

## = Hadspen , Tasmania =

Hadspen is an Australian town on the South Esk River in the north of Tasmania , 8 kilometres ( 5 @. @ 0 mi ) south west of Launceston . Hadspen has few commercial establishments and is primarily a residential suburb of nearby Launceston . Most of the town 's buildings are residential , and relatively recent . The town 's population of just over 2000 has grown rapidly from only a few hundred in the 1960s , and there are development plans that call for its doubling .

Settlement began in the early 19th century as a cluster of houses on the Launceston side of the river , near a frequently @-@ flooded ford . Over time various bridges were built , largely on the same site , across the river . Though it had been settled for some time Hadspen was only officially declared in 1866 . Hadspen was originally on the main road from Launceston to Devonport but the town 's centre was bypassed in the late 20th century . There have been schools , both secular and religious , in its history , though there remain none .

The town has heritage @-@ listed properties and some others from colonial times . The town 's historic centrepiece is Entally House , built in 1819 as a wealthy settler 's colonial estate . It was the former family home of Thomas Reibey , Premier of Tasmania from 1876 to 1877 . The Red Feather Inn was built in the 1840s and remains in use as a restaurant and for accommodation . A gaol from the same time reflects Tasmania 's convict past . The Uniting Church building dates back over 150 years , originally as a Wesleyan chapel , and the Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd is known for taking over ninety years to complete .

## = = Geography = =

Hadspen lies approximately 142 metres ( 466 ft ) above sea level , 8 kilometres ( 5 @. @ 0 mi ) Southwest of Launceston , Tasmania . It is on the southern side of the South Esk River , near the confluence of the South Esk and Meander Rivers . The town is set in a rural landscape ; Surrounding countryside contains valleys , river flood plains , remnant uncleared bush and undulating pastures . The majority of the town lies between the South Esk , and a low section of land east of the town called Beams Hollow , which is named after Thomas Beams , owner of a 50 acres ( 20 ha ) lot through which the road from Launceston first ran .

## = = History = =

As of 1831 there was a settlement named Hadspen near a ford of the South Esk River . A road was proposed from Launceston , crossing the river at this ford near Thomas Haydock Reibey 's property of Entally . The name may have been given by surveyor George Frankland after Hadspen house and garden , an estate in Somerset , England . By the 1840s Hadspen was a small cluster of houses near " Reibey 's ford " , and the river crossing was now on the main road from Launceston . Hadspen Post Office opened on 1 November 1849 , though the town was not declared in the government gazette until January 1866 . A bridge was constructed in the early 1840s replacing the often impassable ford , and during the next century the bridge was often repaired and sometimes replaced .

Hadspen.-This rural township , long marked out on the maps , is fast assuming the appearance of a village . It is situated close to and on this side of Reibey 's Bridge . Mr. Sprunt lately obtained a licence to open an inn , which is a large and commodious brick building . Several cottages are erected , and a blacksmith 's forge for the convenience of surrounding settlers will soon be at work . Abundance of excellent stone is found within a few yards of the spot , and we observe one gentleman has built a remarkably neat cottage , fronting the main street , of this material . The distance from Launceston is about eight miles , and if the road were slightly repaired the drive in this direction would be the most pleasant in the neighbourhood

In early years there were two Hotels : Cricket Club Hotel near the river , which was partly destroyed by flood in the 1870s and subsequently demolished , and Hadspen Hotel , a convict @-@ built sandstone structure . By 1881 both had closed and there were no hotels in the town . An application

to re @-@ licence a building opposite the Wesleyan church was unsuccessful . The Hadspen Hotel was a private home in the early 20th century and remains as part of the town 's heritage . None of these hotels are open in the 21st century , the Rutherglen complex on the town 's west is the only licensed premises . There was a brewery in the town for a time , though it has long closed . The postal service from Hadspen originally was handled by a licensee operating from a shop , and subsequently from one of hotels . By 1966 the post office was in a separate building on the site of the former blacksmith 's shop .

There was an early reference to churches in 1844 when the Examiner noted that Bishop Nixon " laid the foundation stone of a new church at Hadspen , Reibey 's ford " though it is not stated which church . This church is likely to have been a small wooden one that was the first used by the Church of England . The then Reverend Thomas Reibey had a small stone chapel built at Entally in 1850 . Though it was intended for the employees of the estate it was used by some in the town . From the 1870s Reibey himself conducted some of the services in this Chapel . The Uniting Church building in Hadspen 's main street is a small , weatherboard colonial church . There was a Wesleyan chapel in the town by at least 1852 as well as another small church . In July 1874 the current Uniting church building was completed as a Wesleyan Chapel , that by 1924 was part of the Methodist church . The grounds the church is on were owned by the Wesleyans as early as 1865 .

= = Schools = =

In 1845 , local members of the Church of England , as part of a petition calling for funding , stated that they had established a new school . By 1848 there was also a Wesleyan Sunday School with 20 students . By 1867 there was a secular state school in the town , though funding was inconstant and the school was closed for at least the next two years . This school never grew large ; as of 1903 it had an average attendance of 20 students .

The school was still operating in 1937 , though a public request had been made for regular transport to take children to the Hagley District School , in consequence of the Hadspen school 's impending closure . Children from the town began attending the Hagley school in March 1938 . By the middle of the same year a tender was approved by the Minister of Education for regular school transport . The transport was also for students from nearby Carrick . , whose school closed in the 1930s . The school building was finally removed ; a tender in 1944 called for it to be removed and re @-@ erected at Falmouth . Schools have also been run in other town buildings , including a hall near the Anglican church , that was used for worship before the church 's completion , in what is now the Uniting Church and also in another building that later became a private home . In the 21st century there are no schools remaining in Hadspen .

= = Demographics = =

Hadspen was a small town for most of its early life ; its population in 1966 was 311 . It grew quickly from the 1970s to the 1990s after subdivisions were developed in South Esk Drive and Roebourne Avenue . Over this period the population doubled . In the 2001 census , 29 % of the town 's population was under 14 ? one of the highest proportions in Tasmania ? and future forecast growth means that the town is expected to require a primary school . The population grew from 1 @, @ 334 in 1991 , to 1 @, @ 848 in 2001 , 1 @, @ 926 in 2006 , and 2 @, @ 063 in the last census results in 2011 . Within the town 's current footprint its population is expected to reach 2 @, @ 155 by 2016 . The Meander Valley Council , in a March 2011 development plan , forecast Hadspen 's population doubling over the subsequent two decades .

The town 's population is almost entirely Australian @-@ born ; over 90 % as of 2011 compared to the average for all Australia of less than 69 % . In almost all ( 96 @. @ 9 % ) of homes only English is spoken , again a contrast to the Australian average of 76 @. @ 8 % . Median income is slightly higher than the country 's average and the unemployment rate is slightly lower .

= = Transport = =

Hadspen was an important stop on the coach route from Launceston to Deloraine from at least the 1840s . The coach service declined from when rail transport started in Tasmania in the late 1860s . The State Government began operating a school bus from town , to Hagley , in the 1930s . Meander Valley Highway , formerly known as Bass Highway , passes through the edge of the town bypassing the old main street . Bass Highway , which connects Launceston , Burnie and Devonport , branches off from this east of the town at Travellers Rest and passes south of Hadspen .

In the 21st century the town has three bus services : Redline Coaches runs a daily school bus service that passes through Hadspen to many of the Schools in and around Launceston ; Westbus , another private company , takes students to Hagley Farm School and onwards to Westbury Primary School ; Metro Tasmania 's public bus service connects Hadspen and the Rutherglen Holiday Village to the centre of Launceston .

= = Sport = =

Cricket has been played in Hadspen , at Entally and grounds nearer the town 's centre , since at least the 1860s . The cricket oval at Entally was one of the first in Australia and was hosting matches before Melbourne 's foundation . During his side 's 1874 tour of Australia the great English cricketer W. G. Grace played on the ground . Aside from cricket Entally 's grounds were often open for picnics and grand annual events . The Hadspen Chieftains cricket club was formed in the 1987 ? 88 season and plays as part of the Northern Tasmania Cricket Association . They won the association 's A grade premiership in the 1991 ? 92 and 1993 ? 94 seasons , and the Charltons Cup Premiership ? a combined competition with the North East Cricket Association ? in the 1993 ? 94 and 1994 ? 95 seasons .

Entally house has been associated with horse racing though the activities of Thomas Riebey . For a while there was horse racing at Entally Park itself , and ninety horses were raced from Entally 's stable . Two of these won wide acclaim : Stockwell was second in the Melbourne Cup and won the Carrick plate in 1881 ; Malua , stated by the Sydney Bulletin to be the " greatest horse of all time " , won the Melbourne cup in 1884 , though this was after his time at Entally .

= = Heritage properties = =

Hadspen has buildings that are largely intact from colonial times , some of which date from the early parts of the 19th century . The Red Feather inn , an adjacent convict era gaol and four cottages form a cluster of heritage buildings in the midst of the town . The gaol is a sandstone structure that was used to overnight convicts . The inn , gaol and watchmans 's cottage , St Andrew 's church and Entally House are all listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register , a recognition of their " historic cultural heritage significance to the whole of Tasmania " .

= = Entally House = =

Entally house is a heritage listed property on the western bank of the South Esk river . It , and the buildings of Rutherglen Holiday Village , are the only part of the town on this side . Entally is set on 85 acres ( 34 ha ) of grounds , and contains a large colonial house , stables , a chapel , other outbuildings and several hectares of vineyards . The buildings are filled with indicative furniture and art of their time , including carriages and coaches in the coach house .

Thomas Reibey had been in service with the East India Company when he met his wife Mary Haydock . He formed a trading company in Sydney and named its building " Entally House " after a suburb of Calcutta , India . Trading also brought his sons , Thomas Haydock and James , to Tasmania in the early 19th century . By 1816 James owned land near Hadspen and he purchased more in the 1820s . Thomas Haydock and Mary , his mother , purchased 2 @, @ 630 acres ( 1 @, @ 064 ha ) in 1818 in the then District of Cornwall , encompassing the present day site of Entally , and Thomas Haydock built the initial house in 1819 . The original building was apparently a single storey

structure , its two square towers arrayed with defensive musket slots . It has been significantly extended and surrounded by outbuildings since . When Thomas Haydock Reibey died in October 1842 his son , Thomas Reibey , inherited it along with 4 @, @ 000 acres ( 1 @, @ 620 ha ) of land and " The Oaks " , a property at nearby Carrick that now hosts the agricultural field days known as Agfest .

This latter Reibey was a leading figure in the Anglican Church in the area , and became later Premier of Tasmania . He built a private chapel at Entally , with wooden furnishings and an organ . He is remembered as having a great interest in horse racing and hunting ; deer and horses were bred at Entally . At least 90 horses were raced from Entally 's stables over time including the famous " Stockwell " and Malua . By 1883 , the library was reported as the most extensive in the colony . Entally 's lawn was used often for picnics and cricket matches . In the 1930s Rutherglen , now on the opposite side of the Meander Valley Highway , was part of Entally estate . It was home to some 300 , ninety @-@ year @-@ old hazelnut trees that were under investigation regarding the prospect of growing Hazelnuts in Australia for Cadbury chocolate production .

On Reibey 's death in February 1912 the property passed to his Nephew ? Thomas Reibey Arthur ? as Reibey had no children , and by 1929 the property was no longer in family hands . In December 1948 , after two years of negotiation , the land and buildings were acquired by the Scenery Preservation Board . The property was reserved as a " historic site " , more for its heritage value as a colonial home than its association with Reibey . Since then the house has been restored and filled with furniture , though not to original form , but rather as a facsimile of a wealthy 19th century colonial settler 's estate . Management of the site moved to the National Parks and Wildlife Service at its formation in Nov 1971 . The State Government took over management in 2004 , due to the expense of upkeep and concern over the property 's condition . Timber company Gunns was by 2005 looking at managing the property and planting 5 ? 6 hectares of premium wine grapes . They leased it from 2005 partly to showcase wine , though the property remained open for visitors . In late 2010 Gunns handed management and control of the property back to the State Government and from then it was maintained by volunteers . Youth Futures , an employment training organisation , was given the task of managing the now established vineyard .

= = = Church of the Good Shepherd = = =

An Anglican church was planned for Hadspen in the late 1850s . Thomas Reibey had WG & E Habershon of London draw up plans in 1857 . The building 's design was based on St Mary 's parish church , Lutterworth , England . It was designed in an early English style with blue ironstone walls , and freestone dressing and reliefs . The nave was 37 @. @ 5 feet ( 11 @. @ 4 m ) long , the chancel 17 x 15 feet and the entrance was through a 40 @-@ foot ( 12 m ) tower with a 24 @-@ foot ( 7 m ) spire . The foundation stone of " The new Episcopalian Church " or " The Reibey Church " was laid on 23 December 1868 . Construction , estimated to cost 1000 pounds , began with locally sourced stonework by Robert Sleightholm , whom Reibey met on a ship from England .

Reibey was funding all of the construction costs . When the structure was mostly complete a scandal erupted around him . He was alleged to have indecently dealt with a married woman . Her husband raised the issue with the bishop , then in 1870 with no action by the Church again with the Church of England Synod in England . Reibey subsequently took libel action but his complaint was dismissed and the Jury largely held that the allegations against him were true . Apart from these allegations , Reibey 's wife 's health had been declining , his property had been declining in value , and he wrote that he had been considering relinquishing the Archdeaconship for a while . After only a few years the lack of funds provided left only one person working on the site . All work ceased in 1870 , by which time the walls were unfinished and the building still lacked a roof . Though the church was incomplete both Reibey and his wife Catherine were buried in a graveyard at the building 's rear .

The church remained incomplete for over ninety years . By 1957 Anglican services were being held in St Stephens , a wooden church next to the apparent ruin . Around this time some in the church showed interest in completion of the old structure , partly due to the approaching centenary of

construction beginning . In April of that year a gathering of people from the Parish of Carrick was held in the unfinished building , and a prayer held to bless its completion . The gathering , and associated committee , were led and chaired by W R Barrett , assistant bishop of Tasmania .

The original architects ' plans had been preserved ? though they were close to disintegration ? and were largely followed in the subsequent construction work . A Launceston builder was contracted for the work , though much , including flooring , was performed by volunteers . Work was completed at an approximate cost of 8000 pounds , and the church was finally completed on 20 May 1961 , with the first service held the following day . Some furnishings in the church came from Entally 's Chapel including the altar and coverings , a wooden cross , symbolic paintings and a bell now hung in the church 's porch . The bell , formerly in St Stephens in Smithton , carries the inscription " Kains 1817 " and probably comes from the whaler " Kains " which was wrecked in 1835 . A stained glass window at the rear of the church originated in Entally 's chapel , and spent time installed in another nearby Church . It shows the crucifixion of Jesus and the Good Shepherd . The Church is a Gothic Revival design and somewhat scaled down from the original plans , the nave was built 10 feet ( 3 @. @ 0 m ) shorter , with some changed elements such as the entrance being built in stone on the west side rather than wood on the south . The church was consecrated in February 1973 .

= = = Red Feather Inn = = =

The Red Feather Inn is a heritage listed building in Hadsphen 's main street . It was built as a coaching inn and in the 21st century has been used for a restaurant and accommodation . The building 's frontage is a substantial sandstone single @-@ storey building . Land falls away sharply from the street and the building 's rear has two @-@ storeys . Rising affluence in the 1840s had enabled growth of the coach transport industry . When built the Red Feather Inn was the first horse @-@ change point on the road from Launceston , 8 miles ( 13 km ) away , to Deloraine , and it was one of the colony 's earliest coaching inns . It was built , starting in 1842 , for local police magistrate Charles Arthur . It was built by John Sprunt , also builder of Macquarie House in Launceston 's civic square , using convict hewn sandstone blocks .

The inn was first licensed in 1844 and was at first successful . In only a few decades its fortunes declined when a rail line was built from Launceston , reaching nearby Carrick in 1869 . The economy of rail transport took goods and passengers away , forcing wagons from the road . This reduced the demand for coaching inns , and led to a general decline in traffic through and business in the town . As of 2004 it was run as a restaurant and , after a 2008 refurbishment , has been used for accommodation and a cooking school .

= = Bridges = =

Flooding of the South Esk River and the need for a river crossing have constrained transport in the town for much of its history . The South Esk , now crossed by a bridge on the Meander Valley Highway , separates the town from settlements further west and unusually high floods can cut the highway on the town 's east , when it is submerged at Beams Hollow . The river was first crossed by a ford known as " Reibey 's Ford " near Entally House . Due to the variability in its flow this ford was frequently impassable requiring traffic to make significant detours . Thomas Haydock Reibey installed a punt at the crossing in 1828 . By a specially passed Government act he was allowed to charge a toll for its use .

Tenders were called for in 1836 for design and construction of a bridge at the village of Hadsphen . Five years later the colony 's government passed " Reibey 's ford act " to facilitate construction of a bridge . The act specified that of the £ 1500 cost for the bridge , £ 500 was to be paid by the government , and the remainder by Thomas Haydock Reibey . To recover the costs Reibey was allowed to charge a toll , assisted by a toll house and by turnpikes at the bridge 's ends . On construction the toll was mandated as 1d per person , 1s per wagon or carriage , 4d per unladen beast and 1 / 2d per calf , sheep , pig or lamb . The elder Reibey died before the bridge was completed and his son and executor Thomas Reibey acquired his father 's rights , collecting the tolls

after the bridge was completed . The toll was to run for the lesser of 30 years , or whatever time it took to pay for the original bridge construction costs plus an annual 15 % interest . The wooden bridge was completed by November 1843 , and within a little over a year the tolls had raised 453 pounds . It was known as " Reibey 's Bridge " and was narrow ? fitting only a single wagon ? with a single chain each side for safety , a fact that caused the loss of at least one valuable horse .

The bridge became noted for its insecure state , the lack of rails a particular issue , and it was referred to as " dangerous and unsightly " . A new bridge , 3 feet ( 1 m ) higher than the one it replaced , was under construction in 1878 . This new structure was 350 feet ( 107 m ) long , had a wooden frame and deck standing on stone piers . Floods continued to overflow Hadspen 's only bridge , floods in 1893 may have been 8 feet ( 2 @. @ 4 m ) above the bridge 's approach road 's level ; both the bridge and approach roads were extensively damaged and 250 feet ( 76 m ) of guard rails were carried away .

By 1911 the river was crossed , on the same site , with a steel bridge . This new structure had concrete buttresses and a wooden roadway . In March of that year floods over @-@ topped it by approximately 10 feet ( 3 @. @ 0 m ) and five of the bridge 's seven spans went down , girders were broken , piers sheared through , and some swept into the river . The bridge was repaired later in the year and stood for another half century . Over time , particularly after floods , there were calls for the bridge to be raised , though the expense of the work ? and the only occasional nature of flooding ? was cited in defence of the bridge 's adequacy . When the river flooded the bridge , it also often flooded Beams Ford on the other side of Hadspen , temporarily cutting off all road access to the town .

The Minister for Land and Works had approved work on raising it in 1939 , but this was postponed indefinitely due to World War II . Raising or renewal of the bridge was again being investigated in 1946 . The river again flooded over the bridge in July 1952 , the first time since the mid @-@ 1940s , and the timber deck was still being repaired into 1953 . The last and latest bridge was constructed as part of a bypass of the centre of Hadspen . By 1978 , the Bass Highway crossed the river further upstream and the old main road was no longer a through road . This bridge is a 240 metres ( 790 ft ) long two @-@ lane single @-@ carriageway concrete structure .

= = Today 's town = =

Hadspen is a small town that functions as a " dormitory suburb " , an extension of the Launceston metropolitan area . Entally House lies on the Town 's west , across the river . The town has a small shopping centre with a post office and service station , adjacent to a large caravan and cabin park . Development has been almost entirely residential and mostly on the northern side of Meander Valley Highway . Over 13 hectares ( 32 acres ) of land was already zoned for development within the town boundary as of 2005 , and the council plans to allow further expansion on the Highway 's south . A 1978 study looked at various areas around Hadspen for development , the only area to date where this has happened is the small expansion of the town south of the Highway on the River 's east bank . .

The town is in the Meander Valley Council local government area , both the federal and state electoral Division of Bass , and the Tasmanian Legislative Council electoral division of Western Tiers .

Hadspen has grown without any area set aside for small commercial operations , a fact that has led to just a single shopping complex . There was another service station , in the main street , but it closed in 2008 after operating for approximately forty years . Rutherglen is a holiday village , conference and event centre , and retirement village on the town 's west . It is the only premises in Hadspen with a general liquor licence . Rutherglen , or a similarly named premises at the same location , has been used for accommodation since at least 1923 . The town has access to reticulated water and sewerage . The town 's sewerage has been , since the mid @-@ 1970s , processed at a plant near Carrick that also serves that town . Treated waste @-@ water from there is discharged into a tributary of the Liffey River .