

Interpretation Panel

PRESERVING TASMANIA'S TRANSPORT HERITAGE



Transport links accelerated Tasmania's social and economic development. The floating bridge across the river Derwent allowed Hobart's western shores to develop. The Museum's rotary traction engine was utilized for construction of the innovative bridge in 1893.



In 1895, Tasmanian Railways introduced Australia's first main line diesel electric locomotives, the K class. The Museum's K1 leads the 'Tasman Limited' through Hobart's northern suburbs in 1974.



Since 1971, Tasmanian Railways have provided a reliable means of moving goods around the island. Designed by Mr W R Deakin, former Chief Engineer of the TDR, 12 class locomotives hauled goods between 1927 and 1963. The Museum's 123 hauls a goods train near Launceston.

Tasmanian
Transport
Museum



Hobart and Launceston were served by electric trams then trolley buses. Hobart's trams were significant as the first second-hand electric tramway system in the southern hemisphere and the only Australian city to operate double deck trams. Trolley and trolley buses operating outside Hobart's CBD around 1940. All these exhibits are represented in the Museum collection.

With the imminent closure of Hobart's tramway system in the 1960s, the Metropolitan Transport Trust agreed to donate Hobart tram No 141 for preservation and the collection of Tasmania's transport heritage began. The Tasmanian Transport Museum Society was formed in June 1963 by founding members:

Ian G. Cooper Dr H. J.W. (Jim) Stokes Peter C. James

In 1972 the Glenorchy City Council leased this site to the Society, conveniently beside the main north-south railway, and the Museum officially opened in 1981. The collection continues to grow and is significant representing various forms of transportation and associated systems from previous eras.

Significant exhibits include the:

- ONLY ORIGINAL VERTICAL BOILER LOCOMOTIVE PRESERVED IN AUSTRALIA
- ONLY AUSTRALIAN BUILT STEAM LOCOMOTIVE PRESERVED IN TASMANIA
- FIRST MAIN LINE DIESEL ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVE OPERATED IN AUSTRALIA
- ONLY HOBART ELECTRIC TRAM PRESERVED IN ORIGINAL OPERATING CONDITION
- ONLY TASMANIAN TROLLEY BUSES IN ORIGINAL OPERATING CONDITION
- FIRST PRODUCTION BUS TO BE BUILT WITH A HINO CHASSIS IN AUSTRALIA
- OLDEST PRESERVED TASMANIAN RAILWAY CARRIAGE
- OLDEST SURVIVING TASMANIAN RAILWAY STATION BUILDING



With this marker, Engineers Australia recognises the Tasmanian Transport Museum as an important collection of significant engineering heritage items. Awarded 15 November 2011.

