

Hello folks,

To those who I have been able to communicate with over the past few weeks, we got to Hobart this morning after what has been a productive and wonderful two months in Antarctica and the sub-Antarctic islands.

To those who I have been unable to communicate with you probably heard that our ship got beset in the ice off Commonwealth Bay Antarctica and in the end we were taken off our expedition ship and taken to Hobart by the Australian Antarctic supply ship Aurora Australis.

Now we are facing the media and the proverbial has hit the fan. I was one of the five team members that faced the media conference this morning, virtually straight off the ship to face 15 huge TV cameras and about 20 reporters from various media from Australia, NZ, China, BBC, USA. A frightening welcome back to civilisation.

We are all very sorry for the cost of rescuing us and the inconvenience caused to other Antarctic expeditions. ABC TV here tonight was about the cost and who will pay, but then this comes up every time a rescue happens whoever it is. Other than that it seems to be positive.

Personally, it has been an incredible two months of adventures, wonderful sights, amazing wildlife, great people, the joy and challenge of multi-disciplinary research and the challenges of the outreach we have done with various online blogs and social media.

From what we can gather, media coverage has been OK or positive in NZ but with some negative coverage in Australia and USA. I have not had the chance to see what is online, but somewhere there should be a YouTube clip of Chris Turney and I on the ice edge with Adelie penguins, an Emperor penguin with killer whales turning up during the take*. More later when I get my thoughts together.

Hugs to all Kerry-Jayne

*<http://www.theguardian.com/science/antarctica-live/interactive/2013/dec/18/orca-whale-gatecrashes-antarctic-google-hangout>