



Lake Dulverton & Dulverton Walking Track Information Guide



Picture: Lake Dulverton, Oatlands – Tasmania



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This walking track guide provides information to take you around the scenic foreshore of Lake Dulverton, along the Dulverton Track concluding at the township of Parattah. The guide refers to features starting at the northern entrance to the town by the dam wall, located adjacent to High Street.

This information should be used in conjunction with the map printed in this brochure. You will find the numbers on the map correspond to a point identified by a green steel post marker (numbers 1 to 24) **or** a Koppers log post (numbers 25 to 33). The markers are placed in the ground adjacent to or at the best viewing point to each point of interest.

To complete the walk should take approximately 3¹/₂ hours return. This allows an average of 2 to 3 minutes viewing at each site.

The terrain is flat to mildly undulating. The distance from the first marker to the last marker located at Parattah is approx 8 kilometres.

We hope that you find your walk both pleasant and informative.

Lake Dulverton background information

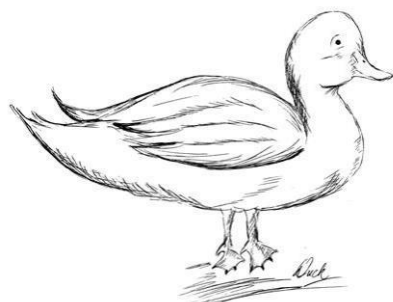
Lake Dulverton is owned by the Crown with the Southern Midlands Council being the managing authority for the Lake and surrounding foreshore. The Lake is a designated Conservation Area reserved under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*, having originally being proclaimed as a Sanctuary for birds in 1929. The Lake is renowned for the variety of bird wildlife that inhabit the area with as many as 77 different bird species having been recorded. The Lake is listed in the



Directory of Important Wetlands Australia as it supports taxa or communities that are nationally threatened. The site is noted as the only known breeding centre in Tasmania for the rare status Great Crested Grebe. The vulnerable status Green and Gold Frog has also been recorded in the area. The Eurasian Coot and Black Swan are usually the most abundant species present.

The 233 hectare lake, of which 16 Ha is privately owned, has a catchment area of 3430 Ha, which includes most of Parattah and Oatlands townships. There are two creeks that feed into the Lake, the Parattah and Netting Creeks. The Lake bed is divided by two internal bund walls, splitting the lake bed area into three sections; 180 Ha, 51 Ha and a small 2.2 Ha area, with the later two being adjacent to the town. There are a number of recreational activities permitted in a portion of the 51 Ha area, with fishing and non motorised boating being the most popular activities. Nearly 200 hectares is designated for nature conservation purposes.

The Lake is a shallow deflation basin of Triassic sandstone, with windblown lunette dunes of deep sands occurring at the south eastern end. The water level fluctuates widely, although the water depth is generally 2 to 3 metres. The lake completely dried up in 1993. For the next 16 year period water levels ranged from nil to sporadic periods of low water levels occurring at the deepest point - near Marys Island. During this period the levels of birdlife found at the Lake was exceptionally low in variety and numbers.





In 2009, the entire lake surface was covered with water for the first time since the late 1980s. Since that time the lake water level has varied depending on rainfall and seasonal factors.

In 2014 the Midlands Water Scheme started to deliver water to the front section of Lake Dulverton in an attempt to maintain an adequate lake water level. This water comes from Arthurs Lake in the Central Highlands. When the water is flowing into the Lake it can be seen cascading over a rock boulder on the far lake shore, near the bund wall between High Street and the stop over area.

A 7 kilometre gravel walking track begins on the foreshore opposite walkway marker 14, and follows the south eastern side of the Lake, linking Oatlands and Parattah townships. Much of the track aligns with the old railway line route, passing over historic restored railway culverts and past former sandstone quarries where stone was sourced for buildings in Oatlands. Most of the track has been slowly developed through Landcare activities supported by community volunteers and the Midlands Tree Committee. Dedicated people have worked on the track since it was first conceived as a plan in 1995, with an initial planting of native trees on a railway line section beside the Tunnack Road. The last stages of track development were finally completed in December 2011 following receipt of 2 lots of funding through the Tasmanian and Australian Government and the continued support of the Southern Midlands Council.

Please note there are no shops at Parattah (see note back page for accessing toilet facilities).



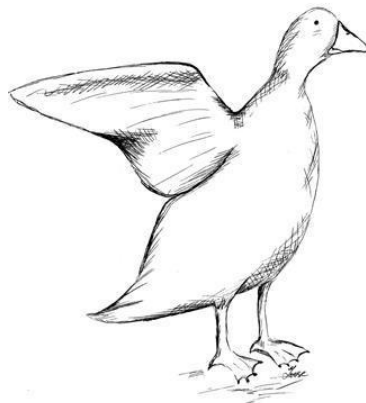
1. Lake Dulverton dam wall

At this site in 1827 a convict built earthen and stone dam was constructed. The remains of this are still visible behind the current concrete structure. This 1827 structure helped to provide the fledgling settlement on the foreshore with a freshwater supply. In 1928 a concrete dam was constructed and its height was subsequently increased in 1977.

Opposite the dam wall there is a convict built sandstone culvert which forms part of the original Hobart to Launceston coach road. During floods, water passes through the culvert to enter the Jordan River, and ultimately flows into the Derwent River at Bridgewater.

To the right of the concrete dam, several steps can be seen cut in to the sandstone which were used by early settlers to access lake water for domestic purposes.

From 1993, due to drought, Lake Dulverton has often dried up over the summer months. When available, supplementary water is supplied to the lake by either an on site bore which forms a fountain, or piped from the Blackman River some 17 kilometres away. The outlet for the Blackman River water is on the right hand side of the current dam wall.



2. Monument

The freestone monument on the foreshore was erected on 3 June 1971, in recognition of the 150th Anniversary of the naming of Oatlands as a desirable place for a township by Governor Macquarie in 1821.

Originally, Oatlands was planned to be the capital of then Van Dieman's Land, with 80 kilometres of road having been identified for future expansion. These roads still exist as reserve roads on land titles around the existing township. Van Dieman's Land was renamed Tasmania in 1856



3. Oak tree

This large oak tree was planted to commemorate the site where the first church services were held for settlers, convicts and soldiers of the early settlement.

4. Landcare works

From 1983 to the present there has been a continuing number of Landcare projects undertaken around the lake foreshore. These have included removal of weeds (mainly gorse and broom) and replanting with native vegetation species including a range of native grasses, shrubs and trees to re-establish natural habitat for the wildlife. This site is an example of this work. Much of the work has been undertaken by community volunteers.

5. 1st Bund wall (no marker)

Lake Dulverton is a shallow lake, approximately 3 metres in depth when full. The Lake experiences an average of 1 metre evaporation per year. The average rainfall in the district is 570 mm per annum however above average rainfall of 700 mm is required at least once every eight years to keep the lake full. Extended periods of low rainfall result in the lake 'drying up'.

In 1996 a small earth bund wall was constructed between two headlands by the Southern Midlands Council to create a 2.2 hectare 'mini lake'. This is partly maintained by the use of bore water, with the balance piped in from the Blackman River. This project proved to be an outstanding success for the wildlife and the community. This led to the construction of a second bund wall (walkway marker 19).

Unlike a dam, at various times a bund wall can have water on both sides of the wall. Should the lake completely fill with water to high water mark, both bund walls will be completely submerged.



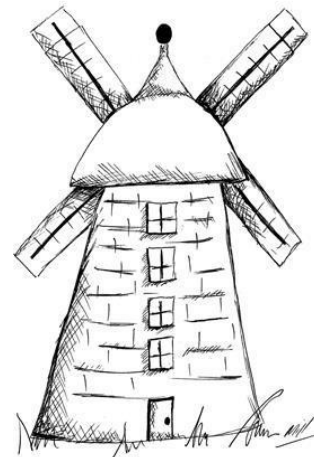
6. Marys Island

At this point a view across the Lake can be seen of Marys Island. The Island has some large pine trees which were planted by local identity, Mr Thomas Edward Fish (1863-1932) in the 1920's. The Island was named after the wife of Thomas Anstey, Oatlands' first magistrate appointed in 1827. When the lake is dry, the island can easily be accessed from Mahers Point (walkway marker 18).

7. Callington Park

The area now comprising Callington Park was originally granted to J Robinson and William West. Two buildings once stood on the land owned by West in 1849. Later it became the site of one of three Oatlands livestock saleyards, being used for this purpose up until 1987. In 1988 it became the district's Bicentennial Project through which the sandstone was restored.

In the park, a number of remaining sheep yards can be seen together with a children's playground, a barbecue complex, village green, and a community events open space area beyond the high stone wall. The extensive freestone and dry field stone walls are interesting features. Adjacent to the park is the historic Callington Mill. This flour mill was built by John Vincent in 1837.

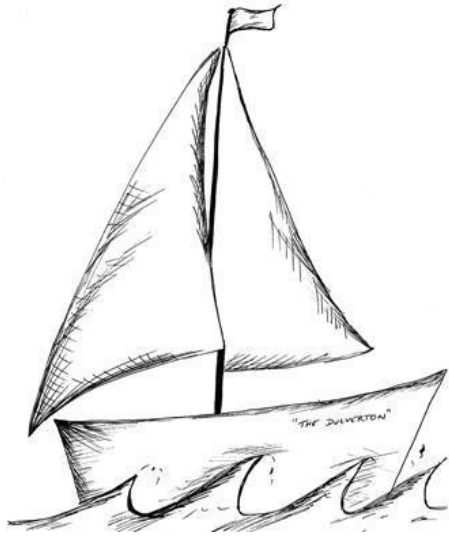


8. Sandstone quarry

On the embankment below where the Esplanade Road veers right is the site of one of a series of quarries that were located along the foreshore developed by builders Geo Aitcheson and James Parker. During the mid 1850s to the mid 1860s, stone from these quarries was used to build many cottages in the Oatlands township. Sandstone blocks from the quarry were dressed at the lake edge. Most of the quarry sites have since been 'landscaped' with soil covering the quarry face sections. This was done in the 1970s, to remove the risk of people falling over the high face walls.



9. The Aquatic Club building



The brick building on the foreshore was once the clubrooms of the Oatlands Aquatic Club. Built in the 1950s, this building has since served as a function room for aquatic events and for general community purposes. Aquatic events included rowing, sailing and water skiing. Below this building, attached to the rock face was a substantial diving board and platform. This was used by swimmers prior to the construction of the current swimming pool.

10. Dulverton Bowls Club

The Dulverton Bowls Club, behind the Aquatic Club building, now occupies the area where one of Oatlands' earlier post offices stood. In the 1800s the post office operated out of a small freestone cottage, but it was demolished in the 1940s. The post office was transferred to another site in High Street.

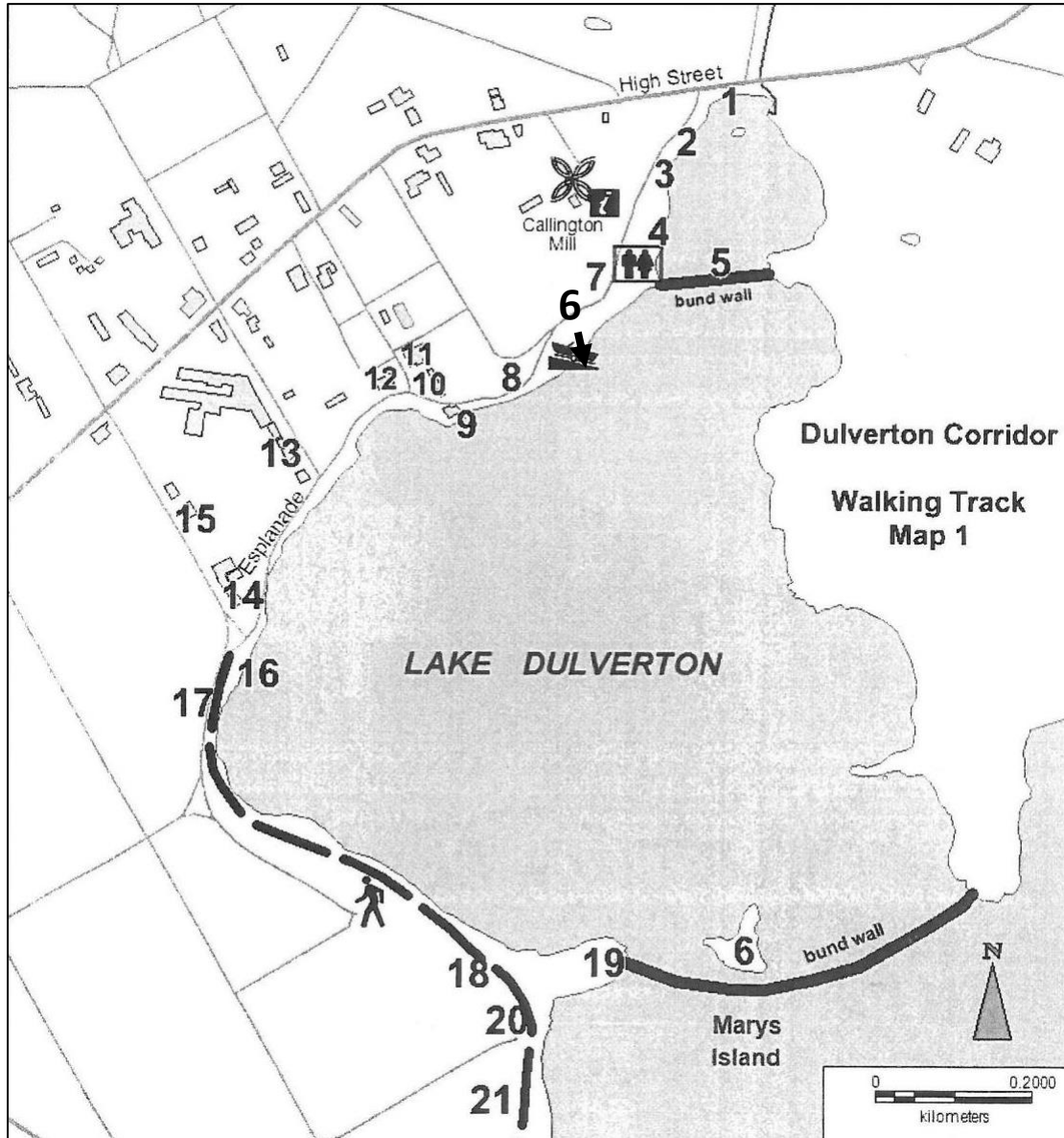
11. Oatlands Return Service League (RSL) Club

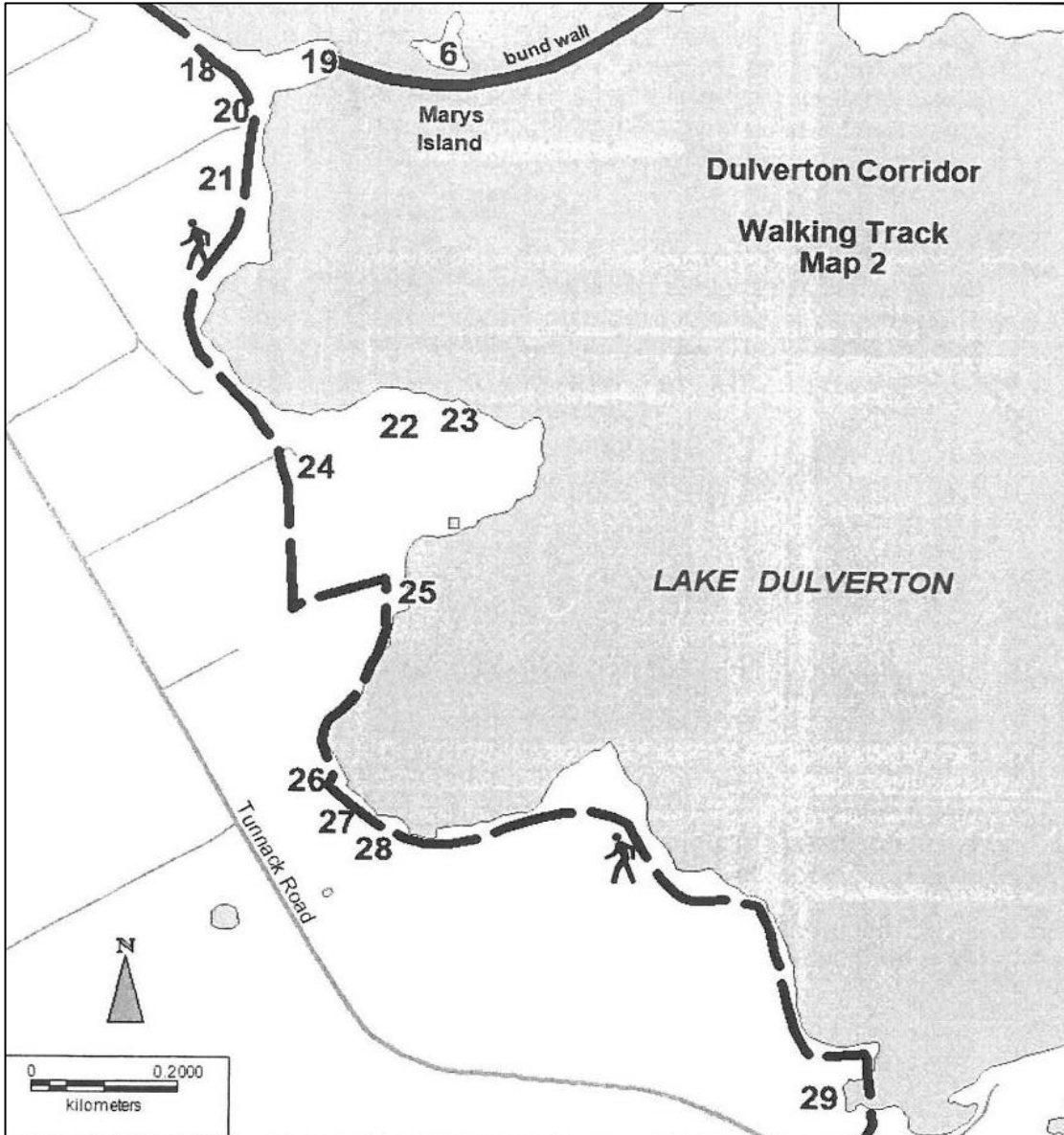
This building now houses the Oatlands Ex-Servicemen's and Women's Club. Originally part of this building was the Oatlands Watch House and consisted of a number of cells and a guard room.

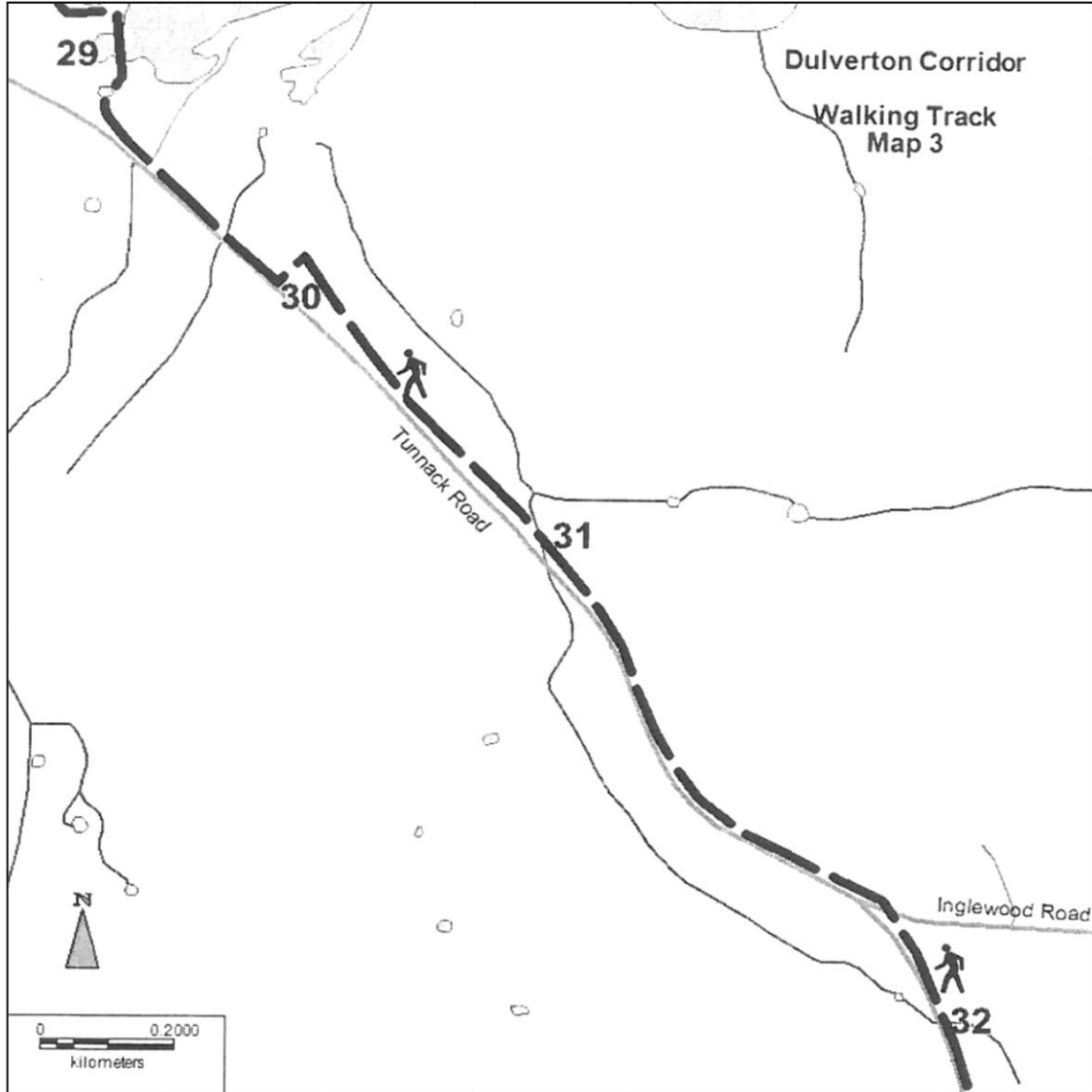
12. Court house

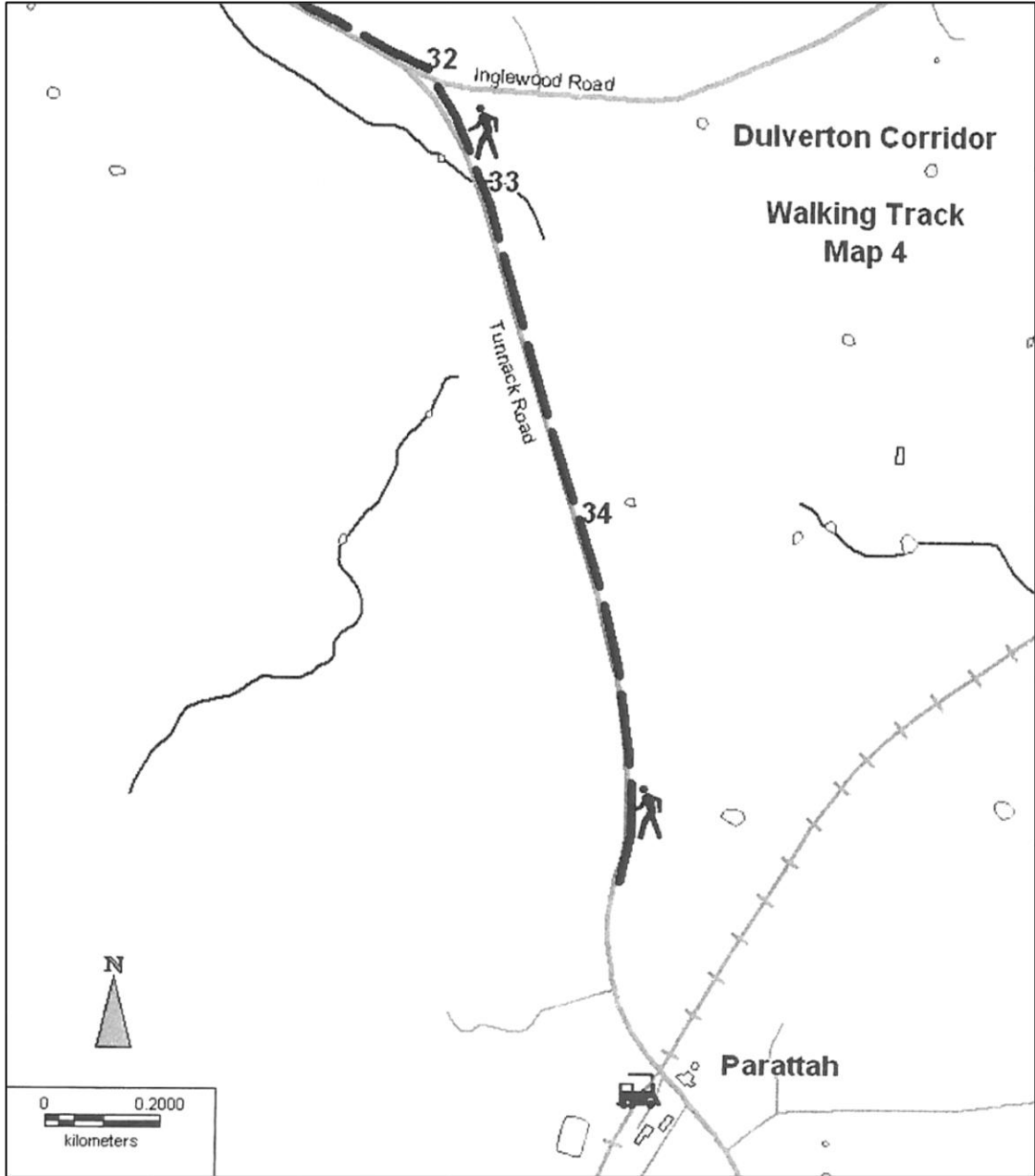
On the corner of Esplanade and Campbell Streets the original Oatlands Court House stands virtually unaltered. It was built in 1829 and has had some restoration undertaken in the last thirty years. It originally served as a combined chapel and police office and was also used for the first Oatlands Council meetings from 1861 until the current council chambers were built.

Behind the Court House, facing the Esplanade was Solomon Blay's cottage. He was the Public Hangman stationed at Oatlands from 1850 until 1869.











13. Weatherboard school buildings (in Church Street - no marker)

When Oatlands State School became an Area School in 1939, many of the one room one teacher school houses serving isolated farming areas in the Oatlands District were closed. The buildings were relocated to the school and the students were bussed into Oatlands. Two of the buildings came from York Plains and Stonor.

14. White sandstone (marker near TasWater pump station)

In the early days, and even now, a feature of many of the dwellings in Oatlands was the scrubbed sandstone front doorstep, whitened daily with white sandstone. This stone was obtained from a small quarry in the embankment below the present Infant School. The cavity can be seen to the left of the pump station.

15. Parattah-Oatlands Railway (in Wellington Street – no marker)

The Oatlands Railway station is located in Wellington Street and now serves as the Oatlands Child Care Centre. The rail link between Oatlands and Parattah was opened on May 13th, 1885 and closed on June 10th, 1949. Originally called the Oatlands Tramway, the 7 kms of track carried both passengers and goods. It was converted from tramway to standard light railway to enable the use of the heavier locomotive rolling stock and passenger carriages that plied the main line between Hobart and Launceston.

16. Stone wall at edge of former rail line

On the foreshore embankment a stone retaining wall section of the former rail line can be seen. A reconstructed section of the line can be seen at the Flax Mill (walkway marker 24).

17. Sawmill (no marker)

On this area of the foreshore a sawmill was operated by Mr Les Ward for 11 years up to the early 1950's. A small weatherboard cottage was the only remains of the complex until that was removed in September 2011, following the death of the last resident Mrs Carnes.



18. Picnic area

This flat area was used for many years as a public picnic reserve, especially on Sundays. Picnickers had the option of hiring a clinker built rowing boat, of which there were a number available, to explore the lake. The only known surviving boat can be seen in the historic machinery display at Callington Park (walkway marker 7).

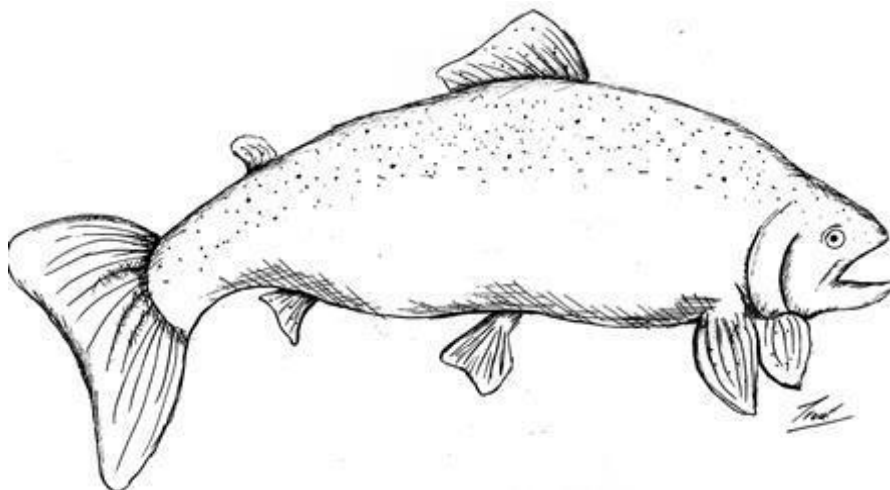
19. 2nd Bund wall

Due to prevailing dry years in the 1990s and the continuing dry state of the lake, it was decided by the local community that a second bund wall should be built. The 460 metre long bund wall was constructed a volunteer labour force of 17, using community donations of fuel and machinery. Wall construction commenced in December 1997 and was completed within two weeks.

This wall between two headlands serves to isolate a 51 hectare area of the lake for water storage, enabling a supplementary water source to be piped to this section of the lake.

The entire lake water surface covers a 233 hectare area in total. Natural catchment water enters the Lake on the far side of the wall and can flow into the confined 51Ha area via a one way flap valve fixed on a 300 mm pipe passing through the wall.

Following completion of the wall, the community embarked on an extensive project to lay 5.4 kilometres of 150mm pipe to bring supplementary water to this section of the Lake. Completing this task involved 31 volunteers between March and July 1998. The balance of the Lake, being 182 hectares, is supplied by two small creeks.





20. Maher's Point Cottage

The land, including the point, was originally 'a location' (granted) to Mr Daniel Dillon. It is understood, that the cottage was built in the late 1830s or early 1840s. The 1843 District Census records show that Mr Dillon was living in a brick cottage on the site. Ownership then changed to John and Elizabeth Golder followed by John and Rhoda Poole. In 1887, following the death of John Poole, William Gilderson (stepson) inherits the property and he and later his wife Fanny own the property to at least 1910.

The valuation roll of 1895 shows that a Mr Francis (Frank) Maher and his wife Jane were the cottage tenants. It is believed, they had 14 children however a number died in infancy. It seems that the land was locally referred to as Mahers Point before later being adopted as its official name.

In 1925 the Maher family were no longer recorded as tenants. By 1950 the local baker RT Fish of Oatlands owned the property, with the cottage being rented out to tenants. Several families rented the cottage including the Carnes family for many years. The last tenant in the house was Phyllis Medhurst who was there until 1982. The cottage remained vacant and consequently fell into disrepair due to extensive vandalism. In 1995 the then 'ruin' was purchased by the Southern Midlands Council from the Estate of RT Fish.

Community volunteers set about renovating the cottage over the next 18 years, by carefully conserving / restoring the building back to being lockable and weather proof. In 2014 Council decided that the land parcel on the point would be kept for public use, with the cottage being put up for sale. The former rail line route determined the split of the land parcel into two discrete blocks. By 2016 the cottage was in private ownership and continues to be restored.

21. General cemetery and Catholic cemetery (no marker)

The triangular block of land was the general burial ground for Oatlands from 1827, when the first burial was recorded. There are still 91 memorials within the grounds. The cemetery was used for both free settlers and convict burials. A full list of all those interred is contained on a board located at the main entrance.



The initials 'TF' of local stonemason Thomas Edward Fish can be found at the bottom right hand corner on some of the headstones.

The Catholic population still retain their original section.



22. Flax Mill Point and the Oatlands flax mill

Built in 1940 as part of the war effort during World War Two by the Federal Government, it was one of 38 flax mills built Australia wide.



These enabled Australia to meet all local fibre requirements and to also supply Britain. Crops of flax were grown at Ross, Bothwell, York Plains, Nala and Jericho. The crop was harvested and transported to the mill by truck, where the stems and seeds were separated. These were then forwarded on to Launceston or the mainland for further processing.

23. Aboriginal site - Lairmairanepair Park

Lairmairanepair was the aboriginal name for the people and territory occupied by the Big River Tribe in Tasmania. Their tribal lands comprised the Central Highlands, Derwent Valley and eastwards to the Swanport River and northward to the Macquarie River.

During seasonal migrations in search of food, the tribe travelled to the east coast for the winter months and so passed through the Oatlands district. There is evidence to suggest that Lake Dulverton and its environs were frequented by the Lairmairanepair people.

Lairmairanepair Park seeks to recreate and preserve an area of Lake Dulverton foreshore as it would have been prior to European settlement. The area was a community initiated project undertaken by a small committee in 1991 with assistance from the Oatlands Council and local volunteers, some of them were of aboriginal descent.



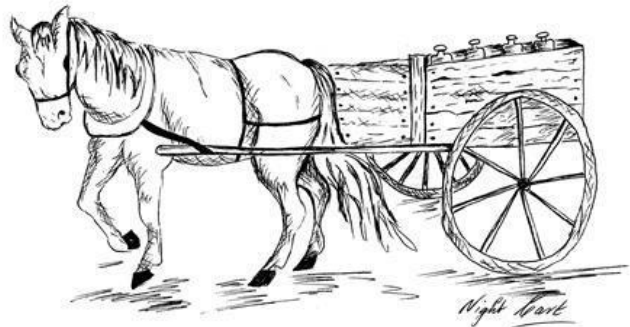
24. Railway and railway signal

A small section of re-instated railway and a railway signal, transported from Campania, are placed here to signify that the walking track generally follows the original railway line that ran between Parattah and Oatlands.

25. Night cart pans

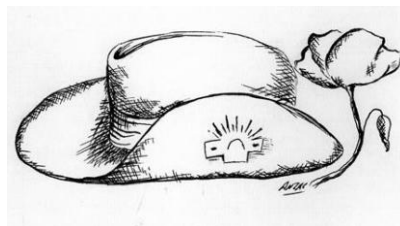
These toilet pans were discarded when septic tank systems were installed in the Oatlands township during the 1950s.

For more than 30 years, Arthur Clark nicknamed 'Boody' operated the night cart in Oatlands to collect the toilet pans. Once a week, he would use his horse drawn box cart and visit houses with an outside toilet to replace a full pan with an empty one.



26. Flax mill building, racecourse train platform and military pensioner blocks

At this point on the track trains often stopped. There was a 17.7 metre platform on the south western side of the track. The platform was very long to enable the unloading of race horses and passengers attending race meetings at the Oatlands racecourse. People and the horses walked to the racecourse from here up Bentwick Street (currently part of the paddock between Tunnack Road and the walking track). There was always a Boxing Day race event which attracted large crowds.



Between 1850 and 1852, 500 Chelsea military pensioners were brought from England to Tasmania. As part of this pensioner agreement, they and their families were offered small blocks of land along the shores of Lake Dulverton, south of the racecourse crossing. The pensioners were bought to Oatlands for guard duty at the gaol as part of their pension agreement.



27. Sandstone culvert crossing

This railway culvert is an example of the culverts used for the construction of the railway line between Parattah and Oatlands. The culvert was restored in October 2011 as part of the development of the Dulverton walking track. Funding for the restoration was provided by the State Government through the Sport and Recreation Tasmania Trails and Bikeways Grant Program.

28. Hawthorn Bay sandstone quarry

This quarry site at Hawthorn Bay, on the edge of Lake Dulverton, was worked by convicts. The sandstone extracted was used for the construction of many buildings within Oatlands. There are seven other significant quarries situated around the Lake. The site is at the bottom of a small path – starting point just to the right of the marker.

29. ‘Bellevue’ property

Immediately in front of you, across the bay of the Lake you can see a remaining farm building on the property ‘Bellevue’. Bellevue was an original land grant to Major DeGillern, an early arrival in the district. He later moved to ‘Glen Ayr’ at Richmond. The next owner was John Baron a stonemason from Ireland and he erected the house and farm buildings in 1845. The Baron’s farmed the area until the 1920s and used to travel to Oatlands by boat across the Lake. Later owners were Christopher Salmon and Don Burrill. The original Bellevue homestead was destroyed by fire in February 2008 however you can still see the barn.

The land immediately behind you was used as an accommodation paddock for stock being bought in from the district for livestock sales in Oatlands.

30. Vegetation corridor planted by community members

A group of dedicated community members planted a corridor of trees in this location in 1995. Since the trees were planted they have survived drought, fire, animal browsing and insect attacks. Replacement and new planting works continue to be undertaken by volunteers. This site is the first of many patches of trees that have been planted by volunteers every year since this planting. It is envisaged that plantings will continue in key locations to eventually establish a vegetation corridor from Lake Dulverton through to connect the bushland near Parattah.



31. Sandstone culvert crossing

This culvert crossing was constructed for the railway between Oatlands and Parattah. In 2005, a group of young people taking part in the Australian Government's Green Corps Team scheme assisted in the partial restoration of the culvert.

32. Watering points (no marker)

On the northern side of the Inglewood Road intersection, at the base of Dull Hill, was a site called "The Tanks". At this site were two watering points for horses and steam locomotives.

A cut sandstone trough was used for over 100 years in the days of horse drawn transport (now relocated to the grounds of the Parattah Railway Station).

Nearby were two water tanks used by steam locomotives on the railway during the tramway period. The tanks were removed when the railway was closed after the Second World War.

The trough and railway tanks were fed from a natural spring located 100 metres up the hill.

33. Sandstone culvert crossing

In 2010 the Southern Midlands Council obtained funding from the Tasmanian Community Fund to restore this railway culvert crossing. A professional stonemason and community members were responsible for completing the work.

34. Macrocarpa trees

Two magnificent macrocarpa trees existed here up until January 2015. Both trees were planted on the property called Hilly Park. The property was an original land grant of 3,520 acres (1424 hectares) to Mr Henry Bilton who arrived in December 1825 on the ship Lang.

The circumference around the base of the largest remaining stump is approx.10.5 metres. This tree was known as one of the oldest and largest Macrocarpas in the Southern Midlands. Unfortunately, the tree limbs had to be removed due to safety concerns. Parattah township is a further 900 metres from this point.



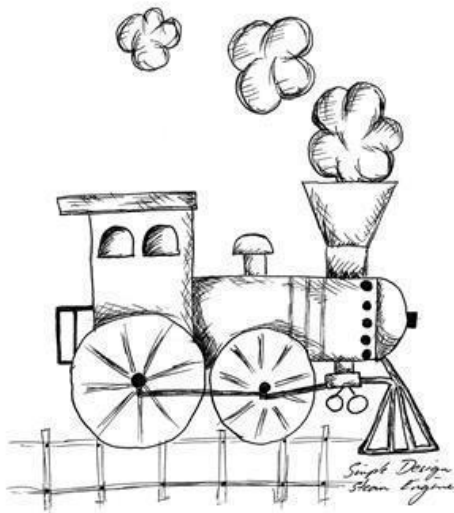
General Information: Parattah township and former hotel

The township of Parattah is built on land that once formed the Hilly Park Estate granted to Henry Bilton in 1825. The town was mainly established because of the construction of the main railway link in 1876 and it was originally called the Oatlands Railway station. In 1879 the name was changed to Parattah which is an Aboriginal term for ice and cold. The history of the Parattah Hotel, once named Midlands Railway Hotel, is closely linked to the development of the main rail link between Hobart and Launceston. In 1881 land was purchased by James Johnston from the Hilly Park Estate and in 1882 the hotel was completed.

Parattah Railway Station Facilities (BBQ and toilet)



The Parattah Railway Station Restoration Committee welcomes the public to have a break and use the free BBQ and toilet facility. Please note to gain access to the toilet you will need a mobile phone to text for a door code (instructions displayed on site).



Produced by the Southern Midlands Council – NRM Department, with the support of the Lake Dulverton and Callington Park Management Committee and the Oatlands Historical Society. Drawings by Cyndie Walsh.