

THE TALE OF THE MUMSEL

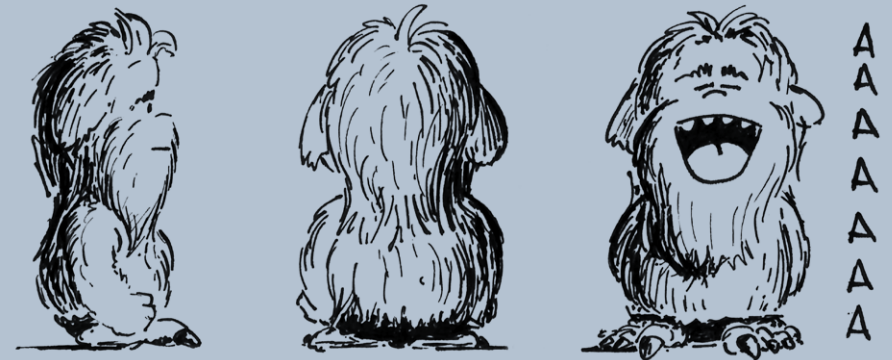
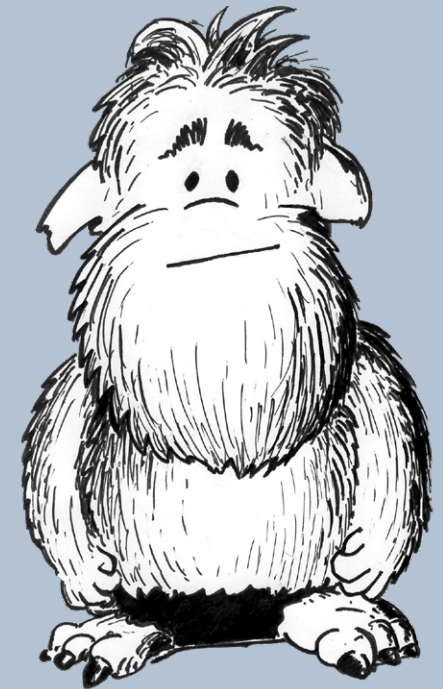
Mumsel are small creatures who live on board of ships, they are legends among sailors. Whenever something inexplicable happens, when things disappear, when things break down without a clear reason, the Mumsel did it. Because of this status, sailors believe it is important to keep the Mumsel happy. An unhappy Mumsel will bring bad luck! And if there is one thing a sailor is susceptible to, it is the possibility of bad luck. But Mumsels are not all about bad luck, they are funny creatures with a good sense of humour.

This booklet tells the story of the Mumsel, where it came from, what they like and don't like and how they eventually ended up with us, at AEGIR-Marine.



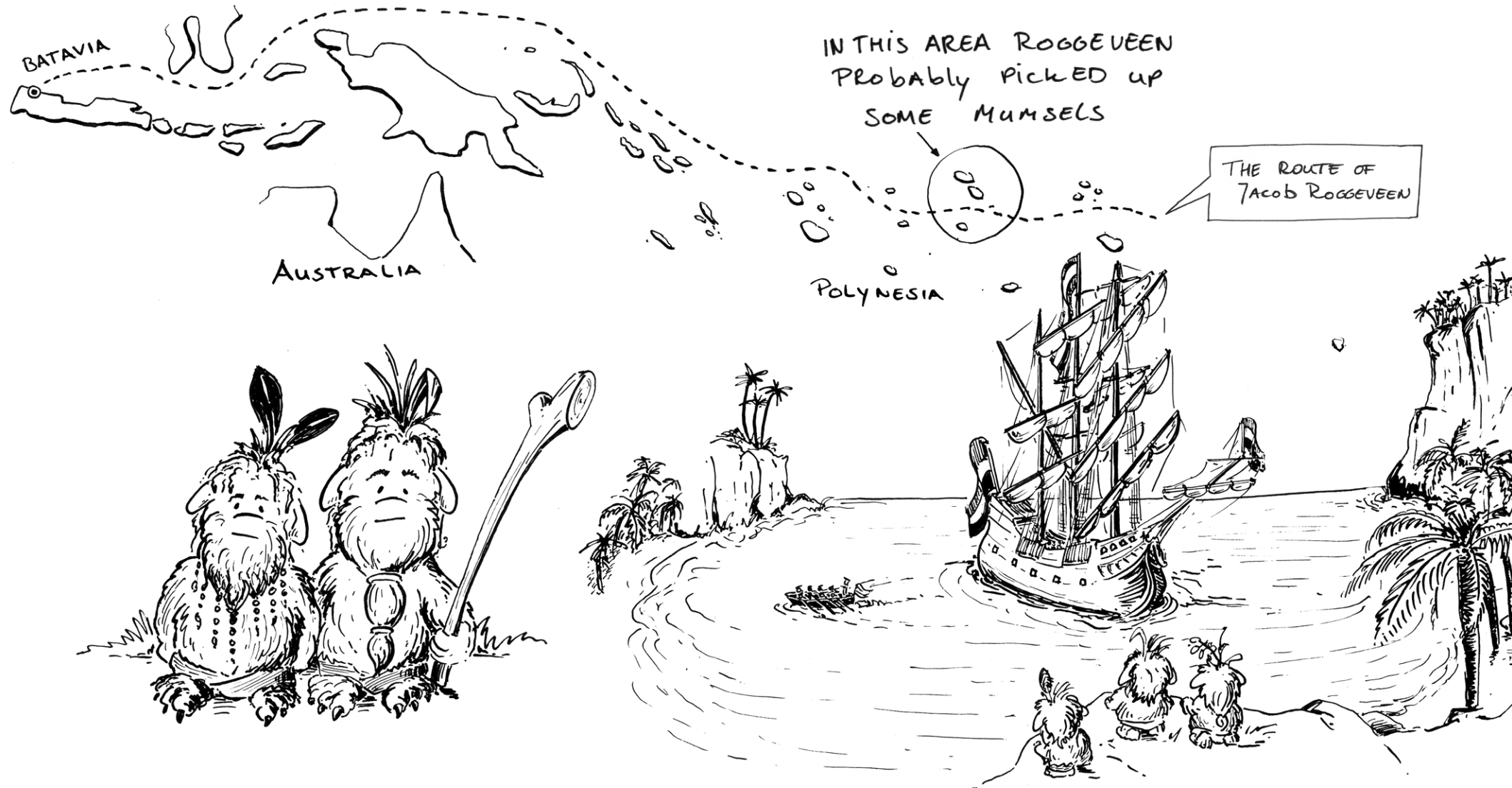
meet the MUMSEL

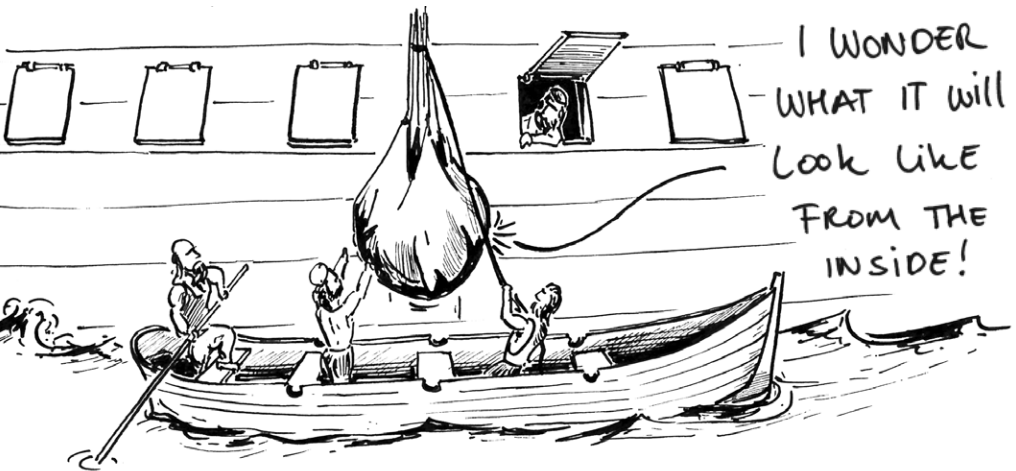
This is a Mumsel. Mumsels are relatively small, hairy creatures with large ears and short legs. Mumsels are fearless and despite their somewhat unathletic posture, they are very rapid creatures. A Mumsel probably has a height of around 5 cm. This is, however, based on sightings only, since there are no reports of a Mumsel ever being captured.



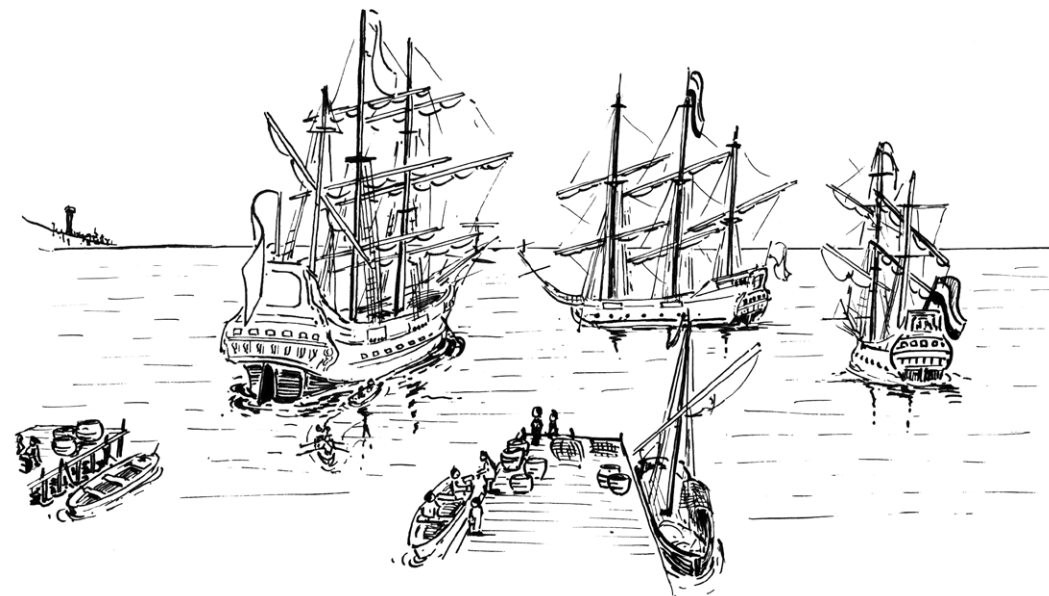
the ORIGIN

The exact origin of the Mumsel is unknown. Based on ancient Polynesian tales, it is believed they sailed the South Pacific with the Polynesian explorers, many centuries ago. In the 18th century, the islands east of Indonesia were visited by the Dutch explorer Jacob Roggeveen. This was the first time a vessel from the West visited this region.

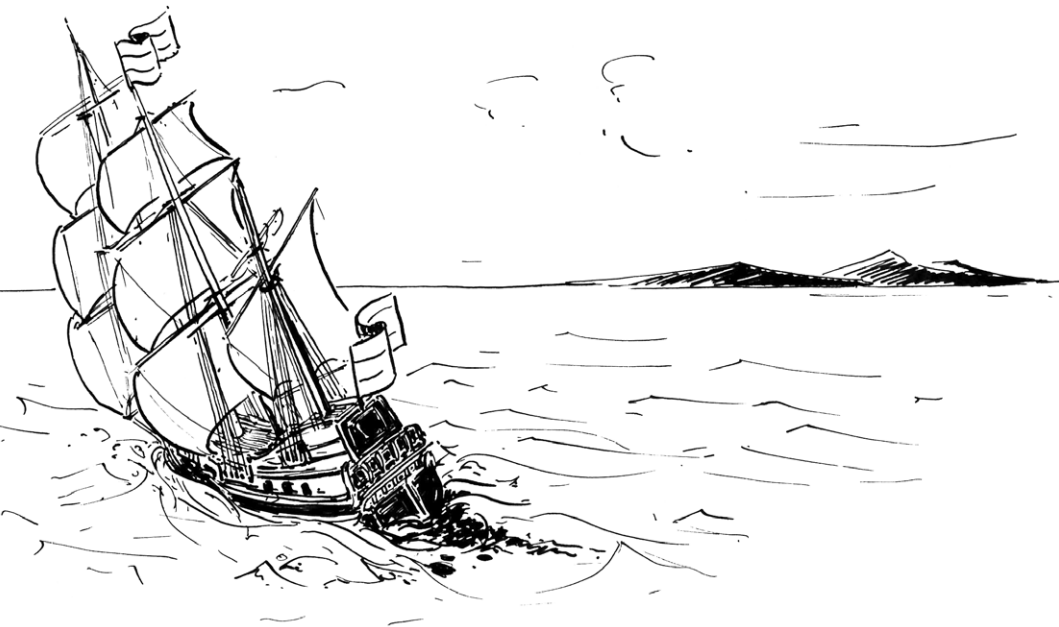




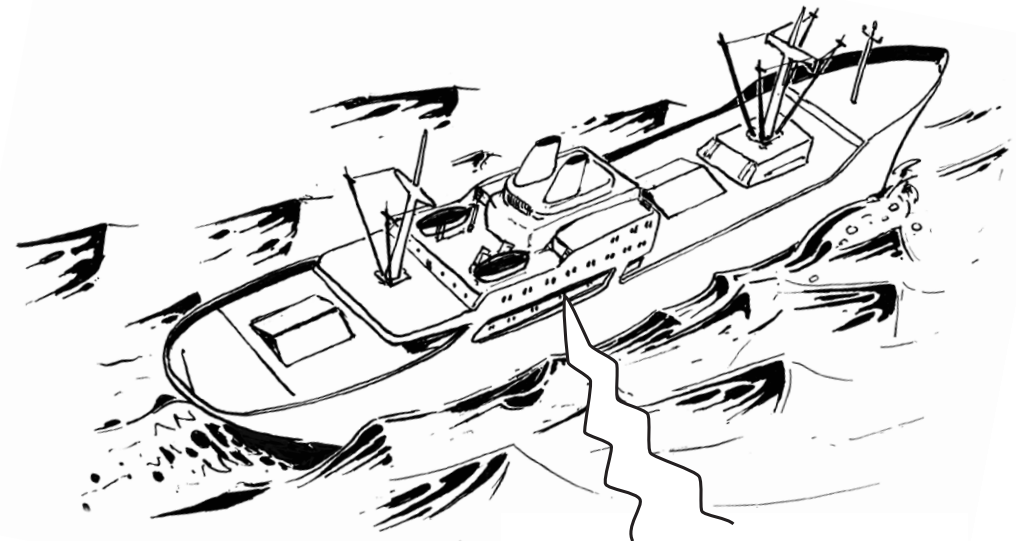
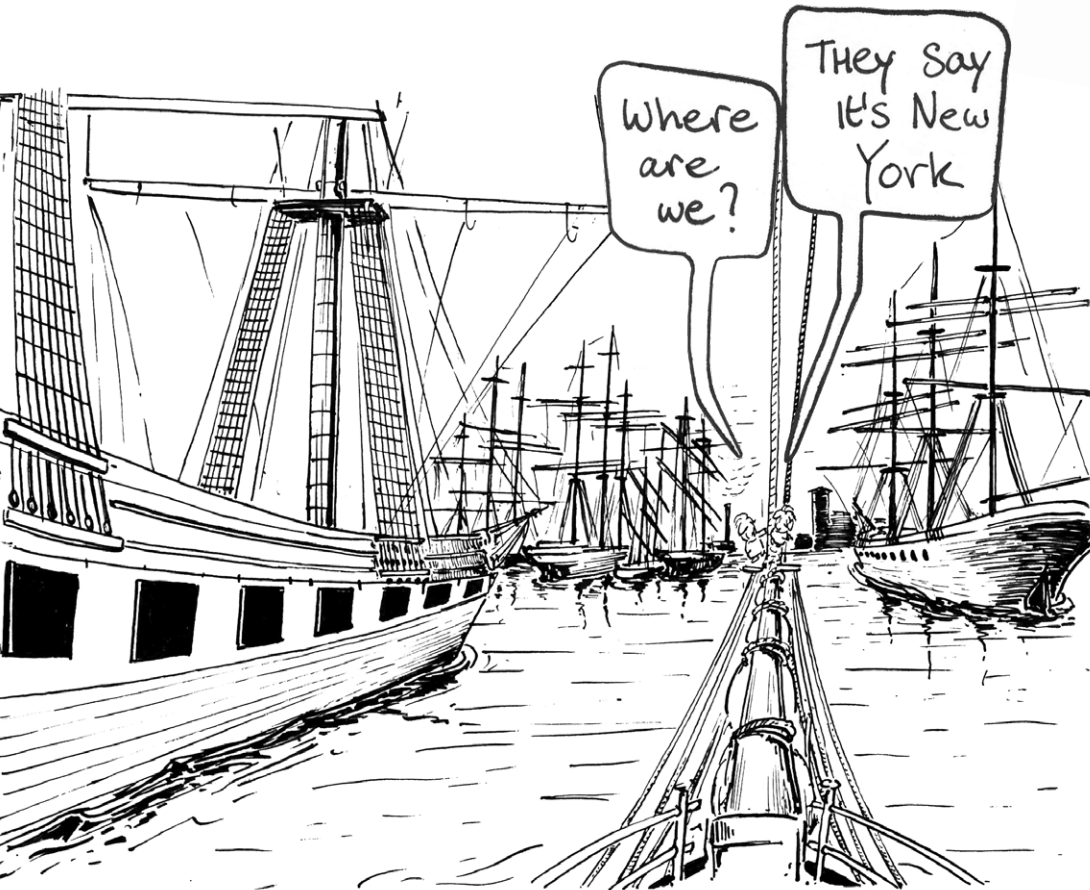
Mumsels are very curious creatures and love ships. So when they saw one of Roggeveens vessels moored in a bay, they probably could not resist the urge to get on board. Roggeveen resumed his journey to Batavia (current Jakarta).



Batavia was an important hub in the world trade at that time. From there the Mumsel could easily spread across the world.

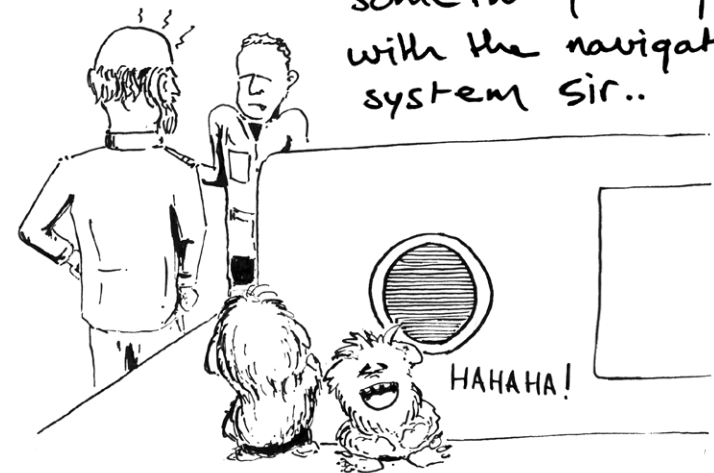


In the following centuries, the Mumsels travelled across the globe. Some Mumsels kept moving from one vessel to another, hungry for a new adventure, while others decided to stay on a particular ship for a while. So the Mumsels got to see the world, while the people, especially the sailors, got to know the Mumsel.



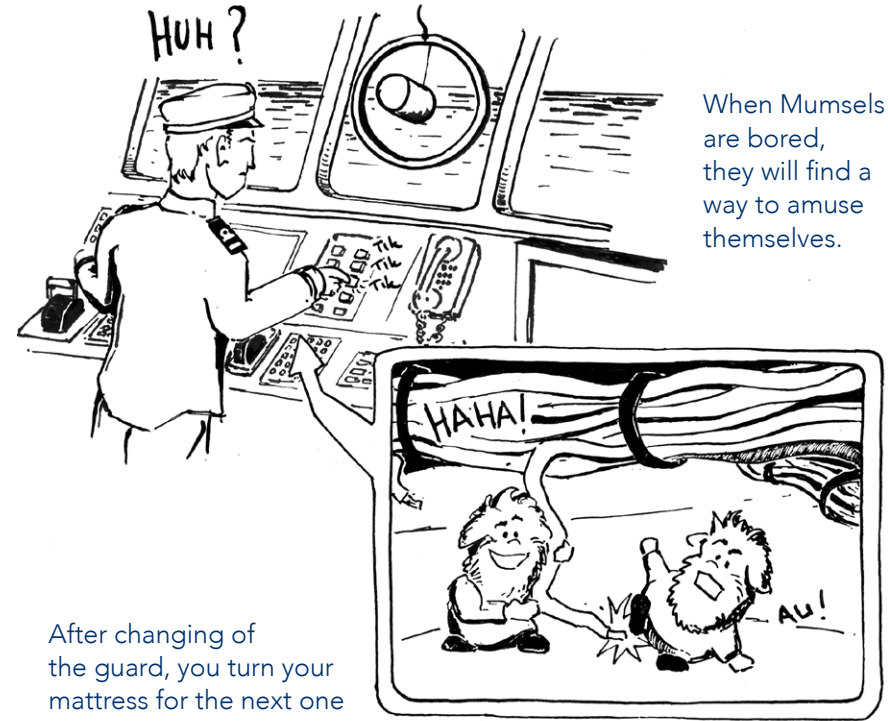
HAS ANYONE SEEN
MY GLASSES?!

There must be
something wrong
with the navigation
system sir..



on BOARD

Mumsels take care of the wellbeing on a vessel. It is vital to keep them happy because when a Mumsel is not happy he will start causing trouble. They are good creatures, however, they are also easily bored. And when they are bored they will find ways to amuse themselves. This often means bad news for the people on board the ship. Mumsels will not show themselves, but their actions do not remain unnoticed. Sailors learned the hard way that an unhappy or bored Mumsel means bad luck, and will do whatever it takes to prevent this.



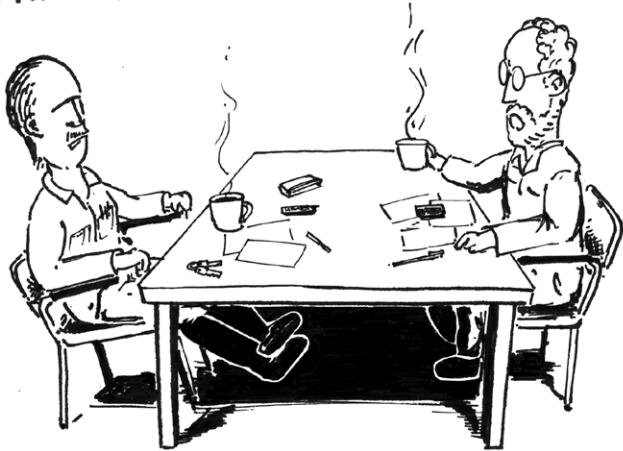
When Mumsels are bored, they will find a way to amuse themselves.

After changing of the guard, you turn your mattress for the next one off duty, but apparently, Mumsels don't like this, and sailors warn each other for that.



A MUMSEL...?
AND YOU BELIEVE
THIS ??

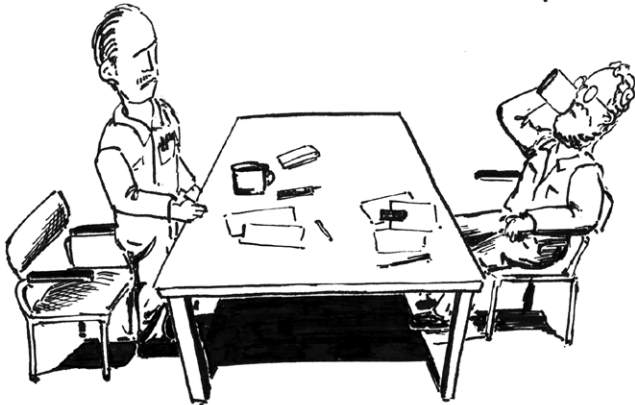
YES! THEY
REALLY EXIST!



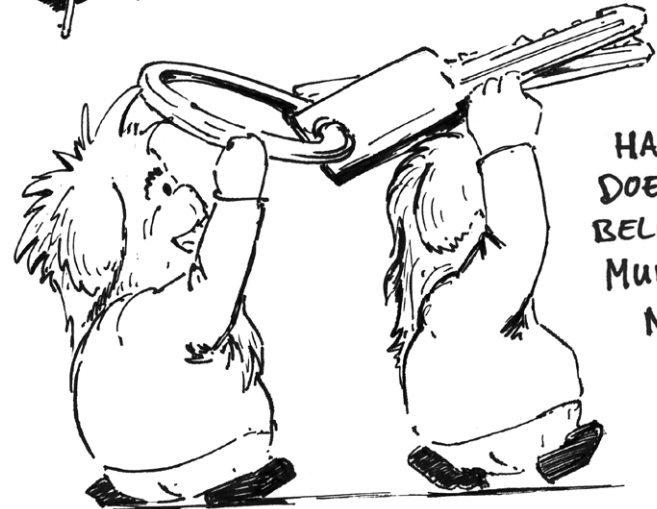
SURE THEY DO..
WE HAVE TO GET
BACK



YES

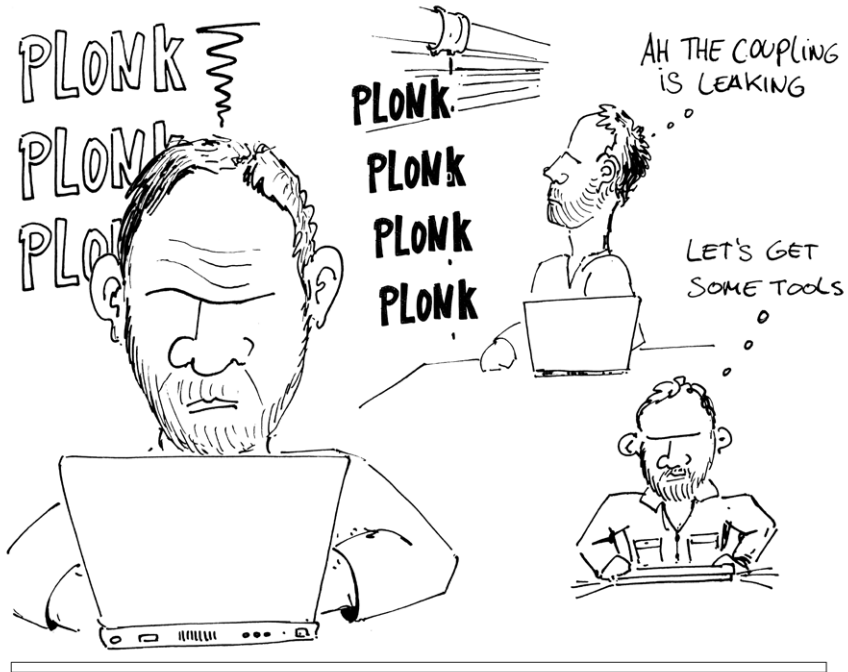


HAVE YOU SEEN
MY KEYS?



HA! WHO
DOESN'T
BELIEVE IN
MUMSELS
NOW!

Mumsels hate it when they are not being taken seriously. So it could be tricky to mention you don't believe in Mumsels. If a Mumsel hears this, he will make sure you won't doubt them again.



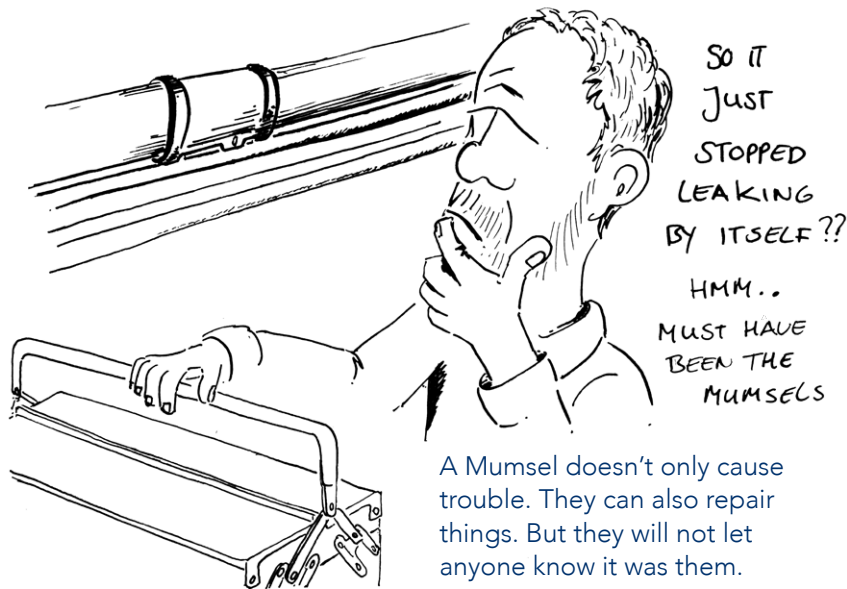
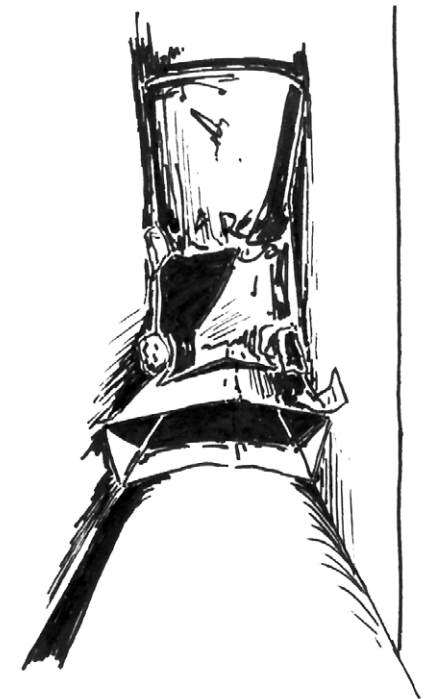
the NEST

Mumsels are social creatures who live in small groups. These groups consist of 3 or 4 Mumsels who are often members of one family. With that group, they build and maintain a nest. They use whatever they can find to build elaborate structures, which they keep expanding throughout their lives. An impression of such a nest is shown on the next page.

Mumsels hide their nests very well. They build them behind large cabinets, in cavity walls or sometimes in deserted mouse nests. To be sure no uninvited guests enter, they construct several warning signs and traps in the parts of the nest leading to the living area.

Mumsels use their nest mainly for sleeping. Therefore it is often filled with oily rags because they smell nice and stay soft.

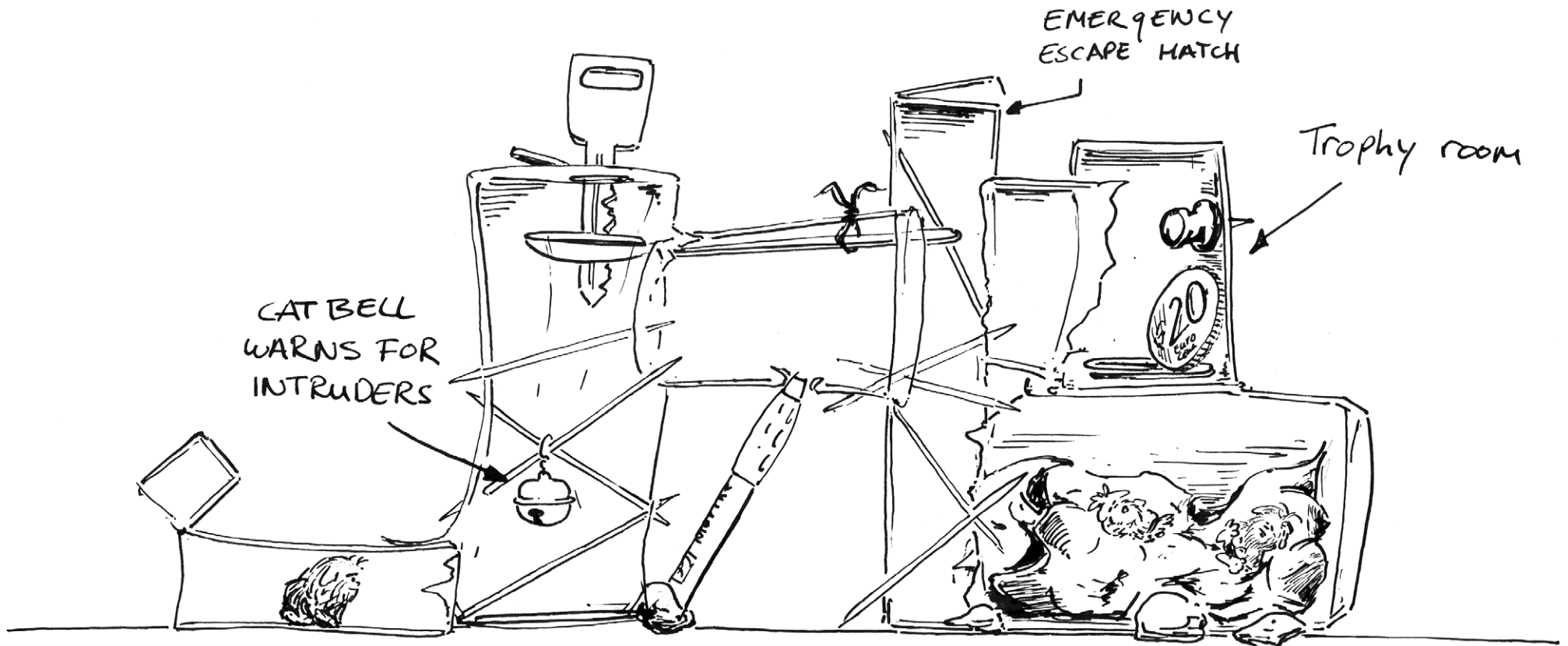
Mumsels also store their trophies in their nests, usually in a special trophy room.



A Mumsel doesn't only cause trouble. They can also repair things. But they will not let anyone know it was them.

This is a cross-section of a Mumsel nest. It is built from empty soda cans, paper cups and old cigarette packages. It is kept together mainly by gum. The Mumsels who build this particular nest probably found some cocktail sticks, which they use to climb to higher floors. They often use pencils as well for this purpose. Directly behind the entrance a cat bell warns when someone enters the nest.

When a Mumsel find something they like, they often take it to their nest. So their nests become a collection of all kinds of things which have been 'lost' in the past years.



different kinds of MUMSELS

There are different kinds of Mumsels, in the same way, there are different kinds of humans. They are all far descendants of the Polynesian Mumsel (from page 3 & 4) but years of living in a different environment shaped them in different ways. The Mumsels who live with us at AEGIR-Marine are probably sailing Mumsels, however, they don't smell like fish anymore. Sometimes they do get greasy when they have been running around the workshop.

The Sailing Mumsel

They are the typical Mumsels known to sailors who live on ships. They are rough and smell like oil and fish.



The Tropical Mumsel

They are the direct descendants from the primaeval Mumsels who stayed in Polynesia. They are very laid back and love sailing, surfing and music. They also steal from tourists when these are being rude.



The Russian Marine Mumsel

Has adjusted to the life on board of Soviet submarines. They are tough as nails and don't have any sense of humour, so don't make them angry. They are immune for vodka.



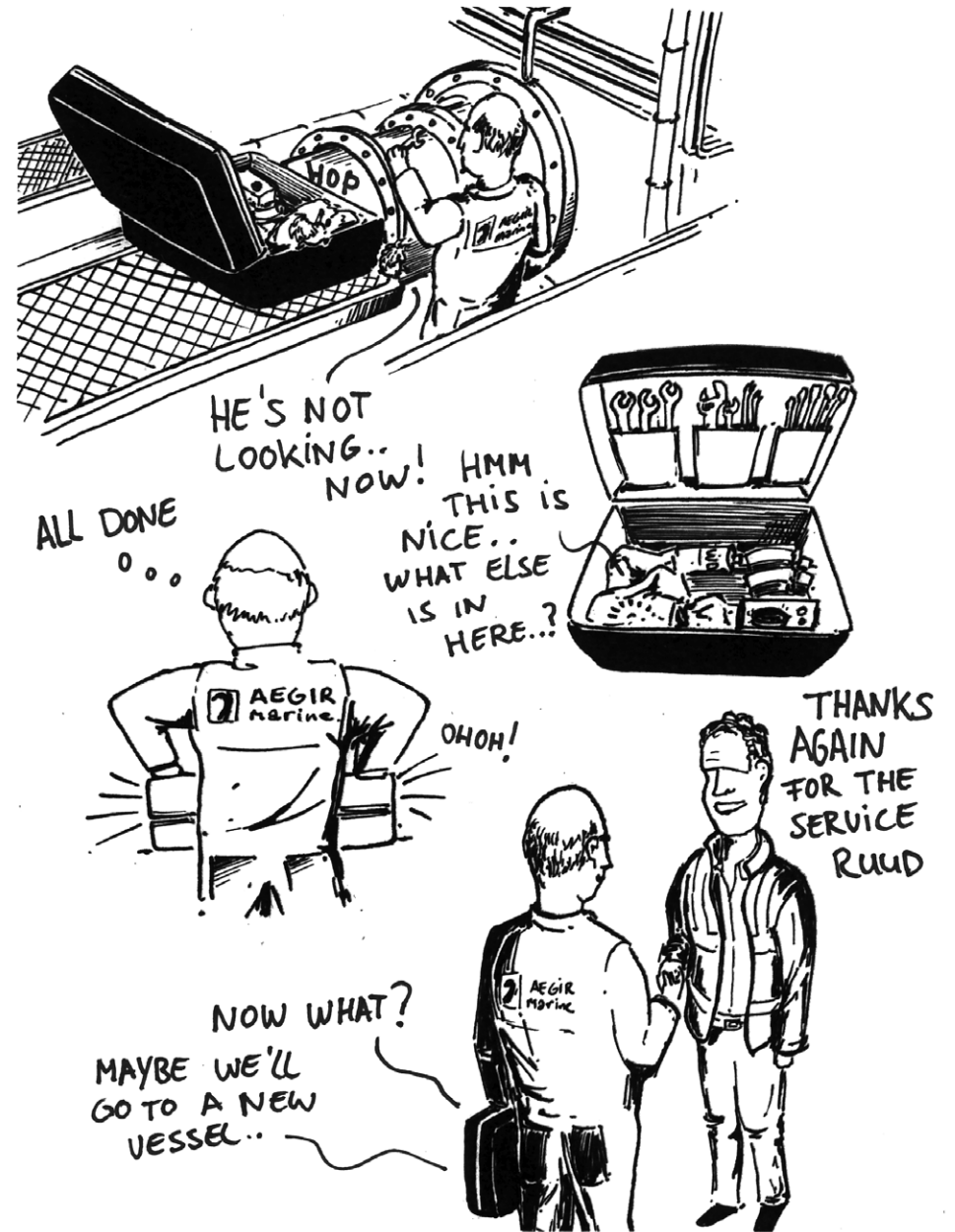
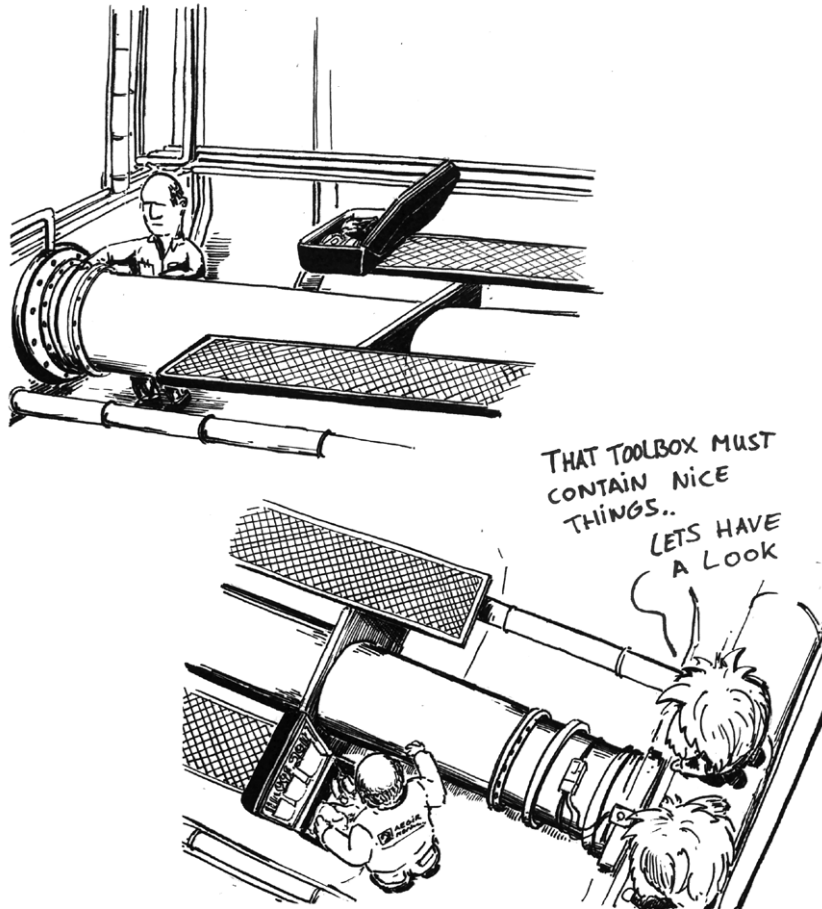
The Fashion Mumsel

They are descendants of a couple of Mumsels who settled in Paris many years ago. These Mumsels don't sail anymore, although some of them make a tour through the canals of Amsterdam every now and then. They smell rather nice and are very clean.



at AEGIR-Marine

In the early days of AEGIR-Marine, Ruud did some of the services himself. We suspect that this is when he picked up a Mumsel. The toolbox of an engineer is always filled with items a Mumsel loves, so possibly they just climbed in and got locked inside when Ruud finished the service job.



So this is how Mumsels came to AEGIR-Marine. They like the atmosphere between us and that's why they have decided to stay. We don't know exactly how many of them are here, but since they managed to sabotage a printer, we think there must be at least three of them. For us, it means we have to keep the Mumsel happy. And be thankful we didn't end up with a bad Mumsel!



