

IN
Bobby's
footsteps

—
BATTERY POINT HISTORY WALK



W. H. O'WOOD

batterypointwalk.com.au

In Bobby's Footsteps takes you on a self-guided walk around the land that was originally granted to the Reverend Robert 'Bobby' Knopwood in 1805 to build his home, *Cottage Green*, and establish his famous garden in Hobart's Battery Point.



I am pleased to introduce visitors and residents to this fascinating

walk around Hobart's historic Battery Point.

As Lord Mayor of Hobart, Australia's second oldest city, I am proud of our history and colonial heritage.

Over many years Hobart City Council has worked to preserve our significant built environment so that we can all understand and appreciate the early days of Hobart Town.

This history walk, *In Bobby's Footsteps*, celebrates the work of many people who have lived and worked in Battery Point.

I would especially like to commend the artwork of children from Albuera Street Primary School which has been incorporated into the website. The stories and voices of residents also bring to life so much of the history that makes Battery Point a special part of our city.

I know many people will enjoy this self-guided walk whether they are first time visitors or long term residents.

The City of Hobart welcomes the opportunity to work with the Battery Point Community Association in providing this most attractive brochure to complement the Battery Point History Walk. Enjoy!

– Alderman Sue Hickey,
Lord Mayor of Hobart

About the walk

Knopwood was the naval chaplain appointed to Lieutenant David Collins' expedition which settled Sullivans Cove in 1804. In 1805 he was granted 30 acres of land, which encompassed most of the area between today's Salamanca Place and Hampden Road, in recognition of his role as both Anglican clergyman and magistrate to the fledgling colony.

In Bobby's Footsteps is not a complete history of Battery Point but rather, the walk takes you on a journey behind-the-scenes to discover how people lived from the time of colonial settlement, and how we have arrived at the point at which we are today. We invite you to look at the signs in the landscape that tell the story of this space through time.

Ideally the walk, which takes about 1½ hours to complete, will start at the bottom of Montpelier Retreat at *Cottage Green* and follow the suggested sequence, however, you can start at any point on the route.

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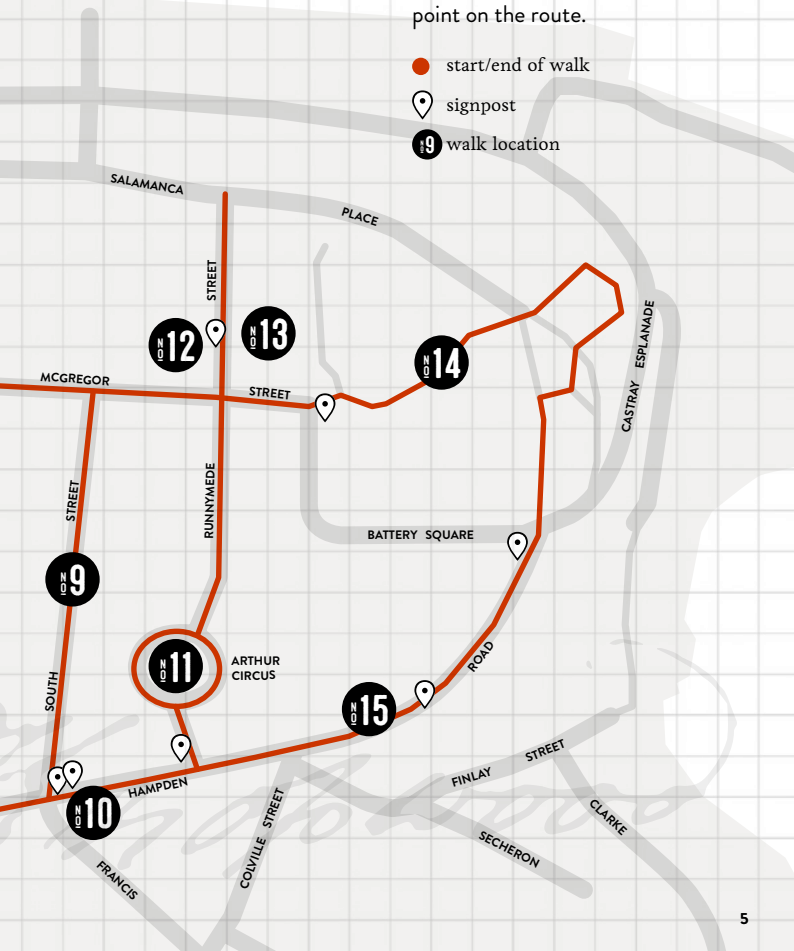
Map of locations

The walk starts at the bottom of Montpelier Street, at *Cottage Green*, and follows the sequence. However, you can start at any point on the route.

● start/end of walk

📍 signpost

19 walk location

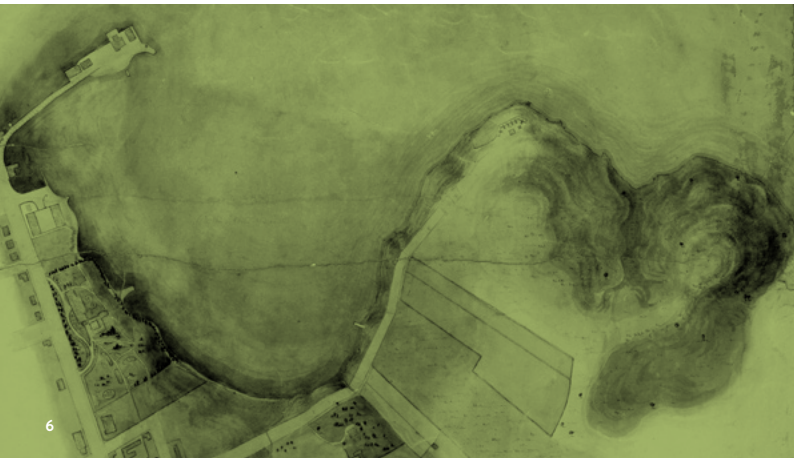


Cottage Green



The walk begins at *Cottage Green*, where the Reverend Robert Knopwood was granted 30 acres of land which encompassed most of the area between today's Salamanca Place and Hampden Road in 1805.

Here he built his home, *Cottage Green*, the first in Battery Point, on the rise above the present day *Wursthaus Kitchen*, and immediately established a productive garden.



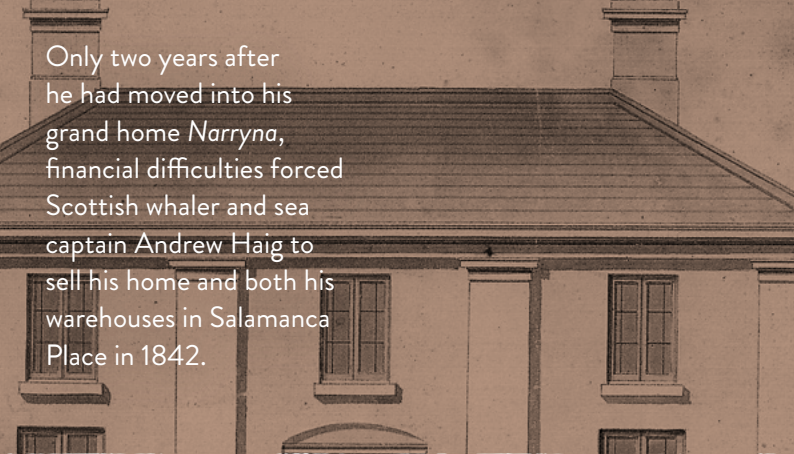
Montpelier Retreat

With the reclamation of the shoreline and the development of New Wharf in the 1830s, Montpelier Retreat became home to a close-knit working class community. They worked around the waterfront, had little money and large families.

We had a great upbringing as kids. We were poor but we had clean clothes, all second-hand But we always had plenty of food and loving parents which was extremely important, something that a lot of kids haven't got these days.

– Mike Scott
talking about his
childhood in the
1950s and 60s





Only two years after he had moved into his grand home *Narryna*, financial difficulties forced Scottish whaler and sea captain Andrew Haig to sell his home and both his warehouses in Salamanca Place in 1842.

NO 3

Narryna

103 Hampden Road

He moved his family to a small worker's cottage in Kelly Street, an address likely shared by later *Narryna* servants.

The decline in the whaling industry and the economic depression of the 1840s spelled ruin for Haig, who was a poor businessmen at the best of times.

Narryna has had a series of owners including influential Quaker missionary, George Washington Walker. It was run as a guesthouse from 1926–1944 before being purchased by the State government as an after-care hostel for tuberculosis patients, the first in Australia. In 1957, the old home was reincarnated as the Van Diemen's Land Memorial Folk Museum, the first in the nation.





80 Hampden Road

Queen Alexandra Hospital

Before this maternity hospital opened in 1908, babies were normally born at home. There was no formal training and anyone could set up as a midwife.

By the end of the 19th century, there was increasing concern about incompetent midwives and high mortality rates of both mothers and babies. The Queen Alexandra Hospital offered the only midwifery training in Hobart for many years and catered for both private and public patients, with an average hospital stay of 15 days.



*Because I was
the only girl, I*

Stowell

Stowell, located at the end of Stowell Avenue, is one of the earliest homes in Battery Point. It was built by John Montagu in 1831 on land granted to him by his uncle, Lieutenant Governor Arthur.

Montagu enjoyed the benefits of Arthur's patronage including an appointment as Colonial Secretary, but he was seen by many as a greedy man who was interested primarily in self-promotion.

Montagu left for England in 1839. *Stowell* was sold and underwent significant changes. It remained as a private residence until 1917, when it was again sold and fitted out as a private hospital boasting the latest appliances. Today *Stowell Gardens* are private apartments.





NO 6

Hampden Road shops – ‘The Village’



The shops in Hampden Road were like a meeting place for all the housewives. There was no refrigeration in those days so they had to shop nearly every day.

– Joan Harvey of the 1930s

Many of the old shopfronts on Hampden Road are still commercial meeting places which have simply adjusted to a modern lifestyle and income. Battery Point residents today often refer to shopping in ‘the village’.





64 Hampden Road

This is a typical Georgian cottage, built with bluestone and sandstone. It was constructed around 1838 by Angus McLeod, bandmaster of the 21st Royal Scots Fusiliers Regiment, who named it in honour of his regiment.

McLeod retired in 1839 and stayed at the cottage in 1840–41 working as a musician and music teacher before

leaving Battery Point with his family in 1842 when he was appointed as Superintendent of the Jericho Probation Station.

In 1833, the potential of Waterloo Crescent was being described in glowing terms and emphasised practical advantages and respectability, so important to Hobart's mainly convict and emancipist population at the time.

Fusilier Cottage





8

55 Hampden Road

Prince of Wales Hotel

The first *Princes of Wales Hotel* was built on this site in 1843. Its demolition 1967 created community uproar.



A highway was to be driven through half the houses in Arthur Circus, and both Kelly Street and South Street, and the proposed widening of Hampden Road would also have removed all the houses between Colville Street and Waterloo Crescent. The community rallied in opposition through the Battery Point National Trust, the Battery Point Society and the Battery Point Progress Association.

Over the next decade, attitudes prevailed in favour of preservation.



No 9 South Street

Life around South Street didn't change a great deal for over a hundred years. It was a close-knit community and many families were related. When times were tough, the community pulled together. Without the kindness of the local shopkeepers, many families would not have survived.

South Street is a wonderful example of a working class neighbourhood in the Georgian style. Little has changed since the cottages were built in the late 1840s and early 1850s.



An afternoon tea of tea and plum cake probably attracted people to the opening of the Congregational Sunday School, now the Battery Point Community Hall, in February 1850. Purpose-built as a Sunday school, children were expected to attend all day!



Today, the hall continues to provide a popular meeting place and events

venue, as it has for over 100 years. It is difficult to exaggerate the importance of the hall in the maintenance of the strong sense of community that still characterises Battery Point today.



Battery Point Community Hall



Arthur Circus

Summer nights in Arthur Circus were wonderful times. ... You could go round there at night and you were really in the centre of Battery Point and you'd play marbles and the sort of cards you'd flick against the wall and toss up in the air a bit like 2-up.

— Bill Foster talking about his childhood in the 1930s

Arthur Circus allotments were sold in 1847 by Lieutenant Governor Arthur, who had acquired the land in 1829 in dubious circumstances. For over 100 years, the crowded working-class cottages in Arthur Circus housed large families whose livelihood depended on the waterfront. Today these cottages sell for over \$1,000,000.





Lady Gowrie Battery Point Child Centre

No 12

In 1939, Battery Point became part of a national social experiment in child welfare for preschool children. Lady Gowrie, wife of the Governor General, believed that adequate care for the preschool child was the key to a successful future and she set up Lady Gowrie Centres across Australia.

17 Runnymede Street

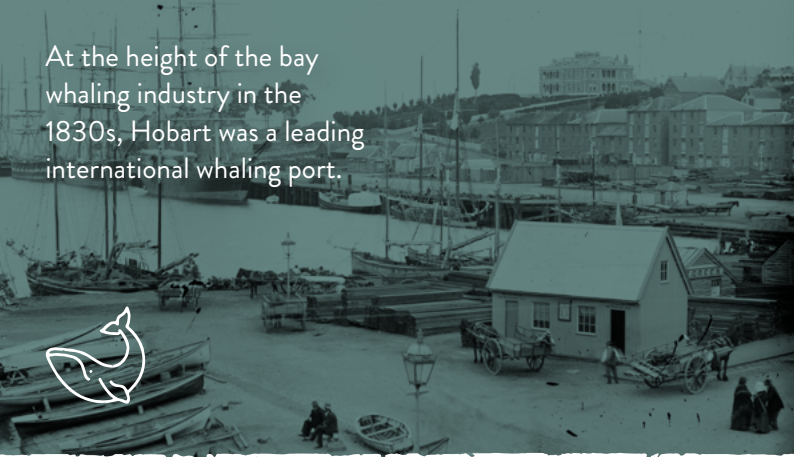


The centres were situated in areas of high density housing and catered

for low income families with large families. Admission was restricted to children living within a one mile radius who could attend the school without having to cross a main road.

Set up on the medical model, Lady Gowrie Centres reflected concern about physical and mental development.

At the height of the bay whaling industry in the 1830s, Hobart was a leading international whaling port.



No 13 **Lenna**

Whale oil was one of Tasmania's most valuable exports. Shipwrights, sailmakers and ship chandlers, coopers, smiths, food provedores, waterside workers and lodging-housekeepers all depended on whaling for their livelihood.

20 Runnymede Street

One such merchant was Alexander McGregor. He and his brother, John, ran a large shipyard on the Hobart domain during the 1850s–60s, with the largest individually owned fleet of sailing ships south of the equator. In the late 1870s, McGregor rebuilt the original *Lenna* cottage, transforming it into a grand home that demonstrated wealth and influence.



NO 14

Princes Park

Battery Point is named after the three defence batteries that were built at various times on the point of land that is today's park. They were statements of British territorial claim, a warning to foreign shipping and in the early days, a deterrent for convicts who hoped to steal an escape vessel. The batteries were also used for ceremonial purposes.



Mulgrave Battery was built in 1818 on the shoreline with an accompanying signal station. It was on the point of land known as 'Blow My Skull Point' after the explosive beverage once popular with the military officers who picnicked on this hill.



Rosebank



No 15

Rosebank was built by Andrew Inglis Clark, a significant figure in Australian public life. Attacked by the Hobart *Mercury* as a revolutionary with his 'proper place among the Communists', Clark was a staunch republican and believed that government should benefit everyone.

13 Hampden Road



Clark supported progressive legislation including legalising trade unions, reforming laws on lunacy, employment, custody of children and prevention of cruelty to animals. He advocated women's suffrage and contributed to the development of the Australian Constitution. He is largely remembered today for the Tasmanian Hare Clark system of proportional representation in political elections.

Kelly Street

Wandering down Kelly Street today with its quaint little cottages, it is easy to imagine living there in the 19th century. The street is named after James Kelly, an energetic adventurer, who circumnavigated the island in 1816 in an open 5-oared whaling boat, naming Port Davey and Macquarie Harbour on the West Coast.

A skilled seaman and successful whaling entrepreneur, Kelly became both Pilot and Harbourmaster for the Derwent in 1819.

Life here was tough. Families were large, often two generations lived in one cottage and money was tight. Small grocery shops and schools were scattered around the area. Kelly's Steps created easy access to the waterfront.



What is a QR code?

A QR (Quick Response) code is a two-dimensional barcode which can be read by free applications you can find for



most smart phones. QR codes can be found on signs along the walk.

Teaching resources

In Bobby's Footsteps was developed with the Australian Curriculum in mind. Text, images and audio interviews with older Battery Point residents may be useful as teaching resources across a number of curriculum areas. This resource is relevant to many aspects of the primary and secondary school curricula.

Visit batterypointwalk.com.au to find out more.

Acknowledgements

In Bobby's Footsteps is an initiative of the Battery Point Community Association. This project was funded by the Tasmanian Community Fund and supported by the Hobart City Council.

We would like to pay respect to the traditional and original owners of this land the muwinina [mou wee nee nar] people, to pay respect to those that have passed before us and to acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal community who are the custodians of this land.

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- Warwick Oakman
- Mark Horstman
- Jean Henley





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and Robert 9