

# WORLD'S OLDEST MCNAUGHT BEAM ENGINE

**Location:** At the entrance to the Hobart Institute of TAFE, Bathurst Street, Hobart.

**Owner:** Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery.

The plaque is located on the engine.

## Compound engines

Most early compound steam engines had the two cylinders positioned on the same side of the column, but the addition of a high pressure cylinder to an engine designed only for low pressure often resulted in oversteering of the beam.

William McNaught's arrangement avoided this problem.

## This engine

In other respects the engine is somewhat similar to other early engines and incorporates the parallel link motion which was patented by James Watt in 1794.

Little is known of the history of this engine before 1885.

## Other McNaught Beam Engines

The oldest existing engine of this type in Britain was built in 1885.

## HISTORIC ENGINEERING MARKER

### World's Oldest McNaught Beam Engine

This compound expansion steam engine incorporates high and low pressure cylinders placed on opposite sides of the central column in accordance with the 1845 patent of William McNaught. It was manufactured in 1854 by A&W Smith of Paisley, Scotland and probably imported by prominent local engineer Henry Clark. After 100 years of service the engine was removed in 1955 from Risby's sawmill in Collins Street Hobart and placed here in 1990.

Dedicated by The Institution of Engineers, Australia and the Hobart Institute of TAFE 1997



**McNaught Beam Engine**