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# BILLS HORSE TROUGH



23359 Bills Horse Trough  
Penshurst 0915

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## Location

SE corner Cox Street and SE corner Martin Street PENSHURST, Southern Grampians Shire

## Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

## Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 15, 2003

What is significant?

The Bills horse trough was one of many thousands provided during the Interwar years by Annis and George Bills, a philanthropic couple who had taken pity on the condition of horses in the streets. George Bills was a mattress manufacturer and a driving force in the RSPCA. The tradition is that the Bills bequeathed some 70,000 horse troughs which were used all over Australia.

How is it significant?

The Bills Horse and Dog Troughs are of historical significance to the Southern Grampians Shire and to the township of Penshurst.

Why is it significant?

The Bills Horse and Dog Troughs are historically important for demonstrating the nature of nineteenth century travel and transport and twentieth century compassion for animals.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1920,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	23359
Property Number	

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## Physical Conditions

The trough is in good condition.

## Physical Description 1

A pressed cement horse trough of standard design with a tap and pump at the right hand end. The back includes a tri-partite panel with a plaque stating that the trough was provided by Annis and George Bills. On the right hand side there is a also a smaller, lower trough said to be for dogs.

## Historical Australian Themes

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies  
3.8 Moving goods and people

## Usage/Former Usage

heritage object

## Integrity

high degree of integrity

## Physical Description 2

Annis and George Bills

## Physical Description 3

on road reserve

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*