

HOBART AND THE SOUTHEAST



BOTH ENGLISH AND FRENCH maritime explorers showed great interest in Van Diemen's Land at the end of the eighteenth century and the drowned estuary of the Derwent River attracted most attention. A generally favourable description of Risdon Cove on the eastern shore of the Derwent by George Bass and Matthew Flinders in 1798 influenced Governor King of New South Wales to establish Tasmania's first white settlement there in September 1803 to counter French interest.

Early in 1804 Lieutenant-Colonel David Collins arrived at Risdon Cove after finding the Port Phillip Bay area 'wholly unfit for the settlement' he was sent from England to establish. Collins immediately appreciated the limitations of the narrow valley occupied by the new settlers and on 20 February 1804 he transferred the settlement to Sullivan Cove on the western shore of the Derwent River, now the site of central **Hobart**. Two hundred and sixty-two colonists, of whom thirty-one were free settlers, constituted the first permanent European settlement in Tasmania.

Hobart has remained the dominant settlement in southern Tasmania, many times the size of the towns and villages that are mainly supported by local economic activity. Hobart's ascendancy over **Launceston** owes most to its location on the finest harbour of the island and its selection and retention as the administrative focus of the colony. By 1830 the population of Hobart Town and district had reached 6000 and the future of the port settlement was assured.

The whole southeast is part of a fault structure province of post-Carboniferous rocks covering the centre and east of Tasmania, with intruded dolerite forming resistant plateau surfaces and scarps. The land to the south and west of the Derwent River is generally moist and mountainous, topped by Mount Field near Maydena and Mount Wellington overlooking **Hobart** from 1270 metres. Much of the land to the north and east of the Derwent is below 400 metres and the rainfall below 762 mm. Sheep are therefore well supported, although not at the density found on the improved pastures of the North Midlands, and the low rainfall favours tourism along the mild east coast at townships such as Bicheno and **Swansea**.

The Southeast is not a natural region marked by a high degree of physical homogeneity, nor by borders that constitute obvious barriers. Such regional unity as it possesses depends upon the influence of **Hobart** over the hinterland, a pervasive sense of history and the solidarity of southern football supporters against the onslaughts of the north and northwest.

The port on the Derwent River engendered enthusiasm from the outset. In a despatch to Lord Hobart in August 1804, Collins described the settlement's location as 'a port, the advantages of which when once known, will ensure its being the general rendezvous of all shipping bound into these Seas'. He also held high hopes for its use as a whale fishery. The waters of Sullivan Cove were generally deeper than 7 metres, with 11–18 metres alongside the wharves. So attractive was this harbour that the administration at **Sydney** forbade merchant ships to enter the Derwent River lest the 'Mother Colony' became wholly dependent on the subordinate settlement for its overseas supplies.

With the lifting of this restraint of trade in 1812–13, activity in the port of **Hobart** grew steadily. The number of ships calling increased from 14 in 1813 to more than 100 in 1827. In the early years of settlement the great majority of Hobart's shipping links were with **Syd-**



Hobart Town, on the Derwent River. Aquatint by W.J. Higgins, 1830.

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ney. The contacts progressively widened until in 1831, for instance, 23 per cent of arrivals had come from New South Wales ports, 15 per cent from other Australian ports, 41 per cent from Britain and 8 per cent from Asia. Apart from people, the ships mostly carried foodstuffs or general cargo, but the range of commodities was considerable, including sheep and cattle from New South Wales, tea, spirits and cloth from India and sugar from Mauritius. After 1820 the flow of exports became significant and included sheep, whaling products, seal skins, tanbark, Huon pine and wheat. However, with the widespread adoption of steam by 1870, Hobart largely lost those international connections that depended on the westerlies.

Tasmania differs from the Australian mainland in that it is not a land of sweeping plains nor, indeed, a sunburnt country. With the possible exception of the basaltic northwest coastal plateau, the land surface is too broken to permit extensive agriculture. Improved pasture, sheep and cattle are the only forms of farming coextensive with Tasmania's settled arc from southwest to northeast to northwest. The Southeast region has had several distinctive pockets of agricultural production. The plains of the Coal River estuary near **Richmond** comprised the first of these. For a decade or so around the 1820s, this small area was the granary of Australia, sending much needed wheat to **Sydney** before the western plains of New South Wales came into production.

The best known of the Southeast's primary products, apples, symbolised Tasmania inside and outside Australia for over 50 years. In the 1920s and 1930s orchards occupied over 95 per cent of cropped land in the Huon district (see Huonville), reduced to 65 per cent by the end of the 1960s in the face of overseas competition. Still further decline has recently been arrested by the consolidation of holdings and reorientation to Asian markets. The pome fruit industry has always been export-oriented. In 1960–61, for example, 4 million cases of apples and pears left Tasmania: 57 per cent to British ports, 15 per cent to Hamburg, 8 per cent to eastern Australia, the remainder to Scandinavia, the Netherlands and Belgium, East Africa, the Middle East and southern Asia. At their peak the fruit exports had a considerable impact on the seasonality of activity in the port of **Hobart**, providing about one-third of its total annual export volume during the short period March–May.

Tasmania, particularly the Southeast, has also led Australia in hop production, with the

greatest concentration on the alluvial terraces of the Styx River at Bushy Park near **New Norfolk**. Yields have been among the highest in the world (about 2240 kg/ha), and the distinctively trellised crop, characteristically bordered by protective Lombardy poplars, makes a picturesque landscape.

Timber industries are significant on both sides of the Derwent River, with rainforest dominant on the southwest and sclerophyll forest on the northeast. The Huon valley became the focus of sawmilling in the early years of settlement, though the drier northeastern area developed its share of the timber industry. The use of the timber resources was increased from about 1940 by the cutting of pulpwood in the south for a mill at **Geeveston** and for Australia's only newsprint mill at Boyer near **New Norfolk**. In the 1960s the woodchip industry was established, with a mill at Triabunna, causing some transfer of locational emphasis from south to east.

Tasmania is recognised beyond its shores for other products besides apples: crayfish and scallops, zinc and chocolate. From 1905 to 1956 southern Tasmania had a monopoly on scallop production in Australia. That was broken by Queensland and Victoria, but the Tasmanian scallop is still widely enjoyed in the nation's restaurants. Whereas bay whaling became important at **Hobart** soon after its founding and Tasmania could still boast 19 whaling ships employing 488 men in 1872, the crayfish has been a steady producer of income for 180 years. In recent times the catch has been fairly evenly divided between southern and northern ports, with Dover leading. The Electrolytic Zinc Company of Australasia has occupied a site opposite Risdon Cove since 1916. It typifies the large manufacturing firms attracted to Tasmania by cheap hydro-electric power. The Cadbury chocolate factory's location further upstream was also influenced by climatic and social considerations, but freight costs have militated against recent expansion outside mainland Australia.

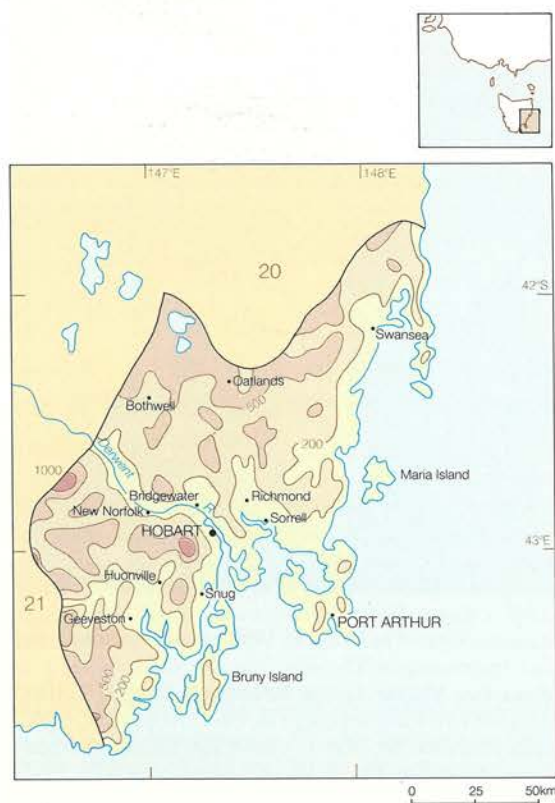
The increase of historical and environmental awareness among Australians since the 1960s has enhanced Tasmania's attraction to a growing tourist population. Southeast Tasmania contains much evidence of our early colonial origins. **Hobart's** modest growth, to 120 000 people in its first 160 years, has left much historical evidence, notably in the form of Georgian buildings erected prior to 1860. The houses of Battery Point and the warehouses of Salamanca Place are the most obvious concentrations.

Smaller settlements such as **Richmond** and **Oatlands** have relatively greater concentrations of colonial buildings. Others, such as **New Norfolk**, to which the Norfolk Island settlers were transferred in 1808, contain some element of early planning, or merely, like **Maria Island**, the relics of occupation. No place in Australia conveys such a dramatic sense of history as **Port Arthur**, the visitor's expectation heightened perhaps by the image of dogs guarding the narrow Eaglehawk Neck to prevent convicts escaping from the Tasman Peninsula, or by viewing the remnants of the convict-worked Saltwater River coalmines. Port Arthur's infamous penal function, exercised between 1830 and 1877, is symbolised by the gaunt remains of the tall penitentiary; contemporary notions of reform are reflected in the model prison and the church; the extensive grassy slope down to the harbour is now reminiscent of an English village green.

R.J. Solomon

SUGGESTED READING

- P. Bolger, *Hobart Town*, Canberra 1973.
 R.J. Solomon, *Urbanisation: the evolution of an Australian capital*, Sydney 1976.
 G.H. Stancombe, *Highway in Van Diemen's Land*, Western Junction 1969.
 C.R. Stone and P. Tyson, *Old Hobart Town and environs 1802-55*, Lilydale 1978.



punishment: 2m tonnes of stone and earth moved by 1849 when first bridge opened. Town came into being on completion of causeway and new road to Brighton, the area selected to be new capital by Gov Arthur in 1827, although it never eventuated. Rlyw opened in 1876. Present bridge built in 1946. Black Snake Inn built by convicts at Granton at southern end of causeway in 1833, licensed until 1860; old watch-house there built by convicts in 1838. Hestercombe Chapel (RNE), Aust's first Congregational church, built by Hobart merchant Henry Hopkins at Austin's Ferry in 1833. Ferry had begun in 1816 and operated until bridge opened. Pontville to northeast founded in 1830, town classified by Nat T. Officers' mess (RNE) and military barracks (RNE) built c1824; St Mark's Church (RNE) built 1839-41. Brighton to north estab as military post in 1826 and now site of main Tas army camp.

GEEVESTON [43°10'S 146°56'E]
 Popn: 1093 (1911), 796 (1933), 1360 (1947), 504 (1954), 860 (1981). Named after first European settler William Geeves who took up land in 1849 and began clearing in 1850. Known as Lightwood Bottom until 1861, then Geeves Town. Timber industry in hills from the 1840s: tramway built to carry timber to sea in 1856. Main road reached area in 1880. Newsprint plant operated 1927-34. Shipbuilding since 1842. First apple orchards planted in 1851. Pulp mill estab by Aust Paper Manufacturers Ltd in 1962; operations were suspended in 1982 and had not resumed by late 1985.

BOTHWELL [42°23'S 147°01'E]
 Popn: 454 (1881), 755 (1911), 293 (1966), 356 (1981). Named after town in Lanarkshire, Scotland, by Gov George Arthur in 1824 when town site surveyed. Lieut Laycock camped on river near present site during journey from Port Dalrymple (see Launceston) to Hobart in 1806-07. Game hunters in district since the 1800s. Surveyor J. Beaumont explored area in 1817. First European settlers in 1821. Brick, water-powered flour mill (RNE) built soon after Thomas Axford took up Thorpe in 1822: operated until the 1890s, restored 1975-77. Township surveyed in 1824. Castle Hotel built from 1829, still licensed. St Luke's Uniting church (RNE), Aust's second oldest Presbyterian church, built 1828-31. First known game of golf in Aust played in the 1820s on Ratho, property of Alexander Reid; homestead (RNE) built in the 1830s. Wentworth House (RNE) built for Major D'Arcy Wentworth in 1833. Literary Soc building (built c1835, RNE), site of Tas's first public library opened in 1837, now council offices. Clifton Priory (RNE) built in 1847-48. Became a town in 1866. Site of Aust's first pure-bred Aberdeen Angus cattle stud. Town and about 18 individual buildings classified by Nat T and listed by RNE.

HOBART [42°53'S 147°19'E]
 Popn: 437 (1804), 1906 (1820), 14 602 (1841), 21 118 (1881), 60 406 (1933), 95 206 (1954), 131 524 (1976), 128 603 (1981). Named Hobart Town in 1804 after Lord Hobart, secretary of state for colonies: after some experimentation with Hobarton name shortened to Hobart in 1881.

BRIDGEWATER [42°44'S 147°12'E]
 Popn: 410 (1911), 267 (1947), 229 (1971), 2750 (1976), 6880 (1981). Presumably named for causeway: earlier known as Green Point. Causeway 1.3 km long begun in the 1830s by about 200 convicts sentenced to secondary



Hobart, on the Denwent River. The Tasman Bridge, linking the eastern and western suburbs, was closed when a ship collided with one of its piers in January 1975. It was reopened in 1977. Photograph by Leo Meier, 1984.
 WELDON TRANNIES

Beginnings Mt Wellington believed to have been climbed by George Bass in 1798; definitely by botanist Robert Brown in 1804. Settlement moved to Sullivan's Cove from Risdon Cove after only five months due to lack of fresh water: Hobart Town estab by Lieut-Col David Collins in February 1804. Pitt's Farm at Glenorchy built in 1806, second oldest building in Aust, oldest in Tas. A warehouse (RNE) of 1808, originally the commissariat store, now used by the Tasmanian Museum, is probably central Hobart's oldest building.

Town growth When Gov Lachlan Macquarie visited in 1811 town was still a straggle of makeshift huts: he ordered a survey and building regulations. Developed as important port and base for South Seas whalers. Became administrative centre for all of Van Diemen's Land in 1813. Anglesea Barracks (RNE) begun in 1814, now oldest military establishment in Aust still used by army. Hobart Town Hotel opened in 1815. First Tas newspaper, *Hobart Town Gazette*, published in 1816. Became major shipbuilding centre. Battery Point (conservation area, RNE) takes name from battery of guns mounted in front of guardhouse (later signal station, RNE) in 1818. Botanic gardens begun in 1818, wall between there and Government House said to be longest convict-built wall still standing in Aust; second convict-built wall of 1829 could be heated from internal fireplaces to help grow exotic plants. Hop vines brought to Hobart as early as 1822. First proper church building (St David's) consecrated in 1823. Early Presbyterian church built in 1824; in grounds of Scots Church built (RNE) in 1834-46. Cascade brewery estab in 1824, stone building (RNE) erected in c1832, extended in 1927. Town grew in importance and became colonial capital with Van Diemen's Land's separation from NSW in 1825. Popn 5000 by 1827. Female factory built in 1828 as women's prison, later housed elderly destitutes, then became a boys' home and mental asylum, closed in 1904. Battery Point became part of residential and commercial Hobart from c1830: Arthur's Circus (RNE) and its 15 Georgian cottages date from 1847-52. Much development in New Town in the 1830s and 1840s: St John's Orphan School built 1830-33, St John's Church in 1835, congregational church in 1842, Sunnyside c1845 (all RNE). Parliament House built by convicts 1835-40 as Hobart's first customs house and bond store: converted to present use when colony became self-governing in 1856. Salamanca Place warehouses (many RNE) built 1835-60. St George's Anglican church (Battery Point, RNE) built 1836-38, spire added in 1847. Theatre Royal (RNE), oldest theatre in Aust, built in 1837, badly damaged by fire in 1984, since restored.

Colonial city Proclaimed a city in 1842. Lady Franklin Museum (RNE) built in 1843. Runnymede (Nat T, RNE) built in 1844 at New Town for Robert Pitcairn, first lawyer to qualify in Tas. Synagogue (RNE) built in 1843, Aust's oldest. Gas supply connected in 1857. Government House (RNE) built 1855-58. Telegraph line to Launceston opened in 1857. Supreme court (RNE) begun in 1860, dedicated

in 1866, but had to be largely rebuilt. Tas Museum and Art Gallery (RNE) built in 1863, but includes cottage which dates from 1815. Town hall (RNE) built 1864-66. St David's Anglican cathedral (RNE) built from 1868. Tarroona shot tower (RNE) built in 1870, continued production until 1904. Truganini, last full-blood Tas Aborig, died at Hobart in 1876: skeleton on display in Tas Museum until finally buried in 1976 (see Snug). Rlwy to Launceston opened in 1876. First telephone link in Tas from Hobart to Mt Nelson in 1880. University founded in 1890. Electric trams began running in 1893; International Exhibition held in 1894.

Twentieth century development New customs house (RNE) built in 1902, includes 1815 bond store at rear. Queenborough (Sandy Bay) and New Town amalgamated with Hobart 1907-20. Cadbury chocolate factory built at Claremont in 1921-22. Sydney-Hobart yacht race first run in 1949. Tasman Bridge opened in 1964; rammmed by ship in 1975, bringing down part of deck and killing 12 people. Serious bushfires destroyed large areas of outer Hobart in 1967. Wrest Point hotel-casino, Aust's first legal casino, opened in 1973. In 1980 became headquarters for International Division for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. Site for CSIRO Marine Laboratories estab in 1981. About 100 buildings classified by Nat T: about 200 buildings, many from the 1830s-40s, in Hobart listed on RNE.

HUONVILLE [43°01'S 147°04'E]

Popn: 413(1911), 1491(1961), 965(1966), 1347(1981). Huon R named by Bruny D'Entrecasteaux in 1792 after Capt Huon de Kermadec, his second-in-command. First shipment of Huon pine from district to London in 1829. Bridle track from area to Hobart cut in 1830. Europeans settled permanently in Huon R district in 1836 at Castle Forbes Bay. Apple orchard planted at Garden Island Creek in 1838. First European settlers at Huonville were W. and T. Walton in 1840: their home Inlet Farm built in 1847 still stands. Apple orchards planted in immediate area in 1841. Village founded in 1843. First commercial apple shipment to London in 1864. Mail coach service to Hobart began in 1869, ceased in 1913. Bridge over Huon R built in 1876, opening area to south. Proclaimed a municipality in 1908. Town developed as centre for Huon pine and apple industries.

MARIA ISLAND [42°40'S 148°06'E]

Reached by Abel Tasman in 1642 and named after Maria Van Diemen, daughter of gov-gen of Dutch East Indies. Sighted by Tobias Furneaux in 1773. First known European landing by Capt J. Cox in 1789. Nicholas Baudin charted island in 1802. Sealing important in early 19th cent. Estab as Van Diemen's Land's second penal settlement in 1825 with original convict settlement at Darlington. Woollen manufacturing industry estab by second commandant. Settlement closed in 1832 when Port Arthur opened and island leased to Charles Seal. Convict station reopened as probation settlement in 1842: further buildings added and second probation station estab at Point Lesueur



Hop picking at New Norfolk. Postcard, c1895.

MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

(then Long Point). Penal settlements finally abandoned in 1850–51. Island leased to A.G.D. Bernacchi in 1884 (with some freehold purchase in 1887) to set up silk and wine industries: he also built the Coffee Palace and estab cement works in 1887, later revitalised and enlarged in 1924–25. Limestone deposits again worked 1953–55. Nat pk declared in 1972.

NEW NORFOLK [42°47'S 147°04'E]

Popn: 1036 (1881), 2934 (1947), 6839 (1971), 6243 (1981). European settlement began with relocation of settlers from Norfolk Island after settlement there closed in 1807, hence name, although village known as Elizabeth Town after Gov Macquarie's wife from its proclamation in 1811 until 1825. District explored in 1805. Land granted to settlers in 1808. Bush Inn (RNE) built in 1815, licensed from 1825, claims oldest licence on the one site in Aust. Road to town built in 1819. Valleyfield built in 1822, associated prison and coach house in 1830, hop kilns in 1884 (group RNE). St Matthew's Anglican church (RNE) built in 1823, oldest still standing in Tas. Tynwald built in 1830, remodelled on much more grandiose scale at turn of century. Willow Court (RNE) estab in 1831 for invalid military personnel, later became mental institution, now part of Royal Derwent Hospital. First coach service from Hobart in 1831. Old Colony Inn built in 1835. Kilburn Grange (RNE) built in the 1830s. Tollhouse (RNE) built in 1841 at site of first bridge over Derwent River. Govt farm experimented with hop growing in the 1840s, setting foundations for important district industry. Rlwy opened in 1867. Oast-house for drying hops built 1867, closed 1969, now museum. Town classified by Nat T. Aust Newsprint Mills estab at Boyer, 6 km downstream on Derwent R, in 1941: first mill in world to manufacture newsprint from hardwoods. Plenty salmon ponds

bred first brown and rainbow trout in Aust in 1864. Hops first planted at Bushy Park in 1864, original property became largest hop farm in Southern Hemisphere.

OATLANDS [42°18'S 147°23'E]

Popn: 673 (1881), 739 (1911), 545 (1981). Named by Gov Lachlan Macquarie in 1821 as it reminded him of an oat-growing area in Scotland. Europeans had explored district by 1804. Macquarie also passed through district in 1811. Chosen in 1812 as one of four sites for military posts on main north-south road surveyed then but not completed until 1837. Town site marked out in 1821, military garrison from 1825. Gov Arthur ordered establishment of town in 1827. Convicts built courthouse (Nat T, RNE) in 1829: brewery and many other buildings existed by then. Headquarters for Gov Arthur's campaign against Tas Aborigs in 1830. Commissariat and guardhouse (RNE) built in 1832. Proper town survey in 1832: much growth followed in the 1830s, but the 80 km of streets laid out was overly optimistic. Former Lake Frederick Inn (RNE) built in 1834. Callington Mill (Nat T, RNE) built in 1837, wind-powered until 1890, declared a historic site in 1954. St Peter's Anglican church built 1837–46, Holyrood House in 1840, town hall (RNE) in 1881. Rlwy opened in 1885. Classified as historic town by Nat T and RNE: many 1830s buildings remain, largest collection of Georgian architecture in Aust. Probation station (ruins RNE) built near Jericho to south in 1841, acquired by Roads Dept to house convict labour for Midland Hwy 1845–48.

PORT ARTHUR [43°08'S 147°52'E]

Named after Lieut-Gov George Arthur who estab penal settlement here in 1830 to consolidate Van Diemen's Land penal stations in one area: **Macquarie**

Harbour and Maria Island settlements closed as result. Tasman Peninsula discov and explored by Abel Tasman in 1642; also explored by George Bass and Matthew Flinders in 1798–99 and charted by Louis de Freycinet of Baudin expedition in 1802. Penal settlement closed in 1877, 14 yrs after transportation ceased and after at least 12 500 convicts had served their sentences here. Commandant's house built in the 1830s. Round-towered guardhouse built in 1835. Church completed in 1836, steeple blown down in 1875, church further damaged by bushfire in 1884. Hospital built in 1842 to replace earlier structure, badly damaged by bushfires in 1895 and 1897. Grain mill, one of largest in Aust, built in 1844, converted to penitentiary 1855–57 to house 657 convicts. Asylum built in the 1860s. Agricultural outstation estab at Saltwater R and coalmine opened there in 1833; latter leased out in 1848, abandoned in 1877 after mine fire. Point Puer boys' prison estab in 1834 as type of reform school, closed in 1848 and converted to govt farm to supply Port Arthur from 1855. Military guard and guard dogs at Eaglehawk Neck 1830–77 prevented all but a few escapes from Port Arthur: bushranger Martin Cash and associates were among few who succeeded (in 1843). Township known as Carnarvon for a few yrs after penal settlement closed in attempt to dissociate it from past. Tasman Peninsula as whole listed on RNE: 7 yr project begun in 1979 to develop historic sites and restore buildings, much progress made by late 1985.



Interior of St John's Roman Catholic church, Richmond, built in 1837. Photograph by Reg Morrison, 1981.

WELDON TRANNIES

RICHMOND [42°44'S 147°25'E]

Popn: 448 (1881), 539 (1911), 414 (1947), 587 (1981). Named after Richmond Park estate acquired as part of town site. District explored by Lieut John Bowen soon after European settlement estab at Risdon Cove in 1803. First flour mill built in 1815 after good crops of wheat in district: remained important grain-producing district throughout the 1830s. Township proclaimed by Lieut-Gov Sorell in 1824, Tas's third largest town by the 1830s and an important military post and convict

station. Richmond Bridge (RNE) built by convicts 1823–25. Aust's oldest gaol (RNE) built from 1825. Courthouse (RNE) built in 1825–26. General store and former post office (1832–1972, RNE) built in 1829, oldest postal building in Aust. 'The Granary' (RNE) built c1832. Bridge Inn, now a museum, built in 1834. St Luke's Anglican Church (RNE) built 1834–36, designed by John Lee Archer, colonial architect. St John's Church (RNE) built in 1837, oldest Roman Catholic church in Aust. First council elected in 1861. Ceased to be as important after Sorell causeway built in 1872 and main traffic diverted. Richmond Arms Hotel (RNE) built in 1888 to replace Lennox Arms Hotel built in 1827. Historic town (Nat T, RNE): many buildings from the 1830s and earlier remain.

SNUG [43°02'S 147°15'E]

Popn: 113 (1911), 672 (1954), 530 (1971), 684 (1981). Name derives from 'snug' anchorage here. Proclaimed a township in 1908. Aust's only carbide works estab in 1917 at Electrona. Town virtually destroyed in 1967 bushfires; 11 people killed. Remaining 44 Tas Aboriges moved from Flinders Island to Oyster Cove in 1874: Truganini, last fullblood, died in 1876 having asked for her ashes to be scattered here, but remains held by Tas Museum until buried here in 1976.

SORELL [42°46'S 147°34'E]

Popn: 416 (1911), 2544 (1981). Named after Lieut-Gov Sorell when town founded in 1821. Town held by bushranger Mathew Brady in 1824, soldiers and some civilians imprisoned in garrison. Chief grain-growing district of colony from 1816 until c1860, also supplying NSW in earlier part of period. St George's Church (RNE) built in 1826, Scots Church (RNE) in 1842. Sorell causeway built 1864–72 to shorten route from Hobart to Port Arthur and east coast. Rlwy opened in 1892, closed in 1926. Coastal resort and retirement functions have become increasingly important since c1960.

SWANSEA [42°07'S 148°04'E]

Popn: 244 (1881), 551 (1961), 372 (1971), 428 (1981). Named after town in Wales. Earlier known as Great Swanport, then as Waterloo Point after establishment of military station in 1827 until 1842. District explored and land taken up by George Meredith in 1821. Settlement developed and grew during the 1820s–30s. Bay whaling stations estab here and at Schouten Island in 1832, following earlier one estab by Meredith in 1824. Morris's general store (RNE) built in 1838. Bay View Hotel (Swan Motor Inn, RNE) built in 1841. Town surveyed and named in 1842. 'Spikey' Bridge (RNE) to south built by convicts in 1843. Schouten House (RNE) built in 1846 as hotel. Lyne family's log cabin (RNE) built in 1826 at Apslawn. Glamorgan municipality, oldest rural municipality in Aust, proclaimed in 1860. Coastal resort since World War II.