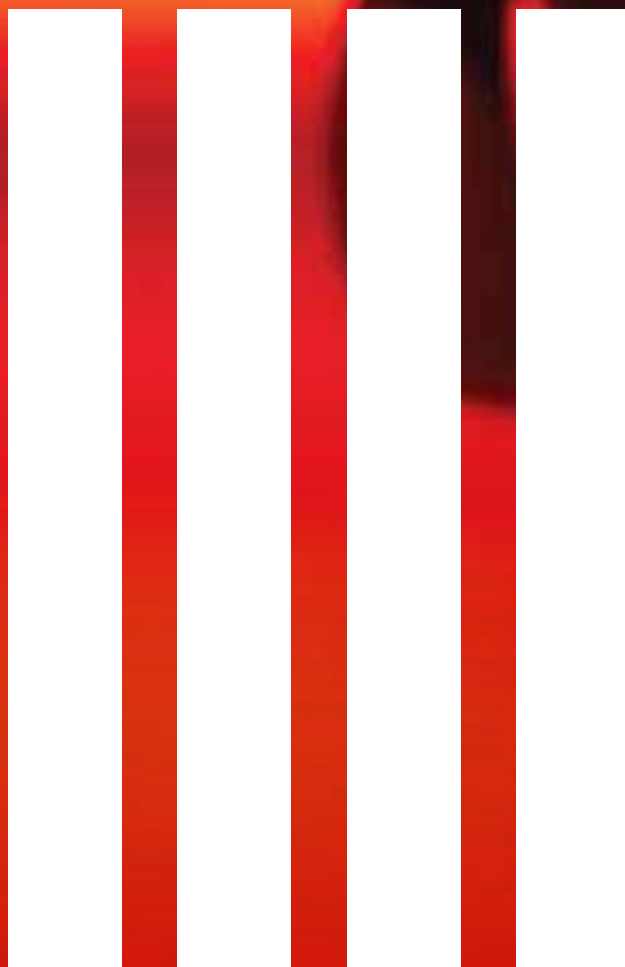




State Library
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ON THE RUN

DARING CONVICT ESCAPES



Cover image: Pepperbox revolver used by Wingfield,
a Tasmanian bushranger, c. 1836–1860, iron and wood,
DR 127

Opposite page: *Joseph Platt receives 100 lashes for running
away* (detail), artist unknown, woodcut, from Joseph Platt,
The horrors of transportation ... Birmingham: c. 1849, 365/P

On the Run: Daring Convict Escapes is a free exhibition
from 6 November 2006 to 25 February 2007
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ON THE RUN

DARING CONVICT ESCAPES

A FREE EXHIBITION
6 November 2006 to 25 February 2007



Leg irons, pre 1849
These leg irons, among the
heaviest made, weigh 13kg.
Leg irons varied in weight
according to the severity
of the crime.
Presented by Sir William
Dixon, DR 167



FOREWORD

Welcome to the exhibition *On the Run: Daring Convict Escapes*.

Between 1788 and 1868, over 160 000 men, women and children were transported to Australia, the majority for crimes involving thieving of one type or another. Most of them accepted their lot and made new lives for themselves in this remote corner of the British Empire. For some, however, escape was the only option.

The absence of gaols made escape relatively easy. However, to survive and reach a safe haven was far more difficult. In the early years of the colony most runaways, or 'bolters', headed north or west into the interior. Some perished in the unforgiving bush or at the hands of hostile Aboriginal people. The majority straggled back exhausted and bewildered. For some time only a few convicts realised that true freedom lay beyond the Pacific Ocean.

Following Mary Bryant's celebrated escape in 1791, when she and a group of convicts, including her husband and two children, sailed the governor's cutter to Timor, more and more convicts braved the sea route to liberty. They stowed away on departing vessels, pirated fully rigged ships or put to sea in homemade boats. In response, the government introduced more stringent security measures, but these were inevitably circumvented by convicts of enterprise and determination.

On the Run: Daring Convict Escapes tells the stories of some of these remarkable men and women for whom freedom was a spur.

In mounting this exhibition, Curator Warwick Hirst has drawn on the extensive collections of the Mitchell Library. A number of institutions and individuals have also contributed, and their support is gratefully acknowledged: the Natural History Museum, London, the National Archives, London, University College, London, the National Library of Australia, the State Library of Victoria, the Archives Office of Tasmania and Mr Neville Locker.

REGINA A. SUTTON
State Librarian and Chief Executive





The landing of the convicts at Botany Bay, artist unknown, line engraving, from A narrative of the expedition to Botany Bay ... c. 1789, Dixson Sale 78/70



INTRODUCTION

In the early nineteenth century Australia was a strange new land at the edge of the known world. This geographical isolation was a major reason for its selection as a British penal settlement.

The formidable barriers of distance, impenetrable bush and wide oceans made escape a daunting proposition — yet hundreds of convicts made the attempt. Most were recaptured, died in the bush of starvation, or were lost at sea.

Other escaped convicts survived by living with Aboriginal people or becoming bushrangers. Some found their way to distant ports in the Pacific as stowaways or by hijacking ships. A handful made it all the way back to England.

WARWICK HIRST
Curator, Manuscripts



Convicts working on an iron gang (detail), artist unknown, line engraving, from M Eugene Delessert, Voyages dans les deux océans Atlantique et Pacifique 1844 to 1847, 1848, DSM/Q980/D



A view near Woolwich in Kent, shewing the employment of the convicts from the hulks (detail), artist unknown, c. 1800, hand-coloured engraving, V/CONV/1*

MARY BRYANT

Age: 29
Offence: Assault + robbery
Sentence: Death, commuted to transportation for 7 years
Features: Sallow complexion, brown hair, grey eyes, marked with small pox, one knee bent but is not lame



Convictos enla Nueva Olanda [Convicts in New Holland], Juan Ravenet, 1793, wash drawing, DGD 2 f.5

It's a very Desparate attempt to go in an open Boat for a run of about 16 or 17 hundred Leags and in pertacalar for a woman and two small children.

PRIVATE JOHN EASTY
A MARINE WHO ARRIVED IN SYDNEY ON THE FIRST FLEET

One of the most celebrated convict escapes was made by a young Cornishwoman, Mary Bryant, who arrived in the First Fleet on a seven-year sentence for assaulting a spinster and stealing a silk bonnet and other goods. Shortly after landing in Sydney she married a Cornish fisherman, William Bryant, who had also been transported for seven years.

In 1791, after securing a chart, compass and quadrant, two muskets and quantities of pork and rice from a friendly Dutch captain, Mary and William made plans to escape.

On the night of 28 March they stole Governor Phillip's six-oared cutter and, with muffled strokes, rowed cautiously down the harbour. Accompanying them were their two children, Charlotte and Emanuel, and seven other convicts. There was no moon to betray them as they slipped past the lookout on South Head and out into the Pacific.

Heading steadily north they made several landings along the coast. According to an account kept by James Martin, one of their party, the first of these was at 'a little creek' — probably Glenrock Lagoon just south of Newcastle — where they discovered deposits of coal.

Continuing to hug the coast, they put in to shore whenever they could for fresh water and to caulk the boat's leaking seams. At one of the islands of the Great Barrier Reef they butchered some turtles and dried the meat to take with them.

After a voyage of nearly 5000 km, enduring gales, near shipwreck, starvation and attacks by hostile Aboriginal people and Torres Straight Islanders, they reached Coupang in Timor. The escaped convicts passed themselves off as shipwrecked sailors and were given shelter by the Dutch Governor.

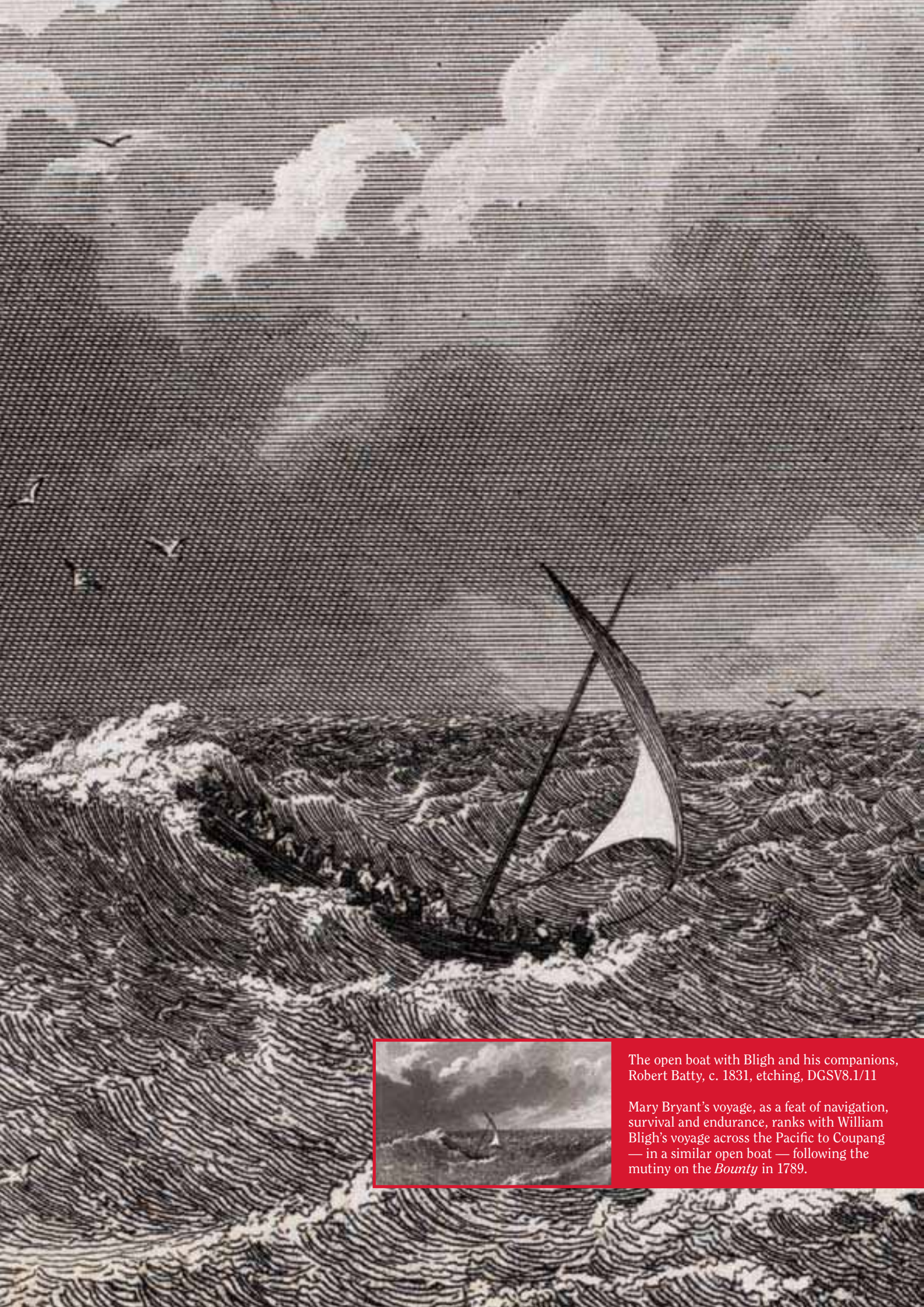
Their sanctuary was short lived. After several months in Timor, probably in a moment of drunkenness, one of the group revealed their true identities. They were arrested and shipped back to England in irons.

At Batavia, William and young Emanuel Bryant died of fever. Three of the remaining convicts perished at sea before reaching Cape Town, and on the last leg of the voyage Mary's daughter, Charlotte, also died.

On arriving in England, Mary and the remaining four escapees were committed to Newgate Gaol. Her widely publicised story attracted the interest of James Boswell, the lawyer and biographer of Samuel Johnson, who used his influence to obtain pardons for her and her companions.

Mary returned to her family in Cornwall with the promise from Boswell of an annuity of £10 'as long as she behaved well'.

From that moment she fades from history.



The open boat with Bligh and his companions, Robert Batty, c. 1831, etching, DGSV8.1/11

Mary Bryant's voyage, as a feat of navigation, survival and endurance, ranks with William Bligh's voyage across the Pacific to Coupang — in a similar open boat — following the mutiny on the *Bounty* in 1789.



Folio from *Panorama of Hobart*,
Augustus Earle, 1825,
watercolour and pencil, DGD 14 f. 3
The *Cyprus* is the two masted
vessel moored in front
of the Commissariat
(second from the left).



WILLIAM SWALLOW

Age: 39
Offence: *Housebreaking*
Sentence: *Transported for life*
Features: *Dark complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, long nose, prominent fleshy chin, scar on outer right arm, small scars on nose and chin*

There is every reason to believe that the plan of escape originated, or was concocted, by Swallow.

GEORGE WASHINGTON WALKER
A QUAKER MISSIONARY WHO TRAVELLED THROUGH TASMANIA DURING THE 1830S

On 14 August 1829 the government brig *Cyprus* was sheltering in Recherche Bay on the remote south-east coast of Tasmania. It carried a cargo of convicts bound for the penal settlement at Macquarie Harbour. Among them was a former sailor known as William Swallow (his real name was William Walker).

Swallow had arrived in Hobart in 1821 on a seven-year sentence for theft but within a year had stowed away on a ship to England. After six years of freedom he had been recaptured and returned to Hobart, this time for life. He was now on his way to Macquarie Harbour, having been caught attempting to stow away again.

With three officers away from the ship fishing, most of the guard down below taking supper, and only two sentries on deck, the perfect opportunity suddenly appeared for the convicts to seize the *Cyprus*. Led by Swallow they knocked out the sentries and forced the crew and remaining soldiers to surrender. Those passengers unwilling to join them — there were 44 including two women and several children — were marooned on the desolate shore.

Swallow sailed the *Cyprus* to New Zealand and Tahiti then back across the Pacific to Tonga, where seven convicts left the ship. Those remaining continued to Japan before scuttling the brig off the Chinese coast.

This epic of endurance was matched by the adventures of the castaways at Recherche Bay. They were saved from starvation by the efforts of two enterprising convicts, John Pobjoy and Tom Morgan, who constructed a coracle out of wattle branches and canvas. After paddling this frail craft in the open sea for several days, the two men were picked up by a passing ship whose captain arranged for the rescue of the other castaways.

Meanwhile, five of the convicts, including Swallow, had come ashore at Canton. They convinced the authorities they were shipwrecked seamen and secured passages to London. Unfortunately, they were recognised as escaped convicts, arrested and tried for piracy at the Old Bailey. The chief witness against them was Pobjoy, who had turned up in England after receiving a pardon for his efforts in rescuing the castaways.

The trial attracted a great deal of publicity, and capital punishment appeared a foregone conclusion. Four of the convicts were indeed found guilty and sentenced to death, but Swallow managed to talk himself out of a similar fate. Instead of being executed he was sent back to Hobart for the third time.

He died of tuberculosis at Port Arthur in 1834.



The making of the coracle,
William Buelow Gould,
12 September 1829, woodcut,
from *Hobart Town Courier*,
Hobart Town: James Ross, 1829,
X079.9461/1

JAMES PORTER

Age: 29

Offence: Larceny

Sentence: Death, transported for life

Features: Sallow complexion, brown hair, hazel eyes, two scars on forehead, dimple on chin, blind in left eye, pugilists tattooed on left arm



The brig Frederick departs from Sarah's Island, Macquarie Harbour, VDL, 12 January 1834 (detail), Geoffrey C Ingleton, c. 1952, etching, DGA 2, part 3

I was determined to make my escape from the Colony as soon as I could get a Chance.

JAMES PORTER

James Porter was born in London in about 1800. In 1815 he joined the brig *Sophia* bound for Rio de Janeiro and spent much of the next six years in South American waters.

Shortly after his return to England in 1821, he was convicted of stealing a quantity of silk and beaver and sentenced to transportation for life. He arrived in Hobart the following year. By 1824 he had made two attempts to escape. Unable to keep out of trouble, he served several stints on a chain gang.

In 1829 he escaped again. Eluding pursuit, he made his way through the bush to the coast and swam across the narrow channel to Bruny Island. However, before he could stow away on a whaling ship, he was recognised as an escaped convict and returned to Hobart.

For this latest offence he was sent to the penal settlement at Macquarie Harbour. He was there two years before he bolted into the bush again, only to be hunted down by the military.

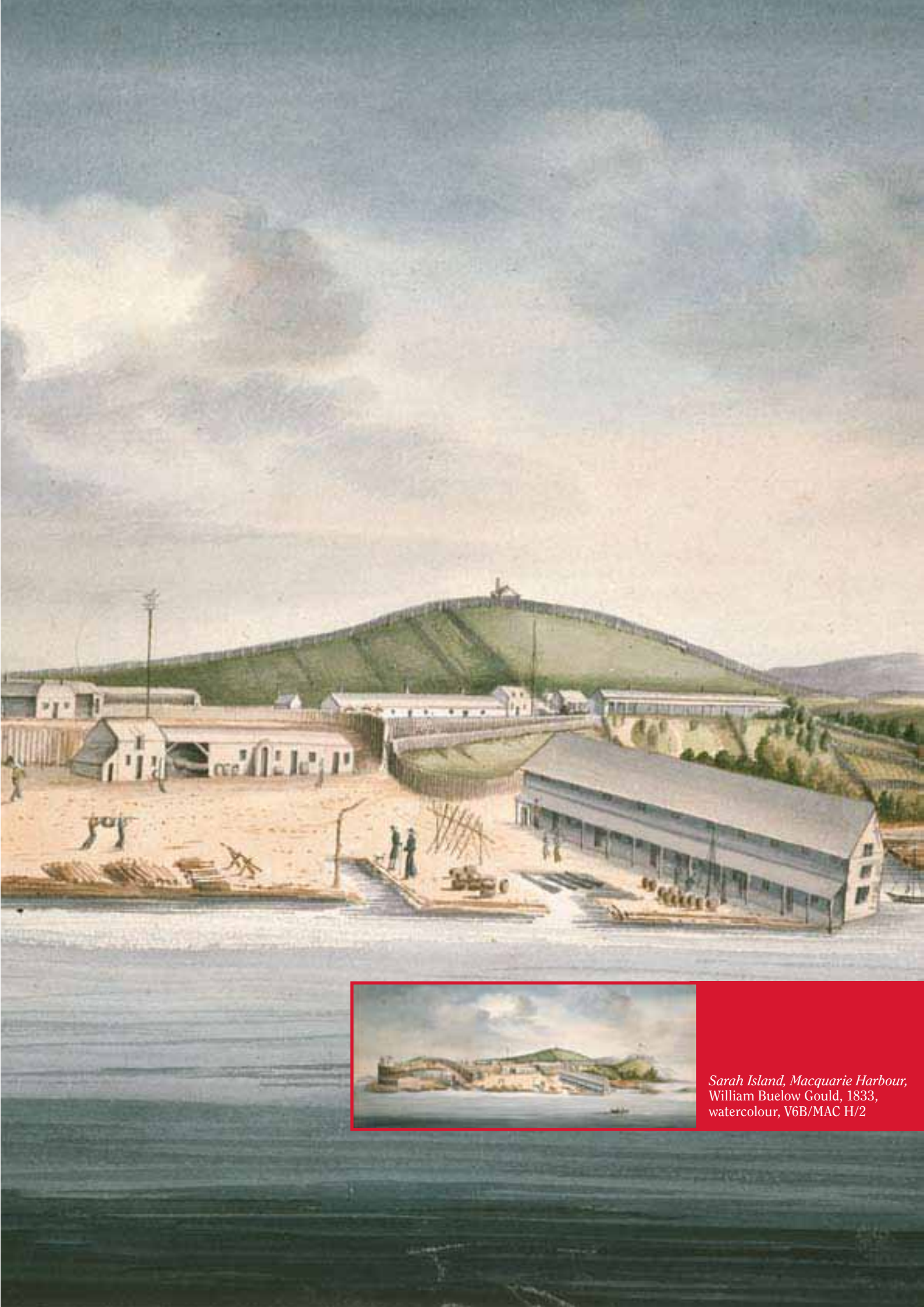
In 1834 he made his boldest escape attempt yet. With nine other convicts he hijacked the government brig *Frederick*.

The *Frederick* had been built at the Macquarie Harbour shipyard and was about to sail on her maiden voyage to Hobart. While the captain was waiting for the wind to change, two of the military guard took the whaleboat to go fishing. The two soldiers remaining on deck were easily overpowered by Porter and his mates. The captain, crew and the rest of the guard surrendered and were abandoned on the shore. They survived a gruelling 80-mile march to the Van Diemen's Land Company base at Cape Grim on the north coast.

Meanwhile, the convicts sailed the brig across the Pacific before scuttling her off the coast of Chile and making their way in the whaleboat to Valdivia. There they assumed new identities as shipwrecked sailors. By 1835 six of them had moved on. A year later the remaining four, including Porter, were arrested and handed over to the Royal Navy. They were eventually returned to Tasmania, where they were convicted of piracy.

The judge had doubts about the correctness of the verdict and they did not hang. Instead they were sent to Norfolk Island. After four years of good behaviour Porter was transferred to the mainland. In May 1847 he absconded from Newcastle, supposedly on the brig *Sir John Byng*.

He was never heard of again.



Sarah Island, Macquarie Harbour, William Buelow Gould, 1833, watercolour, V6B/MAC H/2

View of the Heads of Macquarie Harbour with the pilots residence, artist unknown, c. 1832, watercolour, V6B/Mac H/3a



Next Morning the Body was Cut up and divided into equal parts which we took and proceeded on our journey a little after Sun rise.

ALEXANDER PEARCE

Alexander Pearce, a small pockmarked Irishman, was one of only a handful of convicts to escape twice from the penal settlement at Macquarie Harbour.

Born in County Monaghan in about 1790, Pearce was transported to Hobart in 1820 for seven years for stealing six pairs of shoes. In June 1822 he was charged with forging a money order and absconding. His guilt was easily proved and he was sent to Macquarie Harbour for the remainder of his sentence.

In September, Pearce and seven other convicts seized a small boat at Kelly's Basin, where they had been sent to cut timber. After raiding the stores at Coal Head further down the harbour, they holed the boat and set out on foot through some of the most mountainous and inhospitable country in Australia.

They hoped to reach Hobart, where they planned to steal a schooner and sail to England. However, their provisions were totally inadequate for such an enterprise and Pearce was the only survivor of a nightmare journey during which, one after another, his companions were murdered and eaten by the remainder.

The first victim was Thomas Bodenham, who accepted his fate, according to Pearce, with remarkable calmness. After he was killed by an axe blow to the head, his body was butchered, roasted and 'devoured greedily'.

Sustained by their meal, the convicts set out again. A direct route was impossible. They stumbled over rotting logs, which often collapsed under their weight; they tripped over coiling vines and fought their way through dense nets of fern.

Eventually, only Pearce and Robert Greenhill were left. Both men fought the urge to sleep, eyeing each other uneasily. When Greenhill finally dozed off, Pearce seized the axe and 'gave him a severe blow on the head which deprived him of life'. Taking part of Greenhill's arm and thigh, Pearce struggled on for several days until reaching the banks of the Derwent River, where he joined a gang of bushrangers.

When he was finally captured on the outskirts of Hobart, the authorities refused to believe his horrific tale of cannibalism. There were no bodies to support his claim and they were sure that he was protecting his companions, who were believed to be still at large.

Pearce was shipped back to Macquarie Harbour. A year later he escaped again, this time with only one other convict. He was apprehended after a week, camped alone on a remote beach. In his pocket was a chunk of human flesh.

This time he was believed, promptly tried and hanged.

ALEXANDER PEARCE

Age: 32

Offence: Larceny

Sentence: Transportation for seven years

Features: Dark ruddy complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, pock-pitted



The Frenchman Range from Mt Arrowsmith, John Watt Beattie, c. 1890, albumen photoprint, PXA 609/181

Alexander Pearce executed for murder, July 19 1824, Thomas Bock, 1824, pencil, DG P2/21

JOHN GRAHAM

Age: 25
Offence: Larceny
Sentence: Transportation for seven years
Features: Fair, freckled complexion, black hair, hazel grey eyes



Moreton Bay 1832 (detail), artist unknown, pencil, SSV4B/MORE B/1

To [John Graham] alone are we indebted for the recovery of Mrs Fraser.

CAPTAIN FOSTER FYANS
COMMANDANT OF MORETON BAY FROM 1825 TO 1837

John Graham arrived in Sydney in 1825 on a seven-year sentence for stealing six-and-a-half pounds of hemp. Assigned to a mill owner at Parramatta, he became friendly with the local Aboriginal people, from whom it was later said he learned food-gathering and survival skills.

In 1826 he received a second conviction for theft and was shipped to the penal settlement at Moreton Bay. A year later he stole away from a working party into the bush. Most convicts who absconded from Moreton Bay headed south to Port Macquarie or Sydney, but Graham had a different plan — he set out north along the coast, hoping to hail a ship that would take him to China.

For several months he managed to avoid the Aboriginal people, subsisting on fish and fern roots. Eventually, he strayed into an Aboriginal camp where he was ‘recognised’ by an Aboriginal woman as the ghost of her dead husband.

It is likely that he was aware of the widespread Aboriginal belief that white men were the spirits of their deceased people, and no doubt he was careful not to disillusion his new wife. He stayed with the tribe for six years, adapting completely to their way of life, before suddenly returning to Moreton Bay and giving himself up.

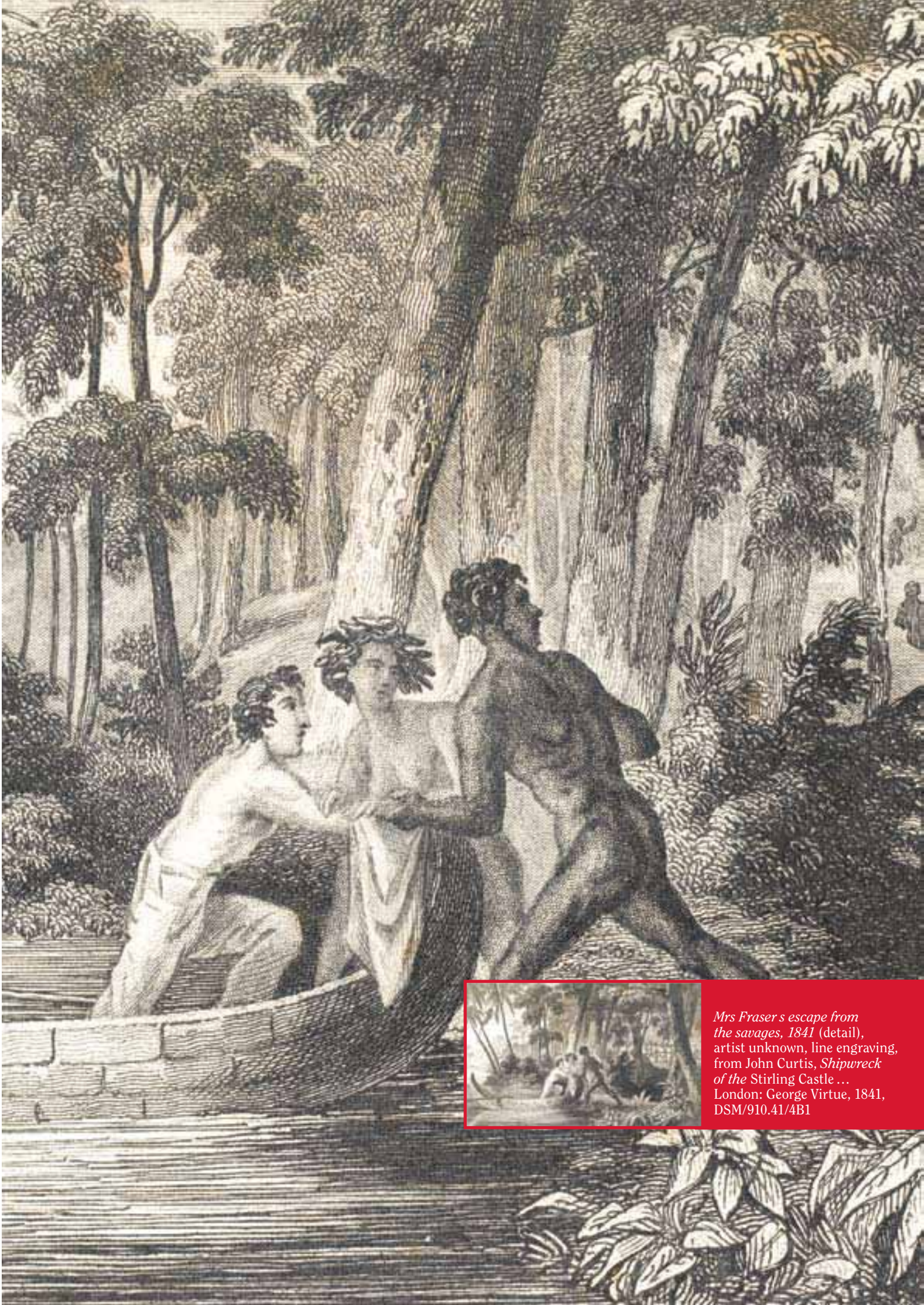
In 1836 news reached the settlement that the brig *Stirling Castle* had been wrecked off the coast to the north and some of the survivors, including the captain’s wife, Eliza Fraser, were being held captive by Aboriginal people.

Graham volunteered to join a rescue party led by Lieutenant Otter. They sailed to the Noosa River estuary, where Graham, after stripping and greasing himself with charcoal, went on alone and unarmed. Between 13 and 15 August, he brought in three members of the ship’s crew. Two days later he delivered Mrs Fraser to the Lieutenant’s care.

There is no doubt that Graham viewed the rescue of Mrs Fraser as a means of escaping from bondage; she was the great prize that he hoped would earn him a pardon. In this he had the backing of the Commandant, Captain Foster Fyans, who wrote to the Colonial Secretary that ‘to [Graham] alone are we indebted for the recovery of Mrs Fraser’.

On the recommendation of Fyans, Graham was returned to Sydney, where he petitioned the Governor for his freedom. However, the Colonial Secretary had already decided to reward him with a ticket-of-leave and the sum of

£10 – the means to make a fresh start.



Mrs Fraser’s escape from the savages, 1841 (detail), artist unknown, line engraving, from John Curtis, *Shipwreck of the Stirling Castle ...* London: George Virtue, 1841, DSM/910.41/4B1



Eaglehawk Neck, 1846
(detail), Francis Russell Nixon,
watercolour, PXD 91 f. 6

I now began seriously to arrange my plans, as during my time at Port Arthur, I continued to make observations, in order to facilitate my escape.

MARTIN CASH

Martin Cash was born in 1808 at Enniscorthy, County Wexford, Ireland. At the age of 19 he was convicted of housebreaking (in his version it was for the more romantic crime of shooting his mistress's lover) and transported to New South Wales for seven years.

Originally assigned to a farmer in the Hunter River district, he earned a ticket-of-leave and found work as stockman. When he was caught cattleduffing in 1837 he moved to Tasmania.

Two years later he was convicted of larceny and again sentenced to seven years. In the next three years he escaped several times and was sent to the penal settlement at Port Arthur.

On Boxing Day 1842 he and two companions, Lawrence Kavenagh and George Jones, absconded from a stone quarry gang into the bush. For three days they hid in thick scrub before making their way across country to Eaglehawk Bay. At times they were forced to crawl long distances through the undergrowth to avoid military patrols.

Piling their clothes on their heads, the convicts swam across the bay without alerting the guard dogs, or indeed the sharks which were believed to infest these waters.

Cash and his companions took up bushranging. Descending from their stronghold on Mount Dromedary northwest of Hobart, they robbed inns and the homesteads of wealthy settlers with seeming impunity. Popularly known as Cash & Co, they eschewed unnecessary violence and earned a reputation as 'gentlemen bushrangers'.

In August 1843, while visiting Hobart, Cash mortally wounded a police constable and was captured. He was found guilty of murder and sentenced to hang.

An hour before the planned execution Cash was reprieved. Instead of hanging, he was sentenced to transportation for life. The former bushranger was shipped to Norfolk Island, where he became a model prisoner and received a ticket-of-leave.

Cash returned to Tasmania and was granted a conditional pardon in 1856. After visiting New Zealand he bought a property at Glenorchy, five miles north-west of Hobart.

He farmed until his death in 1877.

MARTIN CASH

Age: 33

Offence: Housebreaking

Sentence: Transportation for seven years

Features: Very ruddy complexion, curly and curly hair, blue eyes, remarkably long feet, a very swift runner



Martin Cash, Thomas Bock, 1843, pencil, Sketches of Tasmanian bushrangers, c. 1823–1843, DL PX 5 f. 3

ITEM LIST

The early years

William Bradley (c. 1758–1833)

Entrance of Port Jackson 27 January 1788

Watercolour (reproduction)
From *A voyage to New South Wales*, c. 1802
Purchased from Francis Edwards Booksellers, 1924
Safe 1/14, opp. p. 65

Francis Fowkes
Sketch & description of the settlement at Sydney Cove Port Jackson in the County of Cumberland taken by a transported convict on the 16th of April, 1788, which was not quite 3 months after Commodore Phillips’s landing there
London: R Cribb, 1789
Hand-coloured map
MB2 811.17/1788/1

Artist unknown
The landing of the convicts at Botany Bay
From *A narrative of the expedition to Botany Bay, as performed by Commodore Phillip ... by an Officer of the Marines*, c. 1789
Line engraving (reproduction)
Dixon Safe 78/70

Fatal excursion, 26 June 1803

Newspaper (reproduction)
From *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, Sydney: G Howe, 1803
C 948

GW
Letter to John Macarthur, September 1800
Manuscript
Presented by Miss DB Walsh, 1957
ML MSS 710, p. 23

Philip Gidley King (1758–1808)
Remarks & journal kept on the expedition to form a colony in his Majesty’s Territory of New South Wales ... his Majesty’s ship Sirius ... 24 October 1786 – 12 January 1788, 1 February 1788
Manuscript
Purchased from the King family Estate, 1933
Safe 1/16, p. 89

Artist unknown
Government agricultural establishment Castle Hill, c. 1806
Watercolour
PX*D 379-1 f. 8

George William Evans (1780–1852) [possibly]
The Green Hills from the ... Hawkesbury River New South Wales 1809
Watercolour
Purchased 1950
PXD 388-3 f. 7

George Johnston
Letter to John Piper, 2 April 1804
Manuscript
Bequest of David Scott Mitchell, 1907
A256, vol. 3, pp. 328–329

Artist unknown
Major Johnston with Quartermaster Laycock and twenty five privates of ye New South Wales Corps defeats two hundred and sixty six armed rebels, 5th March 1804
Watercolour
With the kind permission of the National Library of Australia
PIC T2495 NK10162 LOC Box B13

Escaping by sea

George King
Letter to Sir George Arthur, Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen’s Land, 15 February 1829
Manuscript
Bequest of Sir William Dixon, 1952
DL Add 663

Piratical capture of the Venus Colonial brig, 13 July 1806
Newspaper (reproduction)
From *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, Sydney: G Howe, 1806
C 952

George William Evans (1780–1852) [possibly]
An east view of part of Port Jackson from the west side of Sydney Cove, called Daws’s Point, New South Wales, 1809
Watercolour
Purchased 1950
PXD 388-3 f. 2

Account of an escape by an unknown convict, c. 1840
Manuscript
Purchased from Maggs Bros, 1991
ML MSS 5536

Artist unknown
Plan of a raft constructed by two convicts in order to escape from Point Puer, 1836
Watercolour (reproduction)
With the kind permission of the Archives Office of Tasmania
CSO 5/72/729

George William Evans (1780–1852)
A view of the west side of Sydney Cove, c. 1804
Watercolour
Presented by Sir William Dixon, 1951
DG V1/73

Artist unknown
Saved by death. A convict escapes in a coffin, 19 May 1877
Wood engraving (reproduction)
From *The Citizen: Police News*, Melbourne: Richard Egan Lee, 1877
La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria
PN19/05/77/00

Reuben Brumley
Bond undertaking not to receive any persons on board the American ship Hope without the Governor’s permission, 18 March 1807
Printed form with manuscript annotations
DL DOC 159

Curious and extraordinary recital, 25 March 1804
Newspaper (reproduction)
From *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, Sydney: G Howe, 1804
C 947

William Paterson
Government & General Orders of Lieutenant-Governor William Paterson, 11 September 1795 – 31 December 1797
6 November 1797
Manuscript
Bequest of David Scott Mitchell, 1907
Safe 1/18b

Mary Bryant

Juan Ravenet (b. c. 1766)
Convictos enla Nueva Olanda [Convicts in New Holland], 1793
Wash drawing
Purchased 1961
DGD 2 f. 5

William Bradley (c. 1758–1833)
Governor’s House at Sydney, Port Jackson, 1791
Watercolour (reproduction)
From *A voyage to New South Wales*, c. 1802
Purchased from Francis Edwards Booksellers, 1924
Safe 1/14, opp. p. 225

Antoine Cardon (1772–1813) after JT Barber (1774–1841)
David Collins, 1804
Engraving (reproduction)
From David Collins, *An account of the English colony in New South Wales* ... 1804
DLQ 80/43

James Martin (b. c. 1760)
Memorandoms, c. 1792
Manuscript (reproduction)
With the kind permission of University College, London
Bentham papers, Bentham manuscripts
CLXIX folios 179–201

Marie-Alexandre Duparc after Charles Alexandre Lesueur
Timor, vue de la rade de la ville et du fort hollandois de Coupang [View of the harbour and the Dutch town and fort of Coupang, Timor], 1802
Hand-coloured engraving
11 separate prints of plates contained in François Péron, *Voyage de découvertes aux terres Australes*, 2nd ed., 1824
Bequest of Sir William Dixon, 1952
DLQ 82/41

James Scott (d. 1796)
Remarks on a passage Botnay [sic] bay 1787, 13 May 1787 – 20 May 1792
Manuscript
Bequest of Sir William Dixon, 1952
DL MSQ 43, p. 62

William Bligh (1754–1817)
A log of proceedings of His Majesty’s ship Providence on a second voyage to the South Seas ... vol. 2, 1792–1793
Manuscript
Purchased 1934
A 564 vol. 2, pp. 150–151

John Easty
A memorandum of the transa[] of a voiage [sic] from England to Botany Bay in the Scarborough transport Captn Marshall Commander kept by me your humble servan[] John Easty marine wich [sic] began 1787
Manuscript
Bequest of Sir William Dixon, 1952
DL Sp 374, pp. 126–127

Two leaves of Smilax glyciphylla
Presented by Yale University Library, 1956
R807

Robert Batty (d. 1848)
The open boat with Bligh and his companions, c. 1831
Etching (reproduction)
Presented by Sir William Dixon, 1951
DGSV8.1/11

William Bradley (c. 1758–1833)
Batavia and Onrest in Batavia Bay, 1791
Watercolour
From *A voyage to New South Wales*, c. 1802
Purchased from Francis Edwards Booksellers, 1924
Safe 1/14, opp. p. 292

Pardon granted to Mary Bryant, 1793
Manuscript (reproduction)
With the kind permission of the National Archives, London
HO 13/9

William Swallow

Mrs A Prinsep
Hobart, 1829
Oil (reproduction of detail)
DG 349

Tasmania. Convict Department
Appropriation list for Georgiana, 1829
Manuscript
Bequest of David Scott Mitchell, 1907
TAS 24

Nicholas Charles Phillips
View of Recherche Bay, 1835
Pen and ink (reproduction)
From *A general remark book by NC Phillips RN*, 1828–1835
Presented by Major M Southey, 1932
A 1955

Augustus Earle (1793–1838)
Folio from Panorama of Hobart, 1825
Watercolour and pencil
Presented by Sir William Dixon, 1951
DGD 14 f. 3

Bill of Sale for the Cyprus, 1824
Manuscript and printed
Bequest of Sir William Dixon, 1952
DL DOC 41

William Buelow Gould (1803–1853)
The making of the coracle, 12 September 1829
Woodcut (reproduction)
From *Hobart Town Courier*, Hobart Town: James Ross, 1829
X079.9461/1

Artist unknown
Port Arthur, 1833
Oil (reproduction of detail)
Purchased from Gordon Williamson ML 185

Francis MacNamara (b. 1811)
Seizure of the ‘Cyprus brig’ in Recherche Bay Aug. 1829
Transcribed by Thomas Whitley, c. 1891
Manuscript
Bequest of David Scott Mitchell, 1907
ML MSS 7266

Tasmania. Supreme Court
Death warrant for the execution of James Camm, 1832
Manuscript
Bequest of David Scott Mitchell, 1907
C 203

William Swallow (1790–1834)
Petition to Sir Robert Peel, 10 November 1830
Manuscript (reproduction)
With the kind permission of the National Archives, London
HO 17/59 Kp. 18

Descriptions of the convicts who seized the Cyprus, 13 March 1830
Newspaper (reproduction)
From *Police Gazette; Or, Hue and Cry*, London: Mills, Jowett, and Mills, 1830
MDQ 352.205/2

Artist unknown
Gateway of Newgate Prison with preparations for an execution, c. 1820
Sepia sketch
SSV99/ENGL/7

James Porter

Artist unknown
A view near Woolwich in Kent, shewing the employment of the convicts from the hulks London: Printed for Bowles and Carver, c. 1800
Hand-coloured engraving (reproduction)
V*/CONV/1

Artist unknown
SW view of Macquarie Harbour, c. 1832
Watercolour
Purchased from the estate of the son of George Augustus Robinson through Maggs Bros Ltd, 1939
V6B/MAC H/3b

William Buelow Gould (1803–1853)
Sarah Island, Macquarie Harbour, 1833
Watercolour (reproduction of detail)
Purchased from the estate of the son of George Augustus Robinson through Maggs Bros Ltd, 1939
V6B/MAC H/2

James Porter
Autobiography, between 1839–1843
Manuscript
Bequest of Sir William Dixon, 1952
DL MSQ 604

Thomas James Lempriere (1796–1852)
Wellington Head, Macquarie Harbour, 1837–1841
Watercolour
DGA 64-1 f. 40

Charles Taw
Information of Charles Taw concerning the seizure of the Frederick, 1 February 1834
Manuscript
Bequest of Sir William Dixon, 1952
DL Add 160

Marcus Clarke
His natural life
London: R Bentley, c. 1875
Printed
DL 87/210

Geoffrey C Ingleton (1908–1998)
The brig Frederick departs from Sarah’s Island, Macquarie Harbour, VDL, 12 January 1834, c. 1952
Etching (Artist’s proof ‘A’)
Presented by GC Ingleton, 1955
DGA 2, part 3

Description of ten convicts ... who succeeded in overpowering the guard, and in making their escape with the vessel, 17 September 1834
Newspaper (reproduction)
From *Police Gazette; Or, Hue and Cry*, London: Mills, Jowett, and Mills, 1834
MDQ 352.205/2

Artist unknown
The Court House, Hobart Town, 1834
Lithograph (reproduction)
From *The Hobart Town Magazine*, Vol. III, March 1834, No. 13, Hobart Town: Henry Melville, 1834
DSM/059/H

Artist unknown
Settlement Norfolk Island, 1838
Ink and wash
Acquired from the King family, 1933
SV8/Norf I/5

The Irish exiles

Thomas Francis O’Meagher (1823–1897)
Letter to Thomas Mason, Police Magistrate of Campbell Town, 3 January 1852
Manuscript
Bequest of Sir William Dixon, 1952
DL Add 289

William Smith O’Brien (1803–1864)
Letter to Sir William Denison, 4 October 1852
Manuscript
Bequest of Sir William Dixon, 1952
DL Add 289

Police description of William Smith O’Brien, c. 1850
Manuscript and printed
Bequest of Sir William Dixon, 1952
DL Add 289

Artist unknown
John Mitchel, c. 1850
Lithograph (reproduction)
From a daguerreotype by Professor Gluckman
P2/M

John Mitchel (1815–1875)
Letter to G Baker, July 1853
Manuscript
Presented by CL Willes, 1948
Am 141/2

Frederick Garling (1833–1910)
The Sydney Hobart Town packet ‘Emma’ 1847
Watercolour
Presented by Sir William Dixon, 1951
DG V*/Ships/12

Edward Hayes
PJ Smyth ‘Nicaragua’, 1854
Watercolour (reproduction)
From a photoprint in John Mitchel, *Jail Journal*, Dublin: MH Gill & Sons Ltd, 1913
A923.2415/M680/4C1

Artist unknown
John Mitchel makes his escape
Printed (reproduction of detail)
From John Mitchel, *Jail journal; or five years in British prisons* ... Glasgow: Cameron & Ferguson, c. 1876
DSM/A923.2415/M680/4B1

Author unknown
The State Prosecutions, 1848
Printed
From *The Illustrated London News*, London: William Little, 27 May 1848
F050/129

Artist unknown
The Irish Rebels, c. 1850
Line engraving
MPG/Irish Rebels

Into the bush

Tasmania. Police Department, Port Dalrymple
Account for reward paid to John Thomson for apprehending runaway convicts, 31 March 1826
Manuscript
Presented by Fred Wymark, 1942
At2/2/11

Samuel Thomas Gill
Police escorting prisoners for trial from country districts to Metropolitan gaol, 1855
Pencil
Knox Collection
SV*/SP. COLL./Gill/3

Alexander Pearce

George William Evans (1780–1852)
Macquarie Harbour by GW Evans Deputy Surveyor, 1822
Etching
Hydrographic Office of the Admiralty, 1845, corrections 1862
M Charts G 886.01/1 (1866)

Artist unknown
View of the heads of Macquarie Harbour with the pilots residence, c. 1832
Watercolour (reproduction of detail)
Purchased from the estate of the son of George Augustus Robinson through Maggs Bros Ltd, 1939
V6B/Mac H/3a

George William Evans (1780–1852)
Hobart-Town, 1822
Line engraving
From *Geographical, historical, and topographical description of Van Diemen’s Land*, London: John Souter, 1822
Bequest of David Scott Mitchell, 1907
986/22A3

Alphabetical return of prisoners, who have absconded from Macquarie Harbour, since the formation of that settlement, 3 January 1822 to 20 June 1832
Manuscript
Papers of Sir George Arthur
Purchased from WH Robinson, 1936
A 2189, p. 7

Alexander Pearce
Confession of murder and cannibalism, 1824
Manuscript
Purchased, 1917
A1326

John Watt Beattie (1859–1930)
The Frenchman Range from Mt Arrowsmith, c. 1890
Albumen photoprint
PXA 609/181

John Watt Beattie (1859–1930)
Gordon River at Marble Cliffs, c. 1890
Albumen photoprint
PXA 609/154

Thomas Bock (c. 1793–1855)

Alexander Pearce executed for murder, July 19 1824

Pencil

Presented by Sir William Dixon, 1951
DG P2/21

Wild white men

Fatal escape, 10 June 1804

Newspaper (reproduction)

From *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, Sydney: G Howe, 1804
C 947

Joseph Platt

The horrors of transportation as related by Joseph Platt who was transported for fourteen years ... London: 1862

Printed

DSM/365/P

Port Jackson Painter

Untitled scene, with Aborigines attacking a rushcutter, c. 1790

Watercolour (reproduction)

© Natural History Museum, London
First Fleet Artwork Collection, Port Jackson Drawing No. 44

Charles D Richardson

An attack by Aborigines, undated

Woodcut

SSV/77

William Buckley

Artist unknown

Discovery of Buckley

Lithograph

From James Bonwick, *The wild white man and the blacks of Victoria*, Melbourne: Fergusson & Moore, 1863
572.992/1B

Artist unknown

Buckley, the wild white man, 1889

Lithograph (reproduction)

From *Savage life in Australia: The story of William Buckley the runaway convict who lived thirty-two years among the blacks of Australia*, edited by WT Pyke, Melbourne: EW Cole, 1889
Bequest of David Scott Mitchell, 1907
DSM/572.992/P

Charles Henry TheodoreConstantini (1803–1860)

William Buckley, 1837

Lithograph

From *Supplement to the Cornwall Chronicle*, 16 September 1837
DL Pe 256

Frederick Woodhouse (1820–1909)

The settlers first meeting with Buckley, 1861

Photolithograph (reproduction of detail)

Presented by Sir William Dixon, 1951

DGV2B/3

Frederick Grosse (1828–1894)

William Buckley, the wild white man, 1857

Woodcut

From *The Newsletter of Australasia*, Melbourne, George Slater, 1857

With the kind permission of the National Library of Australia
NLA PIC S2572 LOC2757

John Graham

Joseph Cross

Moreton Bay and Brisbane River 1825, 1829

Engraving (reproduction)

Inset in *Chart of part of New South Wales, with plans of the harbours, Mar. 18th 1827 corrected to 1829*, London: J Cross, 1829
981.01/C

Artist unknown

Flogging a convict at Moreton Bay, 1836

Hand-coloured etching and aquatint

From William Ross, *The fell tyrant or the suffering convict ...* London: 1836
365/R

Artist unknown

Moreton Bay 1832

Pencil

SSV4B/MORE B/1

Mrs Fraser's escape from the savages, 1841

Line engraving (reproduction of detail)

From John Curtis, *Shipwreck of the Stirling Castle ...* London: George Virtue, 1841
DSM/910.41/4B1

John Graham (b. c. 1800)

Petition to Sir Richard Bourke, 29 December 1836

Manuscript

Bequest of Sir William Dixon, 1952
DL SP 196

Artist unknown

Foster Fyans, c. 1851

Daguerreotype
MIN 109

Bushrangers

George Lacy (c. 1817–1878)

‘Hands up’, 1850s

Watercolour

PXD 3 No. 5

Colonial Secretary's Office.
Hobart Town

Government Notice No. 97 approving distribution of rewards for the capture of James Regan and his gang of bushrangers, 31 March 1826

Printed

DL Add 105

Author unknown

The bush ranger, c. 1830

Broadside

Spitalfields: H Paul, printer, c. 1830

Bequest of Sir William Dixon, 1952
DL Drawer item 291

Joseph Lycett

View upon the Napean River at the Cow Pastures New South Wales, 1824

Aquatint(reproduction)

From Joseph Lycett, *Views in Australia, or, New South Wales & Van Diemen's Land*, London: J Souter, 1824

Bequest of Sir William Dixon, 1952
C 989

John Hunter (1737–1821)

Letter to Sir Joseph Banks, 20 August 1796

Manuscript

Bequest of David Scott Mitchell, 1907
Banks papers Series 38.03

Sir Thomas Mitchell (1792–1855)

Donohue, 1830

Pencil

Presented by GF Mann

A 295/2 p. 541

Pepperbox revolver used by Wingfield, a Tasmanian bushranger, c. 1836–1860

Iron and wood

Bequest of Sir William Dixon, 1952
DR 127

Thomas Bock (c. 1793–1855)

Charles Routley, 1830

Pencil (reproduction)

Sketches of Tasmanian bushrangers, c. 1823–1843
Bequest of Sir William Dixon, 1952
DL PX 5 f. 6

Tasmania. Police Department

Warrant to apprehend Charles Routley, 7 November 1828

Manuscript

Bequest of Sir William Dixon, 1952
DL Add 565

British military flintlock blunderbuss, 1820–1850

Metal and wood

Kindly lent by Neville Locker

Cut down Brown Bess Flintlock Musket, c. 1820–1830

Metal and wood

Kindly lent by Neville Locker

Brown Bess military musket with triangular bayonet, 1762

Metal and wood

Kindly lent by Neville Locker

Section of rolling wall spikes, date unknown

Cast iron

Kindly lent by Neville Locker

General prison regulations for the gaols situate within the police district of Hobart, Hobart Town: James Barnard, Government Printer, 1859

Printed

Kindly lent by Neville Locker

Martin Cash

Thomas Bock (1790–1858)

Martin Cash, 1843

Pencil (reproduction)

Sketches of Tasmanian bushrangers, c. 1823–1843

Bequest of Sir William Dixon, 1952
DL PX 5 f. 3

John Skinner Prout (1805–1876)

Port Arthur, 1845

Watercolour and pencil

V*Sp Coll Prout 5

C Price

Chart of Forestier & Tasmans peninsulas VDL, 1842

Watercolour (reproduction)

M2 881.37/1842/1

Percussion single barrel trip gun, c. 1840

Metal

Kindly lent by Neville Locker

Tasmania. Convict Department

Code books of signals used on Tasman's Peninsula, 1844 and 1860

Manuscript and watercolour

Bequest of David Scott Mitchell, 1907

B 39, B40

C Hutchins after Charles Staniforth Hext (1815–1855)

North view of Eaglehawk Neck, 1845

Lithograph

From *Views in Australia and Tasmania*, 1845
Q980.1/H

Joseph Lycett (c. 1775–1828)

Mount Dromedary, Van Diemen's Land, 1825

Watercolour (reproduction)

DGD 1 f. 8

Francis Russell Nixon (1803–1879)

Chain of dogs on Eagle Hawk Neck, 22 October 1846

Pencil

Purchased 1922

PXD 92 f. 16

Francis Russell Nixon (1803–1879)

Eaglehawk Neck

Watercolour

Purchased 1922

PXD 91 f. 6

Tasmania. Police Department

Reward!: Fifty sovereigns, and a conditional pardon ... 19 January 1843

Broadside

Hobart: James Barnard, Government Printer, [1843]

Bequest of Sir William Dixon, 1952
DL Drawer 444

Tasmania. Police Department

Letter to the magistrate at Bothwell, 15 August 1843

Manuscript

A 580

Artist unknown

Now ready. Price one shilling. Martin Cash, the bushranger of Van Diemen's Land in 1843, 1870

Lithograph

Printed by J Walch & Sons

D 356-7/11

Punishment and reward

Thomas James Lempriere

Gentlemen convicts — The centipede

Pencil

Presented by Sir William Dixon
DLPXX 39 f. 5

Ludwig Becker (1808–1861)

Convict in black & yellow garb, 1851

Watercolour and pen (reproduction)

From *Letters, 1850–51, to Dr Kaup*

Purchased from Tregaskis, 1937
ML MSS 999, p. 61

Artist unknown

Joseph Platt receives 100 lashes for running away

Woodcut

From Joseph Platt, *The horrors of transportation as related by Joseph Platt who was transported for fourteen years ...* Birmingham: c. 1849
365/P

Artist unknown

Sir George Arthur, undated

Miniature on ivory

DL Pa 19

Charles Bruce (1807–1851)

Hobart Town chain gang, c. 1831

Copper engraving

SV*/CONV/1

Artist unknown

Convicts working on an iron gang, 1848

Line engraving (reproduction)

From M Eugene Delessert, *Voyages dans les deux océans Atlantique et Pacifique 1844 to 1847*

Bequest of David Scott Mitchell, 1907

DSM/Q980/D

Artist unknown

Convict stockade at Cox's River Crossing near Hartley, c. 1831

Watercolour and pencil

Purchased at Sotheby's Australian Paintings Sale, 23 August 1992
XV/1

Artist unknown

Sketch of a portable wooden house, to contain twenty iron'd ganged convicts, pre-1849

Ink and wash

V*/CONV/2

Van Diemen's Land. Police Department

Prisoners Remove Warrant, 23 April 1845

Printed form with manuscript annotations
Presented by Sir William Dixon
DLPXX 64

Cat-o'-nine-tails, date unknown

Leather, canvas, cord

Kindly lent by Neville Locker

Conditional pardon granted to Thomas Gorman alias Fitzgerald, 15 June 1815

Manuscript and printed

ML MSS 4199X

Absolute pardon granted to Hannah Dodd alias Forster, 10 July 1827

Manuscript and printed

A 3815 f. 9

Certificate-of-freedom issued to Thomas Siderson, 25 July 1832

Manuscript and printed

Presented by HC Allen, 1944

Ac 44-1/13

Convict jacket, c. 1840

Wool

Presented by Sir William Dixon
DR 114

Convict cap, c. 1839–1849

Leather

Presented by Sir William Dixon
DR 56

Convict waistcoat, c. 1830

Cotton and wool,

Kindly lent by Neville Locker

Regulation rivet leg irons, date unknown

Metal

Kindly lent by Neville Locker

Oval rivet leg irons, date unknown

Metal

Kindly lent by Neville Locker

Hammer head and rock working chisel, date unknown

Metal

Kindly lent by Neville Locker

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Leg irons, pre-1849*

Iron

Presented by Sir William Dixon
DR 167

Manacles, pre-1849*

Iron

Presented by Sir William Dixon
DR 121

***On display – Mitchell Vestibule**



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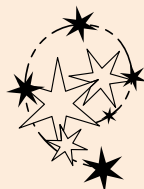
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