

12th unit, 08 January 2026

Wellerman

The sea shanty owes its title "Wellerman" to the Australian logistics company "The Weller Bros", which operated mainly off the coast of New Zealand between 1830 and 1840.

In the song, "Wellerman" is the name of the supply ship that the company sent to the seamen of a whale catcher with provisions and all the necessities of life.

tonguing – When caught by a whale catcher, the whale's bacon used to be cut into stripes which the seamen called "tongues".

Thus "tonguing" means the dismembering of a dead whale.

