

CLIENT	Hobart Historic Cruises	PROJECT MGR	Cameron Heit
PROJECT	DERWENT RIVER CRUISES	WRITER	PF/Alison
SUBJECT	14. Droughty Point		
KEY No.			

Stop 14 - Droughty Point

The barren hills you can see are Droughty Point. The westernmost tip is Trywork Point, site of Tasmania's first known whaling station, already in operation in 1805.

You may wonder why the hills are so barren – this is because the European settlers cut all the trees down for firewood to boil the whale blubber.

Whale oil was the main lamp oil and machine lubricant in the US and Europe, powering the industrial revolution in Britain.

In this era, the Australian colonies were running out of coins. Governor Lachlan Macquarie solved the problem by importing 40,000 Spanish dollars in 1812. The centre was cut out, creating two coins: a small 15-pence piece and what was known as a 'holey dollar'.

After a few decades, the whaling industry ran into a problem. The whales became 'shy' – that is, so many had been killed, the shore-based whaling stations were no longer viable.

From the 1840s whalers had to venture out into the oceans. Shipyards soon sprung up all around Hobart's waterfront.

At the industry's peak in 1849, there was a fleet of 34 Hobart-owned whaling vessels. These were joined by ships from America, Britain and Portugal.