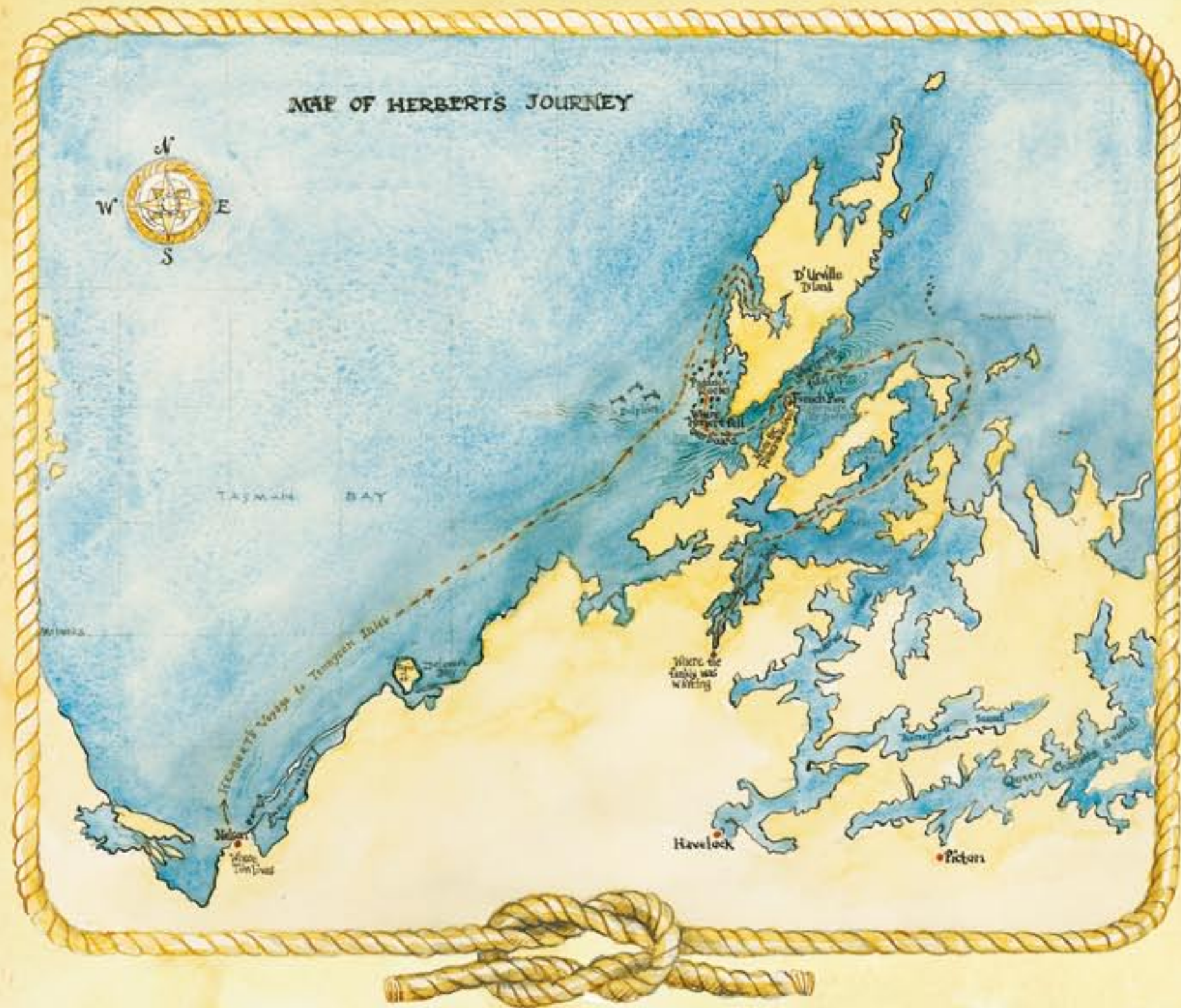


HERBERT

THE BRAVE SEA DOG



Herbert and dolphins near French Pass.



Tim and Herbert.

FRENCH PASS — NIGHTMARE FOR SEAFARERS

WHIRLPOOLS, BACK EDDIES AND TIDAL RIPS.

These are some of the hazards seafarers have to contend with. As you can see from the map on the left the floor of the Pass is very uneven. As the fast-flowing water is forced to change direction huge whirlpools are generated. The largest, called Jacob's Hole, forms when water is driven down into a 70 metre-deep channel after flowing across a 6 metre-deep bar.

As water flows past a headland a circular motion develops in the water to the landward side of the flow. This so-called back eddy can have a serious effect on a boat's steering.

THE SEA FLOOR: CROSS SECTIONS

MAP OF OVERALL STRUCTURE.

These drawings show you the depths of the Pass and some of its features. The cross sections are taken along the lines labelled A0, B0, C0 and D0 on the map.

The hazards posed by the tidal flows in French Pass are considerable. The account of d'Urville's passage illustrates the problems sailing ships can have — the tide flows at up to 7 knots (13km/h), a height difference of about 1/2 metre develops between water levels at one end of the narrows and the other, and severe turbulence is ever present.

The safest time to go through the Pass is during the 15-20 minutes of slack water when the tide is turning. This is also the most interesting time for onlookers; dramatic changes in direction and rate of flow and especially in noise levels occur.

Scale
1:10000
see Volume 1 page 2



The dangerous passage through French Pass, made in 1827 by the explorer D'Urville in his ship the *Astrolabe*.

*To my dear friends and mentors
Joan de Hamel and Joy Cowley,
with love and gratitude.*

HERBERT

THE BRAVE SEA DOG

Robyn Belton



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Herbert was a small dog who lived in Nelson by the sea.
Everybody liked him, but the person who loved him most was Tim.

