



Local History Factsheet:

A brief history of the suburb Grange



From left: Grange Hotel c1893, 'The Grange' c1928, the Grange Institute. Images courtesy Henley & Grange Historical Society.

The City of Charles Sturt takes its name from explorer Captain Charles Sturt who built his family home 'The Grange' in the area in 1840. Captain Sturt and his family lived in the house until 1853. The property was sold by Lady Sturt in 1877 following the death of Captain Sturt in 1869. The land was subsequently subdivided to become the village of Grange.

The Grange Land and Investment Company, led by Frederick Estcourt Bucknall and Arthur Harvey, was formed in 1878. The company immediately commenced work to develop Grange as a seaside resort by offering land for sale. The Grange jetty was built in 1879 and the Grange Hotel opened in 1881. The Grange post office also opened that year on the corner of Military Road and Beach Street. The following year the Grange railway opened.

Grange expanded in 1882 with the completion of 'The Marines' terrace houses and the sale of 200 blocks offered at auction. By 1883 Grange had 30 houses and at least one shop. The village was also linked to Henley Beach with the extension of the Horse Tram from Henley Beach to Grange.

Grange Cricket Club was formed in 1885 with Arthur Harvey the inaugural President. The Grange Institute was built in 1898, and the Grange Library, which operates to this day, opened in the building in 1901.

Frederick George Scarfe (of Harris Scarfe fame) and his wife Mary Florence purchased land in 1912 in order to establish a seaside retreat. They commissioned prominent architect Frank Kenneth Milne and he designed for them the large beachfront bungalow situated on the corner of Beach Street and the Esplanade.

The Grange Golf Club opened in 1927 with the granting by the State Government of a 21 year lease for the property 'The Pinery'.

The Advertiser reported in early 1932 that ambulances had attended to 61 injured children at Grange Beach between Christmas and New Year.

Grange Hockey Club won its first A-grade premiership in 1937.

Captain Charles Sturt's former property 'The Grange' was purchased by Henley & Grange Council in 1956 and the Charles Sturt Memorial Museum Trust was established. Refer below for more information on how you can visit this important property.

Henley & Grange, which had separated from Woodville in 1915, was proclaimed a City in 1970. Following state-wide local government amalgamations in 1997 Henley & Grange joined with Hindmarsh-Woodville to form the City of Charles Sturt.

The Grange Surf Lifesaving Club rooms were extended in 1981 at a cost of \$100,000.

The Grange Primary School celebrated its centenary in 1983.

Want more information?

The **Henley & Grange Historical Society** is a voluntary organisation devoted to researching, interpreting, documenting and preserving the history and heritage of the Henley and Grange area.

The Society holds four general meetings a year, which feature news and guest speakers, and publishes an annual Journal which is provided free to all members. New members are always welcome.

In addition to the annual journal, the society has recently published a compilation journal 'Telling the Stories of Henley & Grange' featuring articles written over the last 30 years on the history of Henley & Grange. Copies of the journal are available for sale from the Henley Beach library for \$22.

Membership enquires can be made via Henley & Grange Historical Society, PO Box 56, Henley Beach SA 5022.

Charles Sturt Museum is located on Jetty Street, next to the Grange Primary School. 'The Grange' and its nationally significant collection of original furniture and possessions have been carefully restored by the Charles Sturt Memorial Museum Trust. The Museum can be visited on the first and third Sundays of each month from 2pm to 5pm. Mid-week tours for groups can be arranged. The extensive grounds can be hired for weddings, photography and gardens.

Phone: (08) 8356 8185 or 8356 5270 (for bookings)

Function Enquiries: (08) 8356 9686 or email: markethistory@bigpond.com

Sources

'From Sand and Swamp to Seaside City: A Chronicle of the Henley & Grange Area, 1836-1986' by the Henley & Grange Historical Society.