

# AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST BRIDGE

## Richmond Bridge (Tasmania) Australia's Oldest bridge

The Richmond Bridge is a heritage-listed arch bridge located on the B31 ("Convict Trail") in Richmond, 25 kilometres (15.5 mi) north of Hobart in Tasmania, Australia. It is the oldest stone span bridge in Australia.[2] In 2005, the bridge was recognised as an outstanding historic place and added to the Australian National Heritage List.

The plaque gives official recognition to those directly involved in the construction of the bridge. From 2004 to 2005, descendants of William Wilson (full name William Hartley Wilson), named on the plaque as Superintendent of Stonemasons for the construction, undertook extensive research into aspects of the bridge's building and subsequent modifications, as well as the natural fauna/flora which existed in the vicinity of the bridge at that time. A copy of the image and the PDF research file may be seen on this web page. The Bonnie William website was created by a member of the descendant family of early Van Diemen's Land residents William Hartley Wilson and Margaret Wilson, and the ensuing quote below taken from it was written by the website owner/administrator. The purpose of the research was twofold: a) to understand the construction and appearance of the bridge at the time of its completion in 1825, and the significant modifications that it underwent over the 60 or so years after that; and b) to establish a valid basis to guide a professional landscape artist in undertaking on commission an oil painting of the Bridge as it originally appeared in 1825. This project was completed in May 2007.

