

Knot Sculptures in Brisbane

In the Admiralty Towers pocket park, between the riverside walkway and Queen Street of Brisbane Australia, are three knot sculptures that may interest IGKT members. The park is near the historic copper-domed Customs House (currently owned and used by the University of Queensland for various 'down-town' interactions), in the Petrie Bight reach of the Brisbane River. This was once the major port region for the city, so it is perhaps appropriate that the sculptures are presented as fossils of knots used by seamen.

Two of the sculptures are pictured looking out on the river with a modern alloy city-cat and beloved wooden city-hopper ferries in the background. The third is pictured looking towards the heritage-listed retaining wall built in 1881 to support a wider Queen Street above the wharf. The wall is built from Brisbane Tuff, a volcanic stone quarried across the river at Kangaroo Point.

The sculptures are in sandstone quarried at Helidon west of the city, and used for its beautiful colours on many architectural works in the region. They were commissioned in 1996 by the developers of the adjacent Admiralty Towers and the Brisbane City Council. The London-born sculptor, Simon Perry, currently based at the RMIT university in Melbourne, is renowned for public artworks in the UK and Australia.

To check the construction of the knots (labelled the Bowline, Sailor's Knot and Stevedore's Knot), those interested will need to walk around the park. More information about the sculptures and the history of the area can be found online at <http://brismania.com/day-128-take-a-bight/> and <http://ilovebrisbane.blogspot.com/2007/04/knots.html>.



