



WAVERLEY COUNCIL

# AMELIA'S HORSE TROUGHS

A Waverley Library  
Local History Fact Sheet



## PUBLIC DRINKING FOUNTAINS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,—Your correspondent, "J. L.," deserves the thanks of thousands for calling attention through your columns to the "lamentable lack of public drinking fountains in Sydney at which numberless thirsty souls could in this hot weather quench their burning thirst with a draught of pure water." Not only is there a lack of fountains, but some of those that have been erected either by the municipal authorities or by benevolent citizens have been ruthlessly damaged or desecrated by the vandal larrikin so that it is almost impossible for man, woman, or child to procure a drink of clean water either in the streets, the parks, or the gardens. With few exceptions all the drinking fountains in or around Sydney are of a sorry sort, and are mostly of ancient and primitive design. The drinking troughs for horses are especially so, and I would commend to the notice of our worthy Mayor, aldermen, the new town clerk, and the Mayors and aldermen of the suburban and country councils the six splendid fountains that are erected in the borough of Waverley, one at the Tea Gardens, one at Charing-cross, two at the cemetery gates, one at the council-chambers, and another at Bondi designed to supply the wants of man, horse, and dog. These drinking troughs were presented to the Waverley council a few years ago, and erected by her nephew (Mr. T. E. Hall) to the memory of Miss Amelia Hall.

I am, &c., THOMAS J. MURRAY.

Amelia Hall was an English woman who arrived in Australia in the 1850s. Known best for founding one of the most exclusive boy's private schools of the time, Miss Amelia Hall's Private School at Waverley House, she also left behind a more tangible legacy.

Miss Hall donated two pink granite horse troughs to be erected at the gates of Waverley Cemetery, on the corner of St. Thomas Street and Trafalgar Streets. The troughs have a small semi-circular trough at one end and would probably have had a metal cup attached to a chain for people to drink from. The troughs still stand today, minus their fittings, in their original positions.

The original inscription on the troughs read:

"PRESENTED BY  
A LADY IN AID OF THE  
OBJECTS OF THE ANIMALS  
PROTECTION SOCIETY."

There is no agreed date of when these troughs were donated, although after her death they were inscribed with 'Amelia Hall 1809-1891'.

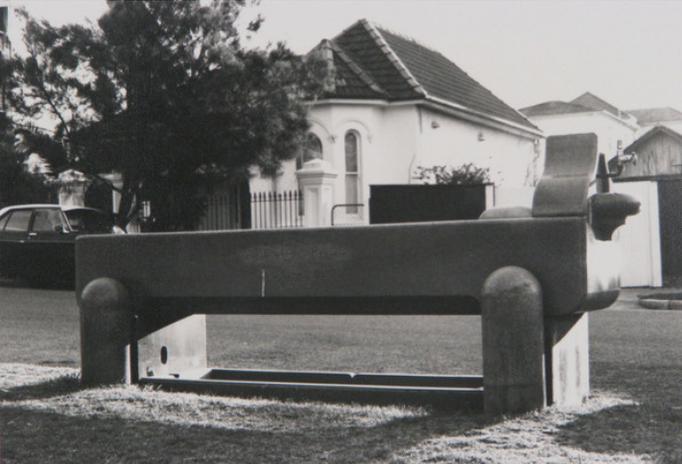
Her nephew, Thomas E. Hall, donated four more troughs in 1892 in her memory. At a Waverley Council meeting on 20 December, 1892 it was resolved:

*'...that the thanks of the Council be conveyed to Mr. Thomas E. Hall for the munificent gift of four granite fountains erected at his sole cost in various parts of the Borough in memory of Miss Amelia Hall.'*

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# AMELIA'S HORSE TROUGH

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Images from top:

Amelia Halls' horse trough, at the corner of St. Thomas St, and Trafalgar St, 1979.

Close up of memorial inscription Waverley Cemetery horse troughs.

Sydney Morning Herald, 1 February 1902, page 14. A letter to the editor regarding horse troughs. National Library of Australia.

Amelia Hall's rose granite horse trough, located at Waverley Cemetery.

Horse trough donated by Thomas Hall, Paul Street, Bondi Junction.

One horse trough was installed in Spring Street, Bondi Junction near the corner of Bronte Road. It was removed in 1963, and a year later was placed in Paul Street adjacent to Waverley Council Chambers. This trough is still functional and is now fitted with a bubbler.

A second trough was installed in Victoria Street, Charing Cross, near the Charing Cross Hotel. This trough was removed in 1964 and donated to the Lithgow Historical Society to be re-erected in front of the Esk Bank House.

A third trough was located opposite the Royal Hotel on Bondi Road. It was removed in 1967 and donated to the Nielson-Vaucluse Park Trust for use in the grounds of Vaucluse House.

The fourth trough disappeared for many years but was rediscovered at the Waverley Zetland Depot in 2014.

There are no records of the original placement of any of the troughs, but it can be surmised that the locations from which they were removed were the original positions in which they were placed.

There were several other horse troughs in the area, though not associated with either Amelia or Thomas Hall. Three other troughs were in use throughout the municipality, but were of a different design to Miss Amelia's pink granite model.

The first trough was located in Dover Road, near Old South Head Rd until it was removed in 1964. In March 1965, the trough was replaced with a drinking fountain with access for dogs. The second was at the rear of the Denison Hotel (now The Mill, Bondi Junction), until 1961 when it was removed at the request of the owner. The third sat at Six Ways at Bondi Beach and was relocated several times within the intersection until it was finally removed in 1967.