## Tasmania's southern horizon: exploration, science, whaling, diplomacy

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Michael Stoddart July 2025

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#### Trying out at sea

Passing ships thought whaleships at sea were on fire because of the billowing black smoke coming from the trypot.



Rossbank Observatory, Hobart Thomas Bock 1841

#### Louis Bernacchi











# Captain Roald Amundsen



# Sir James Clark Ross 1924

#### *Star* catcher in ice Ross Sea 1924 Willem van der Does

Maritime Museum Amsterdam

#### 16 blue whales Ross Sea 1923 Sir James Clark Ross A Villiers

An enormous sheet of blubber from belly of blue whale measuring 30 by 40 feet. Will render 30 barrels of oil.





Larsen to Johan Rasmussen, Norwegian Consul Melbourne

Hen Consect Johan Rasmussen a stgents handlet knicht hands Baatene sparet & Dage ay active weret has I Dage Tilliger hege Copland Nitsen indetested van meget lei over dette appalon ligelien var than mega lei ever pour and that Regues had The Content any acute the Part L' requiring for Bilsteyte dette how af an Consulie for hause berry the Bilen à Ca 2 times og sencre quette Noter lijone lang ver mer Junge Saker and Samons Bill diere builtet den Stre Billigning Jy sayde Notesen at jeg skulde forklare conteres aarsahen baa han ikke behouse at seere les' deman like overfor dem Nilsen n in mand med en meyer gas karakter. Jeg has fait den horske Consul at suchetale for Shilest are Regninger of trethe for how have been acres en asmerhet mand a since her mande of Sudatie have soften have might bei over all der Shat hunne klages our dyre Regninger gli fringture nearly anyenesse en der fagtiste var fordyn i flere hen spender jig bad ham forsche On det oble var mulig et faa vlaat of ischald o'to faa Requiriquirie hvithet have shulde forsome Anganende Lisens fran macuary Island saa var denne ti's Judy swag has clowchalm Til Underskrift fea Regesingen for 21 des men der var flere punde

#### Lusitania Bay



#### Kaipipi whale base, Stewart Island 1928

Hocken Coll, U. Otago

### Ross' new flensing deck 1925

N.T. Nielsen-Alonso 1936 Beset with Pol catchers Ross Sea

# Pol catchers on Hobart slip, ca. 1930 S.J. Marchant

Proclamation Island 53 deg E 13 Jan 1930 BANZARE













# AURORA AUSTRALIS





- Maintain Antarctica's freedom from strategic and/or political confrontation
- Preserve our sovereignty over the AAT, including sovereign rights over adjacent offshore areas
- Support a strong and effective Antarctic Treaty System
- Conduct world-class scientific research consistent with national priorities
- Protect the Antarctic environment, having regard to its special qualities and effects on our region
- Be informed about and able to influence developments in a region geographically close to Australia
- Foster economic opportunities arising from Antarctic and the Southern Ocean, consistent with our Antarctic Treaty system obligations, including the ban on mining and oil drilling

I acknowledge the assistance of Elin Smaavik and Inger-Lise Krekling of the Vestfold Archives, Sandefjord, Norway, for accessing Captain Larsen's diaries and correspondence, and for translating relevant parts into English.

# Thank you for your attention!