

KINGS BRIDGE

Location: Over the South Esk river at Launceston.

Owner: Launceston City Council.

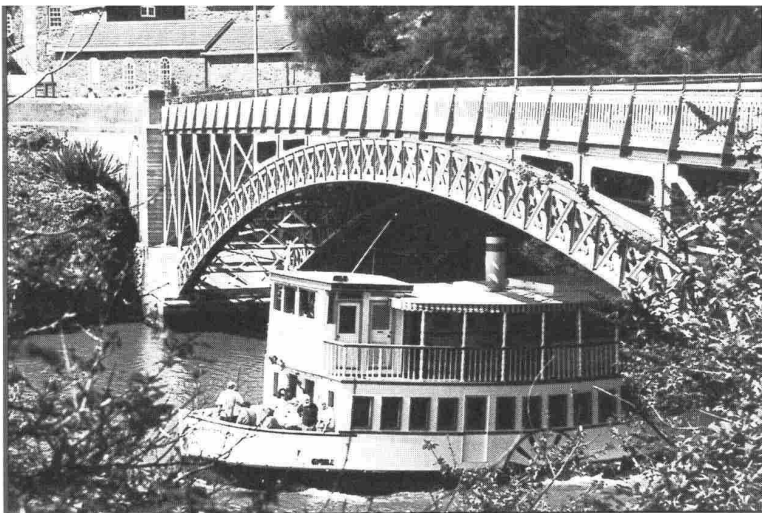
Plaque location: On the north-western abutment of the original bridge, upstream side.

William T Doyne

William Doyne was trained in civil engineering in England on the London South Western Railway and later worked on the construction of a railway near Hamburg in Germany.

He continued his railway career as Manager and Engineer for the Rugby and Leamington spa Railway in England. For this railway he designed and built a wrought iron lattice bridge about which he presented two prize-winning papers to the Institution of Civil Engineers.

In about 1861, Doyne was engaged by the West Tamar Road Trust to design a bridge across Cataract Gorge, Launceston. His wrought iron arch design was accepted, the bridge parts were fabricated in England and the assembled structure was floated into position in 1863.



Kings Bridge and the Lady Stellfox

HISTORIC ENGINEERING MARKER

Kings Bridge

Completed in 1864 this beautiful wrought iron arch bridge with a span of 60 metres was designed by Engineer William Thoma Doyne. It was fabricated in Manchester, England, and transported to Launceston, assembled on a pontoon, floated into position then lowered on to its abutments on the receding tide. The bridge provided a vital link with the West Tamar Region.

The duplicate adjacent span, fabricated by Salisbury's foundry in Launceston, was similarly erected and floated into position in 1904.

Dedicated by The Institution of Engineers, Australia 1992

Salisbury's duplicate bridge

This structure is conjoined to the original to provide two lanes, one in each direction.

West Tamar Highway

While the dual-carriageway West Tamar Highway now bypasses Kings Bridge on a modern concrete structure, Kings Bridge remains in service providing direct access to the suburb of Trevallyn.