

= Chudleigh , Tasmania =

Chudleigh is a small rural village 64 kilometres (40 mi) west of Launceston in northern Tasmania , Australia . The town is in the Chudleigh Valley , between the Gog range and the Great Western Tiers . The area is primarily used for farming , though timber and lime production have been significant industries . The fertile flats of the valley are of alluvial origin , from the Permian era . The Chudleigh show , run by the Agricultural and Horticultural society , is an agricultural show held each February . Since 1889 the show has been held 125 times , and it is one of the state 's oldest such events .

The area had been the lands of the Pallitorre Aboriginal Tasmanians for thousands of years . European settlement and disease drove them from the lands and decimated their population . Chudleigh was first settled by Europeans in the 1830s for agriculture and lime production . The town was laid out , probably prior to 1835 , to have up to 5000 residents though the population never became large . An early resident , John Badcock Gardiner , named Chudleigh , probably after Chudleigh in Devon , England . During the 19th century a town hall , four churches , a school , an inn , post office , police station and telegraph office were built . Over time the churches , school , inn and post office have closed . A rail line from Deloraine to Mole Creek served the town from 1890 till its closure in 1985 .

Chudleigh has a population , as measured by the 2011 census , of 335 . The town has a privately run wildlife park , a shop selling and making honey products , and a few other stores . As part of a beautification drive in 2001 , the main street was planted with roses , and the town is now promoted as a " village of roses " .

= = Geography = =

Chudleigh lies 64 kilometres (40 mi) west of Launceston and 7 kilometres (4 @. @ 3 mi) east of Mole Creek in northern Tasmania , Australia . The town is in the fertile Chudleigh Valley that is bounded by the Gog and Magog ranges , to the north , and the Great Western Tiers , to the south @-@ west . The town itself is just south of the Lobster rivulet , a tributary of the Mersey river which also runs near the town to the north . The land around the town is mostly suited to grazing , intensive grazing in some areas , though some is marginal cropping land that requires careful crop rotation interspersed with seasons where the land is left fallow . The hills of the area have prominent basalt , limestone and dolerite depending on location . The fertile flats are of alluvial origin with Permian era sediments that have formed mudstone and sandstone . Some areas are notably frosty in winter and experience occasional snowfall .

= = History = =

Aboriginal Tasmanians have lived on the island of Tasmania for thousands of years . The earliest archaeological evidence for Aboriginal habitation of Tasmania is from the valley of the Forth River , 35 @, @ 000 years before the present . Prior to European settlement , Chudleigh was part of the lands of the Pallitorre Aboriginal tribe . Their range included Deloraine , east of Chudleigh , and the Gog mountain range to the north @-@ west where they mined ochre in the Toolumbunner ochre pits . The Pallitorre people lived in the area and used to have a camping ground , where the Church of England cemetery was established later . Land clearing , road construction , disease and conflicts with settlers drove them from their lands and decimated the population . Their population in the area has been estimated to drop from 200 to 60 during 1827 @-@ 30 . At the time of settlement the Chudleigh area was covered with bogs and wild bush .

During the early 1820s the Van Diemen 's Land Company created a track or stock route from Deloraine to Emu Bay (now Burnie) that ran via Chudleigh and Mole Creek . The route enabled them to move grazing livestock from the higher rainfall areas in the west of Tasmania , to the population centres further east . The company built facilities , including a store , in Chudleigh . Europeans settled the area west of Deloraine from the early 1800s , and cattle were being grazed ?

illegally ? in the Chudleigh area from as early as 1823 . John Badcock Gardiner , who probably named Chudleigh after the village with the same name in Devon , England , was granted 850 acres (340 ha) in the area after arriving in Tasmania in 1829 with his family . The town 's area was first granted to Lieutenant Travers Hartley Vaughan in 1830 . Vaughan sold the land in 1837 to Henry Reid , who was later briefly a member of the Tasmanian Legislative Council .

An early industry in the area was limestone mining and lime production . By 1831 a lime burning industry had been established . The lime was sent to Launceston for use in construction . The town of Chudleigh was surveyed and marked into town blocks , many of them 10 acres (4 @. @ 0 ha) . The date of this survey is not recorded but it was likely done by John Batman , founder of Melbourne , prior to 1835 . The town was laid out to hold a population of 5 @, @ 000 , as it was intended to be a railway junction on a line from Launceston to North West Tasmania . Later road and transport developments caused the idea of such a large settlement at Chudleigh to be abandoned . Dan Picket , an ex @-@ convict who has been granted a ticket of leave , built the first hotel , the two @-@ storey Chudleigh Inn , around 1850 . The building was later reduced to a single storey . This hotel or inn was noted as being used by 1851 . A police watch house was completed c.1860. By 1862 an extensive system of caves had been discovered in the area , attracting visitors .

In the 1860s a 30 @-@ by @-@ 11 @-@ foot (9 @. @ 1 by 3 @. @ 4 m) single @-@ room school building was constructed . The school opened 1 July 1864 with 14 pupils and a single teacher , though it apparently closed sometime after and reopened 28 January 1883 with a larger class of 34 pupils . In 1884 a new building , and teacher 's residence , was completed at a cost of 1531 pounds . The new school was on the road to Mole Creek near the bridge over Lobster Rivulet , and had around 26 ? 27 students . The school suffered regular flooding of the building , access roads and paths . Due to this flooding it was moved , in the 1930s , to next to the Methodist chapel in Sorrell street . The school was extended in 1936 and remained in operation until closed , by the Tasmanian education department due to low student numbers , on 30 September 1965 . From then students had to travel to the school at Mole Creek . The township of Chudleigh was formally declared in 1866 . It continued to expand and by 1883 also had a post and telegraph office , two stores , two churches , and over a dozen houses . An agricultural and horticultural show was first held in 1889 . The Chudleigh Agricultural and Horticultural Society has run the show annually since , except for breaks from 1914 ? 28 and 1939 ? 45 due to the two World Wars . The show has been run on various grounds , but the present one has been used since it was purchased in 1932 .

Chudleigh 's town hall was completed in 1895 , and opened during a public event on 11 April that year . It was funded by public subscription and built local builder Davis Brothers on donated land . It was built as a 46 by 26 feet (14 @. @ 0 by 7 @. @ 9 m) weather board building set on stone foundations , with a corrugated iron roof . There was a near tragedy in the hall in late 1922 when a generator caught fire while the hall was being used by 300 people . The inwards opening doors and lack of a fire door were cited as significant problems . Chudleigh had a post office from 1865 . Around 1899 it was moved to a new building though it has since been closed and the building sold as a private home . Chudleigh had a registered maternity hospital in the early 20th century . For some time the town had an Australian rules football club . It closed in the 1930s , reformed in 1939 , then finally closed in the 1980s . Telegraph communication followed construction of the railway line in the late 19th century . The first telephones were installed in Chudleigh homes in the 1930s , and mains electricity in the 1940s .

== Religion ==

Chudleigh has had churches for four different Christian denominations , though none remain .

An Anglican cemetery was opened in 1864 .. Construction of an Anglican (then the Church of England) church began in 1866 and the building was completed in 1868 . This church , the Church of the Good Shepard , was in the parish of Deloraine . It was replaced with a new building , built by local carpenter Hugh Miles , in 1880 . The new building was consecrated in 1895 . It held services until 1976 , was later sold , and is now a private residence . A Presbyterian cemetery was established in 1860 . By 1877 a Presbyterian church had been built in what is now Burnett street ,

though it was later destroyed by fire . A small Salvation Army citadel , comprising a number of buildings , was established in Jones street in 1878 . It was closed in 1938 and one of the buildings transported to Invermay , Tasmania where it was used as a Salvation Army band room . A Wesleyan chapel was built prior to 1877 , around 4 to 5 miles (6 @. @ 4 to 8 @. @ 0 km) from Chudleigh , next to Lobster Rivulet . Methodist services began in the town in 1874 , but ceased in 1876 when the pulpit was taken over by a Presbyterian minister . Land for a church was purchased in the town in April 1885 . The building , and adjacent stables , were completed soon after and the opening service held 19 July 1885 . To allow for an extension the building was later moved , and the stables removed . In 1977 the church became , along with most Methodist churches in Australia , part of the Uniting Church in Australia . It was closed in 1984 due to a lack of parishioners , and sold to become a private home .

= = = Railway = = =

A rail line was built from Mole Creek to Deloraine , through Chudleigh . It ran 20 @. @ 4 kilometres (12 @. @ 7 mi) from a junction on the western line and opened on 5 April 1890 . The rail line was used for mail , freight and passengers ; occasional passenger services went as far as Devonport . Passenger services mostly ceased when they were replaced with a bus service in 1960 . The line continued to be used for transporting logs for some time after this . Throughout its existence , the line was primarily used to carry timber to the paper mill at Burnie and , in later days , woodchips to Bell Bay . Passenger services had been mostly self @-@ propelled railcars after the 1920s . The line was closed in 1985 , and the tracks lifted in 1992 .

= = Present = =

Chudleigh serves as a service centre for the surrounding area , whose main industries involve farming and timber . The town has few services . There is a shop producing and selling honey related products , a service station , general store , second @-@ hand book store and a shop selling gifts and home wares related to roses . There are a large number of roses planted in the main street as part of a beautification drive , begun in 2001 , to make the town a " village of roses " .

There are some historic buildings , with connection to the town 's early history . Bentley house 's landscape is on the Tasmanian Heritage Register and the house itself is registered by the Tasmanian Heritage Council . Cattle were farmed on the land from at least 1827 and the house was finished in 1879 , at which time the property was owned by Donald Norman Cameron , later member of the Tasmanian House of Assembly . At the south @-@ east corner of the town , on the main road , is a restored building that was made for the Van Diemen 's Land company in 1827 ? 8 as a grain store . A sign commemorates acrimony around its restoration or remodelling , stating " Building restored November 2003 . Despite the best efforts of The National Trust and Mrs Patrica Woods . " . Patrica Woods was as the time president of the National Trust of Australia (Tasmania) . The main street has a surveyor 's cottage that was built around 1840

The Chudleigh show , run by the Agricultural and Horticultural society , is held each February . It is one of the state 's oldest agricultural shows ; in 2015 the 126th show was held . Melita honey farm runs a shop on the main street that sells a wide variety of honey related products . Mole Creek Karst National Park is nearby . Caves in the park thread through the limestone that underlies the area around Chudleigh . Nearby the town is the 130 @-@ hectare (320 @-@ acre) Lobster Rivulet Forest Reserve , which contains a series of scenic waterfalls . Trowunna Wildlife Park is a 65 @-@ acre (26 ha) private sanctuary a short distance on the main road towards Mole Creek . The park contains native Australian animals both in enclosures and free @-@ ranging . It works as part of the effort to preserve Tasmanian devils by keeping a population that are free of facial tumour disease , and runs as a training centre for animal handling and animal keeping .

Chudleigh is in the Meander Valley Council local government area , the Division of Lyons ? for the state house of assembly and the federal house of representatives ? and the state legislative council electoral division of Western Tiers .

== Demographics ==

The town 's population , including the surrounding district , was reported in 1877 as approximately 1000 .. Chudleigh had a population of 162 in 1901 and 200 in 2000 . There were around 150 people living in 40 houses just within the town 's boundaries in 2002 . As of the 2011 census 335 people lived in the town and surrounding 92 @. @ 4 @-@ square @-@ kilometre (35 @. @ 7 sq mi) area .

== Climate ==

Tasmania has an oceanic temperate climate characterised by cool summer and mild winters , with a small maximum temperature variation during the year . Chudleigh lies in the rain shadow of the Great Western Tiers ; rainfall in parts of the tiers exceeds 2 @, @ 000 millimetres (79 in) . Since the 1950s average temperatures in the surrounding Meander Valley have steadily risen and since the 1970s average rainfall has declined .