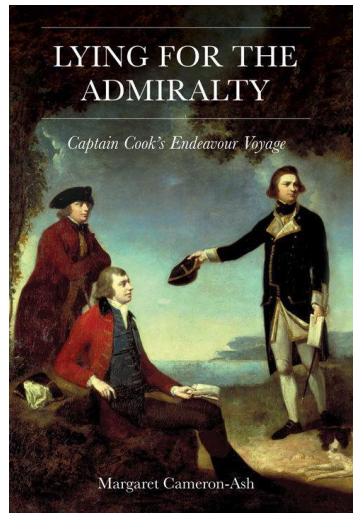

True facts about Captain James Cook's Endeavour voyage ...



While there are hundreds of books that have been written about the famous navigator, a new book that we have had the opportunity to review, **Lying for the Admiralty** by Margaret Cameron-Ash is the first to answer the critical questions raised by his seeming 'errors' – which weren't errors at all, but deliberate fabrications made for strategic reasons.

Cook excelled in being economical with the truth in his reporting, knowing much but recording less to prevent closer detailed information becoming the stuff of talk in the public houses in England by a crew glad to be home, thirsty for a drink and within earshot of those who were agents of other nations always eager to know more.

Cook and the Secretary of the Admiralty, Philip Stephens understood each other very well – that a written plan was one thing but the verbal plan in confidence was the essential part for the success of any mission.

There's information that Cook on departing Botany Bay, knew of a far greater protected waterway than was Botany Bay, namely what became Port Jackson and Sydney Harbour, but revealing its existence would be too much of an attraction for others to further investigate. And this modus operandi was applied to other places during the voyage. The 'first discoverer' and the 'occupiers' of new lands could be very different with contrary claims being made so always best to leave the evidence to a verbal report once home.

This is a book of intrigue, of managing a plan and revealing that these so-called errors were in fact subterfuges, part of Cook's strategy (and the Admiralty's) to prevent others of learning of discoveries which they could turn to advantage. As has been said before, sometimes 'truth has to be attended by a bodyguard of lies'.

[Lying for the Admiralty: Captain Cook's Endeavour Voyage by Margaret Cameron-Ash at Abbey's Bookshop | 9780648996132 | Hardback \(abbey.com.au\)](#)