeded in getting sixteen skins in the evening launched the boat and Wind over to the main took two of the women and loaded the boat carcasses of the seals we had killed on arrival at the beach king toshyingama the two the two women told him which we had done he was delighted to see the boat loaded with seals he told us he had plenty of Kangaroos and skins for us as payment for the seals We threw the seals into the water the two women brought them to the beach John ordered the mob to take them all into the Bush on a presentation they returned with ten head Kangaroos and about ninety skins Tolo inquired how long we should want the women we told him about two or three days as the seals were acting scarce.
We should not stay longer he ordered the two women to go over north with us and stay as long as we required them. The wind being from the westward we ran over to the land and headed the boat up. The four women we left on the island informed us that during our absence they had caught all the seals.

21st January 1816

During this day fresh breezes at south west and fine weather. Employed digging and packing skins in bundles ready for a start. Killed and skinned Eleven Seals the women employed hoasting a large number of Seals skins and shoulders ready to take on 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 not let them
Keep them but up of the shoulders and flippers were roasted they might keep them and do as they pleased with them so the ladies were determined to have a good stack of fresh seal to take home with them.

22 January 1816

During this day the wind blew very strong from the eastward and thick weather killed & mined eleven seals the employed roasting seals shoulders and flippers

23 January 1816

Just part of this day fresh breezes from the southeast & 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 wharf
On our arrival at the Beach, Toto and all her Boat came down. They had a few Dead Kangaroos and about fifty Shinis they were very much pleased to see the Boat loaded with Dead Seal, we threw them out of the Boat. Toto ordered them to be put in a Heap on the Beach, he also ordered the Sea Women to take their roasted Fleischers and Shoulder into the Bush, Briggs then told Toto 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 Boat seemed full of Sorrows that we Were about to Leave them. Toto then told Briggs not to go away until they had a Dance, the Whole Mott
about three hundred in number
formed a line in three divisions
the men in one, the women in one
and the children in one. They then
gave the signal to commence
the dance and a most singular—
dance it was, the women began in
the center with a song, joining their
hands, forming a circle, and dancing
round the heap of dead bodies, throwing themselves down on the land
and putting themselves into most
singular attitudes, beating the down
part of their bodies with their hands
and kicking the dead 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 dance, eight with spears and paddles in their hands, running round the hulk of Bead-Seals, and tossing their spears into them as if they were killing them all that lasted about an hour. Told them to cease the dance was over, he asked Briggs where we were going when we left the island. Briggs told him we were going to Cape Barron and if he saw the White Men Meaning home and his party to tell them so this was to break this in case they should try to Waylay us on our way to Hobart Town. The wind being fair we Run over to the Island hand the Boat up and began to pack our things. Ready for a Halt. Wind morning of the wind and weather should be calm.
25th January 1816

At Sun Rise the Wind North West, and fine Weather. Launched the Boat and got all the Guns, Provisions &c. into her. After Breakfast started with a few Boys at North and Thun alongshore to the Southward. The Natives made three Breadts to say good bye.

We found after leaving King George Island and Rocks we had been there Nine Days and had procured one Thousand and Seventy two Seal skins & two Thousand and Forty six Kangaroo skins from the Natives, the whole value of which is £180 at Hobart Town. We Run 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.
25th January 1816
Throughout this day strong
Breezes from the Westward at Sun
Rise launched and stood along shore
to the Southward under the books
Lying in the evening equally with
Rain. Heeled up on a small Beach
under Saint Patrick's Head for the
Night

26th January 1816
all this Day Strong Breezes from
WSW, at Sun Rise launched and
pulled along shore to the Southward
a heavy swell setting from the
Southward in the afternoon lashed
up in Waul's Booth Harbour. a
heavy surf on the Black Head
filled the Boat Landing which
hit all the Kims
27th January 1816

all this day fresh gales at South with Employment playing the
Mains and cleaning the arms in
the Evening a small party of
Natives came along the beach they
were back on seeing our Number
they returned and went into the
Bush

28th January 1816

all this day light bores at South
with one fine weather at Day light launch
and Haul along shore to the Southeart of
the Papo Win Cape Bay Haul'd light pulling
along shore to the Southeart at Sun set
Hauled up on the North side of Schouten
Head in the Bush Harbour for the night for
a large Number of Natives on the Beach
which caused us to keep watch during the
night for fear of an attack by them
29th January 1816

At daylight a fine Brize from the Northward, launched and stood Round the West End of the Island at 6 am, landed on the White Rock in oyster bay and killed six Seals and put their skins into the Boat and made sail to the South East. Saw several Natives on Maria 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 to carry our things over the Neck ready to haul the Boat over next morning.

30th January 1816

At daylight hauled the Boat over East Bay Neck got all the things into her and made sail for Hobart Town with a fine Brize from the Northward
At home landed from Stk.Franz and
Entered the Brunswick ship Bell arrived at
Kokel Town Discharged the Boot valued
in $5. This Day finishes our Voyage
of Discovery Round Van Deman Land
Having Run 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 I have seen.