



## Memorialising Methuen

Category:

**AUSTRALIAN STONE**  
**Sculpture/Public Art**

Category:

**Sculpture & Public Art**

Sculptor:

**Robert Wagner of J. H. Wagner & Sons of Toowoomba**

Stone:

**Grandee Grey Granite with a bluestone base**

Design:

**J. H. Wagner & Sons**

Following the passing of Methuen “Uen” Morgan, his family contracted J.H. Wagner & Sons to create a permanent memorial, which would be situated at the family property. The items chosen were Methuen’s hat, boots and spurs, and saddle complete with stirrups, girth strap, quart pot, whip and saddle bag.

J.H. Wagner created a design that placed special emphasis on the boots, and in particular, the split at the front crown of a well-worn hat. Australian Grandee Grey granite was chosen for the fine-grain quality of the stone and its ability to achieve contrast between areas of polished, honed, sandblasted, sawn and chiselled finishes. The sculpture was designed for completion from one solid block of granite to ensure that the Morgan’s young grandchildren could sit on the saddle without concern of breakage.

All processing of the granite from rough out, sculpting, and final detailing was completed at the Toowoomba factory of J.H. Wagner & Sons. Robert Wagner commenced stonemasonry in 1982 and has since worked in all areas of the trade from monumental works, quarrying, processing, commercial and domestic installation works, export marketing, factory management and public artworks. He carried out all of the sculpting works for this project.

The sculpture has various finishes including polished, honed, sandblasted, frosting, chiselled and split. It is a full 1:1 scale. The saddle sculpture was installed by Wagner onto a Toowoomba Bluestone (Basalt) irregular split walling plinth at the family property, located at Condamine, west of Toowoomba. J. H. Wagner & Sons commenced trading in 1896. 