

ALBANY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (INC)

SCHOOLS' PACK GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE BRIG AMITY

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ALBANY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (INC)

Affiliated With The Royal Western Australian Historical Society (Inc)

Our mission:

"To Provide Leadership in Preserving and Promoting Albany's History & Heritage."

Dear Teacher,

This set of Information Sheets is designed to ensure that your knowledge of the Brig Amity is both instructional and factual.

The Brig Amity is unique in the history of Western Australia. It was the Brig that brought Major Edmund Lockyer to King George Sound from Sydney.

This information pack includes information on the Brig Amity, the manifest for the voyage to King George's Sound and entries from Major Lockyer's diary on the trip and the time he spent at King George Sound.

If you should require any information not contained in the following pages, please feel free to contact us. We will be happy to assist you.

Kind regards

Andrew Eyden
Chief Executive Officer

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BRIG AMITY

A brig was the smallest of the two-masted, square rigged sailing vessels and of a type which was at its peak in the first quarter of the 19th century. The brig began to disappear in the 1850s. The brig was the workhorse of the sea as common then as the 'ute' is on the roads of today. The "Amity's" voyage to King George Sound was not regarded as remarkable, in terms of conditions and discomforts. These were normal to the times.

Although the effective internal space of the "Amity" was less than that of the average three-bedroomed house of modern Australia, the brig carried 23 convict artisans; 18 Privates; one Sergeant; a Captain and the Major for the military garrison; a storekeeper and surgeon for the settlement; a Royal Navy Lieutenant, Midshipman and Quartermaster - with a marine batman (manservant) for the voyage; as well as the brig's usual crew of master, mate and men. In addition, there were stores for six months ashore including livestock. There was also the problem of security; convicts had been known to mutiny and take over a vessel and escape. And all this in the days before provision for hygiene.

The "Amity" was built at a shipyard in Saint John, in the province of New Brunswick, Canada, and launched in 1816.

She was registered at 142 tons. Tonnage had nothing to do with weight. It was a measurement of volume in a vessel's hull, calculated at a rate of one ton to 100 cubic feet (28.30 cubic metres) The actual weight of the "Amity" - her timbers - is less than 100 modern tonnes. Dimension - length 75 feet 6 inches (23.01 meters) - breadth 21 feet 5 inches (6.52 metres) - depth hold 11 feet 5 inches (3.47 metres). The "Amity" was an Atlantic trader for seven years and then traded in the Irish Sea.

A family of farmers, the Ralstons, purchased the brig in 1823 from Wigtown in Scotland, as transport for migrating to Australia. The voyage by way of South America lasted six months. Late in 1824 the "Amity" was sold to the Colonial Government in Sydney. She was a government supply vessel and general 'workhorse' for seven years, taking part in the settlement of Moreton Bay and King George Sound (Albany).

The "Amity" sailed from Sydney on November 9, 1826 carrying a party under the command of Major Edmund Lockyer, who was ordered to form a settlement at King George Sound. The brig reached Princess Royal Harbour on Christmas Day, 25 December 1826 but no one was put ashore until next morning. The first half of the voyage had been spent in trying to battle through heavy weather in Bass Strait, and the second half in the summer heat of the westward run.

The settlement party comprised 23 convicts - mostly tradesmen, 18 rank and file soldiers, a Sergeant, a Captain, a surgeon, a storekeeper, and the commandant, Major Edmund Lockyer; with stores for six months (including sheep and pigs).

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In addition the "Amity" had carried her own crew, and a naval party of Lieutenant Colson Festing in command for the voyage, with a Quartermaster, a Midshipman and a marine batman (man servant).

Sold back into private ownership in 1831, the "Amity" spent most of the rest of her life based in Hobart, operating in any business likely to earn a living. She was a whaler, a sealer, a general carrier, and a stock transporter.

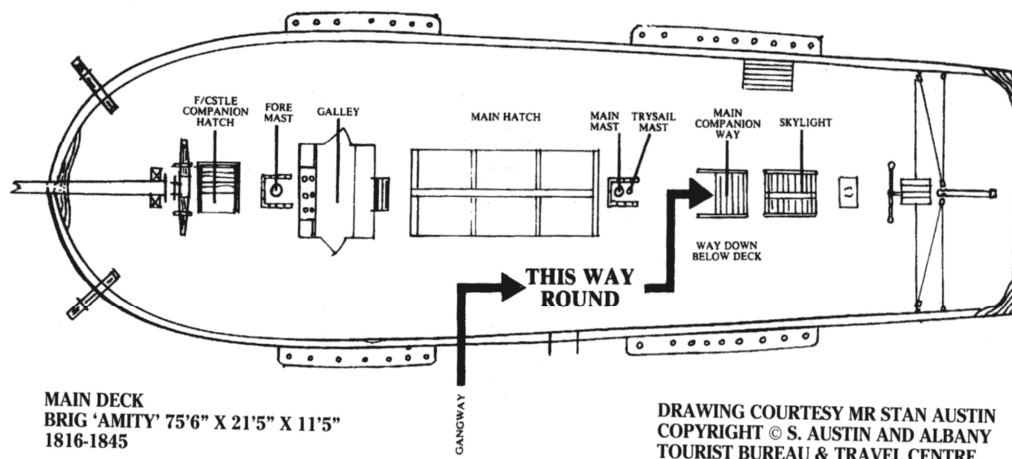
In June 1845, the "Amity" was wrecked in Bass Strait on an uncharted sand bank. There was no loss of life.

The project to build a replica of the brig commenced in 1972 and was the brainchild of a local resident, Mrs Mavis Watterson. Mrs Watterson has retained an interest in the "Amity" ever since.

The Town of Albany took up her idea and at a public meeting in December 1972 a small committee was formed. More than two years of research was needed before a decision could be made that a full size replica could be built in time to be the focal point of celebrations planned to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the arrival of the brig on Christmas Day 1976. Most of the research was undertaken by local seafaring historian, Les Johnson, the author of the book "She was the 'Amity' Brig" on sale on board, at the Albany Tourist Bureau, the Travel Centre and local bookshops.

Construction began in 1975 by a local boat builder, Mr Stan Austin, as project supervisor, and another fine tradesman, Mr Pieter van de Brugge, as leading shipwright. Other local craftsmen enthusiastically set to work and soon the site rang with sounds of the ring of steel on wood.

Les Johnson has extracted these details from the book.



The Brig Amity manifest for the voyage from Sydney to King George Sound November 1826.

Described in 1 record as “A full farmyard of stock” – may have been:

Ram and 6 (or 10) ewes
Boar and 6 (or 10) sows
Geese, Ducks and chickens
Bull, cow and Horse
Plus hay and grain for livestock

Rations:

12,563 lbs (5,710 kgs) Flour in casks
11,110 pints (6,313 kgs) of pease (crushed peas)
4,560 lbs (2072 kgs) salt beef
2,768 lbs (1,258 kgs) salt pork
2,711 lbs (1,232 kgs) ships biscuit (hard tack)
1,238 lbs (562 kgs) Sugar
560 lbs (255 kgs) Raisins
360 lbs (163 kgs) Salt
220 lbs (100 kgs) preserved meat
Soap, lemon juice & arrowroot – for hygiene
Tea & Tobacco – as ‘indulgences’ (can be stopped as a form of punishment)

“Officers to provide their own luxuries” – though 7 dozen (84 bottles) of wine will be provided in Rations

The Assistant surgeon, Mr Nind, also brought various medicaments – of type and quantity unknown.

Other Cargo:

Lumber
Farm implements
Garden tools
General tools
Extra Military uniforms and clothing
Arms and Ammunitions

These details vary from one record and/or author to another – but give some indication of the general cargo carried.

MAJOR EDMUND LOCKYER
1784 - 1860
1826 - 1827

Soldier and Civil Servant afterwards Serjeant-at-arms and Usher of the Black Rod in the New South Wales Parliament

Major Edmund Lockyer to Lieutenant-General Ralph Darling, Governor of New South Wales, 1827. Historical Records of Australia, Series W, Vol. 6, Library Committee of the Commonwealth Parliament 1921-23.

November 8th 1826

In compliance with my orders and instructions, embarked on board His Majesty's Colonial Brig *Amity*, having a detachment of His Majesty's 39 Regiment consisting of one Captain, one Sergeant and eighteen rank and files, with twenty-three prisoners to form a settlement at King George's Sound; a Mr Isaac Scott Nind, an Assistant Surgeon on the Colonial Medical Establishment

Monday, December 25th 1826.

Fine breeze; at twelve o'clock at noon made Bald Island, weather hazy; as we neared the island, which is pretty high, observed it was all rock without any soil; we next saw Cape Manypeak, Mount Gardner, the islands of the Sound and Bald Head; on Michaelmas Island as we passed, a great fire was made as if by persons requiring assistance; at half past five in the afternoon anchored in Princess Royal Harbour about a mile (1.6 km) off the north shore; it is a complete basin about nine miles (14.48 km) in circumference with a narrow entrance from the east side opening into the Sound, and forms a most secure place for ships; no natives seen on the shores or smoke to indicate their being near the harbour; being late did not land this evening but proposed to go on shore early in the morning.

Tuesday, December 26th 1826.

At daylight about four o'clock this morning went on shore with Lieutenant Festing; on landing, two natives met us with a little boy, and came up without the slightest hesitation; the youngest of the two men whom we have since called Jack, from a supposition that he is the Jack of Captain King, whose native name is Mangril, he made signs to be allowed to go off to the vessel, which I assented to; the old man and boy going off in another direction from the one Lieutenant Festing and myself took, we proceeded in our walk, found plenty of fresh water though very high coloured from its running thro' a peaty soil like bog; as it lays on a slope facing the anchorage, it might easily be drained and the water brought to as many reservoirs as might be required and the ground would become excellent for gardens; and the site between the two hills forming nearly an amphitheatre would be an extremely eligible situation for a town, though most of the ground in the neighbourhood is a loose sandy soil with a mixture of vegetable mould; with the exception of gardens it would not answer for any other purpose of farming or agriculture; on reaching the summit of the

highest hill under which Captain Flinders had his tent, we had a most extensive view of the country around with the two harbours and the Sound; from Bald Head as far as the eye could reach to the westward, presents nothing but a continuation of a ridge of tolerably high hills of white sand and granite rocks, the sandy parts being lightly sprinkled with a coarse wiry grass and stunted honeysuckle; in the hollows and ravines, the ground is peat or bog soil very black with decayed vegetable substance in it on the west side of the harbour, a slope, reaching from the shore to the top of the hills narrowing gradually to the top, is nothing but a sheet of white sand on which when the sun is out causes a great glare; on the south side of the harbour, there is wood fit for fire wood, but for no other purpose, nor is there any ground fit for cultivation or grazing on that side; from the hill we see the two lakes, which Captain Flinders visited when here, and the country in that quarter presented the same sandy appearance; at the back of the two hills, a large plain about four miles (6.43 km) long and one and a half (2.41 km) broad, which could be cultivated and cattle could graze on. A large fresh water lake about two miles (3.21 km) long and a quarter broad is between the two harbours; with some sizable timber on the rising ground this side of it. Oyster Harbour with Green Island present a pleasing view from the hill, which at some future period, on a permanent establishment being fixed, would be the best place for a signal station, as it commands a sea view and both harbours; about thirty miles (48.27 km) directly north in land is a ridge of moderately elevated hills covered with timber to the very summit, and, from the darker foliage and verdure about these hills, I should presume the soil there is very different from what it is in the immediate neighbourhood of the sea shore; shall therefore avail myself of the first leisure to examine that part. It being past eight o'clock, we descended the hill and returned on board ... after breakfast about ten o'clock, we again set out and proceeded along the shore towards the entrance of the harbour and crossed over the slope of the hill and descended to the lake, between which and the shore of the bay facing the sound the ground undulates in ridges of sand, on which is some grass, stunted sheoaks and honeysuckle; the wood of the latter when burnt produces a very agreeable smell quite aromatic; had the ground been good between the lake and the shore, it would have been a good place for a settlement but decidedly it would not answer; whilst sitting down to rest at the head of the lake, a kangaroo of the largest sort came close to where I was sitting with Mr Nind, who fired at it and missed it though within ten yards (9.14 m); after walking nearly halfway to Oyster Harbour and not seeing any spot more favourable than the one we landed at, we directed our steps homewards to the Brig ... I was extremely anxious to ascertain what persons were on Michaelmas Island as a fire was still kept burning and at night a light on the west end facing the harbour; I had requested Lieutenant Festing would cause a boat to be sent there the first thing in the morning.

Wednesday, December 27th 1826.

A boat was dispatched at daylight and after breakfast I proceeded on shore with Lieutenant Festing to examine the upper part of the harbour, one of the boats of the Brig requiring repair as also a supply of water to be sent off, a party was sent to the shore opposite to where the Brig lay for the above purpose in charge of an Overseer, and Captain Wakefield with Mr Nind was, as well as myself and Lieutenant Festing, armed with each a double barrel gun; a ship's musquet was

also sent on shore with the watering party, which I should have considered almost unnecessary; wishing to reach a point of land at the head of the harbour on which a thick scrub with tolerable sized timber appeared to grow, I proposed to Lieutenant Festing that we should keep the shore until we reached that spot, Captain Wakefield and Mr Nind having struck up into a wood on the side of the hill; on getting near this point, I saw a native come out; when he discovered he was seen, he spoke to some one in the wood, when another came out and immediately two more. I made signs for them to approach, which they did instantly without the least hesitation; though they saw Lieutenant Festing and myself were both armed, they left their spears in the wood where I am certain there was more natives, a large fire was now burning at the head of the harbour, and shortly after we saw a very large smoke about ten miles on the hills to the south west, but I did not suspect anything wrong as these four shook hands, which they appear to understand to be friendly; after a mutual salutation, two of them made signs they would go to where the Brig was and two remained with us; they were four fine young men all painted and their hair clubbed and daubed all over with a red ochre and fish or seal oil as described by Captain King; whether it was a preparatory signal for war or not, we could not tell the two that remained with Lieutenant Festing and myself walked with us into the wood, and, on being asked where kangaroo was to be found, they pointed, and saw us shoot several black cockatoo expressing their admiration when they saw them fall, though I had the precaution not to discharge more than one barrel, as I was well aware that these people have always spears at hand; as it was now near one o'clock, I was anxious to know the result of the visit of the boat to the island and communicated the same to Lieutenant Festing, saying I would again go down to the shore of the harbour and return that way to the place where the boat would come for us and one of the natives went with me, the other remained with Lieutenant Festing. I returned nearly to the Point, I saw them come out of, and on looking, observed that Lieutenant Festing was upwards of a mile (1.6 km) from where I was going to the shore nearer the vessel. I set out to join him, accompanied by my new acquaintance, and, on a rock at a point which projected, I saw Lieutenant Festing and his servant stop and look to where I was and at the same time just above him I saw seven or eight natives crossing over the rising ground and coming down to the sea side where I was; on their approaching, the native who was with me called out to those who were coming, and was answered in an authoritative manner to come away, and he left me without saying a word; as they passed me, I looked and tried to stop them; it was no use, their looks convinced me there was something wrong, and, on getting to where Lieutenant Festing was, I expressed myself to him to that effect; he said he had also tried to speak to them, but they would not stop, and he immediately enquired of his servant where I was, and was remaining on the rock to watch them pass me; he then acquainted me that four of these natives the boat had brought back from the island, and that one of them on getting to the shore and meeting his companions made very significant complaints and shewed his neck, that had four or five deep scars as if from a sharp instrument, a sword or cutlass; we then proceeded to the spot, where the boat was repairing, and had passed the watering place about fifty yards (45.72 m) above us; we found our friend Jack the native with the carpenter repairing the boat and we sat down on the rock waiting the return of a boat from the ship, when a prisoner came running up saying the natives had attacked the watering party

and was spearing the people; Jack instantly ran off, and, on getting up and going round, I saw the smith, Dennis Dineen, standing in the water with three spears sticking in him, and on mustering the people found no other person was hurt; the natives had crept down through the bush and would probably have speared every man, had not one of them got up to go into the water to bathe, and saw the natives on the bank above fixing their spears; and he called out to the people below to run; as soon as they threw their spears, they all ran away except one man who picked up his spear and threw it twice; four of them were those brought from the island. Mr Nind and Captain Wakefield had gone on board; I ordered the spears to be cut off within four inches (10.16 cm) of the body of the wounded man, and, on the arrival of a boat, I took him on board, where Mr Nind took them out and one was a very deep wound in the thigh, penetrating behind the hip bone and coming through the fleshy part of the thigh near the groin, another about two inches and half (6.35 cm) in the muscle close to the back bone, and the third through the fleshy part of the arm above the right elbow; from the serious nature of the wounds, I am very doubtful of this unfortunate man's recovery; as we had not given any cause for so what we considered unprovoked attack, I could not account for it until I got on board, when I was informed that, on the boat reaching the island, they saw four natives under a rock who did not speak until pointed to, when they got up, and Mr. Wheeler, from not having arms in the boat, did not like approaching; and the natives, on seeing the boat about to pull off, fell on their knees and made sad lamentations fearing the boat did not intend taking them off. Mr Wheeler ran the boat in and took them off bringing to the vessel where they should have been detained until I returned, as it would be extremely desirable to have endeavoured to have learnt their story and how they got on the island, and if any inhuman wretches had placed them there after their getting into the harbour; they were very anxious to get on shore; on reflecting that these people had made this attack in consequence of the injuries they had received, I gave positive orders that no retaliation would take place on our side except in absolute self defence, and I am certain with proper precaution nothing further will occur.

Thursday, December 28th 1826.

At six o'clock this morning set out with Lieutenant Festing for Oyster Harbour to examine its shores, but could not discover a more eligible situation for the formation of the settlement than the spot described opposite to the anchorage in Princess Royal Harbour; on landing on Green Island, we found the dead body of a native; from its appearance I should have considered it to have been dead about two months. It struck me there must have been some bad work going on there; the natives have no boats; they never venture above knee deep in the water; near about four yards (3.65 m) I think lay a miserable attempt at a raft from some dead wood tied together with grass; his head was pretty perfect, the hair still fresh, the skin on the breast bones gone and his insides also, but his thighs and legs quite perfect and dry, that I dare say that, until put under ground, they will continue perfect and keep for a long time; not having a spade, we could not make a grave to put the body in; on my next visit I shall not fail to do so.....

Friday, December 29th 1826.

At eight o'clock went on shore with Lieutenant Festing and Captain Wakefield, and fixed on the spot to erect huts and a store for the settlement, ordered the tents on shore with a guard also the sheep to graze; made arrangements to commence landing the detachment of the 39th Regiment and the prisoners tomorrow morning...

January 3^d 1827

The wind blew fresh all night from south east accompanied with heavy showers that did not penetrate the roof of the store hut, which is perfectly dry and will fully answer the purpose, until it is determined where to erect a permanent building for a store. The harbour affords plenty of fish in great variety and excellent in its kind, particularly whiting, very fine oysters and sand cockles, periwinkles, etc; with little trouble a meal can never be wanting here. Wild celery on the shore and samphier; the fish are so numerous, snappers a large sort of cod, salmon as it is called, Sydney barracouta or seapike, snipefish, whiting, small sorts of snappers, sharks or rays or thorn backs as soon as we have leisure to get baskets made, not the slightest doubt in the Sound we shall catch lobsters or crawfish...

Friday, January 5th 1827.

This morning our friend Jack the native, who ran off when the alarm was given of his countrymen spearing our people, came into our encampment. I gave him a tomahawk after explaining to him the best way that I could that I was very angry at his countrymen throwing their spears; at first he was frightened, apprehending some retaliation was intended him; however on making the subject more agreeable by giving him something to eat and the tomahawk, he became reconciled and was once more at home, and, after remaining about an hour, he made signs that he wished to go, and I dismissed him, as he went up the hill at the back of the camp, he cut the trees with his tomahawk apparently not a little pleased with his present.

Monday, January 8th 1827.

The pigs were this day brought on shore and placed in the dwelling prepared for them. All in excellent order nine sows and a fine boar, one of the former likely to litter in a few days. Observed this morning to have receded at five o'clock very considerable and left the shallow bank quite dry to the edge, which has not been the case since we have been here before, the tide flows and ebbs once in every twenty-four hours only; from eight to eight by night it ebbs, and from eight in the morning until eight at night flows, but is greatly influenced by the winds, the rise not being more than three feet and half (1.06 m) to four feet (1.22 m).

Wednesday, January 10th 1827.

This morning at daylight the weather cleared and became fine; in the afternoon A boat was perceived pulling into the harbour; proved to be a sealing gang, the boat belonging to a Mr Robinson of the schooner *Governor Hunter*, with some of the crew of the schooner *Brisbane*, the master having gone off and left these men on the islands here; it appears this latter vessel belonged to Mr Kemp of Hobart Town; this boat contained the following persons:

William Bundy, boat steerer

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Robert Williams,	black man, of the Hunter
Pidgeon,	Sydney black
George Thomas,	boat steerer
John Hobson,	seaman
Thomas Tasmein,	black man, of the Brisbane
William Hook,	New Zealander

Who stated that they were destitute of provisions on their going on board the *Amity*, and solicited assistance from Lieutenant Festing who referred them to me, the boat steerer producing a letter from his owner that he would be answerable for what would be furnished. I sanctioned their being victualled on board the Brig for the present, as I considered it my duty to investigate and find out if possible the perpetrators of the villainous act of placing the four natives on Michaelmas Island...

Thursday, January 11th 1827.

Sent for the sealers from the Brig, and, on questioning them, ascertained that the native we found dead on Green Island had been murdered by a party of these sealers, and that the four men we had taken off Michaelmas Island had been placed there after the murder had been perpetrated, and that they had also forcibly seized and carried off two female natives. One of them was now on Eclipse Island with one Samuel Bailey, who was present and assisted at the murder of the native Pidgeon, the Sydney native, Conceiving I might find him extremely useful in bringing about a communication and reconciliation with the natives, and as he was never here before cannot know nor possibly be in any way concerned in the affair above stated, and which I trust will meet the approbation of His Excellency the Governor; request Lieutenant Festing to detain the boat and sealers for the present, until Samuel Bailey, who is at Eclipse Island, is apprehended, and the others concerned who are daily expected to arrive here from the eastward on their way to Chatham Island.

Friday, January 12th 1827.

Sent for William Hook on shore and read his statement, which he had made, over to him and asked if he knew the nature of an oath and the consequence of swearing to what was not true, and requested him to be particular who he had named, and was he certain that Samuel Bailey was in the boat at the time the native was shot; he replied he knew well the consequence of saying what was false and that he was also aware of the solemnity of taking an oath, and that Bailey was present; I then swore William Hook to his information and made him sign his mark to it in the presence of my son Edmond Lockyer; in consequence of the above, I considered it necessary to take immediate steps to secure the person of Samuel Bailey and wrote a letter to Lieutenant Festing to request that he would send a boat early the next morning to the Eclipse Island for that purpose and also to bring with him the native woman and child said to be there...

Saturday, January 13th 1827.

This morning some natives were discovered by Pidgeon, the Sydney native coming down the side of the high hill. I desired he would call them when three came to my tent, one of them our friend Jack and shortly afterwards came two more: made two of them a present of a tomahawk and each of them a blanket,

with which they appeared to be highly delighted, and set great value on throwing off their kangaroo mantles and putting on the blankets as they wear the mantles. One of them I had not seen before, who appeared to be very sullen and not at all lively in his manner, as is the custom with these people if they are pleased; it was evident he was meditating some and, though I did not pretend to notice it, I watched him well. I frequently heard in their conversation with each other the word woman distinctly mentioned, and thought it right to request Pidgeon to tell them that a boat was sent to bring one of the women and that the other should be sent for, who was far off, and pointing to the sun and then to the west that the boat would return in the evening, which they appeared perfectly to understand and expressed their great satisfaction pointing to the ground, making signs that they would sit down until the boat came back. I was fearful their patience would be exhausted, and did everything I could to amuse them about half past two or three o'clock one of them made signs that he wanted to sleep, and that they would go into the bush and return again shortly, which they did, and remained away about an hour and then returned, and sat themselves down anxiously watching the mouth of the harbour and, the sun going down at last, the boat was discovered which they saw as soon as any person; their anxiety was now wound up to the very utmost as was plainly to be seen by the frequent change of their countenance from smiles to a stern fierce look and then desponding; I began to regret having said anything about the woman for, if by any chance she might not be forthcoming, I should look very foolish; however we were not long in suspense; after a short interval of the boat going along side we saw her put off for the shore. I desired that the natives would remain at my tent and gave orders for a file of the guard to go down and march up the prisoner, and went down myself to meet the party and returned with them up again, having the poor woman and the little native girl in front with the prisoner following handcuffed in charge of the escort, on our approach the natives began shouting and expressed great pleasure on recognising their country woman; who was not all improved by the treatment she appeared to have undergone; her right arm was much injured by a blow and on meeting her friends she cried much; the natives looked on the little girl and shook their heads, meaning she did not belong to them and then pointed to Pidgeon and then to the girl meaning that he must take care of her. One of the natives was either the father or some relative of the woman, who I ordered a blanket to be given to, and Mr Nind examined her arm and fresh bandaged it up and made signs to the natives to bring her tomorrow and that it would be again dressed; I think I never saw so miserable an object in the shape of female, which was probably considerably worse for the ill usage and hard living she had been compelled to undergo; after giving her some biscuit and explaining to the natives that the prisoner Bailey was to be kept in confinement and their seeing him handcuffed, it is to be hoped that they will be convinced and understand that the persons, who have acted so outrageously towards them, will meet due punishment, these people they left us and went with the woman across the hill towards Oyster Harbour; the prisoner Samuel Bailey protests he was not at the murder of the man, but admits he drew cuts as he terms it with the others his companions for the woman and is aware of the four men being placed on Michaelmas Island ...

Sunday, January 14th 1827.

At eleven o'clock ordered the prisoners to be assembled for muster and inspection in general; found them very decent and clean. Ordered the indulgence of tea, sugar and tobacco to be disallowed to John Ryan, one of the sawyers for the next week, for gross insolence and general misconduct; the natives have not been seen today, ordered the prisoners not to go further than half a mile from the camp, and on no pretence to go into the plain at the back of the hill without orders and their names to be called every four hours on Sunday.

Monday, January 15th 1827.

A party at work in the garden and others collecting wood and etc, for additional huts for the use of the officers and etc, of the settlement. Yesterday was counted twelve large smokes or fires at the back of the encampment about two rifles apart, forming a complete semicircle; what the motive was for it cannot be known, but from so many fires there must be assembled a number of the natives. The wind has been very unpleasant, blowing hard from the westward, covers everything in the tent with dust and sand...

Tuesday, January 16th 1827.

People employed as yesterday at the garden and collecting materials for huts and clearing ground, the stores being all landed, and having no further cause for detaining the Brig than will be necessary to make the required reports for His Excellency's information of the progress made in the settlement and etc, Lieutenant Festing proposes quitting this for Sydney calling at western Port in about a week. It is but justice to this officer to say that I am under great obligations for his assistance and that he has exerted himself on an occasions to the utmost for the good of the Public Service, and which I am confident will be duly appreciated by His Excellency; on departure of the Brig, I should be considerably at a loss for two experienced seaman as boat keepers, and who would be able to act as pilots to bring vessels into the harbour from the sound, as well as to visit oyster harbour occasionally, as also to enable us to draw the seine and to preserve it in good order; on the propriety of the above, Lieutenant Festing also agrees with me, as he has promised and undertaken to make them acquainted with the proper channel to take vessels in and out. It will also be necessary to have some local regulations regarding vessels casually visiting this place, which on their arrival should be made known to them.

Two seamen having volunteered to remain for rations and wages that is given Government vessels, under these conditions I have consented to their remaining to be employed as above until the approval of His Excellency the Governor shall be made known. It appears that a French ship of war has been here in October or November last and made a survey of the harbours and Sound and left this to visit Sydney...

Wednesday, January 17th 1827.

Had the two guns taken from the beach to the point over the landing place, where they are to be mounted and the flagstaff put up.

From the lawless manner in which these sealers are ranging about requires some immediate measures to control them as, from what we know as also from

what I have learnt from themselves, they are a complete set of pirates going from island to island along the southern coast from Rottenest Island to Bass's Strait in open whale boats, having the chief resort or den at Kangaroo Island, making occasional descents on the main land and carry off by force native women, and when resisted make use of the fire arms with which they are provided amongst themselves they rob each other, the weak being obliged to give way to the stronger; at Kangaroo Island a great scene of villainy is going on, where to use their own words there are a great many graves, a number of desperate characters, runaway prisoners from Sydney and Van Diemen's Land. A Government vessel or small man of war to be kept for the purpose of cruising on. This would check a great deal of the lawless proceedings now going on, as also restrictions should be made respecting the seal fishery, which from their destroying the cubs as well as old ones will cause them to become scarce. I should think it would prove both beneficial to Government and to the merchants and speculators if these islands were farmed out to those who offer a reasonable rent for them.

Sunday, January 2nd 1827.

This day at sunrise the colours were displayed on the flagstaff, at twelve o'clock a Royal salute was fired from the battery and a *Feu de joie* by the troops, and an extra allowance of flour with raisins and suet was ordered on the occasion to be issued to the troops and convicts; a number of the natives having come to the settlement in the morning the seine was hauled on purpose to give them a feast, about three hundred weight was taken of capital fish. The day proved fine and the whole went off well. As the Amity is to sail on Tuesday, I have ordered that the little girl Fanny, who was taken off the main land to the eastward of this and having no means of restoring her to the tribe to which she belongs, to be taken to Sydney for the disposal of His Excellency; not having been able to visit the interior for the present, I cannot of course give any opinion as to how far this part of the country will suit the views of settlers, though I have little doubt that there is good soil perfectly fit for cultivation, as I am informed by the sealers, some of them having been a considerable way up the Swan River, which is about 180 miles (289.62 km) to the west north west of this, that there is plenty of fine cedar on its banks and plenty of fine pine of very large size. I propose leaving this on an expedition in about a week or ten days."