

Expedition Log Book
VOYAGE #2294
FORGOTTEN ISLANDS
January 6th – 12th, 2006

Day 1, January 6th

Our journey began today after Chris picked us up from the Kelvin Hotel in Invercargill. We arrived at the *Spirit of Enderby*, which was berthed at the Port of Bluff, at approx. 1215 hours. After being shown to our cabins Rodney introduced us to the lovely staff onboard and gave us a briefing about the ship and life onboard the *Spirit of Enderby*, including the theory section of the lifeboat drill. Lunch was served at 1330 hours, after which we were free to unpack and familiarise ourselves with the ship.

We set sail at 1430 hours towards Campbell Island. It was not long before some began feeling a little queasy (maybe after too much lunch?). At 1600 hours we completed the practical part of the life boat drill. The alarm sounded, everyone put their life jackets on and went to their designated life boat. They showed us what it was like with the engine on in the life boats – very noisy and cramped. Some were back to their “birding” afterwards, while others tried to get their bearings on the sea or enjoyed a cuppa in the bar/library. The bar opened at 1800 hours, but there were not many takers. Actually, there were not many people around the ship at all!

Dinner was served at 1930 hours, with 72% attendance. (More than was estimated by the staff). The captain moved us off course so the ship was not so “rolly”, which made dinner a much more enjoyable experience. Because the ship was rolling around the movie was cancelled, and slowly everyone departed to their cabins for an early night at sea.

Day 2, January 7th

A day at sea, with breakfast at 0830 hours. Hopefully most had a good nights sleep and are getting used to the rock of the ship slowly. With swells of around 6 metres and high winds it was still very rock and roly today. As the chairs in the lecture room were moving around all over the place, the video “Beyond the Roaring Forties” was cancelled. Many took up this opportunity of free time to do some “birding” on the bridge, or trying to perfect the “lean-on” strategy for moving about the ship.

Because of the amount we have been moving, the lecture that was meant for this afternoon was cancelled. So, apart from lunch at 1330 hours, we had the whole day to do what we pleased. Activities of the day included playing scrabble, more birding on the bridge (as the big swell made it dangerous to be out on the decks), reading (books of course, no magazines), “gossiping”, watching the wonderful colours of the waves as they splashed onto the ship, or for some trying to get video of the waves splashing onto the deck and getting themselves and their camera saturated (ask Maurice!).

The staff opened the bar at 1800 hours for pre-dinner drinks, with dinner served at 1930 hours. At 2100 hours we stopped and the second engine was started. The ship rolled quite a lot while we were stopped, but it wasn't for long, and we gained speed quickly again. The second engine was turned on to compensate for the SW swell and wind, to ensure that we arrive at Campbell Island at our target time of 0600 hours tomorrow. By 2200 hours the ship was quiet again with nearly all gone to bed, getting ready for a big day on dry, stable land.

Day 3, January 8th

We awoke for breakfast at 0800 hours, anchored in Perseverance Harbour at Campbell Island. After a quick briefing at 0845 hrs on the island and what would happen for the day we made our lunches and set off in the Naiads, the first trip at approx. 0930 hrs. Once all were ashore we headed off up a track into Tucker Cove. Here we saw some historic huts from the coast watching days and early meteorological days. There were a few elephant seals lounging on the shore, and a stunning Campbell Island shag watching us as we walked by. Thankfully we were allowed to use the met station for lunch, so we headed back down the track for lunch in shelter out of the cold wind and occasional rain and hail. Even though it did rain occasionally it was not a miserable day, just slightly wet.



The huts at Tucker Cove

Once we had all finished lunch people who wanted to go back to the ship could do so, and others who wanted to walk up a boardwalk track to Col Lyall Saddle headed off. On the Col Lyall walk we saw many southern royal albatross nesting, lovely purple flowering *pleurophyllum speciosum*, *pleurophyllum criniferum* amongst many other plants and birds. From the saddle we could walk along the ridgeline to look down into North West Bay, up to the Mt Col summit and everywhere in between. There was a lot of albatross' nesting in this area, with activity increasing as the day got older. Some amazing views to be seen all around. Along the NW ridge line it was very windy, making it nearly impossible to walk without getting blown over. Slowly everyone walked back down the boardwalk and the last Naiad was back at the ship at approx. 1830 hrs.

The bar opened at approx 1800 hrs (sorry may have been late as most of the staff were still onshore) and dinner was served at 1930 hrs. After dinner, at 2130 hrs the movie "Beyond the Roaring Forties" was screened. I'm sure most were looking forward to a stable sleep in the bay.



People looking into NW Bay from Col Lyall

CAMPBELL ISLAND HISTORY

Campbell Island was discovered in January 1810 by Captain Frederick Hasselberg of the sealing brig, *Perseverance*. Hasselberg named the island after his employers, Robert Campbell and Co. of Sydney. On a later visit to the Island Captain Hasselburg, along with a woman called Elizabeth Farr and a young boy George Allwright, were drowned in Perseverance Harbour.

The Sir James Clark Ross expedition of 1840-42 called at Campbell Island. Two scientists accompanying Ross, J Hooker and D Lyall, compiled the first plant and animal inventories for Campbell Island.

A second expedition sponsored by the government of France to observe the transit of Venus arrived in 1874 and remained for three months. One member of this expedition, M Duris, died of typhoid fever on the island. He was buried on the point opposite Venus cove. An inscribed tombstone and iron cross were erected over the grave.

From 1868 to 1923, both British Navy and New Zealand government vessels made periodic visits to the island to service a castaway depot (at Depot Point, Perseverance Harbour), one of the several erected on the Subantarctic islands.

Sheep, goats and pigs had been liberated at various times prior to 1895 with the intention of providing sustenance to the shipwrecked, but none of these animals survived for very long. Fires had been started occasionally by accident or by design and rats had been reported as well established on the main island by 1874. Sheep were re-introduced in 1895 after the island (Pastoral Run No. 511) had been leased to J Gordon for a term of 21 years. The last of the shore whaling stations was located at North West Bay and operated from 1909 to 1916, in conjunction with management of the sheep run.

The farming era lasted until 1931 when unreliable transport, accidents and a world-wide recession finally made farming uneconomical. The farmers withdrew and left about 4000 sheep and between 20 to 30 cattle unattended on the island.

A wartime coast-watching station was established in 1941. When the coast-watching station was abandoned at the end of the war, meteorological activities continued at Tucker Cove. The station now occupies a new base at Beeman Cove, opened in November 1958. This base was decommissioned in late 1994. The old base is derelict.

The sheep were removed over a 20 year period 1970 – 1990. The cattle were removed in the 1970's and once the sheep were gone what few cats remained died out naturally. The Rats were poisoned in a major operation in 2001. Today the flightless teal have been released back on the main island and snipe have recolonised the Island.

Day 4, January 9th

Another day at Campbell Island. There were two options for the day. One was a walk up to the summit of Mount Honey, the highest point on Campbell Island, 569m. The other was a Naiad cruise around Garden Cove and the upper end of Perseverance Harbour. Breakfast was at 0630 hrs for the Mt Honey walkers and at 0730 hrs for everyone else. The Mt Honey goers were ashore by 0730 hrs, and headed up the track behind Rodney. Approx. 12 people were counted on shore for the Mt Honey walk. The exact number is unknown due to technical difficulties. The track wined around through bush and mud before we started to climb. We were at the summit at 0930 hrs with magnificent views of the island, including 6 Foot Lake, La Botte Island, and the NW Ridge we had visited the day before. We headed back the same way and met up with the Naiad cruisers at approx. 1100 hrs.



A view from Mt Honey – looking at the Met station in Perseverance Harbour

The people who chose to do the Naiad cruise left the *Spirit of Enderby* at 0900 hrs. The cruise went around the banks of Perseverance Harbour looking at all the wildlife and plant life. The sun eventually came out and the day warmed up later in the morning. The cruise ended in Garden Cove where we all went ashore.

Back to the ship for lunch at 1200 hrs, and then we were sailing again at 1300 hrs for the Auckland Islands. Once we were out of the lee of Campbell Island the sea seemed fairly angry. There was a bit of excitement in the afternoon when one very green 10 metre wave crashed into the ship. We could not see anything out the bridge windows as the water hit fairly hard, everything in the galley went flying and the aft lights from on top of the

chimney broke off as a result of whiplash caused by the force that the waves were rocking the ship. A few people came inside very wet, some made it back indoors just before the wave hit. Luckily the lights did not damage any equipment as they came down but did give everyone a fright.

The bar opened at 1800 hrs before dinner at 1930 hrs. Dinner tonight was also an experience. Sonja and Carolyn did a great job, still managing to organise a 3 course meal in the trying conditions. Good on you girls! After dinner the lecture that was scheduled was cancelled, and many people stayed tucked away in their cabins or up on the bridge enjoying the rough seas.

Day 5, January 10th

This morning we awoke anchored off Sandy Bay, Enderby Island, Auckland Islands after a very rocky nights sleep (well not much sleeping done by many, so peaceful resting). The day looked wonderful - a little wind and a bit cloudy, but no rain! We had the breakfast call at 0800 hrs and at 0845 hrs Rodney gave us a briefing on the Auckland Islands, mainly Enderby Island. He gave us a brief rundown on the islands and what we would be doing for the day. Then we made our lunches and the Naiads started ferrying passengers at 0930 hrs to Enderby Island. Once everyone was onshore on Enderby, we started up the boardwalk, past Sandy Beach – which was covered by New Zealand sea lions. This is normal as it is one of 4 breeding sites in the Auckland Islands, 2 of which



are found on Enderby Island. The boardwalk took us over to the other side of the island. On the way we saw a yellow eyed penguin and its nest with two chicks, bellbird, pipit, albatross, bulbinella, rata, gentians and orchids.

Halfway along Nathan hopped off the boardwalk and all those who wanted to go in search of the snipe followed him. The rest carried on along the boardwalk until we reached the other side of the island. Here some people turned back and headed back to the ship, while most carried on around the island. The island is amazing! It definitely made travelling in the crazy southern seas worth it. Everywhere you looked was wildlife in its natural environment. We were a little late to see the *bulbinella rossi* in flower and a little early to see *anisotome latifolia*. But even so, everyone I talked to said they had a magnificent day.

The Derrycastle

The weather was thick on the night of March 20, 1887 when the barque *Derrycastle* ran aground on the northern tip of Enderby Island. The ship broke up quickly and of the 23 crew only 8 managed to scramble ashore. The survivors found a small hut on the island but were without food and fire. A fire was later lit by exploding the cap of a revolver cartridge one of the survivors found in his pocket. After being on the island for 92 days and having been able to see a castaway depot across the water in Port Ross, the survivors found an old axe head buried in the sand. With this they fashioned a punt and two of the men successfully paddled to the provision depot. The two men returned in a boat with provisions and clothes. Within a few days all of the survivors were established at the Port Ross depot. Here they remained until July 19, when the steamer *Awarua* put into Port Ross while on a sealing cruise.

After people finished walking around the island Naiads were there to ferry people back to the ship. The last Naiad was back at 1800 hours, just as Helen opened the souvenir shop so we could buy all the souvenirs we wanted to remember this trip by. Just after 1800 hours Anna opened up the bar to serve all the people who were thirsty after a hard days work. Rodney gave a lecture on “seabird by-catch” at 1900 hours, with dinner at 1930 hours. Before 2100 hours we were on the move again, heading straight into a northerly towards Stewart Island. We have no real plans for tomorrow yet, but have been told that going to Snares Island is near impossible in the conditions we’re having. We do know for sure though, that breakfast will be at 0830 hours!



Standing ground with a NZ sea lion on Enderby Island

Birds of the Auckland Islands

The Auckland Islands are the main breeding ground for the white-capped albatross *Thalassarche [cauta] cauta* with an estimated population of 65,000 pairs chiefly on Disappointment Island. Other albatrosses breeding include the Gibson's wandering albatross *Diomedea [exulans] gibsoni*, with an estimated ca. 7000 breeding pairs - main population on Adams Island. The Southern royal albatross *Diomedea [epomophora] epomophora* is represented by only 60 breeding pairs on Enderby and Adams Island. The light mantled sooty albatross *Phoebastria palpebrata* is quite abundant, especially around the southern end of the main island with an estimated population of 5000 pairs. Northern giant petrel *Macronectes giganteus* is a common breeder. Other tubenoses that breed in the group include cape petrels (approx. 200 pairs), which breeds mainly on Beacon Rocks, the white-headed petrel *Pterodroma lessonii* and the fulmar prion *Pachyptila crassirostris*. Sooty shearwater breeds chiefly on offshore islands whilst Antarctic prion *Pachyptila desolata banksi* and the white-chinned petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis* breed in various sized colonies. The grey-backed storm petrel *Garrodia nereis*, white-faced storm petrel *Pelagodroma marina* and black-bellied storm petrel *Pachyptila belcheri* are widely distributed as is the Sub-Antarctic little shearwater *Puffinus assimilis elegans* in a much smaller number. The Sub-Antarctic form of the common diving petrel breeds numerous around coastal fringes, whilst South Georgian diving petrel *Pelecanoides georgicus* has been recorded breeding on Enderby and Dundas (present status not fully understood).

Yellow-eyed penguins are found throughout the island group, with good populations on Enderby and Rose Islands. The rockhopper penguin population has declined but some traditional colonies still exist on both east and west coasts.

The Auckland Island shag breeds throughout the entire group, whilst the Auckland Island flightless teal occurs only on the free-predator islets. The Auckland Island snipe breeds on most offshore Islands, including Ewing, Disappointment, Adams and Enderby. The Auckland Island rail breeds on Adams and Disappointment Island.

Banded dotterel *Charadrius bicinctus* breeds on Enderby Island. The southern skua is found in scattered numbers throughout the group, whilst moderate numbers of southern black-backed gull and red-billed gull, breed throughout the group. White-fronted tern and Antarctic terns breed in small colonies throughout the group. The red-crowned parakeet is dominant on the larger offshore islands, whilst the yellow-crowned parakeet is found on the main Auckland Island. The local form of the NZ pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae aucklandicus* is common chiefly around the coastal areas. Long-tailed cuckoo and welcome swallow also breed on the island. Grey duck and the NZ falcon breed in small numbers, but with main concentration on the southern end of the main island. Silvereye and Auckland Island tomtit *P. M. marrineri* are common throughout. Bellbird is probably the most numerous of the bush birds, while the tui is present throughout the group in good numbers.

Self introduced breeders include the mallard, skylark, hedge sparrow, song thrush, blackbird, chaffinch, goldfinch, redpoll, house sparrow, and starling. Migratory waders include the knot, sharp-tailed sandpiper, curlew sandpiper, red-necked stint, turnstone, eastern-bartailed godwit and Asiatic black tailed godwit. The white-faced heron is a straggler and the Arctic tern is occasionally seen.

Day 6, January 11th

Breakfast this morning was indeed at 0830 hrs. Today was planned to be spent at Snares Island where we would cruise around the shoreline in the Naiads. Because of the rough NW swell it was impossible to land on the island, so we by-passed it and carried on home. The heavy fog also made it very hard to see, so we could not even see the island.

Lunch was served at 1300 hrs and at 1400 hrs Rodney showed a video on the eradication of the rats on Campbell Island and talked a little on his experience with this, and the effect it had on the island. At 1500 hrs Helen and Nathan began settling the accounts in the bar/library, starting with 500 level. Slowly all accounts were sorted.

When we came into the lee of Stewart Island the wind and swell dropped. We were able to venture out onto the decks again, but visibility was still low and the outline of Stewart Island was just distinguishable.

The bar opened at 1800 hrs, with the biggest turnout of the whole trip. Many were making the most of the final night on board the Spirit of Enderby. Dinner was served at 1930 hrs, and was enjoyed by nearly every passenger on board. Many enjoyed the night socialising in the bar/library or being up at the bridge. As it became darker and we got closer home, the lights of Invercargill and Bluff Hill came more into view.

The Snares Island

Situated approximately 209km southwest of Bluff, the Snares are 243ha in extent and consist of two small rocky islands and several rocks, including the five islands of the so-called western reef- Tahi, Rua, Toru, Wha and Rima.

The islands were discovered by Vancouver in 1791. Just over one year later, December 1772, the crew of the *Britannia* sighted the Snares and named them the Sunday Islands. The name Sunday gave way to that given by the first discoverer – the Snares.

Historical records of these Islands are sketchy. Little is known of the activities of sealers which obviously worked these Islands. It appears a gang of four, who were escaped convicts from Norfolk Island, were marooned on the Snares between 1810-1817 from the ship *Adventure*, the reason given was that the ship was running short of provisions and the captain gave the men the choice of going ashore or of starving afloat. The men were given a few potatoes which they planted. During their long exile one of the four became deranged – this alarmed the others so much that they pushed him over a cliff. The remaining three were rescued by an American ship the *Enterprise* which reached Philadelphia on 11 May 1818.

There are no recorded shipwrecks from the Island despite their position almost directly in the path of vessels sailing from Australia towards Cape Horn. It was intended at one stage to erect a lighthouse on the Island but with the opening of the Panama Canal the need for a lighthouse largely disappeared.

The Snares group are free of introduced predators and for this reason they have a large number of breeding birds. The islands are especially famous by the endemic Snares crested penguin *Eudyptes robusta* (breeding pairs: about 25,000 in total) and large colonies of the Buller's albatross *Thalassarche [bulleri] bulleri* (a population of 5000-8500 breeding pairs). These return to the islands in mid-December with most eggs being laid in January.

A vast majority of the fledglings and adults leaving by September-October along with the colony of the Salvins mollymawk *Thalassarche [cauta] salvini* (on Toru and Rima islets in the Western chain: estimated 1000 pairs). The islands also have endemic and very distinct looking tomtit *Petroica macrocephala dannefaerdi*, the black tomtit. There is also the Snares fernbird *Bowdleria punctata candata*, and the Snares Island snipe *Coenocorypha aucklandica nuegeli* which is found in good numbers. The Snares Cape pigeon (petrel) *Daption capense australe* is rather unique with its restricted white area to the upperwing. It breeds at many localities around Snares Island and stacks and breeds on the western chain. The sooty shearwater *Puffinus griseus* has an estimated population of 2.7 million pairs breeding in Snares group, mottled petrel *Pterodroma inexpectata* and Southern diving petrel *Pelecanoides urinatrix* are breeding whilst broad-billed prion *Pachyptila vittata* breeds in low numbers only.

Day 7, January 12th

We awoke this morning for breakfast at 0700 hrs, tied up to the wharf at the Port of Bluff. After breakfast everyone packed their bags and tied the correct colour of string to their bags so the Russian sailors could carry them off the ship. Once all bags were off the passengers disembarked the *Spirit of Enderby*, at approx. 0930 hrs. A group photo was taken of us and we all said our goodbyes, hopped on the bus and said farewell to the *Spirit of Enderby*. I'm sure everyone will have many memories (and many photos to develop when back home) of Voyage # 2294, *Cruise for Conservation*. Thanks for a great trip!



Southern Royal Albatross on Campbell Island

Voyage 2294 Birding List

At Sea

Antipodean Wandering Albatross
Gibson's Wandering Albatross
Southern Royal Albatross
Northern Royal Albatross
Campbell Island Albatross
Blackbrowed Albatross
Greyheaded Albatross
Shy Albatross
Salvins Albatross
Chatham Island Albatross
Buller's Albatross
Light Mantled Sooty Albatross
Northern Giant Petrel
Snares Cape Pigeon
Mottled Petrel
Cooks Petrel
White headed Petrel
Soft Plumaged Petrel
White Chinned Petrel
Sooty Shearwater
Sub Antarctic Little Shearwater
Broadbilled Prion
Fairy Prion
Antarctic Prion
Grey backed Storm Petrel
White faced Storm Petrel
Black bellied Storm Petrel
Wilson's Storm Petrel
Common Diving Petrel
Australian Gannet
Stewart Island Shag
Blackbacked Gull
Redbilled Gull.

Campbell Island

Southern Royal Albatross
Light Mantled Sooty Albatross
Campbell Island Shag.
Rockhopper Penguin
Yelloweyed Penguin
Brown Skua
Redbilled Gull
Blackbacked Gull
Northern Giant Petrel
Antarctic Tern
Redpoll
Chaffinch
Goldfinch
Pipit

Auckland Islands

Southern Royal Albatross
Light Mantled Sooty Albatross
Northern Giant Petrel
Yellow eyed Penguin
King Penguin
Antarctic Tern
White Fronted Tern
Redbilled Gull
Blackbacked Gull
Auckland Island Snipe
Auckland Island Shag
White Faced Heron
Bellbird
Tomtit
Auckland Island Dotterel
Red Crowned Parakeet
Auckland Island Flightless Teal
Pipit
Hedge Sparrow
Redpoll
Godwit
Turnstone



