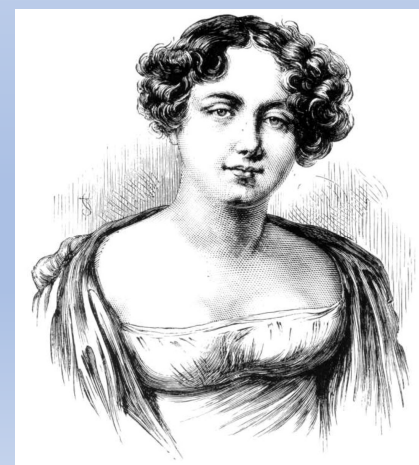


Sir John Franklin – The New Zealand Connections

(and James Ross and William Hobson and Jane Franklin)

Garry Law



John Franklin 1786-1847

Nephew of Mathew Flinders – In crew as midshipman on Flinders' 1802-03 circumnavigation of Australia on HMS *Investigator*

Distinguished naval career – battle and exploration

- Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 (aboard HMS *Bellerophon*), and at the Battle of New Orleans.
- Led three expeditions to the Canadian arctic – by land and sea

Lt. Governor of Tasmania 1837 – 1843

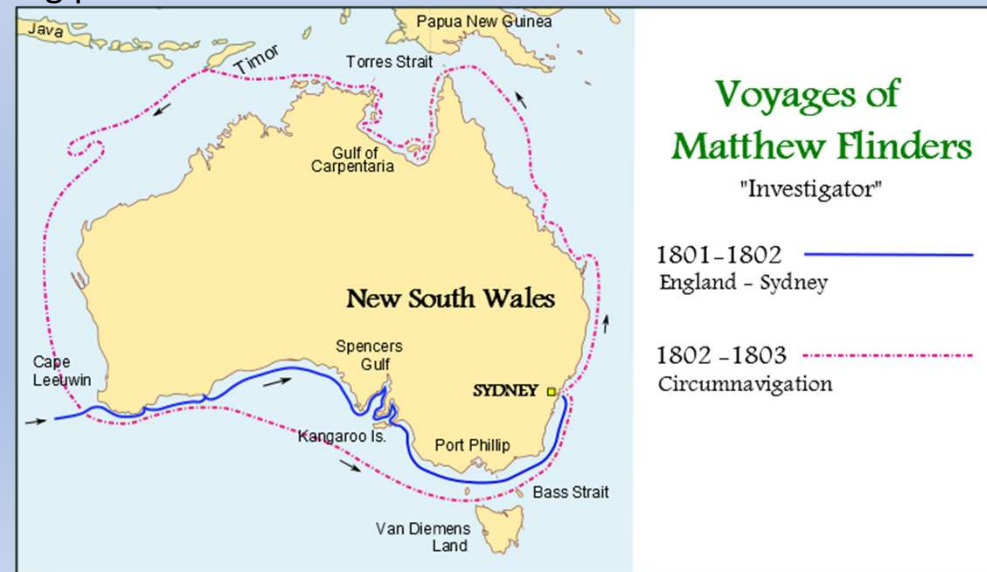
Helped **Ross** with a magnetic observation site at Hobart – by providing prisoner labourers.



Matthew Flinders



John Franklin



James Clark Ross 1800 - 1862

Previous Arctic explorations as crew member and one as a commander

First to visit the N. Magnetic pole – then an overland trip.

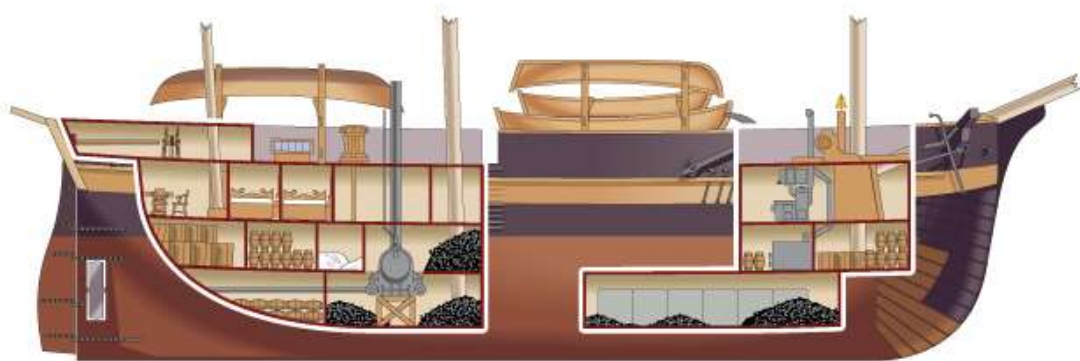
Made a magnetic survey of the British Isles 1835-38

Commander *Erebus* and *Terror* Antarctic expedition 1839-43

- Charged with setting up permanent magnetic observatories
- Based at Hobart for Antarctic voyages
- **Crozier** commander of *Terror*
- Naturalist **Joseph Hooker**

Later led one **Franklin** rescue expedition





HMS Erebus 1826
– as converted for 1845 voyage

Bomb Vessels

HMS Terror 1813

- as originally built

- War of 1812
- Refitted for polar exploration
- 1836, Captain George Back, expedition to Hudson Bay





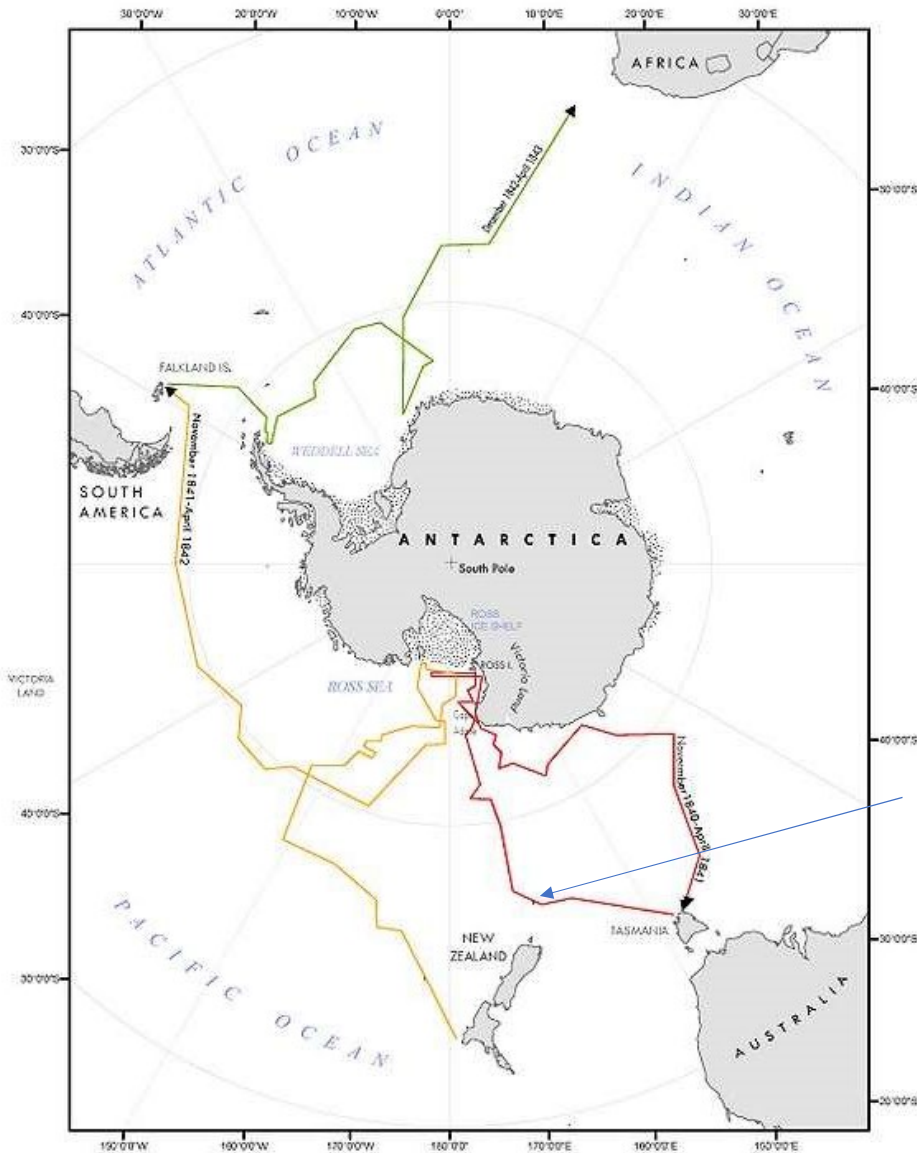
Ross Voyage Tracks 1840-43

Visited Auckland Islands on first voyage.

- Not then part of NZ
- Port Ross named after him (but is an unofficial name)
- The New Zealand sea lion is named after Hooker *Phocarctos hookeri*

Started south from NZ on the second voyage

Auckland Islands





Franklin Island

Scott Coast

Prince Albert Mountains

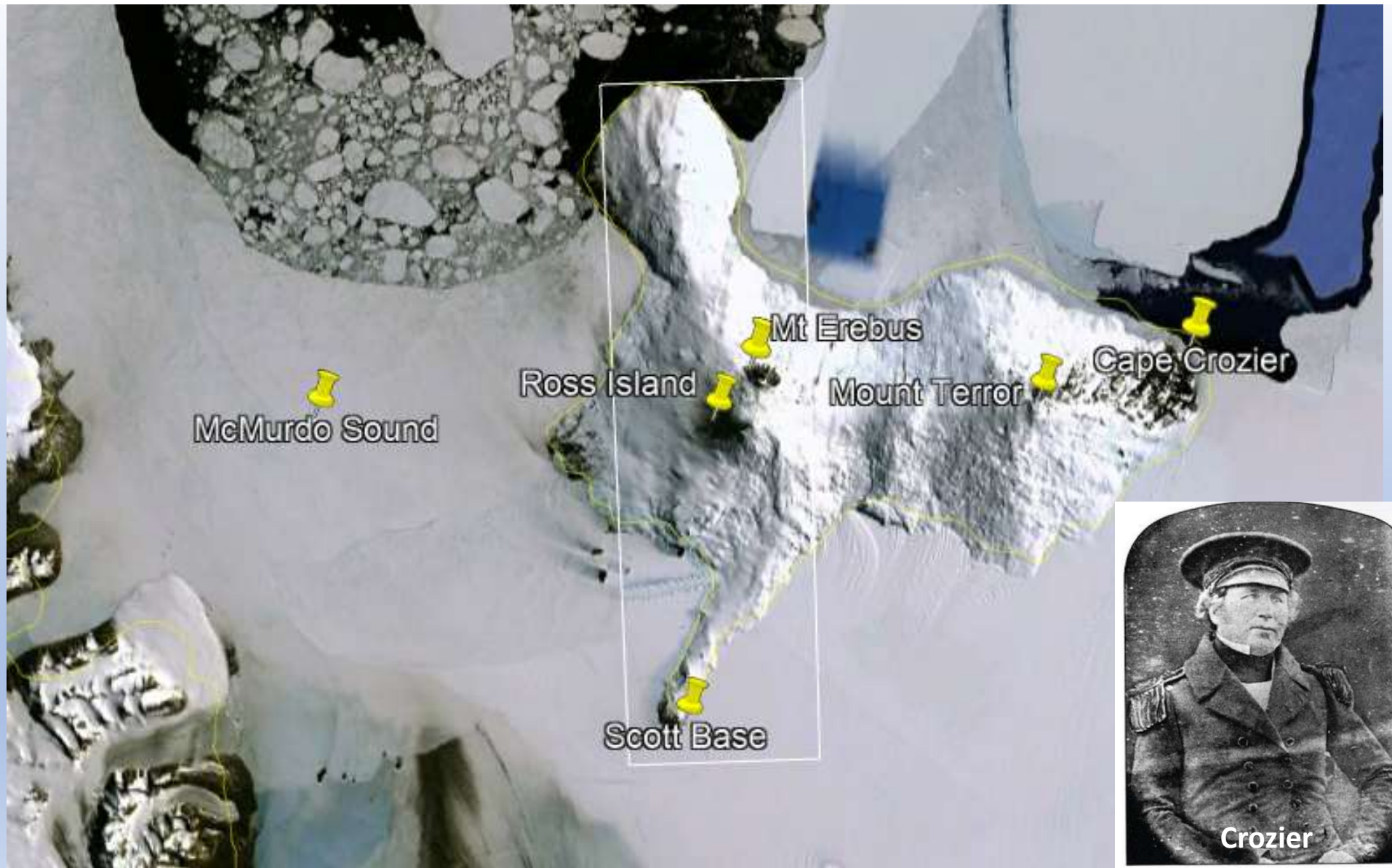
Ross Sea

McMurdo Sound

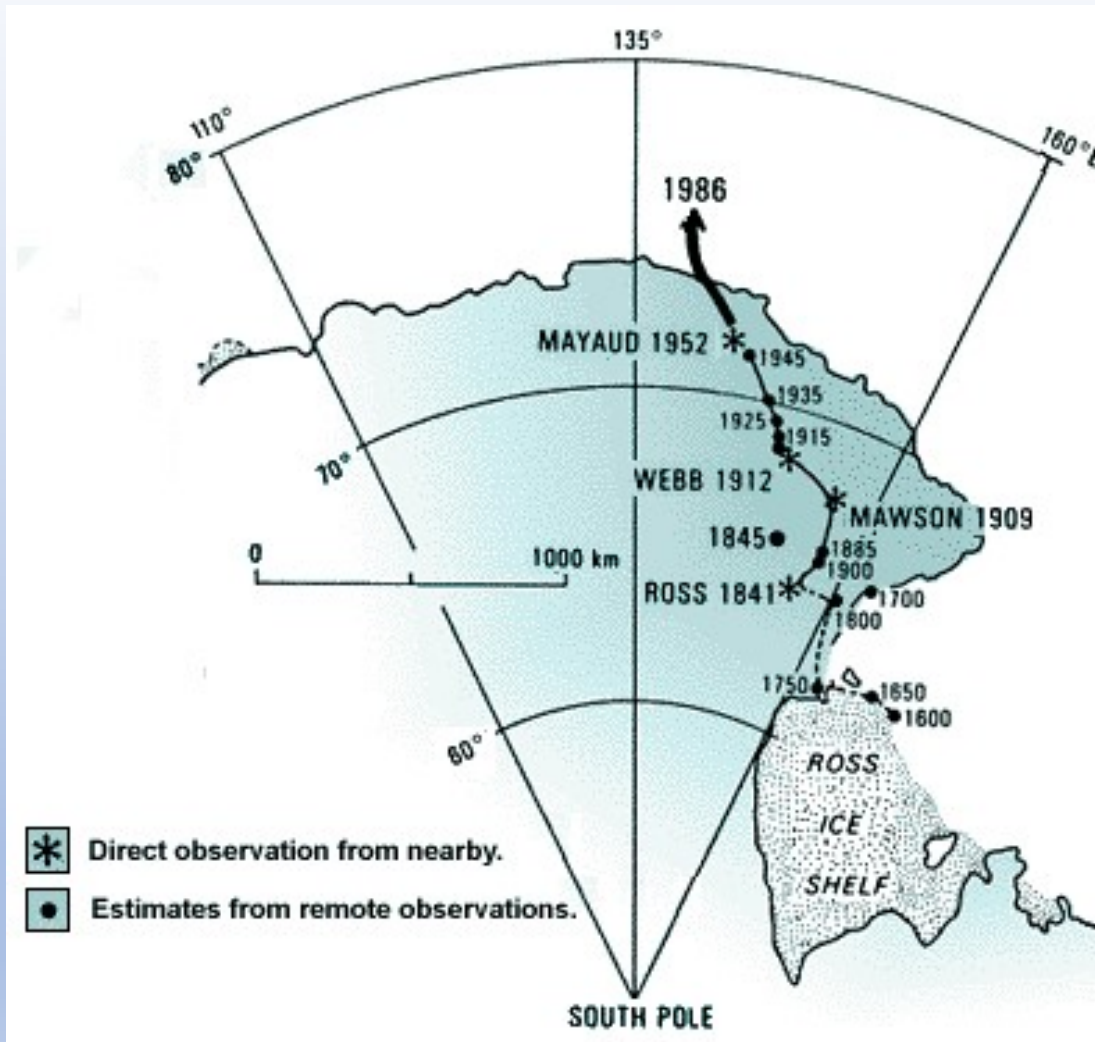
Ross Island

Hut Point Peninsula

Ross Ice Shelf



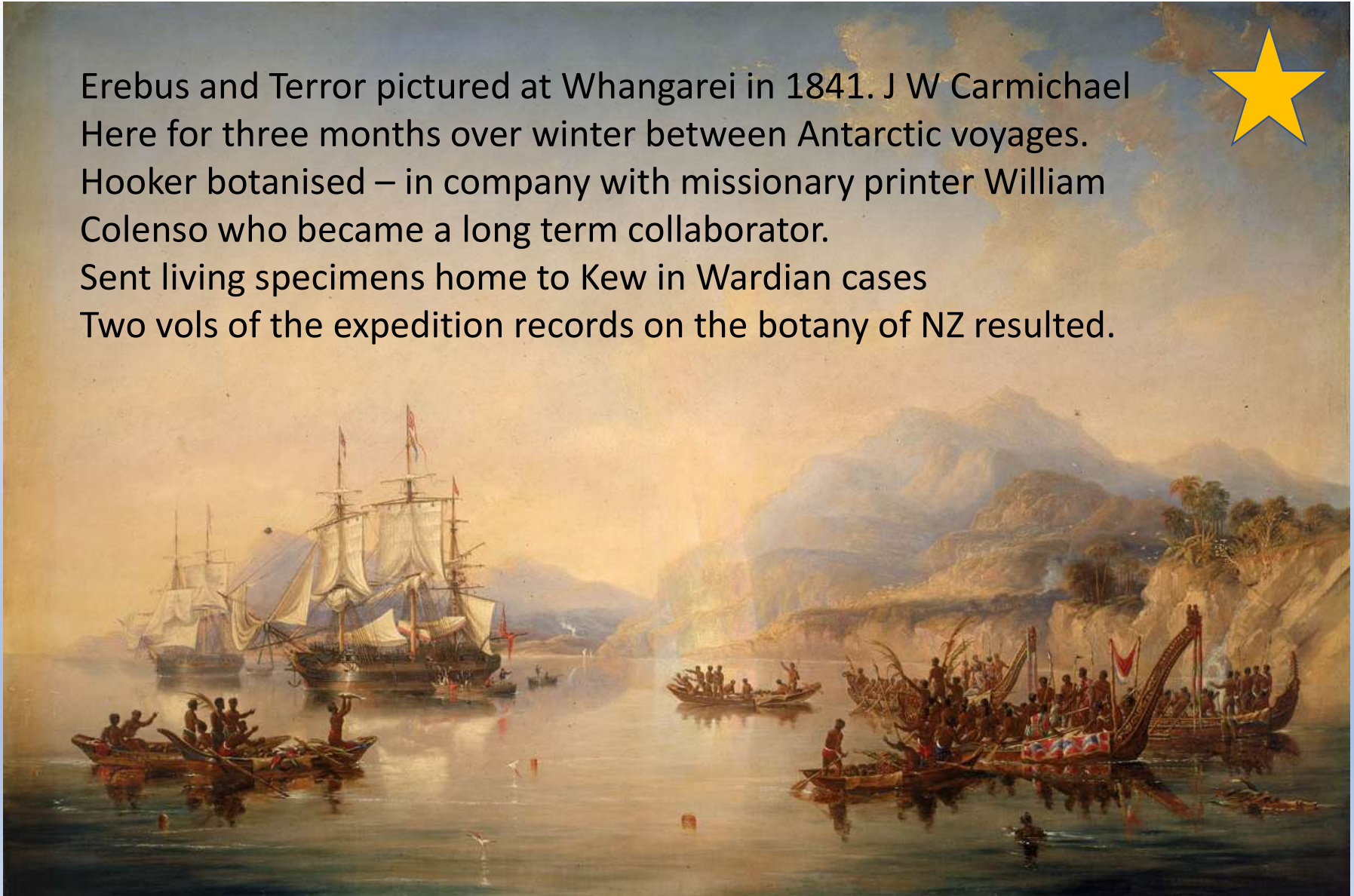
Crozier



Ross took magnetic observations to locate the S Magnetic Pole – first accurate fix

Douglas Mawson with two companions was the first to visit the S Magnetic Pole by sledge in 1909 – as part of the Nimrod Expedition, led by Ernest Shackleton.

Erebus and Terror pictured at Whangarei in 1841. J W Carmichael
Here for three months over winter between Antarctic voyages.
Hooker botanised – in company with missionary printer William
Colenso who became a long term collaborator.
Sent living specimens home to Kew in Wardian cases
Two vols of the expedition records on the botany of NZ resulted.





Scott Base established 1957



Ross Dependency – 1923 British Claim
– administration to NZ by Royal grant.

Lady Jane Franklin 1791 - 1875

Second wife of J F. 6 years younger than JF. No children.

Intrepid traveler

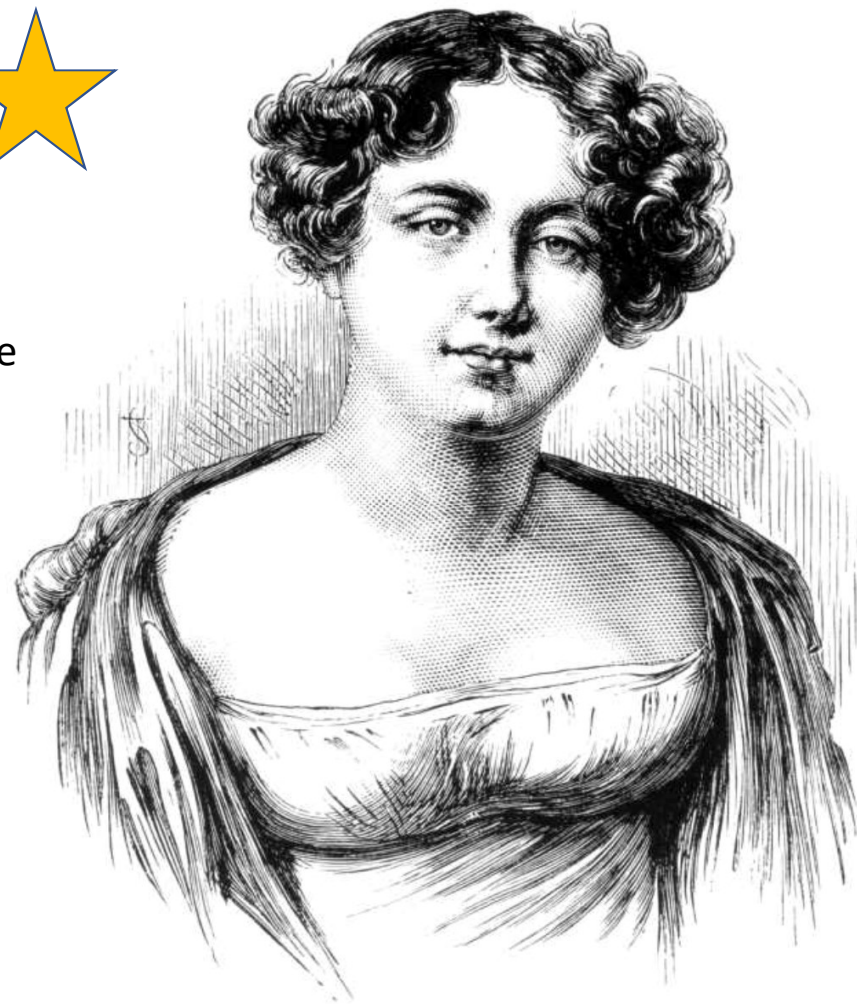
- Travelled up the Nile while her husband was on station in the Mediterranean
- First white woman to cross Tasmania to Port Mcquarie
- Ditto overland Port Phillip Bay to Sydney

Visited New Zealand in 1841 and stayed in Auckland with the Hobsons

Founder of cultural institutions in Tasmania

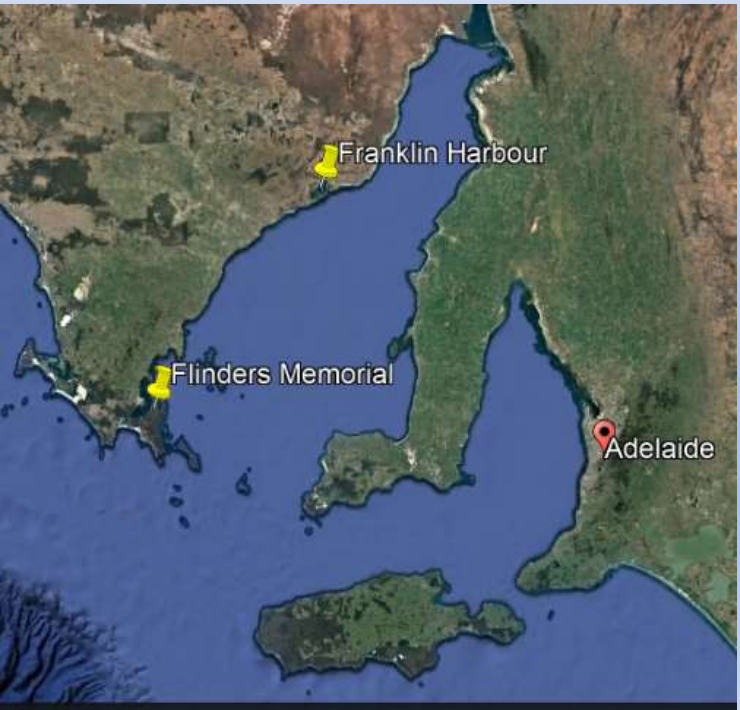
Tasmanian society found her independence quite scandalous

Franklin District south of Auckland named after her.





1841 Lady Franklin travelled to Port Lincoln for the erection of a memorial to Flinders – that she, rather than her husband had organised.
A more modern memorial is Flinders University, in Adelaide



1845 **Franklin** appointed the leader of a new Arctic expedition, aged 59 (**Ross** had declined)

Purpose - magnetic survey and make and map the last bits of the NW Passage

Erebus and *Terror* assigned – both now equipped with a steam engine – but only good for 4 knots and only had fuel for 12 days

Hulls newly reinforced with iron plate

129 crew

Deputy was **Crozier** on *Terror*

Last seen Baffin Bay August 1845

A series of official searches started, urged by Lady Franklin

Ross commanded an unsuccessful one (**McClintock** in crew)

At one point, ten British and two American ships, headed for the Arctic. Eventually more ships and men were lost looking for Franklin than in the expedition itself.

Last search expedition 1878.



Franklin before the voyage



Baffin Bay

King William Island

Hudson Bay



William Robert Hobson
1831 - 1880

Son of NZ Governor **Hobson**

Jane Franklin took an interest in him when she stayed with the Hobsons in Auckland

Was in Auckland aged ~11 at the time of his father's death – was chief mourner.

Joined RN 1845 aged ~14

In 1854 was in the Arctic on a support voyage to a Franklin search – made a long sledge journey.

Inuit reported their knowledge of the expedition's fate and in 1854 yielded two artefacts from the Franklin expedition. In 1857 Lady Jane Franklin mounted a private expedition, in part financed by public subscription, to search for relics of the expedition. Commander of the expedition was Captain **Francis Leopold McClintock**.

Hobson was his chosen deputy – undertook a remarkable 48 day sledge journey which found the definitive items which showed the fate of the Franklin expeditioners.



McClintock



Governor Hobson's Grave

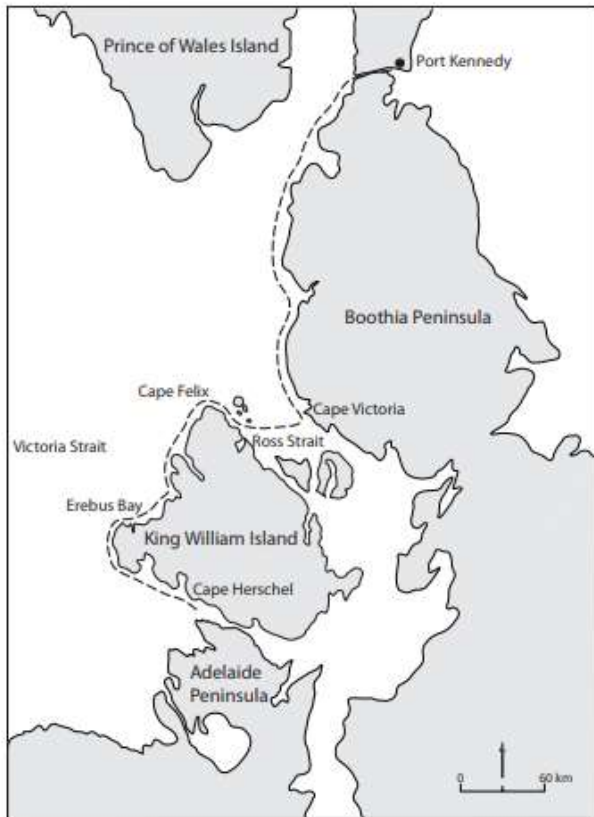
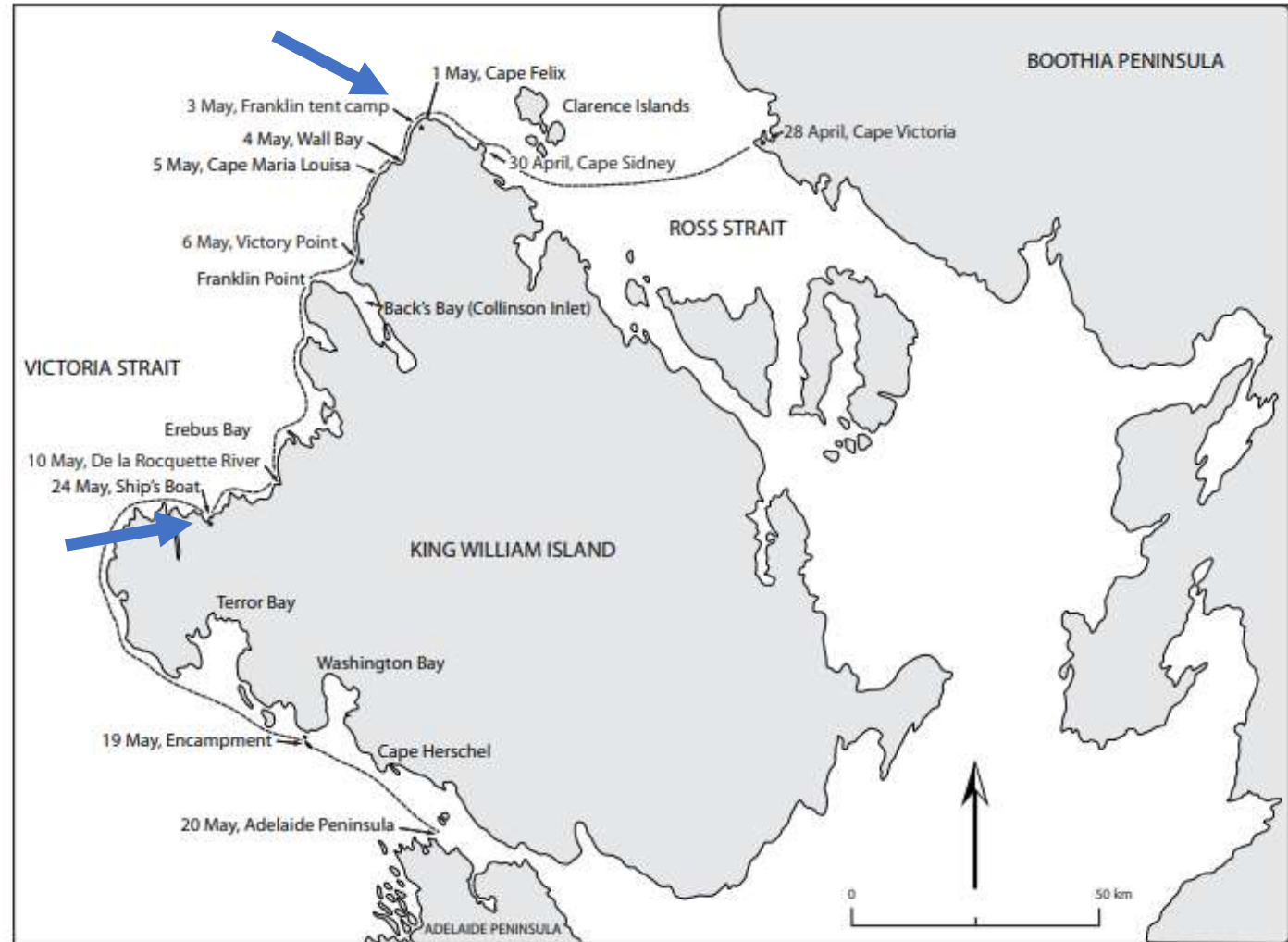
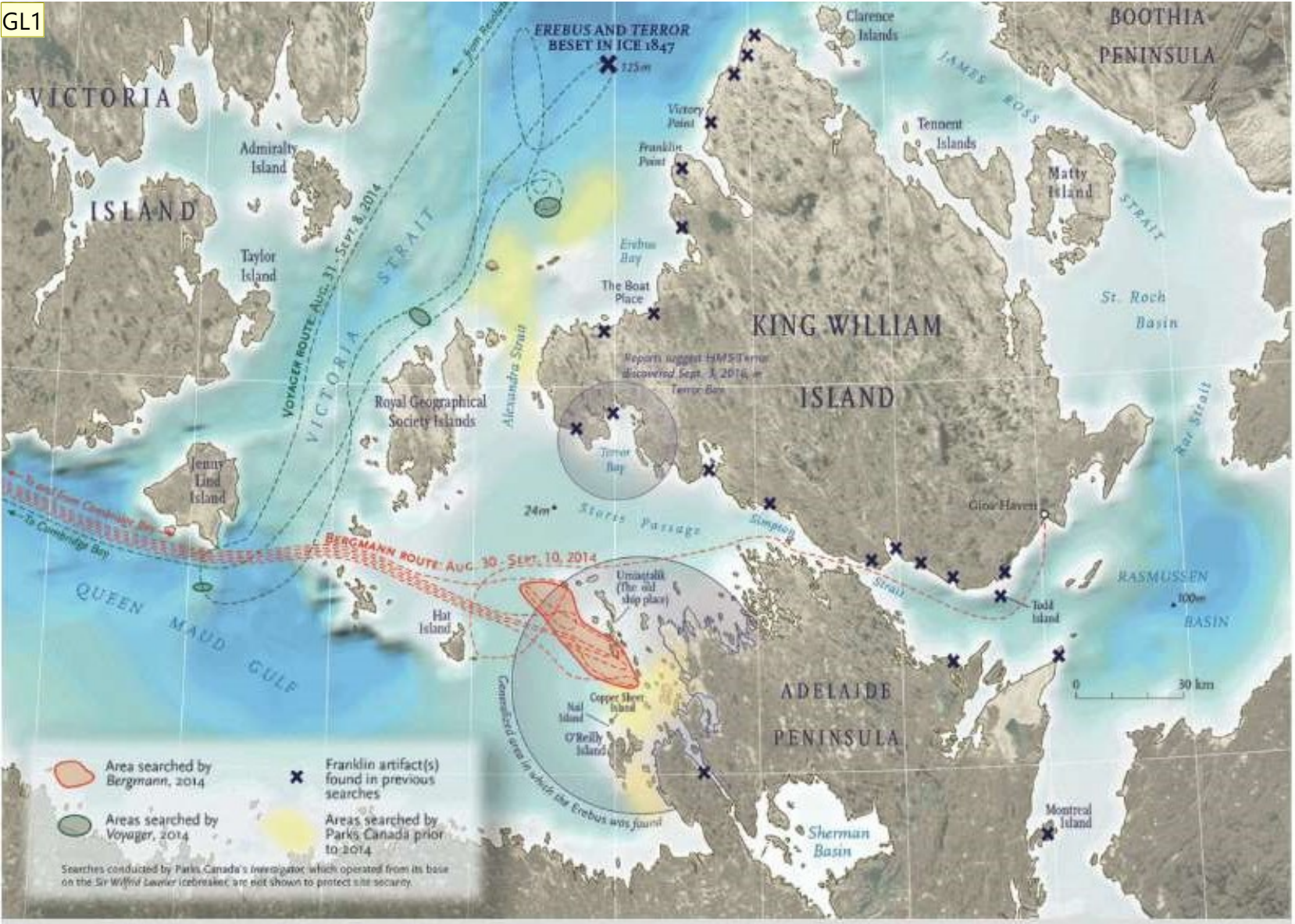


FIG. 1. Route of Hobson's sledge journey from Bellot Strait to King William Island between 2 April and 14 June 1859.



Hobson Sledge Journey 1859

GL1



Parks Canada

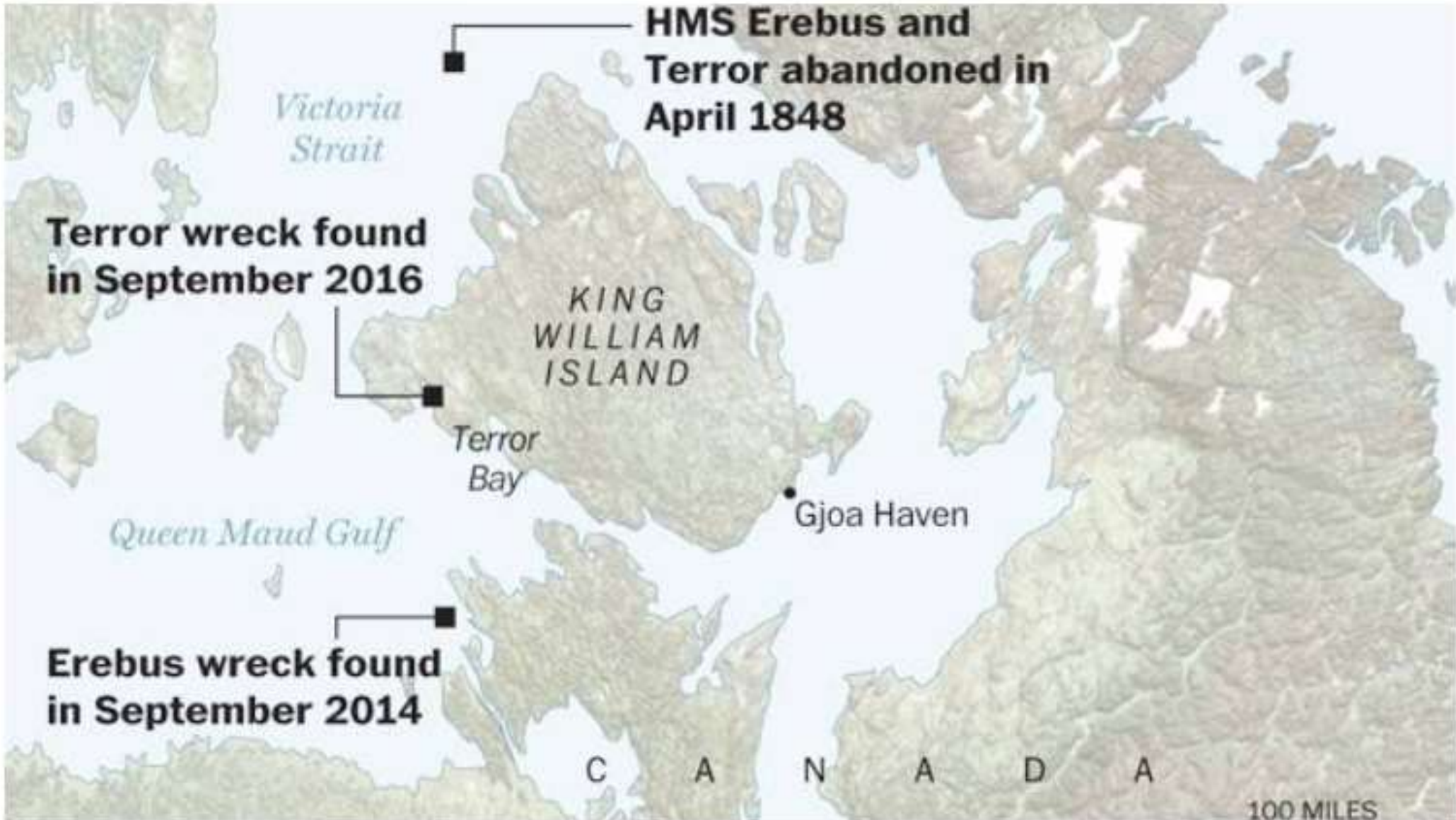
What Killed Them?

Cold, starvation, failed to make any useful connection with the Inuit.

There is some evidence consistent with cannibalism (though Lady Jane refused to believe this) - so perhaps murder?

Some evidence of general poor health among the crew – early stages of tuberculosis

Lead poisoning? Some provisions were early tinned goods sealed with lead solder. Much speculated on and some analyses suggested this was the case but a recent review has shown lead levels in the victims were no higher than the general British population of the time – so now ruled out.



**HMS Erebus and
Terror abandoned in
April 1848**

**Terror wreck found
in September 2016**

**Erebus wreck found
in September 2014**

KING
WILLIAM
ISLAND

Terror
Bay

Gjoa Haven

*Victoria
Strait*

Queen Maud Gulf

C A N T A R C T I C A

100 MILES

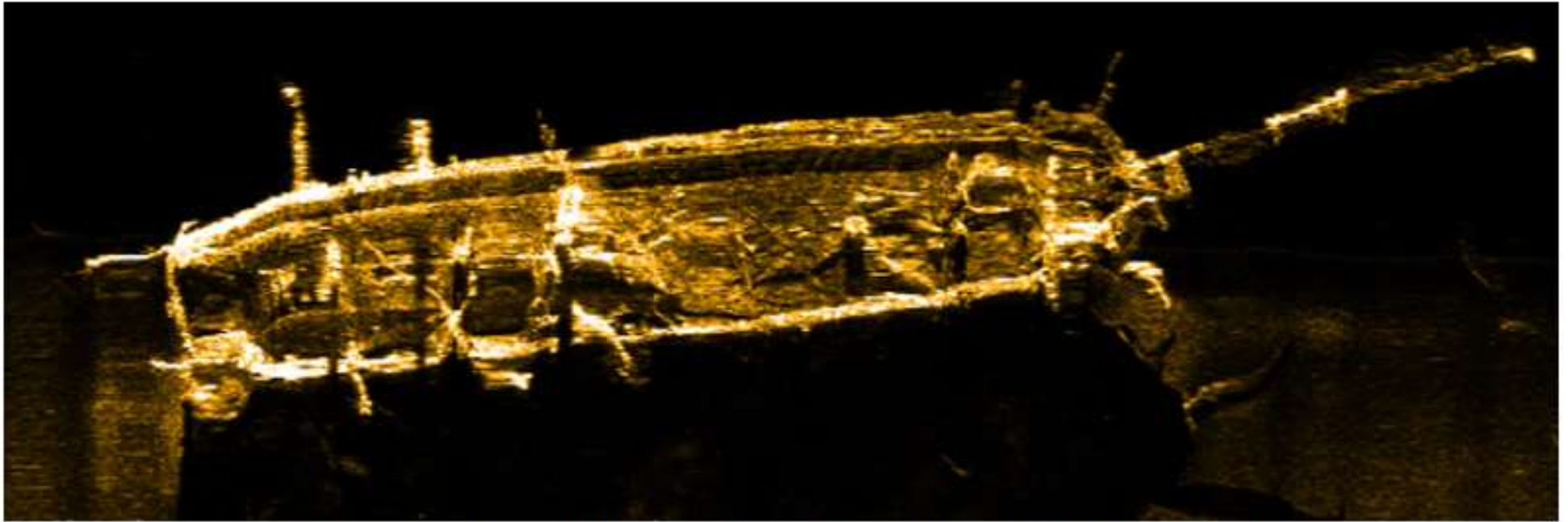


HMS Erebus

– photomontage projected on digital model

Erebus is shallower than Terror and hence floating ice has done more damage.





Side-scan sonar image of HMS Terror shows stunning detail: the bowsprit, masts, and the placement of the helm.



HMS Terror

Relic of:

- War of 1812
- Antarctic Exploration
- NZ Botanic Science
- Arctic Exploration

Finis