

# *Land Hunger: Portland, 1843*

*By Glen Foster*



*Portland, from the Bay.*

Published by Sands & Kenny Melbourne & Sydney 1857.

*An historical game using role-play and cards for 6 players  
from upper Primary school to adults.*

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# INTRODUCTION

## **'Fun with Local History' Series**

An education series exploring European settlement in Australia through game playing and hypothetical scenarios that incorporates factual events and real characters from the times. The series combines role playing scripts with card games to explore key aspects of the life and times of European settlement in Melbourne, Portland, Port Fairy and Warrnambool.

The series is consistent with the Victorian and Australian Curricula for History. Teachers may also find the contents useful in other subject areas such as Drama, English, Geography and Mathematics.

The usual poetic license has been taken in the development of the scripts. Two crossword puzzles based on each scripted game are provided. For more information about this material contact Glen Foster at: [gfooster2@me.com](mailto:gfooster2@me.com)

## **About the Game – Land Hunger: Portland, 1843**

The setting of this game is the Victorian coastal township of Portland in 1843. The aims of the game are to:

- find out about the early European settlement in Portland and have fun with history;
- accumulate wealth by investing in town land, exporting local produce, hunting whales, avoiding fines and sleuthing; and
- eliminate the other players and win the game.

Each player takes on the role of one or more pioneers depending on player availability. Each character's lines are colour-coded to help players see when it is their turn to speak. If players would like to imitate an English, Irish, Scots or Aussie accent when speaking their lines, the script will help, somewhat!

Each player has a mathematically equal chance of winning the game – no matter how many players are playing the game.

Before reading the script, it is recommended that players read through the short history of Portland that can be found at 'Australian Heritage': [www.heritageaustralia.com.au](http://www.heritageaustralia.com.au).

# PLAYERS

## List of characters and their accents

- **Sir George Gipps**, *Governor of New South Wales*: aristocratic English accent.
- **Charles La Trobe**, *Superintendent of the Port Phillip District*: aristocratic English accent.
- **James Blair**, *Police Magistrate in Portland*: Irish accent.
- **Edward Henty**, *squatter*: aristocratic English accent.
- **William Dutton**, *whaler*: Aussie accent.
- **Alexander Campbell**, *whaler*: Scottish accent.

## Character profiles

### Sir George Gipps, Governor of New South Wales:

I arrived in Sydney in 1838 with my wife and son. My administrative skills were tested to the full while I was Governor as my duties were difficult, challenging, and sometimes unpleasant. Particularly in my dealings with those greedy and wealthy squatters and settlers in the colony. I continued to be opposed by those powerful people. But I tried to be fair in all my decisions as Governor. My efforts were highly regarded by the Colonial Office and they asked me to serve a further two years as Governor - a wonderful compliment indeed. But my health eventually began to fail under the stresses and pressures of being Governor. I left Sydney in 1846 a very sick man. I died in England in 1847, aged 56. Not so jolly good!

### Charles La Trobe, Superintendent of the Port Phillip District:

I was a man of a thousand occupations: I was a botanist, a geologist, a hunter of beetles and butterflies, an amateur musician, a half decent sketcher, and a sports tragic. I loved riding horses and walking through the countryside and enjoyed over 90 journeys in Victoria. Although accused of being indecisive I faced challenging issues such as a lack of money given to the district by our Government in Sydney, the possible resumption of transportation and the gold rush. I married twice and fathered six children. In 1854, I sailed back to England. I died in 1875, aged 74. By Jove!

### James Blair, Police Magistrate in Portland:

Ahh, to be sure, as well as being the Police Magistrate in Portland, I was also guardian of minors, a director for local banks, a patron of many charities, immigration agent and deputy sheriff. I was described as a severe man who managed to keep law and order for twenty-five years among the rough and lawless population in Portland during the 1840s - by ruling them with the proverbial iron-rod. I married Margaret Le Maistre of Dublin and we had six children. After retiring I moved to Melbourne in 1867 and died in 1880 at my home in Toorak, aged 67. Fiddly dee!

### **Edward Henty, squatter:**

In 1829 my family left England and travelled to the Swan River settlement in Western Australia. Because the sandy soil there was unsuitable for our farming pursuits we moved onto Van Diemen's Land. But land grants were no longer available there: so, we turned to the land surrounding Portland Bay which was more suitable. We also became involved in the whaling industry. After settling in Portland in 1834 we built our homes, businesses and township at Portland Bay. In 1856, I was elected to the Victorian Legislative Assembly as a Member for Normanby. I was the first permanent settler in Victoria! I married Ann Maria Gallie in 1840, but we had no children. I eventually moved to Melbourne where I died in 1878, aged 68. And my name was never Teddy ... or Eddy ... it was always Edward.

### **William Dutton, whaler:**

Spent my youth in Hobart Town before beginning my life as a sealer in Portland Bay in 1828. Built a house at Portland in 1829 but was always coming and going, travelling along the coast hunting seals and then whales. In 1831 and 1833 worked for John Griffiths hunting seals and living in my house for twelve months at a time. Eventually established a whaling fishery in Portland Bay, about 1833. Was considered to be a splendid seaman and the most expert whaler on the coast. Married Mary Saggars in 1843, but we had no children so we adopted two children. Took up 640 acres at Narrawong - died there in 1878, aged 67. Fair dinkum, yeah!

### **Alexander Campbell, whaler:**

Hunted Pacific sperm whales before joining John Griffiths' whaling station in Portland in 1836. My "Whaling Laws" kept the peace between rival whaling crews in Portland and Port Fairy. Was a strong swimmer, keen sportsman and a fine shot - kept up duck shooting until 80. My motto was "rule over all the land and ... on those who dislike me, lay a strong hand". Married and had a wee daughter. Sold a lease that included the site of Warrnambool for £80. Became Harbour Master for Melbourne, in 1851 - at the start of the Gold Rush. Was known as 'Port Fairy Campbell' but I moved to South Yarra, where I died in 1890, aged 85. Och aye!

## **PLAYING THE GAME**

### ***Introduction***

The game commences with players reading the script. Throughout, players are required to use cards which either denote different amounts of money or provide players with options.

- Players can share a script/ipad to read from (ie one script/ipad between two players) so there are less materials on the table.
- The game can be played from the beginning to the end with no interruptions or:
  - the game can be stopped at any point and once players have calculated and recorded how much money they have, the deck of cards can put to one side until the game is resumed;
  - the script can be read without playing "Options" (for younger students);
  - the script can be read individually and not played in a group situation.

## ***Before starting to read through the script***

- Players may like to dress in appropriate clothing to reflect their particular pioneer's character:
  - for example, wearing an appropriate costume, hat, wig or drawing or wearing artificial facial hair.
- Players wear a name tag to help other players recognise the pioneer they are role-playing.
- Players make sure they understand the game of "Options" and how to use the money cards before beginning to read the script.
- Discuss the use of the different accents – various English, Irish, Scots, Aussie:
  - players could practice talking to each other using their accent before beginning to read the script.
- When three full stops, ie "...", appear in the script, the player pauses from speaking their lines momentarily and then continues to read.

## **RULES OF THE CARD GAME**

### ***Equipment***

One deck of normal playing cards is sorted and organised into number groups and face cards (Jacks, Queens and Kings) plus the Joker.

### ***Money cards***

- Cards from a normal deck numbered Ace to 10 for each of the four suits represent the money used in the game - apart from the Aces, money value = card value x £10.
  - '2' = £20; '3' = £30; '4' = £40; '5' = £50; '6' = £60; '7' = £70; '8' = £80; '9' = £90; '10' = £100
  - 'Ace' = £200
- Sir George Gipps and Charles La Trobe handle the money cards and exchanges them with players when directed to by the script.
- Sir George Gipps and Charles La Trobe do not personally receive or pay any money during the game.
- It is important players keep a running tally of their money.
- If the game runs out of money, use cards from another deck or print your own money!

### ***Option cards***

- Option cards are the **Jacks**, **Queens**, and **Kings** of the four suits, plus the '**Joker**' - thirteen cards in total.
- Option cards are played when an amount of money is to be paid or received, or an outcome is to be determined.
- There are three options in each money or outcome situation.
- Each of the three options are linked to a Jack, Queen, or King:
  - sometimes abbreviated as a '**J**', '**Q**', or '**K**', in the script.
- The '**Joker**' is the Master Option card and overrides all other cards and gives a player a free choice of Jack, Queen or King.
- Sir George Gipps shuffles the thirteen Option cards and places the pile of cards, facedown, on the table.

## ***Playing the card game of “Options”***

- When the word “**Now**” appears in the script, the game of “**Options**” must be played by the players and must be completed before players continue reading from the script – the game is described below.
- When it is their turn, a player turns over the top Option card from the pile of thirteen cards.
- That card will either be a Jack, Queen, King or Joker.
- When a Jack, Queen or King is turned over, an option has been selected.
- If the Joker is turned over, the player has a free choice of either the Jack, Queen or King option.
- Depending on the option, a player then usually has to pay, or will receive, an amount of money.
- When an Option card has been turned over and played, Sir George Gipps places the used card facedown at the bottom of the pile of thirteen cards on the table.
- After each “Options” situation is completed, players continue reading the script.
- The initial use of Option cards is on the second page of the script, when “Options” is first played in the ‘Fly Race’. This was included to give players an opportunity to practice using the Option cards without the distraction of having to use the money cards. In all other occasions throughout the remainder of the script, when “Options” is being played, there will be three options and money will most likely be exchanged.

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

*The following are relevant extracts taken from a selection of reference books listed on page 26.*

### ***‘The Portland Bay Settlement’ by Noel F. Learmonth***

“One of the last stretches of the Australian coast to be seen and chartered by Europeans was the sea-board in the vicinity of Portland Bay. The Dutch navigators and the British ships en route to Port Jackson sailed round the south of Van Diemen’s Land (Tasmania) under the impression that it was part of the main continent; thus, the western coast of Victoria was missed until 1800, when the first recorded voyage was made eastward through Bass Strait. His Majesty’s vessel ‘Lady Nelson’ in command of Lieut. James Grant, left London on that voyage on January 13, 1800. Edward Henty was certainly the first settler in Victoria ... In short, he was the first permanent settler in Portland and the first permanent settlement. Later we will see that Henty’s claims were disputed by others.”

### ***‘Port Fairy – The First Fifty Years’ by J. W. Powling***

“The name ‘Portland Bay’ has in the past led to some confusion, having gradually become restricted to the bay on which the Henty Brothers from Van Diemen’s Land established themselves in 1834 ... but the name was in fact originally given by Lieutenant Grant in 1800 to the whole indentation of coastline between Cape Grant and Cape Otway. Neither Grant in 1800 nor Matthew Flinders in 1802 had risked standing in close to this unknown shoreline of coast.



Flinder's chart has for the coastline between Portland and Port Fairy merely the note 'Moderately high sandy land seen imperfectly in the intervals of thick squalls'. The Frenchman Nicholas Baudin, in the same year as Flinders, did venture in close enough to distinguish and name more of the physical features than either of the two English navigators. But his names have long disappeared."

### ***'In Their Own Words' by Cecil James Hardy***

"The investigations of Bass and Flinders revealed the massive seal numbers, and hence the potential for profit, in the islands surrounding Van Diemen's Land. The opening of Bass Strait, and the charting of the southern coast of Australia, revealed further opportunities, both in the sea and on the land. The early targets of exploitation were seals, whales, kangaroos, wattle bark and salt. As it became apparent that the seal population was being decimated, bay whaling got into full swing, and by 1832, a permanent station was established at Portland Bay.

This early activity led to the development of an extensive maritime network, much of which, through the 1830s, emanated from Van Diemen's Land. This was principally from Launceston, the nearest port to the southern sealing, whaling and land establishments on the mainland ... it was also the source of equipment, for whaling and for the disposal of southern products such as wheat and potatoes.

Those in far-away Sydney knew little of the most remote part of the colony, and relied on the subjective views of a few travellers to inform the community."

For interested readers, more detailed descriptions of the town's history can be found by consulting the list of references provided on page 26. The Portland Historical Society, located in The Curator's Cottage Museum, Portland Botanical Gardens, is another rich source of historical information and stories.

### ***The First People***

Before reading the script and playing the card game, it is also important to acknowledge that there were people already living in the southwest region of Victoria before Europeans arrived: the Gunditjmara Indigenous People. Archaeological evidence suggests the Indigenous people arrived in Australia approximately 40,000 years ago. However, recent evidence suggests that the time of their arrival might have been much earlier, at 65,000 years ago. There are many references to the Indigenous people living in the southwest region of Victoria in the journals of some of the first Europeans visiting this area.

**Disclaimer:** In the script, the pioneers refer to indigenous people as 'Blacks' a term which was in common usage at the time. However, the term is now considered to be inappropriate and should not be used.

# LAND HUNGER: PORTLAND, 1843

## Charles La Trobe:

By Jove ... Hello everyone ... I'm feeling jolly well excited about being here today.  
As you know ... I'm Charles La Trobe ... The Superintendent of the Port Phillip District.  
It is my pleasure to introduce my good friend Sir George Gipps, our Governor of New South Wales.

## All players:

Hear! Hear!

## Charles La Trobe:

By Jove, Sir George has travelled all the way here from Sydney to see how Portland is developing.  
But firstly ... As is our custom ... Join with me as we pay our respects to, and salute, Queen Victoria.

## All players – standing and saluting:

Queen Victoria ... God Save The Queen!

## Charles La Trobe:

Jolly good show ... Please be seated.

## Sir George Gipps:

Yes, yes ... Jolly good ... Thank you for your welcome.  
I'm jolly well looking forward to playing this game of yours, Mr. Blair.

## Charles La Trobe:

By Jove ... Mr. James Blair is here.  
It's so nice to see my old Irish friend again.  
You're doing an excellent job as Portland's Police Magistrate ... What were your first impressions?

## James Blair:

Ahh, to be sure ... Thank you, Superintendent.  
When I arrived in 1840, Portland had one good house, six decent cottages, a few huts and no pier.  
The population was about 100 ... There were about 600 in the surrounding district.

## Sir George Gipps:

Jolly good ... But I understand there's been a lot of trouble in this small town of yours ... How so?

## James Blair:

Ahh, to be sure ... It is a rough and lawless town.  
Those riotous crews of whalers cause most of the trouble ... Fiddly dee.

## Sir George Gipps:

Not so jolly good ... I shall send some military men to help you ... As well as convicts and prisoners.

**James Blair:**

Ahh, to be sure ... Er ... Thanks, Guv ... I'm doing my best to keep law and order here ... Fiddly dee.

**Sir George Gipps:**

Jolly good show, old man ... Keep a stiff upper lip.

But what sort of trouble do these naughty whalers stir up?

**James Blair:**

Ahh, to be sure ... One of the problems is heavy drinking, Guv ... And the other is gambling.

**Sir George Gipps:**

Goodness gracious me ... I can understand drinking being a problem ... But gambling?

**James Blair:**

Ahh, to be sure, they'll bet on anything ... Even flies crawling up a wall ... Then they argue and fight. They'll even lay a wager with their most prized possession ... Rum.

I'll show you the game ... Each player chooses a fly on the wall ... And this is what might happen:

**"J" = Spider eats fly; "Q" = Fly flies off; "K" = Fly doesn't move; "Joker" = Fly wins race.**

Flies ... On your marks ... Ready ... Steady ... Play **"Options"** and see how far your fly crawls ... **Now.**

**Charles La Trobe:**

By Jove ... There was a real buzz of excitement in the air ... Or was that just the flies?

**James Blair:**

Ahh, to be sure ... They love the game ... When I threatened the whalers with a ban on all gambling games involving flies, forty men with firearms swarmed together to oppose me and the Police.

Two of our men were badly bitten and had their heads laid open ... Fiddly dee.

We managed to swat down the riot ... Without much bloodshed ... But I need more support.

**Sir George Gipps:**

Jolly well done you, but I make no apologies: I sent you here because you're one of our best Police Magistrates ... I have no doubt Portland will prosper under your intelligent and strict guidance.

**James Blair:**

Ahh, to be sure ... Thanks, Guv... Now you've approved the appointment of a scourger here in Portland, I can use the lash to encourage a little bit more cooperation, shall we say ... Fiddly dee.

**Sir George Gipps:**

A jolly good thrashing will do some of them the world of good.

Do you employ any other methods to control these riotous whalers?

**James Blair:**

Ahh, to be sure ... If all else fails I sometimes cast an Irish blarney spell over the worst of them. It has a kind of hypnotising effect ... And puts them into a calmer, happier place. Would you like me to cast a spell over everyone? ... It'll help us enjoy today's game ... Fiddly dee.

**Gipps, La Trobe, Campbell, Dutton & Henty:**

Hmm ... Yes ... Sounds exciting.

**James Blair:**

Ahh, to be sure ... All of you close your eyes and keep them closed.

*Players must close their eyes and keep them closed.*

**James Blair:**

When I snap my fingers ... You wake up and believe the game is real life. When I snap my fingers a second time at the end of the game ... You'll come back to reality.

*Blair snaps his fingers.*

Fiddly dee ... You can open your eyes now.

**Sir George Gipps:**

Yes, yes, jolly good ... Thank you for your welcome. I'm jolly well looking forward to playing this ... Er ... That's a bit odd ... I think I've already said that.

**James Blair:**

Ahh, to be sure, you were saying ... What a commendable job I'm doing and were about to pay me.

**Sir George Gipps:**

What a commendable job I'm doing and were about to pay me ... Er ... You, of course ... Jolly good. Play "Options" and I'll pay you your annual salary: "J" = £370; "Q" = £430; "K" = £490 – Play ... **Now.**

**Campbell, Dutton & Henty:**

What about us ... We haven't got any money ... That's so unfair.

**Charles La Trobe:**

By Jove ... Speaking of rioting whalers ... Here we have three whalers, wailing before our very eyes. Mr. Dutton, Mr. Campbell and Mr. Henty ... Please introduce yourself to Governor Gipps.

**William Dutton:**

Fair dinkum ... Billy Dutton here ... Maate ... Er ... Guv ... Born in Sydney ... Yeah. Grew up in Hobart Town but first came to Portland Bay in 1828 hunting seals, off Blacknose Point. Visited the bay on and off for the next few years and got involved in whaling. Built a house here and grew vegies for myself ... Well before Henty and his mob turned up ... Yeah.

**Alexander Campbell:**

Och aye, Guv ... My name is Alexander Campbell ... But people just call me wee Scotty. In 1826, I walked across Scotland and caught a wee ship sailing for Hobart. Me mate, Johnny Griffiths set up a wee whaling station here in 1832 and asked me to run it. But I preferred deep sea whaling so I took off for a wee few years and came back here in 1836. Caught seventeen wee “fish”, or whales, that year, but Billy caught eighteen ... He just pipped me. And Billy ... The Mills brothers, Johnny and Big Charley, might’ve visited Portland Bay before you.

**Edward Henty:**

I beg your pardon, and with the utmost respect to both of you, I must correct a slight inaccuracy. There may well have been other people in this district before I arrived ... But I am sorry to have to inform you of this ... They weren’t the first settlers here ... Because, you see, I was the first settler. Or more specifically, the first *permanent* settler ... If Dutton or the Mills boys were here before me, they most definitely weren’t permanent ... Like me.

**Campbell & Dutton** (speaking in unison):

Och aye ... Teddy ... Reckon the Mills lads were here before you ... And probably stayed. Fair dinkum ... Teddy ... You’re not the first settler here ... It were me ... Yeah.

**Edward Henty:**

I beg to differ ... That is simply not true ... I am the first *permanent* settler. And my name is not Teddy ... It is Edward.

**Sir George Gipps:**

Jolly queer argument ... Hasn’t been a bigger barney brewing since John Batman’s ginormous hissy fit when he realised the Wurundjeri elders would only sign a Treaty for 600,000 acres ... In 1835.

**Edward Henty:**

So, having corrected that historical mistake let me introduce myself to Sir George, our Governor. I am Edward Henty ... My family settled in Portland Bay in 1834 ... *Permanently* ... Not seasonally.

**Sir George Gipps:**

Jolly good, old man ... But remind me of how you got here in 1834?

**Edward Henty:**

We sailed here in the schooner ‘*Thistle*’ ... Which was sadly wrecked in Port Fairy Bay in 1837. And guess who was skippering the ship? ... It was one of the Mills brothers, Captain John Mills. Oh, and by-the-way you two ... I am not a whaler now. However, my brother Stephen and I did have a partnership in whaling for several years. And ... Umm ... Er ... We did catch 57½ fish during that time.

**Sir George Gipps:**

Jolly good fishing, what ... But how can you catch half a whale?

Anyway ... There's only one thing I know of that'll snap you lot out of this bad temper ... Money.

**Charles La Trobe:**

By Jove ... Of course ... How about I give each of you ... £120?

**Campbell, Dutton & Henty:**

Make it £240!

**Charles La Trobe:**

By Jove ... Oh ... Alright ... Possibly ... Anything to stop your arguing with each other.

Play "**Options**" and I'll give you some money: "**J**" = £220; "**Q**" = £240; "**K**" = £260 – each play ... **Now.**

**Campbell, Dutton:**

We've got real, bad land hunger, Boss ... Haven't we ... Teddy?

**Charles La Trobe:**

By Jove ... Yes ... Look at their rashes ... And twitching ears ... Looks like 'land hunger' to me.

But one hopes you won't have to pay the insane prices of the first land sale here in 1840.

**Edward Henty:**

Yes, I suppose they were a trifle high ... Although I bought a Suburban Allotment for a mere £307.

**William Dutton:**

Fair dinkum ... Teddy ... Maate ... But didn't you own that land ... After you came here ... After me?

I'd be kicking up a bit of a stink if the Government took the land off me ... And then sold it ... Yeah.

**Alexander Campbell:**

Och aye ... Teddy ... Shouldn't you be entitled to a wee bit of compensation?

**Edward Henty:**

I fully agree ... It's outrageous my family had to bid at a public auction for land we had pioneered.

**Charles La Trobe:**

Enough, by Jove ... Mr. Blair ... Please read out the possible amounts to pay for these town lots.

**James Blair:**

Ahh, to be sure ... I'll buy some town lots too ... In for a penny ... In for a pound.

Here are the land prices for the first town lots: "**J**" = £80; "**Q**" = £70; "**K**" = £60

In turn ... We'll play "**Options**" and pay the Superintendent for our land ... **Now.**

Here are the land prices for another set of town lots: "**J**" = £60; "**Q**" = £50; "**K**" = £40

In turn ... We'll play "**Options**" again and pay the Superintendent for our second town lot ... **Now.**

**Alexander Campbell:**

Och aye ... Teddy ... Our prices are a wee bit lower than what you Hentys paid at the 1840 auction.

**Edward Henty:**

Ahh yes ... But only a piddling difference ... My dear man ... To a Henty.  
And my name is not Teddy ... It is Edward.

**William Dutton:**

Fair dinkum ... Teddy ... Maate ... But remember ... You're a common whaler ... Just like us ... Yeah.

**James Blair:**

Ahh, to be sure ... Stop bickering you lot ... And by-the-way, Superintendent ... Would it be possible to allow our whalers a certain quantity of spirits and tobacco duty free ... To keep them happy?

**Charles La Trobe:**

By Jove ... Certainly not ... In 1839, I sent my Government Surveyor, Mr Charles Tyers, over here to sort out the 141<sup>st</sup> degree of longitude ... So that we could define the boundary between New South Wales and South Australia.

**Alexander Campbell:**

Och aye ... But what's that got to do with us wee whalers wanting duty free smokes and wee grog?

**Charles La Trobe:**

By Jove, at the time, I left a note for Mr Tyers to also 'find out what people are doing in Port Fairy'. Because the whalers in Port Fairy weren't paying any duty on their spirits and tobacco either. Gracious me, they were breaking the law ... Just as your whalers will ... If they don't pay their duty.

**Alexander Campbell:**

Och aye ... We'll pay our duty ... And you can put the money to good use and build a pier here.

**Sir George Gipps:**

I jolly well suppose so ... But do you really need a pier ... How many ships enter Portland Bay?

**Alexander Campbell:**

Och aye ... Our shipping numbers here are increasing ... This wee year it might be well over 100.

**William Dutton:**

Fair dinkum ... Maate ... Er ... Guv ... And the wild weather from the south-east or south-west makes it real hard to load and unload our ships ... So, we need a pier ... Yeah.

**Sir George Gipps:**

Well then ... You'll have to pay your insurance for those ships ... Won't you ... By Jove?

**Charles La Trobe:**

Because anything can happen to ships sailing to Melbourne, Hobart or London ... I should say.  
Here are the premiums for your insurance: “J” = £40; “Q” = £30; “K” = £20  
In turn ... Each of you play “Options” and pay me for your shipping insurance ... By Jove ... **Now.**

**Sir George Gipps:**

Jolly good show, old man ... But what’s in these ships that’s so terribly important?

**James Blair:**

Ahh, to be sure ... My ship’s sailing with hundreds of bushels of wheat from my properties.

**Alexander Campbell:**

Och aye, Guv ... And we whalers export wee whale oil and whalebone to London.  
Exporting wee whale oil and bone can be very profitable ... Isn’t that right ... Wee Teddy?

**Edward Henty:**

I beg your pardon ... Please listen to me carefully and read my lips ... I am not a whaler anymore.  
My ship is carrying bales of wool from my Muntham Station ... And sending them to London too.  
Oh, my goodness me ... Muntham has such a gorgeous vista ... Its beauty makes me weep with joy.  
And my name is not Teddy ... It is Edward.

**Alexander Campbell:**

Och aye ... Teddy ... A wee whaler, a wee squatter ... Next thing we know you’ll be a wee politician.

**William Dutton:**

Fair dinkum ... Teddy ... Maate ... Batman and Fawkner reckon they’re the first settlers too ... Yeah.

**Edward Henty:**

Yes, they do ... But let me tell you ... They’re wrong ... I’m the first settler in the Port Phillip District.  
And my name is not Teddy ... It is Edward.

**Campbell & Dutton** (speaking in unison):

Och aye ... Teddy ... Reckon the Mills lads were here before you ... And probably stayed.  
Fair dinkum ... Teddy ... You’re not the first settler here ... It were me ... Yeah.

**Edward Henty:**

I beg to differ ... That is simply not true ... I am the first *permanent* settler.

**Sir George Gipps:**

Jolly well off we go again ... Gracious, there hasn’t been so much squabbling over money, land and who was here first since ... Hmm ... Yes, when John Batman had a right tizzle because he had to give the Wurundjeri more handkerchiefs, shirts and a flannel jacket for 600,000 acres of their land.



**Charles La Trobe:**

There's only one thing I can think of that might snap them out of this argument ... Money.  
By Jove ... How about I give each of you ... £65?

**Campbell, Dutton & Henty:**

Make it £130.

**Charles La Trobe:**

By Jove ... Oh ... Alright ... Possibly ... Anything to stop your arguing with each other.  
Play "**Options**" and I'll give you some money: "**J**" = £100; "**Q**" = £130; "**K**" = £160 – each play ... **Now**.

**Campbell, Dutton:**

We've got real, bad land hunger, Boss ... Haven't we ... Teddy?

**Charles La Trobe:**

By Jove ... Yes ... Look at their flaring nostrils and bulging eyes ... Serious land hunger, I'd say.  
Mr. Blair ... Please read out the three possible amounts to pay for their town lots.

**James Blair:**

Ahh, to be sure ... I'll buy some more town lots too ... In for another penny ... In for another pound.  
Here are the land prices for our third town lot: "**J**" = £70; "**Q**" = £60; "**K**" = £50  
In turn ... We'll play "**Options**" and pay the Superintendent for our land ... **Now**.  
Here are the land prices for our fourth and final town lot: "**J**" = £60; "**Q**" = £50; "**K**" = £40  
In turn ... We'll play "**Options**" again and pay the Superintendent for our land ... **Now**.

**Charles La Trobe:**

Goodness me ... I know how to distract you lot ... A team bonding adventure ... I would like you  
whalers to take me ... And Sir George and Mr. Blair ... Into Portland Bay ... In a whale boat.  
I think we should go an expedition to capture a fish ... Er ... A whale ... By Jove.

**William Dutton:**

But we need a crew of six for the whale-boat ... But that's exactly how many we've got ... Yeah.  
Reckon Sir Georgie and Charlie'd make real good Oar Pullers ... The smaller oars of course ... Yeah.

**Alexander Campbell:**

Och aye ... Jimmy and wee Teddy can be the other two pullers ... Wee Teddy on the longer oar.  
I'll be the wee Headsman and steer the boat and control the wee sweep-oar.

**William Dutton:**

Yeah ... The Bow Oar is mine and Harpooner is me ... They don't call me Bullseye Billy for nothin'.  
Captured and killed more whales than anyone else ... Yeah.

**Alexander Campbell:**

Och aye ... So you and me, Billy ... We'll swap places so you can make the kill with the wee lance. Straight into the fish ... Near it's wee fin ... And into the wee fish's heart.

**William Dutton:**

Yeah Scotty ... No worries ... Maate ... Will do the job for us.

**Alexander Campbell:**

Och aye ... But that could be hours after the wee harpoon's gone in ... These fish don't tire easily.

**William Dutton:**

Fair dinkum Scotty ... Maate ... Just remember when the harpoon hits home ... 'Starn all' is the call. Then we let the fish tow us ... So we can exhaust the fish ... And then lance it ... Yeah.

**Alexander Campbell:**

Och aye ... But we don't want the wee fish diving real deep on us.

Or we'll have to cut the rope so we don't get pulled under ... And be sent to Davey Jones' Locker.

**William Dutton:**

Fair dinkum Scotty ... Maate ... We'll have to watch out for them flashing fish flukes too. They can smash the boat and kill us all ... Real quick ... Yeah.

**Charles La Trobe:**

By Jove ... All this sounds incredibly intoxicating and thrilling ... And downright dangerous too. These are some of the possible outcomes for our expedition:

- **Jack:** *Player loses his oar in heavy seas ... Player pays £10 to me for a new oar and boat repairs.*
- **Queen:** *Whale is harpooned ... But after a day's towing, the whale is lost in a gale.*
- **King:** *Player is first to sight a whale ... I pay player £10 as a reward.*

In turn ... Each of you play "**Options**" to find out what happens when we go whale hunting ... **Now.**

**Edward Henty:**

Well, what a most enthralling, albeit drenching, experience ... One whale caught and six tons of oil. That translates to between £120 and £200 for the whale oil and bone ... Our share of the spoils is, "**J**" = £30; "**Q**" = £40; "**K**" = £50: The Governor pays us our share ... In turn ... play "**Options**" ... **Now.**

**Sir George Gipps:**

Jolly well touch-and-go at times ... But I was so very brave ... Wasn't I?

And when Teddy, er ... Mr. Henty fell overboard ... Well ... I haven't laughed so much since William Wentworth asked me if he could squat over the entire South Island of New Zealand for a pittance.

Hmm, is it true the Blacks ate a beached whale, at the Convincing Ground in Portland Bay in 1834?

**William Dutton:**

Fair dinkum ... Maate ... Er ... Yeah ... Guv ... The Blacks started feeding on the fish ... Yeah. Whalers got annoyed cos they'd harpooned it ... They wanted the oil and bone ... But they didn't understand the Blacks only wanted the fish's meat ... Some claim the Blacks got slaughtered and ...

**Sir George Gipps:**

Jolly well don't want to hear any more details.

So apart from that one incident ... Have the Blacks been fairly treated in this district?

**James Blair:**

Ahh, to be sure ... You're kidding me ... Eh?

Just recently a group of Blacks sleeping in a Tea-tree scrub were barbarously murdered by gun or pistol shot ... And that included three women and a child.

**Sir George Gipps:**

Jolly shocking, what.

And did you find out who the scoundrels were that committed these atrocities?

**James Blair:**

Ahh, to be sure ... We increased the reward for information about the massacre from £50 to £100. But nothing came of it ... Even though it included a pardon for a free passage back to England. Because everyone just keeps quiet about all these killings.

**Charles La Trobe:**

By Jove ... Sir George and I have fought hard to protect the Blacks ... But sadly ... We are failing. I instigated the formation of a Native Police Force in an effort to establish friendly relations between the Blacks and settlers ... A Native Police Barracks was even built near Mount Eckersley.

**Sir George Gipps:**

Jolly good idea ... But we can't change the hatred that many of the colonists feel towards them. Well ... I had to order the hanging of seven men for murdering a group of twenty of the poor souls.

**Alexander Campbell:**

Och aye, Guv ... I can sympathise with the wee squatters over the wee 'war' against the Blacks. 'Cos if dingoes didn't kill their wee sheep, the Blacks did ... Broke their wee legs and cut them up.

**James Blair:**

Ahh, to be sure ... But you can't blame them can you ... They were probably starving.

Don't forget they were hunted off their land and some squatters gave them poisoned food to eat.

**Edward Henty:**

And a number of sealers and whalers thought it was an acceptable practice to take possession of their women and keep them as wives ... And some were even murdered ... Disgusting.

**Campbell, Dutton:**

Were you involved ... Teddy?

**Edward Henty:**

I beg your pardon ... Certainly not ... And I am not a whaler anymore.

By-the-way, let me remind everyone that I'm the first *permanent* settler in the Port Phillip District. And my name is not Teddy ... It is Edward.

**Campbell & Dutton (speaking in unison):**

Och aye ... Teddy ... Reckon the Mills lads were here before you ... And probably stayed.

Fair dinkum ... Teddy ... You're not the first settler here ... It were me ... Yeah.

**Edward Henty:**

I beg to differ ... That is simply not true ... I am the first *permanent* settler.

**Sir George Gipps:**

Jolly well not again ... There hasn't been so much moaning and bickering since John Batman threw a hairy canary when he realised the Wurundjeri elders were treating his Treaty as a tanderrum. And that meant he could only have temporary access to their 600,000 acres.

**Charles La Trobe:**

There's only one thing I can think of that might snap them out of this ill temper ... Money.

By Jove ... How about I give each of you ... Well not £130 ... That didn't work ... How about ... £30?

**Campbell, Dutton & Henty:**

Make it £60.

**Campbell, Dutton:**

We've got land hunger expenses ... Haven't we ... Teddy ... You naughty fibber.

**Charles La Trobe:**

By Jove ... Oh ... Alright ... Possibly ... But don't start using bad language to each other.

Play "**Options**" and I'll give you some money: "**J**" = £50; "**Q**" = £60; "**K**" = £70 – each play ... **Now**.

**James Blair:**

Fiddly dee ... I'll pay the costs on my properties too ... But it'll be more than a penny or a pound.

Ahh to be sure ... Here are our costs: "**J**" = £40; "**Q**" = £30; "**K**" = £20

In turn ... We'll play "**Options**" and pay the Superintendent for our expenses ... **Now**.

**Charles La Trobe:**

By Jove ... There hasn't been so much bad language since John Batman chucked a monster wobbly when he suddenly realised he didn't have to give the Wurundjeri elders anything for their land. Because of the "terra nullius" English law.

**James Blair:**

Fiddly dee ... Speaking of bad language ... You've all been charged with committing that crime. *"Edward Henty, William Dutton and Alexander Campbell: You have all been charged with making rude gestures and using obscene language ... Towards each other ... On a Sunday"*. Ahh, to be sure ... And ... Umm ... I've been charged with *"Not controlling my horses in town"*.

**Sir George Gipps:**

Jolly naughty of you Mr. Blair, horsing around like that ... ha, ha ... Here are three possible verdicts:

- **Jack:** *Player is 'Guilty' and also commits perjury ... Player pays me a £20 fine.*
- **Queen:** *Player is 'Guilty' ... Player pays me a £10 fine.*
- **King:** *Player is 'Not Guilty'.*

In turn ... Play "**Options**" and pay the Superintendent any fines ... **Now.**

**Charles La Trobe:**

By Jove ... Speaking of crimes ... Have you solved the bank robbery of those sovereigns? What was it ... £500 of the coins were taken from under your very noses ... By Jove?

**James Blair:**

Ahh to be sure ... Our police have made every effort to trace the thief ... But so far without luck.

**Alexander Campbell:**

Och aye, Boss ... We're good at catching wee fish. So maybe we could catch a wee thief?

**Sir George Gipps:**

Jolly good of you to offer, Mr. Campbell, so let's fish around for clues and hook in our thief, what? Here are three possible outcomes:

- **Jack:** *Player stumbles upon thief ... Thief robs player of £20 ... I keep the £20.*
- **Queen:** *Player finds thief but is attacked ... Thief escapes ... Player pays me £10 for treatment.*
- **King:** *Player finds evidence linking thief to a local man ... I pay player £30 reward.*

In turn ... Each of you plays "**Options**" to see if any of you can help catch our thief ... **Now.**

**James Blair:**

Ahh, to be sure ... Our Court of Law is a rickety wooden room that's not much bigger than a coffin. Speaking of which ... We also need a coroner and a cemetery too.

**Edward Henty:**

Well ... My family had a private cemetery ... But the Government deprived us of that land too. It would become a grave matter if the current cemetery is changed.

**James Blair:**

Ahh, to be sure, Superintendent ... We also need a Post Office ... And a regular mail service. And while I'm at it ... Add to my list a Customs House to make sure you three whalers can pay your duties on spirits and tobacco ... And that includes you, Teddy ... Seeing as you went whaling today. Not too much to ask for ... Eh, Superintendent? ... Fiddly dee.

**Edward Henty:**

I beg your pardon ... Please listen to me carefully and read my lips ... I am not a whaler anymore. However, ... I am the first *permanent* settler in the Port Phillip District.

**Campbell & Dutton** (speaking in unison):

Och aye ...Teddy ... Reckon the Mills lads were here before you ... And probably stayed. Fair dinkum ... Teddy ... You're not the first settler here ... It were me ... Yeah.

**Edward Henty:**

I beg to differ ... That is simply not true ... I am the first *permanent* settler. And my name is not Teddy ... It is Edward.

**Sir George Gipps:**

Jolly well can't stop themselves, can they ... What? Hasn't been a bigger bun fight since John Batman spat the dummy when told by my predecessor, Governor Bourke, that his Treaty with the Wurundjeri elders was ... "void and of no effect". Because of the "terra nullius" English Law.

**Edward Henty:**

Batman wouldn't have known what "void and of no effect" meant ... What a philistine he was. Sadly, Batman went to his grave believing he was the first settler ... But 1834 does precede 1835?

**Charles La Trobe:**

By Jove ... How about I give you ... Just a jolly second ... No more money for you lot ... It's quite obvious giving you money ... or going whaling together ... hasn't stopped your arguments.

**Campbell, Dutton & Henty:**

That's not fair Boss ... We've got serious land hunger.

**Charles La Trobe:**

By Jove ... Listen to these three whalers ... They just won't stop wailing.

**Edward Henty:**

I beg your pardon ... Please listen to me carefully and read my lips ... I am not a whaler anymore. However, ... I repeat ... I am the first *permanent* settler in the Port Phillip District.

**Campbell & Dutton** (speaking in unison):

Och aye ... Teddy ... Reckon the Mills lads were here before you ... And probably stayed.  
Fair dinkum ... Teddy ... You're not the first settler here ... It were me ... Yeah.

**Edward Henty:**

I beg to differ ... That is simply not true ... I am the first *permanent* settler.  
And for the last time ... My name is not Teddy ... It is Eddy ... Er ... I mean Edward.

**Sir George Gipps:**

Jolly stop this ... I say ... There hasn't been a bigger tantrum since John Batman had a sooky sooky la la when told Edward Henty was the first settler in the Port Phillip District ... Not him or Fawkner.

**Edward Henty:**

There you are, told you so ... I was right all along ... It's true ... I am the first settler here in Portland.  
Our honourable, truly noble and esteemed Governor ... Sir George Gipps ... says so ... Bless his soul.

**Sir George Gipps:**

I jolly well give up ... I've heard enough of this drivel ... It's all poppycock.  
Thank goodness ... A message has arrived asking that Charles and I leave Portland immediately.

**Charles La Trobe:**

Apparently, I am to meet two wealthy Irish gentlemen with land hunger ... Just like our whalers.  
One of these Irishmen is a Mr. James Atkinson from Sydney.

**Sir George Gipps:**

I jolly well know him ... I was obliged to grant him 5,120 acres of land in Port Fairy for £5,120.  
The government back home called this scheme a Special Survey.

**Charles La Trobe:**

By Jove ... And the other Irishman is William Rutledge.  
I understand he has interests in two of these Special Surveys ... And one of them is near Tower Hill.  
And Sir George has to return to Sydney to meet with his friend ... A Mr. Clarke.  
Mr. Clarke has apparently found several specimens of quartz rock ... Containing gold.

**Sir George Gipps:**

Jolly well worrying news ... I shall be telling Mr. Clarke to hide his gold specimens somewhere safe.  
Or we shall all have our throats cut ... If the convicts ever find out.

**Charles La Trobe:**

By Jove ... Let's instruct these whalers to sell their town lots before we leave ... You too, Mr. Blair.

**James Blair:**

Ahh, to be sure ... At your service, Superintendent.

For each town lot: In turn, we play "**Options**" and the Superintendent will pay us for our land.

The first town lot: "**J**" = £20; "**Q**" = £30; "**K**" = £40 ... play ... **Now**.

The second town lot: "**J**" = no sale; "**Q**" = £30; "**K**" = £40 ... play ... **Now**.

The third town lot: "**J**" = no sale; "**Q**" = no sale; "**K**" = £40 ... play ... **Now**.

The fourth and final town lot: "**J**" = no sale; "**Q**" = £30; "**K**" = no sale ... play ... **Now**.

**Charles La Trobe:**

By Jove ... Not surprised to see these poor sale results ... Given our worsening economic climate.

**Sir George Gipps:**

Jolly calamitous, what ... And it's clear our Government is being deprived of additional income.

By establishing this so-called Special Survey scheme, investors only pay one pound per acre.

**Charles La Trobe:**

By Jove ... In the public land auctions, here in Portland ... sometimes £50 per acre was being paid.

**Sir George Gipps:**

Our jolly English Government has clearly made a jolly big booboo.

**Charles La Trobe:**

By Jove ... Of course, the initial idea of the scheme was quite sensible.

**Sir George Gipps:**

Indeed ... To raise funds to assist emigration from England and soothe investor's demands for land.

**Charles La Trobe:**

By Jove ... I've just received some more news ... Your ships have possibly made their destinations. Or they may in fact have been lost or shipwrecked ... The messages are not clear.

Here are three possible outcomes:

- **Jack:** Ship lost at sea ... Insurance claim rejected ... Player receives £0.
- **Queen:** Ship wrecked near destination ... Player receives salvaging and insurance of £70.
- **King:** Ship arrives safely ... But cargo is sold below expected price ... Player receives £150.

In turn ... Play "**Options**" and we will pay you for your cargo ... Or not ... **Now**.

**James Blair:**

Ahh, to be sure ... Before you two go ... There's one thing left to do ... Find our winner ... Fiddly dee.



**Sir George Gipps & Charles La Trobe:**

Jolly well thank you very much for meeting us today, what ... It has been jolly good fun ... By Jove.

**James Blair:**

Ahh, to be sure ... I'm going to explain how you can win ... So, do the following:

Add up all your money and read out your total ... **Now.**

Next ... The 13 Option cards are collected and shuffled by Sir George Gipps ... **Now.**

Governor Gipps deals the following number of cards to each of us ... **Now:**

- Superintendent, Henty, Dutton, Campbell, and me - 2 cards each; Governor Gipps - 3 cards.

I'll read out the five rules of the game before we start playing:

**Rule 1:** The Option cards are ranked - Jack (lowest), then Queen, King and Joker (highest).

The four suits of cards are also ranked - Diamonds (lowest), Hearts, Clubs, and Spades (highest).

**Rule 2:** One Option card is placed **face-up** on the table by each player in the following order:

- From the player with the **lowest** amount of money to the player with the **highest** amount;
- Next, Superintendent La Trobe plays one of his Option cards; and finally,
- Governor Gipps plays one of his Option cards.

**Rule 3:** The player with the lowest ranked card is **eliminated**.

**Rule 4:** The eliminated player collects the Option cards played shuffles them and deals out one replacement card to each of the remaining players.

**Rule 5:** Rules 2, 3 and 4 are repeated in the same playing order minus the eliminated player(s), until there is only one player remaining ... Our winner ... So, let's play ... **Now.**

*When there is a winner ... Blair snaps his fingers for the second time ... to end the game.*

**James Blair:**

Ahh, to be sure ... Congratulations to the winner of our game ... Fiddly dee.

**Gipps, La Trobe, Campbell, Henty & Dutton:**

Whaaat?

But we haven't started playing yet?

**THE END**

**Disclaimer:**

The author found no historical evidence suggesting the players went on a whale hunt together.

## ***Acknowledgements***

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- “The Portland Bay Settlement” by Noel F. Learmonth.
- “Port Fairy – The First Fifty Years” by Jack Powling.
- “The Belfast Fantasy” by Marten Syme.
- “Harpoons to Harvest” by J. R. Carroll.
- “In Their Own Words” by Cecil James Hardy.
- “Gipps-La Trobe Correspondence 1839-1846” edited by A. G. L. Shaw.
- “Letters from Victorian Pioneers” edited by Thomas Francis Bride.
- “The Hentys” by Anne Grant, Portland Past and Present Series
- The Australian Dictionary of Biography: [adb.anu.edu.au](http://adb.anu.edu.au)
- ‘Crossword Labs’ at <https://crosswordlabs.com> was used to construct the two crosswords.
- ‘Portland from the Bay’ print by ST Gill (1857) used in the front cover is owned by the author.

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