



Kangaroo Bluff

HISTORIC SITE

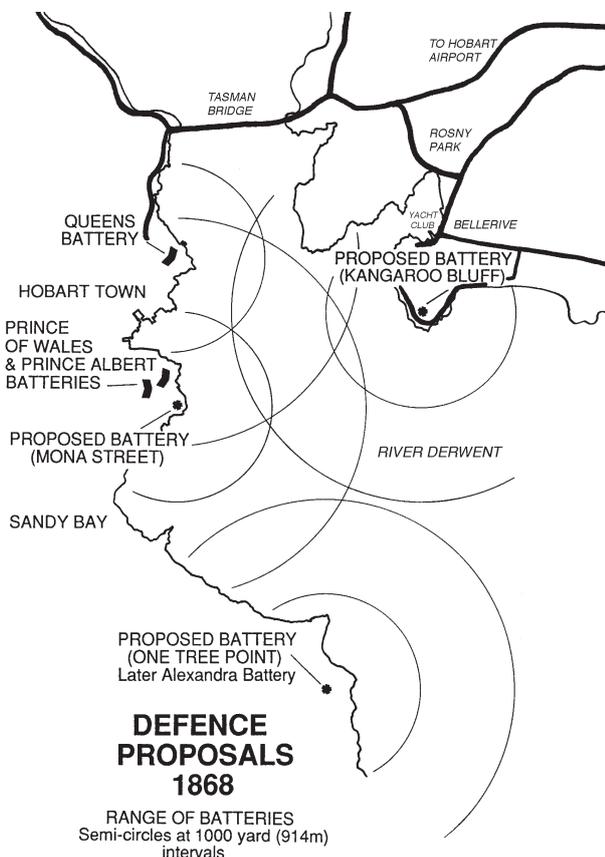
Where to find it

Kangaroo Bluff Historic Site is situated on Hobart's Eastern Shore, only 10 minutes drive from the city centre. From Hobart, head east over the Tasman Bridge to Bellerive, then along Victoria Esplanade and Gunning Street.

The Historic Site is open between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm every day and entry is free.

History

The Kangaroo Bluff Battery was built to support the Queens Battery (located at the Domain in Hobart) and the Battery Point battery. It was developed to stop any enemy vessels from shelling Hobart Town from just outside the range of the Domain and Battery Point batteries. Although the proposal was mentioned in the early days of settlement, procrastination was the order of the day.



Volunteers cleaning the battery

It is thought that the appearance in the River Derwent of two Russian warships in 1873 prompted plans for the construction of the Kangaroo Bluff Battery. This finally began in 1880. Construction was carried out by the Public Works Department, at a cost of about \$16,300. At that time workers were paid 50 cents per day. The opening shot was fired in 1884.

Imperial troops were withdrawn from Australia between 1870 and 1901 and so each state had to provide its own defence force. For this reason the Kangaroo Bluff Battery was manned by the Tasmanian Artillery Company volunteers.



Non-commissioned officers of the Southern Tasmanian Artillery (Courtesy of the Tasmaniana Library)

The battery, or fort as it is sometimes known, was covered by a dry mound and surrounded by a wet moat. If the enemy managed to get past these they would encounter prickly hawthorn hedges on top of the moat walls.

The Kangaroo Bluff Battery was manned until the early 1920s and during this time no shots were fired in anger.

Management of the site

In 1901, after Federation, the Kangaroo Bluff Battery was handed over to the Commonwealth. In 1930 the Clarence Council took over the area for use as a public park.

In 1961 the battery was considered obsolete and the Scenery Preservation Board acquired most of the battery.

The battery was declared as an Historic Site under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1970 and is now managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service.

Visitors please note

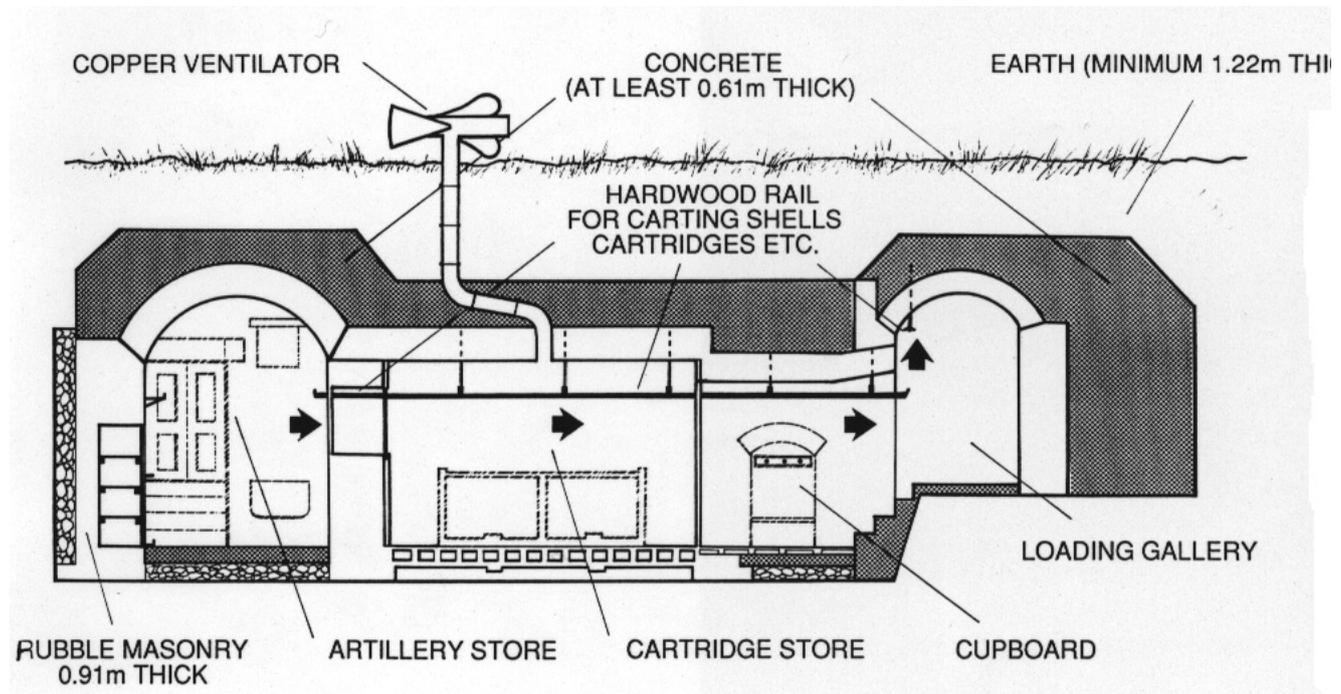
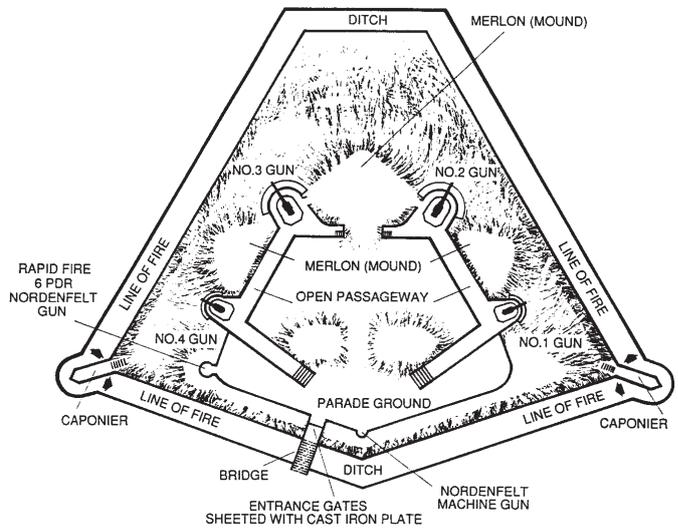
The battery is surrounded by a deep moat and care must be taken when walking around the area.

Entry to the battery is not permitted at night.

No pets are allowed onto the site.

For more information

Call into the District Base of the Parks and Wildlife Service at: 293 Surf Road, Seven Mile Beach, phone: (03) 6214 8100.



Part of the underground construction