

The Bounty Ships Scheme to Australia

Voyage of the *Brilliant* from Tobermory, Isle of Mull, to Sydney 1837-38

The *Brilliant*, a copper-sheathed wooden-hulled ship of 428 tons, was built in Montreal, Canada, in 1834. It made at least two voyages to Australia, the first as a Bounty Scheme ship under the command of Captain Gilkison departing from Tobermory, Isle of Mull, on 27th September 1837 and arriving in Sydney on 20th January 1838. In a [letter](#) to Sir Richard Bourke, Governor of the Colony of New South Wales, Lord Glenelg explained that the original intention had been to send the *Brilliant* to Van Dieman's Land (i.e. Tasmania), but because of reports of poor prospects for immigrants there the ship had been sent to Sydney instead. The departure of the *Brilliant* from Tobermory was reported in some detail in an [article](#) the *Inverness Courier*, and after its arrival in Sydney a committee of passengers wrote a [letter of thanks](#) to Captain Gilkison.

To download the complete passenger list, [click here](#).

For more details about passengers on the *Brilliant*, go to the RootsWeb Isle of Mull Mailing List Archives at <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/index/sct-isleofmull>. Click on Search, then enter Brilliant in the subject line and 2010 in the date line, then click on Search. This will give you a list of relevant postings. Start with *Brilliant passenger list with IGI and personal references 1-5*, by Merle & Ida King.