

Melbourne CBD – Historic Sites – VIC 3000.

www.watermetermuseum.org

Melbourne was settled because the location offered fertile land, fresh water, a deep natural port, and ideal conditions for pastoral expansion — all discovered by Europeans after tens of thousands of years of continuous Aboriginal occupation. Melbourne grew from a small 1835 settlement into a major colonial city. During my visit in Mid-January 2026, I explored historically significant sites while documenting water-meter installations.



The above water meter is displayed at the Melbourne Museum, the HWMM visited and it has 3 similar models in its collection.



Sectioned water meter, Davies, Shephard & Co, South Melbourne

Reticulated water supply from the Melbourne Waterworks was first provided to the city and inner suburbs in 1853. Water was pumped from the Yarra River to an elevated tank on Eastern Hill.

From 1857, the pipes were connected to the newly completed Yan Yean Reservoir, 30 km north of the city.

This early water-meter assembly, manufactured by **Davies, Shephard & Co. of Melbourne** in 1890s to 1920s, reflects the city's transition to engineered water management in the early twentieth century. With an inline flow body, it was used in commercial and municipal systems to monitor supply reliability and water measurement. Instruments like this supported Melbourne's rapid urban expansion, helping utilities manage growing demand and laying the groundwork for the sophisticated metering and distribution networks that followed.



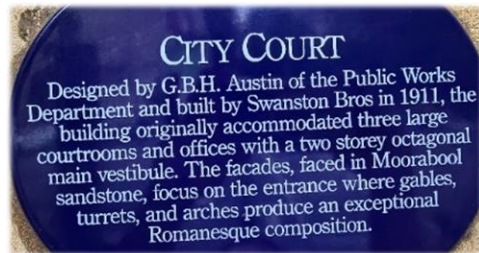
The Melbourne Museum





Old Melbourne Police Station 1934

Installed is an old **Davies-Shephard 40mm flanged PSM PD water meter** connected via T-probe to Water-Save datalogger.



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Early Melb 1860, when the first Water Meters were installed.

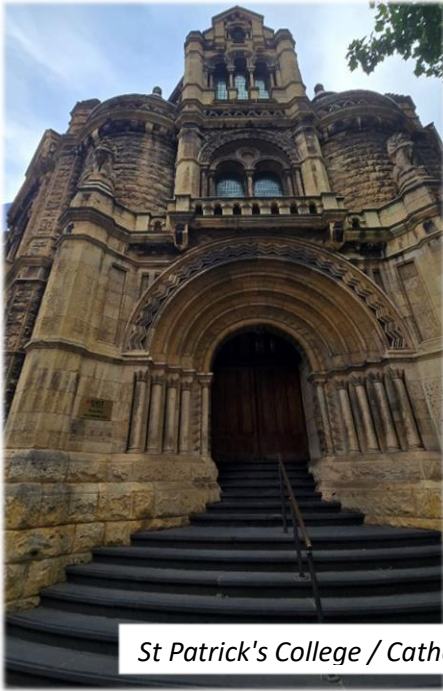


Trade Union Building 1874



Installed is a **Davies-Shephard 40mm flanged PSM PD water meter**, noted in a strange by-pass type install in a caged site.





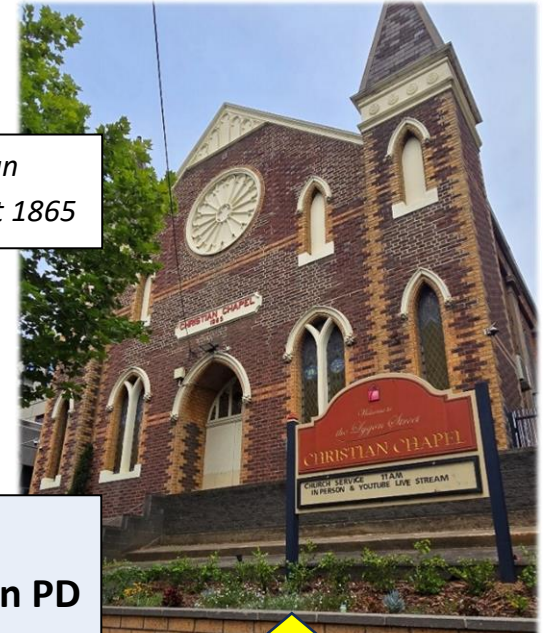
St Patrick's College / Catholic Administration Buildings 1858-1897



Installed is a **Davies-Shephard 50mm KG-type rotary piston PD Meter** with pulse connected to a Datalogger. Prior is a DS dirt box filter.



The Christian Chapel built 1865



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Installed is a **Davies-Shephard 32mm PSM/V100 rotary piston PD Meter**, installed prior is a DS dirt box filter, all within a cage.



The Melbourne City Baths -1904.
We could not locate water meter.





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*St Augustine's Catholic Church built 1867-1876.
Bourke Street. Pictured 2026 and 1953.*

RMIT
UNIVERSITY
Building 20



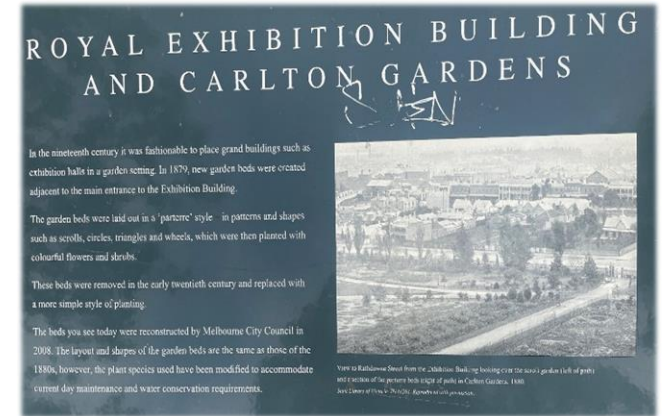
Installed is **Itron TD8**
25mm rotary piston
PD Water Meter with
Cyble AMR module.

Installed is a
Siemens 100mm
Trans-Mag
electromagnetic
water meter, 24vdc
powered.



old melb goal 1860 (now RMIT)





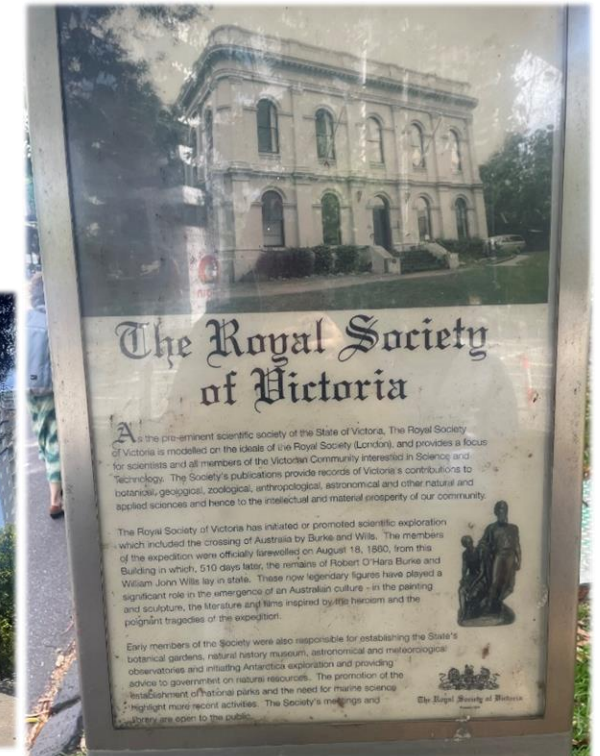
Installed in a cage near the REB is an array of HVAC equipment, but the Water Meter was not there.

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Alex & Erica from the HWMM on the hunt to locate Water Meters at the Royal Exhibition Building site.



Scouring the perimeter 360deg of this site, still the water meter was not located.





Originally a site of a grand old hotel building demolished by Whelan the Wrecker is a new modern high-rise building. Outside is a large, caged compound housing two water meters and valve equipment.



Water Meter One is an **Actaris 80mm Woltman-Turbine type** flanged with pulse connected to a logger.

Water Meter Two is a **Siemens 150mm Electromagnetic type** flanged connection -power source possibly lithium or DC.



Along the random walking trail many pre 1900 buildings exist but very hard to locate the water meters. One to the left a 1853 Macs pub.





More pre-1900 buildings yet the water meters remained elusive.

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The water meter was not located at the Old Victoria Barricks.



Old England Hotel, Heidelberg

Established in 1848, the Old England Hotel is one of Heidelberg's oldest buildings and may be the oldest continuously operating hotel in Victoria. Originally constructed as a staging-post hotel serving travellers between Melbourne and the northern districts, the building was expanded in several stages between 1848 & 1890.

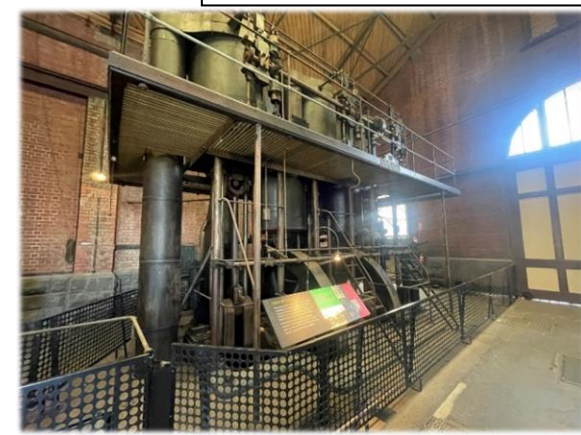
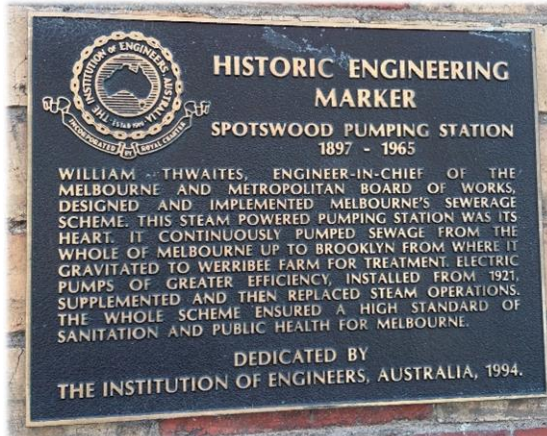


Installed is an **Itron 40mm Flo-Star Multijet type** water meter, connected next to the meter is a rare **Emmco dirt box filter**.



Special Mentions

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The Spotswood Pumping Station was built in 1897 as a key part of Melbourne's first metropolitan sewerage system. Its primary function was to pump sewage collected from Melbourne's sewer network across the Yarra River and onward through a rising main to the treatment lagoons at Werribee. Its massive steam-driven pumps operated continuously, lifting sewage to a higher elevation so it could continue its journey to the treatment and disposal facilities. This infrastructure dramatically improved public health in Melbourne by replacing the older system of cesspits and direct discharge of waste into local waterways.

Today, the former pumping station is preserved as part of the Scienceworks Museum, where visitors can see the historic steam engines and learn about Melbourne's early sewerage engineering. The visit by the HWMM was brief and hence could not locate any water meters.



The Werribee Park Mansion, commonly referred to as Werribee House, is one of Victoria's grandest nineteenth-century estates. It was built between 1874 and 1877 for wealthy pastoralists the Chirnside brothers who amassed a fortune from sheep grazing on the vast Werribee plains.

The HWMM visited the huge sprawling site, a brief search was unable to find any water meters on this visit. But the water tower was noted.