

# The Sealers' Shanty

*A Journal of Sealers' Stories*

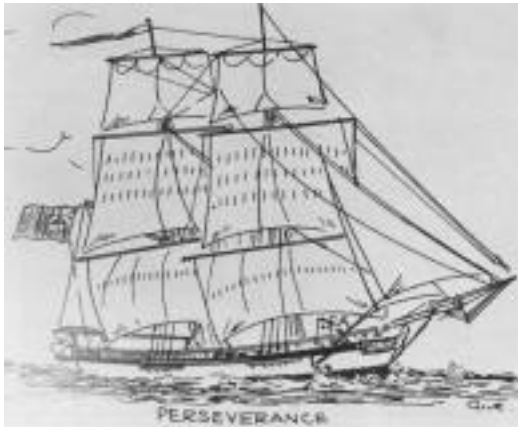
---

Volume 1

1810

## ‘A New Way of Finding a Location’: Drunken Captain Lets Secret Slip

Captain Frederick Hasselburgh discovered Macquarie Island during the winter of 1810. He went to great pains to keep the location of the island a secret, but according to one story, an old convict tricked him into revealing its location. Other sealers wasted no time in finding the new sealing ground. Within five years, Macquarie Island's fur seals had been driven to extinction.



Sketch of Perseverance, from J.S. Cumpston,  
*Kangaroo Island*

*Sydney Cove no longer  
‘dull as ditchwater’*

*In* 1810 the little town of Sydney was ‘dull as ditch water’. This changed one August day, when a flag was raised on Signal Hill - a sign that a vessel had docked. All business stopped on such an important occasion. Stores and cottages were locked up and residents assembled to greet the strange brig moored at King's Wharf.