

Visiting my Mates, Old Stomping Grounds & Riding in Tasmania, Australia

February 17th – March 5th, 2019

Relaxed Middle

Day "5" - Strahan, TAS to New Norfolk, TAS - 290 KMs, Monday 02/25/19

As I was checking out this morning, the old lady at the front desk said to me, "In the last 50 years that I can remember, it's never been this hot. I have never ever been this hot. It was 19.5° C (67° F) this morning at 6:00AM". I have to admit, I was a bit chilly and was wearing a long sleeve shirt.

After last night's "Thirsty Camel", we all needed extra hydration in the morning at breakfast



Right next door, we ordered pretty ordinary breakfast sandwiches, water, and coffee. Shortly thereafter, we were on our way to Queenstown.



The road, the weather, and scenery was perfect and beautiful with twisty turns, lazy sweepers, and lots of elevation changes. Teepookana Forest Reserve.





Arriving into Queenstown.





Leaving Burnie, we saw a classic car rally, they made it to Queenstown as well, (L-R) Porsche, Rolls, random new car behind the red Jaguar and and MG.



As we travelled east toward New Norfolk, we stopped at the welcome to Queenstown sign on the way out. I suppose we are truly traveling the wrong way around.



Queenstown in the foreground



The coastal greenery eventually gave way to a more arid center and the temperature started to rise, hitting 33°C. near Meadowbank Lake.





Next stop, Mount Field National Park. Unlike the surroundings, it was green and luscious.



On our short hike to Russell Falls, we saw ginormous swamp gum trees, some of the tallest trees in Australia. The swamp gum, *Eucalyptus regnans*, is the tallest flowering plant on Earth.









Hurry Mikey Hurry, before the Ranger catches you.



On the way to Glenora, at least one of us stopped to take in the views and enjoy beautiful Tassie. By now the mercury had kept on rising, hitting 37°C. Hot but dry.



Now I know why the hurry. Chicken rolls, NO, NO, NO I was told, they are Chiko rolls! I did have a piece and quite frankly, if I never have a taste again, it would be alright.



Our overnight in New Norfolk was the Junction Hotel, a very eclectic place "Where Country Vibe & Prices - Meets City Service..."





Yes, we do wash "smalls" in the sink or they stink!



New Norfolk on a Monday night had only 2 out of 5 walking distance restaurants open, so Star and Garter it is. All these distractions along the way.



Dinner and then a bit of Pool.



Milesy, playing for the big bucks, does not look too happy! There is always help only one phone call away!



Needless to say, we visited this place a lot.



Day "6" - New Norfolk, TAS to Hobart, TAS - 309 KMs, Tuesday 02/26/19

While New Norfolk and Hobart are only ~40 KMs apart, today's ride took us out to Gordon Dam, a 133 KMs single road. The ride out on the Gordon River Rd was stunning, beautiful scenery and a twisty road laced with lazy curves.



Unfortunately, lots of tree harvesting going on, although I am sure it is a planned harvest.



We stopped at Maydena for coffee, not much there.



Nice lazy curves accented by beautiful scenery.





Entrepreneur JV ideas 101. Make sure you have a beer or 2 or you will not get it.

Yes, its poop, wombat poop. Quick thinking, Mike pointed this out to us, and it became a JV entrepreneurial opportunity, wombat poop dices. They are perfect, black dice with white dots. AU\$2 each or AU\$5 for 3.

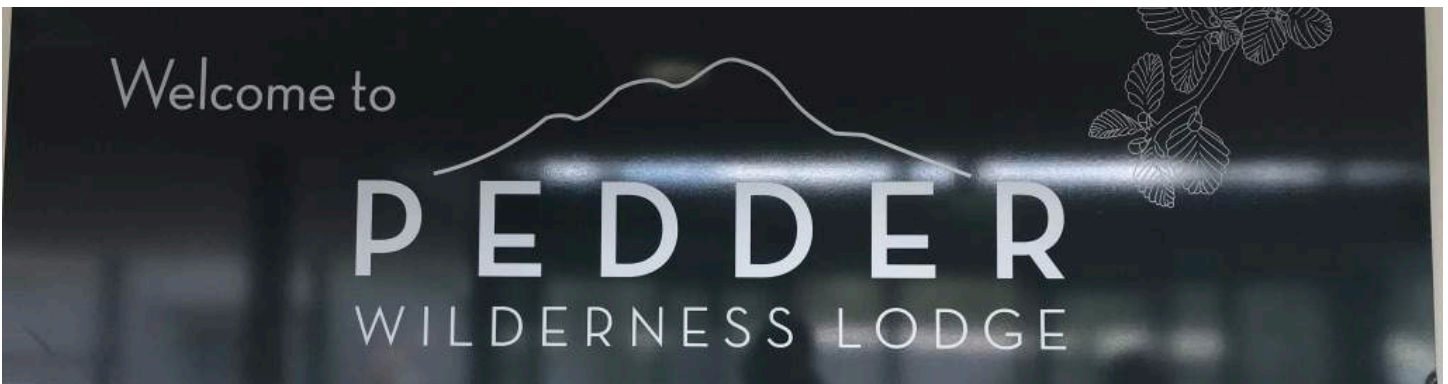
Because no one carries cash anymore, Andrew, the master entrepreneur, came up with the idea of giving the homeless an EVO/POS terminal so they could accept credit card payments. Tap the card and collect. This quickly turned into hiring the homeless to collect donations and split the proceeds. We could employ People globally.

Ok, it was funnier at the time.

Approaching Gordon Dam, Lake Pedder has a surface area of approximately 242 square kilometres (93 sq mi), making it Tasmania's second largest lake, right after Lake Gordon.

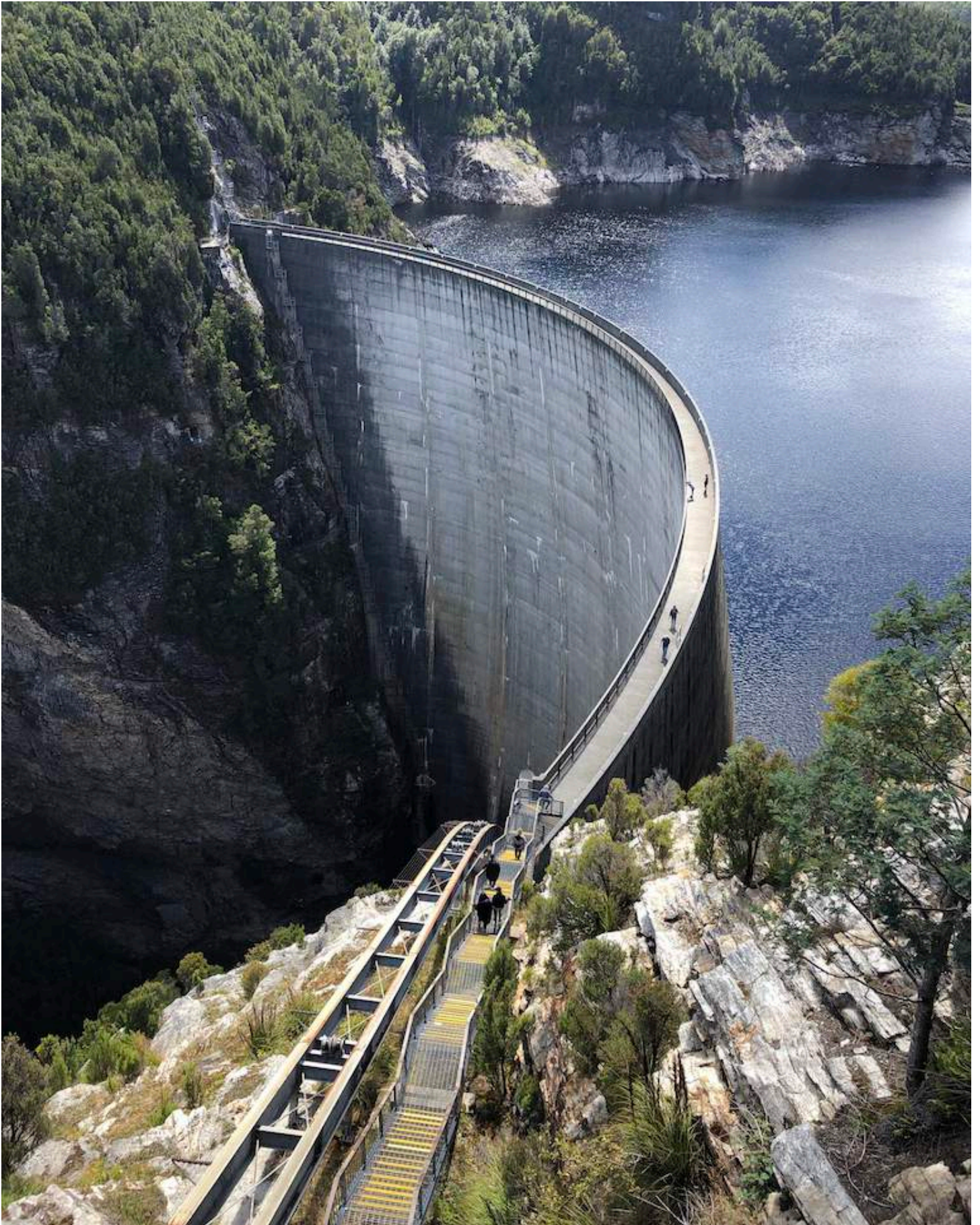


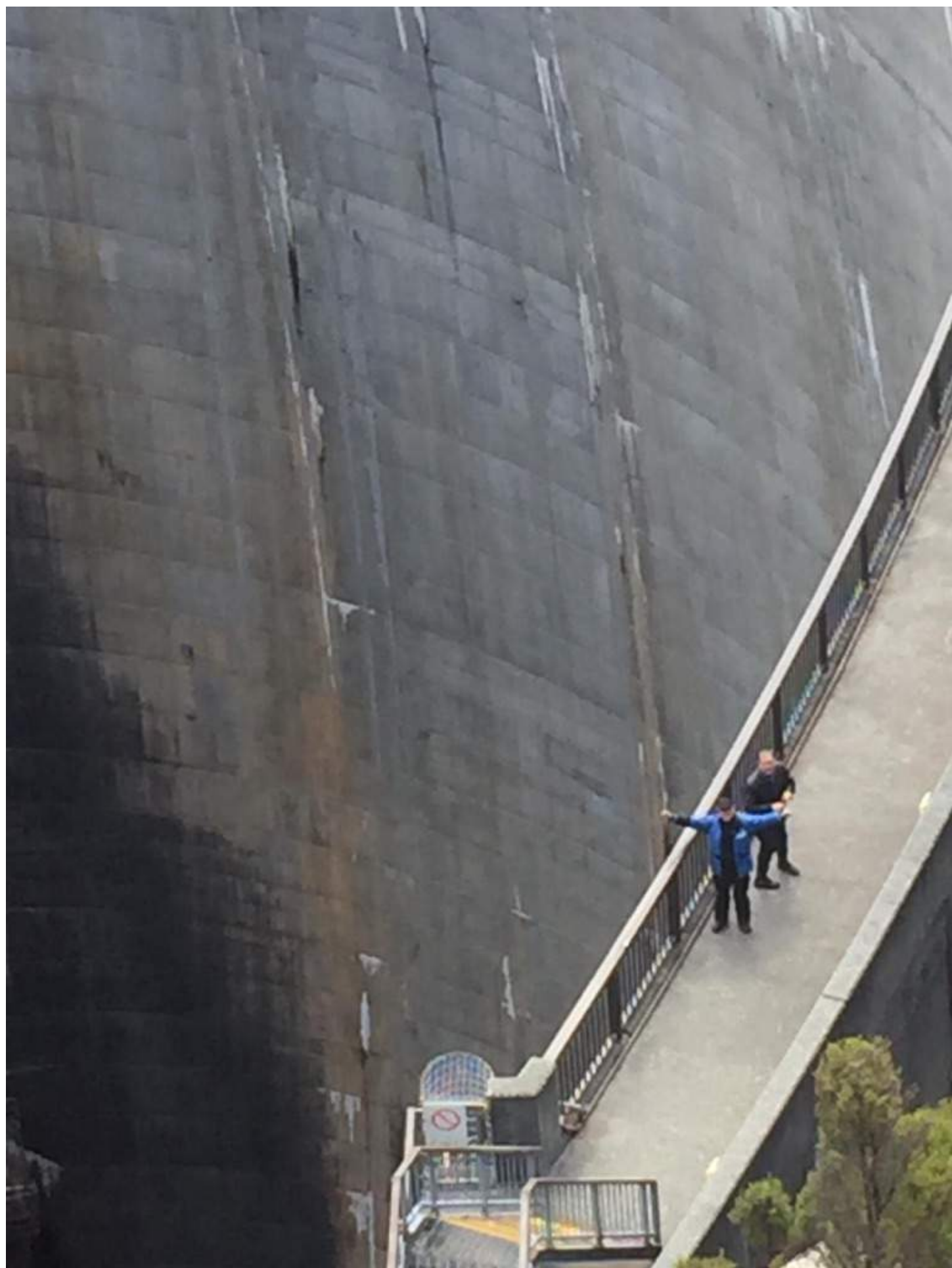
Lake Pedder Wilderness Lodge.



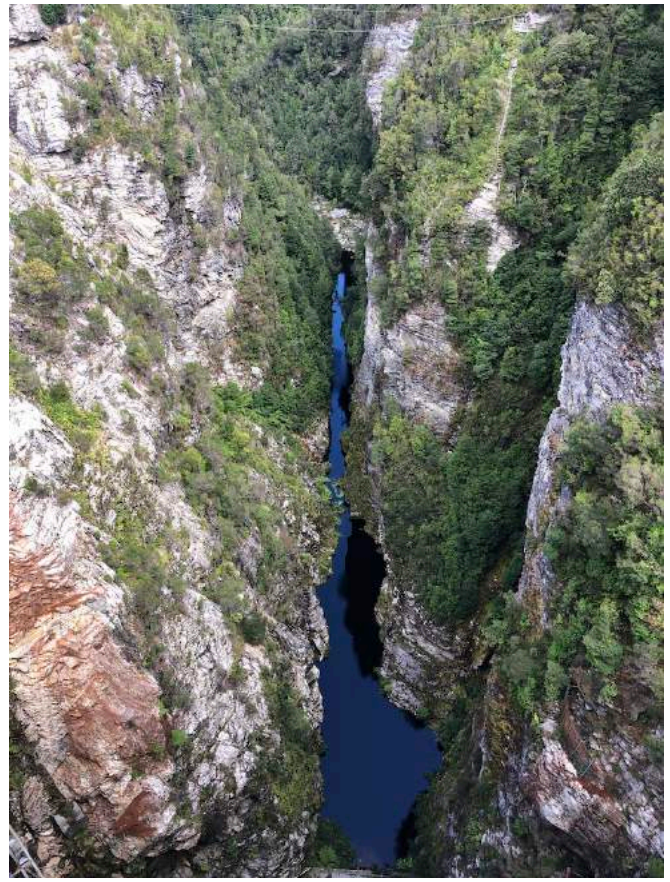


Next is the prize, Gordon Dam, simply spectacular.





Yes, we climbed down the stairs in motorbike boots.



Lake Gordon, Tasmania's largest lake 271 Square KMs.





Some impressive stats. Most notably, when full, the lakes hold 15,300 gigalitres of water, which is equivalent to 30 Sydney Harbours.

AUSTRALIA'S HIGHEST AND BIGGEST

THE GORDON DAM IS

GORDON DAM WALL.
PHOTO: PETER MATHEW

Height	140 metres
Crest length	192 metres
Width	18 metres at base 2.7 metres at crest

Gordon Dam is Australia's highest concrete arch dam. With a combined surface area of 514 square kilometres, Lake Gordon and Lake Pedder form Australia's biggest fresh water storage area. When full the lakes hold a total of 15 300 gigalitres of water, which is equivalent to 30 Sydney Harbours.

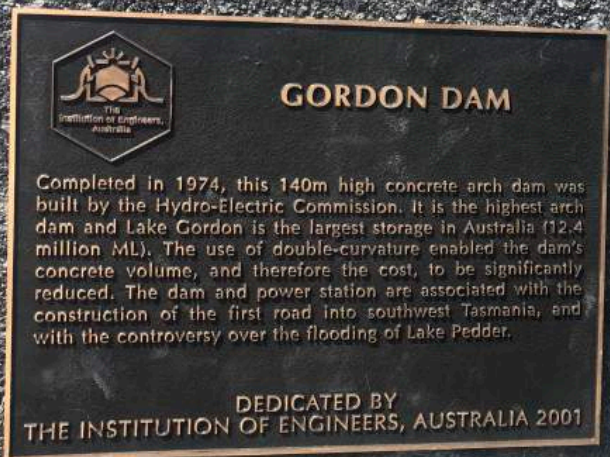
TASMANIA'S LARGEST

Gordon Power Station is the largest power station in Tasmania.

It's located 183 metres underground and houses three Francis turbines with a combined generating capacity of 432 MW. Water travels from the base of an 80 metre high intake tower, down a 140 metre vertical shaft, to the turbines. It leaves the power station through a tailrace tunnel and rejoins the Gordon River downstream.



INSIDE GORDON POWER STATION. PHOTO: PETER MATHEW



Parts of the Southwest National Park had a fire a few years back. Some of us made sure all the ambers were doused appropriately.



On the return trip, we had lunch and a break at the Possum Shed Cafe, riverside dining and excellent food.





Finally in Hobart. We planned on having a much needed and well deserved "off the bike" rest day in Hobart. 2 nights at the Quest Waterfront hotel, wow! Laundry time. My room was so big, I need a GPS to find my way around.



Given that tomorrow is a rest day, the party started early with beers and wine at the famous Customs House Bar. This is where most of the "Sydney to Hobart" sailors end up after the race. (Internet Photo)



It just dawned on me that we hadn't taken any selfies, so here we go.



Next was dinner at Black Footed Pig. Absolutely delicious.





One last round of drinks at the Den Salamanca and things started to get interesting. That is it for my selfie idea and career.





Except for one more in the hotel elevator. 8:00 AM wake up tomorrow, Good Night!



Day "7" - Hobart, TAS – Rest Day, Wednesday 02/27/19

Morning rolled around fast, but it did start at 8:00AM sharp. Breakfast was salmon, poached eggs, grilled tomatoes, toast, and highly decorated proper coffee at Harbour Lights Cafe.



Today we planned on visiting the Museum of Old and New Art, aka MONA. It was a 30 minute ferry ride on a beautiful sunny day.



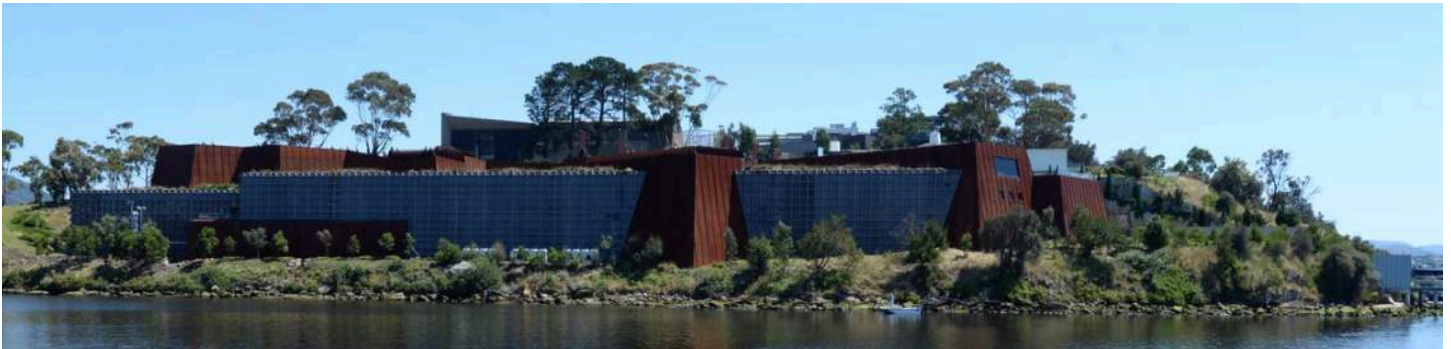
You cannot have a bad day on the water, and I have to say this was the most civilized ride to any museum I have ever been on.



The MONA was stunning. The setting on a waterfront peninsula and a building that was a piece of art in itself. In 2001, David Walsh founded the Moorilla Museum of Antiquities on the Berriedale peninsula in Hobart, which closed in 2007 to undergo a \$75 Million renovation.

It was re-opened in January 2011 as the Museum of Old and New Art and won the 2012 Australian Tourism Award for best new development and is a major Tasmanian tourist attraction. David Walsh made his fortune by developing a gambling system used to bet on horse racing and other sports.

Many feel that MONA is not art. People report it as a “mind-broadening” experience in understanding how others think about art.



Views from the grounds.



A sunny 20°C day surely added to the experience.



There was something for everyone inside, spelled words using water droplets. Double click the image to view



Stunning architecture; the viewing platform below on the right is filled with used motor oil, hard to capture the moment.



The views from the floor to ceiling windows in the restaurant were equally as stunning.



Lunch at the outdoor coffee shop complete with free range chickens, please order beef or lamb.



There were a few exhibits that while still some people think about them as a form of art, they are controversial and are most memorable with most of the visitors to MONA.

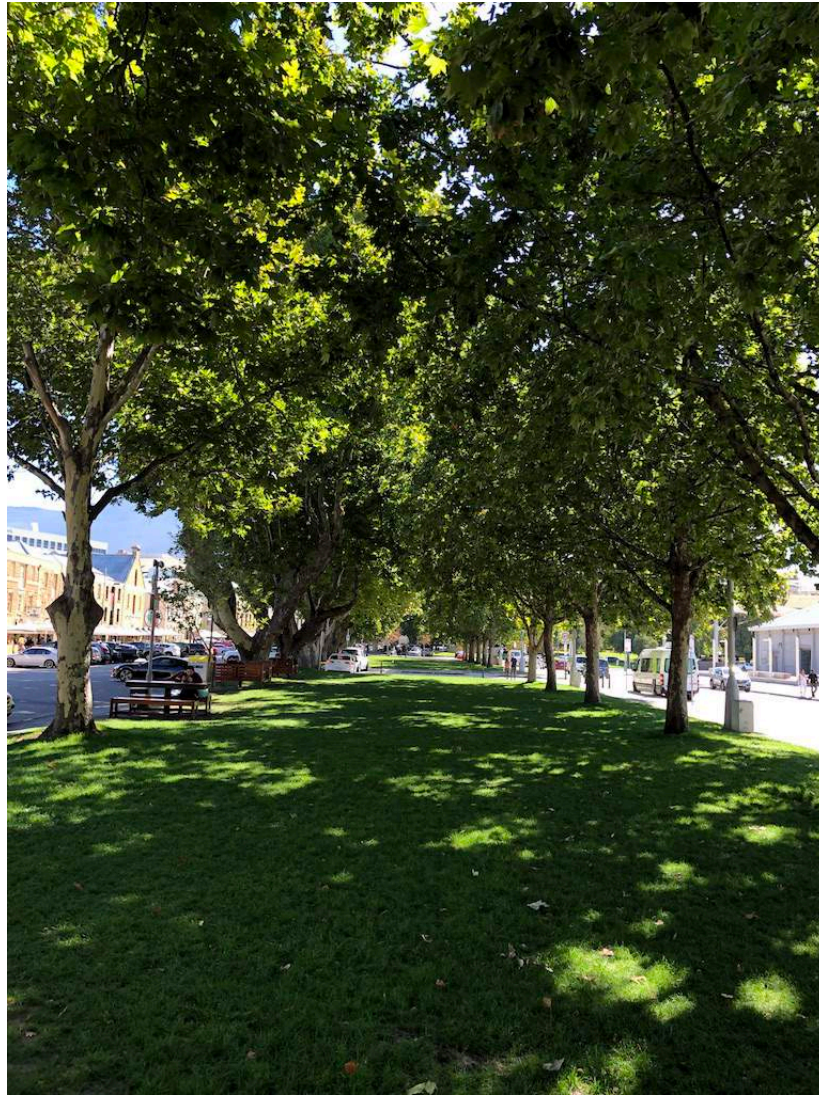
IF YOU ARE EASILY OFFENDED, DON'T GO THERE
It can be everything: magnificent, offensive, captivating & repulsive
Copy and paste the URL in a browser window

<http://ridewithab.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/TASSIE-MONA-Mature-Ride-Report-compressed.pdf>

The Ferry back to Hobart was a great way to wrap up the visit to MONA.



Once back in Hobart, I went for a stroll around the Salamanca area. Very relaxing day thus far.



A
Whaler's trypot was
used to try blubber from whale
blubber. The trypots stood with the fat
sides adjacent in a row on the ship's deck in
a space called a blubbering house. The whaling
house had a roof with chimneys above the pots and a
black 'back pan' floor. Blubber was sliced into strips
and placed in the pots where it was rendered into oil by
fire underneath. The oil was led from one pot to the
next and finally poured through leather pipes into barrels in
the ship's hold. Meanwhile thick black smoke rolled all
round and settled in a greasy film over ship and sailors.
These trypots were placed here on Marine Board lawn
by the Lions Club of Hobart (Hobart) to mark the
Hobart whaling tradition. The pots came from
the extensive Swedish family of Edvard and
they were passing to the City Council.
Crown collected site 1972
Lions Club presented
1981

To cap the night, we had a beautiful dinner at the Rockwall Bar and Grill. Most of us ordered the Wagyu Porterhouse and Andrew was in charge of the wine. Lot's of bantering all night about MONA and number 41 although Bryan ended up settling for number 69.



And yes, another goodnight selfie, don't believe me? We have different clothes on.



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