



HISTORY OF THE OLD WOOLSTORE

Located close to Hobart's historic waterfront, on land originally known as Wapping and later referred to as Sullivan's Cove, the Old Woolstore has a rich history.



The Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel is located in the once notorious waterfront district of Hobart, just minutes' walk from the CBD and famous Salamanca Place. During the 1800's and early 1900's this area was better known for its 'after dark' activities and shady characters than the inner city living, restaurants and hotels it is now famous for.

The National Trust listed Bridge Inn Hotel, built around the 1850's contributed to the development of this reputation. Known as a wild spot it was not unusual for there to be a couple of fights a night with some even resulting in death. The area now accommodating the administration offices for the Hotel was originally accommodation rooms for travellers and it is rumored they could be rented by the hour or by the night. Downstairs in the original Tavern area you can now dine in Stockmans Restaurant or enjoy a quiet drink in the Baaa Bar.

During the 1900's the Bridge Inn Hotel became known as the Red Lion and a large band room was built on to the building. This room, once home to some of the biggest concerts in Hobart, now features a 100 seat tiered Theatrette, ideal for presentations and conferences.

Between 1895 and 1897 a four storey warehouse-style building was built next to the Bridge Inn Hotel. In 1899 Roberts Pty Ltd, one of the state's largest agricultural companies, took over the site and turned it into a Woolstore. Wool from around the state was transported to this site to be bailed ready for transporting. The two foyer areas of the hotel feature photos of this era depicting the men at work in the Woolstore and original streetscapes of the area.

In the 1950's Roberts turned the site into a Rural Merchandise Store. Operating until 1995 this store supplied farmers in the area with everything from grain and hay to clothing and dog food. The large double doors, still visible, were open for the farmers to drive in and collect their goods before pulling out onto Brooker Avenue.

By 1997 this site was transformed into a 118 room Apartment Hotel. During the redevelopment of the site, many of the original aspects were retained

and feature throughout the hotel today, adding to the character of the property and embracing its often colourful history. The exterior of the *Roberts & Co. Woolstore*, including its prominent saw-tooth roofline, was preserved along with the façade of *Simpson Soap and Candle Manufactory*, on which the words '*J. Kitchen & Son*' can still be seen today. The property is National Trust Listed as part of the Gas Work Classification.



In 2001 the second stage of The Old Woolstore was completed incorporating the original Bridge Inn Hotel and an eight foot high historical brick wall. Originally built to separate Macquarie Street and Creswell Row, the wall is made from a combination of various bricks from different decades of the ninetieth century, including convict made bricks and 'crest' bricks dating from 1870's. Restored during the redevelopment, the wall is now a feature of the Hotel's reception and bar area.

With original grandeur, our heritage listed venue combines old world charm with modern facilities and exceptional service.

