

THE HADLEY'S STORY

Our heritage-listed venue plays host to almost two centuries of stories, scandals and secrets to be explored.

The floor boards whisper of the hotel's rich and often tumultuous history. The halls house memories of gentlemen's lunches, nights of cabaret, and the most marvellous soirées. The very fabric of the property is woven with tales of convicts, entrepreneurs, celebrities-past, and countless other patrons of days gone by. Some such figures include Sir William Don (1862); Tasmania's first royal visitor, the Duke of Penrieve, France (1866); Dame Nellie Melba (1909); Antarctic explorers Douglas Mawson (1911) and Roald Amundsen (1912); and a host of visiting governors, premiers and prime ministers. Please see overleaf for an extended guest history.

So where did the Hadley's story begin?

In 1862 former convict, John Webb had combined his recently purchased Marquis of Waterford (1849), originally the Golden Anchor Inn (1834) and existing former pastry cook's shop (1843)-turned-hotel, the Bedford Arms (1854), and began operating Webb's Family Hotel. Many innovative improvements – (including Hobart's first roller-skating rink! (1867) – and successful years of operation later, John Clay Hadley became landlord following Webb's death in 1881. A name change to Hadley's Orient Hotel and further renovations ensued, during which electric lighting, telephones and one of Australia's first electric elevators were installed.

The Hadley family purchased the property in 1890 from Webb's Executor. Reportedly, the mortgaged property was twice offered as a lottery prize in an attempt to reduce the debts of the collapsed Van Diemen's Land Bank (1895,1896), however both times was withdrawn and the questionable lotteries failed. 1910 saw the installation of hot water to the hotel. In 1935 the property was purchased by a consortium of business people and whilst it retained the Hadley's name, the Hadley's family was no longer involved.

Since this time, the hotel has known many owners and leasees, none of particular success. It was offered (voluntarily this time!) twice more as a lottery prize (however the winner opted for a cash prize instead on both occasions), and at different stages has incorporated a ball room, mirror room, theatre restaurants, discothèques, a Chinese restaurant, numerous bars, and anywhere between 64 and 200 guest rooms.

Tasmanian entrepreneur and current hotel owner, Don Neil, acquired Hadley's Hotel in September 2013 after the hotel had been placed in receivership and fallen into a state of disrepair. In close consultation with an expert advisory panel comprising of historians, architects and designers, no expense was spared as the National Trust listed property was authentically restored to reflect the grandeur and decadence of the Victorian era. Relunched as Hadley's Orient Hotel in November 2014, the restoration was celebrated by the Tasmanian tourism industry, historic society, business community and general public alike. And so a new chapter began in the enduring story of this intriguing property.

Hadley's is committed to providing a unique guest experience – delivering genuine heritage accommodation and signature experiences of unsurpassed quality in Tasmania. Exemplary customer service complements outstanding facilities and graceful design. The charming venue boasts 71 elegantly styled accommodation suites (officially rated 4.5 star by Star Ratings Australia) and is home to a collection of historically significant spaces such as the stunning Leadlight Room and distinguished George Cartwright Room. At the heart of the hotel, the sun-bathed Atrium offers a delightful setting for the renowned Hadley's Traditional Afternoon Tea Experience.

Located in the heart of the historic CBD amidst an array of boutique shops and chic eateries, Hadley's Orient Hotel is just a short stroll from a range of some of Hobart's most popular activities, attractions and cultural experiences. But the property is so much more than just a place to stay whilst exploring Hobart – Hadley's is an experience in itself.

THERE IS NOTHING QUITE LIKE THE HADLEY'S STORY

1861 The Governor of Tasmania, *Sir Henry Fox Young and Lady Young* attended the first ball in the new ballroom.

1861 The Tasmanian Club began a 12 year lease of the first floor. Their 70 members included lawyer *Morton Allport* – authority on biology and zoology; *John Richard Buckland* – the first headmaster of the Hutchins School; *William Lodewyk Crowther* – surgeon, naturalist, parliamentarian; *Thomas Daniel Chapman* – merchant politician and Premier of Tasmania between 1861 and 1863.

1862 *Sir William Don* – celebrated British actor who died at the hotel four days after a performance at the Theatre Royal.

1862 The Southern Tasmanian Agricultural, Pastoral and Horticultural Association leased a large ground floor room.

1887 Opera singer *Amy Sherwin*, the ‘Tasmanian nightingale’ who joined the Italian Opera Company in 1878 stayed at Hadley’s Orient Hotel in 1887 and 1898.

1890 Tasmanian and Australian cricketer Kenny Burn stayed at the hotel.

1891 A banquet was held for the premier of NSW *Sir Henry Parkes* – later referred to as ‘the father of Federation’.

1892 The legendary English cricketer *WG Grace* and *Lord Sheffield* (who initiated the Australian interstate cricket competition the ‘Sheffield Shield’) stayed with the English touring cricket team at Hadley’s Orient Hotel.

1893 American actor *JC Williamson* who formed the Royal Comic Opera Company in Melbourne in 1880 stayed at the hotel while his company performed at the Theatre Royal.

1895 Irish Republican and labour leader *Michael Davitt* stayed at the hotel during his very popular lecture tour of Australia.

1904 Great Polish concert pianist and composer *Ignacy Jan Paderewski* who later became Poland’s foreign minister and Prime minister stayed at Hadley’s whilst in Hobart for a concert.

1905 American couple *Mr and Mrs Charles Glidden* stayed at Hadley’s whilst touring round the world in their 24hp Napier car.

1909 Famous opera singer *Dame Nellie Melba* stayed at Hadley’s while she was in Hobart for a concert.

1911 German explorer *Dr Karl Kumm* who took expeditions to Niger and the Nile stayed at Hadley’s whilst visiting Tasmanian relatives.

1911 Antarctic explorer *Dr Douglas Mawson* briefed his fellow expeditioners at a lunch at Hadleys prior to departure for Antarctica.

1912 Norwegian Polar explorer Roald Amundsen bunkered in at Hadley’s immediately after his return from his ground breaking journey to the South Pole.

1922 *Prime Minister Bill Hughes* stayed at Hadley’s on at least two occasions.

1922 Russian/Ukrainian concert pianist *Jascha Spivakovsky* stayed at Hadley’s whilst in Hobart for a concert.

1923 *Miss Ethel Campbell* (known as ‘The Angel of Durban’), famed for greeting each Australian troop ship at Cape Durban on its way to the First World War battle zone stayed at Hadley’s and was met by huge crowds.

1923 Shakespearian actor-manager *Allan Wilkie* and his company stayed there in 1923, 1925 and 1927 when performing at the Theatre Royal.

1926 Tasmanian landscape painter *John Eldershaw* had an exhibition of his paintings at Hadley’s.

1936 Acclaimed Opera singers *Elizabeth Rethberg* and *Ezio Pinzo* stayed there whilst in Hobart for a concert.

1939 World renowned French organist and composer *Marcel Dupre* stayed at Hadley’s whilst performing as part of his Australian tour of over two thousand performances.

1940 A soiree was held at Hadley’s for British singer *Noel Coward*.

1947 A lunch was held for Field Marshal *Lord Montgomery*.

1948 The Indian cricket team stayed at Hadley’s.

1954 *Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies* and *Dame Patti Menzies* attended a dinner at Hadley’s.

1955 The group that broke from the ALP to form the DLP met in Hadley’s to form their breakaway.

1967 British comedian *Tony Hancock* is reported to have stayed at Hadley’s whilst he was performing in cabaret at another hotel.