

## HOBART THE SCENIC CITY

Tasmania was discovered by Europeans in November 1642 by Dutch explorer, Abel Tasman. Nearly 250 miles separate the northern part of Tasmania to the southern tip of Victoria. Tasman named it Van Diemen's Land (VDL) after the Dutch East Indies Governor.

It was another 161 years before Europeans actually settled the island of natural beauty and on this occasion on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 1803 it was the British.

For Australia, Hobart is an old city. Next to Sydney, we are the second city to be settled in the nation, going back to February 1804. It was in that year, Lt. Colonel David Collins settled Sullivan's Cove the site of Hobart, which was named after Lord Robert Hobart, the Earl of Buckinghamshire, England, the then Secretary of State for Colonies. Collins and his settlers arrived from Sydney and were under the jurisdiction of Governor Philip Gidley King. Collins was appointed by Governor King as Lieutenant Governor of the southern colony of Van Diemen's Land (VDL), previous name for Tasmania.

It must be remembered in 1804 Colonel William Paterson was sailing to the north of the island to settle on the River Tamar at Port Dalrymple. Tasmania had two distinct jurisdictions, the northern settlement commanded by Paterson and the southern one by Collins. It was during Governor Lachlan Macquarie's first visit to VDL that he combined the two colonies into one, with Hobart being the capital.



William Paterson

Interestingly the first place in Tasmania to be called Hobart, was not at Sullivan's Cove, but a small and short lived settlement further north up the River Derwent called Risdon Cove. This first settlement dates back to September 12<sup>th</sup> 1803 under the command of twenty three year old Lt John Bowen of the Royal Navy. Correspondence between Bowen and Governor Philip Gidley King in Sydney (predecessor to Macquarie) shows that the Risdon Cove settlement was originally referred to as *Hobart*. When Collins arrived at Risdon Cove in February 1804 he found it unsuitable and removed it to Sullivan's Cove, which became the new Hobart. There was conflict and contention between Collins and Bowen over who was actually in charge, but Governor King ordered Bowen to relinquish his authority to Collins. Bowen was to leave the colony for good to fight in the French wars, leaving behind his lady companion, Martha Hayes Quinn.



John Bowen RN

Thus the settlement of Hobart began as a raw, crude enterprise. It was the first clergyman of Tasmania, the Rev Robert (Bobby) Knopwood who arrived with Collins and we are indebted to him for recording the first moments of the settlement in his valuable diary. Incidentally Knopwood and Bowen were the first white men to climb Mount Direction on the eastern shore not far from the Risdon Cove settlement.

And what of the natives, the Tasmanian aborigines? Their interaction with the whiteman began many years before the coming of Bowen and Collins from the time of Tasman's visitation in November 1642. He came ashore at Blackman Bay near Dunalley on the Tasman Peninsular where they were observed by the aborigines.

From that time both British and French explorers arrived in our waters and had various interactions with the original inhabitants, mostly peaceful, but sadly at times not so.

With Bowen's arrival the settlement would have been observed as well. It was in May 1804 conflict between the settlers and natives occurred, the full circumstances and the number of aboriginal casualties are still debated today.

Collins had a benevolent policy towards the aborigines as did successive governors. Nonetheless there were violent conflicts between the two groups of people for some years with hundreds on both sides being killed.



David Collins Memorial, St David's Park, Hobart

Back to the arrival of the settlers. With the coming of the Collins's party to Risdon Cove, Bobby Knopwood was to record: (16<sup>th</sup> February 1804). *"The morn very fine. At 10 the Lieut. Governor, self and Lieut. Lord of the Royal Marines went on shore to see the settlement formed by Lieut Bowen of the Royal Navy."* Later, *"The watering place is by no means good. Capt (sic) Bowen returned to Port Jackson with an intention of going to England."*

Sullivan's Cove was decided on and for the next few years the colony really struggled and from 1806 onwards, with the closure of the penal settlement on Norfolk Island in the Pacific Ocean, the small budding settlement received an influx of Norfolk Island settlers. They inflated the population and gave further headaches to Collins as London and Sydney promised the new arrivals help with convicts, farming implements and food provisions, which Collins did not have. Many of these people settled on grants in Sandy Bay and at what was to become New Norfolk in the Derwent Valley.

In 1810, it is said, because of the pressures of office and its stress, David Collins died and is buried in St David's Park which was named after him as was St David's Church, later Cathedral, in the centre of Hobart city.

Following Collin's death, other Lt Governors followed such as Thomas Davey and William Sorell. The settlement grew slowly, but towns like New Norfolk, Pitt Water (later Sorell), Kangaroo Bay (Bellerive/Rosny) and Richmond began with settlers being given grants of land. Farming arose with sheep, cattle, dairy and various crops. Still it was very much a penal settlement.

It was George Arthur who took over from Governor Sorell and whilst he was autocratic he was also a good administrator. It was he, during his term of office, who was given the full title of Governor rather than Lt. Governor. Trade was expanding and work on the New Wharf had begun in 1827 and new permanent government and private buildings were replacing the crude wooden dwellings that existed. Hobart Town as it was generally called was progressing. It became a city on the 21<sup>st</sup> August 1842 and in 1881 Hobart became simply *Hobart* rather than Hobart Town.



It was convict transportation that was blight on the community which was becoming respectful with more and more free settlers arriving. Public opposition to transportation began to raise its head and it was so successful that in 1852 convict transportation ceased to VDL with the last batch arriving in 1853. Great celebrations took place throughout the colony. The notorious penal settlement of Port Arthur continued until 1877.

To rid itself of the convict stain, in 1856 there was a name change from VDL to Tasmania while at the same time, Tasmania received from London, *Responsible Government*, meaning we were an independent colony with London overseeing our security.

Towering over the city and its environments is the famous Mount Wellington. The mountain has had several different names, the first was Skiddaw, named by English explorer, John Hayes in 1793. The following year the first white man to climb the mountain was explorer, George Bass. David Collins named it Table Mountain. In 1810 the first white woman to climb the mountain was Salome Pitt who climbed it with an aboriginal girl called Miss Story. Salome was daughter to early settler, Richard Pitt.

There was another name change in 1822 when in honour of the Duke of Wellington, it was called Mount Wellington. Interestingly, the famous scientist Charles Darwin climbed it in 1836. The following year Lady Jane Franklin, wife of Governor John Franklin, climbed it.

It was Lady Jane Franklin who had built the impressive Greek-like Temple at Lenah Valley called The Lady Franklin Museum. Lenah is an aboriginal word meaning "kangaroo". The temple was built by Lady Franklin in 1841. Lady Jane was very interested in the arts and was concerned with Hobart's lack of cultural institutions. Over the years it became neglected, once being used as an apple shed. In 1949 it became the home of the Art Society with the arts still occupying its premises.



Lady Franklin Hall, Lenah Valley

In modern times the mountain was seen as a tourist asset, so a road was constructed to take visitors to the summit in motorised vehicles. The road was opened in 1937. It was constructed during the depression years by out of work men who endured deplorable conditions to undertake the task. The mountain stands 1271 metres or 4170 feet. It commands a magnificent view.

The years between 1856 and federation saw rapid growth for Hobart and indeed Tasmania. With the scourge of convict transportation behind the population grew and at the time of federation Hobart's population was about 50,000 with the state

nearing 172,000. Launceston was enjoying prosperity from the mining boom on the west coast and by the late 1870s the telegraph and railways emanating from Hobart was doing away with the isolation with the rest of Australia and indeed the world.

Building booms were to be seen; none better than the new Government House close to the Hobart CBD. The Tasmanian Government House stands with a commanding view of the River Derwent and the Royal Botanical Gardens, on the Queen's Hobart Domain. The Botanical Gardens is Australia's second oldest established in 1818 and consists of nearly 40 acres.

In anyone's estimation, Government House is an impressive building of the Gothic style. It was designed by William Porden Kay who was brought to Tasmania by the Franklins, Governor Sir John and his wife Lady Jane.



Tasmanian Government House

Kay's greatest achievement was that of Government House, the Vice-Regal residence judged to be perhaps the best in the whole of Australia. William designed it as a fine Victorian period house in the Gothic Revival style.

Work began in 1855 on 37 acres of land with sandstone quarried on the site. Construction was completed in 1857. The house comprises 73 rooms, some of which are in Elizabethan and Jacobean Revival styles. The finest rooms are the Main Hall, the Dining Room and the Ante-Drawing room, the French room, the Ballroom and the Conservatory. The scale detail and finish of the entrance hall, grand corridor and state rooms are unequalled in Australia. William had done us proud.



William Porden Kay

Early Hobart had its setbacks especially when the Bank of Van Diemen's Land crashed in 1893 which set the colony in a financial down turn. However, it was our first Premier, Edward Braddon, who invited George Adams to set up his gambling establishment (Tatt's ticket) in Hobart, after being driven out of other Australian colonies by the anti-gambling lobby. The revue obtained from his enterprise allowed Tasmania to stave off bankruptcy by entering federation in 1901.

There was still a divide between the western shore and eastern shore of Hobart with the River Derwent being the barrier. Nonetheless, because of a ferry service, which included a vehicle ferry, the eastern shore comprising of Bellerive, Rosny, Lindisfarne, Geilston Bay and more which are in the Clarence Municipality, was growing firstly as a holiday place where the well to do from Hobart had a second home and then in the 1930s a place to permanently live. However, something had to be done to connect the two communities. The answer of course was a bridge.

A floating bridge, designed by Allan Knight (later Sir Allan) was opened during the war years in 1943. It was built in sections and was floated into position. It was of two lanes. This allowed the eastern shore to rapidly develop to such an extent that the bridge became inadequate. In October 1964 it was replaced by a four lane Tasman Bridge. Then on the 5<sup>th</sup> January 1975 a ship collided with the bridge, collapsing a part of it which again divided the two communities. Twelve people were killed. Reconstruction began in October of the same year and was re-opened with an extra lane on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 1977 when the two communities were once again joined.



Hobart's floating bridge

Near to the entrance of the western side of the Tasman Bridge is Cornelian Bay, Cornelian Bay Cemetery and boat sheds. It is possible that the bay was named after the carnelian gemstone which was found there, but the word was corrupted to cornelian. The bay has a small beach, while the cemetery was opened in 1872 and contains the resting place of many of Hobart's early colourful characters, like bushranger Martin Cash. Previously it was the government farm supplying food stuffs to the early colony. Martha Hayes Quinn, mentioned prior, lived and worked on the farm with her husband John Whitehead.

To the southern end of Cornelian Bay are 33 wooden framed boat sheds which have been there for more than a hundred years. They are individually painted. Now it is illegal to live there as while they have power and water they have no plumbing. Nonetheless when a shed is up for sale they can fetch large prices, many of the interiors decked out with the luxurious comforts of home. They now exist for recreation purposes only. A nice place to rest. The whole area is bounded to the south by the bush park land of the Queen's Domain.

Hobart is geographically one of the most beautiful cities in the world. It has a high level of standard of living. The city is blessed with many wonderfully designed colonial buildings which are held in great importance by the city. It is a city that enjoys the benefits of all the trappings of modern life, education at all levels, the theatre, arts, recreation, business and a stable political system.

Later when Norfolk Island was abandoned as a penal colony, those as mentioned were sent to VDL and were promised a great deal by Sydney and London which Collins could not give.



There were bushranger problems who were escaped convicts taking to the bush, the best known was Irishman, Martin Cash who somehow escaped the gallows and went on to live a life of a fruit farmer in the district called Glenorchy.



Martin Cash's grave, Cornelian Bay

There were severe economic troubles, with periods of boom and bust. Large percentages of the population at one time went insolvent which was a gaol-able offence.

From In 1856, until federation 1<sup>st</sup> January 1901 Tasmania was in effect, an independent country, determining its own future, including after the British forces left in 1870 organising its own defence. Indeed at the on-set of The Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) Tasmania had its own Minister for War. As did the other colonies, Tasmania sent its own Tasmanian troops to South Africa and two Tasmanians were awarded the Victoria Cross.

Industries were healthy, such as the fruit, primary and small manufacturing. In the 1870s great mineral wealth was discovered on the west coast in the form of copper and tin, even silver and gold which brought great wealth to the island particularly to the north as much of the mineral was shipped from the Port of Launceston. Railways and telegraphs were another great improvement in the quality of life for the colonists.

Those forty five years saw great progress with the colony enjoying one of the highest living standards in the world.

WWI saw near 14,000 Tasmanians serve overseas, with around 3,000 losing their lives. Like all other States, Tasmania saw great hardship during the Depression, but nonetheless two large industries made the State their home, the Zinc Works and

Cadbury's Chocolate. It also saw a great expansion of hydroelectric projects on the west coast which at one time well into the 1970s provided cheap and abundant power.

Tasmania in its governance has two Houses of Parliament, the Lower House (the House of Assembly) and the Upper House (the Legislative Council) with the Premier as the leader of the Government. Naturally the State has its own Governor. It has its own State flag and its own Constitution, both of which Tasmania was the first State in the country to do so.

Outside Risdon Cove, Hobart and Port Dalrymple the oldest settlement would be New Town, just north of Hobart city. Now an inner suburb and highly condensed, it was once described by a visitor in 1829, Mrs A. Prinsep, that "no English village that surpasses New Town".

It was Lt-Governor David Collins who first named New Town in 1805 when he visited the 'farm' with the Reverend Robert Knopwood (Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>). It is quite apparent that a farm, perhaps the first in the area, already existed by that time. Free settlers were given grants of land at New Town and many landed at Stainforth's Cove, where the land was fertile. It was considered so when John Bowen and James Meehan, surveyor, visited the area in 1803. The early settlers were a hardy lot and within a short period of time had grown vegetables and fruit, which was eagerly sought by the settlements.

The oldest surviving private home in Tasmania is Pitt's Farm in Albert Street, Moonah. Built by Richard Pitt, it is difficult to give an exact date of its erection anywhere from 1805 to 1813. It is not built of sandstone or entirely of brick, but of handmade brick and rubble. It is a two story home which is still standing after all this time and possibly the second oldest continuous dwelling in Australia outside Elizabeth Farm in Rosehill New South Wales (1793), home to John McArthur and wife Elizabeth.

Richard Pitt had arrived with Collins with his two sons, Phillip and Francis and daughter Salome. Pitt's grant of land embraced parts of what is now Lutana.

In those colonial days, Stainforth's Cove Bay went right up to the steps of Pitt's Farm, the flat areas around Cornelian Bay which includes the sporting fields were land filled.



Richard Pitt's tombstone, St David's Park, Hobart

Richard Pitt grew wheat and barley and within a few years had 18 acres under cultivation together with sheep and pigs. Their efforts attracted escaped convicts who raided the house which included bushranger Michael Howe and his gang.

Upon the death of Richard in 1826, and he had become chief constable, the property remained with the family under son Francis, until 1874.

Other settlers moved into the area and adjoining environs such as Moonah. Robert Nash arrived in 1808 and built a flour mill on the rivulet which was washed away by floods the following year. In 1810 a race course was laid out bordered today by Gormanston Road, Moonah named after Viscount Gormanston, Governor of Tasmania (1893-1900). The first recorded race meeting being in 1814 to celebrate the Prince Regent's birthday, George IV.

New Town became a sought after place to live. It now had its own hotel the Horse and Jockey (now Cooley's) and in 1840 well known business man and evangelist, Henry Hopkins built *Summer home*, which still stands.

In the area there can be found many fine old colonial homes, such as *Lauderdale* on Risdon Road, built in 1844 by publican James Mezgar. It is well proportioned and elegant home built from sandstone. Another on Risdon Road is *The Pines* built by

merchant Captain Charles Pearce in 1842. It is called *The Pines* because of the planting of such in the mid 1850s which can still be seen.

Other great examples of colonial architecture are *Cawarra*, which dates from the late 1840s or early 1850s. It is possible that William Porden Kay as we have learnt designed Government House on the Domain was its architect. Then there is *New Town Park* in Tower Road, dating back as early as 1823 by Bartholomew Broughton and in *Moonah Prospect House* built by merchant William Rout dating about 1844. These are just a few of a number of amazing dwellings in the inner suburb of New Town.

One must add *Runnymede*, now managed by the National Trust. Built in 1840 by lawyer Robert Pitcairn, it was later home to Tasmania's first Anglican Bishop, Francis Nixon. It is open to the public for inspection.

The area looked like a garden with the estates being planted with pines, oaks and elms from the old country. Today it known for its narrow streets and its quaint character.

Just a little north of New Town is the Municipality of Glenorchy, proclaimed as such back in 1864 and a city in 1964. The district was settled early in 1804 and was named by Governor Lachlan Macquarie during his visit in 1811 in honour his wife's home in Scotland, also called Glenorchy.

Settled between the Mount Wellington and the River Derwent, the area soon became a place of grants and land purchases and by the 1840s it was well established. With the granting of municipality status, it embraced three other settlements, O'Brien's Bridge (named after settler Thomas O'Brien), Claremont and Granton. By the 1870s the area had become well known for fruit growing, particularly apples and apricots and during the decade the railway arrived. By the 1880s it was a prosperous community and new Council Chambers was constructed in 1890.

In Glenorchy there are numerous historical buildings especially St John's Church on the main road, although no longer used as a church. It was built in 1842 and was designed by well known convict architect, James Blackburn. Both Tolosa and Chapel Streets support historical constructions. Chapel Street was named after the Methodist church which was built on its corner with the main road in very early, circa 1828. It still stands today. A highlight of the municipality's past is the Club Hotel

on the main road, where once the body of bushranger, Martin Cash was displayed before burial. Incidentally his house after retiring from his life of crime still stands in Montrose Road.

Further north is Claremont. It is now bypassed by the Midlands Highway. Early on it was a main agricultural centre and contained residences of well-to-do colonists. During World War I, it was home to the major army camp of the day and later in the 1920s attracted the English chocolate company Cadbury's to set up its Australian operation which is still there. It commands marvellous views of the River Derwent. Claremont enjoys a high standard of living built on a rich historical foundation.

One of the early settlers was John Pascoe Fawkner, who made history with John Batman, by settling Melbourne. John's father, also John, was a convict, but because of his good behaviour was granted 50 acres of land for farming at Claremont. He has the distinction of being Claremont's first settler. Son John Pascoe was later to return to Tasmania and lived in his cottage near the Claremont High School (ceased to be a school in 2010). Unfortunately with the building of the school, all remains of the cottage were removed.



John Batman's Memorial, Melbourne

Then there was James Austin, who gave the name to Austin's ferry. He was originally a farmer in England and was transported as a convict. After his release he was granted 30 acres of land on the River Derwent. His well preserved cottage is still there for all to see and to inspect. Austin together with John Earle operated a ferry crossing the River Derwent. This was a profitable business as the road at that time (1821) ended at Austin's Ferry. People travelling north had to cross the river at his point and follow the road to Launceston.

One of the outstanding historic homes is *Claremont House*. This commanding home was built by early settler Henry Bilton who had a huge grant of land in 1838. His grant included what is known as Flying Pan Island on the river bank. Henry though married had no children and went on to be the Warden (now called mayor) of the Glenorchy Council. He lived until he was 91 years old. As the years progressed, owners came and went, one being well known Australian cricketer from South Australia, a left hander, Joseph "Joe" Darling. Joe was also a politician, an independent in the Legislative Council.

Claremont was to play a major role in Tasmania's war effort during World War I. In the area now occupied by Cadbury's chocolate factory, the Federal Government acquired it for a military camp. It was a very large camp where Tasmanians were trained before going off to fight in Gallipoli and Western Europe. The entrance of the camp was situated on a site near the present Primary School on land which was previously used for farming. Many thousands of young Tasmanians passed through this large base which even produced its own newspaper called *The Rising Sun*. In those days the railway ran a track into the camp and in the time of rail transport trains ran late into the night and early morning, used by soldiers visiting family and social events in the capital. In time, of course, the war finished and in 1918 the camp was abandoned. The remains of the camp could be seen for some years afterwards and interestingly, the present Social Hall on the main road was once used as part of the Camp Hospital.

In 1919 the English company, Cadbury Fry Pascall purchased the land and a large confectionary factory was constructed. Production started in January 1922 and has played a massive part in the town's future as well as the whole of Tasmania. But Cadbury was more than a factory, for it became a village until itself. A number of experienced workers were brought out from England and over a 100 homes were constructed to house them, together with tennis courts and other recreational grounds. Cadburys was attracted to Tasmania because of its cheap electrical power and its temperate climate, this being a long time before air conditioning. Tough times followed, however, with the Depression and World War II.

Close by at the outer end of Claremont is Windermere. It was originally called Knights Point, owned by Mr. J. Knight. He built a large house known as *Windermere* and developed a profitable orchard

Postal services in Claremont date from 1832, but services were limited. In 1894 facilities were made available at the Claremont Railway Station. The first road passed through the area way back in 1807 when it went from Hobart to New Norfolk. This allowed the development of shops as well as the spreading of farms.

The spiritual side was not neglected by the early pioneers and it would appear that the early Congregationalists were the first to establish a church with the Methodist following. However, it was not really until the very early part of the twentieth century as the population began to increase that the major denominations established their churches such as St. Aiden's (CofE) which is now a private residence.

Claremont is a large area, now supporting a growing population. Its history is colourful and immense.

To the south of Hobart is the well to do suburb of Sandy Bay named obviously because of its sandy beach which has been a recreation area for locals and visitors for more than two hundred years. Australia's first ever casino, Wrest Point built in 1973 is at Chaffrey's Point. Thomas Chaffrey was one of those Norfolk Islanders who was given a grant of land at Sandy bay along with many others, such as Thomas Kidner, Barnard Walford, William Proctor, Edward Garth and Edward Fisher. Sandy Bay is part of the county of Buckingham in the parish of Queenborough.

Today it is home to the well established Anglican boy's school Hutchins (1846) and girl's college Fahan School (established in 1935) which was built on Edward Fisher's grant. There are many well established homes throughout the area.

The road of Sandy Bay follows the boundary lines of the original lands grants given to the Norfolk Islanders. The grants stretched from the edges of the Derwent River, reaching up into the foothills of Mount Nelson in long strips. Most of the descendants of the early settlers have left. During the 1820s other free settlers arrived and unused grants were bought by them. The County of Buckingham extended from Sandy Bay to Browns River at Kingston. Browns River was named after botanist, Robert Brown, who visited the area in 1804.

The hawthorn hedges which bounded the various properties were a well known feature of the area.

Further along the old coach road to Kingston from Sandy Bay is the imposing Shot Tower at Tarooma built by Joseph Moir in 1870. Now a great tourist attraction it

was constructed to make lead shot for smooth-bore muzzle-loading guns. Lead was melted in cauldrons over wood fires at the top of the tower, arsenic and antimony were added and four larger sized shot. The lead was poured through a colander at the top of the tower falling 152 feet into a tub of water at the base. Small shot fell 30 feet. The shot was dried, sorted, graded, polished, weighted, packed and sold. It is the only circular stone shot tower in the southern hemisphere. It closed down as a business in 1905. Devonshire Tea and light meals can now be enjoyed on the premises.