

Cemeteries Conservation Management Plan

VOLUME 2 – INDIVIDUAL CEMETERIES

SEPTEMBER 2021



Cover Image: Grave of William Johnston - Johnston Family (Barnsley) Cemetery (Courtesy: Matthew Johnston)



1. OVERVIEW

This Lake Macquarie City Council Cemeteries Conservation Management Plan comprises three volumes: Volume 1 provides an overview of the cemeteries, addresses issues and constraints and provides policy advice, Volume 2 (this volume) details each of the cemeteries in alignment with the NSW State Heritage Inventory and Volume 3, contains the results of archival recording and digital mapping.

Item name	Address	Section
Belmont Cemetery	Green Street, Belmont	1
Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery	8 Northwood Road, Catherine Hill Bay	2
Johnston (Barnsley) Family Cemetery	14A Taylor Ave, Barnsley	3
Martinsville Cemetery	200 Martinsville Road, Martinsville	4
Morisset Cemetery	36 Ettalong Road, Morisset	5
Toronto Cemetery	354 Awaba Road, Toronto	6
West Wallsend Cemetery	Cemetery Road, West Wallsend	7
Whitebridge Cemetery	132a Dudley Road	8
Wyee Cemetery	10 Cemetery Road, Wyee	9



Belmont Cemetery
SEPTEMBER 2021



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1. BACKGROUND

The Lake Macquarie City Council Cemeteries Conservation Management Plan (2021) comprises three volumes - Volume 1 provides generic information on cemetery management, Volume 2 details each of the cemeteries under the management of Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC), while Volume 3 is an archival recording report of the cemeteries.

The focus of this report, which forms part of Volume 2, is Belmont Cemetery (Figure 1).

1.1. Project area

Item name:	Belmont Cemetery
Address:	Green Street, Belmont
Property description:	Lots 1697, 1731, DP 755233
Heritage listing:	Unlisted

1.2. Milestones

Established: 18 October 1879

Earliest known burial: 18 August 1879

Management transfer to LMCC: Post 1967

1.3. Author and acknowledgements

Laraine Nelson (Nelson Heritage Consulting) conducted site inspections and is the author of this document. All images unless otherwise attributed are by the author.

The author is indebted to the assistance provided by:

- Vicki-anne Williamson. Local historian and author, on the history of Belmont Cemetery. Vicki-anne also kindly provided research undertaken for the cemetery publications
- Deadre Ham, a foundation member of the "Friends of Belmont Cemetery"
- Judy Messiter, Lake Macquarie Library - Local History
- Darrell Rigby. Heritage Archaeology and Planning. Cover photo

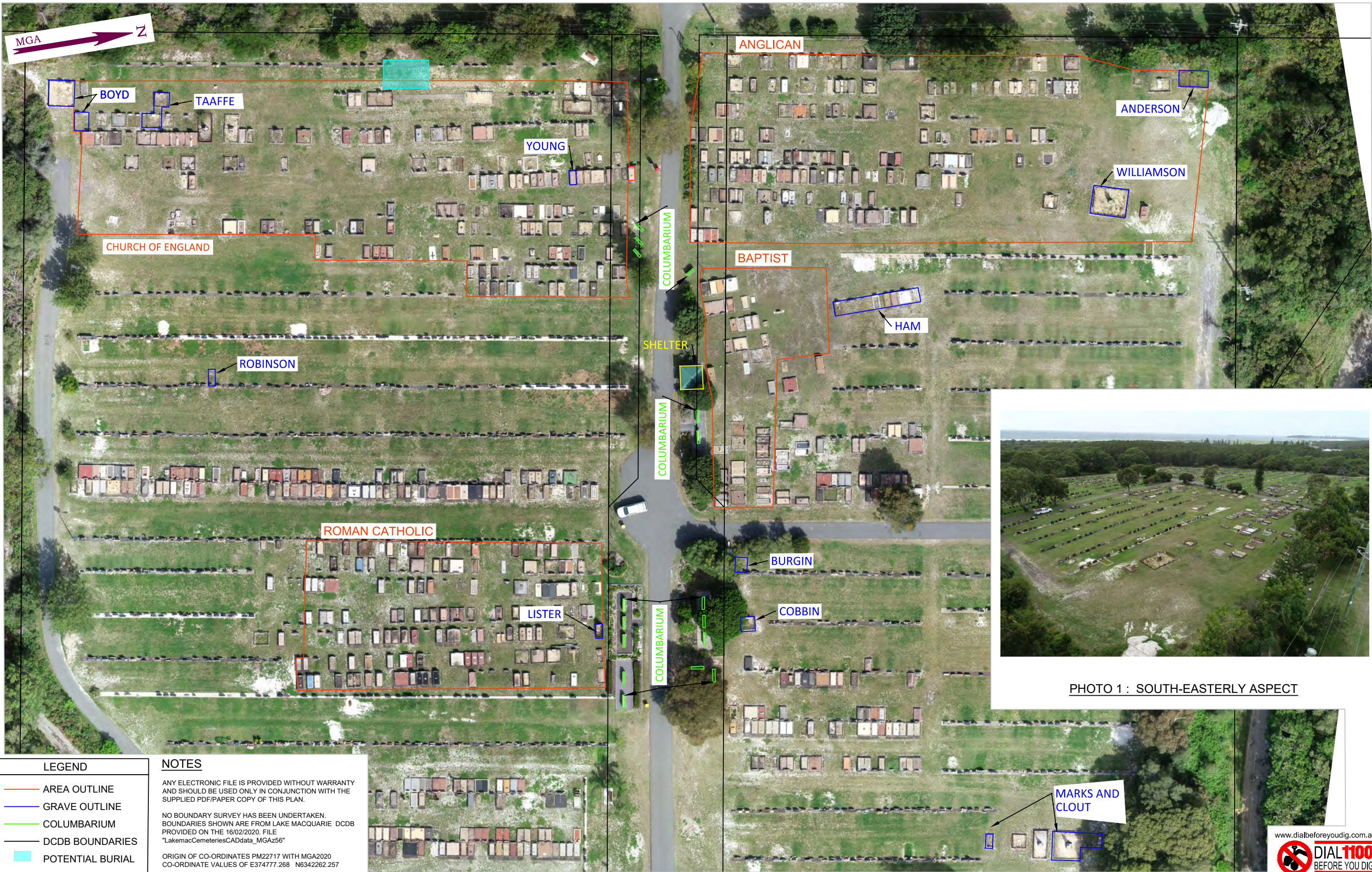


PHOTO 1 : SOUTH-EASTERLY ASPECT

LEGEND			
—	AREA OUTLINE		
—	GRAVE OUTLINE		
—	COLUMBARIUM		
—	DCDB BOUNDARIES		
	POTENTIAL BURIAL		

NOTES

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NO BOUNDARY SURVEY HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN. BOUNDARIES SHOWN ARE FROM LAKE MACQUARIE DCDB PROVIDED ON THE 16/02/2020. FILE "LakemacCemeteriesCADdata_MGAz56"

ORIGIN OF CO-ORDINATES PM22717 WITH MGA2020 CO-ORDINATE VALUES OF E374777.268 N6342262.257

26/03/2021			AMENDED TEXT			DA	JPM	JPM	■ SCALE: 1:600	■ DATUM: N/A	■ SCALE BAR: <div><div></div><div>12</div><div>6</div><div>0</div><div>12</div><div>24</div><div>36</div></div> Metres	■ CLIENT: <div><div></div><div>HERITAGE ARCHAEOLOGY</div><div>PLANNING</div></div>	■ SURVEY: RJS	DATE OF SURVEY: 17-02-2021	■ TITLE <div>SURVEY PLAN OF BELMONT CEMETERY</div>	■ JOB No PR149135	■ ISS C
B	3/2/2021	REVISED FEATURES			RJS	DSR	JPM	■ ORIGIN: MGA	■ CROSS SECTION:	■ DRAWN: SWA			DATE OF PLAN: 01-03-2021				
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■ SHEET 1 of 1 SHEETS																	



2. DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

This history of Belmont Cemetery has relied on several detailed and authoritative documents. In chronological order they comprise:

- Splatt, Josie (1980) Belmont Cemetery
- Ranger, Kim (1999) Belmont Cemetery
- Lake Macquarie Family History Group (2006) Belmont Cemetery. An index of memorials. 2006.
- Williamson, Vicki-anne (2018) Missing and Memorable Burials Belmont General Cemetery, East Lake Macquarie.

Additional information has been sourced from original documents, newspaper accounts (Trove) and local histories. Vicki-anne Williamson and Deadre Ham, authors and contributors to several documents listed above, provided valuable background information.

This report does not seek to replicate those detailed studies.

2.1. Belmont

In 1825, Reverend Lancelot Threlkeld of the London Missionary Society, was granted 10,000 acres at Reid's Mistake (present-day Belmont) to establish a mission for local Aboriginal people. The mission was short lived and beset with many issues, by 1828, Threlkeld had departed, and the mission closed (Clouten 1967:21-27). The area remained largely abandoned until the 1860s when Thomas Williamson, John Anderson and Henry Marks settled in the area. Williamson saw the potential for tourism establishing a guesthouse he named 'Belmont'. In 1874, Belmont was described as having a small population, of not particularly prosperous timber-getters and fishermen with small selections. Coal mining had also been established on the northern extent of Belmont Bay. This economic pattern was to remain into the twentieth century (Clouten 1967: 166-177).

2.2. Belmont Cemetery

Land was first set aside for a cemetery by the Department of Lands on 18 October 1879 (Figure 2 and Figure 3). The first burial however, had already occurred, that of Annie Lister, on the 18 August 1879 in the Roman Catholic portion of the cemetery.

Belmont was the only cemetery in the eastern Lake Macquarie area until the establishment of cemeteries at Catherine Hill Bay (1894) and Whitebridge (1898). As a result, it was the place of interment for many of the area's early settlers.

The cemetery was established on what was been described as a sandy and bush covered knoll not far from the ocean. Much of the surrounding area is low lying. With limited higher ground selected for occupation during the early years of settlement, the sandhill on which the cemetery is located was probably one of the few remaining available high spots.



Cemetery at Belmont.

The following has been kindly handed to us for publication:—"Department of Lands, Sydney, 18th October, 1879. Sir.—With reference to the application presented by you for a grant of land at Belmont as a cemetery, I am directed to inform you that the Secretary for Lands has approved of the appropriation of 8 acres 1 rood 8 perches, being portion No. 338, at Lake Macquarie, in the parish of Kahibah, for the purpose in question.—I have, etc., W. W. STEPHEN. T. Hungerford, Esq., M.P., Sydney."

Figure 2 1879 'Cemetery at Belmont.'



Figure 3 Belmont Cemetery. Parish of Kahibah, County of Northumberland. 7th Edit. July 1908 (NSW Land Registry Service).

That sand however was to prove an impediment to a satisfactory cemetery access route. As early as 1900 there were petitions to government for a satisfactory road from Kahibah to the north (1900 'KAHIBAH ELECTORATE.'). Again in 1908, the state of the road was an issue, it being declared in a dangerous state (1908 'DISTRICT NEWS.'). Funds to replace the cemetery fence destroyed during a bushfire were raised by a social event in 1909 (1909 'SWANSEA.').



In 1921, it was reported that many of the graves were in good repair. Volunteers had worked to clear trees and undergrowth; however, the scrub had reappeared. Bushfires in 1921, and again in 1923, had destroyed fences and grates resulting in damage caused by cattle grazing in the cemetery. The community however, had played a significant role in managing the cemetery, with social events, working bees and 'lady collectors' all working to aid its management (1921 'BELMONT CEMETERY' and 1923 'BELMONT CEMETERY').

In 1924, Lake Macquarie Shire Council debated the use of Ethel, Clara or Arthur Street as the primary road access, with Arthur Street on the southern end favoured (1924 'LAKE MACQUARIE SHIRE',).

Despite numerous reports on the cemetery road's poor condition little appears to have been achieved. In 1925, Councillor Marks commented that to bury his father he had to employ labourers for two days to cut a path through the bush. While Mr James Murray, funeral director wrote that he was unable to use his motor hearse (1925 "DISGRACE TO COMMUNITY",).

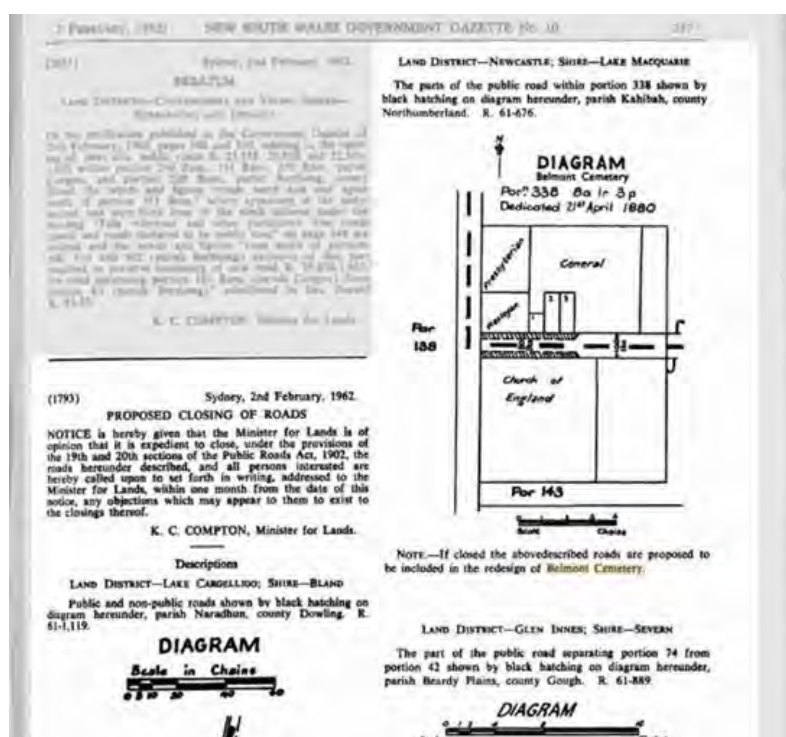
The condition of the road remained a regular topic in the local paper for several years.

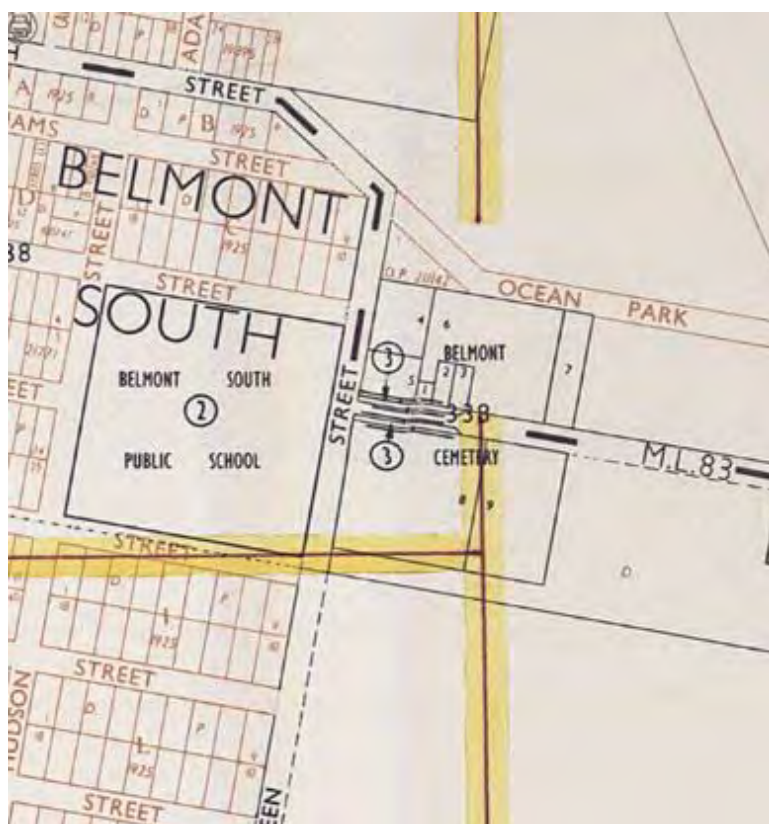
A further issue was the condition of the cemetery itself. In 1934, a public meeting was convened to discuss how to rectify its deplorable condition, with timber fences removed for firewood and areas overgrown by bush. A successful request was made to Council for assistance under the emergency relief work scheme (1934 'BELMONT').

In 1946, a meeting of the Belmont Combined Cemetery Trust viewed plans for a new Church of England section. It was also decided that all plans for kerb and headstones had to be submitted for approval to ensure the correct alignment. A further issue addressed was the removal of sand from the bank, which was resulting in its collapse (1946 'NEW SECTION FOR BELMONT CEMETERY',).

An aerial photograph of the Belmont Cemetery from 1952 (Figure 4) shows the cemetery as modest in size with most burials in the Anglican and Presbyterian/ Wesleyan sections. This is consistent with the sexton records showing few interments demonstrated by: 1944 (4 burials); 1945 (3 burials) 1946 (nil); 1947 (1 burial); 1948 (3 burials); 1949 (6 burials); 1950 (2 burials); 1951 (5 burials); 1952 (7 burials) (LMCC Archives).

In 1962, a proposal to close portions of the road was announced (1962 'PROPOSED CLOSING OF ROADS'). In October 1965 (Figure 6) the number 3, indicates the area was dedicated for cemetery purposes. This was in accordance with the Government Gazette advice of closure of the road through the cemetery (1965 'NOTIFICATION OF CLOSING OF ROADS',)





CEMETERY ALLOTMENTS					
Areas in square metres unless otherwise shown					
Allot.	Plan	Vol.	Fol.	Area	Denomination etc
1	Ms. 3529 Md.			208.6	Jewish
2	Ms. 3529 Md.			442.6	Independent
3	Ms. 3529 Md.			442.6	Baptist
4	C 769 1984			2276	Presbyterian
5	769 1984			1391	Wesleyan
6	769 1984			7365	General
7	769 1984			1998	Primitive Methodist
8	769 1984			1.012 ha.	Church of England
9	769 1984			6070	Roman Catholic

Figure 6 Belmont Cemetery. Parish of Kahibah. County of Northumberland 15th edit. 6 September 1977. (NSW Land Registry Service)



Figure 7 Belmont Cemetery Roman Catholic - Rows 10 and 11 -1988 and present day

Photographs taken during the installation of the beams during cemetery works in 1988 shows the significant change that has occurred since that time.

2.2.2 Local Government (Control of Cemeteries) Amendment Act, 1966

In 1967, the *Local Government (Control of Cemeteries) Amendment Act, 1966* became operational. That Act transferred trusteeship of cemeteries to local councils. For Belmont Cemetery a short document was provided to assist in the handover of responsibilities.

The Sexton, Mr William MacDonald of Pelican Flat, provided a comprehensive plan of the cemetery and advised that the old sections of the cemetery had been closed to all but those with reserved plots. The cemetery plan would be available at the Shire Office and when required the Council's Surveyor would set out new burial plots with minimum dimensions of 8' x 4' (2.43 m x 1.21 m). The Old Section was to be clearly marked with rows shown in alphabetical order and plots in numerical order. Further advice was provided around new burials (LMCC Archives – Belmont Cemetery).

2.2.3 City of Lake Macquarie Heritage Study (1992-1993)

The City of Lake Macquarie Heritage Study [Suters, Doring, Turner (1992-1993)] does not include Belmont Cemetery.

2.2.4 Friends of Belmont Cemetery

The 'Friends of Belmont Cemetery' group, formed in 2000, has been diligent in the care and beautification of the cemetery. At its peak there were twenty-eight members mowing, planting, weeding and watering the graves. Stalwarts of the group are Bill and Deadre Ham who ensure that each night the cemetery gates are locked to hinder vandalism (Lake Macquarie Family History Group 2006). The group has also been active in recording and publishing indexes to memorials and information on those interred. While the group remains active, in recent years the number of participating members has declined.



2.3. Cemetery overview

2.3.1 Representative burials

The burials selected below, in alphabetical order, include early settlers and represent a cross section of the Belmont community.

Table 1 Representative burials

Name	Memorial
Anderson, John (1836-1925) and Grace (1840-1917) A pioneering family. Settled at Belmont in 1864 on land adjoining Williamson, establishing dairy and orchard at what was to be called Andersons Hill. First teacher at Provisional School. Established a coach service to Newcastle in 1877 (Clouten 1967:167-175).	
Boyd, Thomas (1833-1903) and Eliza (1838-1923) A pioneering family, first white settlers at Swansea. Thomas Boyd, together with John Taaffe, settled at Galgabba (present-day Swansea) in 1853. Boyd was an exceptional mariner, boat builder in addition to operating trading boats on the Lake. In 1883, he was the first pilot appointed to Swansea Heads. The Boyd family remained synonymous with boat building until the 1950s (Belmont Cemetery 2006).	
Burgin, Albert (Alby) (1915-2008) Renowned sailor, Burgin competed 31 in the Sydney to Hobart Races winning it twice and became the oldest race skipper (84 years). Numerous race wins including the solo New Zealand to Australia yacht race and the Bicentennial Around Australia yacht race in 1988. (Alby Burgin).	
Clout, Betty (1929-1932) Betty Clout, a child, had wandered away from a local home on 10 May 1932. With a blackmail letter received the case had significant news coverage as she was feared kidnapped. Her body was found on 31 May 1932 in dense undergrowth close to where she disappeared. She had died from exposure and exhaustion (1932 'LONELY DEATH').	



Name	Memorial
<p>Lister, Annie (1848-1879)</p> <p>First interment in August 1879, the burial took place before the land was formally set aside for a cemetery in October 1879. Annie was the second wife of Matthew Lister, the proprietor of the Ship Inn, Newcastle. Annie died at John Anderson's home 'Bellevue'. Two pine trees, planted at 'Bellevue' were donated by Matthew in her memory (Lake Macquarie Family History Group).</p>	
<p>Marks, Albert (1883-1912)</p> <p>A member of the Marks family, Albert, a miner together with his brother-in-law was killed in a roof fall mine accident at Wallarah Coal Co. mine, Catherine Hill Bay (1912 'MINING FATALITY.').</p>	
<p>Marks, Family - Henry, Charles and Maurice</p> <p>A pioneering family. Henry Marks had settled in the area prior to 1870 and owned a coach service operating between Newcastle and Belmont. Charles and Maurice Marks were amongst petitioners for a school for their children in 1873. Both were fisherman, an important occupation. John Marks, son of Charles was one of three men drowned whilst fishing. Maurice gave land for the Methodist Church. The family gave their name to Marks Point (Clouten 1967:171; Maurice Marks; 1883 'Sad Boating Fatality.').</p>	
<p>Robinson, Roland (1912-1992)</p> <p>A poet first published in 1944, he was part of a group that promoted indigenous Australian ideas and customs. He travelled extensively in the outback in support of Aboriginal people. Awards: Patrick White Prize 1974; Emeritus Professor -Literature Board of the Australia Council 1982; Order of Australia 1988; Honorary Doctor of Letters, University of Newcastle University 1991; Freeman of the City of Lake Macquarie 1991 (Roland Robinson).</p>	



Name

Memorial

Taaffe, John (1855-1927) and Victoria (1849-1934)

A pioneering family, first white settlers at Swansea. While skilled in boating, Taaffe was also a farmer with a landholding at Chain Valley 'Plain' and Point Wolstoncroft. Owner of the Pelican Flat (Swansea) Hotel (Belmont Cemetery 2006). Thomas and John Taaffe married Freeman sisters (Freeman Waterholes, western Lake Macquarie).



Williamson, Thomas (1831-1880) and Elizabeth (1837-1899)

A pioneering family. A resident of the area by 1864, Belmont was named after his guesthouse 'Belmont', later the Belmont Hotel. He was the postmaster (1877-1880), a private school was established in his premises in 1873. 'Belmont' was the commercial hub of the area. When Thomas died in 1880, Elizabeth assumed the role as postmistress (Clouten 1967:167-176).





3. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Belmont Cemetery, located on a small hill surrounded by coastal vegetation, presents an attractive appearance. The cemetery is bounded to the north by DP211142 Lot 3, only 0.3 hectares in size it is part of the much larger and physically unconnected Belmont Wetlands State Park. The northern boundary, Ocean Park Road, provides a 4WD access road to the nearby Nine Mile Beach.

Section 3.1 provides detail on features of the cemetery with Section 3.2 describing distinctive elements of the cemetery.

3.1. Key elements of Belmont Cemetery

The following describes the key elements of Belmont Cemetery in terms of general appearance (*Location, views and vistas; Landscape, gardens and plantings; Design and layout*), memorials (*Headstones and grave furniture; Memorial features – columbaria, Memorial Walls and chapels*) and infrastructure (*Gates and fences; Signage, Other structures - shelters, roads, seating water supply, drainage, security, lighting*) with the following terminology used:

Description: derived from the site inspection this is a brief description of the element.

Analysis: an overview of how the element contributes to or detracts from the heritage significance.

Ranking: high, moderate or low - the element's value in contributing to the heritage significance.

LOCATION, VIEWS AND VISTAS

Description: Access via Green Street, Belmont South.

The cemetery, 1.75 km south of the centre of the Belmont is situated east of the Belmont South residential area. The cemetery is bounded to the north, east and south by coastal bushland, while on the western side, Green Street provides the only access road. A 'no through road' Green Street is planted with mature trees and shrubs. Within the cemetery, and from the internal access road, the view broadens to include native coastal vegetation. The cemetery has a spacious appearance aided by its location on a low rise.

Analysis: The bush surrounds are a defining feature of several LMCC cemeteries. The bushland provides a visual reference to the boundaries of the place and creates a quiet space and acts as a barrier to external development and modern bustle. The spacious, open layout together with the surrounding native vegetation is a significant and attractive feature.

Ranking: High



View from the entrance gates



View north-east



View south



LANDSCAPE, GARDENS and PLANTINGS

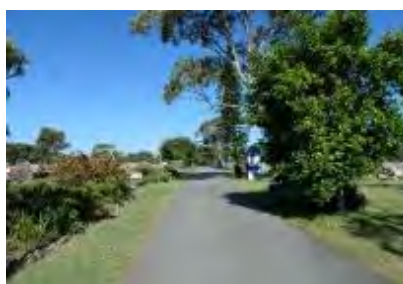
Description: Around the columbaria and memorial boulders are small decorative gardens. The most significant plantings are the mature Norfolk Island pines and eucalypts, while along the western fence line area several mature species including banksia, eucalypts. The columbaria and small gardens adjacent the internal access road include a mixture of native species such as Callistemon and introduced species including geranium, agapanthus, lavender, rosemary and succulents. The eclectic plant combinations indicate the gardens are likely a result of planting by the public rather than by horticultural staff.

Analysis: The modest gardens suit the nature of the cemetery. The long-term retention of mature trees is important. The success of native species in the sandy soil encourages further plantings of similar types.

Ranking: High



Mature Norfolk Island pine.



Internal access road - mature eucalypts centre.



Garden planting associated with columbaria.

DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Description: A traditional grid layout with designated sections for denominational and non-denominational burials, in contrast to the Judeo-Christian norm several earlier graves face south. A central sealed road continues along the eastern and southern boundaries. The earliest graves are located at the furthest extremities of the cemetery according to denomination (Anderson - Presbyterian north-west corner; Boyd - Anglican, south-west corner; Marks - Primitive Methodist north-east corner). Since the 1980s beams have been used for new interment areas.

Analysis: The cemetery has a layout that is consistent with other cemeteries investigated as part of this project.

Ranking: High



Note: graves are facing south



Modern beam layout



HEADSTONES AND GRAVE FURNITURE

Description: The headstones overall are modest and typical of the other cemeteries assessed. Headstones dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century are often upright stele in style and in many instances with cast iron fence surrounds. Towards the mid twentieth century lower profile headstones became more common sometimes including a concrete or sandstone surround to delineate the grave. From the 1980s beam interments were the norm.

Analysis: Representative of the transition of headstone styles from the late nineteenth century to the present day. In terms of management, the earliest stele headstone and cast-iron surrounds are most vulnerable to damage resulting from their age, style and type of material. That risk of damage decreases with the lower profile mid-late twentieth century headstones with the beam style headstone by nature most resilient to damage.

Ranking: High



Late nineteenth to early twentieth century headstone.



Mid-late twentieth century headstones.



Late twentieth century beam headstones.

MEMORIAL FEATURES – COLUMBARIA, MEMORIAL WALLS AND CHAPELS

Description: Belmont Cemetery has both memorial walls and columbaria, but no chapel. In recent years, the growing popularity of cremation has led to a demand for columbaria.

Analysis: The memorial walls and columbaria have been introduced to the cemetery since 2000. Their style is utilitarian and not conducive to the low-key appearance of the headstones.

Ranking: Low



Memorial boulder



Columbaria



GATES AND FENCES

Description: Belmont Cemetery has an aluminium entrance gate that replicates an earlier cast iron style. The gates stand-alone without a complimentary fence. The gates are locked each night and re-opened in the morning by a member of the 'Friends of Belmont Cemetery' who lives close by. The fence on the western side is of treated pine and wire. Sections of the southern and eastern fence are of steel and wire fence, likely intended to stop access via 4WD or motorbikes, however during the inspection a motorbike rider was observed riding along the rows.

Analysis: The gates and fences overall appear adequate to their task; however, one section was noted as providing access for motorbikes.

Ranking: Moderate



Entrance gate



Entrance gate with sign



Fencing parallel to Green Street

SIGNAGE

Description: The large Council erected entrance sign is consistent with all others for Lake Macquarie Cemeteries. A sign on the front gate, possibly placed by the 'Friends of Belmont Cemetery' is in poor condition and has a significant spelling error.

There are sign indicating denomination however there are no row markers.

Analysis: The Council sign is consistent to all cemeteries.

The front gate sign would be best removed. A more comprehensive sign that contains information such as: a plan of the cemetery layout, a brief history, information on graves of note and contact details for the 'Friends of Belmont Cemetery' (if they are agreeable) is warranted.

Ranking: Low





OTHER STRUCTURES, SHELTERS, SEATING, WATER SUPPLY, DRAINAGE, SECURITY, LIGHTING

Description: Belmont Cemetery has a single shelter adjacent a parking area. There are several garden seats throughout the cemetery. Water (not potable) is available. Drainage is adequate as the cemetery is located on a sandhill. Security is bolstered by the nightly gate closure. Security lights are present.

Analysis: The infrastructure is adequate and appropriate

Ranking: Low



Shelter with flood light visible



Seating



Water

3.2. Distinctive elements

3.2.1 Burial place of early settlers

Belmont Cemetery is distinctive and notable as the burial place of many of the area's early settlers. Thomas Williamson, who gave Belmont its name, John Anderson (Andersons Hill); Maurice Marks (Marks Point); Mathew Cobbin (establishing the local Methodist Church) Cornelius Moynahan (early ship builder) while from Swansea - Thomas Boyd (renowned ship builders); John Taafe (who arrived with Thomas Boyd in 1853); and John Ham (Hams Beach) (Lake Macquarie Family History Group 2006:iii-x).

3.2.2 Unmarked graves

Most cemeteries, including Belmont, have unmarked graves. The cost of erecting an enduring memorial was significant, often a wooden cross was installed that has disappeared over time. The only record of the interment's name being found amongst sextant or funeral director documents; however, these were not always accurate and, in many instances, have been lost.

3.3. Historical archaeological potential

LMCC Cemetery Conservation Management Plan, Volume 1 provides detail on statutory provisions regarding archaeological relics. This section considers the potential for historical archaeological evidence to remain. All cemeteries by nature contain archaeological relics, while the location of most is identifiable, there remain areas where graves are no longer marked that are not obvious. Cemeteries may also contain evidence of past structures and features such as buildings, fences, paths and roads. Figure 1 shows a small area of potential burials. This mapping was developed from the drone images and reflects a visible but unmarked pattern of potential graves. It is possible there may be remnants of previous fences and paths. There was no indication of buildings present.



3.4. Key issues

The following are considered the key issues:

- Condition of several early graves (Anderson, Williamson)
- Lack of signage
- Location of soil overburden adjacent the Anderson Family Cemetery
- Dwindling numbers of active 'Friends of Belmont Cemetery' members
- Environmental factors - impact of fires, storms, etc.



4. SIGNIFICANCE

4.1. Assessing cultural heritage significance

LMCC Cemetery Conservation Management Plan, Volume 1 provides detail on the process of assessing cultural heritage significance under the Assessing Heritage Significance Manual (NSW Heritage Office 2001)

Historical (Criterion A)

An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Belmont Cemetery provides physical evidence of the growth and development of the Belmont area. The layout of the cemetery reflects an early emphasis on the importance of religion to the community and economic prosperity resulting in significant headstones. Historical significance is evident in the recording of family names and individuals who contributed to the community and its development.

Belmont Cemetery meets Criterion A.

Associative (Criterion B)

An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Belmont Cemetery, as the earliest cemetery in east Lake Macquarie, is associated with many of the early settlers. Those settlers and their families, such as Williamson, Anderson, Taafe, Boyd and Marks are linked to current place names. Industries, such as fishing and shipbuilding critical to development in the early years, were largely established by those settlers.

Belmont Cemetery meets Criterion B.

Aesthetic/Technical (Criterion C)

An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).

Belmont Cemetery is a typical cemetery with modest headstones and grave furniture.

Belmont Cemetery does not meet Criterion C.

Social (Criterion D)

An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

Belmont Cemetery, as a principal place of burial for the area since the late nineteenth century, has a special association for social and spiritual reasons for the local community. It plays an important role in the ability to remember and honour deceased families and friends.

Belmont Cemetery meets Criterion D.

Research (Criterion E)

An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Belmont Cemetery has high social research potential. The cemetery (1878 to present day) provides an opportunity for investigation through memorial types and inscriptions. A multi layered approach to local history research can be developed through an investigation of headstone details, a resource that includes all age groups and levels of society. Women in the nineteenth and early twentieth century



were often only referred to in print by their husband's name, cemetery headstones provide those women with an identity.

Belmont Cemetery meets Criterion E.

Rarity (Criterion F)

An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Belmont Cemetery is a typical cemetery serving a local community.

Belmont Cemetery does not meet Criterion F.

Representative (Criterion G)

An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places, or cultural or natural environments. (or a class of the local area).

Belmont Cemetery is representative of a small general cemetery in NSW that has evolved from the late nineteenth century through to the present day. That progressive development is demonstrated in the changing nature of headstones and inscriptions and reflects changes to burial practices over that timeframe.

Belmont Cemetery meets Criterion G.

Integrity /intactness: Belmont Cemetery fulfills this criterion.

4.2. Statement of significance

Belmont Cemetery, established in 1879, was the principal cemetery for the town and surrounding area. The cemetery illustrates the growth and development of a small community on eastern Lake Macquarie providing evidence of occupations, demography and the social composition of east Lake Macquarie. The cemetery is significant as the last resting place of many of the area's early settlers. The cemetery, while modest in size and type, with its layout and range of headstones demonstrates the evolution of burial practices since the nineteenth century.

4.3. Grading of significance

The rationale for significance grading is in accordance with the NSW Heritage Manual Assessing Heritage Significance (NSW Heritage Office 2000) with an explanation of the gradings found in Volume 1.

The grading seeks to identify the features of Belmont Cemetery that contribute to its significance.

Table 2 Graded elements of Belmont Cemetery

Grading	Cemetery elements
Exceptional	Headstones associated with early east Lake Macquarie settlers
High	Rectilinear grid layout, curtilage, all headstones, major trees
Moderate	Entrance gate,
Low	Columbaria, gardens, fences, shelter shed, water tank,
Intrusive	Garbage bins



4.4. Views and vistas

Conservation requires the retention of an appropriate visual setting and other relationships that contribute to the cultural significance of the place (Marquis-Kyle and Walker 2004:37). An important component of the cemetery is its landscape, the cemetery's border of dense coastal vegetation creates views and vistas that are unique to the space. Within the cemetery there are largely unrestricted views providing a sense of spaciousness.

4.5. Archaeological significance

Cemeteries by design hold archaeological potential. Belmont Cemetery has the potential to provide information on burial practices over time and the grave goods interred with them. Exhumations in older cemeteries has resulted in skeletal analysis that has provided extensive evidence on past populations. The archaeological significance of these burials is high.

There were no known other structures, other than possible previous fences, at the cemetery. The archaeological significance of such structures if they exist is low.



5. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

A discussion on the general recommendations about management guidelines can be found in Volume 1, the following table refers specifically to Belmont Cemetery.

Table 3 Management recommendations

Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommendation
Significance	Inclusion of Belmont Cemetery in the <i>Lake Macquarie Local Environment Plan 2014</i> - Clause 5.10 Heritage Conservation and Schedule 5 – Environmental heritage.	High	Update LMCC LEP (2014)
Views and vistas	Retention of views and vistas both within and external to cemetery	High	Maintain coastal vegetation boundary.
Landscape, vegetation, gardens and plantings	Maintain landscaping and plantings.	High	Undertake weeding, mowing and regular maintenance. Removal of tree limbs in danger of falling on headstones (western boundary).
Headstones and grave furniture		Moderate	Source funding for conservation works on older headstones. Conservation works in accordance with <i>National Trust Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .
Significant graves	Ensure retention of significant graves and headstones.	High	Source funding to undertake conservation works. Conservation works in accordance with <i>National Trust Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> . Investigate relocating the soil overburden from adjacent the Anderson family grave (north-western corner).
Unmarked burials	Identify unmarked burials to prevent inadvertent damage or disturbance.		Consider a GPR study, if required, to identify unmarked graves and identify areas for potential burial space.
Gates and fences	Retention of gates and fences	Low	Regular maintenance. An access point on the southern western corner of the cemetery used by motor bikes should be closed.



Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommendation
Signage	Maintain existing signage and provide additional signage.	Moderate	Remove sign on front gate and replace with a more comprehensive sign near entrance that includes a cemetery plan and brief historical detail on the cemetery, identifies graves of interest and acknowledges unmarked burials. Provide additional denomination/ row # signage at end of each row.
Heritage interpretation	Promotion as a source of historical and family information	High	Develop and install accurate, informative, engaging heritage interpretation sign/s.
Environmental factors	Fire and storms	High	Maintenance plans to include removal of hazardous trees and undergrowth, grass regularly mown in high-risk seasons.
'Friends of'	Engage community groups	Moderate	Encourage groups to advance heritage research on interments. Assist in grounds and memorial maintenance working under <i>National Trust Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .



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Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery

SEPTEMBER 2021



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1. BACKGROUND

The Lake Macquarie City Council Cemeteries Conservation Management Plan (2021) comprises three volumes - Volume 1 provides generic information on cemetery management, Volume 2 details each of the cemeteries under the management of Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC), while Volume 3 is an archival recording report of the cemeteries.

The focus of this report, which forms part of Volume 2, is Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery (Figure 1).

1.1. Project area

Item name:	Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery
Address:	8 Northwood Road, Catherine Hill Bay
Property description:	Lot 7079, DP 1029250
Heritage listing:	Local - Lake Macquarie Local Environment Plan 2014 (Schedule 5 – Environmental heritage) -Item I56; <i>and</i> -Catherine Hill Bay Conservation Area
	State - State Heritage Register -Catherine Hill Bay Cultural Precinct (SHR Item 01828)

1.2. Milestones

Established: Department of Lands. 9 March 1894. Eleven acres (4.5 hectare)

Extended: Wallarah Coal Company to the Trustees Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery. 14 February 1911.
Three acres (1.2 hectare) on the western side of cemetery.

Management transfer: Trustees, Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery to LMCC. 10 August 1971.

1.3. Author and acknowledgements

Laraine Nelson (Nelson Heritage Consulting) conducted site inspections and is the author of this document. All images unless otherwise attributed are by the author.

The author is indebted to the assistance provided by:

- Sue Whyte, President, Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association.
- Colleen House, Northwood family descendant and long-term Catherine Hill Bay resident.
- Judy Messiter, Lake Macquarie Library Local History Section.
- Darrell Rigby. Heritage Archaeology and Planning. Cover image

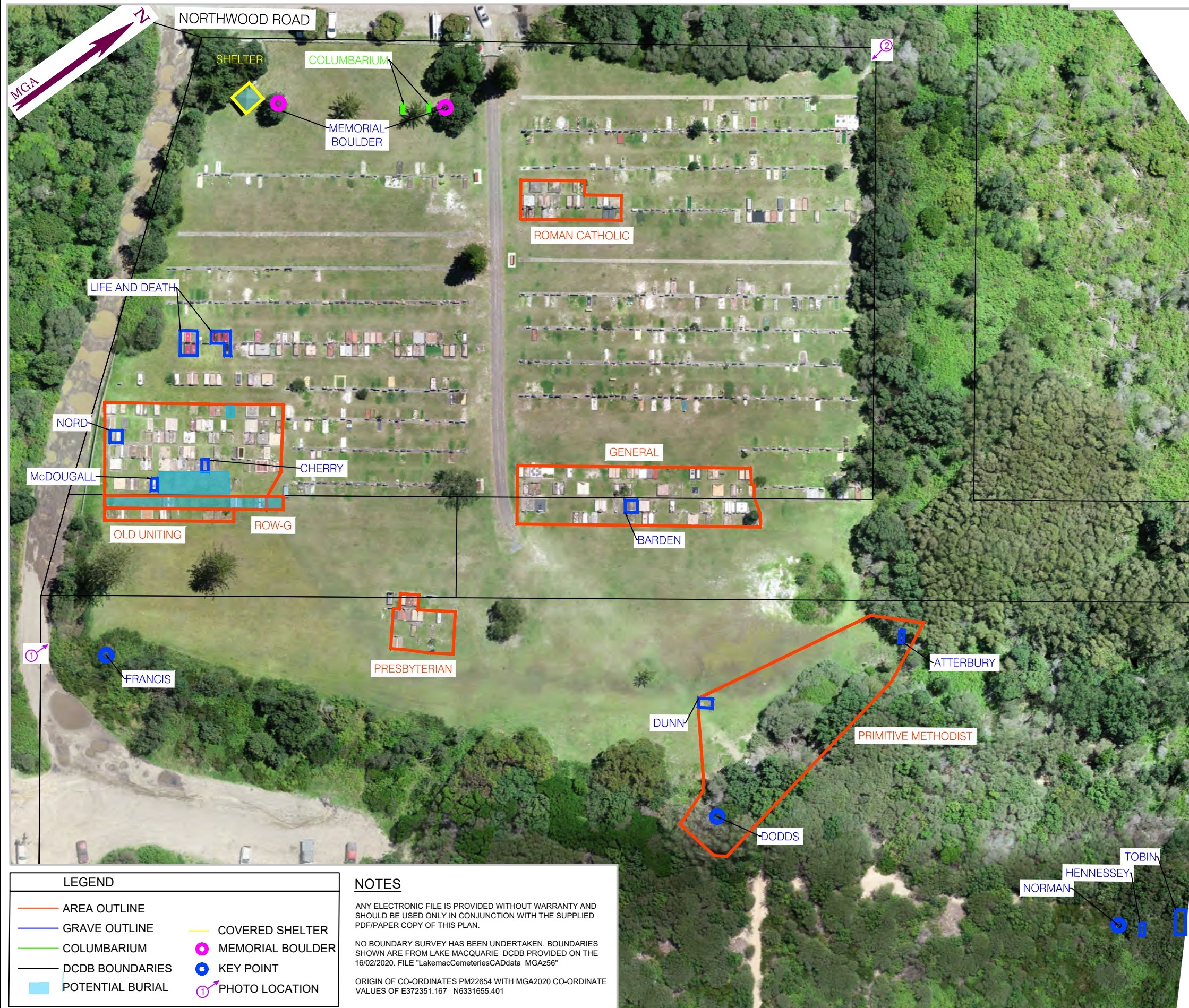


PHOTO 1: NORTHERN ASPECT



PHOTO 2: SOUTHERN ASPECT



REVISIONS	C	26/03/2021	TEXT AMENDMENT	DA	DSR	JPM	SCALE: 1:800	DATUM: N/A	CLIENT: HERITAGE ARCHAEOLOGY PLANNING	SURVEY: RJS DRAWN: RJS CHECKED: DSR APPROVED: JPM	DATE OF SURVEY: 17.02.2021 DATE OF PLAN: 02.03.2021 DATE LAST SAVED: 26.03.2021 DATE APPROVED: 02.03.2021	TITLE: SURVEY PLAN OF CATHERINE HILL BAY CEMETERY DWG No: 149135-CHB - AERIAL.dwg	JOB No: PR149135 SHEET 1 OF 1 SHEETS	ISSUE: C SIZE: A3
	B	09.03.2021	POTENTIAL BURIAL AREAS ADDED	SWA	DSR	JPM	COORDINATES: MGA	CROSS SECTION: V: N/A H: N/A						
	A	02.03.2021	INITIAL VERSION	RJS	DSR	JPM	ORIGIN: PM22654							
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Figure 3 1891 Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery (LMCC)

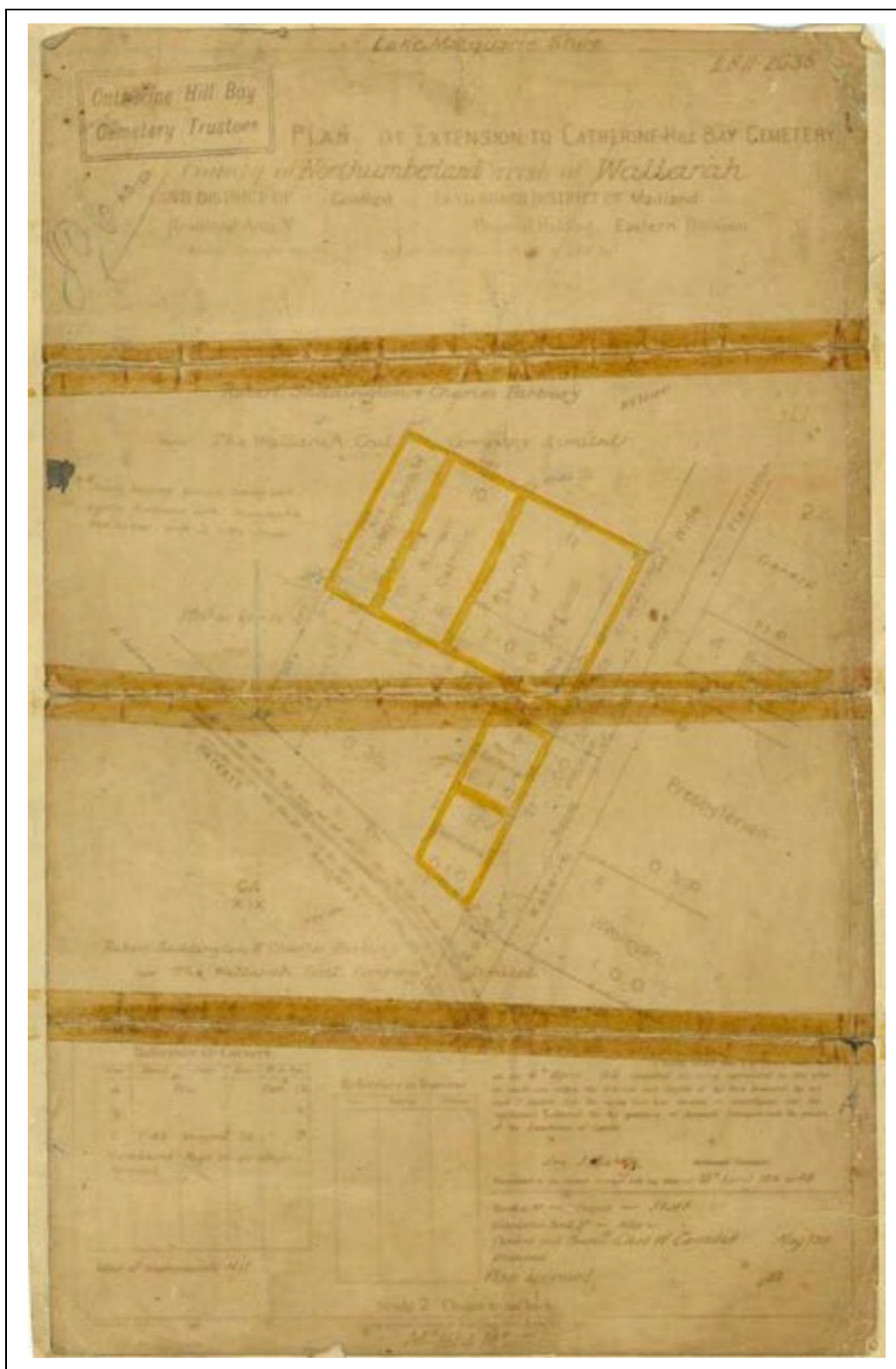


Figure 4 - May 1911 Plan for Cemetery extension (LMCC)

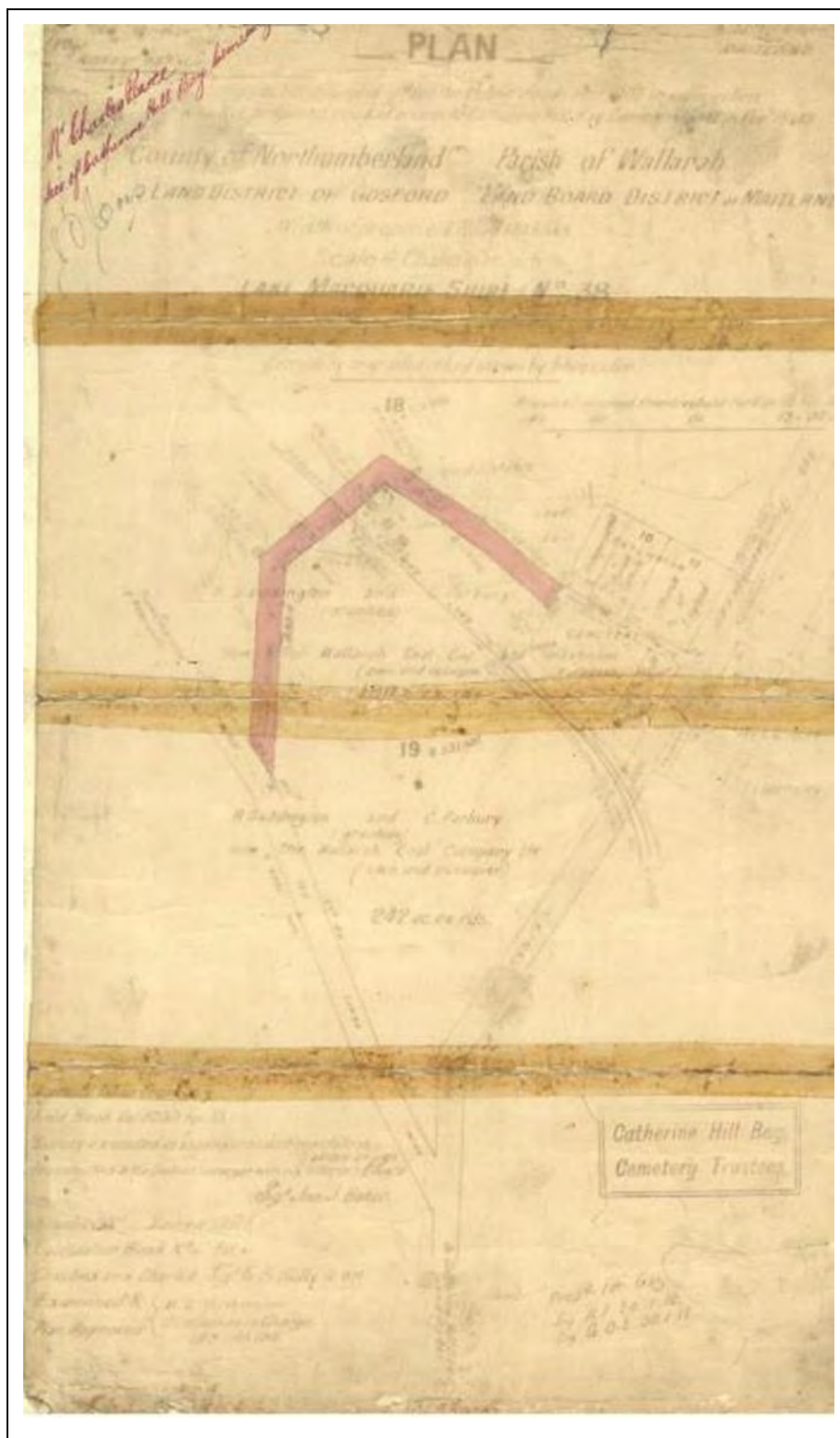


Figure 5 - September 1911 showing proposed road through Wallarah Coal Company land (LMCC)

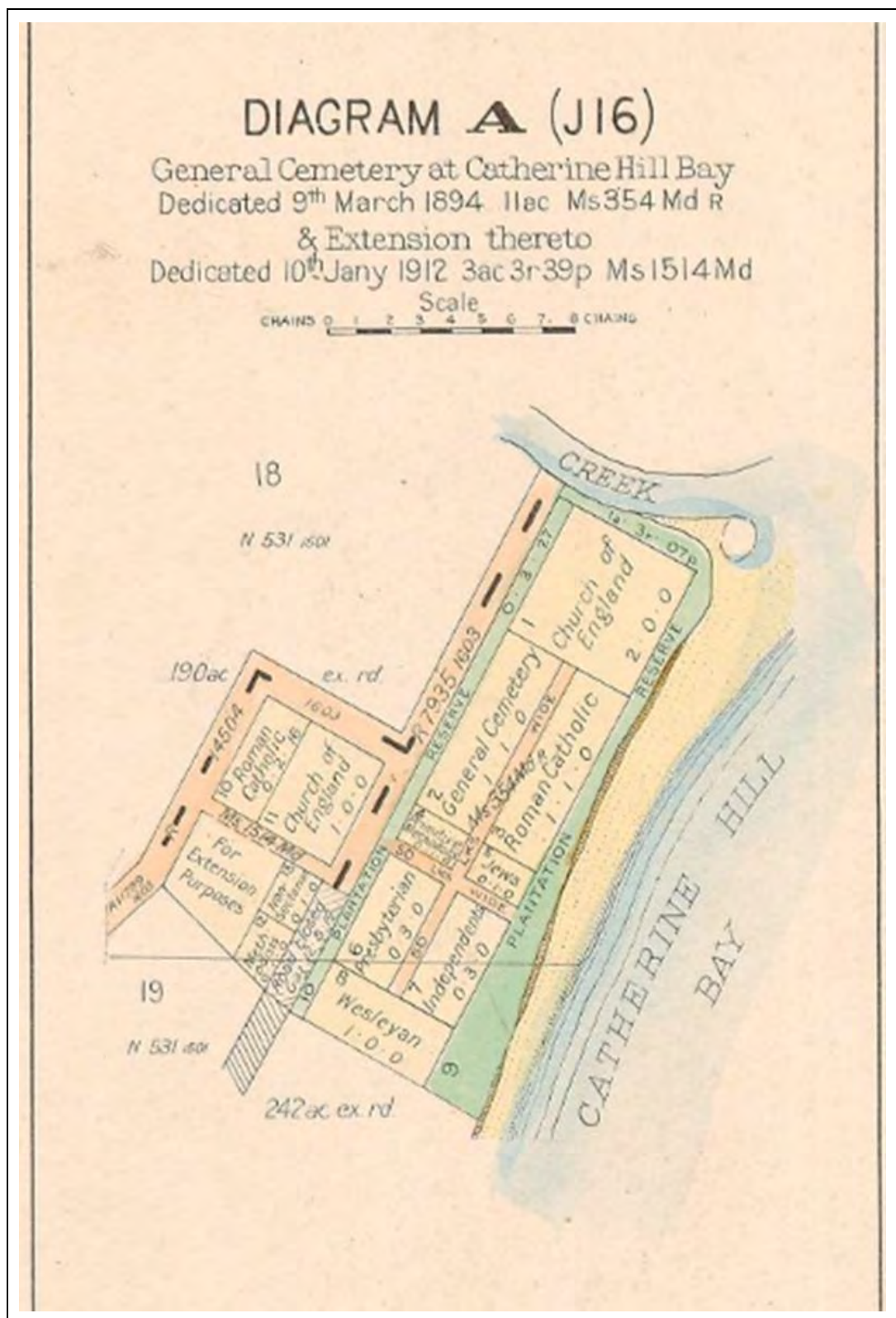


Figure 6 - Parish of Wallarah, County of Northumberland. LTO Charting Map. Sheet 3. Showing the 1912 cemetery extension and road closure (NSW Land Registry Service)

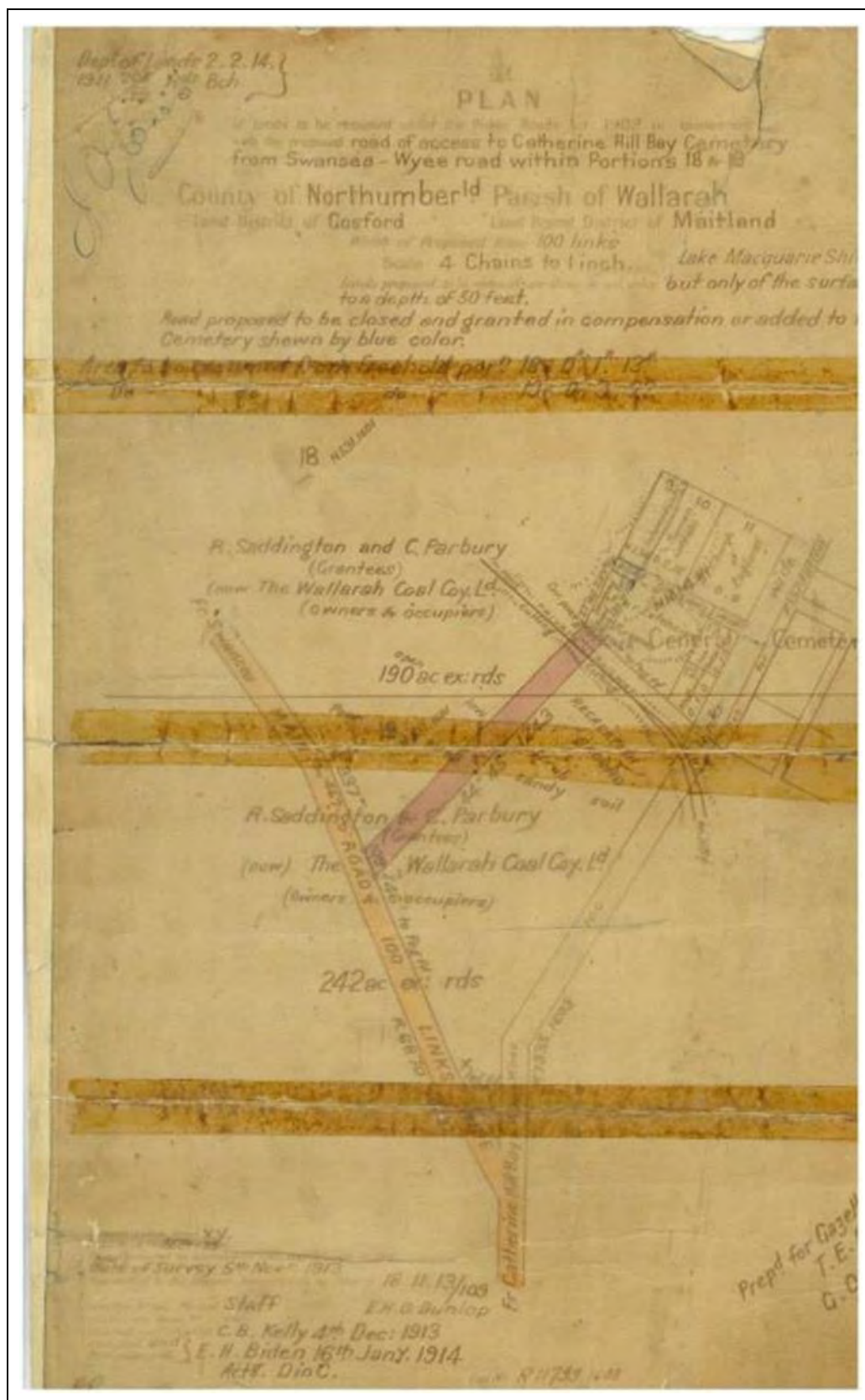


Figure 7 January 1914 with revised road to cemetery (LMCC)



2.2.1 Correspondence (February 1911 to January 1958)

This section of the report is drawn largely from correspondence between the Trustees, Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery (T- CHBC), Shire Clerk Lake Macquarie Shire Council (LMSC), Wallarah Coal Company (WCC) and National Minerals Limited (NM).

February 1911 to May 1914

A recurring issue, the adjacent beach, was identified as early as 1911. Windblown sand was encroaching on the cemetery and residents complained it was difficult to know where graves were located. This problem was solved when Wallarah Coal Company transferred approximately three acres (1.2 hectare) on the western side of the cemetery to the T- CHBC. The transfer was registered with the Land Titles Office on 14 February 1911 while fees for a proposed access road were forwarded to LMSC (1911 'CATHERINE HILL BAY.'). Figure 4 to Figure 7 show the development of the cemetery from 1911 to 1914 including the proposals for road access.

A meeting of the Cemetery Trustees May 1914 was advised that a new bylaw required all wooden railings in a cemetery must be 'of full size of section' - 8 feet x 8 feet (2.4 m x 2.4 m) or 8 feet x 4 feet (2.4 m x 1.2 m) and 3 feet 6 inches high (1 m) high. The same meeting advised that the Lands Department had gazetted a road for the cemetery, with the Trustees urged to impress on council its necessity. A decision was also taken to improve the cemetery's appearance by planting ornamental trees sourced from the State nursery (1914 'CATHERINE HILL BAY.').

February 1916 to June 1917

Correspondence between the T- CHBC, LMSC and WCC continued to focus on the public road (current day Northwood Road) through the cemetery that was used to access the sanitary depot. T- CHBC wanted to close the road however, LMSC required an alternate access if that occurred. The alternate route required construction of a bridge over the railway line which WCC agreed to provide, if LMSC built the road, however continued delays caused the author to state, 'the indifference of the WCC is a source of irritation' (Correspondence 1916-1917).

January 1923

In 1923 the hard work of the Trustees was dealt a blow when bush fires swept through the cemetery destroying part of the enclosure and the railings around several graves (1923 'CATHERINE HILL BAY.').

Plate 1 shows the condition of the cemetery in 1934 (with an image from the same location in 2021). The early image appears to show the area overgrown with graves in a poor state and few substantial headstones.



Plate 1 The grave of Ethel Campbell 1934 (Courtesy C House) and in 2021 (author).

May 1943 to 29 February 1944

In May 1943 requests from the Department of Lands sought nominations for several vacancies on the Cemetery Trust.

On 29 February 1944 the Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association, together with the Cemetery Trustees drew attention to 'bitter complaints' regarding the desecration of the cemetery by straying stock through broken cemetery fencing.



October 1949 to March 1950

A 'letter to the Editor' counters an earlier claim that the cemetery was hardly used, citing at least 23 burials in the past five years. The author describes the old cemetery as being covered by sand but considered the new cemetery would not be impacted. The letter also describes a frequently used bridge and a level crossing where there had been numerous accidents (1949 'Letters to The Editor').

When that access bridge collapsed and was not repaired, LMSC was advised that every funeral procession to the cemetery, on crossing the WCC railway line, was required to pay one shilling. The one shilling charge by the coal company was a token payment in recognition of its ownership (1950 'Funeral Toll for Crossing Coal Co. Line',). A noted risk was the potential for level crossing accidents as funeral processions sought to cross the line.



Plate 2 The grave of Gordon Frederick Northwood 1947 (Courtesy C House) and in 2021 (author).

Plate 2 shows the cemetery at that time. The cemetery remains in an overgrown state. A post and rail fence and sand dunes are visible in the background.

January 1953 to January 1958

Correspondence details an agreement arrived at, after dispute, between the T-CHBC and NM over NM conducting rutile mining to the north and east of the cemetery (Correspondence 1953-1958). NM sought temporary road access (current day Northwood Road) through a portion of the cemetery and plantation area to facilitate transport of minerals. The Trustees were rightly concerned that mining would destabilise the seaward boundary. Mining ultimately proceeded, under Department of Lands conditions of approval, with the Cemetery Trust benefitting from royalties. It is possible, that in the long term mining, exacerbated the ongoing impact of beach sand on the cemetery.



Correspondence between the Cemetery Trustees, Department of Lands, Wallarah Coal Company and the National Minerals Limited, Wickham.

January 1953 - a letter from T-CHBC that 'any entry passing over the cemetery' or removal of any sands or other material by NM was strictly prohibited, this stemmed from *A Notice of Intention to Apply for a Special Mining Licence* on an area described as south of the creek on portion 18 Parish of Wallarah, County of Northumberland. Described as the escarpment (dunes) in dispute was the 'plantation' boundary of the cemetery. Concern was also raised that mining the escarpment would remove the only seaward protection of the cemetery. Cemeteries were usually gazetted to include a 'plantation' as a green buffer, Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery included a plantation on the eastern boundary (Figure 8). Coastal erosion had caused loss of beachfront and the original plantation area was in 1953, now deemed outside the cemetery boundary by NM. Correspondence continued; agreement was reached on a temporary road on the north-eastern cemetery portion to provide NM with beach access (28.09.1953).

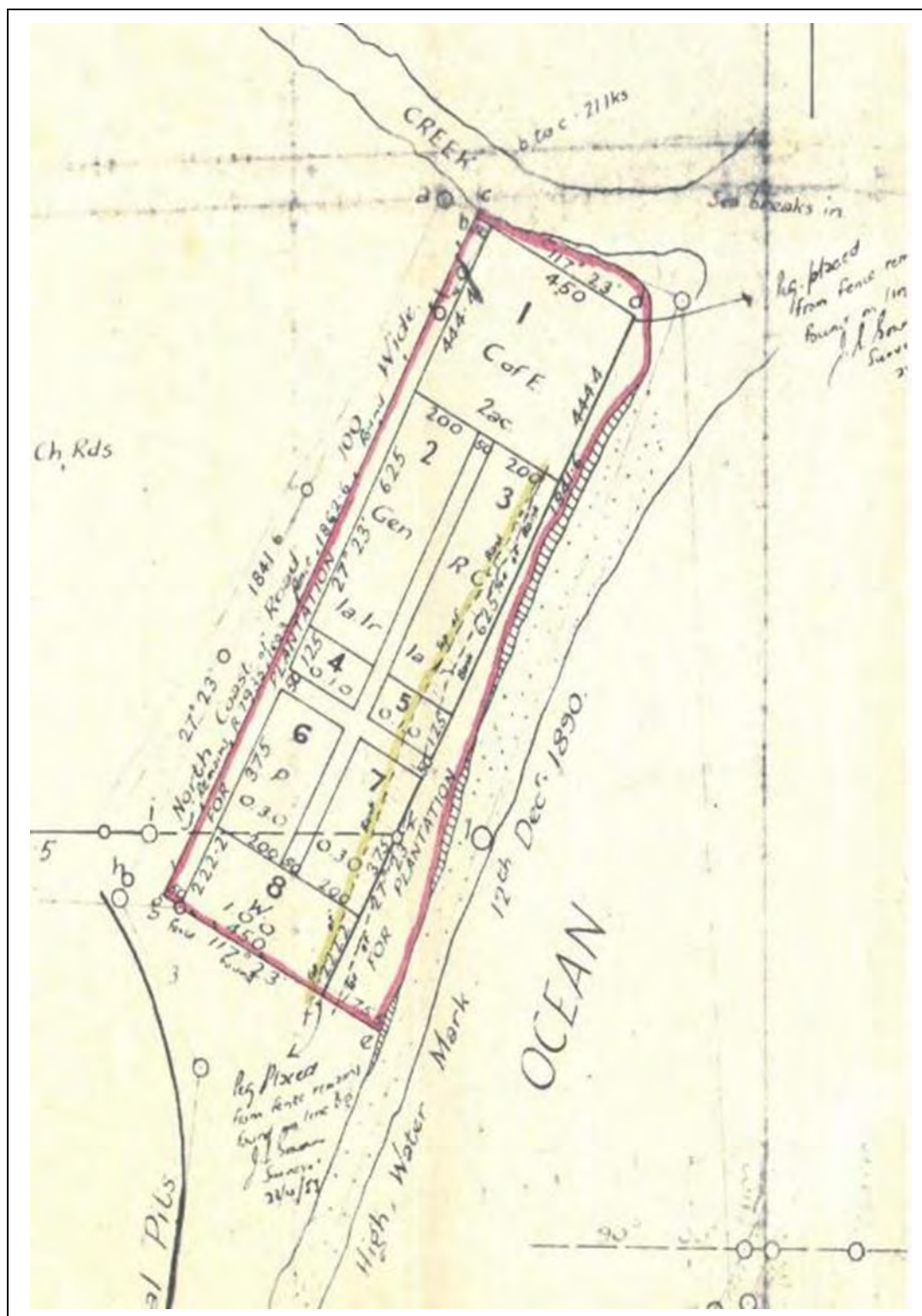
January 1954 - the Department of Lands still could not identify the Plantation area, and the T-CHBC enter into an agreement to fix a 10' (3.05 m) strip on the northern and eastern side of the cemetery for protection from mining.

January 1956 - A letter accompanying a cheque for £239/10/0. (\$7,973 current value) was addressed to T-CHBC from NM for 'mineral concentrates removed from your land' with a further cheque of £95/07/0 (\$3,174 current value) in December 1956.

September 1957 - the Department of Lands advised that J & A Brown and Abermain Seaham Collieries would take legal action if the T-CHBC exploited the cemetery for mineral extraction purposes. The Company took this stance as the 'Company's predecessor had provided the land for cemetery purposes only'.

December 1957 - the Department of Lands advised the Minister had no objections to the T-CHBC disposing of rutile aggregates from the Plantation Area of the Cemetery. This was conditional on several points significantly; no claim being made against the Crown by J & A Brown and Abermain Seaham Collieries; the area was satisfactorily stabilised; and all funds be devoted to the care of the cemetery.

January 1958 – it is assumed those conditions were met as NM resumed paying royalties.



Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery 2021



Plate 3 Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery looking north-west c1992 (Suters, et. al. 1992-1993: CH-32)

2.2.2 Local Government (Control of Cemeteries) Amendment Act, 1966

In 1967 the *Local Government (Control of Cemeteries) Amendment Act 1966*, became operational. That Act transferred trusteeship of cemeteries to local councils, however, as Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery was considered well managed, transfer was not ceded until 1971.

That determination was based on an assessment conducted in November 1969. This provides a valuable description of the cemetery at that time. In brief, it describes the cemetery completely enclosed with fencing as 'the best kept in the Shire'. Regular attention was paid to vegetation and there were no trees in the fenced area. Improvements included a small, galvanised shed. It was recorded that most graves were cared for however, many older graves had no markers and were not pegged and numbered (Correspondence 1969).

On 10 August 1971, a meeting was held between the trustees of the Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery Trust and Lake Macquarie Council officers for the purpose of transferring all records, money and control of the cemetery to Council. Trustees present were Mr G Faraway (Hon. Secretary); Mr L Ham; Mr W Bradley; Mr D Anstruther; Mr F Norwood; apologies from Mr D Wilshire. Lake Macquarie staff attending were Mr V C Richards (Deputy Shire Health Surveyor); and Mr W Collier (Health and Building Inspector).

The cemetery, inspected in July 1971, was found to have a pleasing appearance and be in a very satisfactory condition. The cemetery vegetation was at ground level with the western front boundary marked by a 400 ft (122 m) long and 3 ft (0.9 m) white painted fence. A large proportion of the remaining area was fenced with star pickets and wire strand. Access was available by both a single gate and a double gate, in excellent working order. A small, corrugated iron building was used for general storage and tools. The outgoing trustees noted that the condition of the cemetery resulted from the pride the local community took in its appearance.



Mr Farraway had acted as sextant (grave digging) however, he wished to relinquish this role and without a local person willing to take it on, Mr W McDonald of Pelican assumed the position.

The cost of a plot was recorded as \$1.50, with a double plot \$2.00, however, the Cemetery Trust bank balance at \$9,676.62 was due to monies earned from royalties paid by National Minerals Pty Ltd. Those mineral royalties were stemmed from the company's use of an unused portion of the cemetery and use of a roadway within the cemetery for transport of minerals by both National Minerals Pty Ltd and Wallarah Coal Company.

In 1957, the Department of Lands set out conditions for the granting of approval to remove aggregates from cemetery land by National Minerals Pty Ltd. This required that 'all funds retained by the Trust are devoted to the cemetery'.

Given those requirements it was deemed appropriate that the current work shed should be demolished and a chapel/store shed built, using the funds, to replace it (Minutes 20/08/1971).

Discussions with Catherine Hill Bay residents Sue Whyte and Colleen House (13 April 2021) on the topic of sand mining revealed that there were reports during the mining process of skeletal material being uncovered. This may indicate that early historic burials occurred to the north, or alternatively the burials may have been of Aboriginal inhabitants and predated settlement.

2.2.3 City of Lake Macquarie Heritage Study (1992-1993)

The City of Lake Macquarie Heritage Study [Suters, Doring, Turner (1992-1993)] considered the Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery of high local significance. Evocative of the tough history of remote mining villages, the Study found the area warranted further research with restoration required to halt the decline of both graves and cemetery (Catherine Hill Bay CH – 32).



2.3. Cemetery overview

2.3.1 Representative burials

The burials selected below are intended to represent a cross section of the Catherine Hill Bay community in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Table 1 Representative burials

Name	Memorial
Atterbury, Enid Millicent (1896) The baby daughter of the town doctor, Enid was buried in the Primitive Methodist section. This grave, together with the nearby Dunn graves are believed the oldest in the cemetery (Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery: Gravestone inscriptions 1995: 22). A written account of Enid could not be found however, the memorial reflects her family's loss.	
Cherry, Robert Logan (1869-1933) Employed as a carpenter at Wallarah Colliery, Mr. Cherry had a catalogued collection of 900 shells. On discovering a previously unknown shell he was made a life member of the Linnean Society. He was a keen geologist, collector of reptiles and fish and had one of the best ferns and orchid collections in the district (1933 'OBITUARY').	
Dodds, Ann (1862-1896) Her funeral notice refers to her as Mrs. Sydney Dodds, rather than Ann Dodds, she was the wife of the school's head teacher and mother to five children. Highly respected in the village, the school children left floral tributes (1896 'DISTRICT NEWS.').	



Name

Memorial

Dunn, George (1848-1896) and John Robert (1895-1896)

Believed the first burial in 1896, George Dunn aged 48, had spoken at a meeting that called for a cemetery. He is buried in the Primitive Methodist section, one month later his infant son also died and was buried with him (Architectural Projects 1996:57).



McDougall, John William (1914-1932)

A committee member of the fledgling Wallarah (Catherine Hill Bay) Surf Club (1932 'MR. J. W. McDUGALL'). The Wallarah Surf Club was first established at Catherine Hill Bay in 1923-24 and reformed in 1927-28 (The earliest lifesaving club was Bondi in 1907). (Catherine Hill Bay Surf Club).



Nord, Paul (1868-1952) and Ellen (1878-1952)

From a pioneering family, Paul and his wife Ellen were residents at Nords Wharf, where Paul's father had started farming ninety years previously (1952 'Couple Die Within 12 Hours',).



Tobin, Michael (1854-1909)

Michael Tobin built the Wallarah Hotel around 1888, to cater for workers constructing the jetty. He held the license until his death in 1909. Interred in what was described as the Roman Catholic Cemetery he was highly regarded for his financial contribution to the community (1909 'Advertising').





Name

Memorial

Row G, Unmarked graves

Discussed in Section 3.2.1, the 28 unmarked graves include 11 containing children.





3. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery, in 1992, was described as a 'sparsely vegetated foredune' with two young Norfolk Island pines the sole planting (Suters, et. al. 1992-1993: CH-32). Present day, while the cemetery has few trees, it is bounded by a dense thicket of coastal vegetation and provides a popular beach access track for walkers, beach goers and surfers. An attractive green space it is important, not only to those whose loved ones are buried there, but also to the wider community.

Section 3.1 provides detail on features of the cemetery, with Section 3.2 describing distinctive elements of the cemetery.

3.1. Key elements of Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery

The following table describes the key elements of Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery in terms of general appearance (*Location, views and vistas; Landscape, gardens and plantings; Design and layout*), memorials (*Headstones and grave furniture; Memorial features – columbaria, memorial walls and chapels*) and infrastructure (*Gates and fences; Signage, Other structures - shelters, roads, seating water supply, drainage, security, lighting*) with the following terminology used:

Description: derived from the site inspection this is a brief description of the element.

Analysis: an overview of how the element contributes to or detracts from the heritage significance.

Ranking: high, moderate or low - the value of the element in contributing to the heritage significance.

LOCATION, VIEWS AND VISTAS

Description: Access via Northwood Road, an unsurfaced road off Flowers Drive, Catherine Hill Bay.

From the entrance gates the cemetery has a spacious appearance; within the cemetery it appears bounded on all sides by native vegetation. There is a view of hills to the north while vegetated dunes form the eastern boundary of Catherine Hill Bay beach. The attractive aspect of the cemetery is complimented by the sound of the ocean approximately 70 m to the east.

Analysis: The spacious, open layout together with the surrounding native vegetation is a significant and attractive feature. This is further enhanced by its proximity to the beach. The cemetery is also used as an access route by people to the beach. This is a benefit creating a familiarity with both locals and visitors.

Ranking: High



View east



View north



View south



LANDSCAPE, GARDENS and PLANTINGS

Description: Around the columbaria and memorial boulders are small decorative gardens. The most significant plantings are the mature Norfolk Island pines, in addition to the mature banksia and band of NZ Christmas trees along the western fence line.

Analysis: The modest gardens suit the nature of the cemetery. The long-term retention of the mature trees is important to maintaining the cemetery's attractive appearance.

Ranking: High



Looking south - boundary fence



Garden and memorial boulder



Mature Norfolk Island pine

DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Description: A traditional grid layout with a central tarred road providing vehicle access. Anomalies occur with the earliest graves located in the most easterly section, with four further known graves located in a remote section of track within the dune system.

Designated sections for various Christian and non-denominational burials.

Beams have been used in later cemetery development, however, the intention for a greater efficiency in maintenance has been lost with extensive individualization of plots.

Analysis: The earlier graves were located close to the beach, however, with encroaching sand dunes later interments occurred further west.

The dunes appeared to have been vegetated and stabilized, however, sections of the cemetery are in the adopted 100-year Coastal Impact Zone, while burials on the dune system are in the 50-year Impact Zone (Umwelt 2002).

Ranking: High



Spacious appearance



Layout in older section



Beam section showing additional decoration



HEADSTONES AND GRAVE FURNITURE

Description: The earlier sections of Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery are traditional in style and type, the earliest headstones reflect the 19th century preference for a tall stele, that into the 20th century was replaced by a lower style. The Cemetery is significant for the modern and distinctive headstones that have developed since the late 20th and 21st centuries. These headstones have strong connections to ethnic and social groups in addition to presenting individual style.

Analysis: The headstones and associated features, reflect the development of the Cemetery from its role in providing a last resting place for a tight knit mining community to providing an outlet for individual expression in remembering the deceased.

Ranking: High



Tall stele headstones



Distinctive memorials

MEMORIAL FEATURES – COLUMBARIA and MEMORIAL WALLS

Description: The memorial wall is the same as the other Lake Macquarie cemeteries. The memorial boulders are well used, with advice given that they are often used to commemorate those whose ashes have been spread in the nearby ocean. The memorial walls have small gardens featuring common garden plants.

Analysis: The memorial wall and columbaria are consistent with modern burial practices and ensure that the cemetery remains operational.

Ranking: Low



Columbaria



Memorial boulders



GATES AND FENCES

Description: A simple sturdy timber gate provides the main access. This is bounded by a timber fence on the western side. On the southern side a partial brick wall was constructed to reduce impact of dust and mud from the nearby vehicle track. While there are sections of redundant fences on the north and eastern side (and to an extent on the western side) in that area vegetation provides the main impediment to access.

Analysis: The simple sturdy gates and fences are appropriate to the cemetery and reflect the style of the original post and rail fences.

Ranking: High



Entrance gate



Pedestrian entrance



Fence

SIGNAGE

Description: A generic Council sign is located near the entrance. The rows are numbered along the central row.

Analysis: The Council sign is consistent to all cemeteries. It would be useful to have both ends of the rows marked.

Ranking: Low



Generic entrance sign



Row markers



STRUCTURES, SEATING, WATER SUPPLY, DRAINAGE, SECURITY, LIGHTING

Description: The infrastructure is utilitarian. A simple shed with surrounding shrubs and trees provides shelter. Seating is provided throughout the area. Water for cemetery use is available via a water tank.

Drainage in the eastern section is poor following heavy rain. There is no security lighting.

Analysis: Adequate

Ranking: Low



Shelter shed



Water tank



seating

3.2. Distinctive elements

3.2.1 Unmarked graves

Unmarked graves occur in most cemeteries. The cost of erecting an enduring memorial was significant, often a wooden cross was installed that has disappeared over time. The only record of the interment's name being found amongst sextant or funeral director documents; however, these were not always accurate and, in many instances, have been lost.

At Catherine Hill Bay, the sexton kept a rudimentary list of names that identified burials and now provides an insight into the nature of interments. In Methodist Section 2, Row G there are 28 burials, with three original headstones and three later headstones (Plate 4). Of the 28 burials, 11 are babies or children (Figure 9). The sexton's list unfortunately does not include dates; however, a search of Trove indicates the burials occurred in the 1920s. While the Spanish Flu was present at that time there is no newspaper record of it being responsible for deaths in the Catherine Hill Bay area. The high percentage of children mortality (40%) likely reflects the standard of living and housing in Catherine Hill Bay at that time. A company town, houses were rented from the Wallarah Coal Company. A Lake Macquarie Shire Council Health Officer report found cases of enteric fever were largely a result of poor sanitary conditions with overcrowding and low standards of cleanliness, further stating that at Mine Camp, fourteen families were each housed in small, two room huts (1923 'LAKE MACQUARIE SHIRE.'). Clean drinking water, critical to child health, remained a continuing problem. The houses were supplied with a 600-gallon tank that proved inadequate after a prolonged dry spell. With residents drawing water from waterholes and a possibly contaminated spring there was a real fear of a typhoid outbreak. At that same time, it was reported that the local school had little water and what was available had been standing in a tank for months (1925 'CATHERINE HILL BAY').



Methodist S. Section 2

28	C. Gray Child
27	M ^{rs} Edwin Jones } 8x8
26	M ^{rs} Edwin Jones } 8x8
25	Benton Child
24	
23	J. Douglas Child } 8x8
22	
21	Baxter } 8x8
20	C. Smith Child
19	M ^{rs} G. Smith } 8x8
18	M ^{rs} G. Smith } 8x8
17	Emma Lewis } 8x8
16	John Lewis } 8x8
15	Rosa Lewis
14	H. J. O'Neil Wife
13	L. O'Connell Child
12	
11	Kennison Child } 8x8
10	L. Billett Child
9	M. King Child
8	James Price and Ben Price } 8x8
7	Sarah Price
6	
5	C. Boyd Child } 8x8
4	Kate McKee and Baby Sullivan } 8x8
3	A. Parker
2	Kefus and Baby Redman } 8x8
1	Alice Redman

North to South

Figure 9 Methodist Section 2 Row G – Sexton's list (LMCC records)



Plate 4 Methodist Section 2 row G - headstones



3.2.2 Early Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery dune burials

As discussed in Section 2, the cemetery was originally located closer to the ocean. Three known groups of headstones, adjacent to or near the dune system, remain from that time.

The first group comprises six known burials in the 'Primitive Methodist' (north east) portion of the cemetery dating from the earliest burials in 1896, through to 1911. The graves are in reasonable condition though the area is overgrown and unkempt. Adjoining a beach walkway, a timber retaining wall, in poor repair, currently prevents inundation by sand.



Plate 5 Primitive Methodist burials near the dunes. Plate 6 Condition of retaining wall adjacent graves.

The second group of burials are in the original Roman Catholic portion. Four known headstones are visible approximately 100 metres north-east of the main cemetery in an area of native vegetation, these headstones record burials dating from 1900 to 1909. An 1891 map, annotated in 1953, possibly to inform the dispute over use of the land by National Minerals, has a faint line marked as 'top of bank' and likely marks the location of the burials. In the 1990s only the top portion of the Tobin family grave was visible, the remainder buried in a large sand dune. A Swansea Lions Club project to excavate and uncover the Tobin grave revealed three additional graves (Plate 7).

The headstones now rest on a dune stabilised by a mature coastal tea tree forest. One of the graves, a simple tablet with no inscription visible, is covered by vegetation. The headstones are in reasonable repair and appear to benefit from the protection afforded by the surrounding vegetation (Plate 8).



Plate 7 Tobin headstone unearthed (courtesy V. Williamson 2021)

Plate 8 Tobin headstone.

The third group, a single headstone with a double grave border dating from 1911, is in the far south-eastern portion, an area originally designated as Wesleyan. The grave is currently obscured by vegetation (Plate 9).



Plate 9 – Burial in Wesleyan section – far south easter portion of cemetery.

3.2.3 Modern Catherine Hill Bay interments

The cemetery, in contrast to other cemeteries managed by LMCC, has a significant number of innovative and decorative headstones. Personal ornamentation on beam interments has extended from the beam to incorporate the area of burial plot (Plate 10)



Plate 10 Modern beam grave.



Plate 11 Life and Death Motorcycle interment.

The cemetery is also the resting place for distinct social [Life and Death Motorcycle Gang (Plate 11)] and ethnic communities [Maori and South Sea Islanders (Plate 12)]. Several Indigenous burials, identifiable by Indigenous symbols and flag, were noted (Plate 13).



Plate 12 Maori/ South Sea Islander interment



Plate 13 Indigenous grave



3.3. Historical archaeological potential

LMCC Cemetery Conservation Management Plan, Volume 1 provides detail on statutory provisions regarding archaeological relics. This section considers the potential for historical archaeological evidence to remain. All cemeteries, by nature, contain archaeological relics, while the location of most is identifiable, where graves are no longer marked it is not obvious. Other potential archaeological evidence may result from past structures and features such as buildings, fences, paths and roads.

Figure 1 shows a small area of potential burials. This mapping, developed from the drone images, reflects a visible pattern of potential graves.

The original section of Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery now covered by stabilised sand dunes has significant potential to contain both marked and unmarked graves. As Section 3.2.1 illustrates, the ground level of the graves adjacent the retaining wall is significantly lower, raising the potential of further graves to the east. Similarly, the excavation of the dune burials also raises the potential of further undiscovered interments. The sexton's register does not include the names found on these headstones.

The agreement recording the transfer of management from the Trustees to Lake Macquarie Shire Council includes reference to a work shed at the cemetery, no evidence of that shed was noted during the site inspection.

3.4. Key issues

The following are considered the key issues:

- Poor repair of retaining wall for sand at the dune burials
- Neglected condition of the dune burial headstones – overgrown, poor repair
- Lack of signage
- Recognition of burial practices – Indigenous, Maori, Islanders, non-Christian faiths
- Limited capacity for future burials
- Environmental factors - impact of fires, storms, etc.



4. SIGNIFICANCE

4.1. Assessing cultural heritage significance

LMCC Cemetery Conservation Management Plan, Volume 1 provides detail on the process of assessing cultural heritage significance under the Assessing Heritage Significance Manual (NSW Heritage Office 2001)

Historical (Criterion A)

An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery provide physical evidence of the growth, development and decline of a mining village. The layout of the cemetery reflects divisions built on religion while the type of memorial often demonstrates social stratification. Historical significance is evident in the recording of family names and individuals who formed the community. Archival records associated with burials provide a valuable source of information, given the loss of physical evidence with unmarked graves.

Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery meets Criterion A.

Associative (Criterion B)

An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery is associated with a group of people, miners and their families. A company town for much of its history the only residents were miners (and their families) who worked for the Wallarah Coal Company.

In contrast to most cemeteries, there are no local government figures buried. Interments of note included the local publican, Michael Tobin and the conchologist Robert Logan Cherry.

Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery meets Criterion B.

Aesthetic/Technical (Criterion C)

An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).

Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery, particularly the memorials from the later twentieth century, display a high degree of creative achievement displaying a concepts not seen in other Lake Macquarie cemeteries.

Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery meets Criterion C.

Social (Criterion D)

An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery as a principal place of burial since the late nineteenth century has a special association for social and spiritual reasons for the local community. It plays an important role in the ability to remember and honour deceased families and friends.

Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery meets Criterion D.

Research (Criterion E)

An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).



Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery has significant social research potential. The cemetery (1894 - 1962) was largely the preserve of the miners and their dependents and reflects the commemorative and physical record of this cohort. This singular source of interments provides the opportunity for investigation through memorial types and inscriptions and extends through documentary records to unmarked graves.

Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery meets Criterion E.

Rarity (Criterion F)

An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery is rare in the local area in that it possesses interments (1894 - 1962) from a specific working community, coal miners and their families.

Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery meets Criterion F.

Representative (Criterion G)

An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places, or cultural or natural environments. (or a class of the local area).

Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery demonstrates the principal characteristics of a class of the cultural places of New South Wales. It is representative of a small general cemetery in NSW dating from the late 19th century that served a specific community.

Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery meets Criterion G.

Integrity /intactness: Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery fulfills this criterion.

4.2. Statement of significance

Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery, established in 1894, is an integral part of that cultural precinct. The cemetery illustrates the growth and development of a small mining community dependent on a sole industry, with little diversity in demography and the social composition. The cemetery was modest in size and type, with a layout and range of headstones consistent with the evolution of burial practices since the nineteenth century. That focus has changed since the late twentieth century, with the mine's closure the social make-up of the community has changed, and the cemetery has reflected that change.

The Catherine Hill Bay Cultural Precinct is now rare, as an intact surviving example of "Company Town" development. In Lake Macquarie such developments generally evolved more informally than the company town infrastructures elsewhere in the Upper Hunter and other parts of Australia (Extract: NSW Heritage. Catherine Hill Bay Precinct).

Grading of significance

The rationale for significance grading is in accordance with the NSW Heritage Manual Assessing Heritage Significance (NSW Heritage Office 2000) with an explanation of the gradings found in Volume 1. The grading seeks to identify the features of Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery that contribute to its significance.

Table 2 Graded elements of Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery

Grading	Cemetery elements
Exceptional	Headstones and grave surrounds associated with the 'dune burials'



High	Rectilinear grid layout, curtilage, all headstones, major trees, entrance gate, fences,
Moderate	-
Low	Columbaria, gardens, shelter shed, water tank,
Intrusive	Garbage bins

4.3. Views and vistas

Conservation requires the retention of an appropriate visual setting and other relationships that contribute to the cultural significance of the place (Marquis-Kyle and Walker 2004:37). An important component of the cemetery is its landscape, the cemetery's border of dense coastal vegetation creates views and vistas that are unique to the space. Within the cemetery there are largely unrestricted views providing a sense of spaciousness.

4.4. Archaeological significance

Cemeteries by design hold archaeological potential. Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery has the potential to provide information on burial practices over time and the grave goods interred with them. Exhumations in older cemeteries has resulted in skeletal analysis that has provided extensive evidence on past populations. The archaeological significance of these burials is high.

The only structure known to exist at Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery was a work shed described in the handover documents provided to Lake Macquarie Shire Council. There is no indication where this was placed however given the current layout of the cemetery it may have been in the vicinity of the current shelter shed in the southwest corner. The archaeological significance of such a structure if it exists is low.



5. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery is included in the State Heritage listed Catherine Hill Bay Cultural Precinct (SHR 01828) and is afforded protection under the Heritage Act 1977 (and subsequent amendments). It should be noted however, that the Heritage Act 1977 is currently under review (NSW Heritage Act review).

Currently under Section 57 (1) approval must be gained from the NSW Heritage Council when making changes to a place listed on the SHR or a place covered by an IHO. That approval is sought through an application under Section 60 (Heritage Act 1977) prior to commencement of works. Section 57 (2) of the Act permits exemptions from approval under specified circumstances.

Table 3 Management recommendations

Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommendation
Views and vistas	Retention of views and vistas both within and external to cemetery	High	Maintain coastal vegetation boundary.
Landscape, vegetation, gardens and plantings	Maintain landscaping and plantings.	High	Undertake weeding, mowing and regular maintenance. Remove dead trees, dead branches and invasive weeds on eastern boundary. New plantings to be native endemic species.
Headstones and grave furniture	Preservation in accordance with best practice	Moderate	Source funding for conservation works on older headstones. All works in accordance with National Trust (NSW) (2009) <i>Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .
Significant graves	Ensure retention of significant graves and headstones.	High	Source funding to undertake conservation works. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide recognition of the conchologist, Robert Logan Cherry.• Remove vegetation impacting early Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery dune burials and repair the retention wall near group 2.
Unmarked burials	Identify unmarked burials to prevent inadvertent damage or disturbance and to optimise cemetery use.	Moderate	Consider a GPR study, if required, to identify unmarked graves and identify areas for potential burial space.
Gates and fences	Retention of gates and fences	High	Regular maintenance. Continued use of closed gates to prevent unwanted access of vehicles.



Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommendation
Signage	Maintain existing signage and provide additional signage.	High	Install a cemetery plan sign. Provide additional denomination/row # signage at end of each row as required.
Heritage interpretation	Promotion as a source of historical and family information	Moderate	Develop and install accurate, informative, engaging signs heritage interpretation sign/s.
Environmental factors	Fire and storms	High	Maintenance plans to include removal of hazardous trees and undergrowth. Grass regularly mown in high-risk seasons.
'Friends of'	Engage community groups	Moderate	Encourage groups to advance heritage research on interments. Assist in grounds and memorial maintenance working under National Trust (NSW) (2009) <i>Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> . Investigate engaging Landcare group to assist with management of coastal vegetation.



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Johnston Family Cemetery, Barnsley

SEPTEMBER 2021



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1. BACKGROUND

The Lake Macquarie City Council Cemeteries Conservation Management Plan (2021) comprises three volumes - Volume 1 provides generic information on cemetery management, Volume 2 details each of the cemeteries under the management of Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC), while Volume 3 is an archival recording report of the cemeteries.

The focus of this report, which forms part of Volume 2, is Johnston Family Cemetery, Barnsley (Figure 1).

1.1. Project area

Item name:	Johnston Family Cemetery
Address:	14A Taylor Avenue, Barnsley.
Property description:	Lot 100, DP 630296
Heritage listing:	Local - Lake Macquarie Local Environment Plan 2014. Item # 09

1.2. Milestones

Established: 5 March 1890

Management transfer: May 1995 – from private ownership to LMCC.

1.3. Author and acknowledgements

Laraine Nelson (Nelson Heritage Consulting) conducted site inspections and is the author of this document. All images unless otherwise attributed are by the author.

The author is indebted to the assistance provided by:

- Matt Johnston, 3rd great grandson of William and Mary Johnston through their 9th child, James Peter Johnston
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Keith is the great grandson of George Snedden
- Judy Messiter, Lake Macquarie Library Local History Section
- Darrell Rigby. Heritage Archaeology and Planning. Cover photo



LEGEND	
	DCDB BOUNDARY INFO
	AREA OUTLINE
	GRAVE OUTLINE

NOTES

ANY ELECTRONIC FILE IS PROVIDED WITHOUT WARRANTY AND SHOULD BE USED ONLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SUPPLIED PDF/PAPER COPY OF THIS PLAN.

NO BOUNDARY SURVEY HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN. BOUNDARIES SHOWN ARE FROM LAKE MACQUARIE DCDB PROVIDED ON THE 16/02/2020. FILE "LakemacCemeteriesCADdata_MGAz56"

ORIGIN OF CO-ORDINATES PM26184 WITH MGA2020 CO-ORDINATE VALUES OF E 367696.982 N 6355872.610



REVISIONS	B	10.03.2021	UPDATE BURIAL DESCRIPTION	SWA	DSR	JPM	SCALE: 1:200	DATUM: AHD	SCALE BAR: 4 2 0 4 8 12 Metres	CLIENT: HERITAGE ARCHAEOLOGY PLANNING	SURVEY: RJS DRAWN: RJS DESIGNED: DSR APPROVED: JPM	DATE OF SURVEY: 22-02-2021 DATE OF PLAN: 01-03-2021 DATE LAST SAVED: 10-03-2021 DATE APPROVED: 01-03-2021	TITLE SURVEY PLAN OF BARNSELY PRIVATE CEMETERY DWG No 149135-Barnsley_Private.dwg	JOB No PR149135	ISSUE B
	A	01.03.2021	INITIAL VERSION	RJS	DSR	JPM	COORDINATES: MGA	CROSS SECTION:							
							ORIGIN: PM 26184	V: N/A H: N/A							
	No.	DATE	REVISION DETAILS	DRAWN	CHK	APP									



2. DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

This history of the Johnston Family Cemetery is sourced from published histories, newspaper accounts (Trove) and through discussions with descendants, Matt Johnston and Keith Snedden.

2.1. The Johnston family and Barnsley

The Johnston family are of Scottish descent. William Johnston was born 28 October 1825 in Crail, Fifeshire while his future wife Mary (maiden name Johnston and first cousin) was born 8 April 1826, at Largo, Fifeshire.

Married on 11 June 1852 in Largo, in 1853 together with two infant daughters they migrated to Australia on the ship 'William Hammond'. The family arrived in Adelaide, South Australia in 1854, however sadly one of their daughters had died during the voyage.

In the same year they arrived in South Australia, 1854, they were recorded as living in Hamilton NSW. Following the birth of two more children (William, 1856 and David, 1858) in 1860, they purchased 40 acres and moved to an area then known as Teralba, present-day Barnsley.

Further purchases saw that land holding increased to 300 acres and incorporating what is now the township of Barnsley. The Johnston family continued to grow and in June 1870, their ninth child was born (pers. comm. Matt Johnston 2021).



Plate 1 William and Mary Johnston (Source: Matt Johnston)

2.2. Johnston Family Cemetery

The cemetery was established on the death of William Johnston on the 5 March 1890. An image taken of the grave, possibly not long after the burial, shows a small enclosure bounded by a substantial timber fence.



Plate 2 William Johnston's sons at his graveside circa 1890s (Source: Matt Johnston)



Following the burial of William, the non-denominational cemetery became the place of interment for the family. In 1908, at the death of Mrs Mary Johnston, the article notes that she 'was laid to rest in the cemetery situated on the estate, where several of the family have been buried' (1908 'DISTRICT NEWS.').

The family cemetery, over the years received scant newspaper attention. The first reference to the cemetery appears in 1951, with a request to Council to improve the road access the cemetery (1951 'Lake Shire Points'). In addition, there is no record of the presence of the cemetery on maps (Figure 2 and Figure 3).

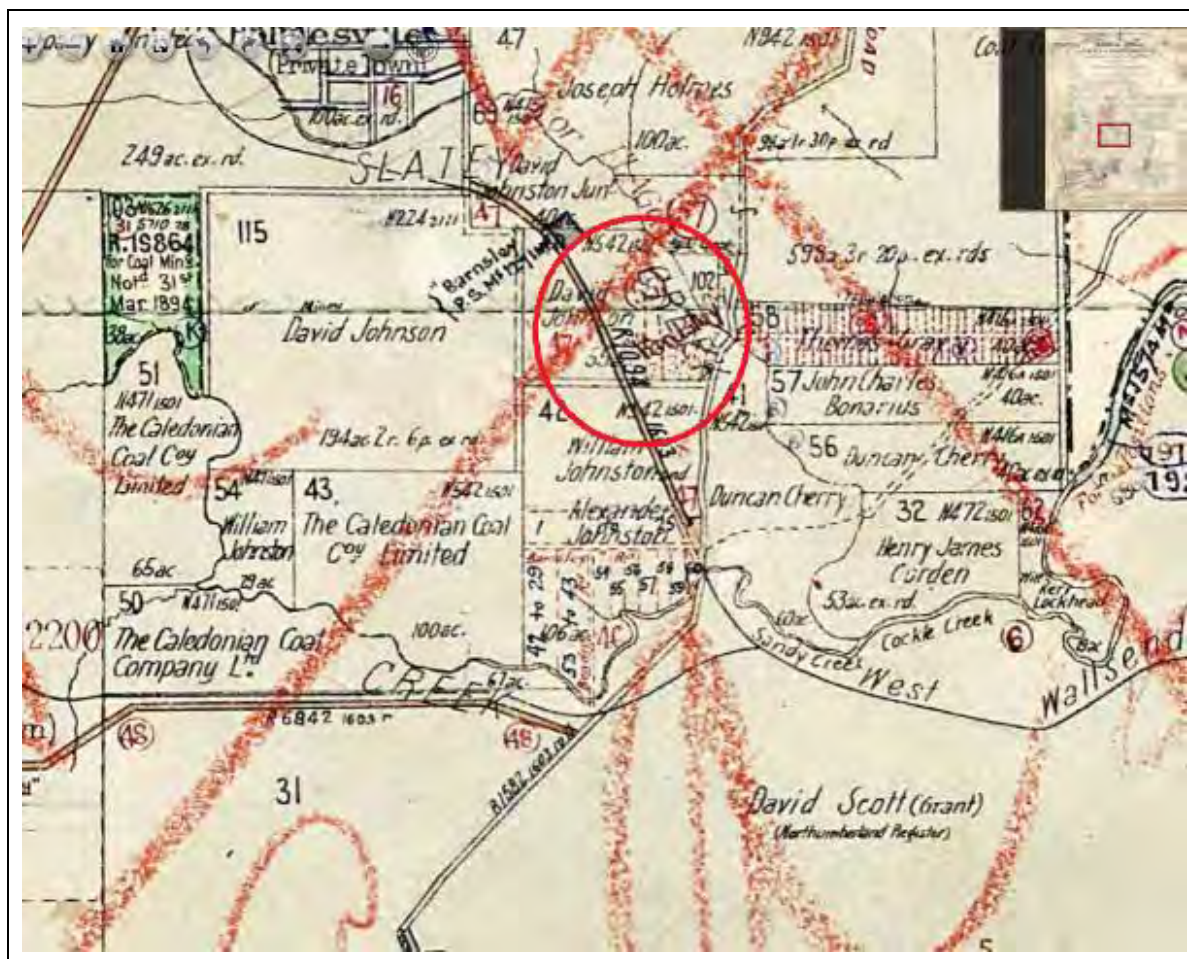


Figure 2 County of Northumberland - Teralba Parish Map (1903) (NSW Land Registry Service)

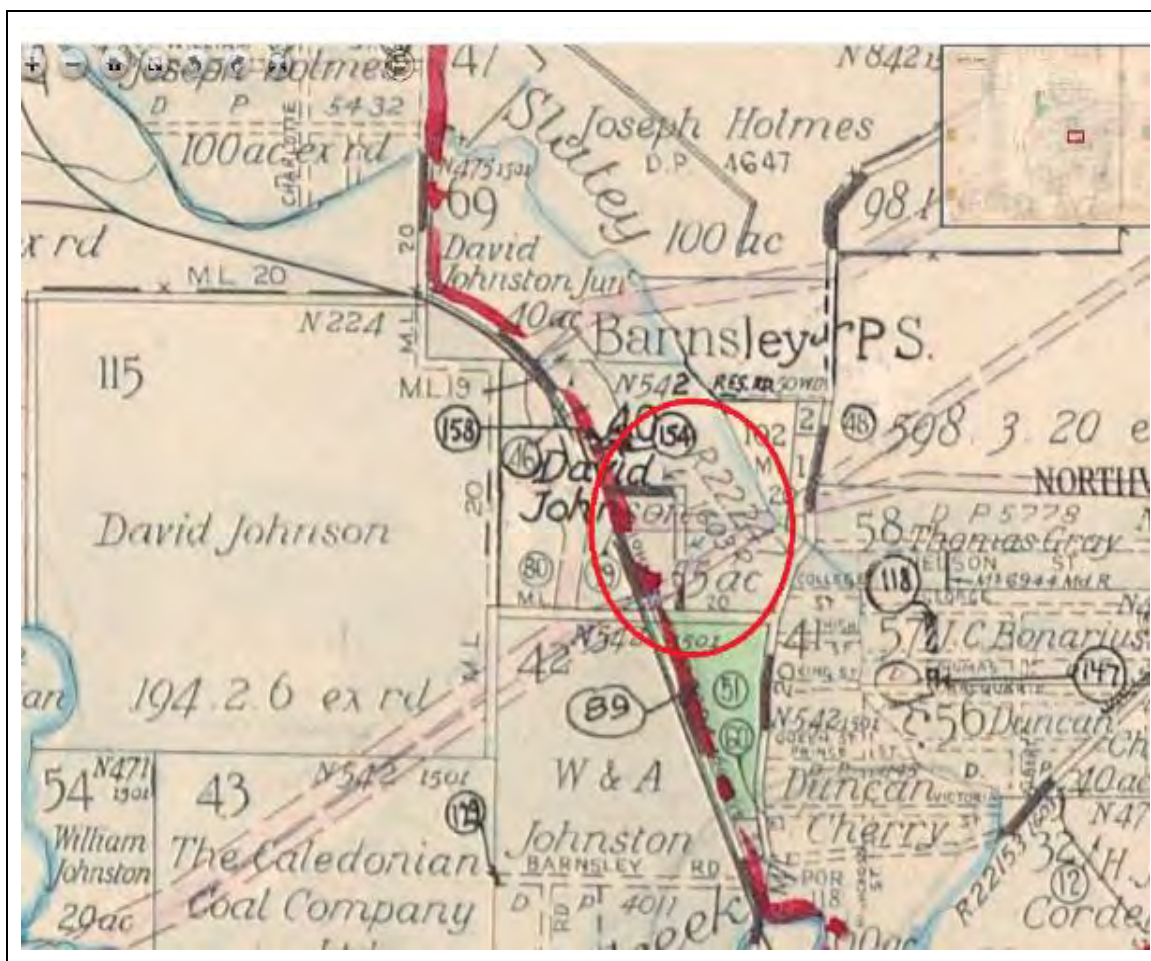


Figure 3 County of Northumberland - Teralba Status Branch Charting Map (1969) (NSW Land Registry Service)

During the twentieth century, the Johnston landholdings reduced with land containing the cemetery eventually sold. That land sale resulted in a later and protracted process by Mr Wayne Johnston, great grandson of Mr William and Mrs Mary Johnston, to secure the title deeds to the cemetery land to ensure the family link was retained. By the early 1990s, the ongoing cost of upkeep led to a call for Council to take over the cemetery's management, a request that was successful in 1995 (Newcastle Herald 26 May 1995:3).

2.2.1 Local Government (Control of Cemeteries) Amendment Act, 1966

In 1967, the *Local Government (Control of Cemeteries) Amendment Act, 1966* became operational. That Act transferred trusteeship of public cemeteries to local councils, however at that time as the Johnston Family Cemetery was a private cemetery, that Act did not apply.

2.2.2 City of Lake Macquarie Heritage Study (1992-1993)

The City of Lake Macquarie Heritage Study [Suters, Doring, Turner (1992-1993)] listed the Johnston Family Cemetery of local significance. The Study based that assessment on the importance of the Johnston family to the settlement of the area and its rarity as (at that time) being a private cemetery remaining in private hands (Barnsley BY-02).



2.3. Cemetery overview

2.3.1 Representative burials

The burials in the following table represent those buried in the Johnston Family Cemetery.

Table 1 Representative burials

Name	Memorial
Johnston, William (1826-1890) and Mary (1826-1908). Born in Scotland William and Mary were pioneers of the Teralba district (present day Barnsley), settling in the area around 1860 (pers com. Matt Johnston)	
Snedden, George (1890-1923) The father of six children, George was a Mine Deputy killed in the 1923 Bellbird Mine Disaster. He, together with other Deputies, had re-entered the mine after observing smoke to close doors and limit the spread of fire. He survived the following explosion but died from gas poisoning (1923 'TRAPPED IN MINE' & 1933 'BELLBIRD DISASTER')	
Private James Malcom Hainey (1924-1951) Private Hainey, 3 rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, died of wounds suffered during the conflict in Korea and is buried in the United Nations Memorial Cemetery, Busan, Korea (Australian War Memorial).	
 (1919 'Family Notices')	



3. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Johnston Family Cemetery, flanked by residential properties, is accessed via a quiet country road on the northern extent of Barnsley. The cemetery has several mature trees contributing to its rural appearance.

Section 3.1 provides detail on features of the cemetery, with Section 3.2 describing distinctive elements of the cemetery.

3.1. Key elements of Johnston Family Cemetery

The following describes the key elements of Johnston Family Cemetery in terms of general appearance (*Location, views and vistas; Landscape, gardens and plantings; Design and layout*), memorials (*Headstones and grave furniture; Memorial features – columbarium, Memorial Walls and chapels*) and infrastructure (*Gates and fences; Signage, Other structures - shelters, roads, seating water supply, drainage, security, lighting*) with the following terminology used:

Description: derived from the site inspection this is a brief description of the element.

Analysis: an overview of how the element contributes to or detracts from the heritage significance.

Ranking: high, moderate or low - the value of the element in contributing to the heritage significance.

LOCATION, VIEWS AND VISTAS

Description

Access is via Johnson Drive and Taylor Avenue.

From the entrance gates the cemetery presents as a small, enclosed space bounded by residences on the south and north, with fencing to the east. Mature trees within the cemetery provide an attractive internal space.

Analysis

The mature trees and internal views are an important feature contributing to the rural ambience of the cemetery.

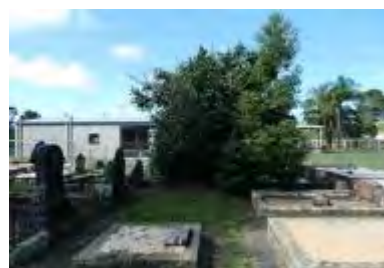
Ranking: High



View west



View east



View south



LANDSCAPE, VEGETATION, GARDENS and PLANTINGS

Description: A small-grassed area on the western boundary leads, via a gate, into the cemetery. On the internal perimeter of the cemetery are several mature trees including camphor laurel, deodar cedar and banksia. Within the cemetery are several small shrubs, while most are on the perimeter, toward the centre a group of trees (camellia/ camphor laurel) are impacting on nearby graves.

Analysis: The mature trees are an important feature of the cemetery, in particular the camphor laurel on the northern side of the entrance gate and the deodar cedar on the eastern boundary.

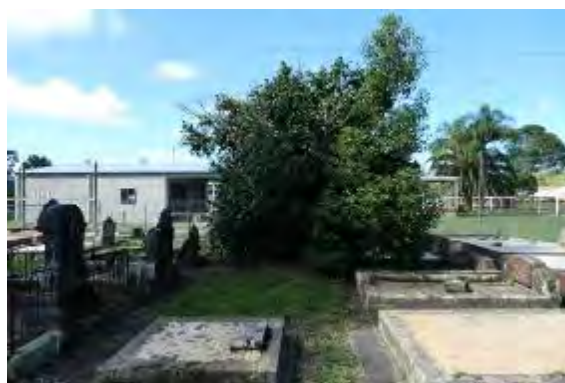
Ranking: High



Camphor laurel



Deodar cedar



Overgrown shrubs impacting on graves.

DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Description: A traditional late nineteenth to early twentieth century grid layout. No pathways are possible due to the limited space.

All graves face the east, with the back of the graves facing the western entrance.

Analysis: An important feature is the retention of the early design and layout of the cemetery.

Ranking: High





HEADSTONES AND GRAVE FURNITURE

Description: The headstones reflect the development of type in the late nineteenth to mid twentieth century. There tends to be a uniformity in type

While other cemeteries considered during this project have all adapted beam burials since the late twentieth century, the Johnston Family Cemetery has not. There are several small plaques affixed to older graves as a memorial indicating possibly that cremations and the placing of ashes have been used to circumvent the issue of limited burial space.

Analysis: The Johnston Family Cemetery has retained the appearance of a mid-twentieth century graveyard.

Ranking: High



Late nineteenth century headstone & cast iron fencing



Note similarity in headstone and grave surround styles



Small memorial plaque.

MEMORIAL FEATURES – COLUMBARIUM, MEMORIAL WALLS AND CHAPELS

Description - There are no memorial walls, columbarium or chapels.



GATES AND FENCES

Description: The sole entry gate and fencing are constructed of galvanized steel and appear in reasonable condition.

Analysis: The entrance gate and fencing are simple and functional and in character with the cemetery.

Ranking: Low



SIGNAGE

Description - No signs are present

STRUCTURES, WATER SUPPLY, DRAINAGE, SECURITY, LIGHTING

Description - There are no other structures present.



3.2. Distinctive elements and features

3.2.1 Private cemetery

As a private cemetery, whilst it is under the management of LMCC, interments are restricted to the Johnston family and their descendants. It was not possible to establish exactly how many generations of the Johnston family are buried at the cemetery however, it is likely it is the last resting place of four, or potentially five generations, of the family.

3.2.2 Unmarked burials

Whilst most cemeteries have unmarked graves, by nature of the type, there are few at the Johnston Family Cemetery. The Johnston Family Cemetery list records 40 plots with only three unknown burials: Plots 21; 30; while the interment of Plot 31 is described as of an unknown infant (Johnston 2016).

3.3. Historical archaeological potential

LMCC Cemetery Conservation Management Plan, Volume 1 provides detail on statutory provisions regarding archaeological relics. This section considers the potential for historical archaeological evidence to remain. The Johnston Family Cemetery is unique in that it has a well-documented history of burials, while there is potential for unmarked burials, that occurrence is low.

Infrastructure at the cemetery was limited, the most likely item would be fencing as shown in Plate 2. Given these factors it is considered the historic archaeological evidence is likely restricted to that described above.

3.4. Key issues

The following are considered the key issues:

- Lack of signage
- Few remaining available plots for future burials
- Condition of several important headstones and grave surrounds
- Central area - overgrown trees impacting on the nearby graves
- Ongoing management of significant trees, particularly the deodar cedar on the eastern boundary
- Environmental impact of fires, storms, etc.



4. SIGNIFICANCE

4.1. Assessing cultural heritage significance

LMCC Cemetery Conservation Management Plan, Volume 1 provides detail on the process of assessing cultural heritage significance under the Assessing Heritage Significance Manual (NSW Heritage Office 2001)

Historical (Criterion A)

An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

The Johnston Family Cemetery provides a tangible link to one of the original settler families of the Barnsley area. The use and care of the graveyard by the Johnston family, since 1890, provides a continuity of family attachment to the area. Historical significance is evident in the recording of family names and individuals instrumental in the development of the Barnsley community.

The Johnston Family Cemetery meets Criterion A.

Associative (Criterion B)

An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

The Johnston Family Cemetery is associated with one family and their descendants who were significant early settlers in the Barnsley area.

The Johnston Family Cemetery meets Criterion B.

Aesthetic/Technical (Criterion C)

An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).

The Johnston Family Cemetery is typical of a small rural cemetery, with modest headstones and grave furniture.

The Johnston Family Cemetery does not meet Criterion C.

Social (Criterion D)

An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

The Johnston Family Cemetery as a principal place of burial for one family since the late nineteenth century holds social and spiritual significance for that group. It plays an important role in the linking the current generation of the Johnston family with their ancestors.

The Johnston Family Cemetery meets Criterion D.

Research (Criterion E)

An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

The Johnston Family Cemetery has significant social research potential. It provides a tangible family tree demonstrating a familial links that developed in a pocket of regional Australia.

The Johnston Family Cemetery meets Criterion E.



Rarity (Criterion F)

An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

The Johnston Family Cemetery is rare in the local area in that it possesses interments (1894 - 1962) from a specific family group. It is rare in retaining a mid-twentieth century appearance of some tall early headstones and later lower, more modest headstones and an absence of beam burials.

The Johnston Family Cemetery meets Criterion F.

Representative (Criterion G)

An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places, or cultural or natural environments. (or a class of the local area).

The Johnston Family Cemetery demonstrates the principal characteristics of a class of the cultural places of New South Wales. It is representative of a small private cemetery in NSW dating from the late nineteenth century that remains in use to the present day.

The Johnston Family Cemetery meets Criterion G.

Integrity /intactness: Johnston Family Cemetery fulfills this criterion.

4.2. Statement of significance

The first interment at the Johnston Family Cemetery was William Johnston, a well-known early settler of the area now known as Barnsley. The cemetery contains the graves of several generations of the family and related members of the community, including one victim of the Bellbird mining disaster (1923). Unusual as a privately founded cemetery, since 1995 it has been under the care of LMCC. The cemetery retains a mid-twentieth century appearance, this together with several fine trees, provides a considerable contribution to the Barnsley landscape.

4.3. Grading of significance

The rationale for significance grading is in accordance with the NSW Heritage Manual Assessing Heritage Significance (NSW Heritage Office 2000) with an explanation of the gradings found in Volume 1.

The grading seeks to identify the features of Johnston Family Cemetery that contribute to its significance.

Table 2 Graded elements of Johnston Family Cemetery

Grading	Cemetery elements
Exceptional	Headstones associated with the significant individuals of the Johnston family. Headstones are indicative of the style of the late nineteenth to mid-twentieth century. Significant trees on the perimeter, including the camphor laurel and deodar cedar.
High	Curtilage, all memorials, major trees, entrance gate, fences,
Moderate	-
Low	Gates and fencing.
Intrusive	Re-growth camphor laurel/camellia – centre of cemetery.



4.4. Views and vistas

Conservation requires the retention of an appropriate visual setting and other relationships that contribute to the cultural significance of the place (Marquis-Kyle and Walker 2004:37). An important component of the cemetery is its landscape. The cemetery, appropriately, is bordered by rural residences on acreages. The important views are within the cemetery, the mature, perimeter trees contributing to the sense of a private space.

4.5. Archaeological significance

Cemeteries by design hold archaeological potential. Johnston Family Cemetery has the potential to provide information on burial practices over time and the grave goods interred with them.

Exhumations in older cemeteries has resulted in skeletal analysis that has provided extensive evidence on past populations. The archaeological significance of these burials is high.

There were no known other structures, other than possible previous fences, at the cemetery. The archaeological significance of such structures if they exist is low.



5. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

General recommendations about management guidelines can be found in Volume 1, the following table refers specifically to Johnston Family Cemetery, Barnsley.

Table 3 Management recommendations

Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommendation
Views and vistas	Retention of views and vistas both within and external to cemetery.	High	Maintain rural aspect of cemetery.
Landscape, vegetation, gardens and plantings	Maintain landscaping and plantings.	High	Undertake weeding, mowing and regular maintenance. Removal of camphor laurel/ camellia re-growth at centre of cemetery (NOTE: <u>NOT</u> the mature trees on the perimeter).
Headstones and grave furniture	Ensure long term retention of headstones and grave furniture.	Moderate	Source funding for conservation works on older headstones. All works in accordance with National Trust (NSW) (2009) <i>Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .
Significant graves	Ensure retention of significant graves and headstones.	High	Source funding to undertake conservation works. Prioritize work on the graves of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• William/ Mary Johnston and• George Snedden.
Unmarked burials	Identify unmarked burials to prevent inadvertent damage or disturbance.	Moderate	Heritage interpretive sign to include recognition of the unmarked burials.
Gates and fences	Retention of gates and fences.	Low	Regular maintenance.
Signage	Provide signage.	High	Install a sign that identifies the cemetery.
Heritage interpretation	Promotion as a source of historical and family information	Moderate	Develop and install accurate, informative, engaging heritage interpretation sign/s. Includes recognition of unmarked burials.
Environmental factors	Fire and storms	High	Maintenance plans to include removal of hazardous trees and undergrowth, grass regularly mown in high-risk seasons.
'Friends of'	Engage community groups	High	Encourage the Johnston family descendants to undertake heritage research on interments. Assist in grounds and memorial maintenance working under <i>National Trust Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .



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Newcastle Herald. 26 May 1995. Family ends struggle to retain ancestral link.



Martinsville Pioneer Cemetery

SEPTEMBER 2021



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1. BACKGROUND

The Lake Macquarie City Council Cemeteries Conservation Management Plan (2021) comprises three volumes - Volume 1 provides generic information on cemetery management, Volume 2 details each of the cemeteries under the management of Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC), while Volume 3 is an archival recording report of the cemeteries.

The focus of this report, which forms part of Volume 2, is Martinsville Cemetery (Figure 1).

1.1. Project area

Item name:	Martinsville Pioneer Cemetery (North Corrumbung Cemetery)
Address:	200 Martinsville Road, Martinsville
Property description:	Lot 7300, DP 1145113 and Lot 1, DP 1095988
Heritage listing:	Lake Macquarie Local Environment Plan 2014 Item # 79

1.2. Milestones

Established: 15 December 1875

Management transfer to LMCC: Post 1967

1.3. Author and acknowledgements

Laraine Nelson (Nelson Heritage Consulting) conducted site inspections and is the author of this document. All images unless otherwise attributed are by the author.

The author is indebted to the assistance provided by

- Barry Sylvester, local historian and Martinsville resident
- Patricia Tierney, Martinsville resident
- Judy Messiter, Lake Macquarie Library - Local History
- Darrell Rigby. Heritage Archaeology and Planning. Cover photo

SITE PHOTO 1



SITE PHOTO 2



NOTES

ANY ELECTRONIC FILE IS PROVIDED WITHOUT WARRANTY AND SHOULD BE USED ONLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SUPPLIED PDF/PAPER COPY OF THIS PLAN.

NO BOUNDARY SURVEY HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN. BOUNDARIES SHOWN ARE FROM LAKE MACQUARIE DCDB PROVIDED ON THE 16/02/2020. FILE "LakemacCemeteriesCADdata_MGAz56"

ORIGIN OF CO-ORDINATES PM83596 WITH MGA2020 CO-ORDINATE VALUES OF E 354779.890 N 6338935.467

LEGEND

- AREA OUTLINE
- GRAVE OUTLINE
- DCDB BOUNDARIES
- PHOTO LOCATION



REVISIONS				SCALE: 1:400				DATUM: N/A				SCALE BAR: 8 4 0 8 16 24 Metres				CLIENT: HERITAGE ARCHAEOLOGY PLANNING				SURVEY: RJS				DATE OF SURVEY: 26-02-2021				TITLE: SURVEY PLAN OF MARTINSVILLE CEMETERY				JOB No: PR149135				ISSUE: A			
A				03.03.2021				INITIAL VERSION				RJS				DSR				JPM				DATE OF PLAN: 03.03.2021				DWG No: 149135-MARTINSVILLE AERIAL.dwg				SHEET 1 OF 1 SHEETS				SIZE: A3			
No.				DATE				REVISION DETAILS				DRAWN				CHK				APP				DATE LAST SAVED: 04.03.2021				DATE APPROVED: 03.03.2021											



2. DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

This history of Martinsville and Martinsville Pioneer Cemetery was sourced largely from The Brush – Memories of Martinsville. (Jones-Mashman 1992), newspaper accounts (Trove) and in discussions with Barry Sylvester and Patricia Tierney, Martinsville residents.

2.1. Martinsville

The earliest settlers in the area now known as Martinsville were William and Sarah Martin. The Martins, from Ireland, purchased a large tract of timbered country from the Crown between 1865 and 1875. William, like many of the settlers that followed, was a timber-getter (Jones-Mashman 1992).

Sparsely settled, a local community did not emerge until 1875. The main industry was timber extraction with many men employed harvesting timber and using bullock teams to move logs to small sawmills at Martinsville, Mount Falk, Watagan Road and the Blarney Grove Creek crossing and to the larger sawmills at Cooranbong. A newspaper article describes 40 teams and 800 men making their living from timber getting within a 10-mile radius of Cooranbong (1938 'Glimpses of COUNTRY LIFE'). Martinsville dependence on the timber industry peaked between 1900 and 1920s, and then slowly declined with the newly cleared land used for farming, mainly dairying and citrus crops (Jones-Mashman 1992).

While originally known as The Brush and often referred to as Cooranbong, in the early 1890s a meeting of local citizens adopted the name Martinsville in honour of the original settlers. This became official in January 1894, when the local post office also adopted the name (Jones-Mashman 1992).

2.2. Martinsville Pioneer Cemetery

On the 15 December 1875, land was set aside at The Brush for a cemetery (Figure 2). There were several cemeteries to follow in the wider area including the Seventh Day Adventist Cemetery, Cooranbong (1898), the Church of England Cemetery, Government Road (1869) and St Patrick's and St Brigid's Roman Catholic Church Cemetery (1898). The term 'Cooranbong cemetery', was widely used by contemporary newspapers and may have referred to any of the cemeteries (1936 'LAKE SHIRE').

The United Church of England and Ireland dedicated the first section of The Brush Cemetery on 31st December 1878. However, the oldest known gravestone is of Sarah Barnes (nee Morris) who died aged 33 in 1886. Early burial records have been lost or destroyed, with many graves potentially unmarked and an accurate record of burials is unknown.

In 1898, The Member for Northumberland, Mr H C Wheeler received advice of the appointment of trustees to the cemetery and noted the need for a tracing showing the area of land (1898 'OFFICIAL LETTERS.'). There is scant early information, with newspaper reports, using the term Cooranbong Cemetery, it is difficult to identify accurate information.

In 1927, the Department of Lands appointed James Martin, Thomas Sylvester and Leslie Tobin as trustees of the Roman Catholic Section, with Charles Pointer and Frank W. Kidd trustees of the Church of England section (Jones-Mashman 1992:63). In 1929, the need for mourners attending a funeral to put out a bush fire in the cemetery prior to the interment was widely reported (1929 'FUNERAL HELD UP'; 1929 'N.S.W. FIRES STILL RAGING'). The condition of the cemetery must have been a cause for concern in 1936, with a request that it be cleared under the emergency relief scheme (1936 'LAKE SHIRE'). There was little information available on the cemetery after that date. While the cemetery remains important for the local community, it is evident from the area originally set aside that it has not realised its full potential (Figure 3).



Figure 2 LTO Charting Map. Parish of Dora. County of Northumberland. 7th Edition. (NSW Land Registry Service).



Figure 3 Martinsville Cemetery - Lot 7300, DP 1145113 and Lot 1, DP 1095988 (Six Maps)

2.2.1 *Local Government (Control of Cemeteries) Amendment Act, 1966*

In 1967, the *Local Government (Control of Cemeteries) Amendment Act, 1966* became operational. That Act transferred trusteeship of cemeteries to local councils,

In 1981, with the cemetery mostly overgrown and the decorative wire gate and fence in disrepair Lake Macquarie Council took control of the cemetery. The area was cleared, graves tidied, and signposts placed. The cemetery was renamed, North Coorumbung Cemetery, this caused consternation locally as it had never been referred to by that name (Jones-Mashman 1992:63).

This was rectified on 10 July 1998, when under the Geographical Names Act, the name Martinsville Pioneer Cemetery was adopted (1998 'GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES ACT 1966').



Proposed Name:	Martinsville Pioneer Cemetery
Designation:	Cemetery
L.G.A.:	Lake Macquarie
Parish:	Dora
County:	Northumberland
Latitude:	33 °04'20"
Longitude:	151°25'44"
C.M.A. Map:	Morisset
1:100 000 Map:	Gosford 9131
Reference:	GNB4558
D. M. GRANT,	

Figure 4 Extract: NSW Government Gazette 10 July 1998 (1998 'GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES ACT 1966')

2.2.2 City of Lake Macquarie Heritage Study (1992-1993)

The City of Lake Macquarie Heritage Study [Suters, Doring, Turner (1992-1993)] listed the Martinsville Cemetery (described as at Cooranbong Cemetery) of local significance. The Study found that as an early cemetery, it was the repository of the history of the pioneers of Cooranbong and more particularly Martinsville (Cooranbong CB-08).

2.3. Cemetery overview






2.3.1 Representative burials

The burials selected below are intended to represent a cross section of the Martinsville community in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Table 1 Representative burials

Name	Memorial
Frost, James (1846-1921) James who died aged 76 years, had been engaged in the timber industry and lived in the district over fifty years prior to his death (1921 'MORISSET.').	
Horgan, James Jnr (1844-1922) and Jane (1848-1925) Selected land at Martinsville around 1916, the couple had 14 children. James Horgan was a successful road contractor in the district (1922 'Martinsville.'). While Jane Horgan, on her death, had lived in the area for 60 years (Mullard 2002) (1922 'MARTINSVILLE.') (1925 'MARTINSVILLE.')	



Name	Memorial
<p>Horgan, Harry (1888-1918)</p> <p>Harry Horgan was the son of James and Jane Horgan (above). The Coroner's Inquest found that Mr Horgan, aged 30 years had, as stated on his headstone, died when struck by a falling tree. It goes on to state that at the time of death his cash or property amounted to 'abt £50' (approximately \$4,615 today) (New South Wales, Australia, Registers of Coroners' Inquests, 1821-1937).</p>	
<p>Kildey, Jack Henry (1908-1949)</p> <p>Jack Kildey was struck by a timber jinker; taken to Wallsend Hospital where he later died from his injuries (1949 'TIMBER CUTTER INJURED'). The Kildey family remain a well-known Martinsville family.</p> <p>Kildey, Minnie Clara (1871-1963)</p> <p>Mother of Jack Henry Kildey and wife of John Owen Kildey (1873-1947). Minnie and John had eight children.</p>	
<p>James Fergus Taylor (1908-1929)</p> <p>James was aged 21 years when he died. He worked as a railway sleeper-cutter and died from injuries when a log rolled onto him.</p>	
<p>Fergus Frost (1885-1915)</p> <p>Mr Frost was one of a group of bullock drivers who pleaded guilty to a charge of 'riotous behaviour' in Morisset in 1913 (1913 'RIOTS AT MORISSET.')</p>	
<p>Barnes, Sarah (1853 -1886)</p> <p>Welsh born, Sarah Barnes (nee Morris), the wife of Thomas Barnes. The family had moved to The Brush from Wallsend when their first child, Alfred, born 1874, was an infant. The Barnes had five more children with the youngest Ethel, one year old when her mother died aged 33 years on 1st June 1886. Sarah's headstone is the oldest identified in the cemetery.</p>	



3. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Martinsville Pioneer Cemetery was established in the late nineteenth century to serve the needs of the local community. In the early years those buried were largely associated with the timber getting industry, however this changed during the mid-twentieth century to reflect the demise of that industry and the growth of agriculture. The cemetery remains a small rural cemetery, flanked by rural pastures and serving the local community, as first intended.

Section 3.1 provides detail on features of the cemetery, with Section 3.2 describing distinctive elements of the cemetery.

3.1. Key elements of Martinsville Pioneer Cemetery

The following table describes the key elements of the Martinsville Cemetery in terms of general appearance (*Location, views and vistas; Landscape, gardens and plantings; Design and layout*), memorials (*Headstones and grave furniture; Memorial features – columbarium, Memorial Walls and chapels*) and infrastructure (*Gates and fences; Signage, Other structures - shelters, roads, seating water supply, drainage, security, lighting*) with the following terminology used:

Description: derived from the site inspection this is a brief description of the element.

Analysis: an overview of how the element contributes to or detracts from the heritage significance.

Ranking: high, medium or low - the value of the element in contributing to the heritage significance.

LOCATION, VIEWS AND VISTAS

Description: Access via Martinsville Road, Martinsville.

Martinsville is a rural community with the nearest urban area, Cooranbong approximately 2.5 km due east. The cemetery, bounded by natural bushland is in turn surrounded by rural pastures. From the entrance gates the view is of a grassed area surrounded by mature trees and mid-storey vegetation. Within the cemetery and from the internal access road the view is restricted by the surrounding bushland.

The cemetery on Martinsville Road, a busy local road, is enclosed by the bushland giving it an attractive sheltered appearance.

Analysis: The enclosed setting together with the surrounding native vegetation is a significant and attractive feature.

Ranking: High



View south to entrance gates



View north-west



View north, rural pastures visible



LANDSCAPE, VEGETATION, GARDENS and PLANTINGS

Description: The mature eucalypts are the focus of the landscape. Inside the cemetery several small decorative gardens, together with shrubs and trees have been planted by family members of those interred. Species vary with introduced species such as geranium, agapanthus, lavender, rosemary and succulents.

Analysis: The gardens have been established to memorialize those buried. The planting of some species in, or near graves, has the potential in the long term to impact on nearby headstones.

Ranking: Medium



Example of small gardens established by relatives

DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Description: A traditional grid layout with designated sections for various Christian and non-denominational burials. The cemetery plan is a square, though the only portion used forms an 'L' shape.

A central unsealed track provides vehicle access though the centre of the cemetery. The earliest graves tend to be on the eastern side of the cemetery.

A beam has been installed at the cemetery with a small number of personalised interments made.

Analysis: The cemetery layout is largely consistent with other cemeteries under LMCC management.

Ranking: High



Internal access track



Traditional layout



Beam burial



HEADSTONES AND GRAVE FURNITURE

Description: Martinsville Pioneer Cemetery headstones overall, are modest and typical of the other cemeteries assessed during this project. Those headstones dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century are often upright stele in style and in many instances have cast iron fence surrounds. Towards the mid twentieth century lower profile headstones became more common, sometimes including a concrete or sandstone surround to delineate the grave. Beam interments, while possible, have not been adopted to a large extent.

Analysis: Representative of the transition of headstone styles from the late nineteenth century to the present day. In terms of management, the earliest stele monument and cast-iron surrounds are most vulnerable to damage resulting from their age, style and type of material. That risk of damage decreases with the lower profile mid-late twentieth century headstones with the beam style, by nature, most resilient to damage.

Ranking: High



Late nineteenth to early twentieth century headstone.



Mid-late twentieth century headstone.



Late twentieth century beam headstone.

MEMORIAL FEATURES – COLUMBARIA, MEMORIAL WALLS AND CHAPELS

Description - There are no memorial walls, Columbaria or chapels.

GATES AND FENCES

Description: Martinsville Pioneer Cemetery has solid timber entrance gates that are appropriate to the cemetery. Simple steel pipe fencing prevents access on the southern side from the car park. Bushland and rural post and wire fences provide security on the remaining sides.

Analysis: The gates and fences are appropriate and adequate to the task.

Ranking: Low



Entrance gate



Fencing



SIGNAGE

Description: Located on a bend on a busy road, there is no roadside sign that advises drivers of the cemetery's presence. The large Council erected entrance sign is consistent with all others for Lake Macquarie Cemeteries.

There are signs indicating denomination, however, there are no row markers.

Analysis: The cemetery warrants a roadside sign to indicate its presence. At the cemetery, the Council sign, other than the location, is generic to all other cemetery signs. Given the historic nature of the cemetery, a sign with information such as: a plan of the cemetery layout, a brief history, information on graves of note is warranted.

Ranking: Low



Entrance sign



Denominational sign

OTHER STRUCTURES, SHELTERS, SEATING, WATER SUPPLY, DRAINAGE, SECURITY, LIGHTING

Description: Martinsville Pioneer Cemetery has a small shelter and a single seat. Throughout the cemetery are garden seats placed by family members. Water (not potable) is available. Drainage appears adequate. Security is bolstered by the closed gate and the location near a road well used by locals. An unsealed parking area is muddy during wet weather.

Analysis: The simple shelter and garden seat are appropriate for the rural nature of the cemetery.

Ranking: Low



Small shelter



Seating



Water



3.2. Distinctive elements

3.2.1 Timber industry

The early portion of the cemetery has several headstones that detail accidental death with a number specific to the timber industry. Those headstones are witness to an industry that held significant dangers for workers.



Figure 5 Inscriptions - accidental deaths

3.2.2 Modern memorials

Martinsville Pioneer Cemetery has several personalised graves. Family members or friends have decorated the areas of the grave and in some instances, nearby areas with distinct memorials that reflect the life and interest of the person interred. These personalised tributes reflect a cemetery that retains close links to the local community.



Figure 6 Examples of modern memorials



3.2.3 Unmarked graves

Unmarked graves occur in most cemeteries. The cost of erecting an enduring headstone was significant, often a wooden cross marked a location and over time that disappeared, and the grave location lost. The only record of the interment's name being found amongst sextant or funeral director documents; however, these were not always accurate and, in many instances, have been lost.

Martinsville was built on the timber industry, and it is likely that timber would have been used for many memorials - unfortunately, this does not provide a lasting memorial.

3.3. Historical archaeological potential

LMCC Cemetery Conservation Management Plan, Volume 1 provides detail on statutory provisions regarding archaeological relics. This section considers the potential for historical archaeological evidence to remain. All cemeteries by nature contain archaeological relics, while the location of most is identifiable, there remain areas where graves are no longer marked that are not obvious. While generally, cemeteries may also contain evidence of past structures and features such as buildings, fences, paths and roads in the instance of the

Figure 1 shows no indication of unmarked burials at Martinsville Pioneer Cemetery. This mapping, developed from the drone images, can reflect a distinguishable pattern of potential graves. However, where such a pattern is not detectable, it may be a result of graves not being discernable, rather than an absence of graves.

3.4. Key issues

The following are considered the key issues:

- Lack of signage
- Poor condition of early headstones
- Unkempt personal memorials
- Poor access from Martinsville Road
- Unsealed parking area
- Environmental impact of fires, storms, etc.



4. SIGNIFICANCE

4.1. Assessing cultural heritage significance

LMCC Cemetery Conservation Management Plan, Volume 1 provides detail on the process of assessing cultural heritage significance under the Assessing Heritage Significance Manual (NSW Heritage Office 2001)

Historical (Criterion A)

An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Martinsville Pioneer Cemetery provides physical evidence of the growth, development and decline of the timber industry. The layout of the cemetery reflects divisions built on religion while the modest memorials reflect a working-class community. Historical significance is evident in the recording of family names and individuals who formed the community. Archival records associated with burials provide a valuable source of information, given the loss of physical evidence with unmarked graves.

Martinsville Cemetery meets Criterion A.

Associative (Criterion B)

An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Martinsville Pioneer Cemetery is associated with the early settlers of the area. Families such as Kildey, Frost and Horgan were important to the development of the timber industry in the early years.

Martinsville Cemetery meets Criterion B.

Aesthetic/Technical (Criterion C)

An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).

Martinsville Pioneer Cemetery is typical of a small rural cemetery, with modest headstones and grave furniture.

Martinsville Pioneer Cemetery does not meet Criterion C.

Social (Criterion D)

An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

Martinsville Pioneer Cemetery, as a principal place of burial for the area since the late nineteenth century, has a special association for social and spiritual reasons for the local community. It plays an important role in the ability to remember and honour deceased families and friends.

Martinsville Cemetery meets Criterion D.

Research (Criterion E)

An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Martinsville Pioneer Cemetery has significant social research potential. The cemetery, during the period 1875 to the 1930s was an important place of interment for those associated with the local timber industry. This singular source of interments provides the opportunity for investigation through headstone types and inscriptions and extends through documentary records to unmarked graves.



Martinsville Cemetery meets Criterion E.

Rarity (Criterion F)

An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Martinsville Pioneer Cemetery is rare in the local area in that it possesses interments (1875 – 1930s) in the main part from a specific community, those associated with the timber industry.

Martinsville Cemetery meets Criterion F.

Representative (Criterion G)

An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places, or cultural or natural environments (or a class of the local area).

Martinsville Pioneer Cemetery demonstrates the principal characteristics of a class of the cultural places of New South Wales. It is representative of a small general cemetery in NSW dating from the late 19th century that served a specific community.

Martinsville Cemetery meets Criterion G.

Integrity /intactness: Martinsville Cemetery fulfills this criterion.

4.2. Statement of significance

Martinsville Pioneer Cemetery, established in 1875, is significant as one of the earliest cemeteries established in western Lake Macquarie. The cemetery illustrates the development of a small community with little diversity in demography and social composition dependent on a sole industry - timber getting and processing. The cemetery was modest in size and type, with a layout and range of headstones consistent with the evolution of burial practices since the nineteenth century. That focus has changed since the mid twentieth century, with the demise of the timber industry the social make-up of the community has changed, and the cemetery has reflected that change.



4.3. Grading of significance

The rationale for significance grading is in accordance with the NSW Heritage Manual Assessing Heritage Significance (NSW Heritage Office 2000) with an explanation of the gradings found in Volume 1.

The grading seeks to identify the features of Martinsville Pioneer Cemetery that contribute to its significance.

Table 2 Graded elements of Martinsville Cemetery

Grading	Cemetery elements
Exceptional	Headstones associated with burials prior to the 1930s.
High	Rectilinear grid layout, curtilage, all headstones, major trees, entrance gate.
Moderate	-
Low	Shelter shed, fence, water tank,
Intrusive	-

4.4. Views and vistas

Conservation requires the retention of an appropriate visual setting and other relationships that contribute to the cultural significance of the place (Marquis-Kyle and Walker 2004:37). An important component of the cemetery is its landscape, the cemetery's border of dense bushland creates views and vistas that are important to the space. The cemetery, appropriately, is bordered by rural farmland. The important views are within the cemetery, the mature, perimeter trees contributing to the sense of a private space.

4.5. Archaeological significance

Cemeteries by design hold archaeological potential. Martinsville Pioneer Cemetery has the potential to provide information on burial practices over time and the grave goods interred with them. Exhumations in older cemeteries has resulted in skeletal analysis that has provided extensive evidence on past populations. The archaeological significance of these burials is high.

There were no known other structures, other than possible previous fences, at the cemetery. The archaeological significance of such structures, if they exist, is low.



5. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

General recommendations about management guidelines can be found in Volume 1, the following table refers specifically to Martinsville Pioneer Cemetery.

The development of 'personal' gardens creates an issue with inappropriate plantings, such as large species on or adjacent graves. Over time, personal gardens may receive less attention and deteriorate resulting in a negative impact on the ambience of a cemetery.

A discussion on the general recommendations about management guidelines can be found in Volume 1, the following table refers specifically to Martinsville Pioneer Cemetery.

Table 3 Management recommendations

Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommendation
Views and vistas	Retention of views and vistas both within and external to cemetery	High	Maintain bushland boundaries. If expansion into currently unused portions of the cemetery is proposed, it is important to retain the bushland buffer.
Landscape, vegetation, gardens and plantings	Maintain landscaping and plantings.	High	Undertake weeding, mowing and regular maintenance. Remove dead branches and invasive weeds on the perimeter. Discourage the establishment of personal gardens outside designated burial allotments.
Headstones and grave furniture		Moderate	Source funding for conservation works on older headstones. All works in accordance with the National Trust (NSW). (2009) <i>Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .
Significant graves	Ensure retention of significant graves and headstones.	High	Source funding to undertake conservation works prioritizing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sarah Barnes grave - transcribe headstone inscription; create a kerb around the grave to define the space; seek specialist advice on stabilizing the sandstone surface.
Unmarked burials	Identify unmarked burials to prevent inadvertent damage or disturbance.	Low	Consider a GPR study, if required, to identify unmarked graves and identify areas for potential burial space.
Gates and fences.	Retention of gates and fences	Low	Regular maintenance. Improve entrance to expedite turning off Martinsville Road. Gravel or seal parking area.
Parking area			
Signage	Maintain existing signage and provide additional signage.	High	Provide additional denomination/ row # signage at end of each row.



Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommendation
			Provide cemetery plan adjacent the front gate. Install a Martinsville Cemetery sign on the roadside to assist identification for drivers.
Heritage interpretation	Promotion as a source of historical and family information	Moderate	Develop and install accurate, informative, engaging heritage interpretation sign/s.
Environmental factors	Fire and storms	High	Maintenance plans to include removal of hazardous trees and undergrowth, grass regularly mown in high-risk seasons.
'Friends of'	Engage community groups	Moderate	Encourage groups to advance heritage research on interments. Assist in grounds and memorial maintenance working under the <i>National Trust (NSW). (2009) Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .



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Morisset Cemetery
SEPTEMBER 2021



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1. BACKGROUND

The Lake Macquarie City Council Cemeteries Conservation Management Plan (2021) comprises three volumes - Volume 1 provides generic information on cemetery management, Volume 2 details each of the cemeteries under the management of Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC), while Volume 3 comprises an archival recording report of the cemeteries.

The focus of this report, which forms part of Volume 2, is Morisset Cemetery (Figure 1).

1.1. Project area

Item name:	Morisset Cemetery
Address:	36 Ettalong Road, Morisset
Property description:	Lot 7028 DP 1120627
Heritage listing:	Unlisted

1.2. Milestones

Established: 1910

Management transfer to LMCC: Post 1967

1.3. Author and acknowledgements

Laraine Nelson (Nelson Heritage Consulting) conducted site inspections and is the author of this document. All images unless otherwise attributed are by the author.

The author is indebted to the assistance provided by:

- Barbara King, Funeral Director. Barbara King Funerals, Morisset
- Beryl Mullard, local historian and author
- Judy Messiter, Lake Macquarie Library - Local History
- Darrell Rigby. Heritage Archaeology and Planning. Cover photo



Photo 1: Easterly Aspect



Photo 2: South Easterly Aspect

NOTES



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REVISIONS	C	26.03.2021	TEXT AMENDMENT	DA	DSR	JPM	■ SCALE: 1:600	■ DATUM: N/A		■ CLIENT: 	■ SURVEY: RJS ■ DRAWN: RJS ■ CHECKED: DSR ■ APPROVED: JPM	DATE OF SURVEY: 26.02.2021 DATE OF PLAN: 2.03.2021 DATE LAST SAVED: 26.03.2021 DATE APPROVED: 2.03.2021	■ TITLE SURVEY PLAN OF MORISSET CEMETERY	■ JOB No 149135	■ ISSUE C
	B	9.03.2021	POTENTIAL BURIAL AREAS ADDED	SWA	DSR	JPM	■ COORDINATES: MGA	■ ORIGIN:							
	A	2.03.2021	INITIAL VERSION	RJS	DSR	JPM	■ ORIGIN: PM 37587	■ CROSS SECTION: V: N/A H: N/A							
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2. DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

This history of the Morisset Cemetery was sourced from written histories, newspaper accounts (Trove) and in discussions with Barbara King and Beryl Mullard.

2.1. Morisset

The area now known as Morisset, from the mid to late nineteenth century, was sparsely settled by timber getters and their families. Morisset, as a centre did not develop until the 1880s when the area was chosen for the site of a station on the Great Northern Railway Line that was under construction. In 1887, Morisset was declared a town, with the railway at its centre and the timber industry remaining the largest source of employment (Mullard 2002:7).

2.1.1 *Morisset Hospital for the Insane*

In 1909, Morisset Hospital for the Insane was opened with the intention of alleviating the extreme overcrowding in Sydney asylums. The hospital, situated on the shores of nearby Lake Macquarie, was to become home for many hundreds of people over the following years (Morisset Hospital Historical Society 2000:9). The hospital did not have a cemetery, patients that died were primarily buried in nearby Morisset Cemetery. There are also recorded burials of Morisset Hospital patients at Martinsville Pioneer, Point Clare, Jiliby and Wamberal Cemeteries (pers. comm. D. Davies. LMCC)

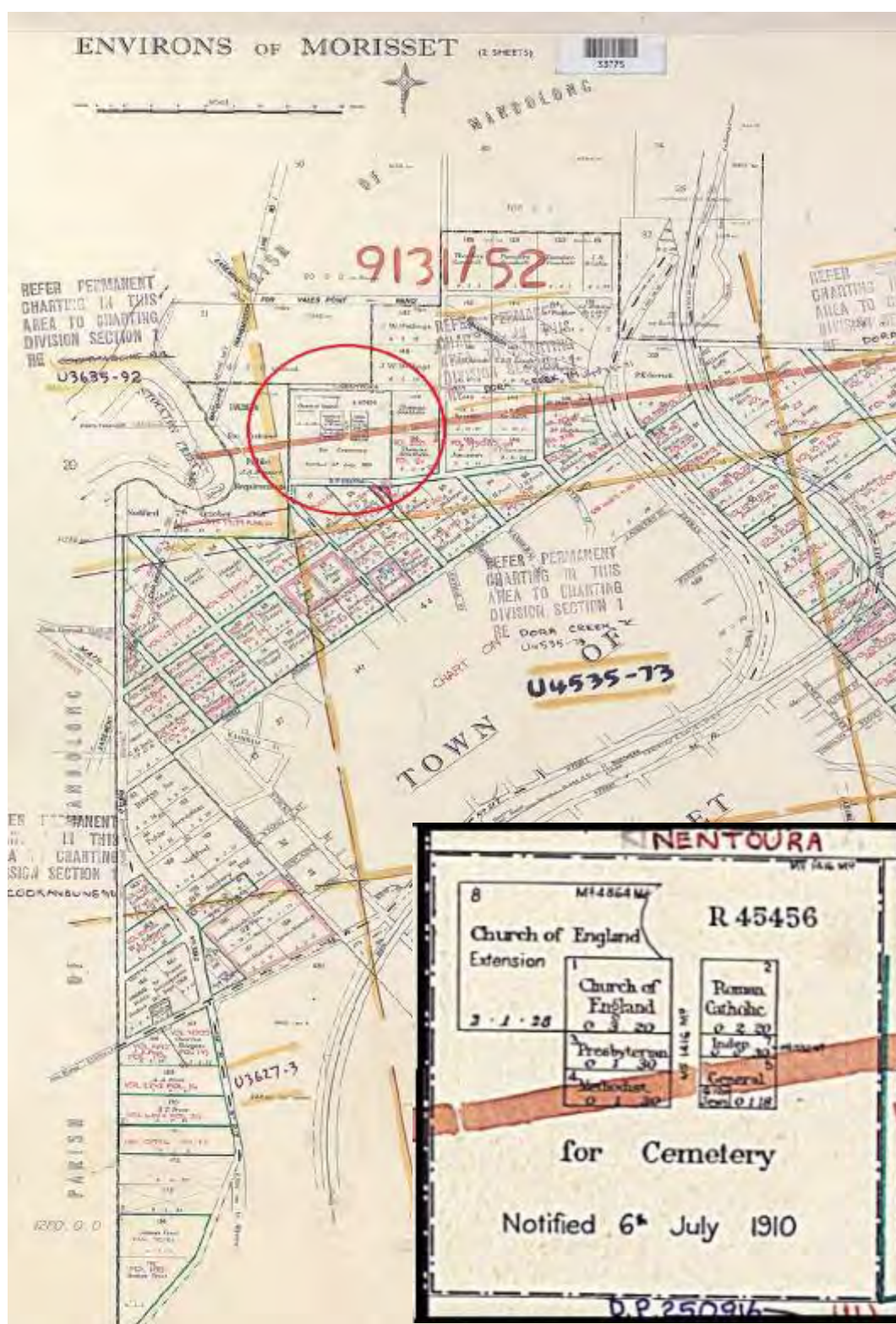
2.2. Morisset Cemetery

The original plan for the town of Morisset included an area set aside for a general cemetery (Mullard 2002:274) (Figure 2). The need for a cemetery was supported by the Morisset Progress Association, while the development of the 'Hospital for the Insane' also led its managing authorities to support the request and also call for the provision of a special grant (1909 'MORISSET.').

While the original town plan had an area set aside for a cemetery it was not gazetted until 1910. Despite this, burials were already occurring, a funeral notice 1 July 1908, advises that the funeral of Thomas McManus, was to move his residence at the Morisset School to Morisset Cemetery (1908 'Family Notices',).

The earliest known existing headstone at the cemetery is that of Ernest Locchi and May Case (1911 'Dora Creek Bathing Fatality.'). The names Locchi and Case are also the first to appear in the Morisset Church of England Cemetery Trust Register (University of Newcastle Archives – AB5752M).

The Morisset Church of England Cemetery Trust Register records W. E. Craft on the first and numerous following pages as being responsible for the cost of burial (Figure 3). Mr Craft was a local undertaker and grave digger. Mr Craft, in addition to his responsibilities of the local community was also responsible for the burial of inmates from the 'Morisset Hospital for the Insane' (Morisset Hospital Historical Society 2000:33).



Morisset Cemetery 2021



In 1911, Lake Macquarie Shire Council committed £15 for a road from the town to the cemetery (1911 'LAKE MACQUARIE SHIRE.'). Dedication to the maintenance of the cemetery was evident when, in 1935, two meetings were held by the Cemetery Trustees, representing the Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist and 'undenominational' portions. A tender was accepted for fencing the four portions with a working-bee undertaken for the works. The Church of England Trustees did not attend but were being approached to ensure their entrance gates were in good repair and the fencing was made cattle proof (1935 'MORISSET'). Later the upgrade of the cemetery road was undertaken by Lake Macquarie Shire Council using a work relief scheme (1936 'MORISSET'). By 1936, the works proposed by the Trustees in 1935, had been undertaken with concerts held to assist in defraying costs (1936 'MORISSET').

In 1939, the death occurred of fourteen-year-old Monica Brooks, the daughter of Reverend Wilbur Brooks, the local minister (Mullard 1928:274). The service at her funeral was led by the Bishop Batty, Bishop of Newcastle (1939 'DISTRICT DEATHS'). Later a small red-brick chapel, that still stands in the cemetery was dedicated to her memory.

Date of Interment	Name of deceased as full	Person to pay	When paid	Amount
Dec 11	Ernest Loeck	E. E. Voller		3 1
11	Henry A. Cross	E. E. Voller		3 2
Jan 1	James Cross	James Cross		3 3
Aug 21	John A. Henry	H. E. Craft		19 11
22	William Williams	do		19 10
28	Charles Nelson	do		19 9
Jan 20	George Charles Dancer	do		19 8
28	Ernest George Jones	do	19 10	19 7
Aug 11	Thomas Mary Williams	A. Mullard	19 10	3 4
24	George Harmer	H. E. Craft	19 10	19 6
Oct 27	Frances Harcourt	do		19 5
Nov 16	William Patterson	do		19 4
Dec 8	William Henry Bennett	do	19 10	19 3
22	Albert T. Turner	W. E. Turner	19 10	19 2
Nov 7	Kathleen Morley	William Morley	19 10	3 7
July 19	Joseph F. Barton	H. E. Craft	19 10	19 1
Nov 6	Arthur Christopherson	do		19 22
Jan 25	George Barnard	do		19 21
	Joseph Frost	Joseph Frost	19 10	4 8
April 22	Daniel William Sharpe	H. E. Craft	19 10	19 20
May 6	Charles Wighton	do		19 19
8	Henry Walker	do		19 18
June 6	Dorrick Landon	do		19 17
29	Bernard Silson	do	19 10	19 16
July 21	John Simmons	do	19 10	19 15
Oct 2	George Ellis	do	19 10	19 14
Oct 31	William Christopher Dwyer	do	19 10	19 13
Nov 5	John Houston	do	19 10	19 12
Dec 13	Charles Robb	do	19 10	17 5
Dec 31	Thomas Jones	do	19 10	17 14
Jan 31	William H. Johnson	do	19 10	18 13

Figure 3 Extract - Morisset Church of England Cemetery Trust Register (University of Newcastle Archives – AB5752M).



2.2.1 Local Government (Control of Cemeteries) Amendment Act, 1966

In 1967, the *Local Government (Control of Cemeteries) Amendment Act, 1966* became operational. That Act transferred trusteeship of cemeteries including Morisset Cemetery to local councils, in this instance Lake Macquarie Shire Council. There were no records found detailing information on that transfer of management

2.2.2 City of Lake Macquarie Heritage Study (1992-1993)

The City of Lake Macquarie Heritage Study [Suters, Doring, Turner (1992-1993)] listed the Morisset Cemetery as having moderate local significance. The study based that assessment on interesting graves however, it considers that given the few burials it was not the principal place of interment. There is no acknowledgment of the link to the Morisset Hospital (Morisset MS – 09).

While included in the Heritage Study, the Cemetery was not listed on the *LMCC Local Environment Plan. Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage*.

2.3. Cemetery overview

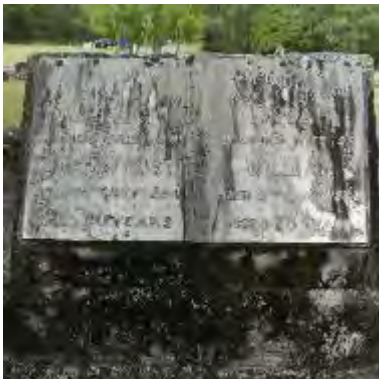



2.3.1 Representative burials

The burials selected below are intended to represent a cross section of the Morisset community in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. One person, Wynter Vine Blick, represents the likely hundreds of patient burials from Morisset Hospital.

Table 1 Representative burials

Name	Memorial
Kildey, Ted (1905 - 1952) and Douglas (1931 - 1952) Douglas Kildey with his father Ted as passenger, was piloting an aircraft a week before his wedding. When circling his fiancée's family farm at Wyee, the aircraft's engine stalled and it crashed. The men, both butchers at Morisset, were killed (Mullard 2017:137).	
Mullard, Herbert Bradley (1863-1939) and Mary (1865 - 1939) A pioneering family. In 1896 Herbert Mullard established the first sawmill in Morisset utilizing the railway for distribution. Employing up to 70 men, he went on to build a further sawmill nearby which included a handle factory and steam room for boat building. Between 1883 -1930 he built the sawmills, a butcher shop, Police Station and Lockup, Court House and Mullard Chambers (Mullard 2017:201).	



Name	Memorial
<p>Frost, William (1844-1924)</p> <p>A pioneering family. William was the son of Joseph Frost. Joseph was transported as a convict to Australia in 1827, in 1835 he is recorded as managing 'Whyee' Stockyard and in 1867 was provided with a grant at nearby Mandalong.</p>	
<p>Hanson, Thomas Jnr (1828 – 1915) and Annie (1849 – 1925)</p> <p>A pioneering family and timber getters. Thomas Hanson Snr held an original grant at nearby Sunshine, on the shores of Lake Macquarie. Thomas Jnr, a boat builder settled at Sunshine Extended. Hansons Bluff is named after the family (Mullard 2002:39;124;446).</p>	
<p>Gambrill, Arthur Andrew (1908-1985)</p> <p>A member of a pioneering family – the earliest settlers were Theodore and Angelina who selected land at Morisset in 1888, shortly after the arrival of the railway. Their six children were to be the first students at Morisset School. The Gambrill family are well known and Arthur Gambrill, their grandson, owned a grocery store in Morisset (Mullard 2002:93).</p>	
<p>Wellings, James (1874 – 1948) and Lola (1883 - 1967)</p> <p>A pioneering family. James, George, Thomas and David Snr. were all timber getters in the days of bullocks. James under contract cleared land for the Great Northern Railway link. He was widely acknowledged and given a gold watch for his role in a fight at Healy's Pub, Cooranbong (1938 'Glimpses of COUNTRY LIFE').</p>	



Name	Memorial
<p>Locchi, Ernie (1890 - 1911)</p> <p>Case, Polly (1892 - 1911)</p> <p>The earliest known headstone – Ernie Locchi aged 21 years and Polly (May) Case aged 19 years, accidentally drowned in Dora Creek after going to the aid of a young girl (1911 'Dora Creek Bathing Fatality.').</p>	
<p>Blick, Wynter Vine (1843 – 1917)</p> <p>The memorial wall for Morisset Hospital patients includes a tribute from his descendants. Wynter Blick appears in the Morisset Church of England Cemetery Trust Register (University of Newcastle Archives – AB5752M).</p>	



3. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Morisset Cemetery, surrounded by bushland, is situated to the north of Morisset at the end of minor road. It is spacious in appearance with the older portion of the cemetery flanking the internal access road. On the eastern side close to the boundary and some distance from the original burial area, is the modern beam style cemetery.

Section 3.1 provides detail on features of the cemetery, with Section 3.2 describing distinctive elements of the cemetery.

3.1. Key elements of Morisset Cemetery

The following describes the key elements of Morisset Cemetery in terms of general appearance (*Location, views and vistas; Landscape, gardens and plantings; Design and layout*), memorials (*Headstones and grave furniture; Memorial features – columbarium, Memorial Walls and chapels*) and infrastructure (*Gates and fences; Signage, Other structures - shelters, roads, seating water supply, drainage, security, lighting*) with the following terminology used:

Description: derived from the site inspection this is a brief description of the element.

Analysis: an overview of how the element contributes to or detracts from the heritage significance.

Ranking: high, moderate or low - the value of the element in contributing to the heritage significance.

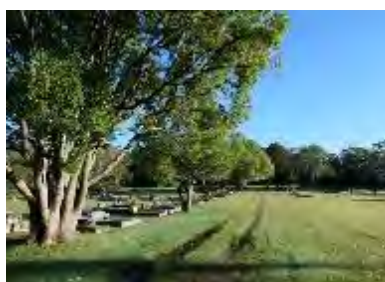
LOCATION, VIEWS AND VISTAS

Description: Access is via Ettalong Road, Morisset.

The cemetery, 1.3 km north of the centre of Morisset is bounded by natural bushland. From the entrance gates the view within the cemetery is expansive.

Analysis: The bush surrounds are a defining feature of several LMCC cemeteries. The bushland provides a visual reference to the boundaries of the place and creates a quiet space. The bushland acts as a barrier to external development and modern bustle. The spacious, open layout together with the surrounding native vegetation is a significant and attractive feature.

Ranking: High



View from the entrance gates



View south-east



View south



LANDSCAPE, GARDENS and PLANTINGS

Description: The landscape presents as expansive lawns with several mature native and ornamental trees. There is a line of mature camphor laurel trees on the western side of the internal access road. Trees in the newer section of the cemetery tend to melaleuca and casuarina species. There are no formal garden beds. Some plants are associated with graves; however, most flowers are artificial.

Analysis: The 'avenue' of trees along the internal access road gives a sense of formality into what in general appears as an open parkland space. The long-term retention of mature trees is important in retaining the appearance of the cemetery.

Ranking: High



Camphor laurel bordering internal access road.



Pine species, possibly intentionally planted.



Trees in newer section of cemetery.

DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Description: A traditional grid layout with designated sections for various Christian and non-denominational burials. Traditional Christian burial practices have graves aligned east-west. At Morisset several graves are facing south. A central unsealed road provides vehicle access through the centre of the cemetery. Most earlier burials flank the internal access road. Since the 1980s beams have been used for the introduction of new burial areas. At Morisset these have been placed to the east and well away from the earlier burials. This was likely planned to avoid impacting on the many unmarked burials.

Analysis: The cemetery layout reflects a traditional arrangement, tempered by the need to ensure later burials do not impact on the numerous unmarked burials.

Ranking: High



Traditional layout – graves facing east.



Modern beam layout



HEADSTONES AND GRAVE FURNITURE

Description: The headstones overall are modest and typical of the other cemeteries assessed during this project. Those headstones dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, are often upright stele in style and in some instances have cast iron fence surrounds. Towards the mid twentieth century, lower profile headstones became more common, sometimes including a concrete or sandstone surround to delineate the grave. From the 1980s beam burials became the norm.

Analysis: Representative of the transition of headstone styles from the late nineteenth century to the present day. In terms of management, the earliest stele headstone and cast-iron surrounds are most vulnerable to damage resulting from their age, style and type of material. That risk of damage decreases with the lower profile mid-late twentieth century headstones with the later beam style, by nature, most resilient to damage.

Ranking: High



Late nineteenth to early twentieth century headstone.



Mid-late twentieth century headstones.



Late twentieth century beam headstones.

MEMORIAL FEATURES – COLUMBARIUM, MEMORIAL WALLS AND CHAPELS

Description: Morisset Cemetery has a new columbarium that, at the time of survey, had not been used. A small chapel dedicated to the daughter of a local minister is present, however, there is no indication on the chapel of that dedication; the chapel has graffiti and mould inside. There is a Memorial Wall to the patients of Morisset Hospital.

Analysis: The utilitarian style columbarium appropriately, is in the modern area. The memorial to the hospital patients is a positive step in recognizing their presence in the cemetery. It is unfortunate that the chapel has no information relating to its dedication.

Ranking: Morisset Hospital Memorial Wall (High); chapel (High); columbarium (Low)



Memorial Wall



Chapel



Columbarium



GATES AND FENCES

Description: Morisset Cemetery has a rudimentary steel entrance gate flanked by brick pillars. The gate remains locked unless access is required for interments. The fence on the east and western side is of treated pine and wire.

Analysis: The gates and fences appear adequate to their task and reflect the rural nature of the cemetery.

Ranking: Low



Entrance gate



Western side fence

SIGNAGE

Description: The large Council erected entrance sign is consistent with all others for Lake Macquarie Cemeteries. There are signs indicating denomination, however, there are no row markers.

Analysis: The Council sign, other than the location is generic, common with all other LMCC cemetery signage.

Ranking: Nil



Generic sign

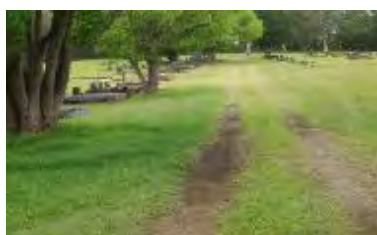


OTHER STRUCTURES: SHELTERS, ROADS, SEATING, WATER SUPPLY, DRAINAGE, SECURITY, LIGHTING.

Description: Morisset Cemetery does not have a shelter. There are several seats throughout the cemetery. Water (not potable) is available. Drainage appears adequate as the cemetery is located on a low hill. Security is bolstered by the closed gate. There is no security lighting. The unsealed track while contributing to the rural 'atmosphere' of the cemetery is impracticable in wet conditions.

Analysis: The infrastructure appears adequate to the rural nature of the cemetery.

Ranking: Moderate



Unsealed internal access track



Seating



Water

3.2. Distinctive elements

3.2.1 Morisset Cemetery Chapel

Morisset Cemetery, of the nine cemeteries surveyed, is the only one that has a chapel. The chapel constructed sometime after 1939 was dedicated to Monica Brooks (Section 2.2).

3.2.2 Unmarked burials

The most distinctive feature is the high number of unmarked burials associated with Morisset Hospital. However, not all patients were denied a memorial. Discussions with Beryl Mullard and Barbara King revealed that families, in some instances, did provide headstones for patients.

However, as evident in the results of the aerial survey, with unmarked graves indicated by a distinctive pattern of shape and deeper colour, the majority were not provided with a headstone. Figure 1, together with Figure 4 and Figure 5 (showing burials obscured by shadow in Figure 4), indicate the location of possible unmarked burials across the cemetery. The use of aerial survey photography is useful to providing an overview of the scale of unmarked burials however, it is not foolproof, and burials will remain undetected.

Research for this project found there is potential to discover further information pertaining to the burials from Morisset Hospital. One source is the Morisset Church of England Cemetery Trust Register (University of Newcastle Archives – AB5752M) (Figure 6). The recording of Morisset Hospital interments in the Register is indicated by:

- The W. E. Craft, responsible for payment, was the local undertaker and responsible for the Hospital interment (Morisset Hospital Historical Society 2000:33).
- The first pages list only men's names – women were not housed at the Hospital until 1932.
- Wynter Vine Blick is listed on the hospital memorial wall at the cemetery.

Another potential source for research is the NSW State Archives series- NRS-21498 | *Patient index cards - deceased patients [Morisset Hospital]*.



Figure 4 Morisset Cemetery portion - dark green indicates unmarked burials (RPS 2021)



Figure 5 Morisset Cemetery – small dark brown patches of parallel lines indicate unmarked burials (LMCC date unknown)



Date of Interment	Name of deceased in full	Person to pay	When			Grave	
			Decd	paid	£	Sh	St
1916							
January 16	Fredrick, Tiger	W. E. Craft	16.1.16	1.16.16	18	13	
February 16	John, Latha	"	16.2.16	1.16.16	18	11	
May 1	Peter W. Peterson	"	1.5.16	1.16.16	20	11	
" 3	Kenny, Resh	"	3.5.16	1.16.16	20	12	
" 31	William, D. Bull	"	31.5.16	1.16.16	20	13	
June 6	Theodore, Peterson	"	6.6.16	1.16.16	20	14	
July 7	Edward, Lewis	"	7.7.16	1.16.16	20	15	
" 7	J. Thomas Turnham	"	7.7.16	1.16.16	20	16	
" 7	Gustave, Frederick	"	7.7.16	1.16.16	20	17	
August 3	John, R. Williams	"	3.8.16	1.16.16	20	18	
" 31	John, Lowell	"	31.8.16	1.16.16	20	19	
September 20	Thomas, Pulton	"	20.9.16	1.16.16	20	20	
" 23	Lawrence, W. Long	"	23.9.16	1.16.16	20	10	
1917							
March 5	Albert, H. [unclear]	"	5.3.17	1.16.16	20	11	
" 24	Justus, Munnay	"	24.3.17	1.16.16	20	5	
April 18	Wynter, Vane Bleck	"	18.4.17	1.16.16	11	2	
June 25	Michael, Tyrell	"	25.6.17	1.16.16	20	1	
August 17	William, [unclear]	"	17.8.17	1.16.16	20	7	
" 23	Black, name unknown	"	23.8.17	1.16.16	20	8	
" 23	Oljde, Laidley	"	23.8.17	1.16.16	20	9	
1918							
January 25	Alex, Robson	"	25.1.18	1.16.16	20	10	
Feb 23	James, Drummond	"	23.2.18	1.16.16	15	5	
March 15	John, Nixon	"	15.3.18	1.16.16	15	4	
April 15	John, Hindmarsh	"	15.4.18	1.16.16	11	1	
June 21	John, Cox	"	21.6.18	1.16.16	15	3	
July 7	John, Oakes	"	7.7.18	1.16.16	15	2	
" 2	E. Henshaw	"	2.7.18	1.16.16	15	1	
" 8	W. E. Duan	"	8.7.18	1.16.16	16	1	
" 10	James, Gay	"	10.7.18	1.16.16	16	2	
" 11	J. Nicholson	"	11.7.18	1.16.16	16	3	

Figure 6 Extract - Morisset Church of England Cemetery Trust Register (University of Newcastle Archives – AB5752M).



3.3. Historical archaeological potential

LMCC Cemetery Conservation Management Plan, Volume 1 provides detail on statutory provisions regarding archaeological relics. This section considers the potential for historical archaeological evidence to remain. All cemeteries by nature contain archaeological relics, while the location of most is identifiable, there remain areas where graves are no longer marked that are not obvious. Cemeteries may also contain evidence of past structures and features such as buildings, fences, paths and roads.

There is no evidence of other structures present at the cemetery. The most significant archaeological record pertains to unmarked burials.

3.4. Key Issues

The following are considered the key issues:

- Identifying the extent of unknown burials pertaining to Morisset Hospital
- Lack of signage
- Poor condition of Locchi/ Case headstone and surrounds
- Environmental impact of fires, storms, etc.



4. SIGNIFICANCE

4.1. Assessing cultural heritage significance

LMCC Cemetery Conservation Management Plan, Volume 1 provides detail on the process of assessing cultural heritage significance under the Assessing Heritage Significance Manual (NSW Heritage Office 2001).

Historical (Criterion A)

An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Morisset Cemetery provides physical evidence of the growth and development of a town dependent on the timber industry and the railway. The layout of the cemetery reflects divisions built on religion while the type of memorial often demonstrates social stratification. Historical significance is evident in the recording of family names and individuals who formed the community.

The cemetery has historical significance as the resting place of residents of Morisset Hospital from the early 1890s until recent times. Placed in unmarked graves that factor reflects the community's attitude to mental health for much of the twentieth century.

Archival records associated with burials provide a valuable source of information, given the loss of physical evidence with unmarked graves.

Morisset Cemetery meets Criterion A.

Associative (Criterion B)

An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Morisset Cemetery is associated with the residents of the Morisset Hospital for the Insane.

Morisset Cemetery meets Criterion B.

Aesthetic/Technical (Criterion C)

An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).

Morisset Cemetery is a typical cemetery, with modest headstones and grave furniture.

Morisset Cemetery does not meet Criterion C.

Social (Criterion D)

An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

Morisset Cemetery, as a principal place of burial for the area since the early twentieth century, has a special association for social and spiritual reasons for the local community. It plays an important role in the ability to remember and honour deceased families and friends. It has the capacity, with future research, to provide a tangible link to descendants and family of Morisset Hospital patients.

Morisset Cemetery meets Criterion D.

Research (Criterion E)

An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).



Morriset Cemetery has significant social research potential linked to research of Morisset Hospital patient's records. The importance of family history research, together with a greater understanding of mental health issues provides an opportunity to potentially document those patients who died whilst in the hospital's care.

Morriset Cemetery meets Criterion E.

Rarity (Criterion F)

An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

In the local area, Morisset Cemetery is rare in that it possesses interments from a specific group of people, the patients of the Morisset Hospital.

Morriset Cemetery meets Criterion F.

Representative (Criterion G)

An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places, or cultural or natural environments. (or a class of the local area).

It is representative of a small general cemetery in NSW dating from the early twentieth century that served a specific community.

Morriset Cemetery meets Criterion G.

Integrity /intactness: Morisset Cemetery fulfills this criterion.

4.2. Statement of significance

Morriset Cemetery was established in 1910 as the principal cemetery for the town and surrounding area. The cemetery illustrates the town's growth from an area reliant on the timber industry and railway to its emergence as a commercial hub. It demonstrates the pattern of development of a rural general cemetery from the early twentieth century to present day. The layout demonstrates the heightened role religion played for much of this period, while the modest headstones and uniformity in style reflect little social division in a largely working-class community. The small, dedicated chapel is unique to the nine cemeteries under LMCC management. Morisset Cemetery is significant as the burial place of many Morisset Hospital patients in often unmarked graves. This reflected the social norm of the times.



4.3. Grading of significance

The rationale for significance grading is in accordance with the NSW Heritage Manual Assessing Heritage Significance (NSW Heritage Office 2000). An explanation of the gradings can be found in Volume 1.

Table 2 Graded elements of Morisset Cemetery

Grading	Cemetery elements
Exceptional	Unmarked burials, chapel, bushland surrounds, parklike internal space.
High	Rectilinear grid layout, curtilage, headstones and grave furniture, major trees, landscaping, Morisset Hospital Memorial
Moderate	-
Low	Columbarium, entrance gate, fences, seating, water tank, Morisset Cemetery entrance sign
Intrusive	Garbage bins

4.4. Views and vistas

Conservation requires the retention of an appropriate visual setting and other relationships that contribute to the cultural significance of the place (Marquis-Kyle and Walker 2004:37). An important component of the cemetery is its landscape, the cemetery's border of dense bushland creates views and vistas that are unique to the space. Within the cemetery there are largely unrestricted views providing a sense of spaciousness.

4.5. Archaeological significance

Cemeteries by design hold archaeological potential. Morisset has the potential to provide information on burial practices over time and the grave goods interred with them. Exhumations in older cemeteries has resulted in skeletal analysis that has provided extensive evidence on past populations. The archaeological significance of these burials is high.

There are no other known structures. Earlier fences are a possibility, these may give a clue to past boundaries. The archaeological significance of such structures, if they exist, is low.



5. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

A discussion on the general recommendations about management guidelines can be found in Volume 1, the following table refers specifically to Morisset Cemetery.

Table 3 Management recommendations

Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommendation
Significance	Inclusion of Morisset Cemetery in the Lake Macquarie Local Environment Plan 2014 - Clause 5.10 Heritage Conservation and Schedule 5 – Environmental heritage.	High	Update the Lake Macquarie Local Environment Plan 2014
Views and vistas	Retention of views and vistas both within and to the cemetery	High	Maintain bushland boundary. If expansion into currently unused portions of the cemetery is proposed, it is important to retain the bushland curtilage.
Landscape, vegetation, gardens and plantings	Maintain landscaping and plantings.	High	Undertake weeding, mowing and regular maintenance. Remove dead trees, dead branches and invasive weeds as required.
Headstone and grave furniture	Maintain existing headstones and grave furniture	Moderate	Source funding for conservation works on older headstones. All works in accordance with the National Trust (NSW). (2009) <i>Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .
Significant graves	Ensure retention of significant graves and headstones.	High	Source funding to undertake conservation works prioritizing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Locchi/Case grave - transcribe headstone inscription; and seek specialist advice on stabilizing the sandstone surface.
Unmarked burials	Identify unmarked burials to prevent inadvertent damage or disturbance.	High	Consider a GPR study, if required, to identify unmarked graves and identify areas for further burial space. Source funding to investigate NSW State Archives - Morisset Hospital records to ascertain the scope and potentially the names of those interred from the hospital.



Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommendation
Chapel	Retention and utilisation	High	Make secure ;carry out remedial works to the interior; reinstate dedication; and consider possible future uses.
Gates and fences	Retention of gates and fences	Low	Regular maintenance.
Signage	Maintain existing signage and provide additional signage.	High	Install a cemetery plan sign. Provide additional denomination/ row # signage at end of each row as required.
Heritage interpretation	Promotion as a source of historical and family information	Moderate	Provide heritage interpretive sign/s for the Morisset Cemetery including its role as the burial place for Morisset Hospital patients.
Environmental factors	Fire and storms	High	Maintenance plans to include removal of hazardous trees and undergrowth, grass regularly mown in high-risk seasons.
'Friends of'	Engage community groups	Moderate	<p>Encourage groups to advance heritage research on interments.</p> <p>Continue to engage with the Morisset Hospital Historical Society in investigating methods of providing greater recognition for hospital patients interred at the cemetery.</p> <p>Assist in grounds and memorial maintenance working under <i>National Trust Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i>.</p>



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1. BACKGROUND

The Lake Macquarie City Council Cemeteries Conservation Management Plan (2021) comprises three volumes - Volume 1 provides generic information on cemetery management, Volume 2 details each of the cemeteries under the management of Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC), while Volume 3 is an archival recording report of the cemeteries.

The focus of this report, which forms part of Volume 2, is Toronto Cemetery (Figure 1).

1.1. Project area

Item name:	Toronto Cemetery
Address:	354 Awaba Road, Toronto
Property description:	Lots 70440-70446, DP 1052029; Lot 7058, DP 1052031
Heritage listing:	Local - Lake Macquarie Local Environment Plan 2014. Item # 174

1.2. Milestones

Established: 18 October 1894

Management transfer to LMCC: Post 1967

1.3. Author and acknowledgements

Laraine Nelson (Nelson Heritage Consulting) conducted site inspections and is the author of this document. All images unless otherwise attributed are by the author.

The author is indebted to the assistance provided by:

- Margaret Berghofer, western Lake Macquarie resident and historian
- Judy Messiter, Lake Macquarie Library - Local History
- Darrell Rigby. Heritage Archaeology and Planning. Cover photo



Photo 1: Easterly Aspect



Photo 2: North Westerly Aspect

LEGEND

—

AREA OUTLINE

—

GRAVE OUTLINE

—

COLUMBARIUM

—

DCDB BOUNDARIES

—

POTENTIAL BURIAL

NOTES

ANY ELECTRONIC FILE IS PROVIDED WITHOUT WARRANTY AND SHOULD BE USED ONLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SUPPLIED PDF/PAPER COPY OF THIS PLAN.

NO BOUNDARY SURVEY HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN. BOUNDARIES SHOWN ARE FROM LAKE MACQUARIE DCDB PROVIDED ON THE 16/02/2020. FILE "LakemacCemeteriesCADdata_MGAz56"

ORIGIN OF CO-ORDINATES PM31991 WITH MGA2020 CO-ORDINATE VALUES OF
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REVISIONS

B	3.03.2021	REVISED FEATURES	RJS	DSR	JPM
A	1/03/2021	INITIAL VERSION	SWA	RJS	RJS
No.	DATE	REVISION DETAILS	DRAWN	CHK	APP

SCALE: 1:800

DATUM: N/A

ORIGIN:

COORDINATES: MGA

CROSS SECTION: V: N/A H: N/A

ORIGIN: PM31991

SCALE BAR: 16 8 0 16 32 48 Metres

CLIENT: HERITAGE ARCHAEOLOGY PLANNING

SURVEY: RJS

DRAWN: SWA

DESIGNED: RJS

APPROVED: RJS

DATE OF SURVEY: 22-02-2021

DATE OF PLAN: 01-03-2021

DATE LAST SAVED: 04.03.2021

DATE APPROVED: 01-03-2021

TITLE: SURVEY PLAN OF TORONTO CEMETERY

DWG No: 149135-TORONTO AERIAL.dwg

JOB No: PR149135

ISSUE: B

SHEET 1 OF 1 SHEETS

SIZE: A3



2. DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

This history of Toronto Cemetery was sourced from original correspondence held by LMCC, published histories, newspaper accounts (Trove) and in discussions with Margaret Berghofer, western lake Macquarie resident and historian.

2.1. Toronto

In 1827, the Reverend Lancelot Threlkeld received a free grant of 1,280 acres at an area called Punte, the area of present-day Toronto (Clouten 1967:257). Threlkeld established the Ebenezer coal mine at present-day Coal Point and when he sold the land in 1844, it proved a valuable feature. The land changed hands on several occasions, however, it was not until was the construction of the railway line between 1885 and 1889, that real growth in western Lake Macquarie occurred. The Excelsior Land Investment and Banking Company purchased the 'Ebenezer Estate' with the intention of creating a permanent town and tourist resort and in support of that vision, in 1887, the Toronto Hotel was built (Clack 1990:13). Toronto's new residents included fencers, labourers, blacksmiths, carpenters, fishermen, timber cutters, bricklayers, estate manager, storekeepers, hotel employees, tramway workers, miners and others (Clack 1990:19).

2.2. Toronto Cemetery

Established in 1894, the early references to the cemetery are limited to funeral notices in local newspapers (Figure 2 and Figure 3). More detailed accounts of the cemetery commence in the 1930s with complaints of thieving and vandalism with items stolen or destroyed (1930 'TORONTO CEMETERY').

In 1931, reports of straying stock included references to cattle being bogged on graves and eating floral tributes. A public meeting was held, and a committee formed for the beautification of the Toronto Cemetery (1931 'TORONTO CEMETERY').

The resulting working bee saw eighty voluntary workers at the 'Toronto Awaba' Cemetery clearing a substantial area of timber and producing a large quantity of post and rails cut for fencing. To assist, Council provided a lorry and the local Urban Council supplied gravel to surface a road created by the voluntary workers. A women's committee supplied refreshments (1931a 'TORONTO CEMETERY.' and 1931 'TORONTO').

By 1947, the cemetery was in poor repair again with complaints it was overrun with undergrowth and unsightly trees. Funds were allocated for works and it was determined that no future grave should be opened until notice had been given to Mr McGuinness, the Sexton and the relevant religious minister. It was also decided that new sections for each denomination should be opened, these were to be subdivided and pegged (1947 'SUBURBAN AND DISTRICT',).

Like many other cemeteries throughout the area, the cost and work involved in maintenance was proving difficult. In 1952, a boxing and wrestling tournament was held as a fundraiser for the cemetery (1952 'Boxing to help Cemetery Fund').

Modern interments reflect the current community. Indigenous graves are in a higher proportion than other cemeteries managed by LMCC and there are representation of faiths including the Bahia and Exclusive Brethren.



Figure 2 Parish of Awaba. County of Northumberland. LTO Charting Map (NSW Land Registry Service).

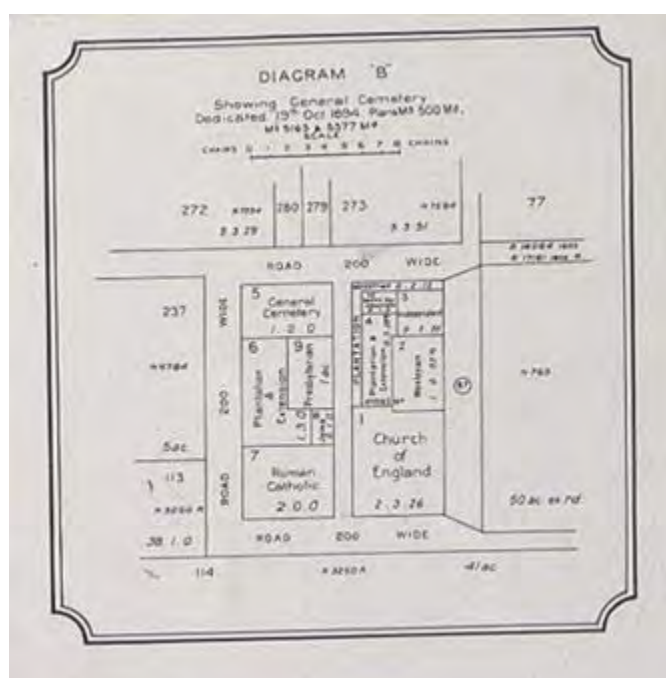


Figure 3 Extract - Parish of Awaba. County of Northumberland. LTO Charting Map (NSW Land Registry Service).



2.2.1 Local Government (Control of Cemeteries) Amendment Act, 1966

In 1967, the *Local Government (Control of Cemeteries) Amendment Act, 1966* became operational. That Act transferred trusteeship of cemeteries to local councils.

There is no date provided for Lake Macquarie Shire Council assuming control of Toronto Cemetery. An undated document records Mr R Lambert, Burnleigh Street, Toronto as the sexton and gravedigger.

From that time, the old section of the cemetery was restricted to burials in previously reserved plots and family graves. All future burials would be interred in a new section (LMCC Archives – Toronto Cemetery).

2.2.2 City of Lake Macquarie Heritage Study (1992-1993)



The *City of Lake Macquarie Heritage Study* [Suters, Doring, Turner (1992-1993)] listed Toronto Cemetery as significant at the local level. It considered the graves interesting with a variety of headstones in good order and the cemetery having aesthetic value (Toronto TT - 08).

2.3. Cemetery overview

2.3.1 Representative burials

The burials selected below are intended to represent a cross section of the Toronto community in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.




Table 1 Representative burials

Name	Memorial
Davidson, John (1880-1903) Together with Sabina Rochford (see following), this is believed to be the earliest interment. Mr Davidson, in charge of a picnic boat with eight passengers that capsized, managed to save several passengers before drowning (1903 'BOATING FATALITY:').	
Deed, Capt. Ernest (1870-1943) and Dorothy Maud A long career as a mariner he was Harbour Master for the Port of Newcastle. In 1902, he purchased a holiday house at Carey Bay and together with his three sons he recorded soundings of the Lake. In about 1914, Deed produced the first chart of the Lake and it remained the standard for hydrography for many years (Captain Ernest Snowden Deed, 1943 'CAPTAIN DEED DEAD',).	



Name	Memorial
Desreaux, John Gallachan (1852-1931) and Mary Jane (1855-1924). A local blacksmith, John Desreaux was elected to the new Shire of Lake Macquarie as one of its first Councilors. He was Shire President on three occasions and re-elected seven times. Registrar for Births, Deaths and Marriages for the County of Northumberland, he was considered responsible for bringing electric lighting to Toronto and establishing the local fire brigade. Their son Walter Samuel (1890-1917) who worked as a railway shunter was killed in a rail accident in Newcastle. (1931 'OBITUARY' & 1917 'FATAL ACCIDENT'.)	
Evans, Henry (1857-1927) and Mary (1862-1936) Born in England and a member of the Royal Hussars he fought with distinction in the Sudan. Arriving in Newcastle he joined the Newcastle SS Company. He later bought the Lake Macquarie Hotel, Teralba during the construction of the Great Northern Railway. A prominent sportsman he constructed several cottages in Toronto (1927 'TORONTO'.).	
Harris, William (1865-1935) and Sarah (1856-1935). William Harris worked in his father's sawmill, Mt Vincent before moving to Toronto where he was responsible for many of the bridges built throughout the district. He was a Warden for the Church of England and a Trustee for the Toronto-Awaba General Cemetery (1935 'MR. WILLIAM HARRIS'.).	
Hely, Frederick C (1873-1939) and Agnes Grace (1873-1940) Frederick Hely was grandson of Edward Norton Hely, who first settled Rathmines. In 1884, after basic schooling Frederick joined his father Edward William Hely in the family steam sawmilling business. In 1892, together with his brother, EWJ Hely and formed Hely Brother Pty Ltd a sawmill and manufacturing company producing coach woodware for the local and international market (Mullard 2002:347).	



Name	Memorial
<p>Mann, Frederick (-1918)</p> <p>A master mariner on windjammers, he spent 32 years at sea before retiring to Toronto. He was instrumental in improvements to, and the development of, Toronto Extended. (1918 'DISTRICT NEWS.' &)</p>	
<p>Rochford, Sabina (1890-1903)</p> <p>The daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Rochford, Sabina drowned in the same incident as John Davidson (1903 'BOATING FATALITY.').</p>	
<p>Walmsley, James (1877-1905) and Edward (-1927)</p> <p>James, a teamster from Awaba, died when a dray overturned and crushed him. A record of the death of his father, Edward could not be found (1905 'JAMES WALMSLEY, JUN.'). This imposing headstone shows that while expensive memorials often demonstrate social stratification, others may reflect the impact of personal loss.</p>	



3. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Toronto Cemetery is accessed from Awaba Road, Toronto West.

A substantial brick gateway leads to a sealed internal access road flanked by an avenue of mature callistemon. The initial appearance is attractive and spacious with the graves assuming a relatively small proportion of the space.

Section 3.1 Key elements provides detail on features of the cemetery, with Section 3.2 describing distinctive elements of the cemetery.

3.1. Key elements of Toronto Cemetery

The following table describes the key elements of Toronto Cemetery in terms of general appearance (*Location, views and vistas; Landscape, gardens and plantings; Design and layout*), memorials (*Headstones and grave furniture; Memorial features – columbaria, Memorial Walls and chapels*) and infrastructure (*Gates and fences; Signage, Other structures - shelters, roads, seating water supply, drainage, security, lighting*) with the following terminology used:

Description: derived from the site inspection this is a brief description of the element.

Analysis: an overview of how the element contributes to or detracts from the heritage significance.

Ranking: high, moderate or low - the value of the element in contributing to the heritage significance.

LOCATION, VIEWS AND VISTAS

Description: Toronto Cemetery is accessed from Awaba Road, Toronto West.

The cemetery is approximately 3 km due east of Toronto, on the western side of Lake Macquarie. The cemetery is situated on the western extent of the residential part of the town and to the south and east of an industrial estate. There is a band of natural bushland on all sides of the cemetery however on the western side this is not sufficient to block out the neighbouring industrial site.

The dark brick entry gates do not provide an attractive or appealing entrance. Internal cemetery views are expansive, with large areas of grass and considerable distances between various portions of the cemetery.

Awaba Road, a busy arterial road, provides access to the M1 Pacific Motorway to the west.

Analysis: The expansive area of the cemetery and distances between the various sections create a less than welcoming space. The views west to industrial estate likewise detract from the cemetery's appearance.

Ranking: Moderate



Entrance gates



View south from entrance



View west to industrial area



LANDSCAPE, GARDENS and PLANTINGS

Description: The mature Callistemon that flank the internal access road, together with the mature Eucalypt sp. throughout the cemetery provide an attractive appearance. Similarly, the original Church of England portion of the cemetery bounded by native species is appealing.

Most of the cemetery however is covered with grasses and in areas there are large patches of erosion, that are detrimental to the cemetery's appearance. Some grave specific plantings are present.

Analysis: The entrance driveway is particularly attractive, however, the large expanses of grass, unbroken by trees or shrubs detracts from the overall appearance.

Ranking: Moderate to low



Eroded areas south eastern section



View south from entrance



Grave planting

DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Description: A traditional grid layout with designated sections for various Christian and non-denominational burials.

A central road with spur roads provides vehicle access through the cemetery. With each denomination in the early cemetery widely spaced there is considerable distances between the groupings of early graves.

Since the 1980s beams have been used for the introduction of new interment areas. This reflects a shift toward cemeteries that were easier to maintain and appears as bands of concrete beams with largely uniform headstones interspersed with grass lawn.

Analysis: The cemetery has a layout that is consistent with other cemeteries investigated as part of this project.

Ranking: High



Traditional grid layout



Modern beam layout



HEADSTONES AND GRAVE FURNITURE

Description: The headstones overall are modest and typical of the other cemeteries assessed during this project. Those headstones dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century are often upright stele in style and in many instances have cast iron fence surrounds. Towards the mid twentieth century lower profile headstones became more common, sometimes including a concrete or sandstone surround to delineate the grave. From the 1980s beam interments were the norm.

Analysis: Representative of the transition of headstone styles from the late nineteenth century to the present day. In terms of management, the earliest stele headstone and cast-iron surrounds are most vulnerable to damage resulting from their age, style and type of material. That risk of damage decreases with the lower profile mid-late twentieth century headstones with the beam style, by nature, most resilient to damage.

Ranking: High



Late nineteenth to early twentieth century headstone.



Mid-late twentieth century headstones.



Late twentieth century beam headstones.

MEMORIAL FEATURES – COLUMBARIUM, MEMORIAL WALLS AND CHAPELS

Description: Toronto Cemetery's columbarium has few interments compared with other cemeteries of similar size. The cemetery does not have a memorial wall or chapel.

Analysis: The columbarium has been introduced to the cemetery since 2000. The style is utilitarian and in a relatively isolated section of the cemetery. Standing on bare ground it lacks the personalised gardens noted at other cemeteries.

Ranking: Low



Columbarium



GATES AND FENCES

Description: Toronto Cemetery has a large, imposing, dark brick entrance gateway. The gateway does not have a closing gate and is without a complimentary fence.

The fence on the western side is aluminium and overgrown; the southern fence is steel stanchions and wire. The eastern barrier is provided by dense vegetation, however there are access tracks into the cemetery. Awaba Road is on the northern boundary, the gateway is not flanked by fences and vehicle access is possible.

Analysis: The gates and fencing do not provide adequate security; this is evident in the vehicle tracks across graves. The entrance gateway, of red brick, is unattractive. It is noted that Whitebridge Cemetery has the same style of brick gateway which, painted white, presents a more pleasing appearance

Ranking: Low



Entrance gate



Southern fence



Western overgrown fence

SIGNAGE

Description: The entry gateway has a Toronto Cemetery sign. Inside the gate a standard Council sign is consistent with all others for Lake Macquarie Cemeteries.

Analysis: The Council sign, other than the location, is generic with all other cemetery signs.

Ranking: Low



Cemetery entrance sign



OTHER STRUCTURES, SHELTERS, SEATING, WATER SUPPLY, DRAINAGE, SECURITY, LIGHTING

Description: Toronto Cemetery has no shelter, there is some seating. Water is available. Drainage is adequate, though run-off in some sections is causing erosion. Lack of a lockable entry gate and secure fences results in unwanted vehicle access, this is evident in the vehicle tracks across graves.

Analysis: Further consideration should be given to limiting unwanted vehicle access.

Ranking: Low



Vehicle tracks over graves.



Seating



Water

3.2. Distinctive elements

3.2.1 Links to lake and environs

Toronto Cemetery interments reflects the diverse community that has settled in the area and the importance of the lake and its environs in its development. The role of the timber industry is evident with associated family names and evidence of accidental death linked to that industry. The importance of the lake is evident from the earliest fatalities through drowning, to the role Captain Deed played in its charting. The attractive environs brought diverse residents such as Henry Evans, of the Royal Hussars and Frederick Mann, a master mariner. They, together with other civic minded citizens such as John Desreaux, sought to build the strong community Toronto of today.

3.2.2 Unmarked graves

Unmarked graves occur in most cemeteries. The cost of erecting an enduring headstone was significant, often a wooden cross marked a location and over time that disappeared, and the location lost. The only record of the interment's name being found amongst sextant or funeral director documents; however, these were not always accurate and, in many instances, have been lost.

3.3. Historical archaeological potential

LMCC Cemetery Conservation Management Plan, Volume 1 provides detail on statutory provisions regarding archaeological relics. This section considers the potential for historical archaeological evidence to remain. All cemeteries by nature contain archaeological relics, while the location of most is identifiable, there remain areas where graves are no longer marked that are not obvious. Cemeteries may also contain evidence of past structures and features such as buildings, fences, paths and roads.

Toronto Cemetery will contain archaeological relics in the form of graves. It is possible there may be evidence of previous fences and paths, these however would be of minor archaeological significance. There was no indication of prior buildings in the area.



3.4. Key issues

The following are considered the key issues:

- Poor security resulting in vehicle damage to graves
- Poor visual appeal with vast expanses of space, outlook to the industrial area to the west
- Poor visual appeal of entrance gateway
- Lack of signage
- Erosion, a result of poor drainage
- Poor condition of some early headstones
- Recognition of burial practices – Indigenous, other non-Christian faiths
- Environmental impact of fires, storms, etc.



4. SIGNIFICANCE

4.1. Assessing cultural heritage significance

LMCC Cemetery Conservation Management Plan, Volume 1 provides detail on the process of assessing cultural heritage significance under the Assessing Heritage Significance Manual (NSW Heritage Office 2001)

Historical (Criterion A)

An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Toronto Cemetery is significant in providing tangible evidence of the growth and development of Toronto and western Lake Macquarie. Historical significance is evident in headstones that record family names instrumental in that growth.

Toronto Cemetery meets Criterion A.

Associative (Criterion B)

An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Toronto Cemetery is associated with a group of people that through their endeavours contributed to the development of Toronto and the western Lake Macquarie area. People significant in that development included the Hely family and John Desreux. Captain Deed and family were responsible for early and extensive charting of depths of Lake Macquarie.

Toronto Cemetery meets Criterion B.

Aesthetic/Technical (Criterion C)

An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).

Toronto Cemetery is a typical cemetery, with modest headstones and grave furniture.

Toronto Cemetery does not meet Criterion C.

Social (Criterion D)

An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

Toronto Cemetery, as a principal place of burial for the area since the late nineteenth century, has a special association for social and spiritual reasons for the local community. It plays an important role in the ability to remember and honour deceased families and friends.

Toronto Cemetery meets Criterion D.

Research (Criterion E)

An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Toronto Cemetery has social research potential. The layout of the cemetery and the placement of denominational graves at the extreme points of the cemetery reflects the importance of religion in twentieth century Australia. Headstones, inscriptions and documentary records provide a research resource.

Toronto Cemetery meets Criterion E.



Rarity (Criterion F)

An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Toronto Cemetery is a typical cemetery serving a local community.

Toronto Cemetery does not meet Criterion F.

Representative (Criterion G)

An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places, or cultural or natural environments (or a class of the local area).

Toronto Cemetery demonstrates the principal characteristics of a class of the cultural places of New South Wales. It is representative of a small general cemetery in NSW dating from the early twentieth century.

Toronto Cemetery meets Criterion G.

Integrity /intactness: Toronto Cemetery fulfills this criterion.

4.2. Statement of significance

Toronto Cemetery was established in 1894 as the principal cemetery for the town and surrounding area. The cemetery illustrates the growth and development of a small community on western Lake Macquarie providing evidence of occupations, demography and the social composition of the area. The cemetery is significant as the last resting place of residents instrumental in the development of the area. The cemetery, while modest in size and type, with its layout and range of headstones demonstrates the evolution of burial practices since the early twentieth century.



4.3. Grading of significance

The rationale for significance grading is in accordance with the NSW Heritage Manual Assessing Heritage Significance (NSW Heritage Office 2000) with an explanation of the gradings found in Volume 1. The grading seeks to identify the features of Toronto Cemetery that contribute to its significance.

Table 2 Graded elements of Toronto Cemetery

Grading	Cemetery elements
Exceptional	Early headstones associated with those who contributed to local development
High	Rectilinear grid layout, curtilage, all memorials, avenue of callistemon, major trees, bushland curtilage
Moderate	-
Low	Columbarium, entrance gate, fences,
Intrusive	Garbage bins

4.4. Views and vistas

Conservation requires the retention of an appropriate visual setting and other relationships that contribute to the cultural significance of the place (Marquis-Kyle and Walker 2004:37). An important component of the cemetery is its landscape. The cemetery benefits from a border of bushland to the east and south. More extensive plantings to the west would provide a visual barrier to the industrial estate.

The internal expansive views do not compliment the cemetery. The 'green room' created around the early Anglican portion of the cemetery provides a concept of what could be achieved if adopted more widely.

4.5. Archaeological significance

Cemeteries by design hold archaeological potential. Toronto Cemetery has the potential to provide information on burial practices over time and the grave goods interred with them. Exhumations in older cemeteries has resulted in skeletal analysis that has provided extensive evidence on past populations. The archaeological significance of these burials is high.

There were no known other structures, other than possible previous fences, at the cemetery. The archaeological significance of such structures if they exist is low.



5. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

General recommendations about management guidelines can be found in Volume 1, the following table refers specifically to Toronto Cemetery.

Toronto Cemetery in future planning should consider the potential of focussing on the native plantings to enhance the natural values of both the Cemetery and surrounding lands.

Table 3 Management recommendations

Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommendation
Views and vistas	Retention of views and vistas both within and external to cemetery	High	Maintain and extend bushland curtilage. Consider engaging a suitably qualified specialist to develop a landscape plan to improve the visual amenity. Consider implications and recommendations of the Draft Toronto Masterplan 2020 for the Toronto Cemetery.
Landscape, vegetation, gardens and plantings	Maintain landscaping and plantings.	High	Undertake weeding, mowing and regular maintenance. Remove dead trees, dead branches and invasive weeds on the perimeters, in particular on the western side. Extend plantings as in view and vistas.
Headstones and grave furniture	Ensure retention of graves and headstones.	Moderate	Source funding for conservation works on older headstones. All works in accordance with the National Trust (NSW). (2009) <i>Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .
Significant graves	Ensure retention of significant graves and headstones.	High	Source funding to undertake conservation works.
Unmarked burials	Identify unmarked burials to prevent inadvertent damage or disturbance.	Low	Consider a GPR study, if required, to identify unmarked graves and identify areas for further burial space.
Gates and fences	Improve gates and fences	Moderate	Regular maintenance. Install or upgrade existing fencing to ensure the gateway is the sole entry point for vehicles.
Signage	Maintain existing signage and provide additional signage.	High	Install a cemetery plan sign. Provide additional denomination/ row # signage at end of each row as required. Adequate sign to identify the Toronto Cemetery on road approaches.
Heritage interpretation	Promotion as a source of historical and family information	Moderate	Develop and install accurate, informative, engaging heritage interpretation sign/s.



Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommendation
Environmental factors	Fire and storms	High	Maintenance plans to include removal of hazardous trees and undergrowth, grass regularly mown in high-risk seasons.
'Friends of'	Engage community groups	Moderate	Encourage groups to advance heritage research on interments. Assist in grounds and memorial maintenance working under the National Trust (NSW). (2009) <i>Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .
Specific community groups	Inclusiveness in burial practices	High	Consider the possibility in developing specific infrastructure or areas to accommodate differing burial practices. Discussions with the local Indigenous community could determine if a place for smoking ceremonies would be valued.



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Correspondence and Minutes

LMCC Archives – Toronto Cemetery. Information to assist in the administration of the Belmont Cemetery (no author, no date)



West Wallsend Cemetery

SEPTEMBER 2021



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1. BACKGROUND

The Lake Macquarie City Council Cemeteries Conservation Management Plan (2021) comprises three volumes - Volume 1 provides generic information on cemetery management, Volume 2 details each of the cemeteries under the management of Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC), while Volume 3 is an archival recording report of the cemeteries.

The focus of this report, which forms part of Volume 2, is West Wallsend Cemetery (Figure 1).

1.1. Project area

Item name:	West Wallsend Cemetery
Address:	Cemetery Road, West Wallsend
Property description:	Lots 980 and 981, DP 589701
Heritage listing:	Local - Lake Macquarie Local Environment Plan 2014. -Item # 206 -West Wallsend Conservation Area

1.2. Milestones

Established: February 1890

Management transfer to LMCC: Post 1967

1.3. Author and acknowledgements

Laraine Nelson (Nelson Heritage Consulting) conducted site inspections and is the author of this document. All images unless otherwise attributed are by the author.

- Anne Andrews. Local historian, West Wallsend Cemetery Committee
- Judy Messiter, Lake Macquarie Library - Local History.
- Darrell Rigby. Heritage Archaeology and Planning. Cover photo

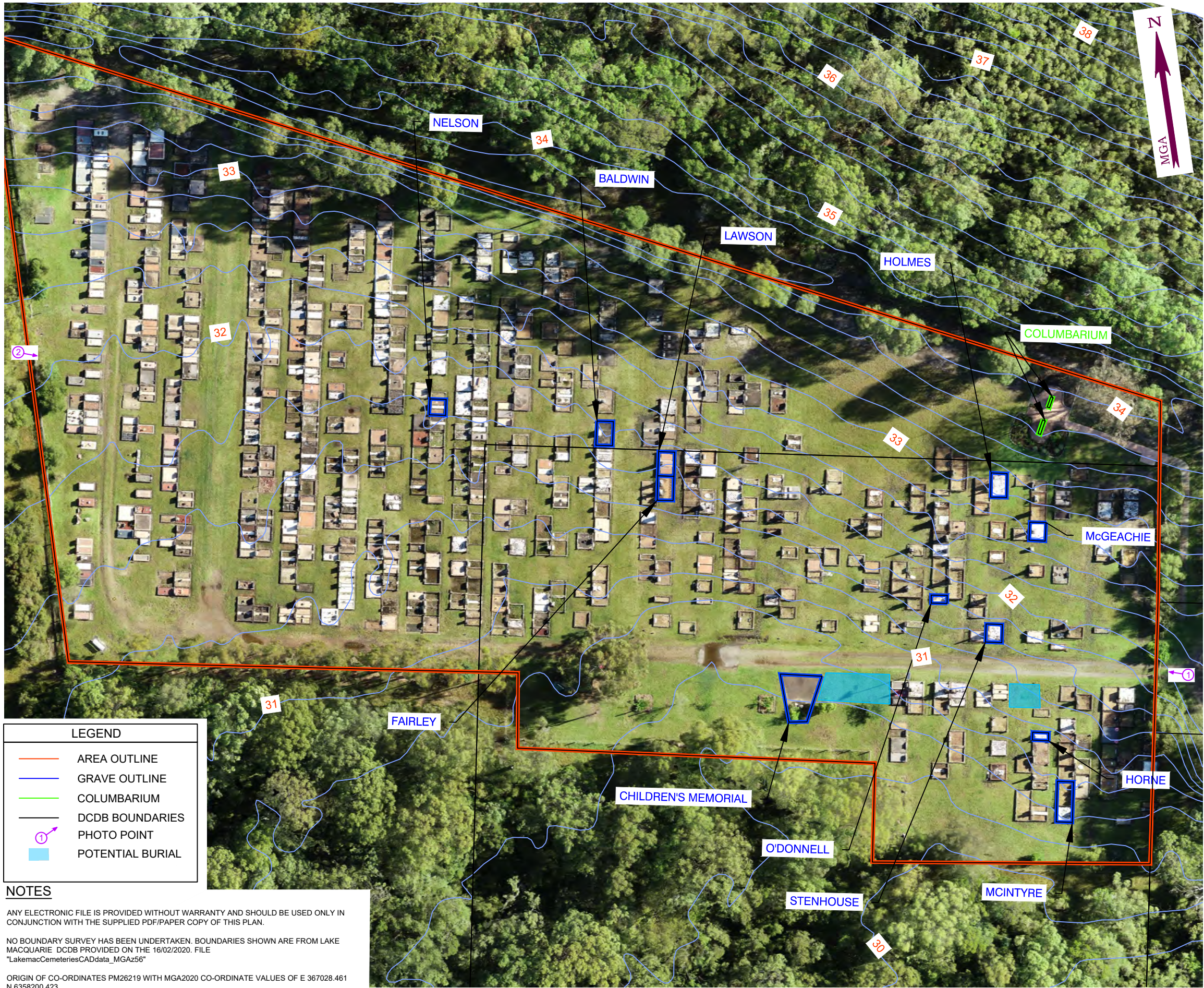


PHOTO 1: LOOKING WEST



PHOTO 2: LOOKING EAST




NOTES

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NO BOUNDARY SURVEY HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN. BOUNDARIES SHOWN ARE FROM LAKE MACQUARIE DCDB PROVIDED ON THE 16/02/2020. FILE "LakemacCemeteriesCADdata_MGAz56"

ORIGIN OF CO-ORDINATES PM26219 WITH MGA2020 CO-ORDINATE VALUES OF E 367028.461 N 6358200.423

26.03.2021			TEXT AMENDMENT	DA	DSR	JPM	■ SCALE: 1:600	■ DATUM: AHD	■ SCALE BAR:			■ CLIENT:			■ SURVEY: RJS		DATE OF SURVEY: 22.02.2021		■ TITLE		■ JOB No	
09.03.2021			POTENTIAL BURIAL AREAS ADDED	SWA	DSR	JPM	■ COORDINATES: MGA	■ ORIGIN: PM 26219	12 6 0 12 24 36						■ DRAWN: RJS		DATE OF PLAN: 01.03.2021		SURVEY PLAN OF WEST WALLSEND CEMETERY		149135	
01.03.2021			INITIAL VERSION	RJS	DSR	JPM		■ CROSS SECTION:	Metres						■ CHECKED: DSR		DATE LAST SAVED: 26.03.2021					
No.	DATE	REVISION DETAILS			DRAWN	CHK	APP	■ ORIGIN: PM 26219	V: N/A H: N/A						■ APPROVED: JPM		DATE APPROVED: 01.03.2021		■ DWG No		■ SHEET 1 OF 1 SHEETS	
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2. DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

This history of the West Wallsend Cemetery is sourced from archives held by LMCC, published histories, newspaper accounts (Trove) and in discussions with Anne Andrews, local historian, West Wallsend Cemetery Committee and West Wallsend resident.

2.1. West Wallsend

In 1888, the area that encompasses present day West Wallsend was gazetted to George Henry and Mary Lane. In January 1889, less than a year later, that land was owned by the West Wallsend Coal Company with mining commencing in July the same year. Other coal companies quickly followed: Monkwearmouth Coal Company (March 1890) [later known as Seaham Colliery (1891-92)]; West Wallsend Extended (Killingworth) (1892) and later Seaham No. 2 (1905). These four mines were instrumental in the development of West Wallsend.

The town of West Wallsend was planned and developed by the West Wallsend Coal Company, to house its own workers. A substantial town providing commercial and community services it also supported smaller villages in the wider area (West Wallsend. Lake Macquarie History).

Employment was dominated by the mines; 40 workers were initially employed to establish the collieries. This number rose sharply and by 1910 approximately 2,000 men were employed, and the town's population had increased to 6,000. By 1916, however the boom was over: an explosion closed Killingworth Colliery; poor markets led to the closure of West Wallsend mine and in 1917 the Young Wallsend pit closed. This pattern of mine closure was further exacerbated by the Great Depression and from that period the industry failed to recover (Andrews and Baldwin 2003:5).

The town's boom period lasted from 1888 to 1916, less than 30 years, however this saw the development of a commercial precinct and residential area that remains largely intact today.

2.2. West Wallsend Cemetery

Prior to selection of the land for the cemetery, the area had been a camping ground for Aboriginal people (1932 'OBITUARY',).

In 1889, with the town of West Wallsend growing, a deputation was made to the West Wallsend Colliery Manager for a grant of land for a cemetery. Approved by Company Directors, four acres, two roads, twenty perches (approximately 2 hectares) were set aside.

The Company selected the following six men, all employees, to act as Trustees (Figure 2).

- Andrew Henderson, overman
- Austin Brain, colliery clerk
- Thomas Chapman, miner
- John Hunter, check weighman
- Aaron Walters, storekeeper, and
- John Neilson, mining engineer.

The agreement, signed in February 1890, established a private cemetery controlled by a trust for the residents. Several conditions were set including a requirement to keep financial books with surplus money used for cemetery improvement. The agreement was to remain in place until West Wallsend was declared a municipality (Reynolds 1989:128-130).

The appointment of the trustees did not appear a success. Contemporary newspapers report that funds had been provided by the Department of Lands for fencing, work had not progressed (1890



'WEST WALLSEND CEMETERY.'). Later correspondence indicates work still had not been undertaken and the cemetery was in a deplorable state and the grant for fencing still had not been expended (1893 'DISTRICT NEWS'.)

In September 1893, new trustees were appointed, two acres of the cemetery land had been cleared and substantially fenced. The trustees then proposed surveying the plots in an 'orthodox manner', indicating that cemetery was to be divided on denominational grounds - later funeral announcements show this had occurred (1893 'DISTRICT NEWS'.)

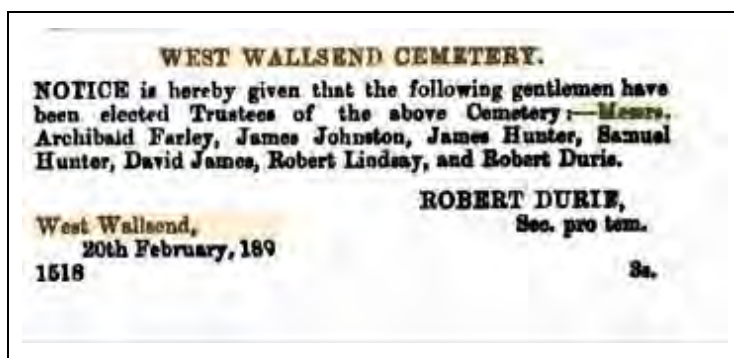


Figure 2 Appointment of Trustees (1893 'WEST WALLSEND CEMETERY'.)

Progress in the development of the cemetery was supported by an 1898 announcement of the resumption of land for a public access road (Figure 3).

LANDS RESUMED FOR ROADS DECLARED TO BE PUBLIC ROADS.		
NOTICE is hereby given that the lands which have been resumed by notification in the Government Gazette for roads, under the Public Roads Act of 1897, are now declared to be public roads.		
By His Excellency's Command, J. H. CARRUTHERS.		
Road No.	Description of Roads.	Date of Gazette of last Notice.
64 445-33 B. 2,114A	Deviation of road within portion No. 197, parish of Benecoe, county of Bathurst.	3 Aug., 1895, folio 5425.
66-690-112 B. 5,837	Road at Udney Railway Siding, on the South-Western Railway Line, parish of Toule's Point, county of Stuart.	6 Aug., 1895, folio 5900.
97-141-117 B. 5,843	Part of road from Wanguille to Warrillah, through portions Nos. 30, 27, and 72, parish of Oonahama, county of Townsend.	6 Aug., 1895, folio 5900.
97-283-11 B. 5,769	Parts of route through portions Nos. 10 and 20, with a branch at the north-east corner of portion No. 11, parish of Bridgen, county of Ashburnham.	3 Aug., 1895, folio 5433.
97-690-12 B. 5,802	Part of road from West Wallsend to the West Wallsend Cemetery, within portion No. 88, parish of Teressa, county of Northumberland.	3 Aug., 1895, folio 5435.
98-201-9 B. 5,842	Road from the Main South Coast Road to Terragong Swamp, within portion No. 103, parish of Klamis, county of Camden, Municipality of Jamieson.	6 Aug., 1895, folio 5900.
98-202-8 B. 5,842	Road from the Terragong Swamp to the road from Jamberoo to Shellharbour, through portions Nos. 28 and 17, with a branch road within portion No. 29, parish of Terragong, county of Camden, Municipality of Shellharbour.	6 Aug., 1895, folio 5900.

Figure 3 Resumption of land for road (1898 'LANDS RESUMED FOR ROADS DECLARED TO BE PUBLIC ROADS'.)

While the cemetery appeared to operate as prescribed, in 1929 Councillor J Johnston, of Lake Macquarie Shire Council, announced he was the sole trustee for the West Wallsend Cemetery. Following the donation of land from the West Wallsend Coal Company Councillor, Johnston had provided £200 for clearing the cemetery. In 1929, following bushfires he had then spent £75 repairing damage. Councillor J Johnston concluded that he felt it unfair he should be solely in charge of its maintenance (1929 'SHOCK FOR SHIRE'.)

In 1931, a team of volunteers cleaned and made improvements to the cemetery to reduce potential damage during the impending bush fire season (1931 'WEST WALLSEND'). In 1936, Council provided a gang of men, under the emergency relief scheme, to clear roads and walks and construct a shelter shed (1936 'WEST WALLSEND').



By the late 1930s it would appear the management of the West Wallsend Cemetery, which had a difficult start, was under control. This continued until 1967 when the NSW government ceded control of cemeteries to local councils.

2.2.1 *Local Government (Control of Cemeteries) Amendment Act, 1966*

In 1967, the *Local Government (Control of Cemeteries) Amendment Act, 1966* became operational. That Act transferred trusteeship of cemeteries to local councils, documents held by LMCC for West Wallsend provide no handover date. Mr Phillip Bramble, Main Road Cardiff is listed as sextant, with a simple list of interments provided (Lake Macquarie – West Wallsend Cemetery).

2.2.1 *City of Lake Macquarie Heritage Study (1992-1993)*

The City of Lake Macquarie Heritage Study [Suters, Doring, Turner (1992-1993)] listed the West Wallsend Cemetery of local significance. The Study found that: much of the history of the district is represented in the cemetery; the cemetery contains interesting examples of funerary art; scenically it is evocative of a mining community, having respect for the dead but little money to spare for frills (West Wallsend WW-50).

2.2.2 *Friends of West Wallsend Cemetery*

In 1999, a group of concerned residents formed the West Wallsend Cemetery Sub-Committee to ensure the cemetery was managed in a manner that reflected its important place in the community. At that stage, a lack of fences and an entry gate resulted in cattle and horses destroying much of the area. Headstones were broken, vandals left burnt-out cars on graves and the area was covered in weeds and rubbish. With Council support, progress on restoring the cemetery was made. A water tank, seating and lighting were installed. By 2000, row markers and a post and rail fence, reminiscent of the 1890 fence, had been constructed. A positive move was Westlakes Training initiating a project that employed ten young local men on cemetery restoration works.

An attractive new entrance gate, built by Mr Andrews, was installed with volunteers ensuring it was closed after hours. In 2002, the memorial to stillborn and babies in unmarked graves was installed in an area known for their interment. Repair of headstones has occurred through grants and a willing stonemason. The local Year 12 high school students have added to the record using the cemetery as a major project.

In 2015, a celebration was held for the 125th anniversary of the dedication of the cemetery. The commitment of the local community and the rise in popularity of family history guaranteed this was a well-attended event (West Wallsend Cemetery - 125 Years).








2.3. Cemetery overview

2.3.1 Representative burials

The burials selected below are intended to represent a cross section of the West Wallsend community in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Table 1 Representative burials

Name	Memorial
Baldwin, Annie (1889-1890) The first known burial in West Wallsend Cemetery, Annie Baldwin was less than three months old when she died (Lyons 2001).	
Fairley, Archibald (1838-1910) and Ann (1839-1910) General Manager of the Seaham and Abermain Collieries he was the 'oldest and best known mine manager' in the northern district (1910 'NEWCASTLE.') Ann Fairley, a member of the Presbyterian Church, was well known for supporting the church and school (1910 'WEST WALLSEND').	
Holmes, Joseph (1830-1912) Mary Clark (1840-1905). First settling the area in 1862, in 1898 he subdivided the land into residential lots naming the area 'Holmesville' (Reynolds 1989:339)	
Holmes, Joseph Jnr (1867-1893) Son of Joseph and Mary, he was killed at the Seaham No. 1 Mine in 1893(Nineteenth century coal mining related deaths 2004:84).	
Horne, Julia (1836-1911) Killed in an early tram accident at Wallsend (1911 'FATAL TRAM ACCIDENT.')	



Name	Memorial
Lawson, William (1873-1924) and Ethel May (1874-1946) Manager South Seaham Colliery (1915 'DISTRICT NEWS'.)	
McIntyre, Frank (1902-1919) a wheeler killed in an accident at West Wallsend Colliery (1919 'FATALITY AT WEST WALLSEND COLLIERY') McIntyre, Colin Jnr (1901-1919) (Service No. 2184) killed in action, Villers-Bretonneux, France. Brother to Frank (Australian War Memorial). McIntyre, Andrew (1894-1918) (Service no. 4170) Sapper. Killed in action near Corbie, France (Australian War Memorial).	
Nelson, Nurse Blanche (1881-1957) Her husband dying early, she supported her family as a nurse and midwife owning the Halcyon Hospital, Barnsley and was the local postmistress (1930-1954) (Blanche Nelson).	
Notley, Joseph (1838 -1932) and Eliza (-1899) Living to 94 years Mr Notley, as a child had been a playmate of Fred Ward, later the bushranger 'Thunderbolt'. in his early working life was a teamster, mail driver, timber getter, farmer, and gold-digger. Settling in West Wallsend, he became a dairyman (1932 'OBITUARY',).	
Stenhouse, John (1874-1931) and Janet (1881-1941) One of the first councillors elected to Lake Macquarie Shire Council. In 1906 he was Chairman of the Temporary Council and President 1911-1912. Served terms as director and treasurer of the West Wallsend Cooperative (later to become The Store) (Reynolds 1989:287 & 1931 'MR. J. W. STENHOUSE'.).	



3. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The West Wallsend Cemetery is situated on the western outskirts of town along a rural unsealed road. In a secluded area, surrounded by bushland, there is a view of Mount Sugarloaf to the west.

Section 3.1 provides detail on features of the cemetery, with Section 3.3 describing distinctive elements of the cemetery.

3.1. Key elements of West Wallsend Cemetery

The following describes the key elements of West Wallsend Cemetery in terms of general appearance (*Location, views and vistas; Landscape, gardens and plantings; Design and layout*), memorials (*Headstones and grave furniture; Memorial features – columbaria, Memorial Walls and chapels*) and infrastructure (*Gates and fences; Signage, Other structures - shelters, roads, seating water supply, drainage, security, lighting*) with the following terminology used:

Description: derived from the site inspection this is a brief description of the element.

Analysis: an overview of how the element contributes to or detracts from the heritage significance.

Ranking: high, moderate or low - the value of the element in contributing to the heritage

LOCATION, VIEWS AND VISTAS

Description: Access Cemetery Road, West Wallsend.

West Wallsend is a large town on the northwestern extent of the Lake Macquarie LGA. The cemetery is bounded by natural bushland, to the south and east are low lying areas and wetlands. From the entrance gates the view beyond the cemetery is of mature trees and mid-storey vegetation. Within the cemetery and from the internal access road the view is limited by the surrounding bushland. The western boundary is a power line corridor while 300 m beyond is the M1 Pacific Motorway. Mt Sugarloaf is visible to the west.

Analysis: The bush surrounds are a defining feature of several LMCC cemeteries. The bushland provides a visual reference to the boundaries of the place and creates a quiet space. This feature is somewhat marred by the constant hum of the motorway.

Ranking: High



View west from entrance gates



View to south-west



View east - southern corner



LANDSCAPE, GARDENS and PLANTINGS

Description: The surrounding mature bushland is the focus of the landscape. Inside the cemetery a line of Eucalypts forms the southern boundary. several small decorative gardens, together with shrubs and trees have been planted in by families of those interred. Species vary with introduced plants such as succulents, geranium, agapanthus, lavender and rosemary.

Analysis: The gardens have been established by relatives and friends to memorialize those buried.

Ranking: Moderate



Columbaria garden



Southern boundary eucalypts



Small garden.

DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Description: A traditional grid layout West Wallsend Cemetery is unusual in that it does not appear to have a denominational layout. There is a single internal access track that runs the length of the cemetery.

A central unsealed track provides vehicle access though the centre of the cemetery. The earliest graves are towards eastern and entry side of the cemetery.

There are no beam burials.

Analysis: The cemetery's grid layout is consistent with other cemeteries however there is no readily apparent division by denomination.

Ranking: High



Grid layout



HEADSTONES AND GRAVE FURNITURE

Description: West Wallsend Cemetery is unique amongst the cemeteries under LMCC management for the significant number of large, imposing memorials, in many instances constructed of expensive stone such as granite and marble. Those headstones are upright stele in style and often with cast iron fence surrounds. While such memorials are common in more affluent areas, in Lake Macquarie they are not the norm. By the mid-1920s and roughly parallel to the decline of the mining industry, the headstones become more modest and typical of the other cemeteries assessed during this project. They assume a lower profile headstone often including a concrete or sandstone surround to delineate the grave.

Analysis: The early headstones and cemetery surrounds at West Wallsend are distinct and different from the other cemeteries investigated. That distinct style is representative of the boom years of the coal industry, with more modest memorials marking the decline of the industry and the change in monument style in the twentieth century.

Ranking: High



Red granite with marble grave surround



Black gabbro (granite)



Granite and marble headstones

MEMORIAL FEATURES – COLUMBARIA, MEMORIAL WALLS AND CHAPELS

Description: West Wallsend has a memorial dedicated to babies and children buried in unmarked graves constructed in, or around 2001 by the West Wallsend Cemetery Committee. There are two columbaria, but no chapel. In recent years, the growing popularity of cremation and the lack of new burial spaces at the cemetery has led to a rise in demand for columbaria.

Analysis: The columbaria have been introduced to the cemetery since 2000. Their style is utilitarian and not conducive to the traditional style of the late nineteenth / early twentieth century component of the cemetery. The Babies and Children Memorial is important as the community's recognition of the impact of their loss on the community.

Ranking: Columbaria (Low); Babies and Children Memorial (High)



Babies and Children Memorial



Columbaria



GATES AND FENCES

Description: West Wallsend Cemetery has steel entrance gates incorporating the name West Wallsend Cemetery. The gates were constructed by Mr Andrews (husband of Anne). The gates remain locked with a small pedestrian entrance at the side.

The fence that flanks the gates are timber post and rail. On the remaining sides are rural post and wire fences.

Analysis: The gates and fences appear adequate to their task.

Ranking: High



Entrance gate



Post and rail fence (eastern side)



Post and wire fence (southern side)

SIGNAGE

Description: The large Council erected entrance sign is consistent with all others for Lake Macquarie Cemeteries.

Denomination signs are not required and there are row markers.

Analysis: The Council sign is generic to all other LMCC cemetery signs.

Ranking: Low



Entrance sign



Row markers



OTHER STRUCTURES, SHELTERS, SEATING, WATER SUPPLY, DRAINAGE, SECURITY, LIGHTING

Description: West Wallsend Cemetery has a single shelter adjacent the internal access track. There are garden seats throughout the cemetery. Water (not potable) is available. Security is bolstered by the permanently closed access gate. Security lighting are present.

Drainage is poor. The cemetery is on a low slope leading to a wetland area in the south. During periods of rain run-off causes erosion and boggy ground around graves, while on the sole internal access track, water pools.

Analysis: Structures provided are adequate. Drainage provides a significant issue causing damage to grave surrounds through collapse of soft ground and erosion in addition to limiting access to the western portion of the cemetery.

Ranking: Low



Seating



Water on internal access track



Erosion around grave

3.2. Contamination

Sections of West Wallsend Cemetery are contaminated by black slag, classified as a hazardous waste. A recently completed report on potential remediation measures has been received by Council. While the presence of the slag does not affect the heritage significance of the cemetery, options for removal must be managed to ensure adverse impact on significance does not occur.

3.3. Distinctive elements and features

3.3.1 *Unmarked graves*

Most cemeteries, including West Wallsend, have unmarked graves. The cost of erecting an enduring headstone was significant, often a wooden cross was installed that has disappeared over time. The only record of the interment's name being found amongst sextant or funeral director documents; however, these were not always accurate and in many instances have been lost.



3.3.2 *Memorial to babies*

In discussion with Anne Andrews, it was found that babies and children were sometimes placed in now unmarked graves on the southern side of the cemetery. In recognition, the West Wallsend Cemetery Sub-Committee in 2002, placed this inscribed boulder in their memory.



3.3.3 *Memorial to Archibald Fairley*

West Wallsend is the only cemetery under the management of LMCC to have a memorial erected to an individual, Archibald Fairley. The monument sits beside the family's memorial on the grave site. The inscription reads

'In memory of Archibald Fairley, for many years Superintendent of Seaham and Abermain Colliery Companies Ltd by whom this monument was erected as a mark of their appreciation and esteem'.



3.3.4 *Large and imposing headstones*

West Wallsend Cemetery is the only cemetery included in this assessment to have a significant number of large and imposing headstones. Headstones, and often grave surrounds are constructed of expensive stone with granite and marble common. Ornate cast-iron fences enclosing burial plots are common. Headstone inscriptions record the names of Stenhouse, Fairley and Lawson, all occupying management positions in the local collieries. Other inscriptions record names such as Holmes and Johnson, instrumental in the development of the area. There are numerous other names on significant headstones that are not as well known.

3.4. Archaeological potential

3.4.1 *Historical archaeological potential*

LMCC Cemetery Conservation Management Plan, Volume 1 provides detail on statutory provisions regarding archaeological relics. This section considers the potential for historical archaeological evidence to remain. All cemeteries by nature contain archaeological relics, while the location of most is identifiable, there remain areas where graves are no longer marked that are not obvious. Cemeteries may also contain evidence of past structures and features such as buildings, fences, paths and roads.



Figure 1 shows a small area of potential unmarked burials. The Figure developed from drone images reflects a visible pattern of potential graves.

3.4.2 Aboriginal archaeological potential

An early newspaper report of the cemetery being originally an Aboriginal camping ground was considered with regards to archeological potential. A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) found no sites recorded in, or near, the cemetery. Furthermore, the criteria for a Due Diligence Assessment (DECCW 2010) states that such an assessment is *not* required if:

- (4) For the purposes of this clause, land is disturbed if it has been the subject of human activity that has changed the land's surface, being changes that remain clear and observable (DECCW 2010:7).

The use of the land for a cemetery has clearly changed the land surface in a clear and observable manner. It is therefore considered that the potential of harm occurring to Aboriginal objects is unlikely.

3.5. Key issues

The following are considered the key issues:

- Remediation of black slag contamination
- Drainage
- Lack of signage
- Poor condition of early headstones
- Environmental impact of fires, flooding, storms, etc.



4. SIGNIFICANCE

4.1. Assessing cultural heritage significance

LMCC Cemetery Conservation Management Plan, Volume 1 provides detail on the process of assessing cultural heritage significance under the Assessing Heritage Significance Manual (NSW Heritage Office 2001)

Historical (Criterion A)

An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

West Wallsend Cemetery, established in 1890, provides physical evidence of the growth, development and decline of a mining town. The secular cemetery layout, together with the social stratification evident in large and imposing memorials, potentially reflects the nature of the town. Historical significance is evident in the recording of family names and individuals who formed the community. Archival records associated with burials provide a valuable source of information, given the loss of physical evidence with unmarked graves.

West Wallsend Cemetery meets Criterion A.

Associative (Criterion B)

An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

West Wallsend Cemetery is associated with a group of people - the colliery managers, miners and their families. The West Wallsend Colliery management established the cemetery on request from their employees and the cemetery retained that connection for most of its history.

West Wallsend Cemetery meets Criterion B.

Aesthetic/Technical (Criterion C)

An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).

West Wallsend Cemetery has several significant memorials, created by local or regional stonemasons, that show a high degree of creative or technical achievement.

West Wallsend Cemetery meets Criterion C.

Social (Criterion D)

An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

West Wallsend Cemetery as a principal place of burial for the area since the late nineteenth century, has a special association for social and spiritual reasons for the local community. It plays an important role in the ability to remember and honour deceased families and friends.

West Wallsend Cemetery meets Criterion D.

Research (Criterion E)

An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

West Wallsend Cemetery has significant social research potential. The cemetery was largely the preserve of the residents of West Wallsend, a small mining town. The unique nature of the cemetery



in the local area, demonstrated by lack of a denominational layout and the high proportion of large headstones provides the opportunity for further research linked to memorial types, inscriptions and extending through to documentary records of unmarked graves.

West Wallsend Cemetery meets Criterion E.

Rarity (Criterion F)

An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

West Wallsend Cemetery is rare in the local area, as it was established by the West Wallsend Coal Company on land it had set aside. The Company appointed the management committee devoid of any representation from the established church.

West Wallsend Cemetery meets Criterion F.

Representative (Criterion G)

An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places, or cultural or natural environments. (or a class of the local area).

West Wallsend Cemetery demonstrates the principal characteristics of a class of the cultural places of New South Wales. It is representative of a small general cemetery in NSW dating from the late 19th century that served a specific community.

West Wallsend Cemetery meets Criterion G.

Integrity /intactness: West Wallsend Cemetery fulfills this criterion.

4.2. Statement of significance

West Wallsend Cemetery, established in 1890, is significant in providing physical evidence of the growth, development and decline of a mining town. The cemetery layout, together with the social stratification evident in large and imposing memorials, reflects the singular mining focus of the town. The cemetery is a remote though important component of the West Wallsend Conservation Area.

4.3. Grading of significance

The rationale for significance grading is in accordance with the NSW Heritage Manual Assessing Heritage Significance (NSW Heritage Office 2000) with an explanation of the gradings found in Volume 1. The grading seeks to identify the features of West Wallsend Cemetery that contribute to its significance.

Table 2 Graded elements of West Wallsend Cemetery

Grading	Cemetery elements
Exceptional	Large early headstones and surrounds, Fairley memorial
High	Rectilinear grid layout, curtilage, all memorials, major trees, entrance gate, post and rail fence
Moderate	-
Low	Columbaria, gardens, shelter shed, water tank, lighting, other fencing
Intrusive	Garbage bins



4.4. Views and vistas

Conservation requires the retention of an appropriate visual setting and other relationships that contribute to the cultural significance of the place (Marquis-Kyle and Walker 2004:37). An important component of the cemetery is its landscape, the cemetery's border of bushland creates views and vistas that are important to the space. Within the cemetery there are largely unrestricted views providing not only a sense of spaciousness, but also a quiet space within the bushland boundary.

4.5. Archaeological significance

Cemeteries by design hold archaeological potential. West Wallsend Cemetery has the potential to provide information on burial practices over time and the grave goods interred with them.

Exhumations in older cemeteries has resulted in skeletal analysis that has provided extensive evidence on past populations. The archaeological significance of these burials is high.

There were no known other structures, other than possible previous fences, at the cemetery. The archaeological significance of such structures, if they exist, is low.



5. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

General recommendations about management guidelines can be found in Volume 1, the following table refers specifically to West Wallsend Cemetery.

Table 3 Management recommendations

Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommendation
Black slag contamination	Maintain heritage values	High	Remediation proposal must include a thorough heritage assessment on the potential for impact on the cemetery's significance. Mitigation measures must be instigated to ensure against harm during, and following, works.
Views and vistas	Retention of views and vistas both within and external to cemetery	High	Maintain bushland boundary. If development adjacent the cemetery is proposed it is important to retain the bushland curtilage.
Landscape, vegetation, gardens and plantings	Maintain landscaping and plantings.	High	Undertake weeding, mowing and regular maintenance.
Headstones and grave furniture	Ensure retention of significant graves and headstones.	Moderate	Source funding for conservation works on older headstones. All works in accordance with the National Trust (NSW). (2009) <i>Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .
Significant graves	Ensure retention of significant graves and headstones.	High	Source funding to undertake conservation works prioritizing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">the identification and restoration of significant headstones and surrounds.
Unmarked burials	Identify unmarked burials to prevent inadvertent damage or disturbance.	Moderate	Consider a GPR study, if required, to identify unmarked graves and identify areas for further burial space.
Gates and fences	Retention of gates and fences	Low	Regular maintenance.
Drainage	Prevent impact on graves	Moderate	Install appropriate measures to manage drainage.
Signage	Maintain existing signage and provide additional signage.	High	Install a cemetery plan sign. Provide additional row # signage at end of each row as required.
Heritage interpretation	Promotion as a source of historical and family information	Moderate	Develop and install accurate, informative, engaging heritage interpretation sign/s.
Environmental factors	Fire, floods and storms	High	Maintenance plans to include removal of hazardous trees and undergrowth,



Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommendation
			grass regularly mown in high-risk seasons. Install appropriate measures to manage drainage.
'Friends of'	Engage community groups	Moderate	Encourage groups to advance heritage research on interments. Liaise with the West Wallsend Cemetery Committee. Assist in grounds and memorial maintenance working under <i>National Trust Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .



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Correspondence and Minutes

Lake Macquarie - West Wallsend Cemetery (no date).



Whitebridge Cemetery

SEPTEMBER 2021



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1. BACKGROUND

The Lake Macquarie City Council Cemeteries Conservation Management Plan (2021) comprises three volumes - Volume 1 provides generic information on cemetery management, Volume 2 details each of the cemeteries under the management of Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC), while Volume 3 is an archival recording report of the cemeteries.

The focus of this report, which forms part of Volume 2, is Whitebridge Cemetery.

1.1. Project area

Item name:	Whitebridge Cemetery
Address:	132a Dudley Road, Whitebridge
Property description:	Lots 1697, 1698 and 1731, DP 755233
Heritage listing:	Local - Lake Macquarie Local Environment Plan 2014. Item # 223

1.2. Milestones

Established: 31 January 1891

Re-established: 8 December 1892

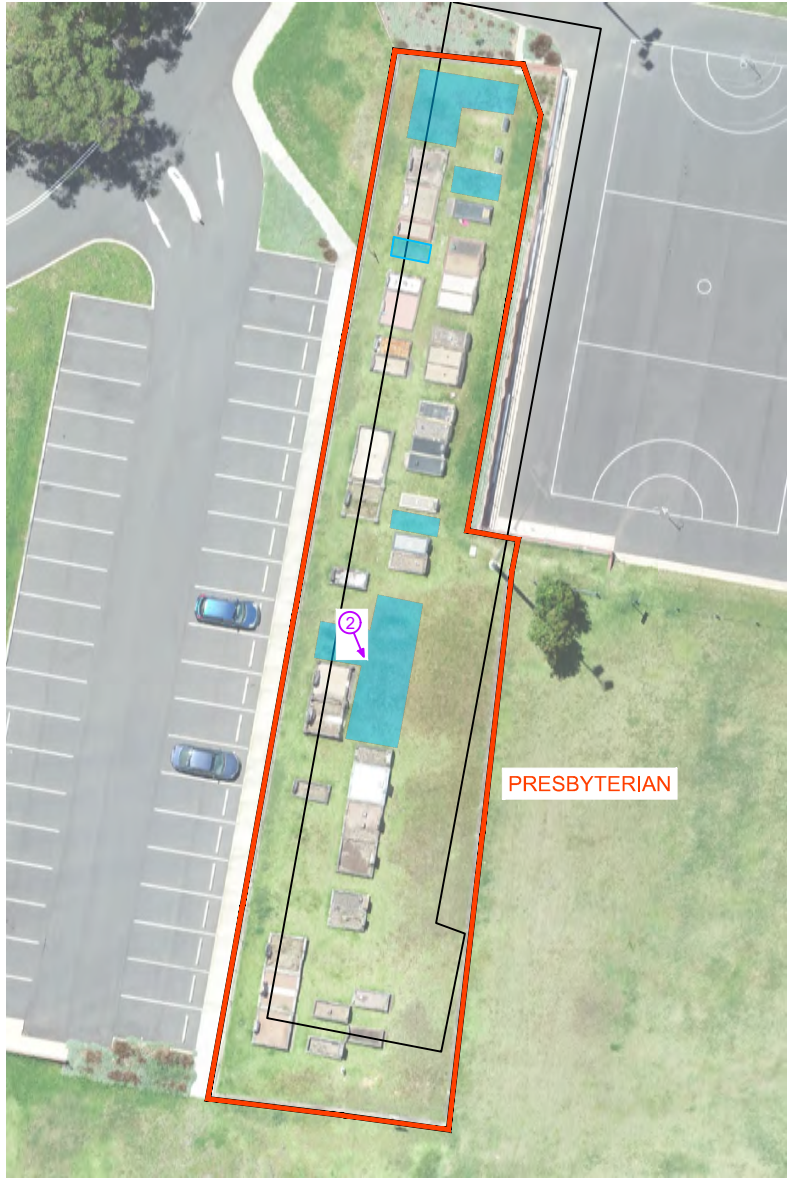
Management transfer to LMCC: Post 1967

Alternate layout: 1981

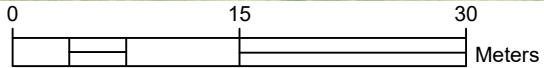
1.3. Author and acknowledgements

Laraine Nelson (Nelson Heritage Consulting) conducted site inspections and is the author of this document. All images unless otherwise attributed are by the author.

- Vicki-anne Williamson. Local historian and author of local cemetery histories
- Judy Messiter, Lake Macquarie Library - Local History
- Darrell Rigby. Heritage Archaeology and Planning. Cover photo



PRESBYTERIAN



ABOVE: PRESBYTERIAN SECTION - SCALE 1:500



PHOTO 2: PRESBYTERIAN SOUTH-EASTERLY ASPECT

LEGEND			
— AREA OUTLINE	○ GRAVE CIRCLE	● GRAVE LOCATION	● MEMORIAL BOULDER
— GRAVE OUTLINE	○ GRAVE LOCATION	● MEMORIAL BOULDER	● PHOTO LOCATION
— COLUMBARIUM	○ GRAVE LOCATION	● MEMORIAL BOULDER	● PHOTO LOCATION
— DCDB BOUNDARIES	○ GRAVE LOCATION	● MEMORIAL BOULDER	● PHOTO LOCATION
■ POTENTIAL BURIAL	○ GRAVE LOCATION	● MEMORIAL BOULDER	● PHOTO LOCATION

NOTES

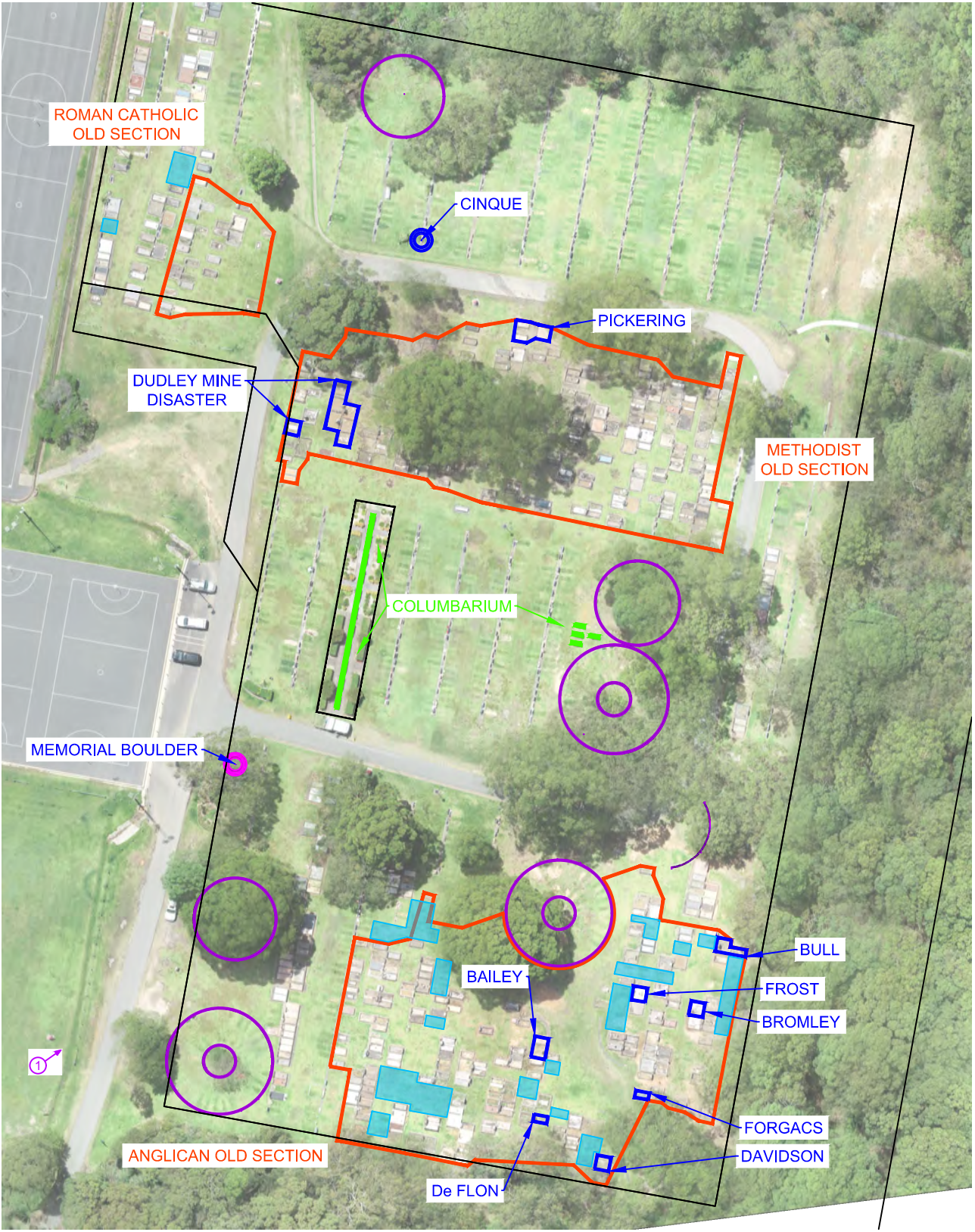
ANY ELECTRONIC FILE IS PROVIDED WITHOUT WARRANTY AND SHOULD BE USED ONLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SUPPLIED PDF/PAPER COPY OF THIS PLAN.

NO BOUNDARY SURVEY HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN. BOUNDARIES SHOWN ARE FROM LAKE MACQUARIE DCDB PROVIDED ON THE 16/02/2020. FILE "LakemacCemeteriesCADdata_MGAz56"

ORIGIN OF CO-ORDINATES SSM116977 WITH MGA2020 CO-ORDINATE VALUES OF E 379078.830 N 6350551.729



PHOTO 1: MAIN CEMETERY NORTH-EASTERLY ASPECT



ORTHO IMAGE: MAIN CEMETERY



REVISIONS	D	26-03-2021	TEXT AMENDMENT	DA	DSR	JPM	SCALE: 1:1000	DATUM: N/A	SCALE BAR: 20 10 0 20 40 60 Metres	CLIENT: HERITAGE ARCHAEOLOGY PLANNING	SURVEY: RJS	DATE OF SURVEY: 16.02.2021	TITLE: SURVEY PLAN OF WHITEBRIDGE CEMETERY	JOB No: 149135	ISSUE: D
	C	09-03-2021	ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL BURIAL FEATURES ADDED	SWA	DSR	JPM	COORDINATES: MGA	ORIGIN: SSM116977			DRAWN: RJS	DATE OF PLAN: 25.02.2021	DWG No: 149135-Whitebridge.dwg		
	B	02-03-2021	REVISED FEATURES	RJS	DSR	JPM	ORIGIN: SSM 116977	CROSS SECTION: V: N/A H: N/A			CHECKED: DSR	DATE LAST SAVED: 29.03.2021			
	A	25.02.2021	INITIAL VERSION	RJS	DSR	JPM					APPROVED: JPM	DATE APPROVED: 26.02.2021			
	No	DATE	REVISION DETAILS	DRAWN	CHK	APP								SHEET 1 OF 1 SHEETS	SIZE A3

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2. DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

This history of the Whitebridge Cemetery has been drawn from published histories, newspaper accounts (Trove) and in discussions with local historian, Vicki-anne Williamson.

2.1. Whitebridge

Whitebridge, together with nearby Dudley and Charlestown, were developed as part of the expansion of coal mining in the area. Raspberry Gully (1873), Burwood Colliery (1885) Whitebridge (1888) and South Burwood Colliery (later named Dudley Colliery) which opened in 1888 were a major source of local employment. While small orchards and farms were present, it was mining that led to the growth of villages and towns (Lake Macquarie – Whitebridge; Dudley; and Charlestown). At Whitebridge Colliery alone, there were five shafts, accessing three extensive seams, employing around 200 men.

Coal mining in the area was plagued by serious and sometimes fatal accidents. The worst occurred in 1898, with an explosion at the Dudley Mine. The blast destroyed surface infrastructure and despite the efforts of rescuers, fifteen men were killed (Lake Macquarie – Dudley). In 1901, a gas explosion at Burwood Colliery claimed the lives of another three miners (Lake Macquarie – Whitebridge). Despite this, mining remained the dominant employer well into the twentieth century.

By 1977, Charlestown had developed with thirty to forty houses serviced by a Post Office, three hotels, a School of Arts and several stores. By 1883 it had a Mechanics Institute and two churches while the Government Savings Bank opened in 1879 (Lake Macquarie – Charlestown). The coal mines have now closed; however, the area has flourished with Charlestown now the commercial hub of the Lake Macquarie area.

2.2. Whitebridge Cemetery

Whitebridge Cemetery, alternatively known as Charlestown Cemetery, Charlestown-Dudley Cemetery and the Miner's Cemetery, was established in 1893. For most of that time, it was known as Charlestown Cemetery.

Interments commenced shortly after the opening of the cemetery with the earliest known headstones of Herman Vivian Fryer who died 1894, followed by Ann Cockburn who died in 1896 (Lake Macquarie Family History Group 2003:i).

The cemetery was first dedicated in 1891, however as the mineral rights were in private hands that dedication was rescinded, and the cemetery re-dedicated in 1892 (Figure 2 and Figure 3). In 1893, the following trustees were appointed for the general burial area:

- Arthur William Garratt
- James Sarginson
- Robert Steel
- John Pattison
- John Thornton
- Hugh Humphreys
- Thomas Gervase Alcock [(Figure 4) (1893 'THE CHARLESTOWN CEMETERY.')].

While the remaining denominational trustees were appointed a few months later [(Figure 5) (1893 'CHARLESTOWN CEMETERY.')]

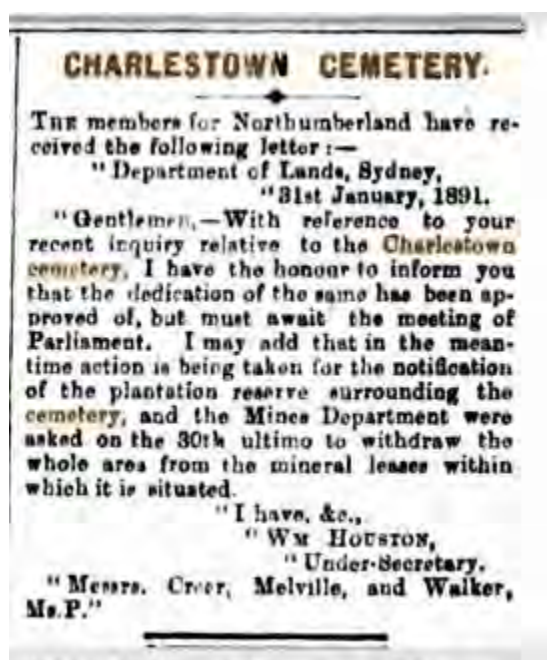


Figure 2 Dedication (1891 'CHARLESTOWN CEMETERY.')

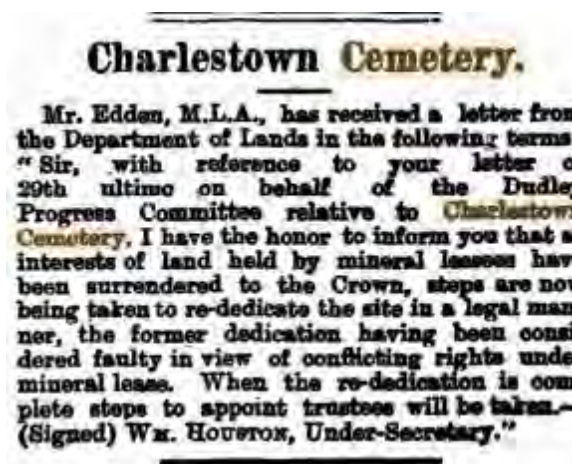


Figure 3 Proposed re-dedication (1892 'Charlestown Cemetery.')

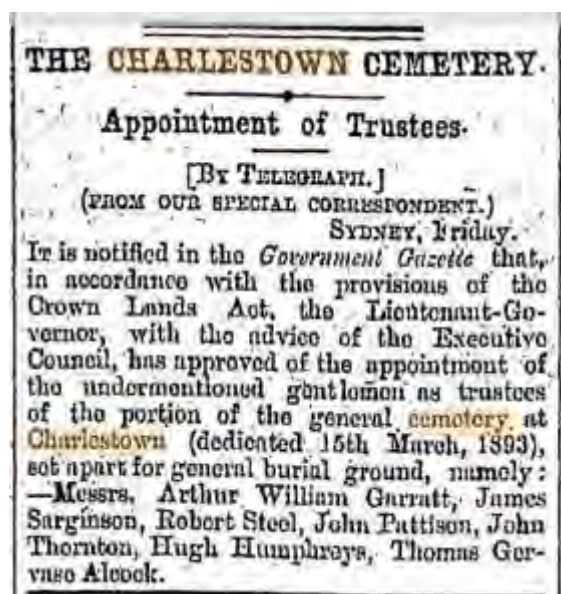


Figure 4 Appointment of trustees for general burial section (1893 'THE CHARLESTOWN CEMETERY.')

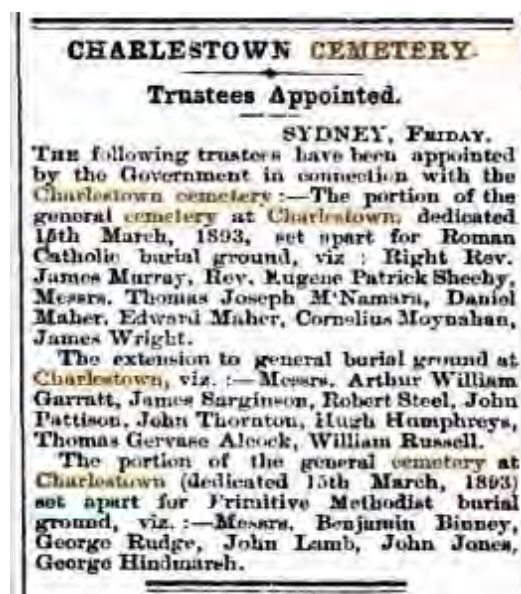


Figure 5 Appointment of trustees for other sections (1893 'CHARLESTOWN CEMETERY.')

The cemetery received a boost in 1893, with a Works Department grant of £112 for clearing and fencing (1893 'TELEGRAMS.'). The cemetery's design, roughly fashioned on a Maltese Cross appeared as an English formal garden with graves located in circles and semi-circles dotted around the cemetery (Figure 6). This was a departure from the normal simple, square cemetery layout.



Figure 6 Extract: County of Northumberland. Parish of Kahibah 6th Edition. 1905 (NSW Land Registry Service)

Despite the promising start, the cemetery was soon suffering the same neglect as others. Following bushfires in 1897 that destroyed fencing, livestock straying in the cemetery caused considerable damage. The management of the cemetery by trustees was also a cause for complaint. The Government appointed trustee's jurisdiction was limited to the general portion, 1.5 acres, while the remainder of the cemetery was under the care of various denominations. It appeared only the Primitive Methodists worked to keep their section in good order (1897 'DISTRICT NEWS').

Arthur Garratt (trustee) in 1929, provided a background to the problems plaguing denominational cemeteries created under the *Crown Lands Act 1894*. Once a cemetery was established each of the denominations were responsible for their portion, this led to inconsistency in maintenance and management. Fencing was a major problem as just a section of missing fence resulted in livestock damage to the entire cemetery (1929 'CHARLESTOWN CEMETERY').

The cemetery's maintenance was seen as a community obligation and fundraising was often instigated when funds were short. The proprietor of the Renown Theatre held a picture benefit and door knock appeals were often undertaken (1932 'CHARLESTOWN'). Funds raised were intended for the construction of a caretaker's cottage in the cemetery grounds. A building fund was established but there is no evidence that a cottage was built (1934 'CHARLESTOWN').

In 1947, the formation of the Charlestown Cemetery United Trust saw several improvements, a gravedigger was appointed, water was connected, fences mended, and paths cleared. By 1951, the group was disheartened by the lack of support and threatened to resign calling at the time for the closure of the cemetery (1951 'LETTERS to the Editor'). The threat had the desired effect and shortly after a team of volunteers were working at the cemetery (1951 'Volunteers to Clean Up Cemetery').

Unfortunately, the Maltese cross design of the cemetery was not retained. With few burials, it is likely the design was later altered to permit alternate uses for the land (Figure 7).

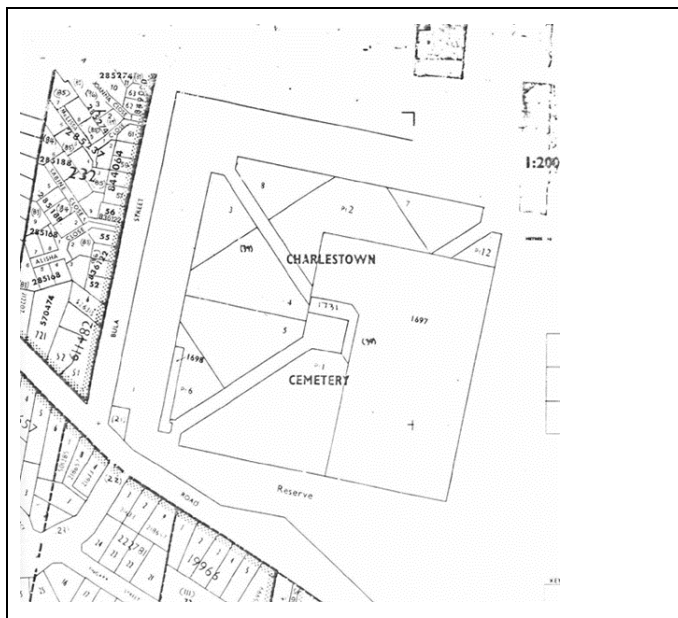


Figure 7 Redhead U6342-12 1:2000 Cadastral Series (1999) (NSW Land Registry Service)

2.2.1 Local Government (*Control of Cemeteries*) Amendment Act, 1966

In 1967, the *Local Government (Control of Cemeteries) Amendment Act, 1966* became operational. That Act transferred trusteeship of cemeteries including Whitebridge Cemetery to local councils, in this instance Lake Macquarie Shire Council. There were no records found detailing that transfer of management.

In 1981, a proposal for the arrangement of graves in circular and semi-circular pattern was adopted. The arrangement is evident in: Roman Catholic section – Row 4; Anglican Section – Rows 3, 4 and 5; Uniting Section - Rows 2 and 3; and General Section – Row 4.

A significant impact has been the construction of netball courts on what was cemetery land. As a result, the Presbyterian Section, flanked by a car park and netball courts, is isolated from the remainder of the cemetery (Lake Macquarie Family History Group 2003:i). In addition, the cemetery lacks the surrounding views and vistas of bushland that enhance the remainder of the LMCC cemeteries.

2.2.2 City of Lake Macquarie Heritage Study (1992-1993)

The City of Lake Macquarie Heritage Study [Suters, Doring, Turner (1992-1993)] recorded Whitebridge Cemetery as being of very high local significance. The Study considered the cemetery as a microcosm of the history of the eastern side of Lake Macquarie and is inextricably linked to the coal mining industry. The cemetery was considered to have considerable aesthetic value, with pleasant, low-key and informal landscaping (Whitebridge WH - 01).



2.3. Cemetery overview

2.3.1 Representative burials

The burials selected below are intended to represent a cross section of the Whitebridge and local community in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Table 1 Representative burials

Name	Memorial
<p>Bailey, Walter (1833-1906) and Ann (1841-1915)</p> <p>A pioneering family, the Baileys settled in the area in the 1860s establishing one of the most productive orchards in the state at their Dudley property, Mt Pleasant (1906 'DISTRICT NEWS'). Ann Bailey taught the piano and was a teacher at the first school at Dudley (Whitebridge Cemetery 2003:viii)</p>	
<p>Bromley, Hannah (1845-1919) and William (1841-1899)</p> <p>Known as Granny Bromley she was one of the first midwives in the district carrying out the role of attending births and attending sick and injured until 1917 (Lake Macquarie Family History Group 2003:viii).</p>	
<p>Bull, Edmund (1816-1899) and Mary Jane (1825-1903)</p> <p>Mr Bull's Glen Eureka Garden was a major tourist destination in the early 20th century. Considered one of Australia's premier private gardens, tourists often arrived by train at Whitebridge Station from where up to 200 horse carriages waited to transport them to the gardens. The garden comprised many unidentified plants from abroad as well as an orchard, fishponds and rockpools. Present day Bullsgarden Rd takes its name from Mr. Bull's Garden.</p>	
<p>Cinque, Giuseppe (Joe) (1971-1997)</p> <p>A murder victim, the subsequent trial of his killer was the inspiration for Helen Garner's book 'Joe Cinque's Consolation'.</p>	



Name	Memorial
<p>Davidson, Dudley (1904-1914) and his father Robert (1846-1916)</p> <p>Ten-year-old Dudley had been fishing with his father when swept off the rocks at 'Shark Hole Gulf' Dudley. Two years later his father drowned fishing from the same location (1914 'DROWNING FATALITY AT DUDLEY' & 1916 'Family Notices',).</p>	
<p>De Flon, Anders (1833-1905)</p> <p>The first manager of the 'New Wallsend Colliery' Catherine Hill Bay in 1873 (Whitebridge Cemetery 2003:ix).</p>	
<p>Forgacs, Stephen (1935-2012)</p> <p>Stephen Forgacs arrived in Australia from Hungary in 1957, founding Forgacs Engineering, one of Australia's largest privately owned shipbuilding, repair and heavy engineering companies. In 1987, Forgacs assumed control of the Newcastle Shipyard and Floating Dock (Stephen Forgacs).</p>	
<p>Frost, Thomas (1873-1941) and Jane Ann (1873-1934)</p> <p>Jane Frost conducted the local post office and general store while her husband, Thomas was an ostler at Burwood Colliery (Whitebridge Cemetery 2003:ix)</p>	
<p>Pickering, Alfred Sidney (1931-1981)</p> <p>Pioneers, the Pickering family were early storekeepers (Charlestown). Alfred Pickering was a Lake Macquarie Councilor from 1965-1981.</p>	



3. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Whitebridge Cemetery was established in 1898 to meet the needs of a growing local community. The cemetery's original plan was based on a Maltese Cross design; however, this was never realised. In the late twentieth century the introduction of a circular cemetery plan, together with introduction of netball courts seriously impacted its layout.

Section 3.1 provides detail on features of the cemetery, with Section 3.2 describing distinctive elements of the cemetery.

3.1. Key elements of Whitebridge Cemetery

The following table describes the key elements of the Whitebridge Cemetery in terms of general appearance (*Location, views and vistas; Landscape, gardens and plantings; Design and layout*), memorials (*Headstones and grave furniture; Memorial features – columbarium, Memorial Walls and chapels*) and infrastructure (*Gates and fences; Signage, Other structures - shelters, roads, seating water supply, drainage, security, lighting*) with the following terminology used:

Description: derived from the site inspection this is a brief description of the element.

Analysis: an overview of how the element contributes to or detracts from the heritage significance.

Ranking: high, medium or low - the value of the element in contributing to the heritage significance.

LOCATION, VIEWS and VISTAS

Description: Access 132a Dudley Road, Whitebridge.

Whitebridge is an urban residential area. The cemetery's northern boundary is bushland, the east and southern boundaries have a narrow band of mature trees and undergrowth providing a visual barrier to busy roads. The western view is towards open ground and netball courts.

The Presbyterian portion has been alienated from the main cemetery by the introduction of the netball courts. The location of the courts creates issues around parking within the cemetery during weekend games.

Analysis: The bush surrounds are a defining feature of several LMCC cemeteries. The bushlands provide a visual reference to the boundaries of the place and creates a quiet space. While bushland acts as a barrier to external development and modern bustle, at Whitebridge this is to a lesser extent than the other cemeteries due to the netball courts.

Ranking: Views north, east and south (High); View west (Low).



View south to entrance gates



View to west and netball courts



View along eastern boundary



LANDSCAPE, GARDENS and PLANTINGS

Description: The boundary of bushland and the mature eucalypts within the cemetery create a park landscape. Large eucalypts often form the central core of the circular burial areas. Small decorative gardens are associated with the Columbaria and Memorial Wall.

Analysis: Despite the loss of the original layout, the Cemetery's mature trees provide a park like appearance, as originally intended.

Ranking: High



Parklike grounds



Columbaria garden



Circular graves with tree centre

DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Description: The original plan has been altered, though retains the designated sections for various Christian and non-denominational burials. The circular layout has been introduced throughout the cemetery. The Presbyterian section, some distance from the body of the cemetery is now disconnected through the construction of the netball courts. The unusual layout is best seen in Figure 1. A sealed track provides vehicle access. Since the 1980s beams have been used for the introduction of new interment areas. This reflects a shift toward easier to maintain cemeteries and appears as bands of concrete beams with largely uniform headstones interspersed with grass lawns.

Analysis: The cemetery's unusual layout is not consistent with other LMCC cemeteries.

Ranking: High



Circular layout



Traditional layout



HEADSTONES AND GRAVE FURNITURE

Description: The headstones overall are modest and typical of the other LMCC cemeteries. Those headstones dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century are often upright stele in style and in many instances with cast iron fence surrounds. Towards the mid twentieth century lower profile headstones became more common sometimes including a concrete or sandstone surround to delineate the grave. From the 1980s beam interments were the norm.

Analysis: Representative of the transition of headstone styles from the late nineteenth century to the present day. In terms of management, the earliest stele headstones and cast-iron surrounds are most vulnerable to damage resulting from their age, style and type of material. That risk of damage decreases with the lower profile mid-late twentieth century headstones with the beam style headstone by nature most resilient to damage.

Ranking: High



Late nineteenth to early twentieth century headstones.



Mid-late twentieth century headstones.



Late twentieth century beam headstones.

MEMORIAL FEATURES – COLUMBARIUM, MEMORIAL WALLS AND CHAPELS

Description: Whitebridge Cemetery has both memorial walls and columbarium, but no chapel.

Analysis: The memorial walls and columbaria have been introduced to the cemetery since 2000. Their style is utilitarian and with gardens to soften their appearance, together with their placement by the beam burials, they are appropriate to the space.

Ranking: Medium



Memorial boulder



Columbaria



GATES AND FENCES

Description: Whitebridge Cemetery has an impressive entrance gateway flanked by trees and lawn. The gates stand-alone without a complimentary fence. The gates remain open. The dense bushland surrounding the cemetery acts as a fence on the remaining sides.

Analysis: The gateway is impressive and an attractive feature of the cemetery.

Ranking: High



Entrance gate

SIGNAGE

Description: The Council erected entrance sign is consistent with all others for Lake Macquarie Cemeteries. A small sign placed during the Australian Bicentenary in 1988 has useful if limited information. The cemetery also has a series of small, interesting plaques providing information on some of those buried.

There are signs indicating denomination however there are no row markers.

Analysis: The Council sign, other than the location, is generic with all other cemetery signs. The information signs are interesting and the concept worthy of investigating for other cemeteries.

Ranking: Low



Information sign



Bicentenary sign



Information plaque



OTHER STRUCTURES, SHELTERS, SEATING, WATER SUPPLY, DRAINAGE, SECURITY, LIGHTING, PARKING

Description: Whitebridge Cemetery has several garden seats throughout the cemetery. Water (not potable) is available. Drainage during heavy rain caused erosion on the south-eastern section of the cemetery. Security lights are present. Security also benefits from the presence of the well-used netball courts. The cemetery is also used as an access route to nearby shops, schools and for walking dogs.

Analysis: The infrastructure is adequate and appropriate. Uncontrolled parking and a lack of road barriers impacts on grave surrounds and potentially on unmarked graves.

Ranking: Low



Damage to grave by vehicles



Car parked on area of potential unmarked grave



Seating

3.2. Distinctive elements

3.2.1 Cemetery layout

The cemetery's original ornate layout has disappeared. In 1981, the adoption of graves in circular and semi-circular pattern was a marked departure from a grid layout. The cemetery plan was further impacted by the development of netball courts, which have resulted in the further alienation of the Presbyterian portion.



Circular layout



Presbyterian section adjoining netball courts

Figure 8 Whitebridge cemetery layout



3.2.2 Dudley Colliery disaster

The Dudley Colliery disaster in 1898, caused the death of fifteen men. The explosion, resulted when gas lamps lit at the start of the shift, ignited gases and coal dust destroying underground workings and surface infrastructure. The majority of the fifteen men were buried at Whitebridge Cemetery (Lake Macquarie - Dudley Mine Disaster)



Figure 9 Headstones of several Dudley Mine Disaster victims (Heritage Archaeology and Planning)

3.2.3 Unmarked graves

Most cemeteries, including Whitebridge, have unmarked graves. The cost of erecting an enduring memorial was significant, often a wooden cross was installed that has disappeared over time. The only record of the interment's name being found amongst sextant or funeral director documents; however, these were not always accurate and, in many instances, have been lost.

3.3. Historical archaeological potential

LMCC Cemetery Conservation Management Plan, Volume 1 provides detail on statutory provisions regarding archaeological relics. This section considers the potential for historical archaeological evidence to remain. All cemeteries, by nature, contain archaeological relics, while the location of most is identifiable, where graves are no longer marked it is not obvious. Other potential archaeological evidence may result from past structures and features such as buildings, fences, paths and roads.

Figure 1 shows a small area of potential burials. This mapping was developed from the drone images and reflects a visible but unmarked pattern of potential graves.

3.4. Key issues

- Car parking on graves during netball competitions
- Lack of defined areas for parking – vehicles parked on potential burials



- Grave surround damage during routine maintenance (large mowers and whipper snippers damage fragile gravestone surrounds).
- Lack of signage
- Lack of adequate interpretive signage for the Dudley Mine disaster
- Poor condition of headstones of those killed in the mine disaster
- Poor condition of early headstones
- Environmental impact of fires, storms, etc.



4. SIGNIFICANCE

4.1. Assessing cultural heritage significance

LMCC Cemetery Conservation Management Plan, Volume 1 provides detail on the process of assessing cultural heritage significance under the Assessing Heritage Significance Manual (NSW Heritage Office 2001)

Historical (Criterion A)

An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Whitebridge Cemetery provides physical evidence of the establishment, growth and decline of a mining area and its reinvention as a residential and commercial hub. The layout of the cemetery reflects divisions built on religion while the type of memorial in some instances indicates social stratification. Historical significance is evident in the recording of family names and individuals who are interred.

Whitebridge Cemetery meets Criterion A.

Associative (Criterion B)

An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Whitebridge Cemetery is associated with a group of people, miners and their families. The early history of the area is closely associated with mine workers (and their families) who worked for the local collieries. That close link to coal mining is borne out by the graves of men killed in the Dudley Mine Disaster (1898).

Whitebridge Cemetery meets Criterion B.

Aesthetic/Technical (Criterion C)

An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).

Whitebridge Cemetery does not meet Criterion C.

Social (Criterion D)

An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

Whitebridge Cemetery, as a principal place of burial for the area since the late nineteenth century, has a special association for social and spiritual reasons for the local community. It plays an important role in the ability to remember and honour deceased families and friends.

Whitebridge Cemetery meets Criterion D.

Research (Criterion E)

An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Whitebridge Cemetery has high social research potential. The cemetery (1898 to present day) provides an opportunity for investigation through memorial types and inscriptions. A multi layered approach to local history research can be developed through an investigation of headstone details, a resource that includes all age groups and levels of society. Women in the nineteenth and early



twentieth century were often only referred to in print by their husband's name, cemetery headstones provide those women with an identity.

Whitebridge Cemetery meets Criterion E.

Rarity (Criterion F)

An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Whitebridge Cemetery does not meet Criterion F.

Representative (Criterion G)

An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places, or cultural or natural environments. (or a class of the local area).

Whitebridge Cemetery is representative of a small general cemetery in NSW that has evolved from the late nineteenth century until the present day. That progressive development is demonstrated in the changing nature of headstones and inscriptions and reflects changes to burial practices over that timeframe.

Whitebridge Cemetery meets Criterion G.

Integrity /intactness: Whitebridge Cemetery fulfills this criterion.

4.2. Statement of significance

Whitebridge Cemetery, established on 31 January 1891 and re-established, 8 December 1892 remains the principal cemetery for the village and surrounding area. The cemetery illustrates the growth and development of a small community on eastern Lake Macquarie providing evidence of occupations, demography and the social composition of east Lake Macquarie. The cemetery is significant for containing the remains of those killed in the Dudley Mine Disaster. The cemetery, with its layout and range of headstones, demonstrates the evolution of burial practices since the nineteenth century.

4.3. Grading of significance

The rationale for significance grading is in accordance with the NSW Heritage Manual Assessing Heritage Significance (NSW Heritage Office 2000) with an explanation of the gradings found in Volume 1.

The grading seeks to identify the features of Whitebridge Cemetery that contribute to its significance.

Table 2 Graded elements of Whitebridge Cemetery

Grading	Cemetery elements
Exceptional	Dudley Mine Disaster headstones;
High	Curtilage, all headstones, major trees, entrance gate, fences,
Moderate	Columbaria, memorial wall, gardens
Low	-
Intrusive	Garbage bins, views to netball courts



4.4. Views and vistas

Conservation requires the retention of an appropriate visual setting and other relationships that contribute to the cultural significance of the place (Marquis-Kyle and Walker 2004:37). An important component of the cemetery is its landscape, the cemetery's border of dense bushland, on three sides, creates views and vistas that are attractive. The views to the netball courts are out of place. Within the cemetery the significant number of mature trees provide a parklike atmosphere.

4.5. Archaeological significance

Cemeteries by design hold archaeological potential. Whitebridge Cemetery has the potential to provide information on burial practices over time and the grave goods interred with them.

Exhumations in older cemeteries has resulted in skeletal analysis that has provided extensive evidence on past populations. The archaeological significance of these burials is high.

There were no known other structures, other than possible previous fences, at the cemetery. The archaeological significance of such structures if they exist is low.



5. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

General recommendations about management guidelines can be found in Volume 1, the following table refers specifically to Whitebridge Cemetery.

Table 3 Management recommendations

Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommendation
Views and vistas	<u>Retention</u> of views and vistas both within and external to cemetery.	High	Maintain bushland boundary.
	<u>Improvement</u> of the views and vistas both within and external to cemetery.	Moderate	Investigate acquiring land adjacent to old Roman Catholic Section (current informal netball car park) for cemetery use. This would improve the vista and create a buffer to the netball courts.
Landscape, vegetation, gardens and plantings	Maintain landscaping and plantings.	High	Undertake weeding, mowing and regular maintenance. Vegetation management required to protect southern perimeter graves.
Headstones and grave furniture	Ensure retention of headstones.	Moderate	Source funding for conservation works on older headstones. All works in accordance with National Trust (NSW). (2009) <i>Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i>
Significant graves	Ensure retention of significant headstones.	High	Source funding to undertake conservation works prioritizing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the conservation of the Dudley Mine disaster graves.• stabilizing the Edmund Bull family grave headstone.
Unmarked burials	Identify unmarked burials to prevent inadvertent damage or disturbance.	Low	Consider a GPR study, if required, to identify unmarked graves and identify areas for further burial space.
Gates and fences	Retention of gates and fences.	Low	Regular maintenance.
Parking	Protect graves from errant car parking and road use.	High	Barriers to prevent impact by vehicles on vulnerable sections of cemetery. Work with netball community to manage car parking during competitions. Consider acquiring the portion of land adjacent the Old Roman Catholic Portion for additional



Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommendation
			parking and to develop a green buffer.
Signage	Maintain existing signage and provide additional signage.	High	Install a cemetery plan sign. Provide additional denomination/ row # signage at end of each row as required.
Heritage interpretation	Promotion as a source of historical and family information.	Moderate	Develop and install accurate, informative, engaging signs heritage interpretation sign/s. Investigate funding for an appropriate interpretation of the Dudley Mine disaster.
Environmental factors	Fire and storms.	High	Remove excessive leaf and branch litter, grass regularly mown in high-risk seasons
'Friends of'	Engage community groups.	Moderate	Encourage groups to advance heritage research on interments. Assist in grounds and memorial maintenance working under National Trust (NSW). (2009) <i>Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .
Revocation of unused Interment Rights over 50 years:	Prolong cemetery use	Moderate	Any plots reused in older portions would require memorialization that is sympathetic to aesthetics of the early headstones.



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Wyee Cemetery
SEPTEMBER 2021



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1. BACKGROUND

The Lake Macquarie City Council Cemeteries Conservation Management Plan (2021) comprises three volumes - Volume 1 provides generic information on cemetery management, Volume 2 details each of the cemeteries under the management of Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC), while Volume 3 is an archival recording report of the cemeteries.

The focus of this report, which forms part of Volume 2, is Wyee Cemetery (Figure 1).

1.1. Project area

Item name:	Wyee Cemetery
Address:	10 Cemetery Road, Wyee
Property description:	Lot 411 DP 755242, Lot 7073 DP 1021268
Heritage listing:	Unlisted

1.2. Milestones

Established: 15 January 1892

Re-dedicated: 6 December 1918

Management transfer to LMCC: Post 1967

1.3. Author and acknowledgements

Laraine Nelson (Nelson Heritage Consulting) conducted site inspections and is the author of this document. All images unless otherwise attributed are by the author.

The author is indebted to the assistance provided by:

- Russell Deaves, long term Wyee resident
- Judy Messiter, Lake Macquarie Library - Local History
- Darrell Rigby. Heritage Archaeology and Planning. Cover photo



LEGEND	
—	AREA OUTLINE
—	GRAVE OUTLINE
—	DCDB BOUNDARIES
●	MEMORIAL BOULDER
➔	PHOTO LOCATION

NOTES

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NO BOUNDARY SURVEY HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN. BOUNDARIES SHOWN ARE FROM LAKE MACQUARIE DCDB PROVIDED ON THE 16/02/2020. FILE "LakemacCemeteriesCADdata_MGAz56"

ORIGIN OF CO-ORDINATES SSM171220 WITH MGA2020 CO-ORDINATE VALUES OF E 359521.948 N 6328225.105



SITE PHOTO 1



SITE PHOTO 2



REVISIONS	B	02.03.2021	REVISED FEATURES	RJS	DSR	JPM	SCALE: 1:300	DATUM: N/A	SCALE BAR: 6 3 0 6 12 18 Metres	CLIENT: HERITAGE ARCHAEOLOGY + PLANNING	SURVEY: RJS DRAWN: SWA CHECKED: RJS APPROVED: JPM	DATE OF SURVEY: 17-02-2021 DATE OF PLAN: 01-03-2021 DATE LAST SAVED: 04.03.2021 DATE APPROVED: 01-03-2021	TITLE: SURVEY PLAN OF WYEE CEMETERY	JOB No: PR149135	ISSUE: B
	A	1/03/2021	INITIAL VERSION	SWA	RJS	RJS	COORDINATES: MGA	CROSS SECTION: V: N/A H: N/A							
	No.	DATE	REVISION DETAILS	DRAWN	CHK	APP	ORIGIN: SSM171220								

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2. DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

This history of the Wyee Cemetery was sourced from original correspondence held by LMCC, published histories, newspaper accounts (Trove) and in discussions with Russell Deaves, Wyee resident. Mr Deaves, in earlier times, was often tasked with digging graves at the cemetery a role he had assumed from his father, Allan.

2.1. Wyee

In 1835, stockyards were established at present day Wyee for mustering wild cattle. One of the two assigned convicts looking after the stock was Joseph Frost. Frost and his family were to remain in the area contributing to its growth and development. Wyee was an important crossroads, the track from Wyong at that point divided, one route led through Dora Creek to Maitland, the other to the eastern side of Lake Macquarie. Like nearby Morisset, the area's development was linked to the timber industry and the railway. In the 1880s the railway arrived with a depot established with the resulting camp for rail workers. In 1887, a railway station was constructed and in 1890 a post office opened. Wyee remained a quiet backwater until the construction of Vales Point Power Station in the 1960s caused another influx of construction workers. Wyee is also the home of the Bethshan Holiness Mission founded in 1908 by residents, Mr. and Mrs. E.J. Rien and Miss Wood (Lake Macquarie – Wyee).

2.2. Wyee Cemetery

The information on Wyee Cemetery is scant. In 1891, an area was reserved from sale for a plantation to the cemetery (Figure 2)(1891 'Reserve from sale for plantation to cemetery'). Plantation was the term to describe an unallocated marginal zone around a cemetery, often of approximately 8 acres (3.24 ha.) in size (National Trust 2010:19). The dedication of Wyee Cemetery on 15 January 1892 was announced in the Government Gazette (Figure 3)(1892 'Government Gazette Notices',). Figure 4 shows the area of land set aside.

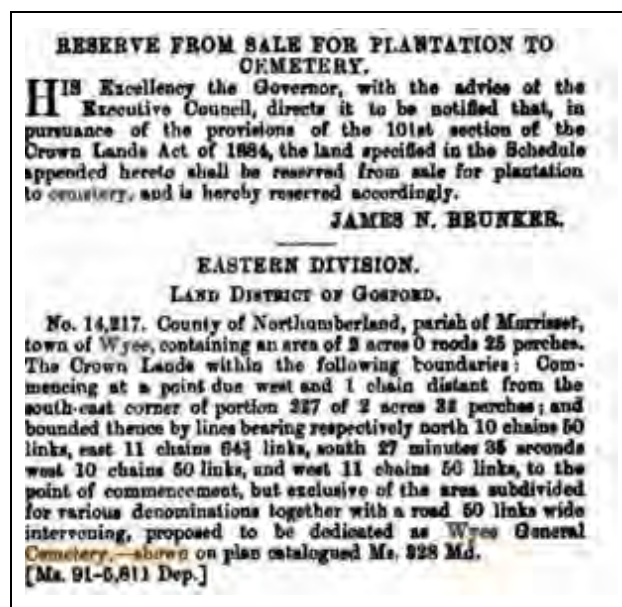


Figure 2 Reserve of plantation land (1891 'RESERVE FROM SALE FOR PLANTATION TO CEMETERY'))



[257]

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 15th January, 1892.

HIS Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to dedicate the Crown Lands hereunder described to the several public purposes mentioned in connection therewith, an Abstract of such intended dedication having been laid before Parliament, in accordance with the 104th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884.

[Ms. 92-134 Dep.] HENRY COPELAND.

List No. 1 of 1892.

Place.	County.	Portion.	Allotment.	Section.	Locality.	Area.	To what purpose dedicated.	No. of Papers.	Cal. No. of Plan.
Argent's Hill	Salisbury	...	...	...	Parish, Rockingham	16 1 15	General Cemetery	91-5,009 D	Ms. 239 Gfm.
Bermore	Rockingham	31	...	...	do Murrumbidgee	2 0 0	Public School Site	91-4,002 D	H. 5,355-1,716
Bunda	Georgiana	...	...	10	Village of Bunda	0 0 0	do do	91-7,301 D	B. 10-1,463.
Brooklyn (Peat's Fort)	Northumberland	...	...	11	Parish of Cowan	0 1 22	do Addition	91-7,644 D	Ms. 407 Sy.
do do	do	...	...	12	do	0 0 20	do do	do	do
Donnington South	Townsend	...	...	14	Town of Donnington South	0 0 71	Site for Fire Brigade Stn.	91-5,328 D	D. 40-1,458.
Hamilton	Northumberland	2,418	...	...	Parish of Newcastle	0 0 25	Public Recreation	91-8,707 D	N. 5,124-2,111
Heathcote	Georgiana	...	...	12 & 13	Village of Heathcote	0 2 0	Public School Site	91-8,108 D	H. 1-2,480.
Hunter's Hill	do	...	...	...	Parish of Hunter's Hill	0 0 301	Public Landing Place	91-8,707 D	Ms. 304 Sy.
Lambton	Northumberland	2,414	...	...	do Newcastle	1 2 17	Courthouse Site	91-7,368 D	N. 3,116-2,111
do do	do	554	...	...	do do	0 1 20	Town Hall Site	do	N. 1,940-2,111
Mulhambury	Ross	...	...	...	Mulhambury	11 2 14	General Cemetery	91-5,261 D	Ms. 235 Gfm.
Ston Creek	Woolgoolah	10	...	...	do Brindley	2 0 0	Public School Site	91-4,515 D	W. 2,850-2,091
Timbungra	Montagu	...	...	...	do Brindley	10 0 0	General Cemetery	91-4,515 D	Ms. 274 Gfm.
Thoburn	Tongarewa	13	...	...	do Hermitage	0 1 10	Hospital Site	91-4,752 D	T. 45-2,182.
Uraigarra	Dunlop	...	...	...	do Uraigarra	10 2 17	General Cemetery	91-5,327 D	Ms. 274 Gfm.
Wagga Wagga	Wynyard	61A	...	...	do South Wagga	8 0 21	General Cemetery (Extn.)	91-2,824 I	W. 9-1,827.
Wye	Northumberland	...	...	...	Town of Wye	10 0 4	General Cemetery	91-5,311 D	Ms. 225 Md.

Figure 3 Dedication of Wyee Cemetery (1892 'Government Gazette Notices'.)

In 1894 the Presbyterian Trustees appointed were:

- The Reverend Richard Errwyd Davies,
- Messrs. John Anderson,
- Alexander John Williamson,
- John Bain, and
- the Moderator and Clerk of the Presbyterian General Assembly and the Minister of the Congregation (for the time being) (1894 'Government Gazette Appointments and Employment'.).

In 1907, regulations for the management of the Church of England portion of the cemetery were set out. Extending to twenty-five requirements they covered the keeping of accounts, a schedule of fees and accounts, the issuing of certificates, the standard of headstones and grave furniture, plantings and dealing with the undertaker and sexton (1907 'Regulations for Church of England Portion of Wyee Cemetery').

The Methodist portion trustees appointed announced in the Gazette were:

- Messrs. George Wood, senior,
- Alfred Thomas Winterbine,
- James Deane Wood,
- George Alfred Farmer,
- Elliot John Rien, and
- the Resident Methodist Minister at Catherine Hill Bay (1906 'Government Gazette Appointments and Employment'.).

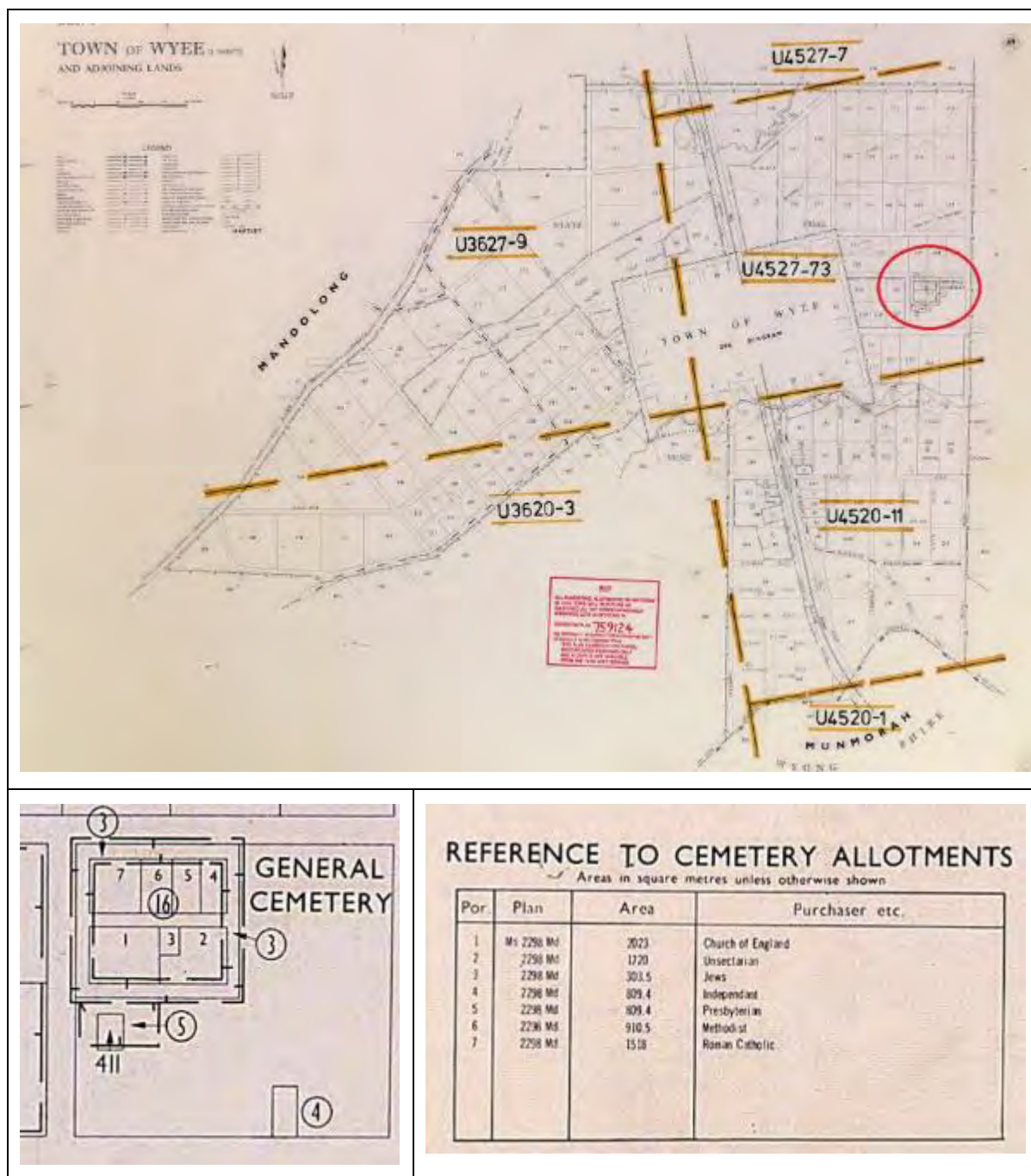


Figure 4 Extract Town of Wyee and adjoining lands. Fifth Edition. 1975 (NSW Land Registry Service)



On 5 November 1911, the cemetery was reproclaimed and on 6 December 1918, rededicated. At that time, the area was reduced in size from 10 acres 4 perches (4.06 hectares) to 3 acres 1 rood 8 perches (1.34 hectares) (Figure 5)(1918 'Government Gazette Notices',).

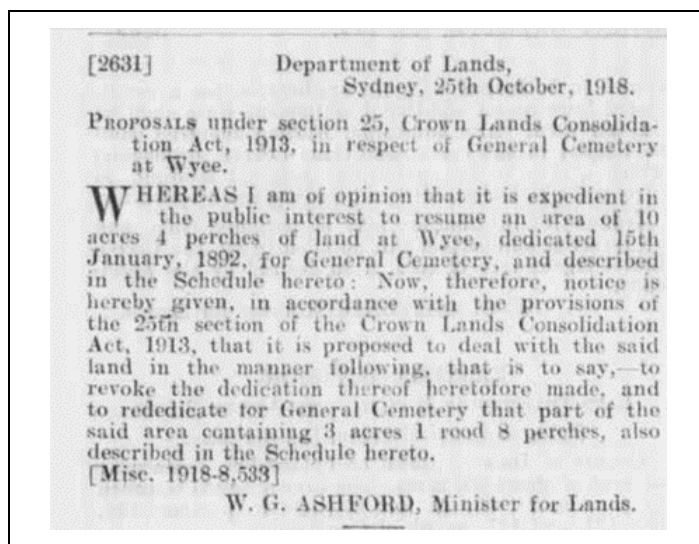


Figure 5 Reduction in Wyee Cemetery size (1918 'Government Gazette Notices')

In 1919, the unsectarian (or general) portion of the General Cemetery at Wyee, trustees were named as:

- Messrs. William Anderson,
- Frederick William John Akhurst, and
- Christopher James Gavenlock (1919 'Lands Department Notices'.).

The Wyee Cemetery seems to have operated, with little documentation, until 1968 when Lake Macquarie Shire Council assumed management.

2.2.1 Local Government (Control of Cemeteries) Amendment Act, 1966

In 1967, the *Local Government (Control of Cemeteries) Amendment Act, 1966* became operational. That Act transferred trusteeship of cemeteries including Wyee Cemetery to local councils, in this instance Lake Macquarie Shire Council.

On 26 November 1968, an inspection of the Wyee Cemetery was conducted as part of the changeover of management. The cemetery is described as:

- Enclosed by a split post and 4 plain wire fences in reasonable repair.
- Considerable growth of ti-tree, eucalypts and undergrowth.
- A recent fire had burnt a considerable portion of that undergrowth.
- Soil is a thin layer of loam over heavy clay and shale.
- The older section is in a poor state with denominational sections not identified an burial plots unnumbered.
- The access road is only partly formed.
- There are no shelter sheds (Lake Macquarie Shire Council - Inspection Form Report 26.11.1968).

In 1976, a revocation of dedication affected certain portions of the cemetery. The numbers referred to in Figure 6, correlate with the numbers on Figure 4, cemetery layout.

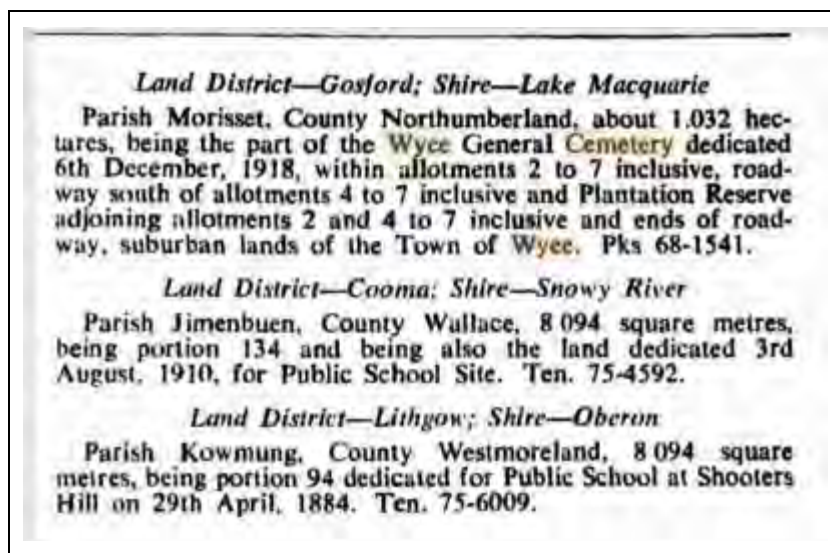


Figure 6 1976 'REVOCATION OF DEDICATIONS',

2.2.2 City of Lake Macquarie Heritage Study (1992-1993)

The City of Lake Macquarie Heritage Study [Suters, Doring Turner (1992-1993)] listed the Wyee Cemetery of having moderate local significance (Wyee WY -03).

While included in the Heritage Study, the Cemetery was not listed on the *LMCC Local Environment Plan. Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage*.

2.3. Cemetery overview

2.3.1 Representative burials

The burials selected below are intended to represent a cross section of the Wyee community in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The Deaves and Freeman families are inextricably linked to the history of Wyee.

Table 1 Representative burials

Name	Memorial
Robert Ferdinand Johnson (1842-1922) Johnson had retired to Huey Huey, after retiring as Assistant keeper at South Head Lighthouse, Sydney (1892-1910). (Lighthouse Keepers of Australia Inc.) (1922 'WYEE'.)	



Name	Memorial
<p>Freeman, James (1835-1910)</p> <p>James Freeman was the second son of James Freeman Senior and Mary Ann Smith. James married Soreina Mary Elizabeth Radcliffe Smith at Wyee in 1859. James worked with his father as a stockman and timber getter. Together with their families they were the only residents of Wyee in the 1860s. Their huts, together with adjoining stockyard were close to Wyee Creek (Lake Macquarie – James Freeman). James died aged 75, the oldest resident in the district he related stories of the area with only bridle trails, no roads and remembered skirmishes with local Aborigines (1910 'DISTRICT NEWS').</p> <p>Soreina, a mother to ten children, in her later years was known as Granny Freeman and had a high degree of personal popularity and respect (Lake Macquarie – Granny Freeman).</p> <p>The Freeman family</p> <p>Living in the Wyee area around 1860, reputedly the first settlers. Freemans Waterholes named for the family. They had a hut, stockyards and partially fenced Crown Land on Wyee Creek (Clouten 1967:120).</p>	
<p>Lila Florence Deaves (1919-1921)</p> <p>Lila was an infant member of the pioneering Deaves family, who first settled in Cooranbong around 1861. In the early years, as timber getters, they were known for their skill in training and working with bullocks (Mullard 2002:116).</p> <p>The Deaves family</p> <p>The link between the Deaves and Freeman families, both early settlers was strong. James and Soreina Freeman's daughter Florence Emily Howard married George Charles Deaves in 1886. Many descendants have remained in Wyee, with Allan George Deaves grandson of James and Soreina Freeman, followed by Allan David Deaves great-grandson of James and Soreina Freeman all buried at Wyee Cemetery.</p>	



3. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Wyee Cemetery, a small cemetery set in bushland on the eastern outskirts of the village of Wyee, is situated at the end of an unsurfaced, minor road.

Section 3.1 provides detail on features of the cemetery, with Section 3.2 describing distinctive elements of the cemetery.

3.1. Key elements of Wyee Cemetery

The following table describes the key elements of the Wyee Cemetery in terms of general appearance (*Location, views and vistas; Landscape, gardens and plantings; Design and layout*), memorials (*Headstones and grave furniture; Memorial features – columbarium, Memorial Walls and chapels*) and infrastructure (*Gates and fences; Signage, Other structures - shelters, roads, seating water supply, drainage, security, lighting*) with the following terminology used:

Description: derived from the site inspection this is a brief description of the element.

Analysis: an overview of how the element contributes to or detracts from the heritage significance.

Ranking: high, moderate or low - the element's value in contributing to the heritage significance.

LOCATION, VIEWS AND VISTAS

Description: Access is via Cemetery Road, Wyee.

Wyee is a rural community with the nearest urban area, Morisset approximately 7 km north. The cemetery bounded by natural bushland is in an isolated area. From the entrance the view is of a grassed area surrounded by mature trees and mid-storey vegetation. Within the cemetery the view is limited by the surrounding bushland.

Analysis: The bush surrounds are a defining feature of several LMCC cemeteries. The bushlands provide a visual reference to the boundaries of the place and creates a quiet space. The spacious, open layout together with the surrounding native vegetation is a significant and attractive feature.

Ranking: High



View south east from entrance



View south



LANDSCAPE, VEGETATION, GARDENS and PLANTINGS

Description: The mature Eucalypts are the focus of the landscape. Inside the cemetery the central feature is a mature Eucalypt surrounded by a small garden including natives such as Dianella and Gynea lily. Most of the cemetery, has large areas of exposed ground surface. Poor drainage has resulted in areas of erosion (see OTHER STRUCTURES, etc.).

Analysis: The large central garden is complimentary to the cemetery; however, the large areas of bare and eroding ground surface give the cemetery an unkempt appearance.

Ranking: Low



Central tree and garden



Exposed ground surface

DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Description: The cemetery while designed as a traditional square has developed as an elongated rectangle (Figure 1). This is likely a result of the small number of interments. All burials face east in accordance with Judeo-Christian tradition. The small cemetery does not require an internal access track.

Since the 1980s beams have been used for the introduction of new interment areas. This reflects a shift toward cemeteries that were easier to maintain and appears as bands of concrete beams with largely uniform headstones interspersed with grass lawns.

Analysis: The cemetery layout while not developed as a grid, appears traditional in style.

Ranking: High



Traditional east facing graves



Older cemetery portion



HEADSTONES AND GRAVE FURNITURE

Description: The headstones overall are modest and typical of the other cemeteries assessed during this project. Those headstones dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century are often upright stele in style and in many instances with cast iron fence surrounds. Towards the mid twentieth century lower profile headstones became more common sometimes including a concrete or sandstone surround to delineate the grave. From the 1980s beam interments were the norm.

Analysis: Representative of the transition of headstones styles from the late nineteenth century to the present day. Many of the headstones are covered with black mould which makes reading inscriptions difficult. In terms of management, the earliest stele headstones and cast-iron surrounds are most vulnerable to damage resulting from their age, style and type of material. That risk of damage decreases with the lower profile mid-late twentieth century headstones with the beam style headstones by nature, most resilient to damage.

Ranking: High



Late nineteenth and early twentieth century headstones.



Mid-late twentieth century headstones.



Late twentieth century beam interments.

MEMORIAL FEATURES – COLUMBARIUM, MEMORIAL WALLS AND CHAPELS

Description: Wyee Cemetery has a memorial boulder, with no plaques at time of inspection. There is not a columbarium or chapel.

GATES AND FENCES

Description: Wyee Cemetery has a rudimentary steel entrance gate that remains locked. The gates are flanked by a simple steel pipe fence. The remaining side of the cemetery lack fencing, the dense bush providing an adequate barrier.

Analysis: The gates and fences appear adequate to their task.

Ranking: Low



Entrance gate



Fence



SIGNAGE

Description: The large Council erected entrance sign is consistent with all others for Lake Macquarie Cemeteries..

There are sign indicating denomination however there are no row markers.

Analysis: The Council sign, other than the location, is generic with all other cemetery signs. The cemetery is small, with few graves a lack of row markers is not an issue.

Ranking: Low



OTHER STRUCTURES, SHELTERS, SEATING, WATER SUPPLY, DRAINAGE, SECURITY, LIGHTING

Description: Wyee Cemetery has no other structures. Drainage is an issue; north flowing run-off is having a negative impact on several beam graves in that area of the cemetery.

Analysis: A simple small cemetery, other than seating it probably does not require further infrastructure. Poor drainage is having a significant impact and warrants remediation.

Ranking: Low



Graves at the northern end of the cemetery – impact of poor drainage and erosion



3.2. Distinctive elements

3.2.1 Unmarked graves

Most cemeteries have unmarked graves. Unmarked graves occur in most cemeteries. The cost of erecting an enduring memorial was significant, often a wooden cross was installed that has disappeared over time. The only record of the interment's name being found amongst sextant or funeral director documents; however, these were not always accurate and, in many instances, have been lost.

3.3. Historical archaeological potential

LMCC Cemetery Conservation Management Plan, Volume 1 provides detail on statutory provisions regarding archaeological relics. This section considers the potential for historical archaeological evidence to remain. All cemeteries, by nature, contain archaeological relics, while the location of most is identifiable, where graves are no longer marked it is not obvious. Other potential archaeological evidence may result from past structures and features such as buildings, fences, paths and roads.

Figure 1 shows no indication of potential burials. This mapping was developed from the drone images and reflects visible but unmarked pattern of potential graves. This process is not foolproof and there remains a high potential for unidentified graves to exist.

3.4. Key issues

The following are considered the key issues:

- Lack of signage
- Poor drainage leading to negative impact on graves
- Poor condition of early headstones including illegible inscriptions
- Environmental impact of fires, storms, etc.



4. SIGNIFICANCE

4.1. Assessing cultural heritage significance

LMCC Cemetery Conservation Management Plan, Volume 1 provides detail on the process of assessing cultural heritage significance under the Assessing Heritage Significance Manual (NSW Heritage Office 2001)

Historical (Criterion A)

An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Wyee Cemetery was established to meet the needs of a small rural community and it has retained that role to the present-day. Historical significance is evident in the recording of family names and individuals who formed the community. Archival records associated with burials provide a valuable source of information, given the loss of physical evidence with unmarked graves.

Wyee Cemetery meets Criterion A.

Associative (Criterion B)

An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Wyee does not exhibit a close association the life or works of a person, or group of persons.

Wyee Cemetery does not meet Criterion B.

Aesthetic/Technical (Criterion C)

An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).

Wyee is a typical rural cemetery with modest headstones and grave furniture.

Wyee Cemetery does not meet Criterion C.

Social (Criterion D)

An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

Wyee Cemetery as a principal place of burial for the area since the late nineteenth century, has a special association for social and spiritual reasons for the local community. It plays an important role in the ability to remember and honour deceased families and friends.

Wyee Cemetery meets Criterion D.

Research (Criterion E)

An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Wyee Cemetery has social research potential. It provides the opportunity for investigation through memorial types, inscriptions and through documentary records of unmarked graves to further tell the story of Wyee and the local area.

Wyee Cemetery meets Criterion E.

Rarity (Criterion F)



An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Wyee Cemetery is a typical cemetery serving a local community.

Wyee Cemetery does not meet Criterion F.

Representative (Criterion G)

An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places, or cultural or natural environments. (or a class of the local area).

Wyee Cemetery is representative of a small general cemetery in NSW dating from the late 19th century that served its local community.

Wyee Cemetery meets Criterion G.

Integrity /intactness: Wyee Cemetery fulfills this criterion.

4.2. Statement of significance

Wyee Cemetery was established in 1892 as the cemetery for the village and the surrounding district. The cemetery illustrates the village's initial reliance on the timber industry and railway to its to its current role as a semi-rural residential area. It demonstrates the pattern of development of a rural general cemetery with the layout and style of headstones demonstrating the evolution of burial practices over the twentieth century. The cemetery with its modest headstones and uniformity in style reflect little social division in what has remained a largely working-class community.

4.3. Grading of significance

The rationale for significance grading is in accordance with the NSW Heritage Manual Assessing Heritage Significance (NSW Heritage Office 2000) with an explanation of the gradings found in Volume 1. The grading seeks to identify the features of Wyee Cemetery that contribute to its significance.

Table 2 Graded elements of Wyee Cemetery

Grading	Cemetery elements
Exceptional	Tall headstones (nineteenth and early twentieth century)
High	Rectilinear layout, curtilage, all headstones, major trees,
Moderate	Garden
Low	Entrance gate, fences,
Intrusive	Garbage bins

4.4. Views and vistas

Conservation requires the retention of an appropriate visual setting and other relationships that contribute to the cultural significance of the place (Marquis-Kyle and Walker 2004:37). An important component of the cemetery is its landscape, the cemetery's border of dense bushland vegetation creates views and vistas that are important to the space.



4.5. Archaeological significance

Cemeteries by design hold archaeological potential. Wyee Cemetery has the potential to provide information on burial practices over time and the grave goods interred with them. Exhumations in older cemeteries has resulted in skeletal analysis that has provided extensive evidence on past populations. The archaeological significance of these burials is high.

There were no known other structures, other than possible previous fences, at the cemetery. The archaeological significance of such structures if they exist is low.



5. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

General recommendations about management guidelines can be found in Volume 1, the following table refers specifically to Wyee Cemetery.

Table 3 Management recommendations

Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommendation
Significance	Update the <i>Lake Macquarie Local Environment Plan 2014</i> - Clause 5.10 Heritage Conservation and Schedule 5 – Environmental heritage to include Wyee Cemetery.	High	Update the <i>Lake Macquarie Local Environment Plan 2014</i> .
Views and vistas	Retention of views and vistas both within and external to cemetery	High	Maintain bushland boundary. If expansion into currently unused portions of the cemetery is proposed, it is important to retain the bushland curtilage.
Landscape, vegetation, gardens and plantings	Maintain landscaping and plantings.	High	Undertake weeding, mowing and regular maintenance. Consider planting native grasses to prevent erosion and improve landscape.
Headstones and grave furniture	Ensure retention of graves and headstones.	Moderate	Source funding for conservation works on older headstones. All works in accordance with the National Trust (NSW). (2009) <i>Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .
Significant graves	Ensure retention of significant graves and headstones.	High	Source funding to undertake conservation works.
Unmarked burials	Identify unmarked burials to prevent inadvertent damage or disturbance.	Low	Consider a GPR study, if required, to identify unmarked graves and identify areas for potential burial space.
Gates and fences	Retention of gates and fences	Low	Regular maintenance.
Drainage	Prevent impact on graves	High	Install appropriate measures to manage run-off and erosion.
Signage	Maintain existing signage and provide additional signage.	High	Install a cemetery plan sign. Provide additional denomination/ row # signage at end of each row as required.
Heritage interpretation	Promotion as a source of historical and family information	High	Develop and install accurate, informative, engaging heritage interpretation sign/s.



Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommendation
Environmental factors	Fire and storms	High	Maintenance plans to include removal of hazardous trees and undergrowth, grass regularly mown in high-risk seasons.
'Friends of'	Engage community groups	Moderate	Encourage heritage research on interments. Assist in grounds and memorial maintenance working under the National Trust (NSW) (2009) <i>Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .



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