



## Tasmanian Aborigines

Both HMS *Resolution* II (1777) and the HMS *Bounty* (1788) landed briefly at Adventure Bay, Tasmania (then known as Van Diemens Land).

HMS *Resolution* II only stayed in Adventure Bay for about one week. Cook wrote of his impressions of the customs, temperament and appearance of the Aboriginal Tasmanians.

"We saw nothing which they us'd as food and when some bread was given them they would not eat it though we show'd the example; and they refus'd some Elephant fish which were offer'd them with a sort of horror as if they never did or were afraid to eat them. They indeed seem'd fond of birds and easily made us understand they ate them and seem'd delighted with the sight of two small pigs which had been brought on shore to be left in the Bay. We had before this however form'd some judgment of their way of living from the number of Oyster and Earshells as well as muscles found in different parts where they had been roasting them." NB Earshells = *Notohaliothis ruber*.

"Upon the rocks are plenty of muscles and some other small shell fish, but we neither saw the large oysters nor Earshells which the Indians feed upon..." NB Large oysters = *Ostrea virescens* Earshells = *Notohalioris ruber*, commonly *Haliothis*.

The sailors caught for themselves whitish bream and small trout from a brackish pool running parallel with the beach.

*"The only animal of the Quadruped kind we got was a sort of Opoosum about twice the size of a large cat.....The Kangooroo...without doubt also inhabits here as the natives had some pieces of their skins.....considerable numbers from the dung we saw everywhere and the narrow tracks or paths they have made amongst the shrubbery"*

Several different sorts of birds thought to be eaten by the Natives.

Descriptions of sealife found, description of one new type of bottom dwelling 'flat fish'.  
Description of insect life.

There is a passage describing the trees and shrubbery.