

Terra Nova *e-book*

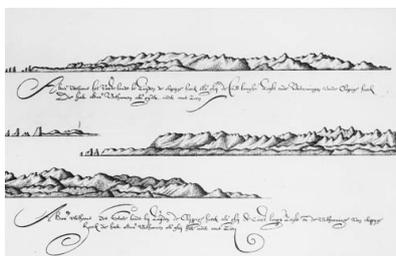
New Zealand discovered

Abel Tasman, the first European to see New Zealand

In December 1642

Dutchman Abel Tasman was sent to find a new continent, so the Dutch could dominate any future trade with this new continent.

Instead, on the 13th December 1642 in the vessels Heemskerck and Zeehaen, Tasman and his crew sighted a 'land uplifted high'. 'This land uplifted high' being the west coast of the South Island, where five days later they anchored in Golden Bay.

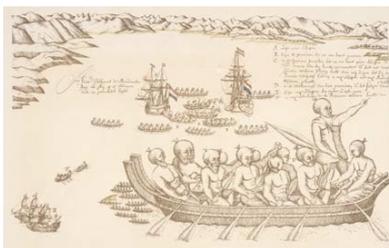


The first view of New Zealand

This sighting made Tasman and his crew the first Europeans to discover New Zealand, which he named Staten Landt later to be renamed Nieuw Zeeland by a Dutch cartographer.

Murderers Bay

Anchored in Golden Bay they were attacked by Māori, with four of Tasman's men being killed and one of the bodies taken to be eaten by Māori.



Golden Bay (Murderers Bay)

Sailing away to escape, Tasman called the place Murderer's Bay, and 200 years later it would be renamed Golden Bay by British settlers.

This was the first meeting between Māori and European.

With this clash of the two cultures Tasman determined he would be unable to make friendly terms with Māori.

Instructions

In 1642, Anthony Van Diemen, Governor-General of the Dutch East Indies, commissioned Abel Tasman, a sea captain employed by the Dutch East India Company, to undertake a voyage to the unknown south seas.

Leaving Batavia in August, 1642, Tasman first set a course towards Mauritius, then sailing southward, and later easterly, and reached in November, 1642, the west coast of Tasmania, which he named Van Diemen's Land.

The name of his ships - Heemskerck and Zeehaen - survive in the names of two

6th edition.

Terra Nova

e-book

Welcome back to our Terra Nova *e-book* editions.

This is already our *sixth issue* with some historical information about New Zealand.

The five previous editions are also available on our company website to read or if you so wish for downloading in PDF format.

For correspondence or if you wish to contribute with an interesting article that may be published, please contact us at **Terra Nova Consultancy Ltd**

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The Maori tribe of Golden Bay

The tribe encountered by Tasman were the Ngati Tumatakokiri, a group which had originally migrated from Taupo to Wanganui in the North Island, moved to Queen Charlotte Sound and then to Taitapu (Golden Bay). They were one of a series of tribes to migrate from the north, fighting, enslaving and intermarrying with the local people.

The Ngati Tumatakokiri were themselves attacked by the Ngati Apa from Wanganui in the North Island and Ngaitahu from the south, and in about 1813 they driven off the West Coast.

The tribe and its history has now all but disappeared although it is likely that there are surviving descendants of those who made the first European contact. Historian James Mackay records meeting surviving Ngati Tumatakokiri in the 1850's. In a tale which could have been of the tribes's encounter with Tasman, they said a ship with a white man had come to Whanawhana, near Separation Point, a vey long time before and their ancestors had killed some of them.

From archeological evidence, its estimated the Ngati Tumatakokiri tribe living in the bay at the time of Tasman's visit would have numbered between 400 and 500.

It is interesting that neither Tasman, nor the others who chronicled his voyage, mention any tattoos on the Maori. Drawings in Tasman's journal also show the canoes to be unadorned, with none of the intricate carving featured on more modern Maroi canoes.

mountains, the first land he sighted.



The Heemskerck

Possibly named after a Dutch village

Two years later, on another voyage, Tasman sailed along the northern coast of Australia (which became known as "New Holland") from Cape York to North West Cape.

Tasman was instructed to observe, describe and make charts of any land and note winds, currents, weather, and hazards to navigation. Any natives were to be treated well, but cautiously, and careful note was to be made of what they had which might be suitable for the trade. If the natives had gold or silver he was to pretend they were of little value.

Tasman was assigned 110

men and two small three-masted ships, the 120 tonn war yacht Heenskerck (possibly named after a Dutch village) and the 200 tonn fluit Zeehaen (Seacock)

Tasman's voyage

Aug 1642 - The Governor of Batavia, Anthony van Diemen, sent Abel Tasman on this voyage of exploration and discovery in the Great Peaceful Ocean.

New Zealanders were taught that while a Dutchman, Abel Tasman, was the first European to see the country, an Englishman, James Cook, was the man who really discovered and claimed New Zealand.

The voyages of Polynesian navigators, who came from Hawai and settled hundreds of years before Tasman, were also given little regard, as though history only began with that which was recorded on maps and in journals.

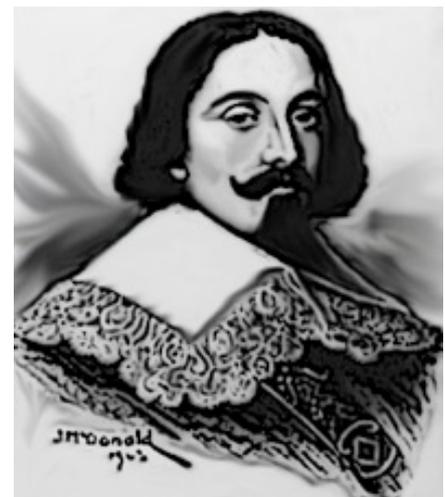
Cook paved the way for the British colonisation of New Zealand. His circumnavigation, scientific observation and adept mapping of the country was undoubtedly a key to its subsequent development. So, with New Zealand's history being taught for generations from a British perspective, Cook was seen as the real hero.

The Heemskerck and the Zeehaen left Batavia in August 1642 under Tasman's command to explore 'the remaining unknown part of the terrestrial globe'.

Travelling from Mauritius the expedition swept south-east east along the Roaring Forties, and in November Abel Tasman sighted what he would call Van Dieman's Land, later named Tasmania, in the honour of the Governor of Batavia, and cross the Tasman Sea to New Zealand, which Tasman thought a southern continent.

Tasman was instructed "to treat all natives encountered in the most friendly and un-intimidating manner possible".

Abel Tasman



Abel Janszoon Tasman, 1603 – 10 October 1659, was a Dutch seafarer, explorer, and merchant, best known for his voyages of 1642 and 1644 in the service of the VOC (United East India Company).

His was the first known European expedition to reach the islands of Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania) and New Zealand and to sight the Fiji islands.

His navigator François Visscher, and his merchant Isaack Gilsemans mapped substantial portions of Australia, New Zealand and some Pacific Islands.