

BACK TO LAGOON BAY



C. Parks Heritage Officer, Mike Nash, speaking to ACST group overlooking the Hyatt's beach Whaling Station. B. Dwarfed by the stunning coastal vista the remains of part of the accommodation block foundations in the lower foreground.



Mike Nash is a Heritage Officer with Parks and his specialty is maritime heritage such as shipwrecks and maritime industries. Mike was our special guest for the day, kindly flown in by Pat Cliffe-Hickling in the Victa.

"Parks has most of the coastal land in Tasmania and almost all the coastal Whaling stations, and we never really knew what we had, so I organized some funding through the federal government. We did an historical research first and then supported that with an archeological survey and finally a dig that was undertaken by Latrobe University." said Mike.

When the colonists arrived in Tasmania they discovered lots of Southern Right Whales along the coast and in the Derwent. The Whales were first taken by the British Vessels but by the mid 1820's Bay Whaling had started up and there were stations dotted up and down the coast as far as Bicheno.

Mike said, "they would set up a shore Whaling Station, hunt the whales, process them and eventually the casks of oil would go back to Hobart. They paid the men on a proportion of the catch, a good



Across Lagoon Bay to Imlays Whaling Station

season you could make a hell of a lot of money. By the late 1830's the Whaling industry was the largest in Tasmania."

"It was responsible for opening up a lot of the settlement areas and was a big part of the colonial economy for quite a few years." added Mike.

Mike's easy 40 minute walk and two part talk could only afford us a brief insight into the colonial life of a Bay Whaler. It was fascinating to stand on the actual spot and hear their story come back to life. Mike has published a book titled *The Bay Whalers*, for a detailed read go out and buy it.

THANKS VOLUNTEERS



L: Peter Green, has been associated with the Aero Club since 1963, he started out with classmates like Sam Johnson and the now Cambridge Airport owner and Aviation businessman Don Wells. "It has been a wonderful Club, and I probably haven't been the most active member over the last 45 years, work, kids and a mortgage - you know how it is - but it is just so good to catch up with everyone today here at Lagoon Bay." said Peter.

"A group of us built the strip on Maria Island but we were removed from there so we did a deal with the Dunbabin family and built the strip here and then built the shack. It doesn't look like we had to do much, just looks like a flat paddock, but you would be amazed at how much earth we had to move with a grader, it was a big effort to put the strip in and today we are still very grateful to the Dunbabins, owners of the property. There are times the strip is not available, like after heavy rains and also when we have to work in with lambing season or if there is sensitive stock in the area. The strip is not just for the Aero Club's use, it is a working farm and grazing land." Peter said.

Peter was taught to fly in Tiger Moths and he is amazed at how aviation has changed. "The Ultralight has allowed so many more people to enjoy Aviation, and what the interesting thing around Cambridge is now, how many aircraft are privately owned." added Peter.



A. Philip Petersen and B. Sylvia Petersen in the Shack Kitchen preparing a Greek Salad and a huge pot of new potatoes smothered in butter!

