

The expedition liner *Orion* at Macca! We had to sail past without stopping... bumper!



# RESPONSIBILITY, IT'S YOUR CALL

Whether you're a five-star explorer or a crazy do-or-die adventurer, risk-tacking can involve putting the lives of others at peril. **DON MCINTYRE** says it's best to play by the rules

**T**he other day, I tried to land 86 people at Sandy Bay on Macquarie Island, 850 miles southeast of Hobart, but failed. It is a place I call "Jurassic Park on Steroids". Ashore, king and royal penguins are in your face, elephant seals burping and farting about you. The rabbits are gone after a successful baiting program, so now mega herbs are taking root for the first time in many years.

During the cyclone season, while my yacht *ICE* is in Fiji (see [www.bluetreasure.me](http://www.bluetreasure.me)), I am the expedition leader aboard the expedition liner *MV Orion* on which we are currently returning

from the Ross Sea on the last of three voyages to the Antarctic. It has been a tough season with the worst pack ice in 40 years. We got no closer than 160 miles to the continent on the first voyage to Mawson's huts. After navigating 320 miles of heavy pack ice on the second attempt, we were locked out just five miles from shore.

On this, the third voyage, after eight days heading south through the Southern Ocean and pushing serious pack ice, we at least made Scott and Shackleton's huts. Following, was an eight-day sail north to Macquarie Island, where the landing was impossible. We were beaten by strong northerly

winds and a 5m swell, aborting operations after filling a Zodiac with water.

## FIVE-STAR EXPLORERS

*Orion's* passengers are all modern-day explorers, in five-star luxury for sure but nonetheless all setting out on a true adventure, and these special voyages have an unknown outcome.

It is the Mawson, Scott and Shackleton centenaries this year. There was a lot going on in the ice 100 years ago. The Antarctic Heritage Trust is one of the institutions conserving these famous huts, relics of the Heroic Era. You may wonder why, and



Above: Scott's Hut, Cape Evans, Antarctica, is as far south as you can go. Jarle's yacht *Berserk* disappeared just north of here, with the loss of three crew. Right: Inside Shackleton's hut is an amazing experience and takes you back to another era 100 years ago, when you really were responsible for your own actions!



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On January 21, Dutch teen Laura Dekker, 16, became the youngest around-the-world solo sailor, beating Jessica Watson's record.

Personal responsibility gives us all the right to live or die in a manner we choose. Taking it the next step brings us to accepting our own mortality and if you do that, it can open the doors to a free and fulfilling life.

## BACK FOR MORE

Okay, so what has sent me off on this tangent in the *Book of Dreams!* Jarle Andhoe, the crazy Viking of course.

Jarle is off again to the Ross Sea in Antarctica. Last season, he tragically lost his yacht *Berserk* and three of his shipmates, deep in the Ross Sea during a huge storm in freezing temperatures. Jarle was onshore at the time, attempting to make for the South Pole. It was late in the season, he had no permits and many say he was not fully prepared. A distress call and EPIRB signal activated a search that risked many lives in extreme conditions. He was later fined \$5000 by the Norwegian Government.

He sold his film of the adventure, and then in January this year flew

they will say it is to inspire future generations by conserving the legacy of adventure, discovery and endurance. A worthy cause!

I just wish everyone — you, me and governments — could support, encourage and inspire current generations to participate in any form of adventure, discovery and endurance, every day! The world would be a better place for it.

Liability, rather than personal responsibility, is shaping our society in all the wrong ways. Scott and his men all accepted the ethos of "personal responsibility". I have no intention of wasting my life anytime soon, but I would always protect the rights of any individual to live their life, free of all the constraints of society or convention, if they so desired.





Above: Clark Carter battling increasing wind (and waves) onboard *Joel Buoy* shortly before letting out the drogue and retreating to the cabin. Right: Ben Turner in the cabin with a suspected broken elbow.

to New Zealand and bought a 54ft steel boat with the proceeds. He broke some immigration laws along the way and when served with a deportation notice, immediately took off without even clearing customs. Later he found a stowaway onboard.

Jarle is bound for the Ross Sea again on what the Norwegian Government says is an “unauthorised” voyage, the NZ Government calls it “unsanctioned”.

He has no permits, as is required under the Antarctic Treaty, so he is clearly in breach of that convention. Jarle wants to look for wreckage or any signs of his lost yacht and crew.

I like Jarle and his strong sense of adventure. He is obviously a very good sailor. He hates the “system” and authority, doing everything he can to fly below

the radar. I loved his first trip to Antarctica in an old, cheap 27ft Vega fibreglass production yacht many years ago, but times have changed. He is now high-profile with websites, blogs, documentaries etc., and needed to rely on the system in an attempt to rescue his boat and crew. If you want to use the system, you need to play by all the rules. I always do, as do most responsible risk takers/adventurers.

On January 24, when the NZ Navy and Customs Service were hunting Jarle, I received many satellite calls from Norwegian and NZ media looking for my opinion and comments. I was already on my way to the Ross Sea aboard *Orion*. I had a simple message for Jarle: it is a bad ice year, so maybe go next season, but if you want to be



a true Viking, then take “personal responsibility” for your actions and leave your EPIRB behind. These comments were reported widely.

On Friday, January 27, Jarle had a press conference from his yacht, through his lawyer in Norway. He declared he did not have an EPIRB onboard. I guess the message got through! You have to respect the guy for that! I do.

### YOUNGEST SOLO

In August 2010 in London, I was asked by the British media on numerous occasions to comment on Dutch girl Laura Dekker and her prospects of surviving a solo voyage around the world, at 15 years of age. Most thought it crazy.

At the time I said, “why not, if she was up to it”, but only those who really knew her could answer that question. Sailing solo around the world is not rocket science any longer and she was being very conservative in her planning and preparation. She was playing by the rules, minimising risk and obviously had proven sailing skills and a level of experience.

I once took an 82yo WWII fighter pilot on an expedition, when most people thought I was crazy. I just said age is just a number. He was great and we had a ball. Age is just a number for young people too. You cannot and should not stereotype them all. Give them a chance and let them grow. We are all different and each has unique talents, skills and contrasting horizons.

Laura just completed her solo circumnavigation in style at 16 years of age, in a great display of seamanship. She is now the youngest, surpassing our own Jessica Watson. But the world is a funny place. One guru sailor removed himself from selection of a major sailing award, because Laura was on the same shortlist! Sad, hey!

### ROWER RESCUE

Twenty-seven-year-old Ben Turner has a dream. He was due to set off in April this year to become the first and youngest Australian to row solo, non-stop across the Pacific. It will be a 10-month, 17,000km row (see [www.benturner.com.au](http://www.benturner.com.au)).

On Australia Day, Turner set off from Victoria on a shakedown voyage aboard *Joel Buoy* to



Margaret Bowling letting off a smoke flare, signalling their position to the water police.

Hobart. Also aboard were 32yo Margaret Bowling, the first Australian woman to row an ocean and 27yo adventurer Clark Carter. A few days into the row, they were rolled while riding out a storm. Normally no big deal, as the boat is designed for this, but unfortunately Ben smashed and broke his elbow.

A satellite phone allowed efficient communications and the rescue authorities decided it was best to evacuate him from the boat. Everything after that went like

clockwork, thanks to Australia’s amazing Rescue Coordination Centre and the people at the sharp end of operations (we should all feel proud!), plus the solid planning, preparation and training the rowers had in place. They could definitely look their rescuers in the eye and say they did everything possible to assist them and minimise their risk, once the poo hit the fan! Well done.

Ben will be back and hopes to raise \$1million for Cystic Fibrosis. Go Ben! 🚩