

The Grange Horse Trough

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Situated where the boundaries of the City of Hobart and the North Ward of the Municipality of Kingborough meet, stands the Grange Horse Trough. The simple inscription on it reads:

“The Grange
September 23rd 1883
Be Ye Merciful
Even as your Father is Merciful”

The identity of whoever was responsible for its construction has been lost in the mists of time, but carved into the stone on the front righthand side is the name R.B. Wiggins, Builder.

The trough itself is cut out of a solid block of sandstone which measures 7 feet 11 inches long, 2 feet 5 inches wide by 1 foot 7½ inches high. The internal measurements are 7 feet 4 inches long, 1 foot 6½ inches wide and 10 inches deep. This gives it a capacity of 59 gallons, which indicates the volume of traffic on the road and the size of the horse teams then in use. At each end of the trough are identical dog troughs, which again are cut out of solid blocks of stone measuring externally 2 feet 4 inches long, 1 foot wide and 9½ inches high. These were filled by overflow pipes from the main trough.

The trough originally stood on the eastern side of the Channel Highway at the main gateway to “Keltonlea”. Many times over the years it needed maintenance, as indicated in the “*Minutes of the Kingborough Council from 1908 to 1924*”¹.

February 6th 1911

“It was resolved to make inquiries as to the ownership of the water trough near the “Grange”.

March 6th, 1911

“It was resolved that Dobson and Mitchell be written to, and asked for permission to be given to the Council to clean out the drinking trough near the “Grange”.

May 12th 1919

“The Inspector’s report was read and an item of damage to the water trough at the “Grange”

referred to therein, was ordered to be brought under the notice of the Police”.

January 13th 1920

“A Petition was received from residents of Taroona drawing attention to the dry state of the “Grange” Horse Trough, which was a hardship on travelling horses. It was pointed out that the trough wanted repairing, and it was agreed to do this and ask the City Council to again put on the water which had been cut off.”

March 9th 1920

“The Town Clerk, Hobart, wrote that the City Council would re-install the horse trough at the “Grange”, if the [Kingborough] Council would bear the cost of re-erecting and re-connecting the cistern, and take the responsibility of any wilful damage to the trough. It was resolved to take this responsibility and to write to this effect.”

April 11th, 1921.

“The City Council wrote that they were repairing the ‘Grange’ Trough, to make good the damage that had been done.”

As early as 1969 moves were afoot to move the trough and place it in another situation, as an interesting item from the *Mercury* of October 1969 points out:

“Old Horse Trough to be preserved.

The historic old horse trough on the Channel Highway at the Grange will be preserved. Kingborough Commission at their meeting on Tuesday, said, with the proposed new highway deviation, the trough would be dismantled, removed, and re-erected in another site in the immediate vicinity.”

In 1976 the Channel Highway was re-aligned by filling in more of the gully of Cartwright Creek. The trough was dismantled on Tuesday the 4th May, 1976 and put into storage in the Kingborough Council work yard.

In the wasteland left between the old and the new Channel Highway, a small park was developed by the Hobart City Council and the Kingborough Council, with ornamental trees and car parking bays, and it was here that the Kingborough Council, in November 1977 commissioned Mr Jack Ross, a Taroona resident, to re-erect it and to construct a freestone walkway up to the monument from the car parking bays.

1. M.C.C. 19/19, A.O.T.



The Channel Highway at the boundary with the city of Hobart, looking south, before the gully was filled in, 1969.

PHOTO AMY ACTON.



Looking south towards the small park between the old and new Channel Highway in which the horse trough is now situated.

PHOTO CARL WOOD.

Nineteenth Century



The Grange Horse Trough in its original location on the northern side of the entrance to "Keltonlea", 1950. PHOTO ARCHIVES OFFICE OF TASMANIA.



The Grange Horse Trough, 1986. PHOTO FÉLICIENNE A. MARSLAND.