



Hawkesbury City Council

Attachment 2  
to  
item 039

Volume 2 - Hawkesbury City Council  
Cemeteries Strategic Conservation  
Management Plan  
Cemetery Handbook

date of meeting: 10 March 2020  
location: council chambers  
time: 6:30 p.m.



# Hawkesbury City Council Cemeteries

## Volume 2: Cemetery Handbooks

### Strategic Conservation Management Plan

Report prepared for Hawkesbury City Council

March 2020



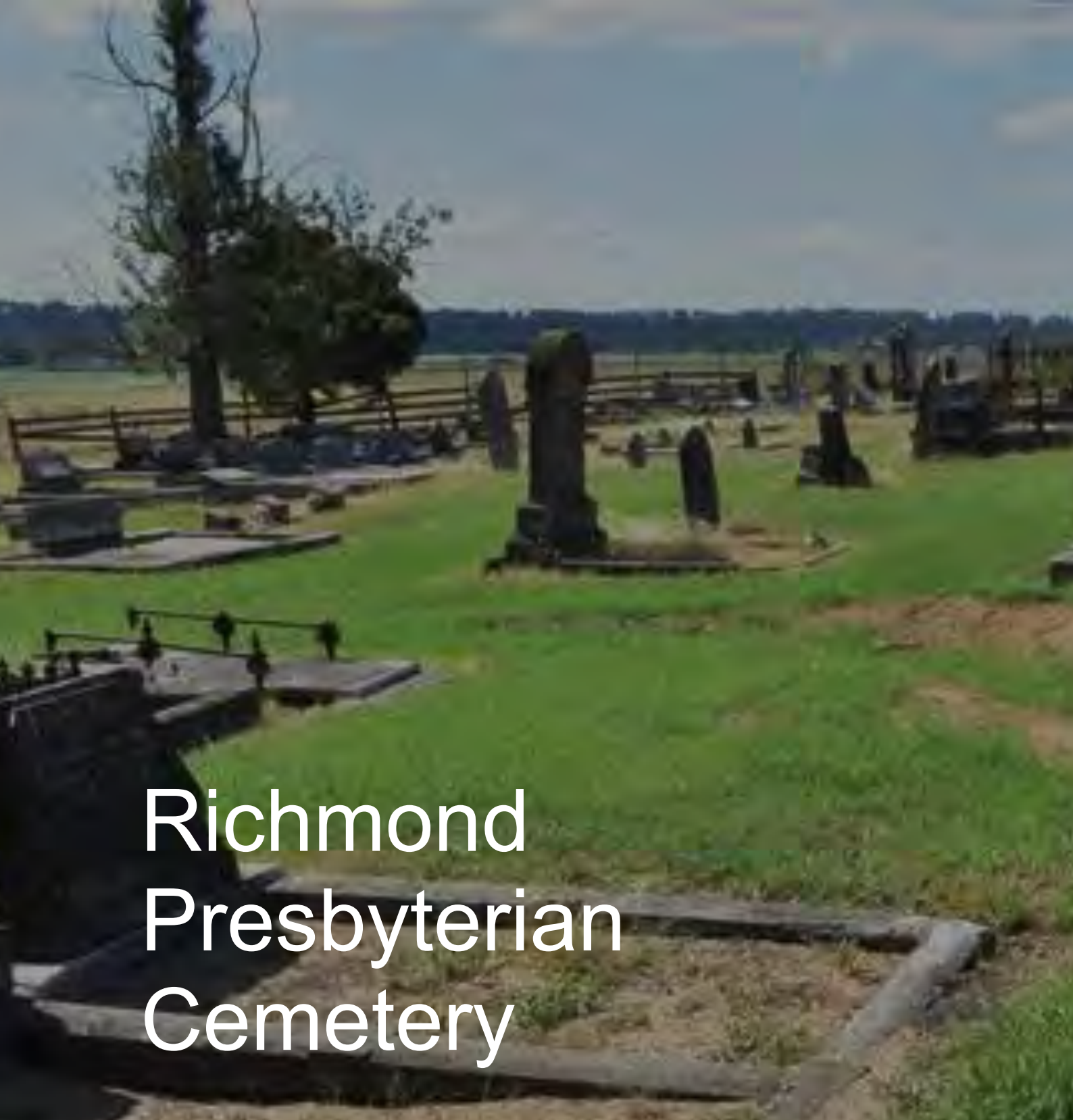
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A photograph of the Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery, showing various gravestones and a large tree in the background. The cemetery is set in a grassy field with a wooden fence in the distance. The sky is blue with some clouds.

# Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery

Handbook

**GML**  
HERITAGE

## Overview

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Other Name(s)	
Heritage Listing(s)	<i>Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP), Listing I22</i>
Date Dedicated	1860s
Dates of Use	1860s–current
Location (Coordinates)	Lat: -33.597303 Long: 150.761754
Primary Address	16 Jersey Street, Richmond, NSW
Property Description	Lot 1 DP 724131
Parish	Ham Common
County	Cumberland
Local Government Area	Hawkesbury
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Deerubbin

This handbook is intended as a handy standalone guide for use by Hawkesbury City Council (Council) or for issue to community groups to guide their understanding and contribution to the management, care and maintenance of this cemetery. Relevant sections of this handbook should be updated as additional historical or other information becomes available and/or works are undertaken that change the condition of the cemetery.

The Management & Care table at the end of the Handbook identifies elements, recommended actions and timing priorities to consider in the future management of the cemetery. Using the Handbook as a starting point to develop a Cemetery Working Plan, relatives, descendants, interested groups and individuals, working closely with Council, can be guided to manage the cemetery together: to implement high priority actions first, seek specialist advice and training when needed and together create opportunities for ongoing care of the cemetery and its elements. Engaged management aims to enhance visitation, community interest and appreciation of these special places of eternal rest and commemoration.

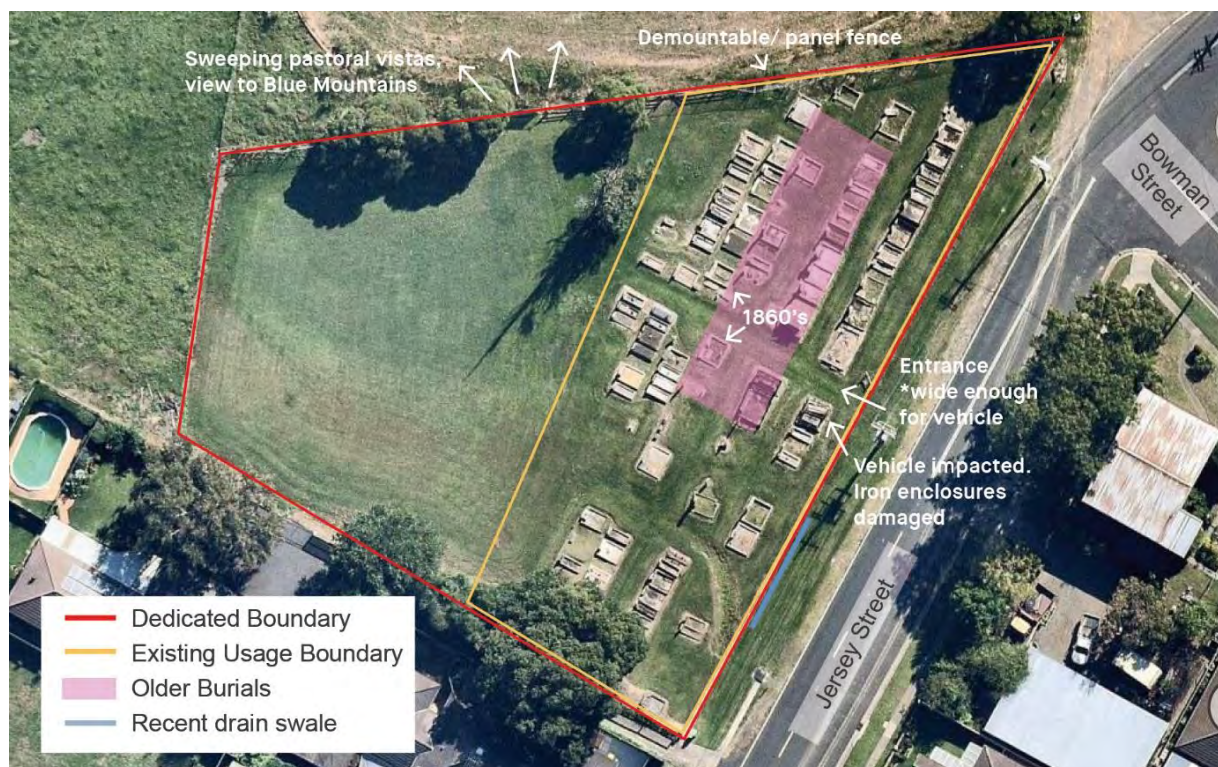


Figure 1 Current aerial showing Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery. (Source: Nearmap 2019, annotated by GML Heritage)

## Summary History

- Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery came into use during the 1860s.
- Research undertaken as part of the Hawkesbury on the Net: Cemetery Register indicate there are at least 107 graves and 282 names recorded in the cemetery.
- This cemetery is listed in the Hawkesbury LEP as a heritage item of local significance (Item 22).

## Notable Burials

- The earliest marked burial is infant Elizabeth Perry (d. 1863).
- George Bowman (1795–1878), landholder and politician, who donated the land for and funded the construction of the **Presbyterian Free Church (also known as the St Andrew's Uniting Church) in West Market Street, Richmond**. First mayor of Richmond Council. He is buried in the white painted Bowman vault.
- Reverend James Cameron (1826–1905), who served for 52 **years as minister at St Andrew's Uniting Church** and was Moderator of the General Assembly. Married Eliza, daughter of George Bowman.
- Phillip Charley (1863–1937), prominent landholder and horse and cattle breeder. Wealth derived from lead and silver discoveries at Broken Hill. Built a palatial home at Belmont, North Richmond, now St John of God.

## Notable Monuments and Elements

- Commemorating Captain William Bowman Douglass, died from wounds at Gallipoli—lengthy trachyte scroll. Memorial also in church.
- Corporal Maurice Cameron Fergusson, KIA at Gallipoli—slouched hat on memorial. Son of Rev J.J.F.L. Fergusson and grandson of Rev James Cameron.
- Guard Thomas Ewin (d. 1909) was accidentally killed while working with the Railways. The Railway Department erected a headstone with an excellent example of a clasped hands symbol.
- Several surviving wrought and iron grave surrounds.<sup>1</sup>



Figure 2 1980 photograph of Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery. (Source: National Trust [NSW])





Figure 3 Detail from 1960 Town Plan of Richmond showing the Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery. (Source: Historical Land Records Viewer, Land and Property Information)

## Description

### Setting

Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery is a small single denomination cemetery within a semi-rural setting. The cemetery is set on a rise off Jersey Street, with district views of the surrounding area and Blue Mountains beyond. It features Presbyterian burials dating from the 1860s to the 2000s.

The site is bounded by Jersey Street to the east, residential housing and an associated access drive to the south, and agricultural land to the west and north. The site slopes downhill to the northwest, offering sweeping views to the north of the Hawkesbury River and pastoral setting of the associated floodplains on the north side of Richmond, as well as the Blue Mountains (Figure 5).

### Physical Description

The cemetery is enclosed by a timber rail and steel post fence. The east entranceway into the cemetery is wide enough for vehicle access. The iron enclosures of the grave closest to the entrance appear to have been damaged by vehicle impact (Figure 12). There is a modern swale drain along the eastern boundary of the cemetery. More recent burials dating from the 2000s occupy the southwest corner. The north side of the cemetery is enclosed by demountable portable fencing (seen in Figure 10).

Burials are focused in the eastern third of the cemetery along Jersey Street, with six rows of burials oriented northeast–southwest and separated by a central avenue extending northwest from the road (indicated by a consistent absence of burials as opposed to any surface or edging). The oldest burials are focused at the centre and north of the second and third burial rows west of Jersey Road. A portion of the cemetery remains unused in the west (see Figure 11).

In 1902 improvements were carried out at the cemetery with funds raised by Reverend and Mrs Fergusson. The cemetery walks were chipped, reformed, and gravelled and two new gates were erected at the entrance with a pedestrian turnstile. Seats were placed under trees and additional trees planted.<sup>2</sup>

#### *Monuments*

Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery contains excellent examples of turn-of-the-century cast iron grave enclosures.

The oldest burials consist of sandstone stelae, mostly semicircular or Gothic in profile, with sandstone kerbing. A number of marble stelae are located at the northeast corner of the site. A range of patterns and styles is reflected in the cast iron surrounds enclosing several of the burials dating through the early twentieth century, also focused towards the northeast corner of the site. A whitewashed sandstone altar tomb (Bowman 1879) and three sandstone horizontal slab monuments with wrought or cast iron enclosures are located along the central avenue of the site nearest the Jersey Street entrance.

Monuments erected in the southern and western portions of the cemetery are generally desk-and-slab forms with marble and granite tablets or desks. Most of these burials feature sandstone or concrete kerbing, though some have granite or marble kerbs.

Several family or couple groupings are indicated by multiple plots sharing the same kerbing or enclosure, such as one large family allotment featuring a low trachyte scroll monument with trachyte kerbing.

The monuments, particularly those nearest the entrance from Jersey Street, have been visibly vandalised. Wrought iron and cast-iron enclosures have been targeted, several stelae have been knocked over (including a sandstone cross) and any bas relief birds have had their heads smashed off.

Otherwise, most of the inscriptions are still legible though some are obscured by the growth of lichen and moss.

### *Landscape*

The Jersey Street frontage along the eastern site boundary is enclosed by a steel post and timber rail fence painted white. There is no associated gate and the opening in the fence is large enough to admit vehicles. The western and northern boundaries feature star picket and wire fences, though the northern fence has been reinforced with mesh fence panels and there are sections of unpainted timber post and rail fence in poor condition. The southern boundary has a modern treated pine post and rail fence along the access drive to the residential units.

A large and visibly dead pine tree is located along the northern site boundary. Trees and plantings along the southern site boundary, providing some screening from the adjacent residential development, are overgrown and potentially impacting on sandstone stelae beneath them.

There are no other gardens, paths or landscaping elements within the cemetery. There appears to be a central entrance 'avenue', a broad, unburied path extending northwest from Jersey Street through the centre of the cemetery.

### **Condition**

Overall the cemetery is in fair condition. As detailed above, the monuments, particularly those nearest the entrance from Jersey Street, have been visibly vandalised. Wrought iron and cast iron enclosures have been targeted, several stelae have been knocked over (including a sandstone cross) and any bas relief birds have had their heads smashed off. Otherwise, most of the inscriptions are still legible though some are obscured by the growth of lichen and moss.

As the east entranceway into the cemetery is wide enough for vehicle access, the iron enclosure and grave closest to the entrance on the left has been damaged by vehicle impact (Figure 4).

### *Other Elements*

There is no signage identifying the Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery.

### **Key Issues**

- Vandalism.
- Lack of signage.
- Vehicle access through lack of gate.
- Dead tree.

### **Interested Groups**

Council welcomes the interest and support of the community in relation to the upkeep and improvement of cemeteries in its care. Some of the key interest groups and information sources relevant to this cemetery include:

- Presbyterian Historical Society;
- Hawkesbury Historical Society;

- Hawkesbury Cemeteries Register Group (update Cemetery Register record);
- Hawkesbury on the Net;
- Hawkesbury Family History Group;
- relatives and descendants; and
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission.



Figure 4 View looking west through the cemetery entrance. Note the wrought iron grave surround on left, likely impacted by a vehicle. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 5 Timber boundary fence and pastoral setting of Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery with Blue Mountains visible in the distance. Note the large dead pine tree on the western cemetery boundary in middle of view. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 6 Early monuments within the cemetery. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 7 Open unused grassed space to the rear of the old cemetery, in the western portion of the site. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 8 & Figure 9 Early graves, headstones and cast iron fence suffering from damage. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

## Historical Archaeological Potential

**Since Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery is an old and largely intact cemetery, the graves provide significant potential archaeological information about early burials and burial practices.**

'Archaeological potential' refers to the likelihood of archaeological remains to survive at a site. It should be distinguished from 'archaeological significance', which refers to the heritage values of any remains that may prove to have survived. Thus, there may be 'low potential' for certain remains to survive, but if they do survive, they might be assessed as being of 'high significance' (for example, if they are rare examples from the convict period). The potential archaeological resource within a cemetery can include evidence from a variety of different activities and associated elements depending on the history of the place before and during its existing function.

Historical archaeological evidence associated with pre-cemetery activity may have resulted from ephemeral uses of the area. Potential archaeological remains can consist of land clearing and timber-getting as areas of the Hawkesbury began to be settled by Europeans. More substantial evidence might include the remains of early farms and associated outbuildings as well as church facilities, brickmaking activity and sealed artefact deposits, although in most of the cemeteries these are unlikely to exist. Historical archaeological evidence associated with pre-cemetery establishment and use may be assessed as having local or state significance, depending on its nature and extent.

Many of the cemeteries identified in this SCMP are considered likely to have high archaeological potential in association with the burials in each. Although interments currently cover each cemetery to varying degrees, as archaeological items, these hold significance for the data they might provide with regards to past ways of life and cultural perceptions of life and death. Most of the interments (including unmarked burials) would be of local significance, while the remains of individuals of historical or cultural significance in NSW would have the potential to be of state significance.

Changes to landscape elements through their use as cemeteries as well as gradual burial of some features (particularly in areas not regularly frequented or landscaped or where flood activity is likely to have washed away, moved or buried some elements). Buried or partially demolished landscaping elements associated with cultural landscapes of exceptional or high significance have the potential to be of state significance, depending on their nature and extent. Other elements associated with creating formal landscapes within the Council cemeteries may be of local significance.

Examples of activities and remains that may retain historical evidence include:

Activity	Potential Remains
Early land clearing	Tree roots, charcoal deposits, artefact scatters, soil deposits, evidence of camp sites etc.
Burials	Skeletal remains, coffins, coffin hardware, grave goods and utilitarian items (buttons, buckles etc).
Grave furniture	Headstones, crosses etc that may have fallen or been moved or vandalised.
Former landscaping	Paths, edging, fence rails, etc.

It is also important to remember that if archaeological evidence relating to Aboriginal use is discovered at the cemetery, including during any general maintenance works, then works should cease in the area and the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) (formerly Office of Environment and Heritage [OEH]) must be notified immediately.

## Significance

### Assessment of Significance

The following table provides a heritage assessment for the Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery site against the State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria:

#### SHR Criterion a) [Historical significance]

Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery is significant for its ability to demonstrate the historic development of the Richmond area and the denominational divisions within the early community. As an intact single denominational cemetery operating since the 1860s the site provides evidence of the Christian denominational divisions that structured the early community in the Hawkesbury area. The site demonstrates the growth and expansion of early agricultural settlement in the area, and particularly the increasing Presbyterian population, via a number of notable family plots.

Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery meets the threshold for local heritage listing under Criterion A.

#### SHR Criterion b) [Associative significance]

Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery is closely associated with the first Presbyterian settlers in the Hawkesbury area, including the Bowman family and notable Presbyterian identities such as Reverend James Cameron.

Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery meets the threshold for local heritage listing under Criterion B.

#### SHR Criterion c) [Aesthetic significance]

Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery is located within a picturesque semi-rural setting that contributes greatly to its aesthetic significance. The cemetery site slopes downhill to the northwest, offering sweeping views to the north of the Hawkesbury River and the pastoral setting of the associated floodplains on the north side of Richmond, as well as beyond to the Blue Mountains. The site's pastoral backdrop and intact early layout and monuments give it high aesthetic value. It is a valuable remnant of the farming/settler cultural landscapes of the Hawkesbury that are fast being eroded by residential subdivision.

Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery meets the threshold for local heritage listing under Criterion C.

#### SHR Criterion d) [Social significance]

Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery holds social significance to the Hawkesbury Presbyterian community as a site of religious and spiritual importance. The cemetery is an important burial ground for many members of the Bowman family and other early Richmond settlers.



Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery meets the threshold for local heritage listing under Criterion D.

#### **SHR Criterion e) [Research potential]**

The monuments in Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery hold information for the study of the local community and for family history. The graves themselves provide potential archaeological information about early burials and burial practices. Some monuments provide evidence of the Scottish ancestry of some families.

Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery meets the threshold for local heritage listing under Criterion E.

#### **SHR Criterion f) [Rarity]**

Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery is a small single denominational cemetery in a semi-rural setting. The landscape conventions, layout and monuments are comparable to those found at other small Christian burial grounds found across NSW and Australia. Locally, Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery is comparable to McGrath Hill.

Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery is not considered to meet the threshold for local heritage listing under Criterion F.

#### **SHR Criterion g) [Representativeness]**

Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery is representative of a small single denominational cemetery in an intact semi-rural setting.

The cemetery meets the threshold for local heritage listing under Criterion G.

#### **Integrity/Intactness**

Despite some degradation and damage to early monuments and graves, Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery displays a high degree of intactness, particularly in its uncompromised landscape setting. Numerous original early grave markers survive, often in reasonable condition. An early pine tree at the centre of the site has reached the end of its life. The cemetery retains a high level of integrity as a recognisable funerary landscape in a picturesque locale.

The site is vulnerable to vandalism, vehicular ingress and is in close proximity to nearby residences.

### **Statement of Significance**

NB: Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery is listed as a local heritage item on the Hawkesbury LEP (I22). There is no Statement of Significance included for the site on the State Heritage Inventory website nor have any photographs been uploaded. A Statement of Significance is provided for the site below.

*Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery holds heritage significance at a local level as a site that demonstrates the settlement of Richmond and the denominational divisions within the early community. The site is of spiritual importance to the Hawkesbury Presbyterian community and has social significance as a longstanding single denominational memorial site within a picturesque setting. Established in the 1860s, it demonstrates the growth and expansion of early agricultural settlement in the area and particularly the increasing Presbyterian population. The cemetery is associated with the first Presbyterian settlers in the Hawkesbury area, including the Bowman family and notable Presbyterian identities such as Reverend James Cameron. The cemetery is the resting place for many members of the Bowman family and other early Richmond settlers. Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery has the potential, through its in situ archaeology and grave furniture, to contribute to genealogical and family history understandings for the local community. The site has high aesthetic value. The sweeping views the cemetery affords to the surrounding Hawkesbury landscape and the Blue Mountains beyond are of high significance.*

## Management and Care

The table below identifies cemetery elements and recommended actions to consider in the future management of Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery. The priority of action for each activity at the cemetery is suggested subject to ongoing Council and grant funding opportunities.

Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommended Action
Landscaping/ Planting	Improve landscaping and plantings where relevant to enhance the cemetery grounds and encourage visitation and visibility of monuments and flourishing flora.	High	Undertake light weeding and regular maintenance of the existing landscape with community volunteer assistance.
	Retain the intact setting, significant views and semi-rural feel of the cemetery.	Low	Consider installation of seating where appropriate.
	Remove the senescent pine tree on the site (obtain heritage arboriculture advice). Consider succession planting.	High	Obtain specialist advice and, if recommended, undertake removal and replacement planting.
Unmarked Burials	Make attempts to locate unmarked graves to protect them from accidental damage or disturbance.	Medium	Consider a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) study prior to any subsurface disturbance associated with general cemetery maintenance or other works to identify and formally record the likely location of unmarked graves and associated grave goods.
Historical Archaeology	Understand the archaeology of the site to assist in future management.		
Security— Fences, Gates and Lighting	Provide adequate fencing that preserves the semi-rural character of the cemetery whilst protecting against issues such as antisocial behaviour, vandalism, illegal dumping, property encroachments and carparking on unfenced edges.	Low	Update the boundary fence fabric to be in keeping with the semi-rural visual qualities and heritage value of the cemetery.
		High	Install gates that lock after dark and non-intrusive sensor lighting in areas where vandalism is common.
		High	Erect gate or removable bollards to discourage vehicle access to the cemetery.
		Ongoing	Maintain security elements.
		High and Ongoing	Conduct regular drive-by and physical inspections of cemeteries to monitor vandalism or other issues affecting safety and significance.
Signage	Promote understanding by identifying the site through the signage.	Low/ medium	Erect cemetery signage at the Jersey Street entrance.
	Signage could also be used to assist visitation, community and cultural interest by providing a brief history of the site.	Low/ medium	Consider low-key interpretation/signage or online information on <b>Council's website</b> .
	Depending on the level of vandalism and safety at the cemetery, also consider identifying significant graves and monuments and/or providing interesting		

	information about prominent grave and monument styles, landscape and flora species present.		
Restoration	Undertake restoration of significant monuments within the cemetery.  Several vandalised and/or broken stelae and headstones need repair or reinstating.	Medium  Medium  High and Ongoing	Source funding to restore significant monuments, headstones and grave furniture.  Treat cemetery ironwork against rust.  Workers and volunteers should be encouraged to be familiar with working on heritage sites and should be provided with copies of documents such as the <i>Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .
Significant Graves	Retain the condition of significant graves, headstones and monuments.	Medium	Work with living relatives/families to source funding/grants to assist in the conservation of these items.
Safety Issues	Identify cemetery elements that may pose a safety threat to visitors or their own stability whether due to vandalism, age/deterioration, ground movement or other causes.	Ongoing  High and Ongoing  Ongoing	Work with living relatives/families or interested local community support groups to source funding/grants to assist in the conservation of items affected by these issues.  Ensure that safety issues are addressed as they arise, and that specialist assistance is sought when repairing fallen or dangerous monuments or trees.  Maintain security elements.
Interested Groups	Continue to engage and work with interested communities, groups and individuals.	Ongoing  High and Ongoing  Medium and Ongoing  Ongoing	Continue to identify, acknowledge and work with interested community groups and individuals including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presbyterian Historical Society;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Historical Society;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Cemeteries Register Group (update record);</li> <li>• Hawkesbury on the Net</li> <li>• Commonwealth War Graves Commission;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Family History Group; and</li> <li>• relatives and descendants.</li> </ul> Consider developing a work plan for the cemetery together with interested groups. Local cemetery community groups should be encouraged and supported to undertake training in the recording, maintenance and conservation of historic cemeteries. Training could be provided by stonemasons, cemetery workers, or any other profession that works with cemeteries on a regular basis.  Liaise with the authors of the Hawkesbury on the Net Cemetery Register and provide access to this SCMP to enable update of data for this cemetery in the Cemetery Register.

<p>Accessible Funding/ Resources</p>	<p>Investigate available grants. Investigate the use of volunteers, schools, local community services and others to assist in appropriate aspects of cemetery maintenance.</p>	<p>Ongoing Ongoing</p>	<p>Work with living relatives/families and/or interested local community support groups to source funding/grants to assist in the conservation of identified items and to undertake ongoing research into the history of the cemetery. Use the actions in this SCMP to guide applications for funding for conservation and maintenance work.</p>
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## References

- <sup>1</sup> Murray, L 2016, *Sydney Cemeteries: A Field Guide*, New South, Sydney, pp 307–308; Nichols, M, *Hawkesbury Cemeteries*, prepared for Hawkesbury City Council, February 2010.
- <sup>2</sup> *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 26 April 1902 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article86216535>>.



Figure 10 Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

A photograph of a cemetery landscape. In the foreground, there is a brick wall with several small, square openings, some of which contain plaques. To the left of the wall is a gravel path. In the background, there is a grassy area with many trees and a clear blue sky with some light clouds.

# Richmond Lawn Cemetery

Handbook

**GML**  
HERITAGE

## Overview

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Other Name(s)	'Richmond General Cemetery'; 'Richmond War Cemetery' located within the cemetery
Heritage Listing(s)	Not currently listed
Date Dedicated	1893
Period of Use	1893 to present
Location (Coordinates)	Lat: -33.597007 Long: 150.771941
Primary Address	73 Dight Street, Richmond, NSW
Property Description	Lot 7010 DP 1029124
Parish	Ham Common
County	Cumberland
Local Government Area	Hawkesbury
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Deerubbin

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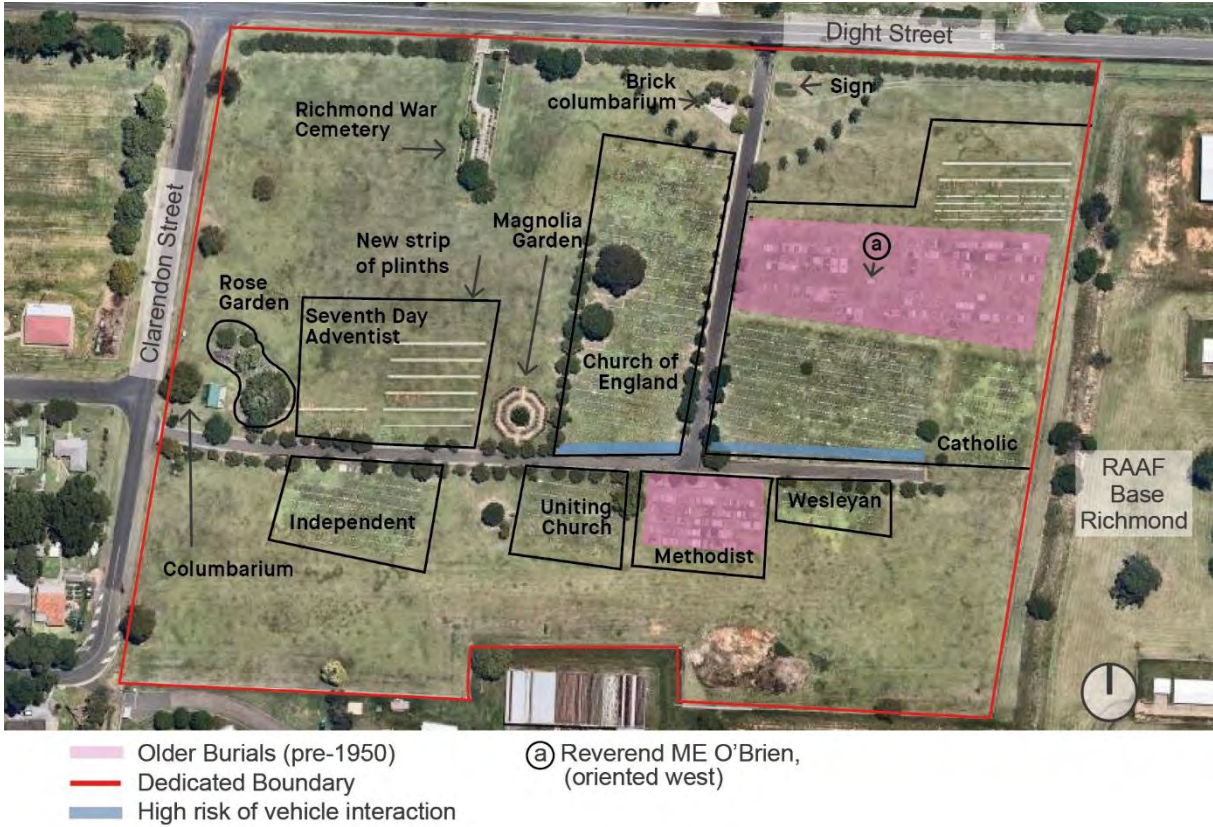


Figure 1 2019 aerial of the cemetery detailing the key site components, denominational sections and landscape elements. (Source: Nearmap with GML overlay)

## Summary History

- In 1893, 16 acres of Clarendon Common on the corner of Clarendon and Dight Street was dedicated as a general cemetery. The cemetery was divided into nine sections for individual denominations.
- The denominations are Jewish, Church of England, Roman Catholic, Wesleyan, Methodist, Presbyterian, Independent, and General. The section in the northwestern corner is reserved for the caretaker.
- The cemetery was not fenced off until 1902.
- The first burial recorded in the newspaper was 11-year-old Jane Williamson, who died of pneumonia. She was buried in the Catholic section on 11 October 1902. Archbishop Kelly blessed the Catholic section on 22 December 1902.
- A small section along Dight Road was dedicated as the Richmond War Cemetery in 1943. The war cemetery commemorates the servicemen and women who died during World War II.
- The lawn cemetery was established in the 1960s.
- The cemetery remains open for interments.

## Notable Burials

- William Price (1792–1877), first postmaster of Richmond.
- William Sullivan (c1830–1906), bootmaker, inaugural alderman of Richmond Borough Council (1872), JP and magistrate.
- **Father Michael Edward O'Brien (1858–1915)**, parish priest of Richmond.

## Notable Monuments

- **Father O'Brien**—marble Celtic cross with a three-step base.
- Waters family—black granite Celtic cross.
- Elizabeth Mahon (d. 1920)—died before her 8th birthday; a lily of the valley is carved on her marble headstone.<sup>1</sup>

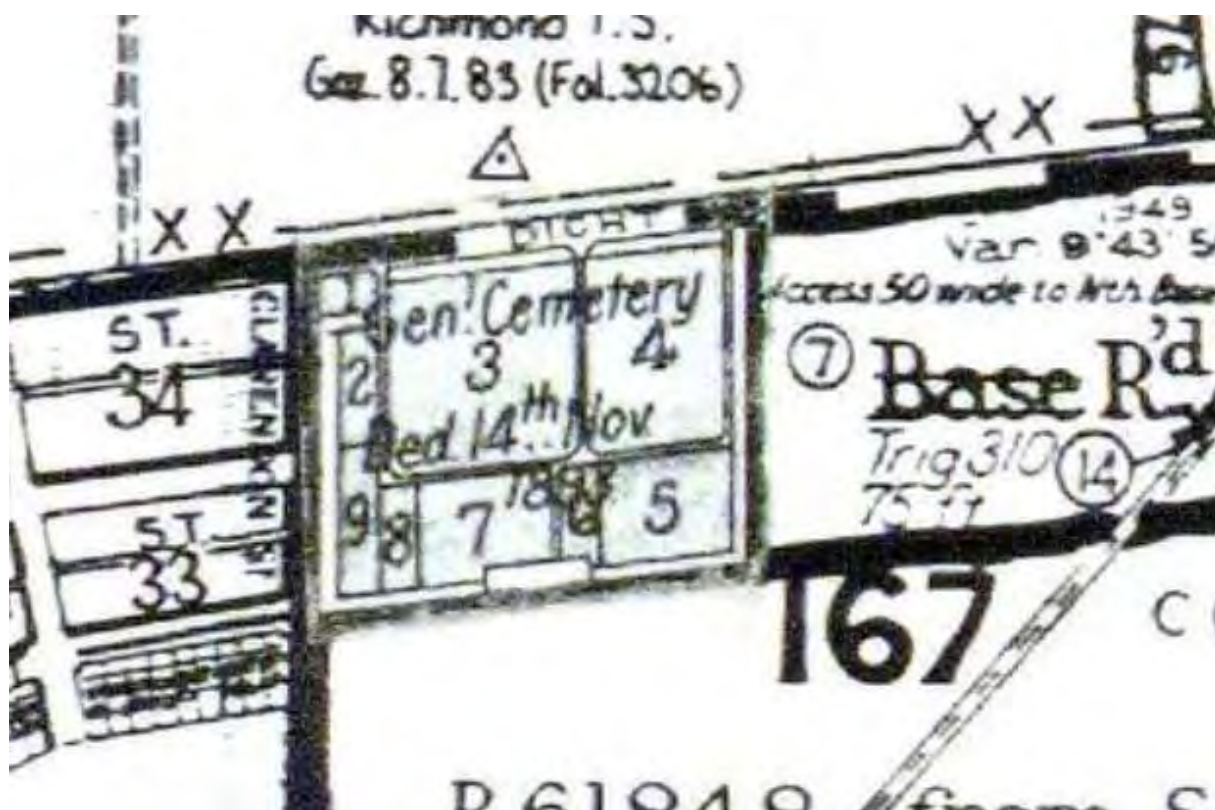


Figure 2 Close-up of 1972 map of Ham Common Parish, showing the Richmond Lawn Cemetery, section numbers: 1—Caretaker, 2—Jewish, 3—Church of England, 4—Roman Catholic, 5—Wesleyan, 6—Methodist, 7—Presbyterian, 8—Independent, 9—General. (Source: Historical Land Records Viewer, Land and Property Information)

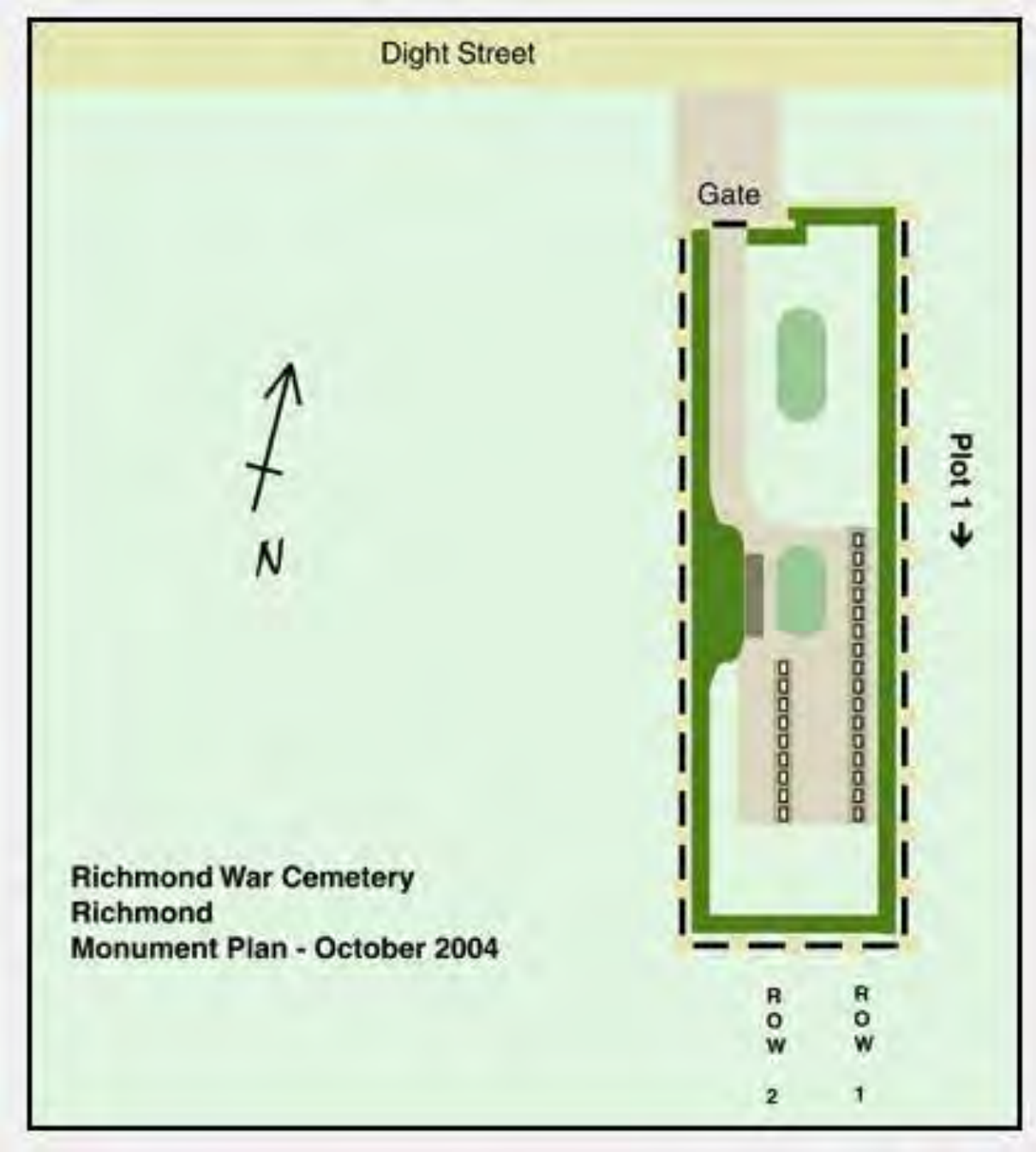


Figure 3 2004 Plan of the Richmond War Cemetery, located within the Richmond Lawn Cemetery. (Source: Richmond War Cemetery—Richmond, Hawkesbury on the Net: Cemetery Register <[http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/richmond\\_war\\_cemetery/index.html](http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/richmond_war_cemetery/index.html)>)

## Description

### Setting

Richmond Lawn Cemetery is in proximity to the Hawkesbury River to the north; however, river views are obscured by the hedge along the northern boundary and development on the north side of Dight Street. RAAF Base Richmond is directly to the south and east, with views constrained by a soil berm. Surrounding residential development and nearby parkland can be seen from many points within the cemetery due to the flat terrain.

The cemetery is open to its surrounds with no perimeter fence enclosing the site. There are no bollards preventing vehicular ingress. Several large trees line the internal roads and run along the cemetery boundary between the Magnolia Garden and the Church of England denomination.

### Physical Description

Richmond Lawn Cemetery is a mid-sized regional cemetery located directly west of the Richmond RAAF Base site in Richmond. The cemetery occupies a rectangular shaped parcel of land and is bounded by Clarendon Street to the west, Dight Street to the north and the Richmond RAAF base to the south and east. The main entrance, off Dight Street, is signed and a vehicular drive leads to the early Methodist and Catholic burials located at the centre of the site.

The cemetery remains in operation and is managed by Council.

The landscape is a flat, grassed expanse with some simple gardens and mature trees planted throughout. It features a small rose garden, small decorative magnolia garden and two columbaria adjacent to the entrances. Burials are generally oriented facing north in east–west oriented rows clustered within at least six denominational sections (Independent, Seventh Day Adventist, Uniting Church, Methodist, Wesleyan, Church of England and Catholic), though some face south, particularly strip plinth burials.

The oldest burials at Richmond Lawn Cemetery are within the Catholic and Methodist denominations, as the cemetery was used for those denominations at first. The Richmond War Cemetery is located in the northern portion of the dedication. It is demarcated as a separate enclosed area and contains 25 burials. A plaque at the entrance to the War Cemetery notes that it commemorates servicemen and women who died during World War II.

The older Methodist and Catholic sections feature larger and more elaborate monuments. Newer burials are low form and typical of those found in a twentieth-century lawn cemetery. The headstone recordings for William Price (d. 1877) and schoolteacher Thomas Sullivan (d. 1873) predate the 1893 cemetery dedication.

### Condition

Overall the cemetery is in fair condition. The landscape is kept maintained by Council. The lawn has been kept trimmed and trees pruned.

Many of the monuments in the cemetery are in reasonable condition, particularly more recent burials. The War Grave is in good condition and its landscape very well maintained.

Older monuments within the cemetery display more extensive condition issues. Lichen and moss growth on the headstones in the two older burial areas of the site has obscured many inscriptions and decorative

details of monuments. Subsidence has resulted in cracked slabs, and many of the stone tablets on the desk monuments have fallen (or started to slip) from the monument, with applied lead lettering falling off the tablets.

There are no designated parking areas and the access roads feature low concrete kerbs that allow vehicles to mount the kerb. In some areas the memorials are very close to the road, rendering them susceptible to inadvertent damage from vehicles. Vehicles were observed driving through the lawn cemetery across several sections during the site inspection.

### *Monuments*

New development includes the introduction of concrete strip plinths, with seven rows oriented east–west in the Seventh Day Adventist section, which are very recent and planned to accommodate future burials. Prior to installation of the strip plinths there were two east–west oriented rows of low memorials and plaques. The Church of England and Catholic sections of the cemetery are the most extensively buried in. The Church of England section is nearly entirely a lawn cemetery, characterised by concrete lawn plaques with metal plaques and small sculptural details/vases, as well as in some instances low concrete or granite monuments. The southern portion of the Catholic section consists of lawn cemeteries dating from the mid-twentieth century, while the far northern end of the section has concrete strip plinths added and has been used for new burials since 2012. A large quantity of grave furniture (synthetic flowers, vases, pictures) is evident across the lawn cemetery areas of the site.

The central part of the Catholic section contains burials and monuments predominantly from the first half of the twentieth century. Instead of the lawn cemetery elements found in the rest of the section, this portion of the Catholic section contains a high quantity of marble monumental elements, including tablets on desk-and-slab monuments. Sandstone desk-and-slab monuments with sandstone kerbing are most common in this area, though some granite and brick elements are evident. Burials within the Windsor Municipal Council Lawn Cemetery are generally oriented facing north, with a few arranged facing south. The exception to this is the grave of Reverend ME O'Brien (d. 1915), parish pastor for Richmond, which is marked by a large marble Celtic cross on a pedestal and oriented facing east. In this central portion of the Catholic section, crosses are common monumental elements in sandstone and marble, including some with relief-carved figures of Jesus.

There is one other part of the cemetery with burials from the first half of the twentieth century—the Methodist section at the southern end of the site. Monuments are generally sandstone desk-and-slab forms with marble or granite tablets, though a few marble pedestals with urns are situated in this part of the site.

Lichen and moss growth on the headstones in the two older burial areas of the site has obscured many inscriptions of the decorative details of monuments. Subsidence has resulted in cracked slabs, and many of the stone tablets on the desk monuments have fallen (or started to slip) from the monument, with applied lead lettering away from the tablets.

The lawn cemetery has the most extensive landscaping of any cemetery within the study area, creating a more garden-like landscape. Avenues of trees have been planted along the east–west access road from Clarendon Street, as well as the north–south access road from Dight Street. Another avenue of trees is planted along the western boundary of the Church of England section, separating it visually and physically from other burial areas. A semi-circular row of trees has also been planted flanking the Dight Street entrance, framing a large sandstone entrance sign to the cemetery.

Two memorial/ash gardens are located on the east–west access road from Clarendon Street. The first is the L-shaped ‘Rose Garden’ situated on the north side of the entrance from Clarendon Street. The second is the ‘Magnolia Garden’, which is located farther east along the access road and consists of two concentric octagonal rings of rose bushes and memorial plaques radiating out from a mature magnolia tree.

A large oleander hedge has been established along the Dight Street frontage. No fencing is present along the Clarendon Street frontage. The southern and eastern boundaries are shared with RAAF Base Richmond and have a tall chain link security fence mounted with razor wire. At the west side of the southern site boundary concrete jersey barriers provide an additional barrier, while a steep earthen berm has been erected along the entire eastern boundary and the east end of the southern boundary.

### *Other Elements*

Two columbaria are located within the cemetery, each situated in immediate proximity to the two entrance drives. A low brick columbarium on the west side of the Dight Street entrance is situated on a slightly raised asphalt pad covered with quartzite gravel with a variety of trees planted in the immediate vicinity providing shade and screening from Dight Street and other burial areas. The second columbarium is made of formed concrete and located on the north side of the Clarendon Street entrance, opposite a brick utility shed.

The Richmond War Cemetery, established in association with the adjacent RAAF base as a memorial to deceased veterans from the area, appears to be managed and maintained separately from the rest of the cemetery. It is not accessible from the lawn cemetery; its access is via the western half of the Dight Street frontage. The memorial and associated gardens are enclosed by low walls and an iron gate, with separate access from the lawn cemetery.

There are section markers for the Seventh Day Adventist, Independent, Uniting Church and Church of England burial areas. Generally, these are vertical metal signs with the denomination cut or stamped into them and affixed to a rubbish bin or steel post.

### **Key Issues**

- Uncontrolled vehicle access, lack of designated parking with burials nearly adjacent to kerb.
- Moss and lichen growth.
- Subsidence and tablets falling from desk-and-slab monuments.

### **Interested Groups**

Council welcomes the interest and support of the community in relation to the upkeep and improvement of cemeteries in its care. Some of the key interest groups and information sources relevant to this cemetery include:

- Hawkesbury Historical Society;
- Hawkesbury Cemeteries Register Group (update Cemetery Register record);
- Hawkesbury on the Net;
- Hawkesbury Family History Group;

- relatives and descendants;
- War Graves Commission; and
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission.



Figure 4 Entrance to the cemetery off Dight Street. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 5 Looking towards Richmond War Cemetery from the northern portion of the site. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 6 The small rose garden near the western entrance to the site, with the Seventh Day Adventist section visible beyond. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)





Figure 7 Inside the Richmond War Cemetery. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 8 View looking south showing low kerb with a fallen tree, possibly from vehicle impact, in the central, older burial area of the cemetery. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 9 Celtic cross monument within the Catholic section, with more recent Catholic burials in proximity. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 10 Brick columbarium adjacent to entrance. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 11 Grave of **Father Michael Edward O'Brien (1858–1915)**, parish priest of Richmond, within the Catholic section. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 12 Newer burials at Richmond Lawn Cemetery with older burials visible to the south. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 13 Concrete strip plinths in the Seventh Day Adventist section marking future grave sites. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 14 Plaque at the entrance to the Richmond War Grave. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

Excerpt:

*During the second world war, 1939–45, the aerodrome at Richmond was a major **base for No's. 3, 6, 9 and 22 squadrons of the Royal Australian Air Force.** These were engaged in reconnaissance and submarine patrols along the eastern Australian coastline and also protected allied shipping and the coastal cities against possible Japanese air attack.*

*The Richmond War Cemetery contains 25 burials, comprising 7 Australian Army, 4 RAF and 14 RAAF. Two war graves – one each from the army and the RAAF – are located in the General Cemetery.*

## Historical Archaeological Potential

**At Richmond Lawn Cemetery, graves provide potential archaeological information about early burials and burial practices.**

'Archaeological potential' refers to the likelihood of archaeological remains to survive at a site. It should be distinguished from 'archaeological significance', which refers to the heritage values of any remains that may prove to have survived. Thus, there may be 'low potential' for certain remains to survive, but if they do survive, they might be assessed as being of 'high significance' (for example, if they are rare examples from the convict period).

The potential archaeological resource within a cemetery can include evidence from a variety of different activities and associated elements depending on the history of the place before and during its existing function.

Historical archaeological evidence associated with pre-cemetery activity may have resulted from ephemeral uses of the area. Potential archaeological remains can consist of land clearing and timber-getting as areas of the Hawkesbury began to be settled by Europeans. More substantial evidence might include the remains of early farms and associated outbuildings as well as church facilities, brickmaking activity and sealed artefact deposits, although in most of the cemeteries these are unlikely to exist. Historical archaeological evidence associated with pre-cemetery establishment and use may be assessed as having local or state significance, depending on its nature and extent.

Many of the cemeteries identified in this SCMP are considered likely to have high archaeological potential in association with the burials in each. Although interments currently cover each cemetery to varying degrees, as archaeological items, these hold significance for the data they might provide with regards to past ways of life and cultural perceptions of life and death. Most of the interments (including unmarked burials) would be of local significance, while the remains of individuals of historical or cultural significance in NSW would have the potential to be of state significance.

Changes to landscape elements through their use as cemeteries as well as gradual burial of some features (particularly in areas not regularly frequented or landscaped or where flood activity is likely to have washed away, moved or buried some elements) have likely resulted in their partial or complete burial. Buried or partially demolished landscaping elements associated with cultural landscapes of exceptional or high significance have the potential to be of state significance, depending on their nature and extent. Other elements associated with creating formal landscapes within the Council cemeteries may be of local significance.

Examples of activities and remains that may retain historical evidence include:

Activity	Potential Remains
Early land clearing	Tree roots, charcoal deposits, artefact scatters, soil deposits, evidence of camp sites etc.
Burials	Skeletal remains, coffins, coffin hardware, grave goods and utilitarian items (buttons, buckles etc).
Grave furniture	Headstones, crosses etc that may have fallen or been moved or vandalised.
Former landscaping	Paths, edging, fence rails, etc.

It is also important to remember that if any archaeological evidence relating to Aboriginal use is discovered at the cemetery, including during any general maintenance works, then works should cease in the area and the Department of Planning Industry & Environment (DPIE) (formerly Office of Environment and Heritage [OEH]) must be notified immediately.

## Significance

### Assessment of Significance

The following table provides a heritage assessment for the Richmond Lawn Cemetery site against the State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria:

<p><b>SHR Criterion a) [Historical significance]</b></p> <p>Richmond Lawn Cemetery has some historic significance as an operational cemetery site serving the Hawkesbury area since the early 1900s. The site provides historic evidence of religion and memorialisation in the Hawkesbury. Within the earlier Catholic and Methodist sections, monuments and headstones illustrate local genealogy and family history. The site holds some wartime historic significance due to its dedication to servicemen and women in the Richmond War Graves, connected with the nearby Richmond RAAF base.</p> <p>The site should be protected and cared for into the future. Despite having some historic significance it is not considered to meet the threshold for local heritage listing under Criterion A.</p>
<p><b>SHR Criterion b) [Associative significance]</b></p> <p>The site does not hold clear or strong associations to people/persons of note. A number of local people are buried at Richmond Lawn Cemetery; however, the site does not feature strong associations with noteworthy or prominent persons or historic figures.</p> <p>It is not considered to meet the threshold for local heritage listing under Criterion B.</p>
<p><b>SHR Criterion c) [Aesthetic significance]</b></p> <p>The site has some aesthetic significance as a pleasant, maintained landscaped open space. It contributes to local amenity and greenery, and features mature trees planted along circulation routes and some small gardens.</p> <p>It is not considered to meet the threshold for local heritage listing under Criterion C.</p>
<p><b>SHR Criterion d) [Social significance]</b></p> <p>The site has some social significance at a local level as a longstanding funerary site incorporating burials from a number of religious denominations and a dedicated War Grave section.</p> <p>The site should be protected and cared for into the future. Despite holding some social significance to the local community, it is not considered to meet the threshold for local heritage listing under Criterion D.</p>

### SHR Criterion e) [Research potential]

Richmond Lawn Cemetery has some research potential for local historians undertaking targeted research to inform community history and genealogy projects.

The site is not considered to meet the threshold for local listing under Criterion E.

### SHR Criterion f) [Rarity]

Richmond Lawn Cemetery is a simple mortuary landscape with graves dating from the 1890s. Its sectional layout, landscape and monuments are comparable to those found in many mid-sized local and regional cemeteries found across NSW and Australia.

The site is not considered to meet the threshold for local listing under Criterion F.

### SHR Criterion g) [Representativeness]

Richmond Lawn Cemetery is broadly representative of many twentieth-century burial sites and associated landscape treatments in NSW. The site is not strongly representative of any one particular denominational or spiritual practice or belief, but rather contains a mix of burial typologies across a number of community groups. These practices have evolved over time and the site reflects this.

The site is not considered to meet the threshold for local listing under Criterion G.

### Integrity/Intactness

The site has a relatively good level of integrity and intactness and has been well maintained by the Council. Denominational sections remain legible as does the early circulation network. The War Graves section is gated and well maintained.

Older monuments and graves require some attention and conservation given their age and exposure to the elements. The openness of the site makes it vulnerable to vandalism, but this attribute is a pleasant aspect of its landscape character.

## Statement of Significance

*Richmond Lawn Cemetery is a medium sized local cemetery that has served the locality since the 1890s. The cemetery features an enclosed War Cemetery where 25 servicemen are laid to rest. Burials comprise Methodist, Catholic, Wesleyan, Church of England, Uniting Church and Independent denominations laid out in rectilinear sections. The older graves lie at the centre of the site. Landscaping is simple and well kept, with two small memorial gardens and some mature trees planted along circulation routes. The site contains the grave of Michael Edward O'Brien (1858–1915), parish priest of Richmond.*

## Management and Care

The table below identifies cemetery elements and recommended actions to consider in the future management of Richmond Lawn Cemetery. The priority of action for each activity at the cemetery is suggested subject to ongoing Council and grant funding opportunities.

Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommended Action
Landscaping/ Planting	Maintain landscaping and plantings where relevant to enhance the cemetery grounds and encourage visitation and visibility of monuments and flourishing flora.  Dead tree, felled by wind.  Consider installation of seating where appropriate.	High	Undertake light weeding, mowing and regular maintenance of the existing landscape with community volunteer assistance.  Retain the open, simple feel of the cemetery.  Remove the dead tree.
Unmarked Burials  Historical Archaeology	Make attempts to locate unmarked graves to protect them from accidental damage or disturbance.  Understand the archaeology of the site to assist in future management.	Medium	Consider a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) study where there is potential or physical evidence for unmarked graves.
Parking	Vehicle access is uncontrolled at the site and there is a lack of designated parking. Burials fall in close proximity to the kerb.	Medium	Investigate the possibility of providing a small section of designated parking on site in order to safeguard burials and monuments from vehicular collision.
Security— Fences, Gates and Lighting	Provide an adequate landscape edge or buffer to help protect against issues including antisocial behaviour, vandalism, illegal dumping, property encroachments and carparking on unfenced edges.	Medium  Ongoing  High and Ongoing	The site is currently open and unfenced, except for Richmond War Grave. Whilst fencing is more secure, a permeable landscape edge along Clarendon and Dight Streets may be more appropriate.  Maintain security elements.  Conduct regular drive-by and physical inspections of cemeteries to monitor vandalism or other issues affecting safety and significance.
Signage	Maintain existing entry signs as appropriate. Additional internal signage could also be used to assist visitation, community and cultural interest by providing a brief history of the site.	Low  Low	Undertake routine maintenance of existing signs as appropriate.  Consider some internal signage and a map to assist identification of burials/row numbers.
Restoration	Restore older monuments within the cemetery.	Medium  Low  High and Ongoing	Source funding to restore significant monuments, headstones and grave furniture.  Treat cemetery ironwork against rust.  Workers and volunteers should be encouraged to be familiar with working on heritage sites and should be provided with copies of documents




			such as the <i>Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .
Significant Graves	Retain/reinstate the condition of significant graves, headstones and monuments.	Ongoing	Work with living relatives/families to source funding/grants to assist in the conservation of these items.
Columbaria, Lawn and Monument Interments	Accommodate demand for ashes interments/columbaria, lawn or monument burials within all active cemeteries.	Medium	Ensure availability of sufficient space for additional memorialisation of deceased in columbaria, lawn and monument sections within active cemetery areas if necessary.
		Medium	No new burials or excavation for new memorial areas should occur before unmarked graves, known to exist in the cemetery, have been properly located. Consider Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) to undertake this investigation.
Safety Issues	Identify cemetery elements that may pose a safety threat to visitors or their own stability whether due to vandalism, age/deterioration, ground movement or other causes.	Ongoing	No known elements.  Work with living relatives/families or interested local community support groups to source funding/grants to assist in the conservation of these items.
		High and Ongoing	Ensure that safety issues are addressed as they arise, and that specialist assistance is sought when repairing fallen or dangerous monuments or trees.
		Ongoing	Maintain security elements.
Interested Groups	Continue to engage and work with interested communities, groups and individuals.	Ongoing	Continue to identify, acknowledge and work with interested community groups and individuals including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hawkesbury Historical Society;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Cemeteries Register Group (update Cemetery Register record);</li> <li>• Hawkesbury on the Net;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Family History Group;</li> <li>• relatives and descendants;</li> <li>• War Graves Commission; and</li> <li>• Commonwealth War Graves Commission.</li> </ul>
		High and Ongoing	Consider developing a work plan together with interested groups for the cemetery.
		Medium and Ongoing	Local cemetery community groups should be encouraged and supported to undertake training in the recording, maintenance and conservation of historic cemeteries. Training could be provided by stonemasons, cemetery workers, or any other profession that works with cemeteries on a regular basis.
		Ongoing	Liaise with authors of Hawkesbury on the Net (HOTN) Cemetery Register and provide access to

			this SCMP to enable update of data for this cemetery in the Cemetery Register.
Accessible Funding/ Resources	Investigate available grants.  Investigate the use of volunteers, local community services and prisoners to assist in appropriate aspects of cemetery maintenance.	Ongoing  Ongoing	Work with living relatives/families and/or interested local community support groups to source funding/grants to assist in the conservation of identified items.  Investigate further opportunities available to research the history of the cemetery.

## References

- <sup>1</sup> Auld, J, Richmond War Cemetery—Richmond, Hawkesbury on the Net: Cemetery Register, October 2004, viewed 23 January 2019 <[http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/richmond\\_war\\_cemetery/index.html](http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/richmond_war_cemetery/index.html)>; Murray, L 2016, *Sydney Cemeteries: A Field Guide*, New South, Sydney, pp 309–310; Nichols, M, Hawkesbury Cemeteries, prepared for Hawkesbury City Council, February 2010.



South Windsor  
Presbyterian  
Cemetery

Handbook

**GML**  
HERITAGE

## Overview

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Other Name(s)	'Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery'; 'the Scotch Cemetery'
Heritage Listing(s)	<i>Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP)</i> , Listing 1155
Date Dedicated	1830s
Dates of Use	1830s to present
Location (Coordinates)	Lat: -33.613882 Long: 150.810121
Primary Address	8 Church Street, South Windsor, NSW
Property Description	Lot 7305 DP 1154151
Parish	St Matthew
County	Cumberland
Local Government Area	Hawkesbury
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Deerubbin

This handbook is intended as a handy standalone guide for use by Hawkesbury City Council (Council) or for issue to community groups to guide their understanding and contribution to the management, care and maintenance of this cemetery. Relevant sections of this handbook should be updated as additional historical or other information becomes available and/or works are undertaken that change the condition of the cemetery.

The Management & Care table at the end of the Handbook identifies elements, recommended actions and timing priorities to consider in the future management of the cemetery. Using the Handbook as a starting point to develop a Cemetery Working Plan, relatives, descendants, interested groups and individuals, working closely with Council, can be guided to manage the cemetery together: to implement high priority actions first, seek specialist advice and training when needed and together create opportunities for ongoing care of the cemetery and its elements. Engaged management aims to enhance visitation, community interest and appreciation of these special places of eternal rest and commemoration.

## Summary History

- Surveyed in December 1833 by Felton Mathew, the cemetery was established by the late 1830s. With several Scottish families buried there, it is also known as the Scotch Cemetery, **the church often being referred to as the Scotch Kirk or Scot's Church.**<sup>1</sup>
- **A brick kiln was present on the corner of George Street near the later railway and a rectangular 'hut' building** likely associated with the brickworks is located half within the cemetery dedicated area and half on later railway land.<sup>2</sup>
- A lagoon was originally located in the central cemetery area and extended south into George Street fed by a creek coming down from beyond Church Street in the north. This made the central area unsuitable for burials, hence all surviving gravestones clustered near Church Street.
- The cemetery has previously been enclosed but the fence has been removed.
- The earliest burials were apparently made on the lower ground, near the road. Many of them were left unmarked. A group of early burials commemorate Robert Smith (d. 1852) and his children Mary (d. 1838) and James (d. **1839**). **Robert's original headstone** has been replaced by a marble headstone that commemorates James Smith (d. 1907).
- The cemetery has connection to World War II migration with the burials of Adele Emelie Podusteanu from Romania and grandson Michael Lenskyj killed in a car accident at Londonderry (d. 1954).<sup>3</sup>
- In the 1980s two early graves were identified and recorded by the Hawkesbury Family History Group in the shrubbery near the railway line—the Walker vault and headstone to Henry McCourt (d. 1858).
- After the cemetery was reclassified for public recreation in 1970, permission was granted for use by a travelling circus in the mid-1970s. Two elephants were purported to have trampled two grave markers in the southeast corner of the cemetery.<sup>4</sup>
- Research undertaken as part of the Hawkesbury on the Net: Cemetery Register identified 232 recorded names and 101 graves present.
- This cemetery is listed in the Hawkesbury LEP as a heritage item of local significance. The listing does not currently include the whole cemetery. Refer to Figure 1 for existing and dedicated cemetery boundaries.

## Notable Burials

- Several prominent Windsor families were buried here—including the Cadell, Cross, Dick and Walker families.
- Postmaster Robert Dick (d. 1898), first mayor of Windsor, 1871.
- William Walker (d. 1908), solicitor and politician.
- Thomas Cadell (d. 1855), who established a large brewery on the Terrace.
- Frederick Whirlpool (d. 1899), awarded a Victoria Cross (VC) in the Indian Mutiny. He was awarded the medal in Melbourne in 1861, the first to be awarded in Australia, at the first official VC presentation in Australia. No headstone.
- George Anderson Robertson (d. 1918) operated a monumental mason business in Windsor and was a talented stone mason.

## Notable Memorials

- Isabella and William Nicholls—pair of carved angels holding a Madonna lily on a sandstone headstone.
- Mary Ann Robertson (d. 1895) and two sons, James (d. 1885) and Donald (d. 1889)—cast-iron pedestal with urns and a thin column. **This memorial was most likely made by Mary Ann's husband, Donald Robertson, who was a blacksmith.** Robertson might also be responsible for the iron surrounds.<sup>5</sup>



Figure 1 2019 aerial detailing the location of the cemetery in relation to Windsor Station. (Source: Nearmap with GML overlay)



Figure 2 Original survey for the cemetery by Felton Mathew, December 1833, showing brick kiln and hut structures. The railway line was added at a later date. (Source: State Archives NSW, Map 1851 in Ian Jack, Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery: History of the Site, unpublished document, February 2019)

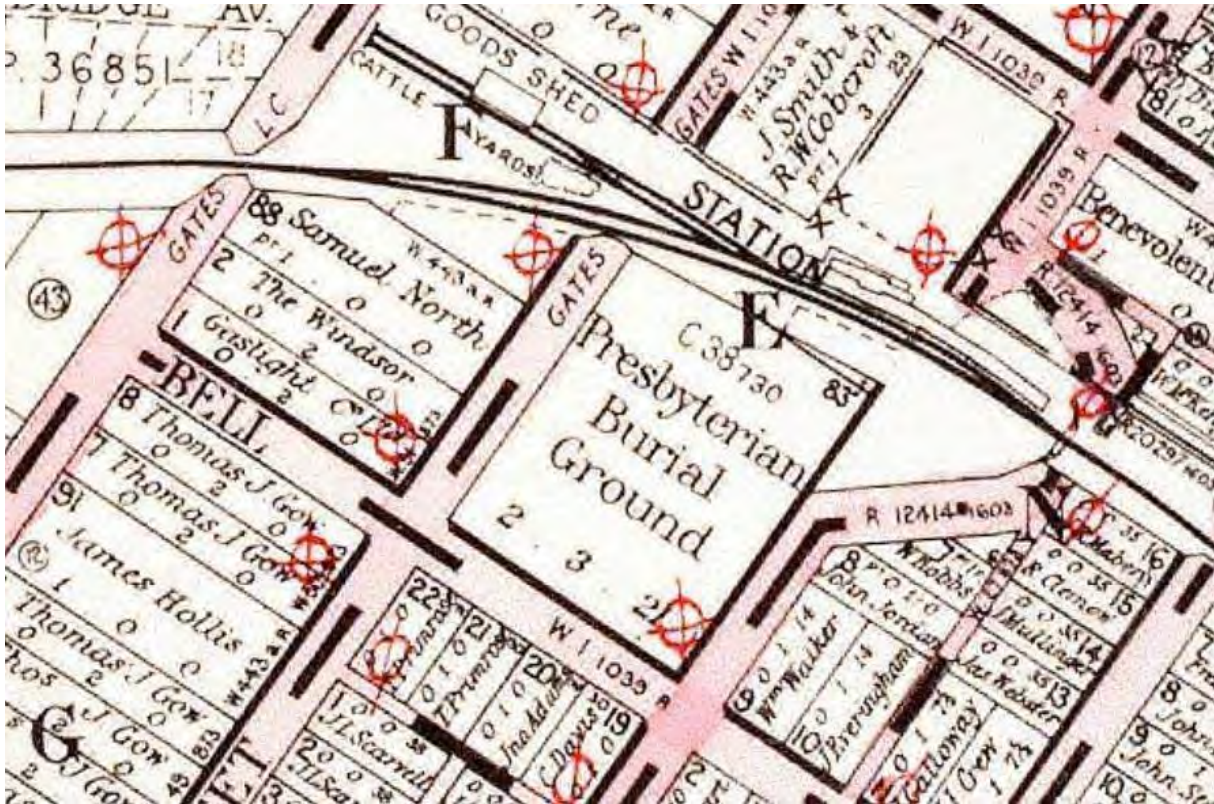


Figure 3 Close-up of 1967 Town Plan of Windsor showing the Presbyterian Burial Ground. (Source: Historical Land Records Viewer, Land and Property Information)



Figure 4 1980 photograph of South Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery. (Source: National Trust [NSW])



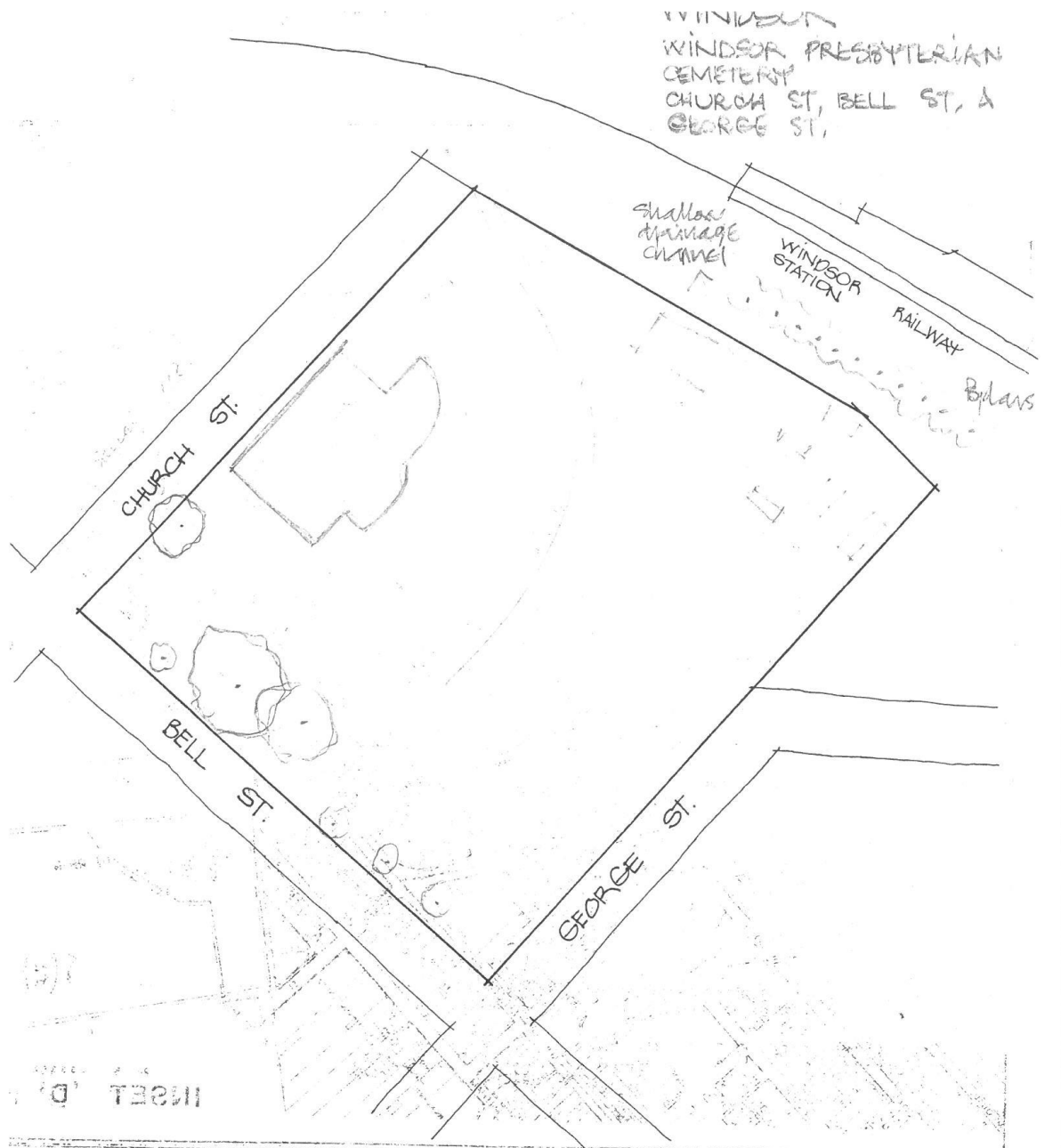


Figure 5 1980 sketch of South Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery. (Source: National Trust [NSW], Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery Index Card)



Figure 6 2005 Plan of Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery. Note the location of Row 11, alongside the railway line. (Source: Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery—Windsor, Hawkesbury on the Net: Cemetery Register <[http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/windsor\\_presbyterian/index.html](http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/windsor_presbyterian/index.html)>)

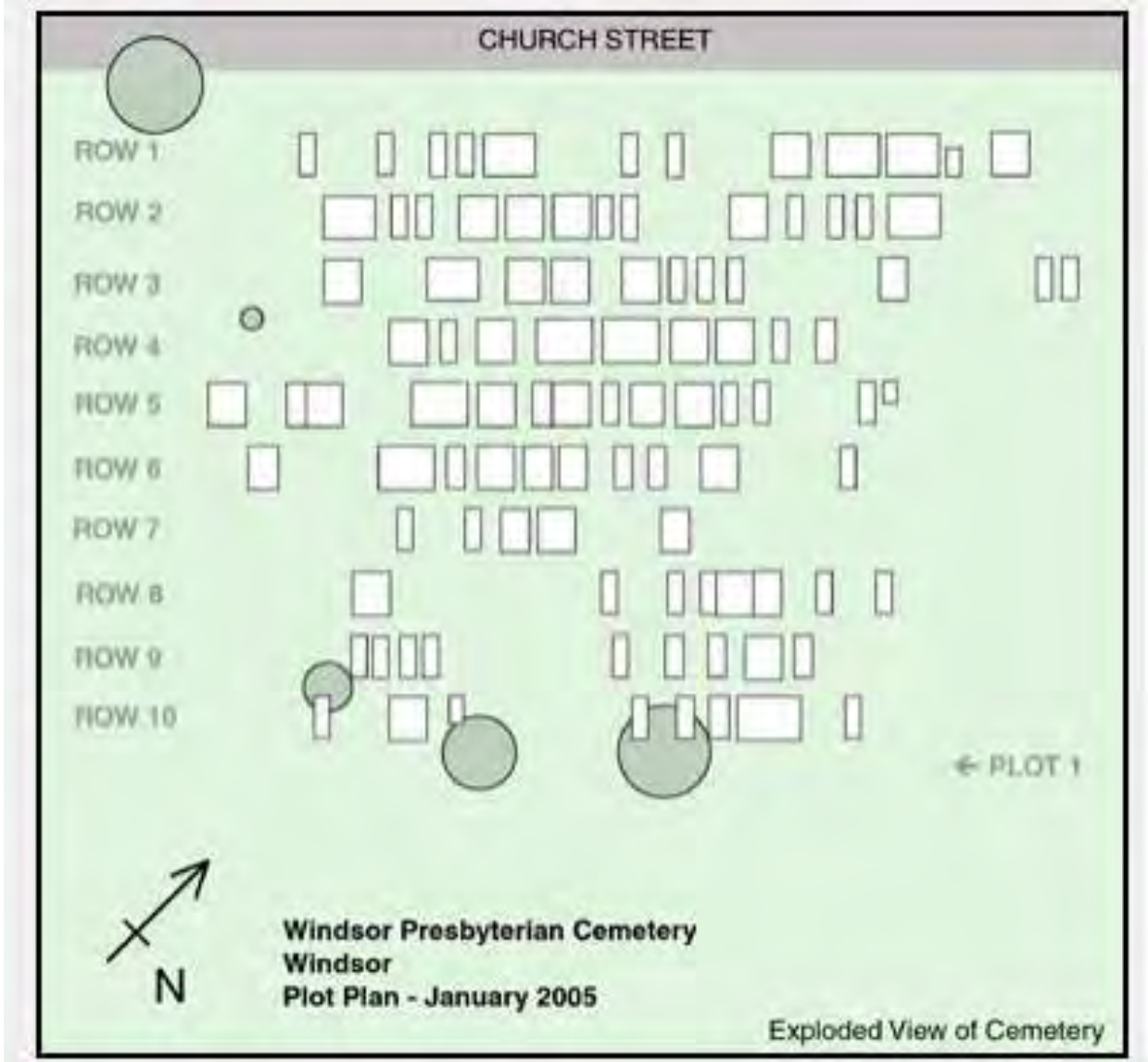


Figure 7 Detail plan showing Rows 1–10. (Source: Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery—Windsor, Hawkesbury on the Net: Cemetery Register <[http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/windsor\\_presbyterian/index.html](http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/windsor_presbyterian/index.html)>)

## Description

### Setting

The South Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery is situated in an open green space bounded to the northwest by Church Street, to the northeast by Windsor Station and the rail corridor, to the southwest by Bell Street and to the southeast by George Street.

The site is currently divided into two allotments—Lot 7305 DP 1154151 is located at the northern end of the site and captures most of the burials fronting Church Street (Figure 1 and Figure 8). This lot is included in the Hawkesbury LEP listing for the South Windsor Presbyterian Church, but the listing does not capture the two northwest–southeast oriented rows of burials fronting Church Street (which are the oldest burials at the cemetery and are outside any existing lot boundaries). It also does not capture the additional memorials found at the northeast and east edges of the site in Lot 7016 DP 1029612 (Figure 1).

### Physical Description

The site slopes gradually downhill to the southeast, with visible burials concentrated on the high point of the site along the northwest Church Street frontage. A modern water pumping station has been constructed on the site at the southeast corner of Bell Street and Church Street.

Older monuments are situated towards Church Street and consist of sandstone stelae with footstones or kerbing, some with cast iron enclosures. A wide range of monumental styles and materials are represented through the mid to late nineteenth century, including fine relief carving on stelae, black granite, marble and sandstone obelisks (Figure 14), and pedestals with draped urn sculptural elements. A notable monument includes a cast iron pedestal with a draped urn at the end of a column for Mary Ann Robertson (d. 1895) and her two sons, James (d. 1885) and Donald (d. 1889), likely created by her husband, blacksmith Donald Robertson. The column has been broken and is sitting loose within the cast iron enclosure surrounding the grave.

Twentieth-century monuments are located at the southeast end of the site, including concrete rendered brick desk-and-slab monuments with marble or black granite tablets. More recent monuments include low cambered black granite desks.

Additional monument remnants were found along the northeast boundary of the former cemetery, with a sandstone stele marking the site of Henry McCourt (d. 1858) and a sandstone altar tomb with an indecipherable inscription located immediately southeast of a large culvert leading beneath the rail corridor (Figure 9, Figure 12). A pile of broken stelae has been dumped around these memorials. In the eastern area of the site, additional sandstone stelae and fragments were located in three places surrounded by a large shrub (Figure 12, Figure 13).

### *Landscape*

No formal landscaping such as paths, drains or plantings is evident within the site. Extensive modern drainage associated with a culvert beneath the rail corridor in the east and service trenches feeding into the pumping station are evident at the western corner of the site (Figure 1).

No signage identifies the cemetery.

## Condition

South Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery is in fair condition. Vandalism is evident at the site, possibly indicated by collapsed slabs, broken columns and obelisks, and the destruction of isolated monuments on the outskirts of the cemetery near the rail corridor (Figure 13). The site is not enclosed by gates at any location, and cars park actively on the Church Street frontage immediately adjacent to the oldest monuments with no barrier to protect them. Several heavily leaning and toppled stelae in these areas may have been pushed or impacted by cars.

Unmarked burials were evident in a small clearing at the south end of the actively buried area (Figure 1). Anomalies in the grass with consistent orientation and spacing to the adjacent marked graves suggest that this part of the site may contain unmarked burials.

## Key Issues

- The current listing on the LEP does not capture the entire cemetery area.
- Lack of barriers to protect monuments from vehicles or vandals.
- Extensive vandalism of outlying monuments.
- Potential for pre-cemetery phase historical archaeological remains associated with brickmaking.
- No signage identifies the cemetery.

## Interested Groups

Council welcomes the interest and support of the community in relation to the upkeep and improvement of cemeteries in its care. Some of the key interest groups and information sources relevant to this cemetery include:

- Presbyterian Historical Society;
- Hawkesbury Historical Society;
- Hawkesbury Cemeteries Register Group (update Cemetery Register record);
- Hawkesbury Family History Group; and
- relatives and descendants.



Figure 8 Aerial showing existing lot boundaries and graves outside current LEP listing area in the northeast fronting Church Street. (Source: SIX Maps, 2019)



Figure 9 2019 aerial showing the location of damaged monuments (grey) and possible unmarked burials (orange). (Source: Nearmap with GML overlay, 2019)



Figure 10 View looking northeast over the cemetery, with Windsor Station beyond. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 11 Examples of natural subsidence within burial plots. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 12 View looking north showing unidentified burial furniture east of the main burial ground. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 13 Damaged headstone fragments within the cemetery. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)





Figure 14 Example of a grand monument (Walker family). (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

## Historical Archaeological Potential

**Since South Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery is an old and largely intact cemetery, the graves provide significant potential archaeological information about early burials and burial practices.**

'Archaeological potential' refers to the likelihood of archaeological remains to survive at a site. It should be distinguished from 'archaeological significance', which refers to the heritage values of any remains that may prove to have survived. Thus, there may be 'low potential' for certain remains to survive, but if they do survive, they might be assessed as being of 'high significance' (for example, if they are rare examples from the convict period).

The potential archaeological resource within a cemetery can include evidence from a variety of different activities and associated elements depending on the history of the place before and during its existing function. Historical archaeological evidence associated with pre-cemetery activity may have resulted from ephemeral uses of the area including land clearing and timber-getting as areas such as the Hawkesbury began to be settled by Europeans.

In the case of South Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery, evidence exists to indicate that the site was used for brickmaking activity prior to its dedication as a cemetery. An 1833 survey plan shows a small brick kiln north of George Street and a larger hut building across the eastern site boundary that were most likely demolished when the cemetery was dedicated (Figure 2). These features may have been used in the 1820s to supply materials for construction of local houses, including a substantial brick premises located to the north.<sup>6</sup> In addition, a lagoon originally located on the site has since been partially filled in and directed to a culvert visible under the train line east of the site. The infilling of this natural feature has potential to provide archaeological evidence associated with the pre-1830s materials used to resume the area. This historical archaeological evidence associated with pre-cemetery establishment and use may be assessed as having local or state significance, depending on its nature and extent.

Many of the cemeteries identified in this SCMP are considered likely to have high archaeological potential in association with the burials that have been excavated in each. Although interments currently cover each cemetery to varying degrees, these hold significance for the data they might provide with regards to past ways of life and cultural perceptions of life and death. Most of the interments (including unmarked burials) would be of local significance, while the remains of individuals of historical or cultural significance in NSW would have the potential to be of state significance.

Changes to landscape elements through their use as cemeteries as well as gradual burial of some features (particularly in areas not regularly frequented or landscaped or where flood activity is likely to have washed away, moved or buried some elements) have likely resulted in their partial or complete burial. Buried or partially demolished landscaping elements associated with cultural landscapes of exceptional or high significance have the potential to be of state significance, depending on their nature and extent. Other elements associated with creating formal landscapes within the Council cemeteries would be of local significance.

Examples of activities and remains that may retain historical evidence include:

Activity	Potential Remains
Early land clearing	Tree roots, charcoal deposits, artefact scatters, soil deposits, evidence of camp sites etc.
Pre-cemetery activity	<b>Brick kiln, large 'hut' building, potential brickmaking evidence.</b>
Burials	Skeletal remains, coffins, coffin hardware, grave goods, utilitarian items (buttons, buckles etc).
Grave furniture	Headstones, crosses etc that may have fallen or been moved or vandalised.
Former landscaping	Paths, edging, fence rails, etc.

In addition to visible graves, grave goods and associated elements, the South Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery has the potential to retain the following buried historical era archaeological remains:

- evidence associated with use of the site for brickmaking activity prior to its dedication as a cemetery, including remains of a small brick kiln north of George Street and a larger hut building across the east boundary;
- remains associated with earlier fencing phases at the cemetery; and
- unrecorded inhumations and associated remains including footstones, headstones and other grave goods.

It is also important to remember that if any archaeological evidence relating to Aboriginal use is discovered at the cemetery, including during any general maintenance works, then works should cease in the area and the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) (formerly Office of Environment & Heritage [OEH]) must be notified immediately.

## Significance

### Assessment of Significance

The following table provides a heritage assessment for the South Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery site against the State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria:

#### SHR Criterion a) [Historical significance]

South Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery has historical significance at a local level as it demonstrates the early growth of the area and expansion of agricultural settlement in Windsor. Established in the 1830s, one kilometre away from the recently built Presbyterian church, the cemetery is representative of the increasing and diversifying community of Windsor. The cemetery has been in continuous use from the 1830s to the present, demonstrating its ongoing significance to the local community. The cemetery contains several notable burials which contribute to its historical significance, including members of prominent local families and Windsor's first mayor, Robert Dick (d. 1898).

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

#### SHR Criterion b) [Associative significance]

South Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery has associations with the first Presbyterian settlers in the Hawkesbury area, including members of the Walker, Bushell and Slaughter families, and notable Presbyterian identities including the first local Presbyterian Reverend Mathew Adam.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

#### SHR Criterion c) [Aesthetic significance]

Although South Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery contains a small number of notable monuments, many have been damaged and are in poor condition, which has contributed to the degradation of its visual appeal. The cemetery is not known to feature designs by notable masons or craftsmen, nor does it demonstrate landmark qualities within the town.

The cemetery is not considered to meet the threshold for this criterion.

#### SHR Criterion d) [Social significance]

The South Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery has strong associations with the local Windsor community and contributes to the community's sense of place. The cemetery has been a focus for the Presbyterian denomination of the local area since its establishment in 1838.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

**SHR Criterion e) [Research potential]**

The monuments in South Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery provide data for the study of the local community and for family history. The graves themselves provide potential archaeological information about early burials and burial practices, which would become apparent in any geophysical survey.

The site has the potential to contain buried remains of a brick kiln and extensive 'hut' building removed c1833 when the cemetery was created.

There are several unmarked and unrecorded burials apparent on the edges of the cemetery.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

**SHR Criterion f) [Rarity]**

Although the cemetery is notable for its age, there are many rural cemeteries of a similar age and older. It is one of many examples of its type and does not demonstrate designs of particular interest.

The cemetery is not considered to meet the threshold for this criterion.

**SHR Criterion g) [Representativeness]**

South Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery is historically comparable with other early rural colonial burial grounds. Together with other nearby cemeteries, including Richmond Presbyterian and Ebenezer Uniting Church, it demonstrates the principal characteristics of a typology of early colonial rural cemeteries.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

**Integrity/Intactness**

South Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery has been subject to a high degree of vandalism and a number of damaged burial plots, headstones and monuments. The former enclosing fence has been removed. Several broken grave markers can be found across the open space surrounding the cemetery. Heavily leaning and toppled stelae in these areas may have been impacted by elephants.

Despite this, some notable monuments remain intact and the earliest graves in the cemetery are still extant.

The site has the potential to contain intact buried remains of a brick kiln and extensive 'hut' building removed c1833 when the cemetery was created.

Evidence for several unmarked and unrecorded burials is apparent on the edges of the cemetery.

## Statement of Significance

*South Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery has cultural heritage significance at a local level as a place of spiritual importance to the Windsor Presbyterian community. Established in the 1830s, it demonstrates the growth and expansion of early agricultural settlement in Windsor and particularly the increasing Presbyterian population. The cemetery is associated with the first Presbyterian settlers in the Hawkesbury area, including members of the Walker, Bushell and Slaughter families, and notable Presbyterian identities. The cemetery is important to the local Presbyterian community and other members of the community for whom it contributes to their sense of place and family history. As with many early colonial cemeteries, it has high potential to yield information about both early burial customs and archaeological data associated with these and remains of a pre-1830s brick kiln and associated building formerly on the site. The cemetery demonstrates a typology of rural cemeteries in small colonial towns and is historically comparative with nearby cemeteries including Richmond Presbyterian and Ebenezer Uniting Church.*

## Management and Care

The table below identifies cemetery elements and recommended actions to consider in the future management of South Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery. The priority of action for each activity at the cemetery is suggested subject to ongoing Council and grant funding opportunities.

Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommended Action
Heritage Listing	Correct LEP listing for cemetery boundary.	High	Update LEP listing to include entirety of cemetery area within the listing boundary.
Landscaping/ Planting	Improve landscaping and plantings where relevant to enhance the cemetery grounds and encourage visitation and visibility of monuments and flourishing flora.  Retain heritage feel of the cemetery.	High	Undertake light weeding and regular maintenance of the existing landscape with community volunteer assistance.
		Low	Consider installation of seating where appropriate.
Unmarked Burials  Historical Archaeology	Make attempts to locate unmarked graves to protect them from accidental damage or disturbance.  Understand the archaeology of the site to assist in future management.	Low	Consider a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) study prior to any subsurface disturbance associated with general cemetery maintenance or other works to identify and formally record the likely location of unmarked graves and associated grave goods.
		High	A Historical Archaeological Assessment report should be prepared by a qualified archaeologist prior to undertaking any maintenance that requires ground disturbance. The assessment should determine the likelihood of intact unmarked burials and survival of potential pre-cemetery brickmaking activity at the site.
Security— Fences, Gates and Lighting	Provide adequate fencing and security to protect against issues including antisocial behaviour, vandalism, illegal dumping, property encroachments and carparking on unfenced edges.	High	Install security fencing around the boundary that is in keeping with the visual qualities and heritage value of the cemetery. Consider reinstating a fence designed to be sympathetic with the original boundary fence (now lost).
		High	Install gates that lock after dark. Install sensor lighting in areas where vandalism is common.
		High	Erect gate or removable bollards to discourage vehicle access to cemetery.
		Ongoing	Maintain security elements.
Signage	Promote understanding by identifying the site through the signage.  Signage could also be used to assist visitation, community and cultural interest by providing a brief history of the site.	High and Ongoing	Conduct regular drive-by and physical inspections of cemeteries to monitor vandalism or other issues affecting safety and significance.
		Low	Erect cemetery signage at Church Street entrance.

	Depending on the level of vandalism and safety at the cemetery, also consider identifying significant graves and monuments and/or providing interesting information about prominent grave and monument styles, landscape and flora species present.	Low/ medium	Consider low-key interpretation/signage or online <b>information on Council's website.</b>
Restoration	Undertake restoration of significant monuments within the cemetery.  Several vandalised and/or broken stelae and headstones need repair or reinstating.	Medium  Medium  High and Ongoing	Source funding to engage specialists to restore significant monuments, headstones and grave furniture.  Treat cemetery ironwork against rust.  Workers and volunteers should be encouraged to be familiar with working on heritage sites and should be provided with copies of documents such as the <i>Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .
Significant Graves	Retain the condition of significant graves, headstones and monuments.	Medium	Work with living relatives/families to source funding/grants to assist in the conservation of these items.
Columbaria, Lawn and Monument Interments	Accommodate demand for ashes interments/columbaria, lawn or monument burials within active cemetery areas.	Ongoing	If relevant, ensure availability of sufficient space for memorialisation in columbaria, lawn and monument sections within active cemetery areas.  Identify areas for future expansion as space for these types of interment decreases.
Safety Issues	Identify cemetery elements that may pose a safety threat to visitors or their own stability whether due to vandalism, age/deterioration, ground movement or other causes.	Ongoing  High and Ongoing  Ongoing	Work with living relatives/families or interested local community support groups to source funding/grants to assist with items affected by these issues.  Ensure that safety issues are addressed as they arise, and that specialist assistance is sought when repairing fallen or dangerous monuments or trees.  Maintain security elements.
Interested Groups	Continue to engage and work with interested communities, groups and individuals.	Ongoing  High and Ongoing  Medium and Ongoing	Continue to identify, acknowledge and work with interested community groups and individuals including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presbyterian Historical Society;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Cemeteries Register Group (update record);</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Family History Group; and</li> <li>• relatives and descendants.</li> </ul> Consider developing a work plan together with interested groups for the cemetery.  Local cemetery community groups should be encouraged and supported to undertake training in the recording, maintenance and conservation of historic cemeteries. Training could be provided by stonemasons, cemetery workers, or any other



		Ongoing	profession that works with cemeteries on a regular basis.  Liaise with authors of Hawkesbury on the Net Cemetery Register and provide access to this SCMP to enable update of data for this cemetery in the Cemetery Register.
Accessible Funding/ Resources	Investigate available grants.  Investigate the use of volunteers, schools, local community services and others to assist in appropriate aspects of cemetery maintenance.	Ongoing  Ongoing	Work with living relatives/families and/or interested local community support groups to source funding/grants to assist in the conservation of identified items and to undertake ongoing research into the history of the cemetery.  Use the actions in this SCMP to guide applications for funding for conservation and maintenance work.

## References

- <sup>1</sup> See for example the 1843 reference to the Scotch Church in the *Sydney Morning Herald*: <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12418420>>.
- <sup>2</sup> Jack, I, 'Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery: History of the Site', unpublished document, February 2019.
- <sup>3</sup> Adam Lenskyj genealogy of Podusteanu and Stoica/Stoika, March 2003, updated July 2015 <<http://lenskyj.ca/Adam.Lenskyj-genealogy-Podusteanu&Stoica&legacy.family.photos-1850.1920%27s-1964.html>>.
- <sup>4</sup> Jack, I, 'Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery: History of the Site', unpublished document, February 2019.
- <sup>5</sup> Auld, J and Nichols, M, Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery—Windsor, Hawkesbury on the Net: Cemetery Register, December 2004 & January 2005, viewed 6 February 2019 <[http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/windsor\\_presbyterian/index.html](http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/windsor_presbyterian/index.html)>; Murray, L 2016, *Sydney Cemeteries: A Field Guide*, NewSouth, Sydney, pp 300–301; Nichols, M, *Hawkesbury Cemeteries*, prepared for Hawkesbury City Council, February 2010.
- <sup>6</sup> Jack, I, 'Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery: History of the Site', unpublished document, February 2019.



Figure 15 South Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



# Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery

Handbook

**GML**  
HERITAGE

## Overview

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Other Name(s)	'Windsor Catholic Cemetery'
Heritage Listing(s)	<i>Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP), Listing I259</i>
Date Dedicated	After 1825
Period of Use	c1825 to 1970
Location (Coordinates)	Lat: -33.612410; Long: 150.813880
Primary Address	Corner of George Street, Richmond Road, and Macquarie Street, Windsor, NSW
Property Description	Lots 101 and 102 DP 1101551
Parish	St Matthew
County	Cumberland
Local Government Area	Hawkesbury
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Deerubbin

This handbook is intended as a handy standalone guide for use by Hawkesbury City Council (Council) or for issue to community groups to guide their understanding and contribution to the management, care and maintenance of this cemetery. Relevant sections of this handbook should be updated as additional historical or other information becomes available and/or works are undertaken that change the condition of the cemetery.

The Management & Care table at the end of the Handbook identifies elements, recommended actions and timing priorities to consider in the future management of the cemetery. Using the Handbook as a starting point to develop a Cemetery Working Plan, relatives, descendants, interested groups and individuals, working closely with Council, can be guided to manage the cemetery together: to implement high priority actions first, seek specialist advice and training when needed and together create opportunities for ongoing care of the cemetery and its elements. Engaged management aims to enhance visitation, community interest and appreciation of these special places of eternal rest and commemoration.

## Summary History

- The Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery was established soon after 1825 and is one of the earliest formal Roman Catholic cemeteries in NSW. The earliest Roman Catholic cemetery within the colony was **St Patrick's Roman Catholic Cemetery**, established in 1825 at Parramatta. The Windsor Roman **Catholic Cemetery is 'significant as the first non-establishment cemetery in Windsor and, after Ebenezer, the first cemetery on the Hawkesbury not directly linked to Anglicanism.'**<sup>1</sup>
- The cemetery reflects the increasing number of Irish Catholic colonists and the **government's more** positive attitude towards them in comparison to preceding decades. Most Irish Catholics who arrived during the early years of the colony were transported as convicts for their role in the 1798 Irish rebellion against British rule. Between 1800 and 1804, some Irish Catholics continued to plan small rallies and uprisings, most of which were put down before they could begin. The only exception was the Battle of Vinegar Hill in 1804, where Irish rebels aimed to overtake Parramatta and Port Jackson to establish Irish rule. The 1804 rebellion was quashed with the Irish leaders killed during battle against the NSW Corps. Because of the 1798 and 1804 Irish rebellions, the early governors held a general distrust of the Irish Catholic settlers. The right to hold Catholic mass was discontinued after the 1804 rebellion. Not until 1820 was there was official recognition of the needs of the Catholic population with the arrival of two priests, J.J. Therry and P. Conolly. Governor Macquarie allowed for the occasional Catholic mass to be held at the Windsor barracks while subscriptions were collected for the erection of Catholic chapels in Sydney and other centres including Sydney.
- Among the 80-plus original European settlers who arrived in the Hawkesbury district in 1794, only a handful were Roman Catholic. By 1828, of the of 4454 Hawkesbury residents, 929 were Catholic. The Hawkesbury Catholic community centred around Windsor but also lived in Richmond, Wilberforce, Pitt Town and further out in Kurrajong to the Colo River.
- In June 1825, *The Australian* published that the land in Campbelltown had been gifted to the Roman Catholic Church for establishing a Catholic based burial ground, chapel and school house. The same article stated that the Roman Catholic Chaplin **was seeking 'to procure places of burial separate from those of the other Establishment'**.<sup>2</sup> In October 1825, the right to a separate burial ground was extended to Catholic inhabitants of Sydney, Liverpool and Windsor.
- During the first two decades of use, burials seem to be scattered across the southern and eastern portions of the cemetery. By the 1850s, all burials were in the southern portion of the site.
- In 1889, the cemetery was resurveyed, clearly dividing the site into two allotments. The southern allotment was labelled on the survey plan as a burial ground and the northern allotment was reserved for a school/chapel (never built). Both allotments were fenced off.
- There was a creek in the northern allotment that ran between George and Macquarie Streets. The creek was converted into a culvert and blocked off at the Macquarie Street end. It appears the northern allotment of the cemetery was never used for burials or built on and by the 1940s, this allotment was used as a paddock.
- In 1941, the northern allotment was revoked from the Roman Catholic Burial Ground for the extension of Richmond Road to Macquarie Street. The road was completed by September 1955.
- In July 1969, Windsor Municipal Council took over the management of the cemetery. All fencing was removed and the cemetery was landscaped.
- The cemetery was closed in 1970 and contains some 3000 burials. Research undertaken as part of the Hawkesbury on the Net: Cemetery Register indicates at least 500 people recorded in burial registers but with no surviving headstone.
- This cemetery is listed in the Hawkesbury LEP as a heritage item of local significance.

### Notable Burials

- The earliest surviving headstone is that of John Pendergast (d. 1833), a former Irish Catholic convict.
- Mary Pawson (d. 1835)—**1794 settler, who was acquitted in Hawkesbury's first criminal trial. She was accused of burning down her neighbour's house.**
- James Augustine Cunneen (1826–1889), farmer, politician and land agent.
- The headstone erected by Michael McMahon for his daughter Catherine Eather and her five children, all tragically drowned in the 1867 flood, the highest on record (19.2m).

### Notable Monuments

- A variety of symbolic carvings in the sandstone headstones including Madonna lily, seraphs, angels and cavalry crosses.
- Mary Moor or Moore (d. 1835)—one of the most elaborate obelisk monuments in the cemetery.
- Henry Michael Hale McQuade (d. 1893), owned Fairfield House, Member for Hawkesbury 1882–1885 and manager of **Her Majesty's Theatre, Sydney** (Figure 16). He entertained lavishly and patronised many sports.
- The Lehane headstone, Margaret (d. 1884) and John (d. 1900). **Apparently carved by Charles O'Kelly who worked for stonemason George Anderson.** Sometimes known as the angel grave.
- Lisa Murray notes '[a]n upright semicircular cast-iron stele with an ivy border (Figure 15) is a rare survivor in a Sydney cemetery.'<sup>3</sup>



Figure 1 Aerial showing the boundary and the location of the oldest burials. (Source: Nearmap with GML overlay)



Figure 2 1833 survey by Felton Matthew. Written on the plan is 'Roman Catholic Chapel and Burial Ground'. (Source: AO Map 1849, State Archives and Records, reproduced in AHMS, Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery: Historical Archaeological Test Excavation Report, report prepared for NSW Road and Traffic Authority, June 2006, p 20)

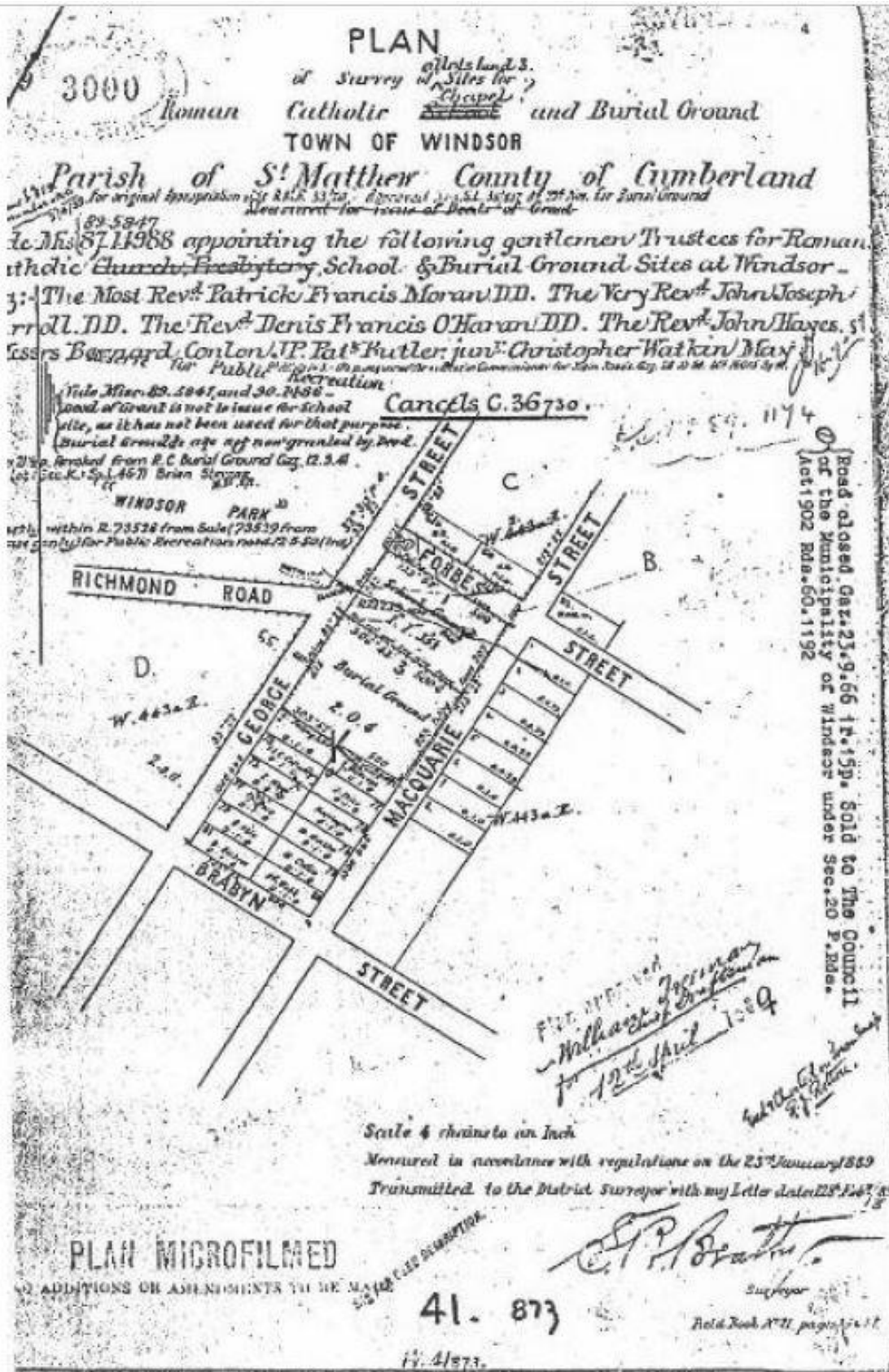


Figure 3 1889 survey plan showing a division between the northern and southern portions of the site. (Source: Land and Property Information, Sydney Map W41.873, reproduced in AHMS, Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery: Historical Archaeological Test Excavation Report, report prepared for NSW Road and Traffic Authority, June 2006, p 21)



Figure 4 1943 aerial photograph of Windsor Roman Catholic Burial Ground. (Source: RTA May 1943, reproduced in AHMS, Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery: Historical Archaeological Test Excavation Report, report for NSW Road and Traffic Authority, June 2006, p 23)





Figure 5 1955 aerial photograph showing the extension of Richmond Road to Macquarie Road through the northern portion of the site. (Source: Lands Photo Run 17[28/9/55]230-5043, reproduced in AHMS, Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery: Historical Archaeological Test Excavation Report, report prepared for NSW Road and Traffic Authority, June 2006, p 25)



Figure 6 1961 aerial photograph. (Source: Lands Photo Run 16W [10/7/61] 1057-5206, reproduced in AHMS, Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery: Historical Archaeological Test Excavation Report, report prepared for NSW Road and Traffic Authority, June 2006, p 25)



Figure 7 Close-up of 1967 Town of Windsor plan showing the Roman Catholic burial ground. (Source: Historical Land Records Viewer, Land and Property Information)



Figure 8 1980 photograph of Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery. Michael Timmins (d. 1850) on right (row 8, plot 5). (Source: National Trust [NSW])

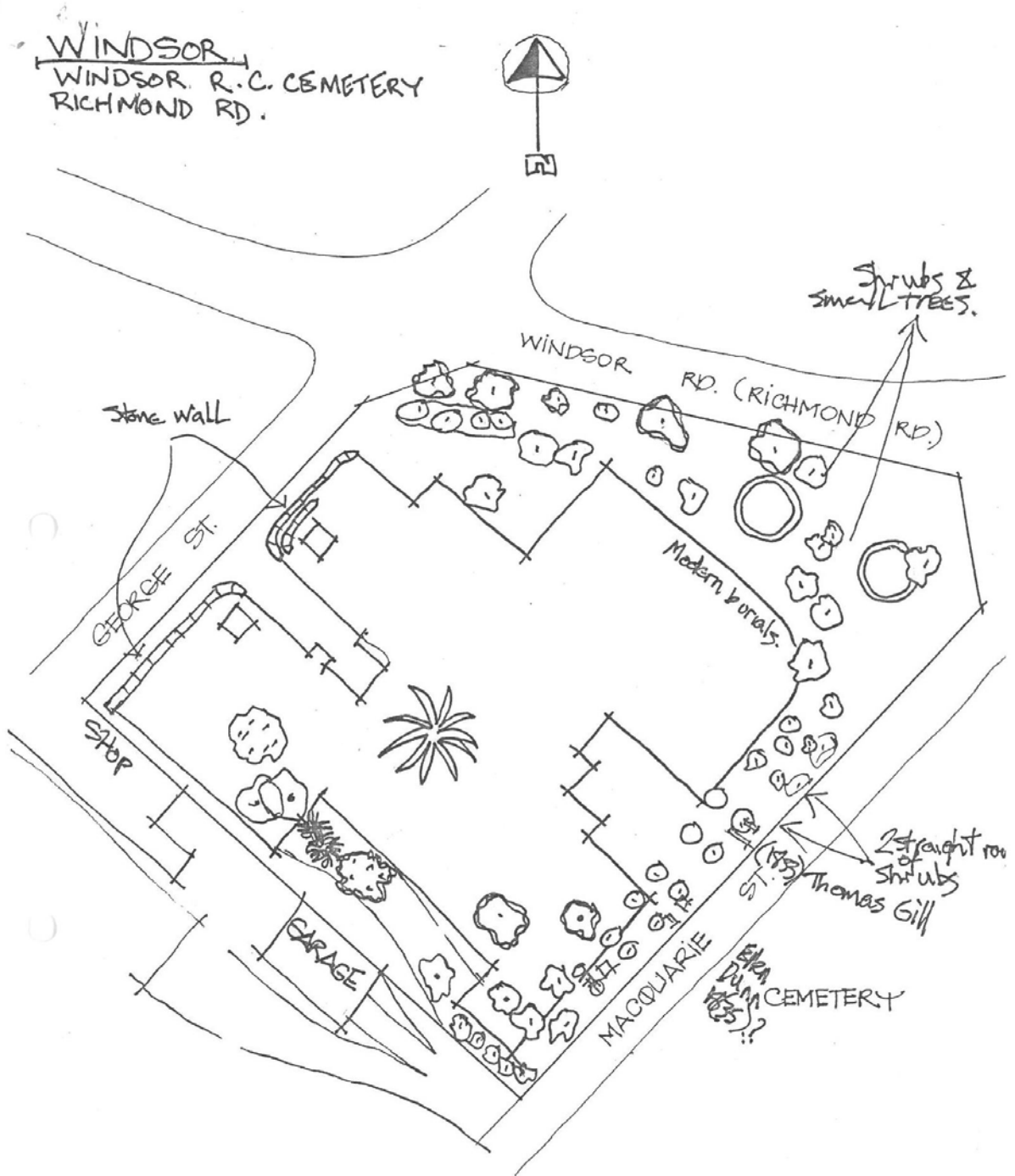


Figure 9 1980 sketch of Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery. (Source: National Trust [NSW], Windsor Catholic Cemetery Index Card)

## Description

### Setting

The cemetery is located in the centre of Windsor and is bound by three roads, those being Macquarie Street (The Northern Road), George Street, and Hawkesbury Valley Way. No visible fencing is evident to define the southwestern cemetery boundary, with some burials being located metres from neighbouring development. The older southern portion of the cemetery retains an open, park-like atmosphere.

### Physical Description

Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery is situated in an open green, grassed space bounded by George Street to the northwest, Hawkesbury Valley Way to the northeast, and Macquarie Street to the southeast. The southwestern boundary of the cemetery is adjacent to low scale residential development. The site slopes downhill gently to the northeast.

The site is currently divided into two allotments—Lot 101 DP 1101551 is located at the southern end of the site and captures the majority of the burials. Lot 102 DP 1101551 is the grassed area fronting Hawkesbury Valley Road at the northern end of the site. Both allotments are captured in the LEP heritage listing for the cemetery.

The oldest monuments are focused in the southern corner of the site, extending along the southwest site boundary. Some are situated beneath trees and shrubs and have been impacted by roots and vegetation.

There is currently no fencing enclosing any portion of the site, and no identifying signage. There is no evidence of formal pathways or drainage. The cemetery was most likely originally accessed via an entrance and driveway centrally positioned on George Street where a space without monuments remains evident between rows (Figure 1). Earlier aerial images (Figures 4 to 6) show an entryway in this location and a 1980 National Trust sketch indicates an earlier stone boundary wall either side of an entryway along George Street (Figure 10).

There is a memorial garden at the northern corner of the site at the intersection of George Street and Hawkesbury Valley Way.

### Condition

Overall the cemetery is in fair condition. Vandalism is a key issue at the site and is focused within the southwestern area of the cemetery where the oldest monuments are located. Broken stelae are visible in a garden adjacent to a neighbouring driveway in the southern corner.

The headstone and footstone for Charles Hand's (c1836) burial are hidden in shrubs in the southern corner of the cemetery.

Monuments are located very close to adjacent properties along the east cemetery boundary. Those in close proximity to George and Macquarie Street properties are particularly susceptible to damage or loss.

### Key Issues

- Repeated vandalism, especially along the southwestern site boundary and at the southern corner.
- Monuments very close to adjacent properties on George Street and in close proximity to Macquarie Street are particularly susceptible to damage or loss (Figure 14).
- Lack of fences or barriers to protect monuments from vehicles or vandals.
- Lack of signage.
- Unmarked graves within the dedicated cemetery area along Macquarie Street.

### Interested Groups

Council welcomes the interest and support of the community in relation to the upkeep and improvement of cemeteries in its care. Some of the key interest groups and information sources relevant to this cemetery include:

- Australian Catholic Historical Society;
- Hawkesbury Cemeteries Register Group (update Cemetery Register record);
- Hawkesbury Family History Group;
- Hawkesbury Historical Society; and
- relatives and descendants.



Figure 8 View over the cemetery looking southwest from Hawkesbury Valley Way. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 9 View over the cemetery looking south. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 10 Example of a damaged burial plot. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 11 Headstones in the southern corner of the site. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 12 A burial plot in close proximity to commercial property on the eastern boundary at George Street. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 15 Cast iron stele with ivy border. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)





Figure 16 McQuade monument. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

## Historical Archaeological Potential

### *Previous Archaeology at the Cemetery*

An archaeological assessment report and a historical archaeological test excavation were undertaken for an area of the cemetery where roadworks were proposed around three borders.<sup>4</sup> The following results were recorded in the AHMS excavation report:

*In the Paine Park zone no historic relics (including human burials) were observed within the proposed development area.*

*In the Richmond Road (south) zone no evidence for human burials was observed. Most pre-existing soil deposits in this zone had been cut out during road construction in the 1950s and 1960s. A single localised area at the western extremity of the proposed development did however produce evidence of a late nineteenth or early twentieth century drainage channel and a small number of pits and postholes associated with use of the land before circa 1950.*

*In the Macquarie Street zone a total of 18 graves and 3 possible graves were identified. These were restricted to the southern and central portions of the zone and within the area gazetted as a cemetery. Other features observed in this zone consisted of postholes forming the eastern and northern boundaries of the Cemetery.<sup>5</sup>*

The 2005 Archaeological Assessment for the site should be referenced to provide guidance on any proposed future subsurface works at the site. The 2006 AHMS investigations identified unmarked graves and gravestones as well as postholes associated with boundary fences for the gazetted cemetery boundary along Macquarie Street. A late nineteenth/early twentieth century drainage channel in the Richmond Road area was also investigated. That report is provided as an appendix in this SCMP.

**Since Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery is an old and largely intact cemetery, the graves provide significant potential archaeological information about early burials and burial practices.**

‘Archaeological potential’ refers to the likelihood of archaeological remains to survive at a site. It should be distinguished from ‘archaeological significance’, which refers to the heritage values of any remains that may prove to have survived. Thus, there may be ‘low potential’ for certain remains to survive, but if they do survive, they might be assessed as being of ‘high significance’ (for example, if they are rare examples from the convict period).

The potential archaeological resource within a cemetery can include evidence from a variety of different activities and associated elements depending on the history of the place before and during its existing function. Historical archaeological evidence associated with pre-cemetery activity can result from ephemeral uses of the area including land clearing and timber-getting as areas such as the Hawkesbury began to be settled by Europeans. More substantial evidence might include the remains of early farms and associated outbuildings, church facilities and sealed artefact deposits. Historical archaeological evidence associated with pre-cemetery establishment and use may be assessed as having local or state significance, depending on its nature and extent.

Many of the cemeteries identified in this SCMP are considered likely to have high archaeological potential in association with the burials that have been excavated in each. Although interments currently cover each cemetery to varying degrees, as archaeological items, these hold significance for the data they might provide with regards to past ways of life and cultural perceptions of life and death. Most of the interments (including unmarked burials) would be of local significance, while the remains of individuals of historical or cultural significance in NSW would have the potential to be of state significance.

Changes to landscape elements through their use as cemeteries as well as gradual burial of some features (particularly in areas not regularly frequented or landscaped or where flood activity is likely to have washed away, moved or buried some elements) have likely resulted in their partial or complete burial. Buried or partially demolished landscaping elements associated with cultural landscapes of exceptional or high significance have the potential to be of state significance, depending on their nature and extent. Other elements associated with creating formal landscapes within the Council cemeteries would be of local significance.

Examples of activities and remains that may retain historical evidence include:

Activity	Potential Remains
Early land clearing	Tree roots, charcoal deposits, artefact scatters, soil deposits, evidence of camp sites etc.
Burials including unmarked graves	Skeletal remains, coffins, coffin hardware, grave goods and utilitarian items (buttons, buckles etc).
Grave furniture	Headstones, crosses etc that may have fallen or been moved or vandalised.
Former landscaping	Paths, edging, fence rails, etc.

It is also important to remember that if any archaeological evidence relating to Aboriginal use is discovered at the cemetery, including during any general maintenance works, then works should cease in the area and the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) must be notified immediately.

## Significance

The following table provides a heritage assessment for the Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery site against the State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria:

### Assessment of Significance

#### SHR Criterion a) [Historical significance]

Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery has historical significance at a local level as it demonstrates the early growth of the township and expansion of the settlement at Windsor. Established after 1825, it was one of the earliest formal Roman Catholic cemeteries in NSW and the first cemetery on the Hawkesbury not directly linked to Anglicanism. The cemetery reflects the increasing numbers of Irish Catholic colonists and the changing attitudes towards them following the events of the 1798 and 1804 rebellions, and the needs of the Catholic population being formally recognised with mass held at Windsor Barracks and Catholic churches starting to be erected. The cemetery contains at least one burial of one of the first settlers in this area who arrived in 1794. Many graves belong to early Hawkesbury settlers and military personnel who contributed to the development of the Windsor area. The cemetery was used from the 1830s to the 1960s and contains the bodies of approximately 3000 Catholics, of whom 500 are listed on the existing 261 monuments.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

#### SHR Criterion b) [Associative significance]

Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery has associations with early Irish Catholic colonists in the area and the increasing Catholic population of the area. The land for the cemetery was chosen by the Reverend John Therry and the magistrate William Cox. They initially intended it to contain a chapel and school. Therry was a popular and influential early Catholic priest, at times the only priest ministering in the colony. Cox was responsible for the construction of numerous buildings in the Windsor area as well as the first road over the Blue Mountains.

Some of the first Irish transported to the colony are buried in the cemetery, including one who settled in the area in 1794 and two who were assigned to farms in the area in 1796. The cemetery is associated with some of the area's earliest settlers.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

#### SHR Criterion c) [Aesthetic significance]

Although Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery contains a number of notable monuments, many have been damaged and are in poor condition, which has contributed to the degradation of its visual appeal. The cemetery is not known to feature designs by notable masons or craftsmen, nor does it demonstrate landmark qualities within the town. While it retains some elements of its former park-like aspect and semi-rural setting, it has been considerably impacted by the existing realignment of Richmond Road.

The cemetery is not considered to meet the threshold for inclusion under this criterion.

**SHR Criterion d) [Social significance]**

The Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery has social significance as an important focus of the Windsor township since the early nineteenth century, particularly the Roman Catholic population. As the cemetery was operating until 1970, there are generations in the area and around NSW today who have family members interred there.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

**SHR Criterion e) [Research potential]**

Any archaeological investigation and recording in the cemetery would contribute to the knowledge of the place. The monuments in Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery provide data for the study of the local community and for family history. The graves themselves provide potential archaeological information about early burials and burial practices, which would become apparent in any geophysical survey. Identification of unmarked graves, particularly in areas of the cemetery that currently appear to be vacant, would add to the appreciation of the cemetery's full extent and original layout. Skeletal remains recovered from the cemetery would provide evidence of early colonial health, mortality and diet.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

**SHR Criterion f) [Rarity]**

The cemetery is notable as one of the earliest formal Roman Catholic cemeteries in NSW and the first cemetery on the Hawkesbury not directly linked to Anglicanism. Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery is likely the second or third Catholic cemetery established in the colony.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

**SHR Criterion g) [Representativeness]**

Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery is historically comparable to other early rural colonial burial grounds. Together with other cemeteries in the Hawkesbury region, including St James Anglican Cemetery, it demonstrates the principal characteristics of a typology of early colonial rural cemeteries.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

**Integrity/Intactness**

Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery has been subject to some degree of vandalism and contains a number of damaged burial plots, headstones and monuments. Several broken grave markers can be found within the cemetery, particularly in the southern part of the site. Several notable monuments remain intact.

## Statement of Significance

*The Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery is one of the earliest formal Roman Catholic Cemeteries in New South Wales and was established soon after 1825. The earliest extant headstone dates from 1833. The cemetery closed in the 1960s and should contain some 3000 burials. Among these are the burials of early Irish settlers in the Hawkesbury region and military personnel stationed at Windsor. Its founding was associated with Father John Therry and William Cox and represents the Government's more positive attitudes to Irish Catholic colonists. While it retains some elements of its former park-like aspect and semi-rural setting, it has been considerably impacted by the existing realignment of Richmond Road. Its range of nineteenth and twentieth century monuments is typical of contemporary cemeteries. The local Catholic community and descendants of early Irish-Catholic Hawkesbury settlers are likely to have strong attachments to the cemetery and the people buried in it. Analysis of skeletal remains from the cemetery would provide evidence of the health, mortality and diet of early Hawkesbury settlers and would have a high level of research potential. The cemetery is considered to have a high level of Local significance.*

(Source: Office of Environment and Heritage [now DPIE], State Heritage Inventory, 'Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery', 2005)<sup>6</sup>

## Management and Care

The table below identifies cemetery elements and recommended actions to consider in the future management of Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery. The priority of action for each activity at the cemetery is suggested subject to ongoing Council and grant funding opportunities.

Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommended Action
Landscaping/ Planting	Improve landscaping and plantings where relevant to enhance the cemetery grounds and encourage visitation and visibility of monuments and flourishing flora.  Retain the heritage character of the cemetery.	High	Prune/maintain plantings on south and north boundaries to protect burials from further root/vegetation damage.
		High	Undertake light weeding and regular maintenance of the existing landscape with community volunteer assistance.
		Low	Consider installation of seating where appropriate.
Unmarked Burials	Make attempts to locate unmarked graves to protect them from accidental damage or disturbance.	Ongoing	GPR has previously been undertaken in parts of the cemetery where archaeological testing was conducted to locate potential unmarked burials and associated grave furniture prior to roadworks along cemetery boundaries (AHMS 2006).
Historical Archaeology	Understand the archaeology of the site to assist in future management.	Ongoing	The Historical Archaeological Assessment report for the site (Casey & Lowe 2005) should be referred to prior to undertaking any maintenance that requires ground disturbance.
Security— Fences, Gates and Lighting	Provide adequate fencing and security to protect against antisocial behaviour, vandalism, illegal dumping, property encroachments and carparking on unfenced edges.	High	Install security fencing around the cemetery boundary that is in keeping with the aesthetics of the cemetery.
		Medium	Consider installing gates that lock after dark and sensor lighting in areas where vandalism is common such as the southwestern area and south corner.
		Ongoing	Maintain security elements.
		High and Ongoing	Conduct regular drive-by and physical inspections of the cemetery to monitor vandalism or other issues affecting safety and significance.
Signage	Promote understanding by identifying the site through the signage.	Low	Erect cemetery signage at an appropriate entrance.
Signage	Promote understanding by identifying the site through the signage.  Consider signage to assist visitation, community and cultural interest by providing a brief history of the site.  Consider identifying significant graves and monuments and/or providing interesting information	Low	Erect cemetery signage at an appropriate entrance.
		Medium	Consider low-key interpretation/signage to encourage visitation and connection with the site <b>including online information on Council's website.</b>

	about prominent grave and monuments styles as well as landscape and flora species present.		
Restoration	Restore significant monuments within the cemetery.  Wrought iron and cast iron enclosures have been targeted by vandals; several stelae are knocked over and broken. Many graves are damaged by significant subsidence. Others are hidden within shrubs and overgrowth.	Medium  Medium  High and Ongoing	Source funding to restore significant monuments, headstones and grave furniture.  Treat cemetery ironwork against rust.  Workers and volunteers should be encouraged to be familiar with working on heritage sites and should be provided with copies of documents such as the <i>Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .
Significant Graves	Restore/retain the condition of significant graves, headstones and monuments.	Ongoing	Work with living relatives/families to source funding/grants to assist in the conservation of these items.
Safety Issues	Identify cemetery elements that may pose a safety threat to visitors or their own stability whether due to vandalism, age/deterioration, ground movement or other causes.	Ongoing  High and Ongoing  Ongoing	Work with living relatives/families or interested local community support groups to source funding/grants to assist in the conservation of these items.  Ensure that safety issues are addressed as they arise, and that specialist assistance is sought when repairing fallen or dangerous monuments or trees.  Maintain security elements.
Interested Groups	Continue to engage and work with interested communities, groups and individuals.	Ongoing  High and Ongoing  Medium and Ongoing	Continue to identify, acknowledge and work with interested community groups including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hawkesbury Historical Society;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Family History Group;</li> <li>• Australian Catholic Historical Society;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Cemeteries Register Group (update record); and</li> <li>• relatives and descendants.</li> </ul> Consider developing a work plan for the cemetery together with interested groups.  Local cemetery community groups should be encouraged and supported to undertake training in the recording, maintenance and conservation of historic cemeteries by stonemasons, cemetery workers, or any other profession that works with cemeteries on a regular basis.  Liaise with the authors of the Hawkesbury on the Net Cemetery Register and provide access to this SCMP to enable update of data for this cemetery in the Cemetery Register.
Accessible Funding/ Resources	Investigate available grants.  Investigate the use of volunteers, schools, local community services	Ongoing	Work with living relatives/families and/or interested local community support groups to source funding/grants to assist in the

	and others to assist in appropriate aspects of cemetery maintenance.	Ongoing	conservation of identified items and to undertake ongoing research into the history of the cemetery.  Use the actions in this SCMP to guide applications for funding for conservation and maintenance work.
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## References

- <sup>1</sup> Office of Environment and Heritage, State Heritage Inventory, 'Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery', viewed 23 January 2019 <<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=1741809>>.
- <sup>2</sup> 'Advertising', *The Australian*, 16 June 1825, p 1, viewed 6 March 2019 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article37074850>>.
- <sup>3</sup> Murray, L 2016, *Sydney Cemeteries: A Field Guide*, New South, Sydney, pp 298–299; Auld, J and Nichols, M, Windsor Catholic Cemetery—Windsor, Hawkesbury on the Net: Cemetery Register, November 2005 and February, March 2006, viewed 23 January 2019 <[http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/windsor\\_catholic/index.html](http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/windsor_catholic/index.html)>; National Trust (NSW), Windsor Catholic Cemetery Index Card, 1980; Office of Environment and Heritage, State Heritage Inventory, 'Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery', viewed 23 January 2019 <<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=1741809>>; Whitaker, A 2009, 'Castle Hill Convict Rebellion 1804', Dictionary of Sydney, viewed 22 February 2019 <[http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/castle\\_hill\\_convict\\_rebellion\\_1804](http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/castle_hill_convict_rebellion_1804)>.
- <sup>4</sup> Casey and Lowe Pty Ltd, 2005, *Final Archaeological Assessment Roman Catholic Cemetery Macquarie Street, South Windsor* for NSW Roads & Traffic Authority, January 2005.
- <sup>5</sup> AHMS, *Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery: Historical Archaeological Test Excavation Report*, for NSW Roads & Traffic Authority, June 2006, p 2.
- <sup>6</sup> Source of Statement of Significance in Local Environmental Plan listing, Casey and Lowe, 2005, Executive Summary, page i.



# McGraths Hill Methodist Cemetery

Handbook

**GML**  
HERITAGE

# Overview

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Other Name(s)	'McGraths Hill Methodist Cemetery', 'Methodist Cemetery, McGraths Hill', 'McGraths Hill Wesleyan Cemetery', 'Wesleyan Cemetery, McGraths Hill', 'Windsor Methodist Cemetery, McGraths Hill', 'Windsor Wesleyan Cemetery, McGraths Hill' and 'Methodist and Congregational Cemetery, McGraths Hill'
Heritage Listing(s)	<i>Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP)</i> , Listing I312
Date Dedicated	
Period of Use	c1839–present; first known burial 1851
Location (Coordinates)	Lat: 33°36'50.1"S Long: 150°50'08.0"E
Primary Address	5 Charles Street, McGraths Hill, NSW
Property Description	Lot 249 DP 1150102
Parish	Pitt Town
County	Cumberland
Local Government Area	Hawkesbury City Council
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Deerubbin

This handbook is intended as a handy standalone guide for use by Hawkesbury City Council (Council) or for issue to community groups to guide their understanding and contribution to the management, care and maintenance of this cemetery. Relevant sections of this handbook should be updated as additional historical or other information becomes available and/or works are undertaken that change the condition of the cemetery.

The Management & Care table at the end of the Handbook identifies elements, recommended actions and timing priorities to consider in the future management of the cemetery. Using the Handbook as a starting point to develop a Cemetery Working Plan, relatives, descendants, interested groups and individuals, working closely with Council, can be guided to manage the cemetery together: to implement high priority actions first, seek specialist advice and training when needed and together create opportunities for ongoing care of the cemetery and its elements. Engaged management aims to enhance visitation, community interest and appreciation of these special places of eternal rest and commemoration.

## Summary History

- The Methodist Church in Windsor was pioneered by former convict Edward Eagar in 1812. The first Methodist minister at Windsor was Samuel Leigh, with the first church built in 1818 but replaced in 1838. The establishment of this cemetery coincided with the opening of the first Methodist Church located in Windsor. When the cemetery was first laid out, the church could be seen from the cemetery. However, the earliest headstone is dated 1851.
- In July 1850, the first meeting of the Windsor Wesleyan Burial Ground Trust was held for the purpose of establishing a Wesleyan Methodist cemetery. Mr Crew, who attended the meeting, offered to sell to the Trust a small piece of land for establishing a burial ground.
- This cemetery is one of the oldest surviving Wesleyan Methodist cemeteries in Australia, along with the ones at Cherrybrook and Upper Castlereagh. Prior to this, the Wesleyans and Methodists of the Hawkesbury were buried elsewhere, including in the South Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery.
- One of the oldest headstones at this cemetery is Rebecca Cavanaugh (d. 1851). There are some headstones with earlier dates, including William Robinson (1839) and Richard Dyer (1842), but it is believed that these are memorials erected posthumously.
- This cemetery was operated by the Wesleyan Burial Ground Trust with members from the local Methodist church and later the Presbyterian Church. In 1966, the Windsor Municipal Council became the operating body for this church.
- Research undertaken as part of the Hawkesbury on the Net: Cemetery Register indicate there are at least 185 names recorded on surviving headstones and 89 graves within the cemetery.
- This cemetery is listed in the Hawkesbury LEP as a heritage item of local significance.

## Notable Burials

- Reverend Peter Turner (c1803–1873), minister and early missionary for the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society to Samoa and Tonga, 1831–1853.
- William Farmer Linsley (c1831–1901), soldier and mayor of Windsor.<sup>1</sup>
- There are a number of burials associated with local tradesmen and businesses including saddlers, bootmakers, drapers and shopkeepers.
- James William Chandler (d. 1919) operated an undertaking business in Windsor. Was Mayor of Windsor Council at time of his death. Other Chandler family members also buried in cemetery.



Figure 1 2019 aerial of the cemetery identifying the boundary and overgrown burials. (Source: Nearmap with GML overlay)



Figure 2 1967 Pitt Town Parish map—the McGraths Hill Methodist Cemetery is located within allotment 250. (Source: Historical Land Records Viewer, Land and Property Information)

McGRATH'S HILL CEMETERY

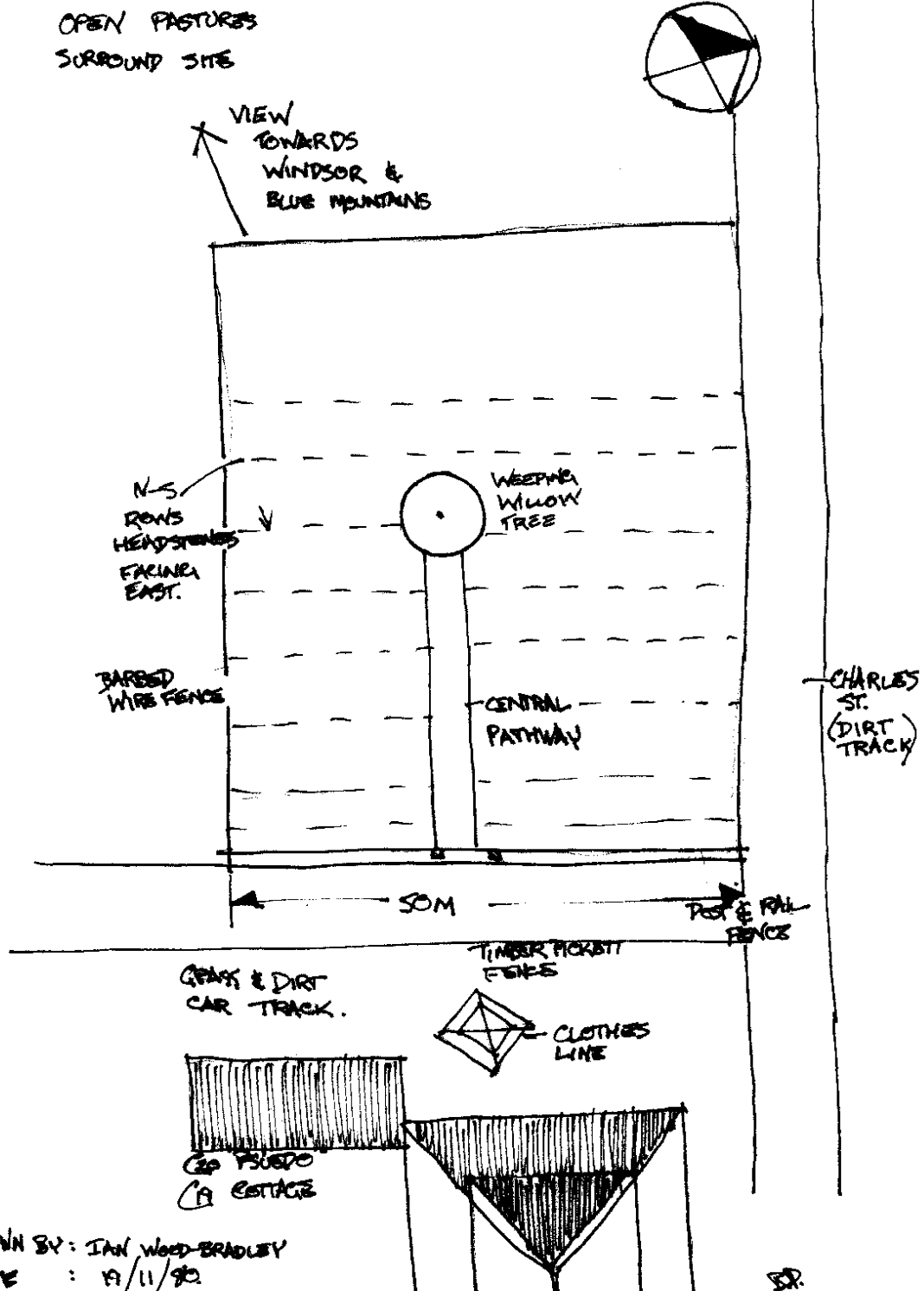


Figure 3 1980 sketch of McGrath's Hill Methodist Cemetery. (Source: National Trust [NSW], McGrath's Hill Methodist Cemetery Card)



Figure 4 1980 photograph of McGraths Hill Methodist Cemetery. (Source: National Trust [NSW])

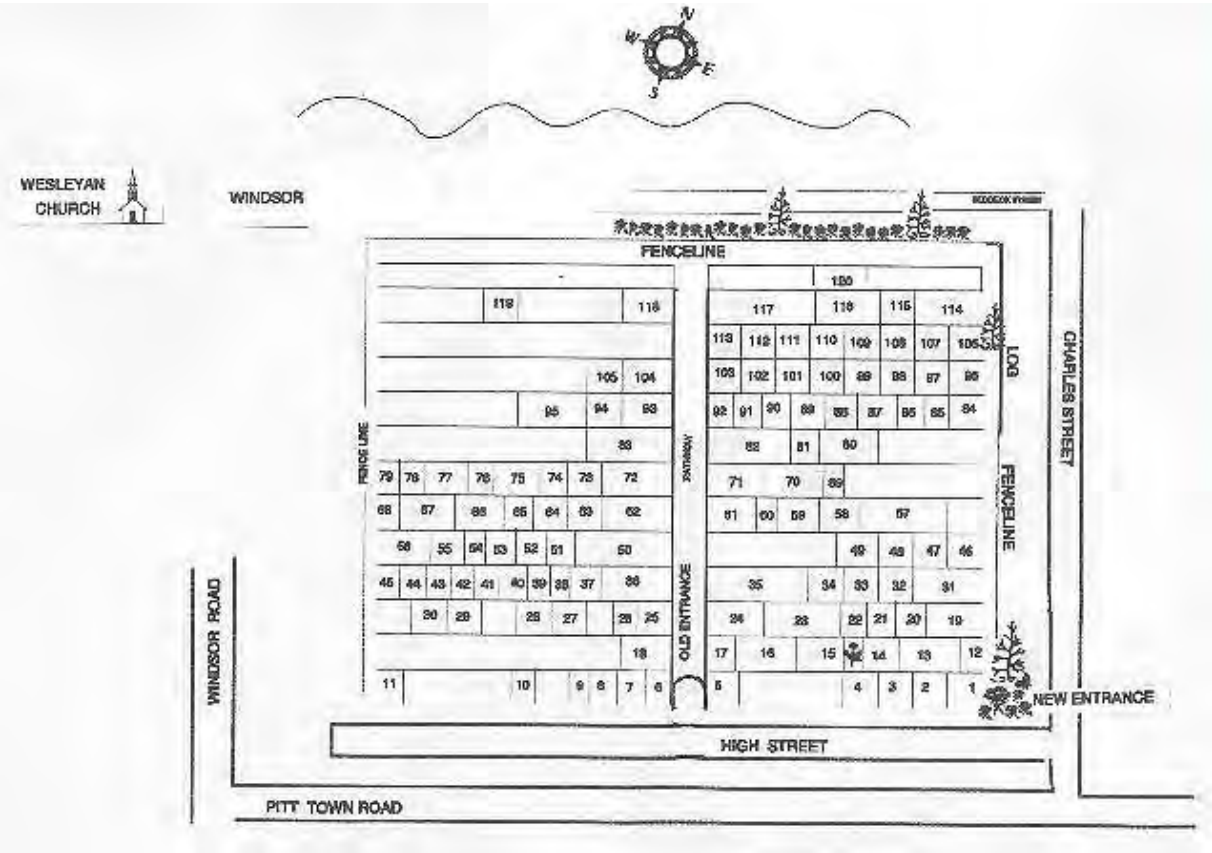


Figure 5 2002 plan of McGraths Hill Methodist Cemetery. (Source: C. Caswell-Miller <<http://www.angelfire.com/electronic/cemeterytour/map.html>>)

## Description

### Setting

McGraths Hill Methodist Cemetery is a small cemetery overlooking the floodplains towards Windsor. The site is bounded to the east by Charles Street, to the north by Beddek Street, to the south by High Street and to the west by a residence.

The cemetery slopes downhill to the north and would have previously offered sweeping views of the Hawkesbury River Valley to the north. These views are currently obscured by vegetation overgrowth.

### Physical Description

McGraths Hill Methodist Cemetery contains a number of fine Victorian monuments and vaults. The majority of burials are oriented facing southwest. Amongst the important families represented are the Chandler family and the Beard family of Windsor.

#### *Landscape*

A partial picket timber fence and timber post and wire fence exist along the eastern site boundary. A pepper tree grows on the southeast site corner.

There is no evidence of paths, drains or cultural plantings beyond the pepper tree. There is a Council-owned water pumping station at the northern site corner. No signage is noted.

#### *Monuments*

Monuments are predominantly sandstone stelae in a variety of styles, ranging from simple semicircular stones through to more ornamental Gothic varieties from later in the nineteenth century. Twentieth century desk-and-slab monuments are located immediately southeast of the vegetation overgrowth area, with older monuments situated nearer High Street and the southern boundary. Groupings of graves are highly common in this cemetery, and sandstone kerbing enclosing two to three burials is more common than single graves. Cast or wrought iron surrounds provide additional ornamentation and delineation of burial groups.

The grave of Reverend Peter Turner is oriented facing northwest, with the remainder of burials facing southwest.

### Condition

Overall the cemetery is in fair condition. It is located above the flood line in McGraths Hill. A large amount of invasive vegetation and vines have overgrown the central area of the cemetery, covering several visible burials with potentially more hidden from view. There is some rubbish dumped on the Charles Street boundary, along the southeast edge of this large vegetation cluster.

Given the slope of the site, subsidence appears to be an issue resulting in leaning or collapsed monuments. Broken stelae and altar tombs indicate both vandalism and natural damage evident within the cemetery (Figure 7, Figure 9).

### Key Issues

- Vandalism.
- Subsidence due to ground slope.



- Vegetation overgrowth.
- Lack of signage.
- Dumped rubbish including tree prunings.

### Interested Groups

Council welcomes the interest and support of the community in relation to the upkeep and improvement of cemeteries in its care. Some of the key interest groups and information sources relevant to this cemetery include:

- Hawkesbury Historical Society;
- Australian Methodist Historical Society;
- Hawkesbury Cemeteries Register Group (update Cemetery Register record);
- Hawkesbury on the Net;
- Hawkesbury Family History Group; and
- relatives and descendants.



Figure 6 McGraths Hill Methodist Cemetery. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 7 Variety of tombstones and headstones at McGraths Hill Methodist Cemetery. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 8 McGraths Hill Methodist Cemetery. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 9 Damaged and leaning headstones. Note lack of cemetery fencing along Charles Street at rear of image. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

## Historical Archaeological Potential

**McGraths Hill Methodist Cemetery may have significant potential archaeological information about early burials and burial practices.**

'Archaeological potential' refers to the likelihood of archaeological remains to survive at a site. It should be distinguished from 'archaeological significance', which refers to the heritage values of any remains that may prove to have survived. Thus, there may be 'low potential' for certain remains to survive, but if they do survive, they might be assessed as being of 'high significance' (for example, if they are rare examples from the convict period).

The potential archaeological resource within a cemetery can include evidence from a variety of different activities and associated elements depending on the history of the place before and during its existing function.

Historical archaeological evidence associated with pre-cemetery activity may have resulted from ephemeral uses of the area. Potential archaeological remains can consist of land clearing and timber-getting as areas such as the Hawkesbury began to be settled by Europeans. More substantial evidence might include the remains of early farms and associated outbuildings as well as church facilities and sealed artefact deposits, although in most of the cemeteries these are unlikely to exist. Historical archaeological evidence associated with pre-cemetery establishment and use may be assessed as having local or state significance, depending on its nature and extent.

Many of the cemeteries identified in this SCMP are considered likely to have high archaeological potential in association with the burials that have been excavated in each. Although interments currently cover each cemetery to varying degrees, as archaeological items, these hold significance for the data they might provide with regards to past ways of life and cultural perceptions of life and death. Most of the interments (including unmarked burials) would be of local significance, while the remains of individuals having historical or cultural significance in NSW would have the potential to be of state significance.

Changes to landscape elements through their use as cemeteries as well as gradual burial of some features (particularly in areas not regularly frequented or landscaped or where flood activity is likely to have washed away, moved or buried some elements) have likely resulted in their partial or complete burial. Buried or partially demolished landscaping elements associated with cultural landscapes of exceptional or high significance have the potential to be of state significance, depending on their nature and extent. Other elements associated with creating formal landscapes within the Council cemeteries would be of local significance.

Examples of activities and remains that may retain historical evidence include:

Activity	Potential Remains
Early land clearing	Tree roots, charcoal deposits, artefact scatters, soil deposits, evidence of camp sites etc.
Burials	Skeletal remains, coffins, coffin hardware, grave goods and utilitarian items (buttons, buckles etc).
Grave furniture	Headstones, crosses etc that may have fallen or been moved or vandalised.
Former landscaping	Paths, edging, fence rails, etc.

It is also important to remember that if any archaeological evidence relating to Aboriginal use is discovered at the cemetery, including during any general maintenance works, then works should cease in the area and the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) (formerly Office of Environment & Heritage [OEH]) must be notified immediately.



Figure 10 McGraths Hill Methodist Cemetery looking west. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

## Significance

### Assessment of Significance

The following table provides a heritage assessment for the McGraths Hill Methodist Cemetery site against the State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria:

#### SHR Criterion a) [Historical significance]

McGraths Hill Methodist Cemetery has historical significance at a local level as one of the oldest surviving Wesleyan Methodist cemeteries in Australia, along with cemeteries at Cherrybrook and Upper Castlereagh.

It is significant in the development of Wesleyan Methodism in the area and its association with the first Methodist church in Windsor.

McGraths Hill Methodist Cemetery is significant at a local level under this criterion.

#### SHR Criterion b) [Associative significance]

McGraths Hill Methodist Cemetery is significant as it has been a focus of Methodist denomination and a place for significant burials connected with this community such as missionary Reverend Peter Turner.

It is also significant at a local level for associations with early families such as the Cavanough (Rebecca Cavanough d. 1851), Chandler and Beard families.

McGraths Hill Methodist Cemetery is significant at a local level under this criterion.

#### SHR Criterion c) [Aesthetic significance]

The cemetery contains sandstone stelae in a variety of styles, ranging from simple semicircular stones through to more ornamental Gothic variations from later in the nineteenth century.

The location of the cemetery overlooking the floodplain to Windsor provides an aesthetic setting.

McGraths Hill Methodist Cemetery is significant at a local level under this criterion.

#### SHR Criterion d) [Social significance]

McGraths Hill Methodist Cemetery has strong associations with the local community and generations of families still in the area today. It is associated specifically with the Methodist denomination and its development in the local area.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

#### SHR Criterion e) [Research potential]

The memorials and headstones at McGraths Hill Methodist Cemetery provide potential for the study of the local community and genealogical history. The graves themselves provide potential

archaeological information about early burials and burial practices, which would become apparent in any geophysical survey.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

#### **SHR Criterion f) [Rarity]**

The cemetery is a rare example of an early Methodist cemetery.

It is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

#### **SHR Criterion g) [Representativeness]**

McGraths Hill Methodist Cemetery is historically comparable to other early rural colonial burial grounds. Along with the General Cemetery on MacDonald River and Richmond Presbyterian Cemetery, it represents one of a few single denomination cemeteries in the Hawkesbury area.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

#### **Integrity/Intactness**

The cemetery demonstrates a high degree of intactness but has been subject to some vandalism.

### **Statement of Significance**

*McGrath Hills Cemetery is significant as one of the oldest surviving Methodist cemeteries in Australia. It has local significance with Methodism in the Hawkesbury area. It is connected to a number of important families in the area, generations of whom are associated with this site. The location over the floodplain with a view to Windsor provides local aesthetic significance. The cemetery retains a range of Victorian monuments, vaults and ornamental Gothic headstones.*



Figure 11 **Jane Beveridge's** tombstone, McGraths Hill Methodist Cemetery. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



## Management and Care

The table below identifies cemetery elements and recommended actions to consider in the future management of McGraths Hill Methodist Cemetery. The priority of action for each activity at the cemetery is suggested subject to ongoing Council and grant funding opportunities.

Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommended Action
Landscaping/ Planting	Vegetation and rubbish management will assist to maintain the character of the cemetery.	High	Remove invasive vegetation to protect graves below from further damage and reveal monuments and obscured views of the Hawkesbury River.
	Remove invasive vegetation and vines obscuring monuments.	High	Remove rubbish dumped in the central east cemetery area.
		High	Undertake weeding and regular maintenance of the existing landscape with community volunteer assistance.
Security— Fences, Gates and Lighting	Provide adequate fencing and security to protect against issues including antisocial behaviour, vandalism, illegal dumping, property encroachments and carparking on unfenced edges.	High	Consider installation of site appropriate security fencing, lighting and gates that is in keeping with the aesthetics of the cemetery.
		High	Install gates that lock after dark and/or sensor lighting in areas where vandalism is common.
		Ongoing	Maintain security elements.
Signage	Promote understanding by identifying the site through the signage.	Low	Erect cemetery signage at the Charles Street entrance.
	Signage could also be used to assist visitation, community and cultural interest by providing a brief history of the site.	Low	Consider low-key interpretation/signage to encourage visitation and connection with the site <b>including online information on Council's website.</b>
	Depending on the level of vandalism and safety at the cemetery, also consider identifying significant graves and monuments and/or providing interesting information about prominent grave and monument styles as well as landscape and flora species present.	Ongoing	Maintain security elements.
		High and Ongoing	Conduct regular drive-by and physical inspections of cemeteries to monitor vandalism or other issues affecting safety and significance.
Restoration	Restore significant monuments within the cemetery.	Medium	Source funding to restore significant monuments, headstones and grave furniture.
	Wrought iron and cast iron enclosures are deteriorated and slab top monuments and some headstones are in need of repair.	Medium	Treat cemetery ironwork against rust.
		High and Ongoing	Workers and volunteers should be encouraged to be familiar with working on heritage sites and should be provided with copies of documents such as the <i>Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .
Significant Graves	Retain the condition of significant graves, headstones and monuments.	Medium	Work with living relatives/families to source funding/grants to assist in the conservation of these items.

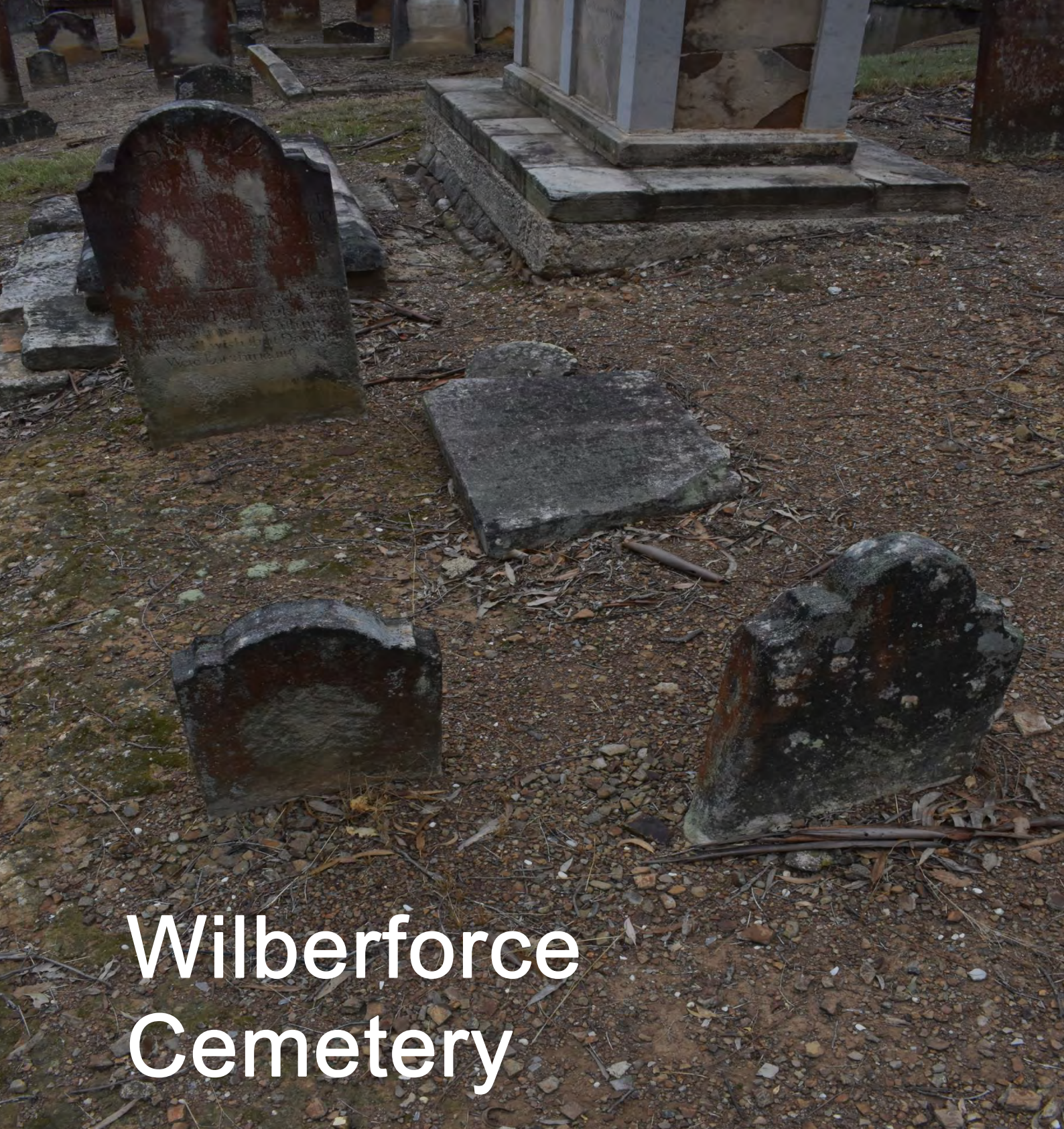
Columbaria, Lawn and Monument Interments	Accommodate demand for ashes interments/columbaria, lawn or monument burials within relevant active cemetery areas.	Ongoing	<p>Ensure availability of sufficient space for memorialisation of the deceased in columbaria, lawn and monument sections within active cemetery areas.</p> <p>Identify areas for future expansion as space for these types of interment decreases.</p>
Safety Issues	Identify cemetery elements that may pose a safety threat to visitors or their own stability whether due to vandalism, age/deterioration, ground movement or other causes.	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>High and Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Work with living relatives/families or interested local community support groups to source funding/grants to assist in the conservation of these items.</p> <p>Ensure that safety issues are addressed as they arise, and that specialist assistance is sought when repairing fallen or dangerous monuments or trees.</p> <p>Maintain security elements.</p>
Interested Groups	Continue to engage and work with interested communities, groups and individuals.	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>High and Ongoing</p> <p>High and Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Continue to identify, acknowledge and work with interested community groups and individuals including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hawkesbury Historical Society;</li> <li>• Australian Methodist Historical Society;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Cemeteries Register Group (update Cemetery Register record);</li> <li>• Hawkesbury on the Net;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Family History Group; and</li> <li>• relatives and descendants.</li> </ul> <p>Consider developing a work plan together with interested groups for the cemetery.</p> <p>Local cemetery community groups should be encouraged and supported to undertake training in the recording, maintenance and conservation of historic cemeteries. Training could be provided by stonemasons, cemetery workers, or any other profession that works with cemeteries on a regular basis.</p> <p>Liaise with authors of Hawkesbury on the Net Cemetery Register and provide access to this SCMP to enable update of data on the Cemetery Register.</p>
Accessible Funding/ Resources	<p>Investigate available grants.</p> <p>Continue to investigate the use of volunteers, local community services and prisoners to assist in appropriate aspects of cemetery maintenance.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Work with living relatives/families and/or interested local community support groups to source funding/grants to assist in the conservation of identified items and to undertake ongoing research into the history of the cemetery and families of the McGraths Hill area buried here.</p> <p>Use the actions in this SCMP to guide applications for funding for conservation and maintenance work.</p>

## References

- <sup>1</sup> Auld, C and Auld, J, McGraths Hill Cemetery—McGraths Hill, Hawkesbury on the Net: Cemetery Register, November 2007–January 2008, viewed 23 January 2019 <[http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/mcgraths\\_hill](http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/mcgraths_hill)>; Caswell–Miller, C, A Tour of the Wesleyan Cemetery McGraths Hill, NSW 1850–1976, viewed 31 January 2019 <<http://www.angelfire.com/electronic/cemeterytour/index.html>>; Murray, L 2016, *Sydney Cemeteries: A Field Guide*, New South, Sydney, pp 302–303; National Trust (NSW), McGraths Hill Cemetery Index Card, 1980.



Figure 12 McGraths Hill Methodist Cemetery looking northeast. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



# Wilberforce Cemetery

Handbook

**GML**  
HERITAGE

## Overview

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Other Name(s)	'St John's Church of England Cemetery'
Heritage Listing(s)	NSW State Heritage Register (SHR) No. 01837 <i>Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP)</i> , Listing I01837
Date Dedicated	1811
Period of Use	1811 to 1986 (some new interments allowed in existing plots)
Location (Coordinates)	Lat: -33.5541292250 Long: 150.8425937790
Primary Address	39–55 Clergy Road, Wilberforce, NSW
Property Description	Crown Land, Section 1262.3000 Lot 7016 DP 1032360
Parish	Wilberforce
County	Cook
Local Government Area	Hawkesbury City Council
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Deerubbin

This handbook is intended as a handy standalone guide for use by Hawkesbury City Council (Council) or for issue to community groups to guide their understanding and contribution to the management, care and maintenance of this cemetery. Relevant sections of this handbook should be updated as additional historical or other information becomes available and/or works are undertaken that change the condition of the cemetery.

The Management & Care table at the end of the Handbook identifies elements, recommended actions and timing priorities to consider in the future management of the cemetery. Using the Handbook as a starting point to develop a Cemetery Working Plan, relatives, descendants, interested groups and individuals, working closely with Council, can be guided to manage the cemetery together: to implement high priority actions first, seek specialist advice and training when needed and together create opportunities for ongoing care of the cemetery and its elements. Engaged management aims to enhance visitation, community interest and appreciation of these special places of eternal rest and commemoration.

## Summary History

- Wilberforce General Cemetery is one of the five burial grounds established by Governor Lachlan Macquarie, the others being St Matthews Anglican at Windsor, St Peters at Richmond, Pitt Town and Ebenezer Cemetery.
- In December 1810, Macquarie instructed Chief Surveyor James Meehan to lay out the town of Wilberforce. In January 1811, Macquarie provided additional instruction to Meehan to set out two acres for a burial ground on the outskirts of town. **The land next to the cemetery was also to be reserved for a church and school. This group was part of Macquarie's vision for the church and cemetery constructed together on the highest point in each town to demonstrate the value of order and religion.**
- In February 1811, Macquarie instructed Reverend Samuel Marsden to consecrate all burial grounds in the Hawkesbury, including Wilberforce. Macquarie issued an order in May 1811 for all deceased people to be buried in consecrated burial grounds and the cemeteries were to be enclosed. Macquarie provided £10 towards the costs of fencing the cemetery. Reverend Robert Cartwright received this money by July 1812.
- The first three recorded burials were three men who drowned in the Hawkesbury in December 1811: Joseph Ware, James Hamilton and John Tunstal. Their graves were not marked.
- **The earliest marked grave in the cemetery is Margaret Chaseling's (d. 1815).**
- Of all of Macquarie's cemeteries, **Wilberforce contains the largest number of ex-convict settlers** from the First, Second and Third fleets. Windsor Cemetery (St Matthew's Anglican Cemetery) has more ex-convicts in total, but they arrived in later phases. Richmond Cemetery contains predominantly free-settler burials. The original Pitt Town Cemetery no longer exists and Castlereagh Cemetery was largely unused.
- **Extant grave markers indicate that burials from the first decade of the site's use are located in the northern portion** of the original cemetery, along Clergy Road. Only nine markers date to this early period, despite 50 internments having occurred. These markers are all aligned in a northeastern to southwestern orientation. They face the northeastern boundary, which is **considered to be the 'front' of the cemetery.**
- Until 1826, all burials in the Hawkesbury region, including those in Wilberforce Cemetery, were recorded by Reverend Cartwright in the Register for Burials of the Parish Church of Hawkesbury. A separate burial register for Wilberforce Cemetery was started in 1826. The original Hawkesbury Register became used exclusively by **St Matthew's Anglican Church.**
- From 1822 onwards, burials seem to have been determined by existing family graves with new rows being added.
- **The cemetery became known as St John's Church of England Cemetery in 1833.**
- **Wilberforce Cemetery was enlarged to the northeast, on the opposite side of the track that connected St John's Anglican Church and Schoolhouse with Old Sackville Road.** This area was formally dedicated in 1896 and was set aside for Wesleyan burials, but was later shown as a General Cemetery on plans. An additional wedge of land between the northeastern end of the Church of England and the track was also added and appears to have been used for burials in the early twentieth century. According to the late Professor Ian Jack, local residents believe that bodies are interred in the section designated for Wesleyan burials across the track.
- The original boundary fence was replaced in 1875/1876 and a new gate was installed in 1939. Based on photographs and **local recollections, the fence was timber post and rail. The fence 'disappeared' after the 1950s, leaving the cemetery open to vandalism.**<sup>1</sup> Descendants and the residents appealed to Hawkesbury City Council for a new fence, which was erected in 2005.
- Research undertaken by Cathy McHardy established that there are a total of 1,317 interments in the cemetery. A third of them are unmarked.
- The original 1811 portion of Wilberforce Cemetery is listed as a heritage item on the State Heritage Register and Hawkesbury LEP.
- In 1968, Colo Shire Council took over the management of Wilberforce Cemetery. The cemetery was closed to new burials in November 1986, but existing Rights of Burials to pre-established plots or vaults means that new burials still occur on occasion. Hawkesbury City Council now manages the cemetery.

## Notable Burials

- Black Benedict (d. 1820), possibly a Lascar (Indian sailor) who arrived on the ship *Britannia* in 1798. He would have been one of the few non-European migrants living in the Hawkesbury region during the early nineteenth century.
- Thomas Rose (d. 1833), respected early settler and landowner of Wilberforce.
- Matthew Everingham (d. 1817), First Fleet convict Farmer/police constable, drowned.
- John Henry Fleming (d. 1894), who led and possibly organised the group of stockmen responsible for committing the Myall Creek massacre in 1838. Fleming was able to evade the police party, possibly hiding in MacDonald Valley. He was the only one of the group who was not brought to trial.

- Wilberforce schoolmaster John Wenban (d. 1859) who carved the vertical sundial at St. John's Church, Wilberforce.

### Notable Monuments

- The gravestone of Antony Richardson (d. 1816) is the oldest one in the cemetery still in its original location.
- Numerous early grave markers.
- Stonework by George Robertson and John O'Kelly—examples of cherubs and floral sheath designs.<sup>2</sup>



Figure 1 Aerial of Wilberforce Cemetery showing where the oldest burials are located. (Source: Nearmap with GML overlay 2019)



Figure 2 Crop of 1896 map of Town of Wilberforce. (Source: Historical Land Records Viewer, Land and Property Information)



Figure 3 1980 photograph of Wilberforce Cemetery. (Source: National Trust [NSW])



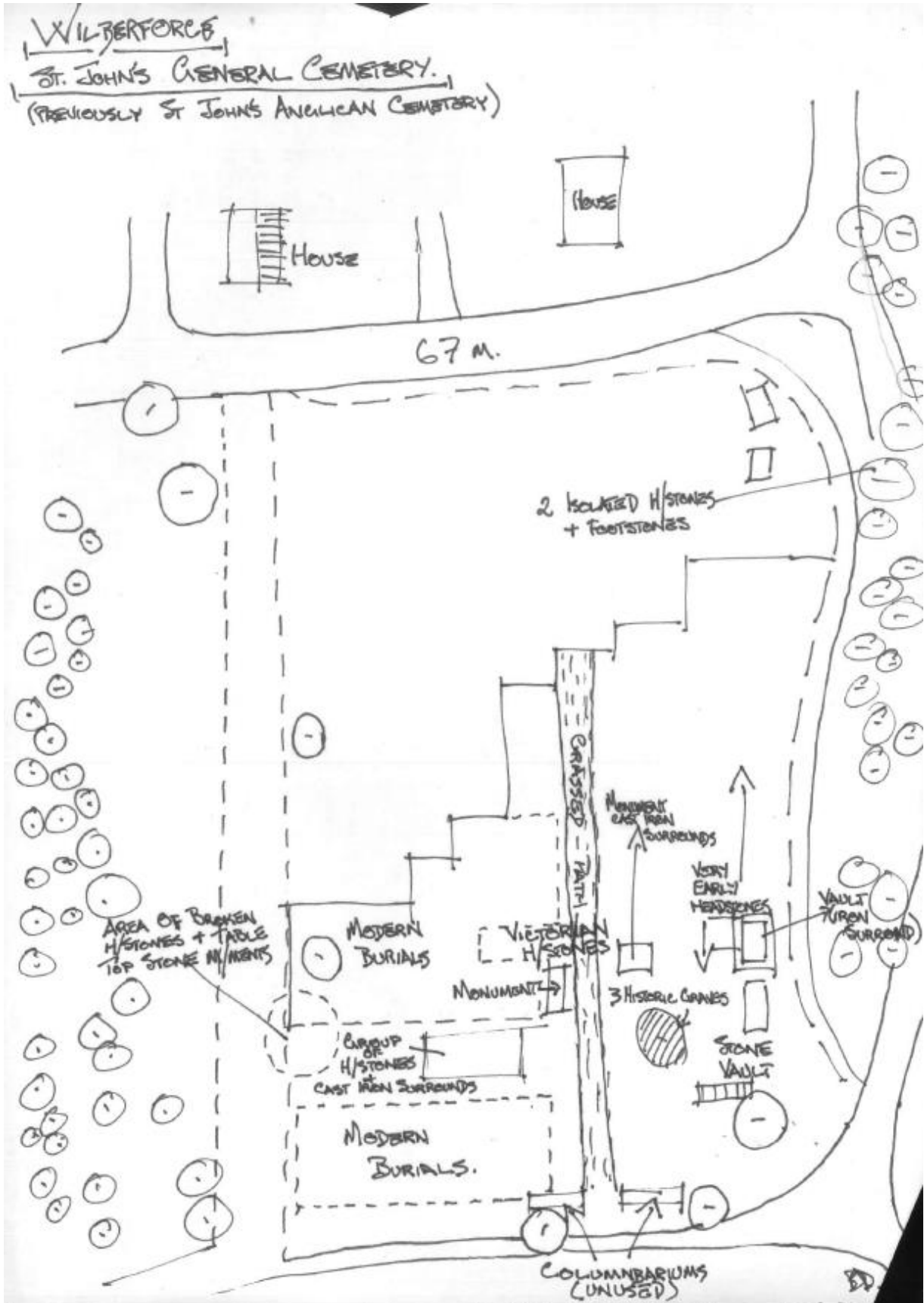


Figure 4 1980 sketch of Wilberforce Cemetery. (Source: National Trust [NSW], St John's General Cemetery Listings Card)

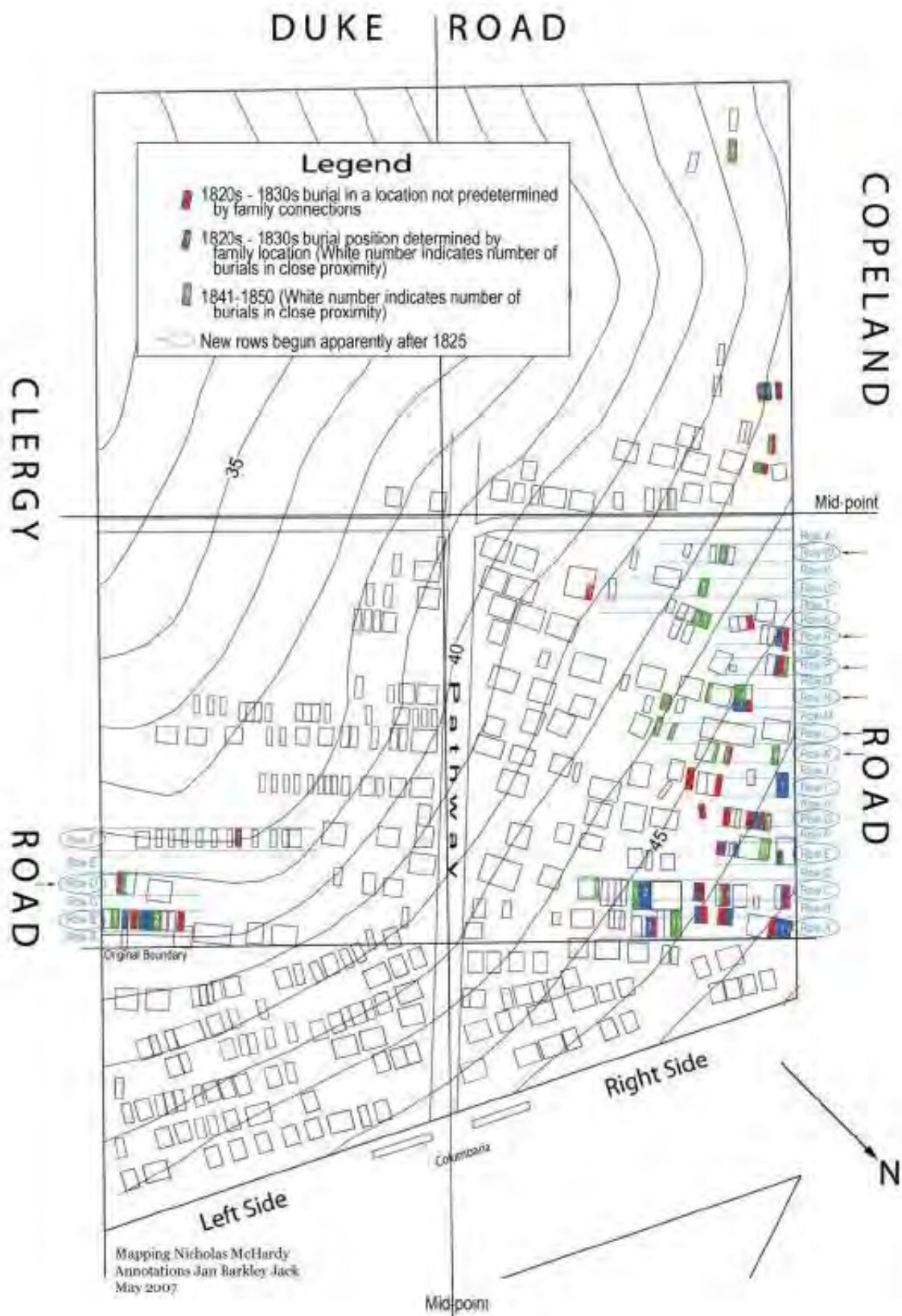


Figure 5 2008 plan of Wilberforce Cemetery. Burials from the 1820s to 1850s have been highlighted. (Source: Hubert Architects in conjunction with R. Ian Jack Consulting, Wilberforce Cemetery Conservation Management Plan, prepared for Hawkesbury Council, April 2008, p 34)

## Description

### Setting

Wilberforce Cemetery is located in the town of Wilberforce at the northern edge of the urban area. It is bounded by Duke Road to the southwest, Clergy Road to the southeast and Old Sackville Road to the northwest with no named street on the eastern boundary. An additional section of cemetery was opened across this unnamed track by 1896. The site slopes downward from the north towards the south/southwestern corner of the cemetery.

Residential boundaries on the southern and western side are about 20 metres from the cemetery fence. A 1.5m–2m metal fence surrounds the cemetery.

### Physical Description

Wilberforce Cemetery, formerly known as the St John's Church of England Cemetery, began as a large rectangular plot divided into four sections by two paths, one running northeast–southwest and the other northwest–southeast. The original northeast–southwest path remains, but the northwest–southeast path was rebuilt in the last 10 years. A new area of cemetery was expanded over the track in 1906 connecting St John's Church and Old Sackville Road. This area was marked as a General Cemetery on historic plans.

As we would expect, the graves face east approximately and are laid out in rows running northwest–southeast. The alignment of the rows has been modified by the later 1906 addition of a wedge-shaped section of land on the northeast side of the area and by the practicalities of aligning graves with the contours of the slope. Most rows are somewhat irregular, with the exception of those in the newer area at the southwestern end of the eastern sector. This irregularity probably stems, in part, from the struggle that gravediggers would have had coping with the slope of the land.

The site slopes from the north to the southwest. The earliest burials are not confined to a particular quadrant or area, but appear to favour areas of high ground—likely to minimise issues caused by poor drainage. Plots were also selected for proximity to other family members. By the mid-twentieth century, burials continued to be concentrated in higher areas, on the northeastern and northwestern sides. New rows dating from the mid to late twentieth century are laid out in a more orderly fashion, differentiating them from the nineteenth and early twentieth-century burials.

Notable features include many surviving altar-style slab monuments and a rare table-style slab. Stelae are the most common form of monument from the nineteenth century and some feature elaborate decorative features with Gothic influences. Most twentieth-century burials feature desk-and-slab style monuments.

#### *Landscape*

There is currently no formal planting visible in the cemetery. A tall aluminium fence surrounds the cemetery. Some trees are located in the southeastern corner and paths divide the cemetery into four sections.

### Condition

Wilberforce Cemetery is in good condition. Many of the monuments in the cemetery are in reasonable condition considering their age and more recent vandalism. This is a reflection of the care and respect they have received from the local community. Some monuments have weathered so that their original

inscriptions are no longer clear or have been lost. A number of these have had plaques fixed with the words of the original inscription repeated. Others have been re-engraved or have had the lettering blacked to make it clearer.

The table-style slab monuments are generally in the poorest condition. Subsidence due to erosion on the steep site and/or inadequate footings for the original monument has contributed to this.

### *Unmarked Graves*

Many unmarked graves are known to exist in the earlier sections of Wilberforce Cemetery. A total of 1,317 interments have been recorded in the cemetery, with a third of these being unmarked. Unmarked interments are likely located within the northeast area where most graves are still marked and the west where at least three graves are known to exist (Figure 1). The lack of a strict pattern to the sequence of burials means that graves may be located anywhere in the cemetery. These burials need to be identified and their location formally recorded prior to excavation for new burials, memorial features or other works at the cemetery.

As recommended in the CMP for the cemetery, Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) investigation has proven useful in other cemeteries to locate unmarked graves without the need for excavation and archaeological investigations.<sup>3</sup>

### **Key Issues**

- Vandalism.
- Unmarked graves.

### **Interested Groups**

Council welcomes the interest and support of the community in relation to the upkeep and improvement of cemeteries in its care. Consideration should be given to developing a work plan for the cemetery together with interested groups. Some of the key interest groups and information sources relevant to this cemetery include:

- Friends of Wilberforce Cemetery;
- Hawkesbury Cemeteries Register Group (update Cemetery Register record);
- Hawkesbury Family History Group;
- Hawkesbury Historical Society;
- Hawkesbury on the Net; and
- relatives and descendants.



Figure 6 Examples of burials dating to the 1830s. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 7 Example of a table-style slab burial in existing poor condition. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 8 Grave belonging to Mrs Ann Turnbull (d. 1819). Example of a later plaque added to record the worn gravestone inscription. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 9 Examples of family burial plots used over generations—the Devine family. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 10 Examples of family burial plots used over generations—the Rose family. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

## Historical Archaeological Potential

**Since Wilberforce Cemetery is an old and largely intact cemetery, the graves provide significant potential archaeological information about early burials and burial practices.**

'Archaeological potential' refers to the likelihood of archaeological remains to survive at a site. It should be distinguished from 'archaeological significance' which refers to the heritage values of any remains that may prove to have survived. Thus, there may be 'low potential' for certain remains to survive, but if they do survive, they might be assessed as being of 'high significance' (for example, if they are rare examples from the convict period).

The potential archaeological resource within a cemetery can include evidence from a variety of different activities and associated elements depending on the history of the place before and during its existing function.

Historical archaeological evidence associated with pre-cemetery activity may have resulted from ephemeral uses of the area. Potential archaeological remains can consist of land clearing and timber-getting as areas of the Hawkesbury began to be settled by Europeans. More substantial evidence might include the remains of early farms and associated outbuildings as well as church facilities, brickmaking activity and sealed artefact deposits, although in most of the cemeteries these are unlikely to exist. Historical archaeological evidence associated with pre-cemetery establishment and use may be assessed as having local or state significance, depending on its nature and extent.

Many of the cemeteries identified in this SCMP are considered likely to have high archaeological potential in association with the burials in each. Although interments currently cover each cemetery to varying degrees, as archaeological items, these hold significance for the data they might provide with regards to past lifeways and cultural perceptions of life and death. Most of the interments (including unmarked burials) would be of local significance, while the remains of individuals having historical or cultural significance in NSW would have the potential to be of state significance.

Use of each site as a cemetery has resulted in changes to landscape elements as well as gradual burial of some features (particularly in areas not regularly frequented or landscaped or where flood activity is likely to have washed away, moved or buried some elements). Buried or partially demolished landscaping elements associated with cultural landscapes of exceptional or high significance have the potential to be of state significance, depending on their nature and extent. Other elements associated with creating formal landscapes within the Council cemeteries may be of local significance.

Examples of activities and remains that may retain historical evidence include:

Activity	Potential Remains
Early land clearing	Tree roots, charcoal deposits, artefact scatters, soil deposits, evidence of camp sites etc.
Burials	Skeletal remains, coffins, coffin hardware, grave goods, utilitarian items (buttons, buckles etc).
Grave furniture	Headstones, crosses etc that may have fallen or been moved or vandalised.
Former landscaping	Paths, edging, fence rails, etc.

In addition to visible graves, grave goods and associated elements, Wilberforce Cemetery has the potential to retain unrecorded inhumations and associated buried grave goods.



It is also important to remember that if any archaeological evidence relating to Aboriginal use is discovered at the cemetery, including during any general maintenance works, then works should cease in the area and the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) (formerly Office of Environment & Heritage [OEH]) must be notified immediately.



Figure 11 Wilberforce Cemetery. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

## Significance

### Assessment of Significance

The following heritage assessment provides existing listing data for Wilberforce Cemetery taken from the State Heritage Register (SHR) listing for the site:

#### SHR Criterion a) [Historical significance]

*It meets this criterion of state significance because Wilberforce Cemetery is one of the five cemeteries established as part of the core functions of the five Hawkesbury towns founded by Governor Lachlan Macquarie in 1810 as well as Liverpool on Georges River.*

*Wilberforce Cemetery demonstrates Macquarie's policy of ending the burial of deceased persons on their landholdings by establishing consecrated burial grounds in each of the towns he established.*

*The cemetery contains a significant proportion of burials of convicts from the First, Second and Third Fleets. Between 1811 and 1825, there was a considerable number of burials in the cemetery who were early ex-convict arrivals. Many were later joined by their families and descendants in the cemetery. A high number of older grave markers also survive, many of them for ex-convicts who arrived in the earlier period. Of all Macquarie's cemeteries, Wilberforce has the most interments with the highest proportional representation of ex-convict settlers from the First to the Third Fleets.*

*Windsor has more convict burials but they arrived later. Richmond Cemetery is dominated by free arrivals. The original Pitt Town Cemetery does not exist anymore. Castlereagh Cemetery was largely unused. Liverpool Cemetery has been destroyed. Of the burials at Wilberforce from 1811 to 1825, 36 per cent were interments of convicts who arrived before 1800. A total of over 70 people who arrived before 1800 are buried there and a number of original gravestones or markers remain from the early period. The earliest one dates from February 1816.*

*Wilberforce Cemetery has exceptional significance for the state of NSW and for Australia.*

#### SHR Criterion b) [Associative significance]

*It meets this criterion of state significance because it was one of the five cemeteries founded by Governor Lachlan Macquarie as one of the core functions of the five Hawkesbury towns he established in 1810 and has a strong association with him.*

*Wilberforce Cemetery demonstrates Macquarie's policy of ending the burial of deceased persons on their landholdings by establishing consecrated burial grounds in each of the towns he established. It contains a considerable number of interments of convicts who arrived before 1800. Many of them founded families who continued to live in the area. Additionally, since Wilberforce was one of the original 'hearth' areas of the colony from where settlers fanned out to settle other districts, the Wilberforce Cemetery has significance for settlers across a broad expanse of the state. Wilberforce Cemetery has high significance for the state of NSW and for the nation under this criterion.*

### SHR Criterion c) [Aesthetic significance]

*It meets this criterion of state significance because Wilberforce Cemetery was an integral part of Governor Macquarie's scheme of creating towns with distinctive core functions aimed at improving the morality and social practices of the convict and ex-convict population. The towns he established had a church and school coupled with a burial ground at their core, often in a commanding position. Wilberforce is the only town of those established by Macquarie which still retains the original buildings and burial ground at its centre. The visual interrelationship of these elements is still apparent, as is the commanding position of the group on an elevated site.*

*Positioned on a site personally selected by Macquarie during his visit, the cemetery is a significant landmark in Wilberforce particularly when viewed from the west and it punctuates the town with Macquarie's vision.*

*Wilberforce Cemetery contains a remarkable collection of monuments from the early nineteenth century to the present day. Many styles of monuments survive, including a fine collection of altar style slab monuments and a rare example of a table-style slab monument. The work of one of the finest local masons, George Robertson of Windsor, is well represented in the cemetery. Wilberforce Cemetery is of state significance under this criterion.*

### SHR Criterion d) [Social significance]

*It meets this criterion of state significance because Wilberforce Cemetery has been a focus for the Wilberforce community since the 1810s. The original ex-convicts who were interred in the cemetery were joined by later generations of their families up to the present day. Later settlers have been interred there as well, so that the cemetery reflects the community. Additionally, since Wilberforce was one of the original 'hearth' areas of the colony from where settlers fanned out to settle other districts, the Wilberforce Cemetery has significance for settlers across a broad expanse of the state. Hence, the Cemetery has become a place of pilgrimage for descendants from across the state and beyond, as well as being a focus for family reunions. Wilberforce Cemetery has high significance for the state of NSW under this criterion.*

#### **SHR Criterion e) [Research potential]**

*It meets this criterion of state significance because Wilberforce Cemetery has been a focus for the Wilberforce community since the 1810s. The original ex-convicts who were interred in the cemetery were joined by later generations of their families up to the present day. Later settlers have been interred there as well, so that the cemetery reflects the community. Additionally, as one of the original 'hearth' areas of the colony from where settlers fanned out to settle other districts, the Wilberforce Cemetery has significance for settlers across a broad expanse of the state. The monuments in Wilberforce Cemetery provide data for the study of the local community and for family history. The graves themselves provide potential archaeological information about early burials and burial practices, which would become apparent in any geophysical survey.*

#### **SHR Criterion f) [Rarity]**

*It meets this criterion of state significance because Wilberforce Cemetery is the only surviving example of the towns that Lachlan Macquarie created where the schoolhouse-cum-chapel and cemetery remain. They have a strong ability to demonstrate Governor Lachlan Macquarie's vision for these towns.*

*Many examples of altar style slab burial markers and a rare table-style slab monument remain within the cemetery. Wilberforce Cemetery is of state significance under this criterion.*

#### **SHR Criterion g) [Representativeness]**

*It meets this criterion of state significance because as the sole surviving example of Lachlan Macquarie's town centres which combined a schoolhouse-cum-chapel and cemetery it demonstrates the philosophy implicit in his town planning layouts. Wilberforce Cemetery has a strong ability to demonstrate Governor Lachlan Macquarie's vision for these towns.*

#### **Integrity/Intactness**

*Wilberforce Cemetery has a high degree of intactness. Numerous original early grave markers survive, often in reasonable condition. Though the cemetery had an additional area included on its eastern boundary, the layout of the oldest part of the cemetery is still apparent.*

## Statement of Significance

*It is of state heritage significance because Wilberforce Cemetery is one of the five cemeteries established as part of the core functions of the five towns founded by Governor Lachlan Macquarie in 1810. Wilberforce Cemetery demonstrates Macquarie's policy of ending the burial of deceased persons on their landholdings by establishing consecrated burial grounds in each of the towns he established. The cemetery contains a significant proportion of burials of convicts from the First, Second and Third Fleets. Of the burials at Wilberforce from 1811 to 1825, 36 per cent were interments of convicts who arrived before 1800. Between 1811 and 1825, there was a considerable number of burials in the cemetery who were early ex-convict arrivals. Many were later joined by their families and descendants in the cemetery. A high number of older grave markers also survive, many of them for ex-convicts who arrived in the earlier period. Of all Macquarie's cemeteries, Wilberforce has the most interments with the highest proportional representation of ex-convict settlers from the First to the Third Fleets. Wilberforce is the only town of those founded by Macquarie which still retains the original buildings and burial ground at its centre. The visual interrelationship of these elements is still apparent, as is the commanding position of the group on an elevated site.*

*Many of the people interred in the cemetery founded families that continued to live in the area. Since Wilberforce was one of the original 'hearth' areas of the colony from where settlers fanned out to settle other districts, Wilberforce Cemetery has significance for settlers across a broad expanse of the state.*

*Many examples of altar style slab burial markers and a rare table-style slab monument remain within the cemetery. Wilberforce Cemetery is of State significance under this criterion.*

*In conjunction with the schoolhouse-cum-chapel the cemetery has a strong ability to demonstrate Governor Lachlan Macquarie's vision for these towns.*



Figure 12 Wilberforce Cemetery. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

## Management and Care

The table below identifies cemetery elements and recommended actions to consider in the future management of Wilberforce Cemetery. The priority of action for each activity at the cemetery is suggested subject to ongoing Council and grant funding opportunities.

All activities at the cemetery should adhere to the conservation policies and implementation strategy established in the Wilberforce Cemetery Conservation Plan.<sup>4</sup>

Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommended Action
Landscaping/ Planting	<p>Improve landscaping and plantings where relevant to enhance the cemetery grounds and encourage visitation and visibility of monuments and flourishing flora.</p> <p>Retain the heritage character of the cemetery.</p>	High and Ongoing	<p>Undertake light weeding and regular maintenance of the existing landscape with community volunteer assistance.</p> <p>Under Section 57(1) of the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i> the following activities in the cemetery are exempted from Heritage Council approval:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implementation of the current Conservation Management Plan for Wilberforce Cemetery adopted by Council in accordance with the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>, where such works clearly fall within the Standard Exemptions for cemeteries;</li> <li>2. Horticultural maintenance, including lawn mowing, cultivation, pruning and remedial tree surgery;</li> <li>3. Maintenance and repair of existing roads, paths, fences, gates, drains, water reticulation facilities and other utilities.</li> </ol>
		High	Consider installation of seating where appropriate.
<p>Unmarked Burials</p> <p>Historical Archaeology</p>	<p>Make attempts to locate unmarked graves to protect them from accidental damage or disturbance.</p> <p>Understand the archaeology of the site to assist in future management.</p>	High	<p>No new burials or excavation for new memorials should occur before unmarked graves, known to exist in the cemetery, have been properly located. As per CMP policies 6–8, consider a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) study prior to any subsurface disturbance associated with general cemetery maintenance or other works to identify and formally record the likely location of unmarked graves and associated grave goods.</p>
Security— Fences, Gates and Lighting	<p>Provide adequate fencing and security to protect against issues including antisocial behaviour, vandalism, illegal dumping, property encroachments and carparking on unfenced edges</p>	Ongoing	<p>Maintain existing lighting and closure of gates between sunset and sunrise. Maintain security elements.</p>
		Medium	<p>Consider sensor lighting in areas where vandalism is common.</p>
		High and Ongoing	<p>Conduct regular drive-by and physical inspections of the cemetery to monitor vandalism or other issues affecting safety and significance.</p>

Signage	Promote understanding by identifying the site through the signage.	Medium	Erect cemetery signage at Old Sackville Road entrance.
	Signage could also be used to assist visitation, community and cultural interest by providing a brief history of the site.	Medium	Consider low-key interpretation/signage or online <b>information on Council's website</b> including a map to assist identification of burials/row numbers.
	Depending on the level of vandalism and safety at the cemetery, also consider identifying significant graves and monuments and/or providing interesting information about prominent grave and monument styles, landscape and flora species present.	Medium	CMP policies 26 and 27 identify the need to provide new row markers at the end of each burial row and the cemetery entry map to assist with row number interpretation.
Restoration	Restoration of significant monuments within the cemetery is needed.	Medium	Source funding to engage specialists to restore significant monuments, headstones and grave furniture.
	Wrought iron and cast-iron enclosures deteriorated and slabs top monuments and some headstones in need of repair.	Medium High and Ongoing	Treat cemetery ironwork against rust.  Workers and volunteers should be encouraged to be familiar with working on heritage sites and should be provided with copies of documents such as the <i>Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .
Significant Graves	To retain/reinstate the condition of significant graves, headstones and monuments.	Medium	Work with living relatives/families to source funding/grants to assist in the conservation of these items.
Columbaria, Lawn and Monument Interments	The cemetery is currently closed except to those with pre-existing burial rights.	Ongoing	Ensure availability of sufficient space for additional memorialisation of the deceased in two existing columbaria walls, lawn and monument sections of cemetery if necessary.
	Accommodate demand for ashes interments/columbaria, lawn or monument burials within relevant active cemetery areas.	High	No new burials or excavation for new memorials should occur before unmarked graves, known to exist in the cemetery, have been properly located (CMP Policies 6-8). Consider GPR to undertake this investigation.
Safety Issues	Identify cemetery elements that may pose a safety threat to visitors or their own stability whether due to vandalism, age/deterioration, ground movement or other causes.	Ongoing	Work with living relatives/families or interested local community support groups to source funding/grants to assist with items affected by these issues.
		High and Ongoing	Ensure that safety issues are addressed as they arise, and that specialist assistance is sought when repairing fallen or dangerous monuments or trees.
		Ongoing	Maintain security elements.

Interested Groups	Continue to engage and work with interested communities, groups and individuals.	Ongoing  High and Ongoing  Medium and Ongoing  Ongoing	<p>Continue to identify, acknowledge and work with other interested community groups including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friends of Wilberforce Cemetery;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Cemeteries Register Group (update Cemetery Register record);</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Family History Group;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Historical Society;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury on the Net; and</li> <li>• relatives and descendants.</li> </ul> <p>Consider developing a work plan for the cemetery together with interested groups.</p> <p>Local cemetery community groups should be encouraged and supported to undertake training in the recording, maintenance and conservation of historic cemeteries. Training could be provided by stonemasons, cemetery workers, or any other profession that works with cemeteries on a regular basis.</p> <p>Liaise with authors of Hawkesbury on the Net Cemetery Register and provide access to this SCMP to enable update of data for this cemetery in the Cemetery Register.</p>
Accessible Funding/ Resources	Investigate available grants.  Investigate the use of volunteers, schools, local community services and others to assist in appropriate aspects of cemetery maintenance.	Ongoing  Medium  Ongoing	<p>Work with living relatives/families and/or interested local community support groups to source funding/grants to assist in the conservation of identified items and to undertake ongoing research into the history of the cemetery.</p> <p>Explore opportunities to research the history of the cemetery and the early settlers buried there. Investigate opportunities to update, republish and circulate N &amp; C McHardy's <i>Sacred to the Memory; A Study of Wilberforce Cemetery</i>.</p> <p>Use the actions in this SCMP to guide applications for funding for conservation and maintenance work.</p>



## References

- <sup>1</sup> Hubert Architects, in conjunction with R. Ian Jack Consulting, *Wilberforce Cemetery Conservation Management Plan, Final*, April 2008, prepared for Hawkesbury City Council, p 49.
- <sup>2</sup> Hubert Architects, in conjunction with R. Ian Jack Consulting, *Wilberforce Cemetery Conservation Management Plan, Final*, April 2008, prepared for Hawkesbury City Council; Murray, L 2016, *Sydney Cemeteries: A Field Guide*, NewSouth, Sydney, pp 321–323; National Trust (NSW), *Wilberforce Cemetery Index Card*, 1980.
- <sup>3</sup> Hubert Architects, in conjunction with R. Ian Jack Consulting, *Wilberforce Cemetery Conservation Management Plan, Final*, April 2008, prepared for Hawkesbury City Council, p 90.
- <sup>4</sup> Hubert Architects, in conjunction with R. Ian Jack Consulting, *Wilberforce Cemetery Conservation Management Plan, Final*, April 2008, prepared for Hawkesbury City Council, pp 89–102.



Figure 13 Wilberforce Cemetery. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



# Pitt Town General Cemetery

Handbook

**GML**  
HERITAGE

## Overview

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Other Name(s)	Also known as 'Pitt Town General Cemetery, Pitt Town' and 'Old Stock Route Road Cemetery, Pitt Town'
Heritage Listing(s)	<i>Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP), Listing I301</i>
Date Dedicated	1895
Period of Use	1895 to present
Location (Coordinates)	Lat: -33.589344 Long: 150.877518
Primary Address	524 Old Stock Route Road, Pitt Town, NSW
Property Description	Lot 7010 DP 1030967
Parish	Pitt Town
County	Cumberland
Local Government Area	Hawkesbury
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Deerubbin

This handbook is intended as a handy standalone guide for use by Hawkesbury City Council (Council) or for issue to community groups to guide their understanding and contribution to the management, care and maintenance of this cemetery. Relevant sections of this handbook should be updated as additional historical or other information becomes available and/or works are undertaken that change the condition of the cemetery.

The Management & Care table at the end of the Handbook identifies elements, recommended actions and timing priorities to consider in the future management of the cemetery. Using the Handbook as a starting point to develop a Cemetery Working Plan, relatives, descendants, interested groups and individuals, working closely with Council, can be guided to manage the cemetery together: to implement high priority actions first, seek specialist advice and training when needed and together create opportunities for ongoing care of the cemetery and its elements. Engaged management aims to enhance visitation, community interest and appreciation of these special places of eternal rest and commemoration.

## Summary History

- The original Pitt Town cemetery was laid out by Governor Lachlan Macquarie in 1811 in a different location to the current site.
- In 1815 the location of Pitt Town was moved **on Macquarie's instructions**, as settlers complained that the distance between their properties and the settlement was too great. This prompted the establishment of a new cemetery outside the eastern **edge of the township's boundaries**.
- The selection of a location for the new cemetery outside the township boundaries conformed with the burial reform movement in Europe and Britain, and increasing concerns with public sanitation. In 1825 legislation was passed ruling that all burials must be located at least one mile outside a town.<sup>1</sup>
- By 1828 a third cemetery, known as the **'New Burial Ground'**, was established. The township had developed to the east and a new burial ground was located outside the now expanded eastern boundary. The 1815 cemetery came to be known as the **'Old Burial Ground'**.<sup>2</sup>
- Local memory suggests that some of the tombstones from these earlier burial grounds were reused in nearby houses as back steps or door stops. Local woman Mrs Tilly Rose recalls seeing grave markers remaining in the earlier grounds as late as 1920.<sup>3</sup>
- In 1889 over 20 hectares of land were resumed for the establishment of Pitt Town General Cemetery in the area of the original Pitt Town Common. This new cemetery, the fourth since 1811, was dedicated on 27 November 1895.
- A central avenue was planned with additional space either side of the denomination areas allowing for future expansion.
- Multiple Christian denominations were to be buried there. The site was divided up for Roman Catholics, Wesleyans, Presbyterians, Primitive Methodists and Anglicans. A section was also set aside for Jewish burials.
- Only the Wesleyan and Presbyterian sections were cleared of vegetation. The majority of the burials are in the cleared sections, but another three graves are located in the bush to the west of this area.
- All burials date to the twentieth century. Research undertaken by Johnathon Auld cross-referencing the surviving marked graves with the Cemetery Register indicates that at least three burials have no headstones or markers.<sup>4</sup>
- Anna Hanckel nee Wiese (d. 1901) is the earliest known burial. She died of appendicitis and was the first person 'laid to rest in the new Presbyterian Cemetery at Pitt Town' according to the *Windsor & Richmond Gazette* from 31 August 1901.<sup>5</sup>

## Notable Burials, Monuments and Elements

- Members of the Hanckel and Wiese families, German immigrants who migrated to South Australia before moving to Oakville.
- The earliest marked burial is Anna Pauline Hanckel, who died on 25 August 1901. The monument consists of a red granite plaque on a desk and kerbstone.
- A columbarium has been added in the Presbyterian section.<sup>6</sup>



Figure 1 Aerial image of the site with boundaries identified. (Source: Nearmap with GML overlay)



Figure 2 Aerial of the Pitt Town General Cemetery showing more details. (Source: Nearmap with GML overlay)

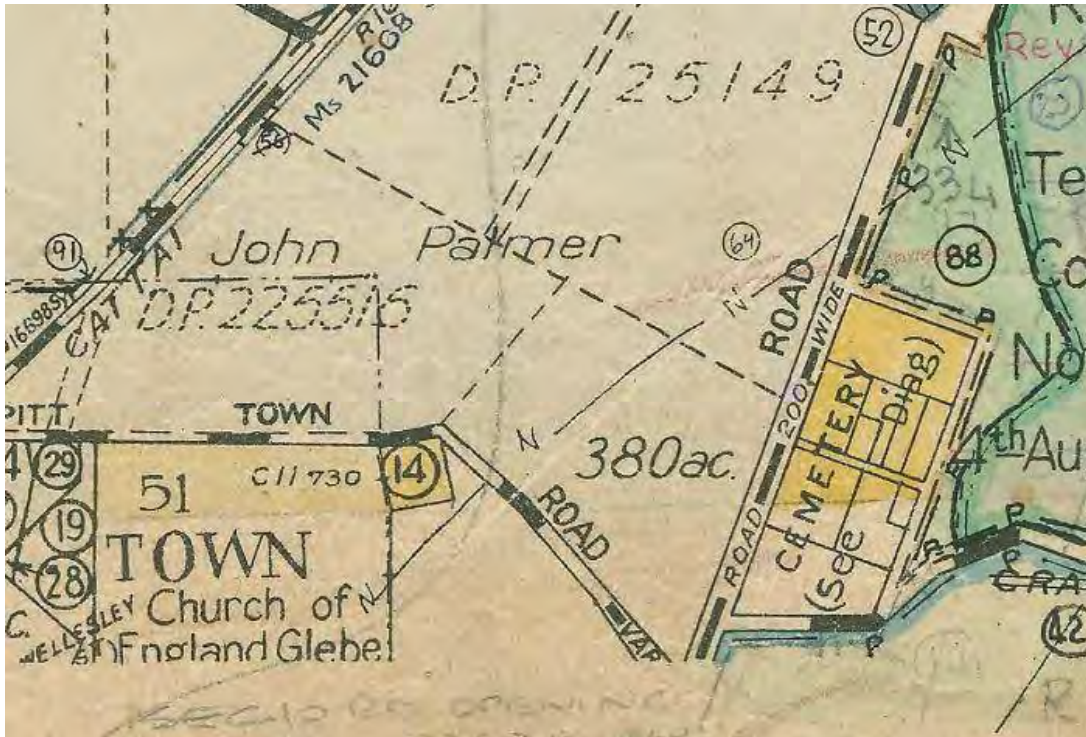


Figure 3 Close-up of 1967 Pitt Town Parish Map showing the Pitt Town General Cemetery. (Source: Historical Land Records Viewer [HLRV], Land and Property Information [LPI])

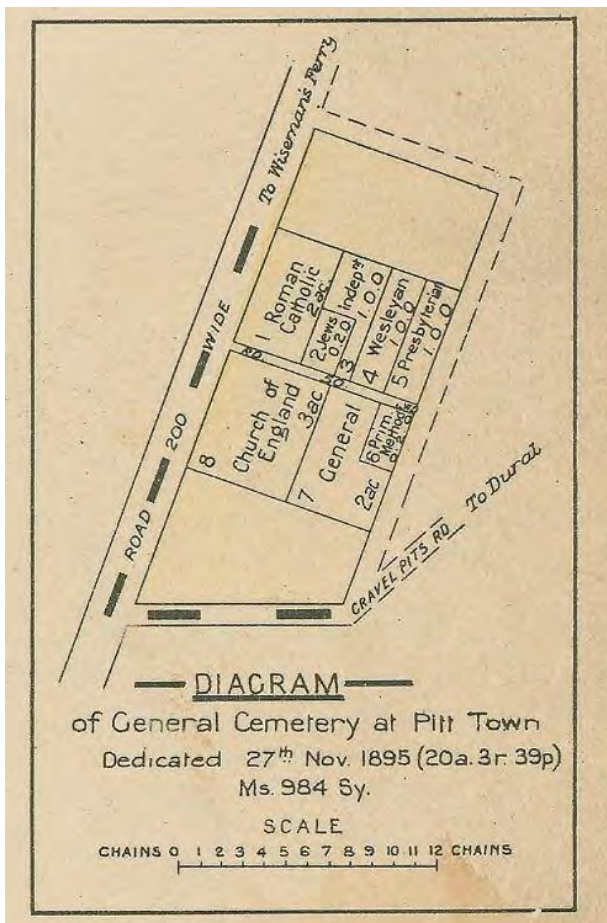


Figure 4 Diagram of Pitt Town General Cemetery included in the 1967 Pitt Town Parish Map. (Source: HLRV, LPI)

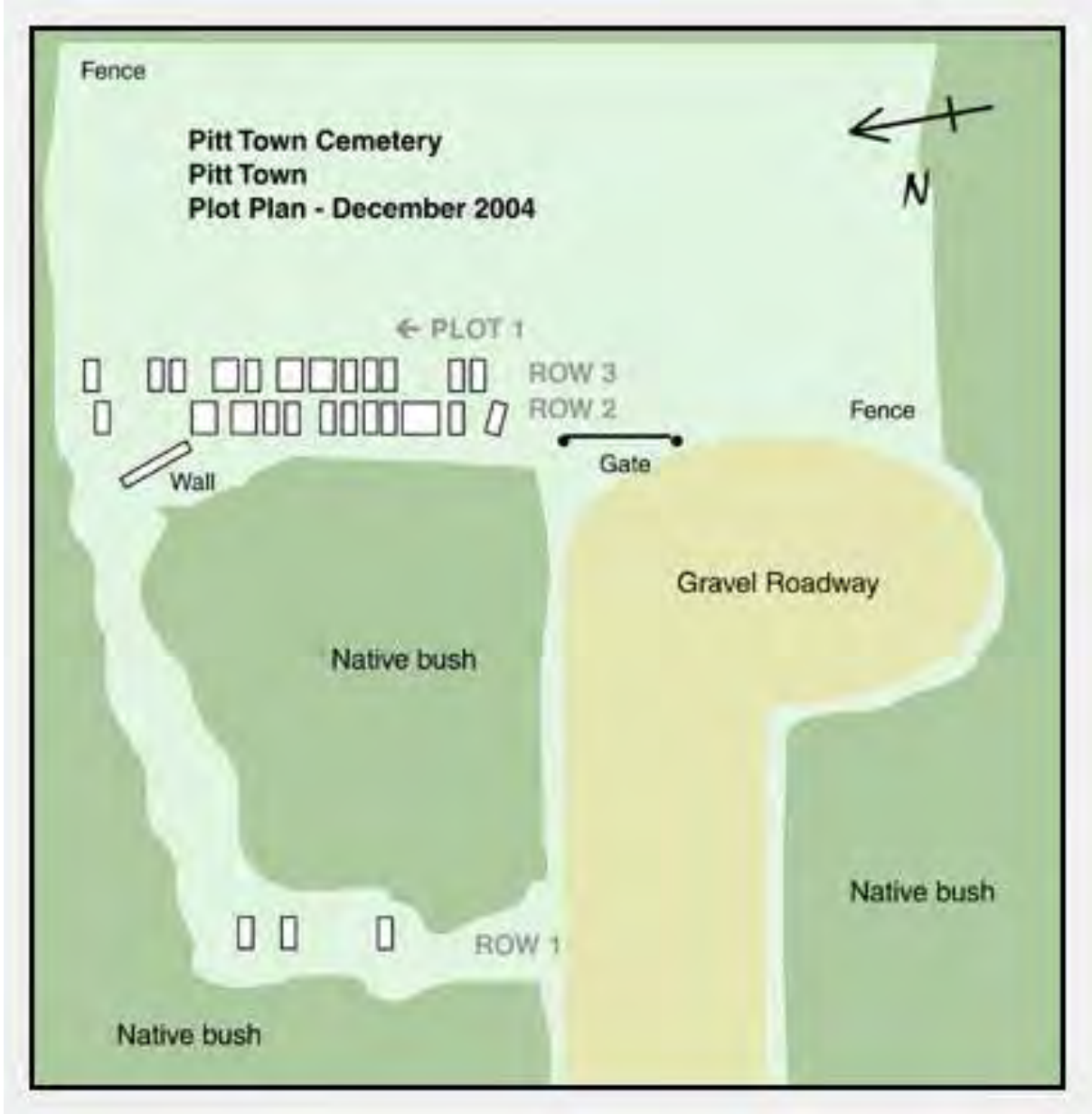


Figure 5 2004 Plan of Pitt Town Cemetery showing three burials in Row 1 surrounded by native bush to the east. (Source: Richmond War Cemetery—Richmond, Hawkesbury on the Net: Cemetery Register <[http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/pitt\\_town/index.html](http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/pitt_town/index.html)>)

## Description

### Setting

The site is accessed by a gravel drive from Old Stock Route Road. It has an open parking area and a swing gate to allow (and block) vehicular access.

The cemetery has a gradual slope downhill to the north and northeast. Native bushland surrounds the cemetery. There is a small clearing in an enclosed wooded area with limited undergrowth, allowing for views through the bushland. Graves are focused in the clearing and buried in five north–south oriented rows. A path extending east–west at the north end of the clearing leads into the bush to the south of the clearing, where another row of three mid twentieth-century burials are located amongst the trees.

### Physical Description

Pitt Town General Cemetery is a small cemetery in a bushland setting. Only the sections reserved for Wesleyan and Presbyterian burials in the northeast have been cleared of vegetation and much of the cemetery remains as natural bushland. Almost all burials in the cemetery are located in the cleared section, but there are three graves in the bush immediately to the west. The graves in the main section are arranged in five north–south oriented rows. The cleared section of the cemetery is reached by a dirt road that runs through the centre of the dedicated area and is marked on the west side by a simple star picket fence and timber gatepost. The path extends into the bush, where another row of three mid twentieth-century burials are located amongst the trees. The spacing of these suggests that it is possible that there are further unmarked graves located in this area as well. There are approximately 50 visible burials in total. The burials face east and are predominantly modern, desk-and-slab monuments.

### Condition

Pitt Town General Cemetery is in fair to good condition. There are several very recent graves with no marker or with only a small statuette (possibly awaiting memorial). The large area of cleared space south of existing burial rows consists of patches of grass and eroded sandy soils. Construction materials and soil, possibly related to past interments, has been dumped immediately outside the boundary fence in the southwest along with fallen tree remains.

Some of the temporary cruciform burial markers are damaged and no longer upright. Some of the stone/concrete headstones have also weathered due to age, making text partially illegible.

There is evidence of recent burials in the cemetery, with some family members being buried together. One example has generations in the same plot buried 70 years apart. Flowers are still being placed on some graves, including the damaged graves, demonstrating that the cemetery is still visited and cared for.

#### *Landscape*

A wire fence supported by star pickets and concrete posts encloses part of the site. Only a small portion of the overall site has been cleared, with most of the burials focused in this location. A path extends east–west across the site at the north end of the clearing.

#### *Other Elements*

There is a columbarium at the northwest corner of the clearing, adjacent to the path leading to burials within the tree covered area (Row 1 with three burials).



### Key Issues

- Dumped building material, soil and vegetation outside the cemetery boundary.
- Lack of fencing to protect Row 1 burials adjacent to access drive to the east.
- Weathered and fallen headstones.
- Graffiti on concrete boundary blocks outside the cemetery (none evident within cemetery).

### Interested Groups

Council welcomes the interest and support of the community in relation to the upkeep and improvement of cemeteries in its care. Some of the identified interest groups and information sources relevant to this cemetery include:

- Hawkesbury Cemeteries Register Group (update Cemetery Register record);
- Hawkesbury Historical Society;
- Hawkesbury on the Net;
- Hawkesbury Family History Group; and
- relatives and descendants.



Figure 6 View of Pitt Town Cemetery looking west, with the cleared sandy erosion area and a recent interment in foreground. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 7 Burial at cemetery entrance showing erosion of headstone lettering and broken burial furniture within plot. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 8 Looking west at three east-facing graves (Row 1) within bushland just outside the fenced cemetery area. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 9 Looking northeast at the back of the columbarium with fresh flowers. Burials also visible in bushland further east. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

## Historical Archaeological Potential

**Pitt Town General Cemetery is not expected to contain historical archaeological remains relating to prior use of the area. The site is expected to contain locally significant burial information associated with the Pitt Town community.**

'Archaeological potential' refers to the likelihood of archaeological remains to survive at a site. It should be distinguished from 'archaeological significance', which refers to the heritage values of any remains that may prove to have survived. Thus, there may be 'low potential' for certain remains to survive, but if they do survive, they might be assessed as being of 'high significance' (for example, if they are rare examples from the convict period). The potential archaeological resource within a cemetery can include evidence from a variety of different activities and associated elements depending on the history of the place before and during its existing function.

Historical archaeological evidence associated with pre-cemetery activity can result from ephemeral uses of the area. Potential archaeological remains can consist of land clearing and timber-getting as areas such as the Hawkesbury began to be settled by Europeans. More substantial evidence might include the remains of early farms and associated outbuildings, church facilities and sealed artefact deposits, although these are unlikely to exist at Pitt Town General Cemetery.

Many of the cemeteries identified in this SCMP are considered likely to have high archaeological potential in association with the burials present in each. Although interments currently cover each cemetery to varying degrees, as archaeological items, these hold significance for the data they might provide with regards to past ways of life and cultural perceptions of life and death. Most of the interments (including unmarked burials) would be of local significance, while the remains of individuals of historical or cultural significance in NSW would have the potential to be of state significance.

Changes to landscape elements through their use as cemeteries as well as gradual burial of some features (particularly in areas not regularly frequented or landscaped or where flood activity is likely to have washed away, moved or buried some elements) have likely resulted in their partial or complete burial. Buried or partially demolished landscaping elements associated with cultural landscapes of exceptional or high significance have the potential to be of state significance, depending on their nature and extent. Other elements associated with creating formal landscapes within the Council cemeteries would be of local significance.

Examples of activities and remains that may retain historical evidence include:

Activity	Potential Remains
Early land clearing	Tree roots, charcoal deposits, artefact scatters, soil deposits, evidence of camp sites etc.
Burials	Skeletal remains, coffins, coffin hardware, grave goods, utilitarian items (buttons, buckles etc).
Grave furniture	Headstones, crosses etc that may have fallen or been moved or vandalised.
Former landscaping	Paths, edging, fence rails, etc.

It is also important to remember that if any archaeological evidence relating to Aboriginal use is discovered at the cemetery, including during any general maintenance works, then works should cease in the area and the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) (formerly Office of Environment & Heritage [OEH]) must be notified immediately.

## Significance

### Assessment of Significance

The following table provides a heritage assessment for the Pitt Town General Cemetery site against the State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria:

#### SHR Criterion a) [Historical significance]

Pitt Town General Cemetery is of historical importance as the public burial ground for the town from 1895. Its location well away from the town and its comparatively late date of dedication (relative to the establishment of the town) reflects the relocation of the town from the original site chosen by Governor Macquarie.

Pitt Town General Cemetery meets this criterion at the local level.

#### SHR Criterion b) [Associative significance]

Pitt Town General Cemetery does not meet the threshold for Criterion B.

#### SHR Criterion c) [Aesthetic significance]

Pitt Town General Cemetery has some aesthetic importance for its pleasant natural bushland setting.

Pitt Town General Cemetery meets this criterion at the local level.

#### SHR Criterion d) [Social significance]

Pitt Town Cemetery is of local social significance to the Hawkesbury and Hills District communities as a place of burial and mourning since the early twentieth century. This small bushland burial ground preserves information about the local community in this period. It demonstrates the demographic, social and familial histories of a section of the Pitt Town community. The cemetery is still visited today and clearly retains social value to the existing community.

Pitt Town General Cemetery meets this criterion at the local level.

#### SHR Criterion e) [Research potential]

The cemetery may yield further familial and genealogical information that is of significance to parts of the local community. Information from headstones and burials may have research potential relating to the Pitt Town community.

Like all cemeteries, Pitt Town General Cemetery provides valuable information about past residents of the area.

Pitt Town General Cemetery meets this criterion at the local level.

**SHR Criterion f) [Rarity]**

Pitt Town General Cemetery does not meet the threshold for Criterion F.

**SHR Criterion g) [Representativeness]**

The cemetery provides important information about past residents of Pitt Town.

Pitt Town General Cemetery meets this criterion at the local level.

**Integrity/Intactness**

The cemetery is surrounded by bushland. Some of the grave markers are in need of repair.

**Original Statement of Significance**

*Although there are only a small number of burials in this cemetery, Pitt Town cemetery is of historical importance as the public burial ground for the town from 1890. Its location well away from the town and its comparatively late date of dedication (relative to the establishment of the town) reflects the relocation of the town from the original site chosen by Governor Macquarie.*

*Like all cemeteries, this site provides invaluable information about past residents of Pitt Town.*

*Pitt Town Cemetery has some aesthetic importance for its pleasant natural setting.*

**Revised Statement of Significance**

*Pitt Town General Cemetery is of local social significance to the Hawkesbury and Hills District communities as a place of burial and mourning since its dedication in the late nineteenth century. This small bushland burial ground is of historical importance as the public burial ground for the town from 1895. Its location well away from the town and its comparatively late date of dedication (relative to the establishment of the town) reflects the relocation of the town from the original site chosen by Governor Macquarie. Pitt Town General Cemetery preserves information about the local community from this period. It demonstrates the demographic, social and familial histories of a section of the Pitt Town community. The cemetery is still visited today and clearly retains social value to the community.*

*Like all cemeteries, this site provides invaluable information about past residents of the area.*

*Pitt Town General Cemetery has some aesthetic importance for its pleasant natural setting.*

## Management and Care

The table below identifies cemetery elements and recommended actions to consider in the future management of Pitt Town General Cemetery. The priority of action for each activity at the cemetery is suggested subject to ongoing Council and grant funding opportunities.

Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommended Action
Landscaping/ Planting	Improve landscaping and grassed areas where ground is patchy.	Low	Improve grassed and sandy areas with maintenance and reseeded.
	Consider installation of seating if appropriate.	Medium	Undertake regular maintenance of cleared areas to ensure bush and vegetation does not encroach.
	Retain both bush setting and cleared areas for visitation.	High	Remove rubbish pile near cemetery to discourage future dumping in the area.
	Remove rubbish in bush area.	High	
Unmarked Burials	Make attempts to locate unmarked graves to protect them from accidental damage or disturbance.	Low	Consider undertaking Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) investigations where there is potential or physical evidence for unmarked graves.
Historical Archaeology	Understand the archaeology of the site to assist in future management	Low to Medium	A Historical Archaeological Assessment report should be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist to determine the likelihood of intact unmarked burials at the site.
Security— Fences, Gates and Lighting	Review adequacy of fencing and security to protect against issues including anti-social behaviour, vandalism, illegal dumping, property encroachments and carparking on unfenced edges.	Medium	Consider extending cemetery boundary fencing to include Row 1 burials which are currently outside the main burial area, within surrounding bushland.
		Ongoing	Maintain regular cemetery inspections to identify if dumping and vandalism are ongoing concerns. If so, consider random night patrols by council staff or police as a deterrent. Consider sensor lighting if vandalism is common.
		Ongoing	Maintain security elements.
		High and Ongoing	Conduct regular drive-by and physical inspections of cemeteries to monitor vandalism or other issues affecting safety and significance.
Signage	Promote understanding by identifying the site through signage.	Low to Medium	Erect signage at the cemetery entrance.
	Consider signage to assist visitation, community and cultural interest by providing a brief history of the site.	Low	Consider low-key interpretation/signage to encourage visitation and connection with the site including <b>online information on Council's website</b> .
Restoration	Undertake restoration of significant monuments within the cemetery.	Ongoing	Source funding to restore weathered and fallen burial markers.
		High and Ongoing	Workers and volunteers should be encouraged to be familiar with working on heritage sites and be provided with copies of documents such as the <i>Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .
Significant Graves	Retain the condition of significant graves, headstones and monuments.	Ongoing	Work with living relatives/families to source funding/grants to assist in conserving these items.

Columbaria, Lawn and Monument Interments	Accommodate demand for ashes interments/columbaria, lawn or monument burials within all active cemetery areas.	Ongoing	If relevant, ensure availability of sufficient space for memorialisation in columbaria, lawn and monument sections within active cemetery areas.
Safety Issues	Identify cemetery elements that may pose a safety threat to visitors or their own stability whether due to vandalism, age/deterioration, ground movement or other causes.	Ongoing  High and Ongoing  Ongoing	Work with living relatives/families or interested local community support groups to source funding/grants to assist in conserving these items.  Ensure that safety issues are addressed as they arise, and that specialist assistance is sought when repairing monuments or trees.  Maintain security elements
Interested Groups	Continue to identify and engage with interested communities, groups and individuals.	Ongoing   High and Ongoing  Medium and Ongoing  Ongoing	Continue to identify, acknowledge and work with interested community groups including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hawkesbury Cemeteries Register Group (update Cemetery Register record);</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Historical Society;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury on the Net;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Family History Group; and</li> <li>• relatives and descendants.</li> </ul> Consider developing a work plan for the cemetery together with interested groups.  Local cemetery community groups should be encouraged and supported to undertake training in the recording, maintenance and conservation of historic cemeteries. Training could be provided by stonemasons, cemetery workers and other professions that regularly work with cemeteries.  Liaise with authors of Hawkesbury on the Net Cemetery Register and provide access to this SCMP to enable update of data for this cemetery in the Cemetery Register.
Accessible Funding/Resources	Investigate available grants.  Investigate use of volunteers, local community services and others to assist in appropriate aspects of cemetery maintenance.	Ongoing	Work with living relatives/families and/or interested local community support groups to source funding/grants to assist conservation of identified items and to undertake ongoing research into the history of the cemetery. Use actions in this SCMP to guide applications for conservation and maintenance work funding.



## References

- <sup>1</sup> 6 George IV, No. 21, November 1825, *An Act for Better Regulating and Preserving Parish and Other Registers of Births, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials in New South Wales and its Dependencies, Including Van Diemen's Land*, Clause 10: One Mile Burial Law.
- <sup>2</sup> Jack, I 2010, *Macquarie's Towns*, The Heritage Council of NSW, Australia, p 72.
- <sup>3</sup> Barkley-Jack, J 2001, Oral Information on Pitt Town Heritage Items – Cemeteries, Office of Environment and Heritage, Pitt Town Cemetery, State Heritage Inventory, viewed 25 June 2019 <<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=1740023>>.
- <sup>4</sup> Auld, C and Auld, J, Pitt Town Cemetery—Pitt Town, Hawkesbury on the Net: Cemetery Register, December 2004, viewed 23 January 2019 <[http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/pitt\\_town/index.html](http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/pitt_town/index.html)>.
- <sup>5</sup> 'Obituary', *Windsor & Richmond Gazette*, 31 August 1901, p 4, viewed 6 February 2019 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article85853128>>.
- <sup>6</sup> Murray, L 2016, *Sydney Cemeteries: A Field Guide*, NewSouth, Sydney, pp 319–20; Office of Environment and Heritage, Pitt Town Cemetery, State Heritage Inventory, viewed 23 January 2019 <<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=1740023>>.



Figure 10 Looking northwest at burials within the cemetery, many adorned with fresh flowers. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

A photograph of a cemetery with several large, upright, light-colored gravestones. The stones are arranged in rows, and some are partially obscured by a dark, ornate metal fence in the foreground. The background is filled with lush green trees and a clear sky. The overall scene is peaceful and well-maintained.

# Sackville Reach Cemetery

Handbook

**GML**  
HERITAGE

## Overview

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Other Name(s)	'St Thomas' Anglican Cemetery'; 'Sackville Reach Church of England Cemetery'
Heritage Listing(s)	<i>Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP)</i> , Listing I376
Date Dedicated	1827
Period of Use	1827–1987
Location (Coordinates)	Lat: -33.486274 Long: 150.893441
Primary Address	614 Tizzana Road, Sackville, NSW
Property Description	Lot 503 DP 751665
Parish	Wilberforce
County	Cook
Local Government Area	Hawkesbury
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Deerubbin

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## Summary History

- Sackville Reach Cemetery on Tizzana Road was the first formal cemetery at Sackville.
- Tizzana Road was named after Tizzana vineyards, established in 1887 by Dr Thomas Fiaschi.
- Burials seem to have begun on the site before the **cemetery's official completion**, with one of the earliest deaths recorded on a surviving monument being Emma Tuckerman (d. 1827), recorded on the Tuckerman family vault.<sup>1</sup>
- This cemetery is also the original location of St Thomas' Anglican Church. The location was selected by Bishop William Broughton, the first Church of England bishop of Australia in 1839. Lady Jane Franklin, wife of John Franklin, lieutenant-governor of **Van Diemen's Land**, was with Bishop Broughton and she recorded the occasion in her diary. On 26 June 1839, Bishop Broughton met with Mr Tuckerman and Mr Keane and confirmed with the two men that this land was given to the church by Mr Palmer. Lady Franklin noted the cemetery as:

*... a burial ground here, on sloping ground, 6 or 8 stones or tombs enclosed in square rails, besides a few others not so guarded. On one of the stones were these lines:*

*Farewell dear husband & relation  
Since God 'as caused a separation.<sup>2</sup>*

- Lady Franklin watched Bishop Broughton measure out one acre and discuss with Mr Tuckerman and Mr Keane the difficulties of sourcing building material for the church. Mr Tuckerman agreed to construct the building himself, using coarse stone for the walls and bringing in doors and windows from Sydney.
- According to an article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* (25 October 1861), published over 20 years after the **bishop's visit**, the church had still not been completed by 1861. Mr Stephen Tuckerman (presumed to be the same Mr Tuckerman who met with Bishop Broughton) explained at a meeting of local Church of England members that he had organised for workmen to quarry stones but work was stopped as he had run out of money. Mr S Tuckerman stated he now had £100 for the erection of the church. He submitted a plan at the meeting for a building capable of accommodating 50 people that would cost about £200 to complete. The article stated it is expected that the building would be completed in three months from the meeting.<sup>3</sup>
- The church was swept away in the 1867 floods. It was later reported that many headstones were also washed away.<sup>5</sup> The church was relocated to a higher location in 1870 and opened for services in 1871.<sup>6</sup>
- The cemetery records the life and tragic deaths associated with living near a river such as Richard Wall and his two daughters, Martha Ann and Rachel Jane (d. 1881), drowned in Hawkesbury River.
- Owen Cavanough, a First Fleeter (ex *Sirius*), was buried here but his headstone has since been moved to Ebenezer Cemetery. Margaret Cavanough nee Dowling (ex *Prince of Wales*) is also marked with a plaque at the same plot. Graves of other early Hawkesbury pioneers and their descendants are also here including some from the Turnbull, Chaseling, and Everingham families.
- Research undertaken by authors of *Hawkesbury on the Net: Cemetery Register* indicates there are at least 85 graves and 163 names recorded in the cemetery.

## Notable Burials

- A number of Aboriginal people were buried in this cemetery which is close to where the Sackville Aboriginal Reserve was established on 150 acres in 1889.<sup>7</sup> Martha Everingham, a local elder, was 80 when she died in 1926 and recorded as buried here in an unmarked grave.<sup>8</sup> **One obituary described her as 'the last of the full-blooded aborigines [sic] of the Hawkesbury'.**<sup>9</sup> However, Sackville Reach has been home to generations of Aboriginal families including the Barber, Packer and Everingham families. During the twentieth century many Aboriginal workers were employed at the Tizzana vineyards and the newspapers reported their camping on the riverbank during harvest, singing hymns and playing gum leaves.<sup>10</sup>
- Captain George Manning (1811–1907) was one of the river masters of the Hawkesbury and would have moved goods and passengers between Sydney and Windsor. His ship *Maid of Australia* is reported to have been a popular local vessel. His wife Elizabeth (d. 1890) and other family members are buried here.
- Emancipated convict Edward Churchill (d. 1852) was a successful farmer and **landholder**. **Churchill's Wharf, located near Sackville vehicle ferry**, was one the main wharves in Sackville.
- Members of the Stephens family, prominent stonemasons who built many local buildings including St Thomas' Anglican Church and Tizzana Winery using local quarried sandstone.

## Notable Monuments

- An obelisk marks the cemetery as the original location of St Thomas' Anglican Church.<sup>11</sup> An additional plaque was added in 1988 to commemorate the First Fleeters.

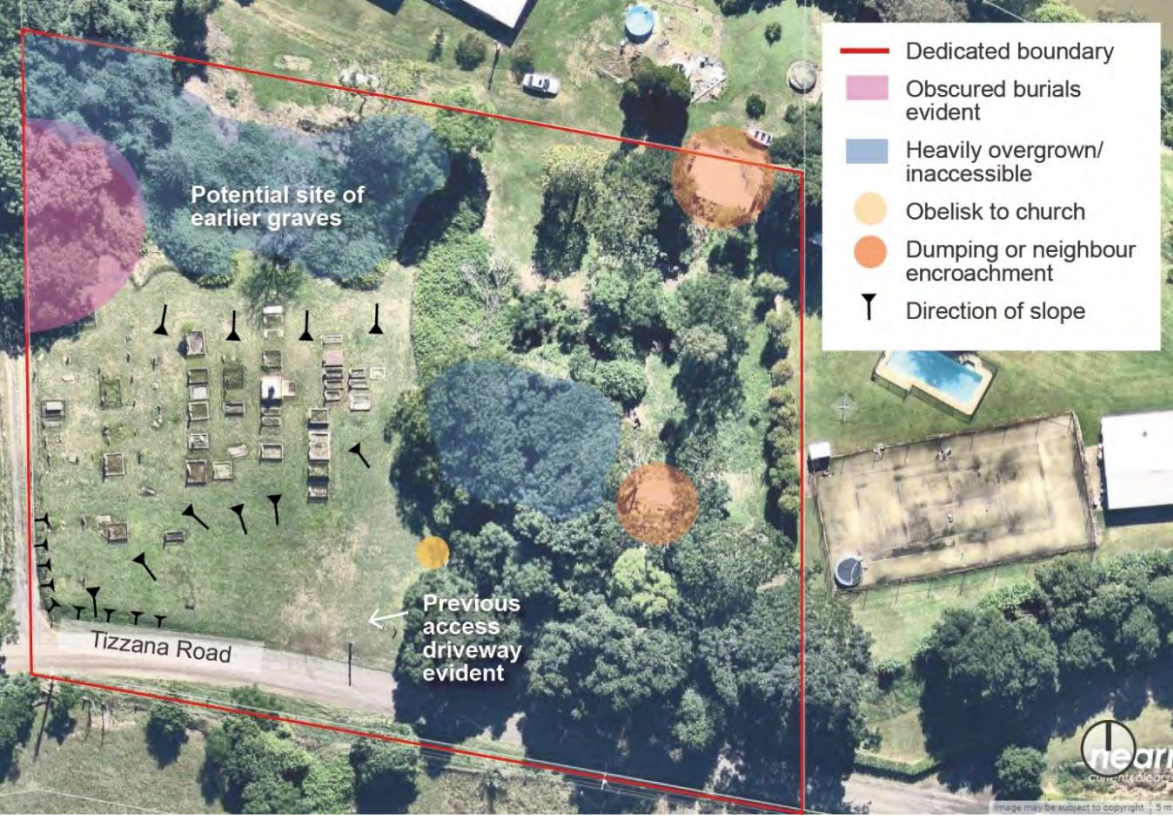


Figure 1 Aerial of Sackville Reach Cemetery showing boundaries, important sites and slope. (Source: Nearmap imagery with GML overlay)

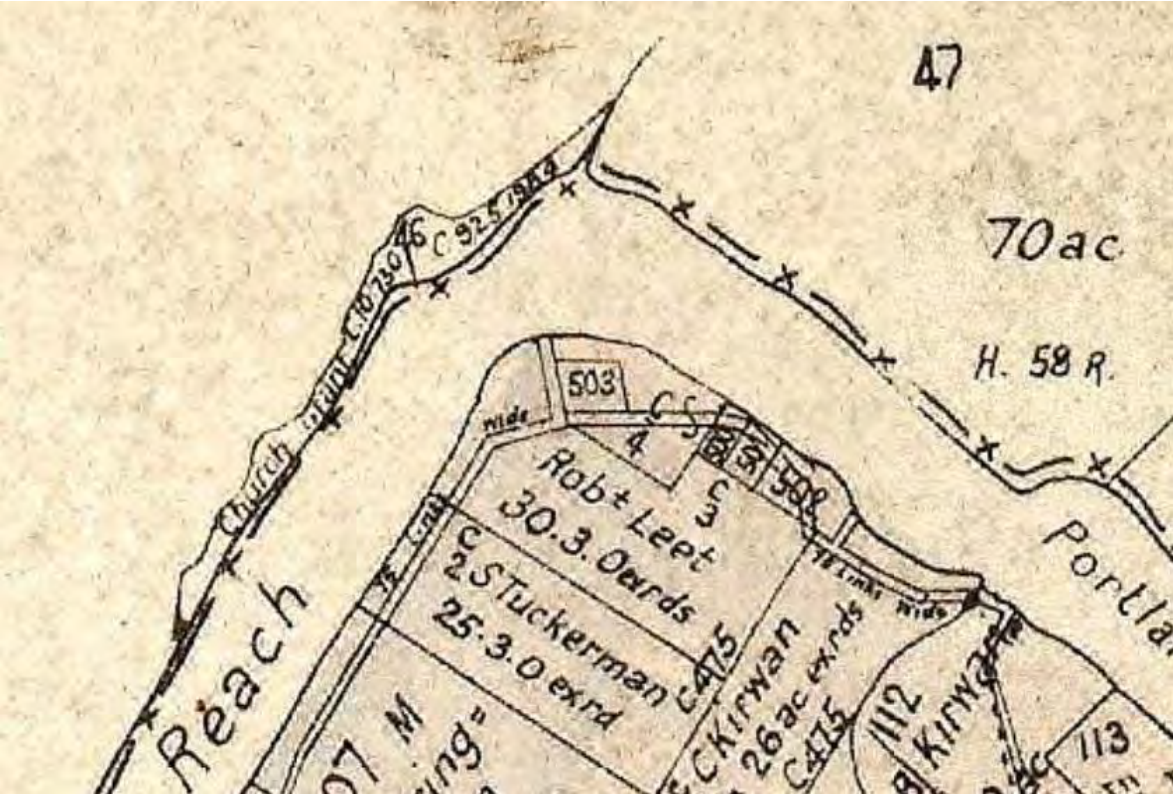


Figure 2 Close-up of 1896 Map of Wilberforce Parish showing Sackville Reach Cemetery, marked as 503. (Source: Historical Land Records Viewer, Land and Property Information)

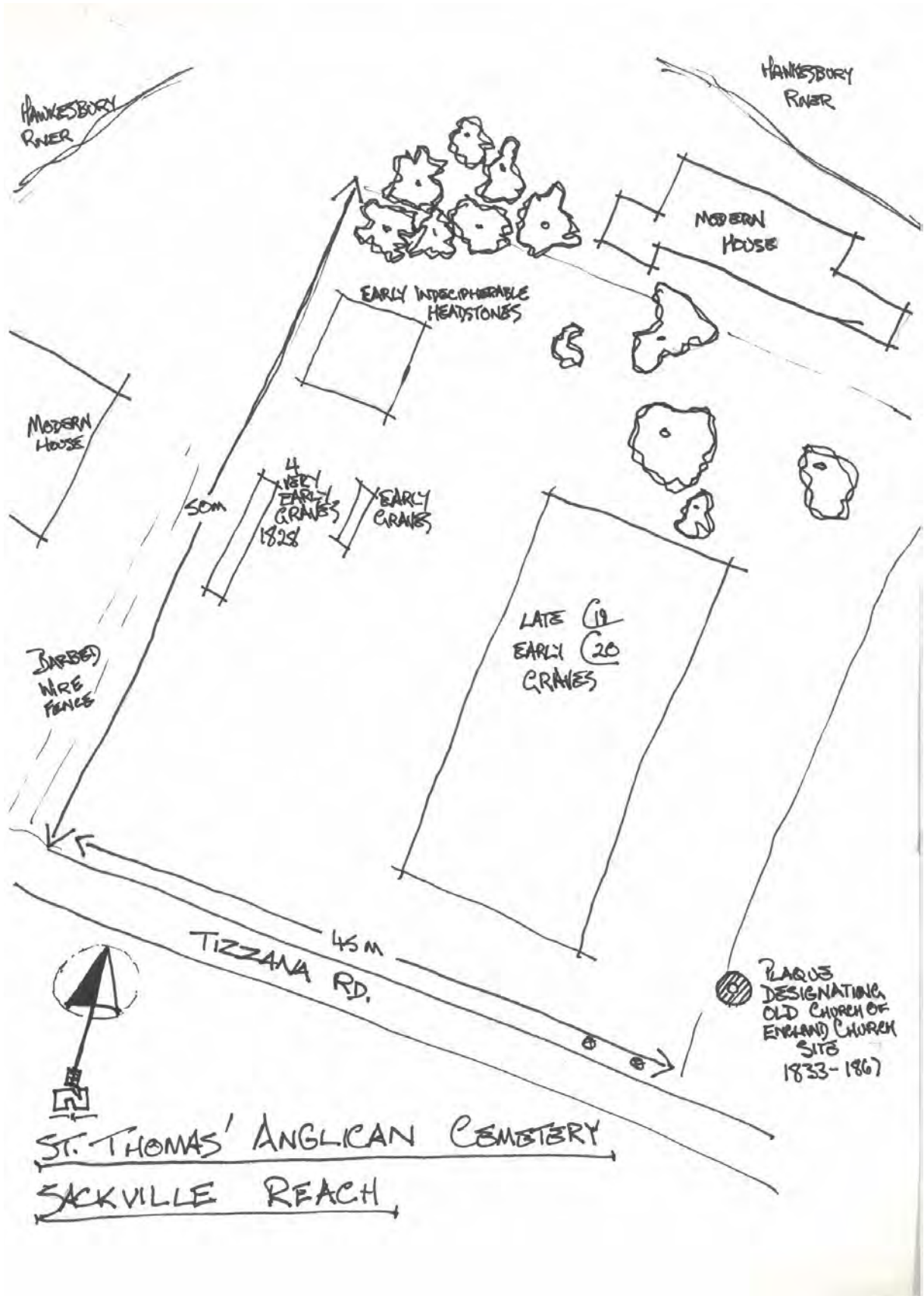


Figure 3 c1980 sketch of Sackville Reach Cemetery. (Source: National Trust [NSW], St Thomas' Anglican Cemetery Listings Card)



Figure 4 c1980 photograph of Sackville Reach Cemetery. (Source: National Trust [NSW], St Thomas' Anglican Cemetery Listings Card)



Figure 5 c1980 photograph of Sackville Reach Cemetery. (Source: National Trust [NSW], St Thomas' Anglican Cemetery Listings Card)



Figure 6 c1980 photograph of Sackville Reach Cemetery. (Source: National Trust [NSW], St Thomas' Anglican Cemetery Listings Card)



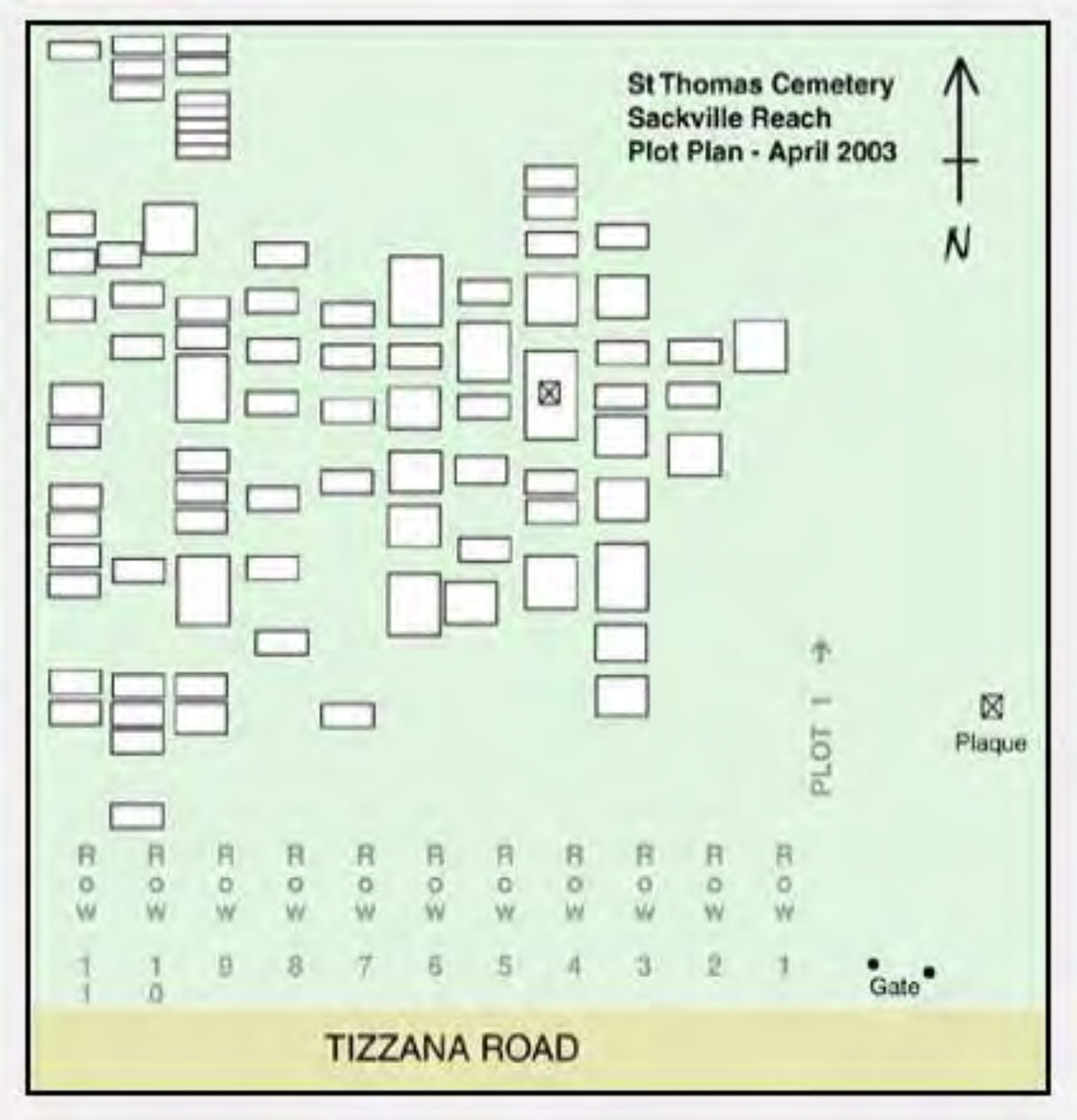


Figure 7 2003 Plan of Sackville Reach Cemetery. (Source: St Thomas Cemetery—Sackville Reach, Hawkesbury on the Net: Cemetery Register <[http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/st\\_thomas/index.html](http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/st_thomas/index.html)>)

## Description

### Setting

Sackville Reach Cemetery, established sometime between the late 1820s and early 1830s, is situated on the north side of Tizzana Road on a southeast–northwest oriented ridge overlooking the Hawkesbury River to the north (not presently visible). The site slopes downhill to the north and south, with burials focused on the eastern half of the site in rows oriented north–south. All burials are oriented facing east, towards the historical site of St Thomas' Anglican Church. The site of the church was selected in 1839 though construction was not completed until 1861 and the church was swept away during flooding in 1867.

### Physical Description

Sackville Reach Cemetery is located on a bend of the Hawkesbury River, about 70 metres from the river's edge. The cemetery is arranged in an east–west direction and consists of 11 rows. There are 85 graves and 163 names recorded.<sup>12</sup> Headstones range from simple Georgian through to Victorian headstones and iron surrounds to early twentieth-century slab monuments. At the northwest corner of the cemetery, a cluster of headstones are gathered together. A sign marking the site is located on the Tizzana Road frontage. Original timber gate posts survive at the east end of the Tizzana Road boundary.<sup>13</sup> In the centre, an obelisk marks the location of the former church site.

The oldest burials, generally marked by semicircular sandstone stelae with footstones, are located at the west side of the site. Markers for burials in the mid to late nineteenth century were still generally semicircular sandstone stelae but with more elaborate bas relief detailing and sandstone kerb surrounds, some with wrought or cast iron fences. More recent burials are situated on the east end of the site and marked by desk-and-slab graves (concrete or sandstone) with marble or granite slabs.

Few burials were observed on the north side of the ridge (towards the river), possibly as a result of the 1867 flooding event which removed the church and was said to have removed several grave markers. The only burials on the north side of the ridge consist of clusters of sandstone stelae located in a heavily overgrown area at the northwest corner of the site beneath a mature camphor laurel tree (Figure 9). The viny vegetation has obscured most of the grave markers in this area, and it is likely that additional burials are located in this part of the site.

### Condition

#### *Monuments*

Most of the monuments are in fair to good condition, with evidence of some stelae leaning or having fallen (Figure 8). Fallen stelae are at risk of further degradation. These are particularly evident near the western site boundary, including areas beneath heavy overgrowth. At least one monument appears to have been pushed over as an accident or act of vandalism, though this does not seem to be a widespread issue at the site. In comparison to other sites in the study, there is limited evidence of extensive subsidence.

More prominent monuments include a vault for the Manning family marked by a marble pedestal with draped urn, enclosed with a sandstone kerb and cast iron fence surround, which is situated at the centre of the site at the peak of the ridge (Figure 15). A sandstone altar tomb for the Tuckerman family enclosed by a cast iron surround is also located at the peak of the ridge but towards the western site boundary.

The site is clearly of interest to genealogical societies and descendants, as evidenced by the presence of a cemetery sign and obelisk marking the church site. Some of the stelae have been whitewashed with the inscription painted black, while others with faded inscriptions have had brass or bronze cast plaques affixed to the headstones stating the content of the inscription and identification of a descent or history group. Elsewhere low concrete markers with plaques containing inscription details have been added in front of the headstones.

### *Landscape*

No paths, significant plantings or other landscaping elements were identified during the site inspection. Creepers in the northwest corner of the site are obscuring and potentially damaging grave sites in this location.

Remains of an old access drive from the Tizzana Road frontage are evident at the eastern edge of the active burial area. This is marked by the two surviving original timber gateposts which are now decayed with termite damage. At the western edge of the southern frontage is a steep cut forming a bank at the interface with the road, while the western site boundary is also marked by a steep cut in the bank leading to a private driveway. There is no fence on the southern site boundary (Tizzana Road frontage). Fences on the north, east and west sides are star picket or timber posted wire fences which delineate the adjacent properties as opposed to enclosing the cemetery.

### *Other Elements*

A sandstone obelisk is located at the centre of the property (on the eastern edge of the unvegetated clearing) marking the site of the former St Thomas' Anglican Church (Figure 13). The eastern half of the site is significantly overgrown by vines and undergrowth. Potential structures or building footprints visible in aerial photographs of the site could not be reached for assessment through the dense undergrowth.

### **Key Issues**

- Aggressive and invasive creeper vines obscuring and potentially impacting on graves at the northwest corner of the site. These have also rendered the eastern half of the site (where the remains of St Thomas' Anglican Church are meant to exist) inaccessible.
- Lack of protection from vehicles (there is no fence on the Tizzana Road frontage). The narrow verge has resulted in no delineated parking areas, leaving visitors to park on the lawn in proximity to marked (and possibly unmarked) graves.
- Leaning and fallen stelae which are vulnerable to further damage.
- Interest in the cemetery has resulted in some restoration attempts and markings which are not consistent with current best practice cemetery management.

### **Interested Groups**

Council welcomes the interest and support of the community in relation to the upkeep and improvement of cemeteries in its care. Some of the identified interest groups and information sources relevant to this cemetery include:

- Owen Cavanough Family Historical Society;
- Deerubbin and Darug Aboriginal communities;

- Hawkesbury Cemeteries Register Group (update Cemetery Register record);
- Hawkesbury on the Net;
- Hawkesbury Historical Society;
- Hawkesbury Family History Group; and
- relatives and descendants.



Figure 8 Examples of leaning stelae and buried headstones. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 9 Heavy overgrowth at the western boundary of the cemetery conceals several plots. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 10 Headstones of the Turnbills, a pioneer Hawkesbury family. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 11 Fallen stelae at risk of further degradation. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 12 The headstone of Jane and William Everingham. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

## Historical Archaeological Potential

**Sackville Reach is an old and largely intact cemetery. The graves here provide significant potential archaeological information about early burials and burial practices and the local Sackville community. The location of the first Anglican church, completed c1861 and swept away in the 1867 floods, may also have archaeological potential.**

'Archaeological potential' refers to the likelihood of archaeological remains to survive at a site. It should be distinguished from 'archaeological significance', which refers to the heritage values of any remains that may prove to have survived. Thus, there may be 'low potential' for certain remains to survive, but if they do survive, they might be assessed as being of 'high significance' (for example, if they are rare examples from the convict period).

The potential archaeological resource within a cemetery can include evidence from a variety of different activities and associated elements depending on the history of the place before and during its existing function.

Historical archaeological evidence associated with pre-cemetery activity may have resulted from ephemeral uses of the area. Potential archaeological remains may consist of land clearing and timber-getting of the Hawkesbury as the region began to be settled by Europeans.

In the case of Sackville Reach Cemetery, there is also potential for more substantial evidence associated with the first Anglican church, which was completed at the site by c1861 and subsequently swept away in the floods of 1867. Historical archaeological evidence associated with potential land clearance and these church facilities at the cemetery may be assessed as having local or state significance, depending on their nature and extent.

Many of the cemeteries identified in this SCMP, including Sackville Reach, are considered likely to have high archaeological potential in association with the burials that have been excavated in each. Although interments currently cover each cemetery to varying degrees, as archaeological items, these hold significance for the data they might provide with regards to past ways of life and cultural perceptions of life and death. Most of the interments (including unmarked burials) would be of local significance, while the remains of individuals of historical or cultural significance in NSW would have the potential to be of state significance.

Changes to landscape elements through their use as cemeteries as well as gradual burial of some features (particularly in areas not regularly frequented or landscaped or where flood activity is likely to have washed away, moved or buried some elements) have likely resulted in their partial or complete burial. Buried or partially demolished landscaping elements associated with cultural landscapes of exceptional or high significance have the potential to be of state significance, depending on their nature and extent. Other elements associated with creating formal landscapes within the Council cemeteries would be of local significance.

Examples of activities and remains that may retain historical evidence include:

Activity	Potential Remains
Early land clearing	Tree roots, charcoal deposits, artefact scatters, soil deposits, evidence of camp sites etc.
Burials	Skeletal remains, coffins, coffin hardware, grave goods, utilitarian items (buttons, buckles etc).



Activity	Potential Remains
Church facilities	Foundations, sealed deposits and other buried remains associated with the original c1861 church at the site.
Grave furniture	Headstones, crosses etc that may have fallen or been moved or vandalised.
Former landscaping	Paths, edging, fence rails, etc.

In addition to visible graves, grave goods and associated elements, Sackville Reach Cemetery has the potential to retain the following buried historical era archaeological evidence:

- structural remains, sealed deposits and other archaeological evidence associated with the original c1861 church and its use; and
- unrecorded inhumations and associated remains including footstones, headstones and other grave goods.

It is also important to remember that if any archaeological evidence relating to Aboriginal use is discovered at the cemetery, including during any general maintenance works, then works should cease in the area and the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) (formerly Office of Environment & Heritage [OEH]) must be notified immediately.



Figure 13 Sandstone obelisk marking the site of the former St Thomas' Anglican Church. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

## Significance

### Assessment of Significance

The following provides a heritage assessment for the Sackville Reach Cemetery site against the State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria:

#### SHR Criterion a) [Historical significance]

Sackville Reach Cemetery or St Thomas' Anglican Cemetery is locally significant as the first formal cemetery at Sackville. Significant burials include First Fleeters Owen Cavanough (of *Sirius*) and Margaret Cavanough (ex *Prince of Wales*) who have been marked with a shared plaque. Owen's headstone was relocated to Ebenezer Cemetery. The burial plots also contain a number of early European families on the Hawkesbury and their descendants including the Turnbull, Chaseling and Everingham families. Several graves belonging to Aboriginal families in the Hawkesbury are within the cemetery including Darug woman Martha Everingham, who was regarded as the last full blood member of her tribe.

Sackville Reach Cemetery is considered significant for the state of NSW and for Australia.

#### SHR Criterion b) [Associative significance]

Sackville Reach Cemetery has considerable significance under this criterion for its association with several significant early settlers buried there including First Fleeters Owen Cavanough and Margaret Cavanough and Darug woman Martha Everingham, who was regarded as the last full blood member of her tribe.

The cemetery is considered significant at a state level under this criterion.

#### SHR Criterion c) [Aesthetic significance]

Georgian, Victorian and early twentieth-century headstones in Sackville Reach Cemetery are locally significant as they are characteristic of colonial burial ornamentation. The cemetery has aesthetic value within the rural and Hawkesbury River landscape setting.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

#### SHR Criterion d) [Social significance]

Sackville Reach Cemetery is strongly associated with the Aboriginal community (the Barber, Packer and Everingham families) with significant burials at the cemetery including key figures such as Darug woman Martha Everingham; and as part of a network of nearby social and cultural landscapes including the Sackville Aboriginal Reserve less than 2km away and the Tizzana Vineyard less than 1km away where many Aboriginal people were employed during the twentieth century.

The cemetery is of local social significance to the Sackville community as a place of burial and mourning since 1828. Families remain strongly associated to the cemetery including

descendants of Owen Cavanough, a First Fleeter buried here whose headstone has since been moved to Ebenezer Cemetery. The Cavanough descendants have erected a cemetery sign and the obelisk marking the St Thomas' Anglican Church site. The last interment was in 1987 while recent memorial plaques installed in 2001 in memory of ancestors such as the Hayman family attest to the ongoing significance of the cemetery to community and personal identity.

The cemetery is considered significant at a state level under this criteria.

#### **SHR Criterion e) [Research potential]**

The cemetery has potential to yield further genealogical information that is locally significant to the community. The cemetery has potential to contain archaeological information and material relating to the 1867 flood, including burials and grave markers, and remnants of the first St Thomas' Anglican Church. It is likely that additional burials are located in the heavily overgrown area at the northwest corner of the site.

There is research potential regarding the cultural significance of the cemetery to the local Aboriginal community, connections between families and associations with the social history of the twentieth century at Sackville.

The cemetery is considered significant at a state level under this criterion.

#### **SHR Criterion f) [Rarity]**

The cemetery provides examples of increasingly rare Georgian monuments.

The cemetery is considered significant at a state level under this criterion.

#### **SHR Criterion g) [Representativeness]**

As a group, the Sackville Reach Cemetery headstones are representative at a local level of different periods of burials from 1827 through to the twentieth century and later plaques marking commemorations of significance to the community.

The cemetery is considered significant at a state level under this criterion.

#### **Integrity/Intactness**

The cemetery's integrity has largely been maintained. Some stelae are leaning, and further conservation work needs to be undertaken with collapsed and moved headstones and other grave markers obscured by overgrown vegetation.

The cemetery also has potential to contain structural remains, sealed deposits and other archaeological evidence associated with the original c1861 Anglican church built on the site.

## Original Statement of Significance (2002)

*This is the first formal cemetery at Sackville and contains the graves of a number of early Hawkesbury settlers and their descendants including members of the Turnbull, Chaseling, Everingham families. Martha Everingham, the last full blood member of the Dharug tribe was also buried here.*

*Used as a burial place for local citizens since 1828, this cemetery has the potential to provide substantial information about the community of Sackville.*

*As the location of the first Anglican Church on this site may have some archaeological potential.*

*St Thomas Anglican Cemetery contains a number of representative headstones from all periods from 1828 to the early C20th. The Georgian headstones surviving in the cemeteries are rare examples of the period.*

*This cemetery has a pleasant rural setting, complemented by the proximity to the Hawkesbury River.*

## Revised Statement of Significance

*This is Sackville's first formal cemetery and has been used as place of burial and mourning by the community since 1828. Situated in close proximity to the Hawkesbury River, the association between early Hawkesbury families buried here and their descendants is evident in the ongoing maintenance, commemoration and genealogical research undertaken. Burials include First Fleeters Owen and Margaret Cavanough, early families to settle in the area such as the Turnbolls, Chaselings and Everinghams.*

*The Cemetery is associated with the local Aboriginal community with burials such as Darug woman Martha Everingham and other local families including members of the Barber family. Further research of other burials and families could contribute to a better understanding of ongoing cultural connections to Sackville maintained by Aboriginal people over generations.*

*The site may have archaeological potential relating to the site of the original St Thomas Anglican Church and other burials or grave markers.*

*The cemetery contains headstones from 1827 to early twentieth century. Georgian headstones are rare examples surviving from the cemetery's establishment.*



Figure 14 Gravestones at Sackville Reach Cemetery. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

## Management and Care

The table below identifies cemetery elements and recommended actions to consider in the future management of Sackville Reach Cemetery. The priority of action for each activity at the cemetery is suggested subject to ongoing Council and grant funding opportunities.

Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommended Action
Heritage Listing	List Sackville Reach Cemetery on the SHR.	High	Consider applying to have Sackville Reach Cemetery listed on the SHR.
Landscaping/ Planting	The vegetation in the cemetery needs to be actively managed to protect burials and grave makers. This will help retain the heritage character of the cemetery.	High	Remove aggressive and invasive vegetation growth obscuring and potentially impacting on graves at the northwest corner of the site.
		High	Cut back overgrown vegetation on the eastern half of the site (where the remains of St Thomas' Anglican Church are meant to exist), to make this area more accessible.
		Low	Consider installation of seating where appropriate.
Unmarked Burials	Make attempts to locate unmarked graves to protect them from accidental damage or disturbance.	Medium to High	Consider undertaking Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) investigations where there is potential or physical evidence for unmarked graves.
Historical Archaeology	Understand the archaeology of the site to assist in future management.	Medium	A Historical Archaeological Assessment report should be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist to determine the likelihood of intact unmarked burials and survival of original historical church remains affected by earlier flooding at the site.
Security— Fences, Gates and Lighting	Provide adequate fencing and security to protect against issues including antisocial behaviour, vandalism, illegal dumping, property encroachments and carparking on unfenced edges.	High	Two original decayed (termite damaged) gateposts on the Tizzana Road frontage require professional assessment to determine whether to retain and restore or replace.
		High	Consider installation of site appropriate security fencing to help protect and delineate the site.
		High	Delineate parking areas to prevent visitors parking on the lawn in proximity to marked (and possibly unmarked) graves.
		Ongoing	Maintain security elements.
		High and Ongoing	Conduct regular drive-by and physical inspections to monitor vandalism or other issues affecting safety and significance.
Signage	Promote understanding by identifying the site through the signage. Signage could also be used to assist visitation, community and cultural interest by providing a brief history of the site.  Also consider identifying significant graves and monuments and/or providing	Medium	Consider low-key interpretation/signage to encourage visitation and connection with the site including <b>online information on Council's website</b> if this is appropriate for the consistency of the Council cemeteries as a group.

	interesting information about prominent grave and monument styles, landscape and flora species present.		
Restoration	Restoration of significant monuments within the cemetery will assist to retain the heritage character of the place.	Ongoing  Medium  High and Ongoing	Source funding to restore significant monuments, headstones and grave furniture.  Treat cemetery ironwork against rust.  Encourage workers and volunteers to be familiar with working on heritage sites and provide them with copies of documents such as the <i>Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .
Significant Graves	Maintaining significant graves, headstones and monuments will assist in the overall presentation of the cemetery.	Ongoing	Work with living relatives/families to source funding/grants to assist in the conservation of these items.  Consider Polynomial Texture Mapping (PTM)/Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) photography treatment to record damaged and/or worn headstone inscriptions.
Safety Issues	Identify cemetery elements that may pose a safety threat to visitors or their own stability whether due to vandalism, age/deterioration, ground movement or other causes.	Ongoing	Fallen stelae and monuments should be re-erected as funding allows. Work with living relatives/families or interested local community support groups to source funding/grants to assist in conservation of these items.  Ensure that safety issues are addressed as they arise, and that specialist assistance is sought when repairing fallen or dangerous monuments or trees.
Interested Groups	Continue to engage and work with interested communities, groups and individuals.	Ongoing  High and Ongoing  Medium and Ongoing	Continue to identify, acknowledge and work with interested community groups and individuals including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Owen Cavanough Family Historical Society;</li> <li>• Deerubbin and Darug Aboriginal communities;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Cemeteries Register Group (update Cemetery Register record);</li> <li>• Hawkesbury on the Net;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Historical Society;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Family History Group; and</li> <li>• relatives and descendants.</li> </ul> Consider developing a work plan for the cemetery together with interested groups.  Local cemetery community groups should be encouraged and supported to undertake training in the recording, maintenance and conservation of historic cemeteries. Training could be provided by stonemasons, cemetery workers, or any other profession that works with cemeteries on a regular basis.

		Ongoing	Liaise with authors of Hawkesbury on the Net Cemetery Register and provide access to this SCMP to enable update of data for this cemetery in the Cemetery Register.
Accessible Funding/ Resources	Investigate available grants.  Investigate opportunities available to undertake additional research about the history of the cemetery, and the Aboriginal people, early settlers and other significant people buried there.	Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing	Work with living relatives/families and/or interested local community support groups to source funding/grants to assist in the conservation of identified items.  Investigate further research opportunities available to research the history of the cemetery and families of the Sackville area buried here.  Use the actions in this SCMP to guide applications for funding for conservation and maintenance work.



## References

- <sup>1</sup> NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, State Heritage Inventory, 'St Thomas' Anglican Cemetery', viewed 6 February 2019 <<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=1740163>>.
- <sup>2</sup> Franklin, J 2002, *This Errant Lady: Jane Franklin's Overland Journey to Port Phillip and Sydney, 1839*, Russell, P (ed.), National Library of Australia, Canberra, p 167.
- <sup>3</sup> 'SACKVILLE REACH, HAWKESBURY RIVER', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 25 October 1861, p 2, viewed 6 February 2019 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13060912>>.
- <sup>5</sup> 'EARLY FLOODS', *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 8 March 1929, p 8, viewed 6 February 2019 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article85931443>>.
- <sup>6</sup> Bowd, DG 1969, *Macquarie Country: A History of the Hawkesbury*, F W Cheshire, Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney, p 76.
- <sup>7</sup> For information about the Aboriginal Sackville Reserve, a 150-acre reserve operating from 1889–1946: <<https://griffithreview.com/articles/life-and-death-on-dyarubbin/>>; <<https://historyofaboriginalsydney.edu.au/north-west/1890s>>.
- <sup>8</sup> 'OBITUARY', *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 22 October 1926, p 3, viewed 6 February 2019 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article85952839>>.
- <sup>9</sup> 'THE VANISHING RACE', *Evening News*, 8 November 1926, p 3, viewed 6 February 2019 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article117328258>>.
- <sup>10</sup> Karskens, G, 'Life and Death on Dyarubbin: Reports from the Hawkesbury River', *Griffith Review: Writing the Country*, Edition 63, February 2019, viewed 8 July 2019 <<https://griffithreview.com/articles/life-and-death-on-dyarubbin/>>.
- <sup>11</sup> Murray, L 2016, *Sydney Cemeteries: A Field Guide*, NewSouth, Sydney, pp 329–330; National Trust (NSW), St Thomas' Anglican Cemetery Listings Card, 1980; Nichols, M, 'Hawkesbury Cemeteries', prepared for Hawkesbury City Council, February 2010.
- <sup>12</sup> Hawkesbury on the Net: Cemetery Register, 'St Thomas Cemetery – Sackville Reach', viewed 8 July 2019 <[http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/st\\_thomas/index.html](http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/st_thomas/index.html)>.
- <sup>13</sup> NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, State Heritage Inventory, 'St Thomas' Anglican Cemetery', viewed 6 February 2019 <<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=1740163>>.



Figure 15 Sackville Reach Cemetery. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



# Lower Portland Cemetery

Handbook

**GML**  
HERITAGE

## Overview

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Other Name(s)	'Lower Portland General Cemetery'
Heritage Listing(s)	Not currently listed
Date Dedicated	1899
Period of Use	1899 to present
Location (Coordinates)	Lat: -33.458457 Long: 150.858899
Primary Address	898 West Portland Road, Lower Portland, NSW
Property Description	Lot 7013 DP 93277
Parish	Meehan
County	Cook
Local Government Area	Hawkesbury
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Deerubbin

This handbook is intended as a handy standalone guide for use by Hawkesbury City Council (Council) or for issue to community groups to guide their understanding and contribution to the management, care and maintenance of this cemetery. Relevant sections of this handbook should be updated as additional historical or other information becomes available and/or works are undertaken that change the condition of the cemetery.

The Management & Care table at the end of the Handbook identifies elements, recommended actions and timing priorities to consider in the future management of the cemetery. Using the Handbook as a starting point to develop a Cemetery Working Plan, relatives, descendants, interested groups and individuals, working closely with Council, can be guided to manage the cemetery together: to implement high priority actions first, seek specialist advice and training when needed and together create opportunities for ongoing care of the cemetery and its elements. Engaged management aims to enhance visitation, community interest and appreciation of these special places of eternal rest and commemoration.

## Summary History

- This land was dedicated on 2 December 1899 and divided into four equal sections. The sections were allocated to Church of England, Wesleyan, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and Unsectarian. Presbyterian and Unsectarian shared a single section, the eastern part and western part respectively.
- The cemetery is an example of a site **where district surveyors modified instructions from the Surveyor General's Office** to suit the local landform and population.<sup>1</sup>
- People buried here are descendants of families associated with Hawkesbury River, including the Blundell, Herps, Jones, Leet, Metherell and Mitchell families. A number of servicemen are buried in the cemetery including two First World War veterans, Cecil Uren (Captain Medical Officers, Australian Army) and Harold Searle Humphries (Lieutenant, 14<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade AIF WWI);<sup>2</sup> a memorial headstone for Second World War pilot Lee Gordon Gosper who was killed in France in 1943 and awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross; Gunner GM Bromley (53 Australian Composite Anti-Aircraft Regiment R.A.A), buried in the Methodist section; Corporal Chapman (2/2 Anti-Aircraft Regiment Composite); and Private Kenneth and Eric Gotts, who were killed in Papua New Guinea.<sup>3</sup>
- Some memorial plaques such as Violet Musgrave's mention their connection back to First Fleet families such as Matthew James Everingham (*Scarborough*, 1788).
- Research undertaken as part of the Hawkesbury on the Net: Cemetery Register indicate there are at least 145 graves and 199 names recorded in the cemetery.

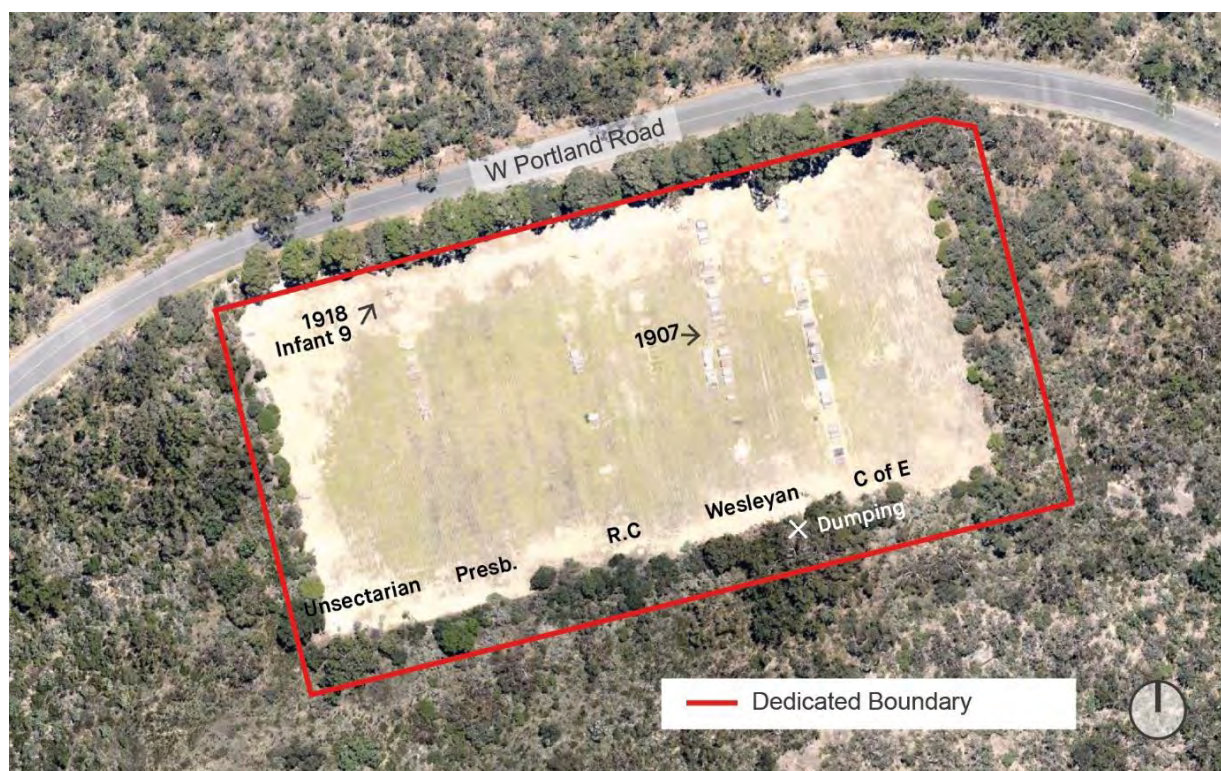


Figure 1 The Lower Portland Cemetery, with boundary (red), denominations and noted features identified. (Source: Nearmap imagery with GML overlay)

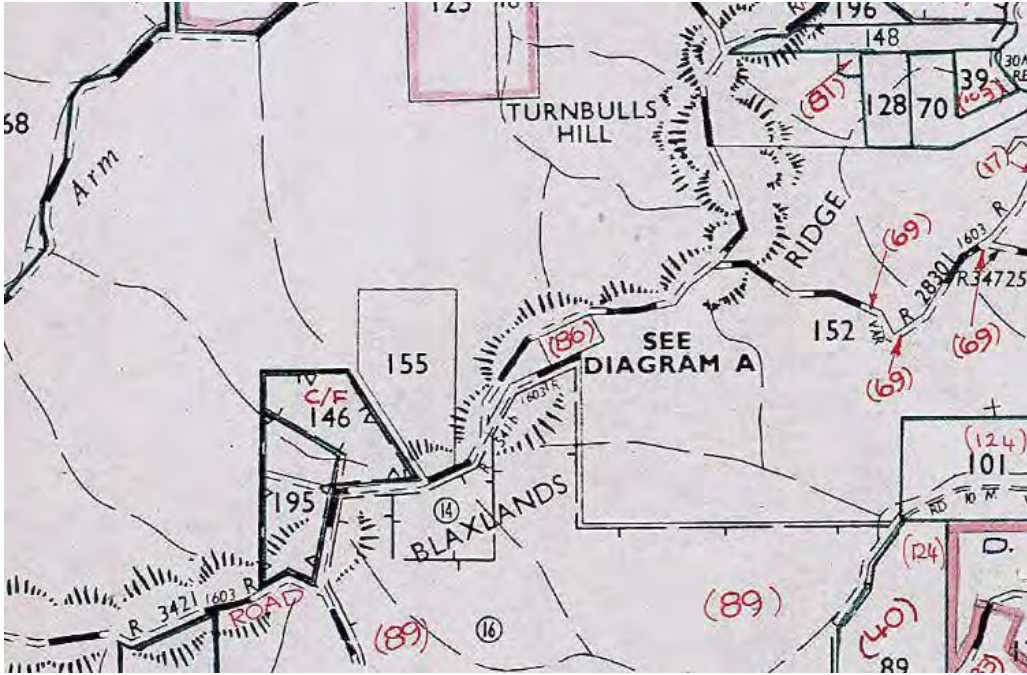


Figure 2 The Lower Portland Cemetery is marked as (86) on the 1977 Meehan Parish Map. (Source: Historical Land Records Viewer, Land and Property Information)

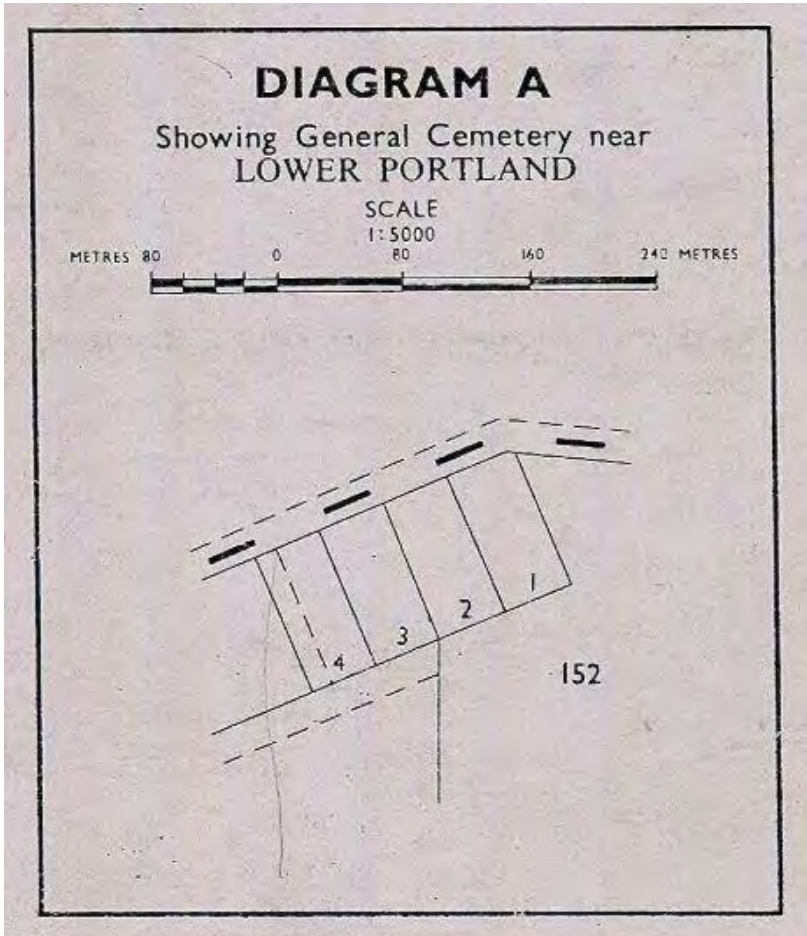


Figure 3 Diagram of Lower Portland Cemetery included in the 1977 Meehan Parish Map. Allotment numbers: 1—Church of England, 2—Wesleyan, 3—Roman Catholic, 4—Presbyterian (eastern portion) and Unsectarian (western portion). (Source: Historical Land Records Viewer, Land Titles Office)

## Description

### Setting

The Lower Portland Cemetery, established in 1899, is situated in a clearing within a densely forested area on the high point of a ridge and oriented northeast–southwest. The study area slopes gradually down to the northwest towards West Portland Road. The slope is partly turf but primarily sand and exposed bedrock, gravel or deteriorating clay.

The cemetery location at the top of a ridge leaves the site exposed to erosion threats caused by wind and rain. This erosion is exacerbated by the lack of thick grass cover, bushes and trees within the cemetery, and the slope to the south/southwest. The cemetery is in an isolated location, outside of a populated centre. Graves are oriented in an east–west direction and face the west.

### Physical Description

The Lower Portland General Cemetery is a 1.7ha cemetery located on West Portland Road at the top of Blaxlands Ridge. The site is surrounded by a barbed wire picket fence with concrete columns marking the two road-facing corners. The main gate consists of a steel arch with the words ‘In Remembrance’ above a set of double swing gates (Figure 4). Two brick columbaria are set back approximately 8m from the main gate and flank either side of the main view line from the front gates (Figure 5). The columbaria contain ashes dating between 1972 and 2015, suggesting that they were constructed in the late 1960s or early 1970s.

The cemetery is divided into denominations (Figure 1) with the oldest sites located in the centre of each row and newer grave sites located along the edges. Some graves are grouped into families. The denominational burial sections are marked by pressed aluminium signs affixed to steel posts.

#### *Monuments*

For all denominations, concrete ‘desk-and-slab’ style monuments are most common, although the Presbyterian section has a notable number of red granite monuments. The cemetery also contains some burials with sandstone headstones and surrounds (Figure 9), a few with iron picket surrounds and others with granite or marble urn sculptures (Figure 10). Many of the burials in the Unsectarian section are very recent and remain unmarked or are marked by a small statuette without an associated name or date (Figure 8).

There are several graves and memorials in memory of servicemen from the First World War and Second World War, some marked with AIF insignia. The servicemen’s burials include Blundell, Herps, Humphries, Jones, Lee, Metherell, Mitchell and Uren.

### Condition

The Lower Portland Cemetery is in fair to good condition. The cemetery grounds lack formal plantings and natural vegetation except at the boundaries, leaving the site exposed to erosion from wind and rain. Piles of soil, most likely from past internments and some building materials, have been dumped at the south of the cemetery at the tree line. Some headstones are in poor condition, with wording wearing off, and some have damaged headstones or broken slabs (possibly due to vandalism). There are several large bull ant nests within the cemetery.

Downhill areas of the cemetery have evidence of floodwaters and several large wombat burrows were observed though not directly within the burial area.

The cemetery is isolated and lacks amenity. Dense brush and regrowth trees have obscured the view towards the river.

### *Landscape*

The property was historically divided into four allotments to allow for burial by denomination, including (from west to east) Unsectarian, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Wesleyan, and Church of England, though the Unsectarian and Presbyterian burial areas shared the same allotment. Each denomination has one to four rows of burials, with all rows oriented roughly northwest–southeast perpendicular to West Portland Road. Burials are oriented facing northeast. The exception to this generally consistent orientation is a single grave in the Wesleyan section from 1907 which is aligned east–west. In each denominational section, earlier burials are generally at the centre of the burial rows with more recent burials situated to the north and south.

Formal landscaping within the cemetery is limited to an avenue of mature eucalypts along the West Portland Road frontage, a white-painted iron entry gate and sign and pressed tin signs marking the denominational sections (Figure 6).

### **Key Issues**

- Dumping along the southern and eastern site boundary.
- Large bull ant nests.
- Isolation and lack of amenity.

### **Interested Groups**

Council welcomes the interest and support of the community in relation to the upkeep and improvement of cemeteries in its care. Some of the key interest groups and information sources relevant to this cemetery include:

- Hawkesbury Cemeteries Register Group (update Cemetery Register record);
- Hawkesbury Historical Society;
- Hawkesbury on the Net;
- Hawkesbury Family History Group;
- War Graves Commission;
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission; and
- relatives and descendants.



Figure 4 Entrance gates of the Lower Portland Cemetery. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 5 Two brick columbaria situated at the entrance. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)





Figure 6 Denominational burial sections are marked by pressed aluminium signs affixed to steel posts. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 7 Graves in need of conservation. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 8 Grave with missing headstone. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 9 Lower Portland Cemetery graves. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

## Historical Archaeological Potential

### **Lower Portland Cemetery can provide significant potential archaeological information about burials in the local community.**

'Archaeological potential' refers to the likelihood of archaeological remains to survive at a site. It should be distinguished from 'archaeological significance', which refers to the heritage values of any remains that may prove to have survived. Thus, there may be 'low potential' for certain remains to survive, but if they do survive, they might be assessed as being of 'high significance' (for example, if they are rare examples from the convict period).

The potential archaeological resource within a cemetery can include evidence from a variety of different activities and associated elements depending on the history of the place before and during its existing function.

Historical archaeological evidence associated with pre-cemetery activity can result from ephemeral uses of the area. Potential archaeological remains can consist of land clearing and timber-getting as areas such as the Hawkesbury began to be settled by Europeans. Historical archaeological evidence associated with pre-cemetery establishment and use may be assessed as having local or state significance, depending on its nature and extent, although this kind of activity is considered unlikely to have occurred within the Lower Portland Cemetery site.

Many of the cemeteries identified in this SCMP are considered likely to have high archaeological potential in association with the burials that have been excavated in each. Although interments currently cover each cemetery to varying degrees, as archaeological items, these hold significance for the data they might provide with regards to past ways of life and cultural perceptions of life and death. Most of the interments (including unmarked burials) would be of local significance, while the remains of individuals of historical or cultural significance in NSW would have the potential to be of state significance.

Changes to landscape elements through their use as cemeteries as well as gradual burial of some features (particularly in areas not regularly frequented or landscaped or where flood activity is likely to have washed away, moved or buried some elements) have likely resulted in their partial or complete burial. Buried or partially demolished landscaping elements associated with cultural landscapes of exceptional or high significance have the potential to be of state significance, depending on their nature and extent. Other elements associated with creating formal landscapes within the Council cemeteries would be of local significance.

Examples of activities and remains that may retain historical evidence include:

Activity	Potential Remains
Early land clearing	Tree roots, charcoal deposits, artefact scatters, soil deposits, evidence of camp sites etc.
Burials	Skeletal remains, coffins, coffin hardware, grave goods, utilitarian items (buttons, buckles etc).
Grave furniture	Headstones, crosses etc that may have fallen or been moved or vandalised.
Former landscaping	Paths, edging, fence rails, etc.

It is also important to remember that if any archaeological evidence relating to Aboriginal use is discovered at the cemetery, including during any general maintenance works, then works should cease

in the area and the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) (formerly Office of Environment & Heritage [OEH]) must be notified immediately.



Figure 10 Lower Portland Cemetery monuments. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

## Significance

### Assessment of Significance

The following table provides a heritage assessment for the Lower Portland Cemetery site against the State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria:

<b>SHR Criterion a) [Historical significance]</b>
The cemetery is of local significance as an example of how district surveyors modified formal cemetery designs from the Surveyor General's Office to suit the specific landform and local population's needs.
<b>SHR Criterion b) [Associative significance]</b>
The cemetery does not meet the threshold for Criterion B.
<b>SHR Criterion c) [Aesthetic significance]</b>
The cemetery does not meet the threshold for Criterion C.
<b>SHR Criterion d) [Social significance]</b>
The cemetery is of local social significance to the Hawkesbury and Hills District communities as a place of burial and mourning since the early twentieth century. The place is of importance to the identity of families who trace their lineage back to First Fleeters. There are burials and memorials in memory of servicemen from the First World War and Second World War.
<b>SHR Criterion e) [Research potential]</b>
The cemetery may yield further genealogical information that is locally significant to the community.
<b>SHR Criterion f) [Rarity]</b>
The cemetery does not meet the threshold for Criterion F.
<b>SHR Criterion g) [Representativeness]</b>
The cemetery does not meet the threshold for Criterion G.
<b>Integrity/Intactness</b>
The cemetery denominational layout is intact, but some graves are in need of repair or identifying markers.

## Statement of Significance

*The Lower Portland Cemetery is of local social significance to the Hawkesbury and Hills District communities as a place of burial and mourning since the early twentieth century. The place is of importance to the identity of families who trace their lineage back to First Fleeters. Burials and memorials have also been erected in memory of servicemen from the First World War and the Second World War. The cemetery may yield further genealogical information that is locally significant to the community.*



Figure 11 Lower Portland Cemetery tombstone. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

## Management and Care

The table below identifies cemetery elements and recommended actions to consider in the future management of Lower Portland Cemetery. The priority of action for each activity at the cemetery is suggested subject to ongoing Council and grant funding opportunities.

Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommended Action
Heritage Listing	Locally list the Lower Portland Cemetery.	High	Consider adding Lower Portland Cemetery to Schedule 5 of the Hawkesbury LEP.
Landscaping/ Planting	Vegetation, animal and rubbish management will assist to maintain the character of the cemetery. Manage eroded cemetery surface (deteriorating turf, sand clay and exposed bedrock), dumped excess soil along the southern and eastern site boundary and large bull ant nests.	Medium	Consider low maintenance landscaping of degraded paths, lawn areas with shrubbery/vegetation.
		High	Remove or disperse dumped excess soil accumulated during burial activity. Remove weeds overgrown on grave plots.
		High	Remove bull ant nests.
Security— Fences, Gates and Lighting	Maintain adequate fencing and security.	Ongoing	Maintain security elements.
		High and Ongoing	Conduct regular drive-by and physical inspections of cemeteries to monitor vandalism or other issues affecting safety and significance.
Signage	Erect cemetery signs as appropriate. Signage could also be used to assist visitation, community and cultural interest by providing a brief history of the site.	Low	Consider clearer cemetery signage at West Portland Road entrance.
Restoration	Undertake restoration of significant monuments within the cemetery.	Medium	Work with living relatives/families or interested local community support groups to source funding/grants to assist in restoring significant headstones.
		Medium	Undertake restoration of <b>'desk-and-slab' style</b> monuments fallen into disrepair.
		High and Ongoing	Workers and volunteers should be encouraged to be familiar with working on heritage sites and should be provided with copies of documents such as the <i>Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .
Significant Graves	Retain the condition of significant graves, headstones and monuments including: Blundell, Herps, Humphries, Jones, Lee, Metherell, Mitchell and Uren burials and servicemen graves, some marked with AIF insignia.	Ongoing	Work with living relatives/families to source funding/grants to assist in the conservation of items affected by these issues.
		High	Ensure that safety issues are addressed as they arise, and that specialist assistance is sought when repairing fallen or dangerous monuments or trees.
		Ongoing	Maintain security elements.

Columbaria, Lawn and Monument Interments	Continue to accommodate demand for ashes interments/columbaria, lawn or monument burials within relevant active cemetery areas.	Ongoing  Ongoing	Undertake restoration and ongoing maintenance of the two brick columbaria.  Ensure availability of sufficient space for memorialisation of the deceased in columbaria and monument sections in active cemetery areas.
Safety Issues	Identify cemetery elements that may pose a safety threat to visitors or their own stability whether due to vandalism, age/deterioration, ground movement or other causes.	High and Ongoing	Address the dumping of cemetery debris as a trip hazard. If this is material resulting from burials, arrange for removal or dispersal after each event as an ongoing priority.
Interested Groups	Continue to engage and work with interested communities, groups and individuals.	Ongoing  High and Ongoing  Medium and Ongoing  Ongoing	Continue to identify, acknowledge and work with other interested community groups including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hawkesbury Cemeteries Register Group (update record);</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Historical Society;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury on the Net;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Family History Group;</li> <li>• War Graves Commission;</li> <li>• Commonwealth War Graves Commission;</li> <li>• relatives and descendants.</li> </ul> Consider developing a work plan for the cemetery together with interested groups.  Local cemetery community groups should be encouraged and supported to undertake training in the recording, maintenance and conservation of historic cemeteries. Training could be provided by stonemasons, cemetery workers, or any other profession that works with cemeteries on a regular basis.  Liaise with authors of Hawkesbury on the Net and provide access to this SCMP to enable data update for this cemetery in the Cemetery Register.
Accessible Funding/ Resources	Investigate available grants.  Investigate the use of volunteers, local community services and prisoners to assist in appropriate aspects of cemetery maintenance.	Ongoing  Ongoing	Work with living relatives/families and/or interested local community support groups to source funding/grants to assist in the conservation of identified items and to undertake ongoing research into the history of the cemetery and families buried here.  Use the actions in this SCMP to guide applications for funding for conservation and maintenance work.



## References

- <sup>1</sup> Murray, L 2001, *Cemeteries in Nineteenth-Century New South Wales: Landscapes of Memory and Identity*, Doctorate of Philosophy Thesis, University of Sydney, NSW, p 97.
- <sup>2</sup> Virtual War Memorial Australia: Lower Portland General Cemetery, viewed 10 July 2019 <<https://wwma.org.au/explore/cemeteries/3079>>.
- <sup>3</sup> Auld, C and Auld, J, Lower Portland Cemetery—Lower Portland, Hawkesbury on the Net: Cemetery Register, February 2005, viewed 23 January 2019 <[http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/lower\\_portland\\_general/index.html](http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/lower_portland_general/index.html)>.



SECRETED  
TO THE  
MEMOIREY OF  
JOHN PENDERGAST, SON  
OF JAMES AND SOPHIA  
PENDERGAST WHO  
DEPARTED THIS  
LIFE AUGUST 30  
1831 AGED FIVE  
WEEKS

# Half Moon Farm Cemetery

Handbook

**GML**  
HERITAGE

## Overview

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Other Name(s)	'St Rose of Lima Cemetery'
Heritage Listing(s)	Not currently listed
Date Dedicated	1830s
Period of Use	1830s–2000
Location (Coordinates)	Lat: -33.428031953 Long: 150.926153817
Primary Address	201 Upper Half Moon Road, Lower Portland, NSW
Property Description	Lot 1 DP 744433
Parish	Hawkesbury
County	Hunter
Local Government Area	Hawkesbury
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Deerubbin

This handbook is intended as a handy standalone guide for use by Hawkesbury City (Council) or for issue to community groups to guide their understanding and contribution to the management, care and maintenance of this cemetery. Relevant sections of this handbook should be updated as additional historical or other information becomes available and/or works are undertaken that change the condition of the cemetery.

The Management & Care table at the end of the Handbook identifies elements, recommended actions and timing priorities to consider in the future management of the cemetery. Using the Handbook as a starting point to develop a Cemetery Working Plan, relatives, descendants, interested groups and individuals, working closely with Council, can be guided to manage the cemetery together: to implement high priority actions first, seek specialist advice and training when needed and together create opportunities for ongoing care of the cemetery and its elements. Engaged management aims to enhance visitation, community interest and appreciation of these special places of eternal rest and commemoration.

## Summary History

- This cemetery is located on the former Adlam Farm on the Upper Half Moon Reach in Lower Portland. The Adlam Farm was part of an 80-acre grant to Feen Adlam in c1804. Adlam, along with three other settlers, was murdered by a group of Aboriginal people in 1805. The land was sold to James McGlade in 1806.
- Between 1806 and 1808, John Pendergast acquired the Adlam Farm and it became known as Half Moon Farm. Pendergast had arrived in NSW as a convict on the *Minerva* in 1800 from Dublin. He owned the adjoining farm and lived there with his partner, Jane, who arrived in NSW as a convict in 1801. They had five children together—James, Thomas, Sarah, William, Bridget and Charlotte. The Pendergast family were Catholic and believed to be closely involved with the establishment of the Catholic Church in NSW. Prior to his death, John Pendergast transferred several of his properties to his family. Adlam Farm was given to his son James. John Pendergast died in 1833 and was one of the first people to be buried at the Catholic Cemetery in Windsor.
- In 1838 James Pendergast gave land for the construction of a school. There are no records of the school being built but it is possible that the St Rose of Lima Church was built on Half Moon Farm instead and the church doubled as a school hall.<sup>1</sup>
- Information on St Rose of Lima from Mr John Liddy was published in *The Windsor and Richmond Gazette* in 1917. Mr Liddy attended mass at the St Rose of Lima at the end of 1865 and described the place as:

*This church was a weatherboard structure, and some of the old posts may still be standing, and a burial ground adjoins the church, in all two acres.<sup>2</sup>*

Mr Liddy recalled his mother telling him that St Rose of Lima was opened by Bishop John Bede Polding on **St Rose's Feast Day** on 30 August 1840.

- The church was apparently washed away, possibly during the 1867 flood, and in 1917 there were only a few wooden corner posts of the former church remaining at Half Moon Farm.<sup>3</sup>
- Based on existing headstones and burial certificates, there are at least 20 people buried at the Half Moon Farm Cemetery. Most of the marked graves predate the Civil Register of 1856 and may be the only record of individuals buried there. The graves face both north and south.
- In 1918, *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate* reported **'a few old headstones dating from 1812'**<sup>4</sup> within the Half Moon Farm Cemetery. Based on recent visual examination of the headstones, it is believed that the dates of the headstones were misread in 1918 (possibly the lettering in the headstones had worn down due to its age) and the correct date is 1842. The earliest burial is believed to be of John Pendergast, son of James and Sophia Pendergast, died 30 August 1830, aged 5 weeks old.
- James Pendergast died in 1865 and was buried in the Windsor Catholic Cemetery. Detailed land title research undertaken by historian Michele Nichols show that James Pendergast left Half Moon Farm 'in trust to his two daughters, Sophia Catherine Pendergast and Margaret Elizabeth Brown nee Pendergast and then in equal shares in trust to their children'.<sup>5</sup> Sophia Pendergast lived on the farm with her nieces until she died in 1915. Sophia Pendergast was described as a spinster with no children and her share was reverted **to James Pendergast's children. Following Sophia Pendergast's death, the Trust was wound up and the property divided into 20 parts and sold.**  
The property was purchased by Myra Brown and Mary Wiseman Hancy Brown, daughters of Margaret Brown and nieces of Sophia Pendergast. Nichols believes the sisters lived with their aunt Sophia at Half Farm from 1902 after their mother died. The Brown sisters were reported to have run an orchard assisted by orphan children on the property. The fruit was transported by river boat to Sydney Markets. In 1938, the sisters sold the property to a solicitor, who died shortly after the purchase.
- Over the next 50 years, the property was sold to several people. Sand mining on the peninsula occurred throughout the twentieth century up until some point in the mid-1980s, when the property was purchased by Hawkesbury City Council.
- The remains of a house located about 130m from the burials was built in the 1940s and occupied until sometime in the 1980s.
- In 1980, the owners were interested in establishing a private sporting club. Their plans were approved; however, they put the property up for sale in 1984.
- The land was jointly purchased by Hawkesbury Council and the Department of Planning in 1984 to form a part of the 'regional open space' program.
- A natural habitat study undertaken in 1989 identified a diverse range of flora and fauna and two wetland areas in the vicinity that are close to natural conditions.
- Hawkesbury City Council undertook conservation works in 1994. The cemetery was fenced off at that time to protect the burials from grazing animals.<sup>6</sup>
- Two memorial plaques have been installed in the crook of one of the trees. They commemorate Jean Elizabeth Feneley (died 1998), Paddy Feneley (died in 2000) and Shirley Margaret McFadden (died in 2000).

**Notable Monuments**

- John Pendergast, the son of James and Sophia Pendergast, died on 30 August 1830, aged 5 weeks old. His grave is marked with a semicircular sandstone stele with semicircular shoulders (see Handbook cover image).<sup>7</sup>



Figure 1 The dedicated boundary (in red) and the location of known burials (in yellow). (Source: Nearmap with GML overlay)



Figure 2 Aerial view of the cemetery boundary, identifying the peppercorn tree that it is located under. (Source: Nearmap with GML overlay)

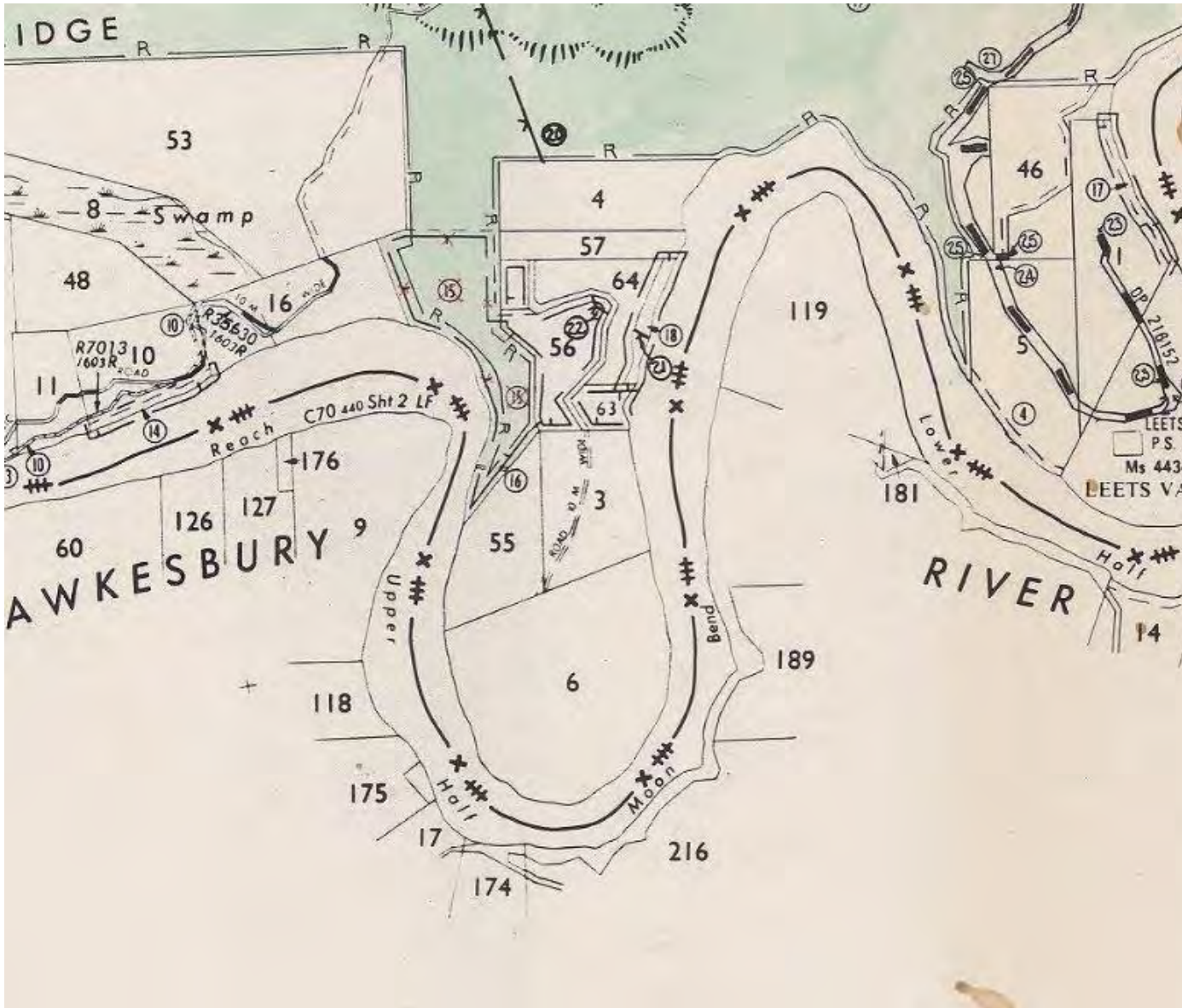


Figure 3 Crop of 1883 map of Hawkesbury Parish. The Half Moon Farm Cemetery is within Allotment 6. (Source: Historical Land Records Viewer, Land and Property Information)

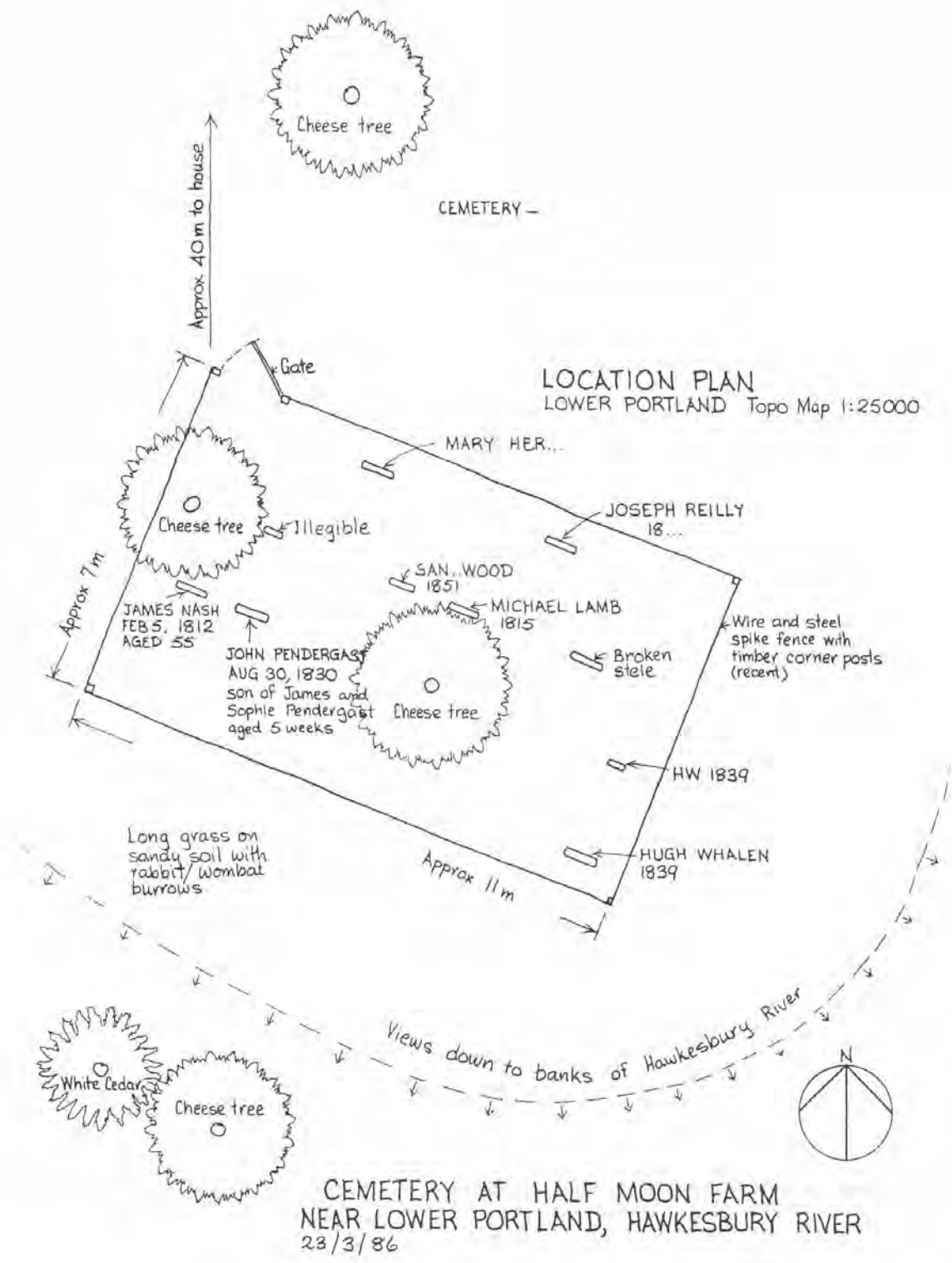


Figure 4 1986 survey of Half Moon Farm Cemetery. (Source: National Trust [NSW] Cemetery Index Card—Half Moon Farm Cemetery)



Figure 5 1986 photograph of Half Moon Farm Cemetery. (Source: National Trust [NSW])

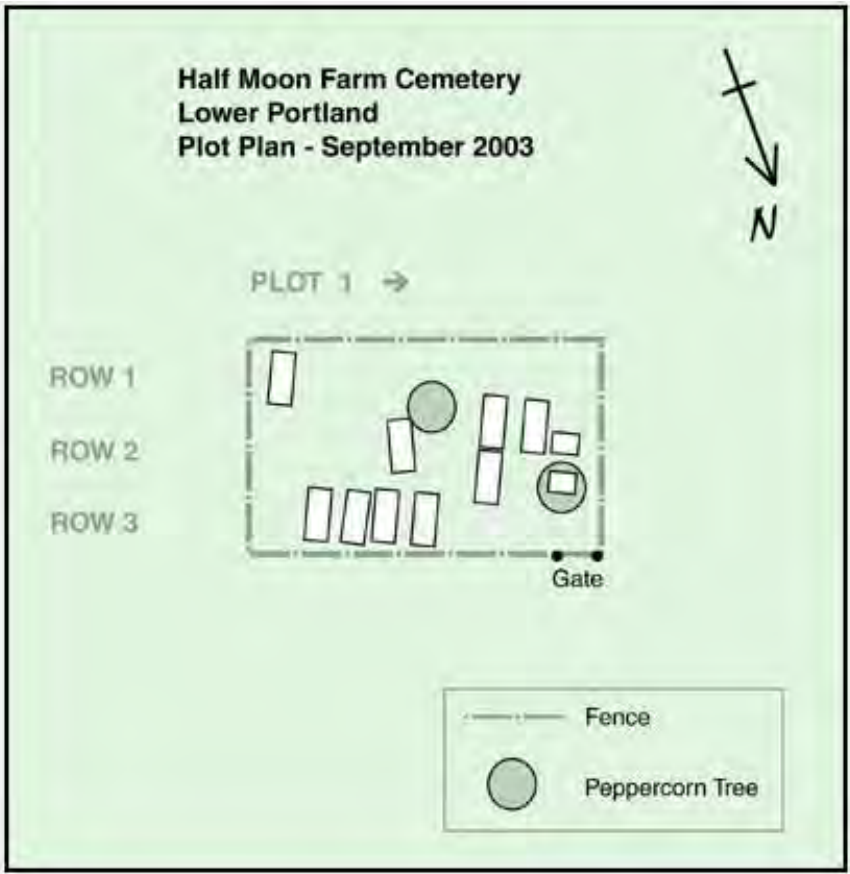


Figure 6 2003 Plan of Half Moon Farm Cemetery. (Source: Half Moon Farm Cemetery—Lower Portland, Hawkesbury on the Net: Cemetery Register <[http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/half\\_moon\\_farm/index.html](http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/half_moon_farm/index.html)>)



## Description

### Setting

The Half Moon Farm Cemetery is located on the inside bend of a meander of the Hawkesbury River in Lower Portland approximately 245m from the riverbank (Figure 1). The cemetery is in a heavily vegetated area and is only accessible via Upper Half Moon Road which is a private gravel road on a large Council-managed lot behind a locked steel swing gate about 500m away (Figure 2). The site is situated within a clearing on a river terrace, sloping gradually downhill to the south.

The cemetery itself is on a raised section of bank, several metres higher than the land closer to the riverbank. The clearing surrounding the fenced cemetery has breaks in slope downhill towards the east, west and south and the Hawkesbury River. Dense brush and regrowth trees on the verge and downhill areas obscure views towards the water. The areas downhill of the cemetery have evidence of ongoing disturbance from floodwaters. Several large wombat burrows were also observed in close proximity to the cemetery, though none have visibly impacted the burial area.

The burials are approximately 100m from a toilet block and 130m from the remains of a building located further up the hill, away from the river. Two small wetland lagoons can be identified through aerial imagery. One of the lagoons has a possible jetty/pier approximately 14m in length.

### Physical Description

The site is roughly 77m<sup>2</sup> in size and is surrounded by a wooden picket fence erected in 1994. It contains two mature peppercorn trees. There are 11 marked graves on the site with visible names and two headstones that do not have any names or dates, making a total of 13 burial plots. However, there is the possibility that more burials may exist as an additional seven names are registered as being buried at this cemetery.<sup>8</sup> The graves face north and south. The large tree canopy covers the entire known burial site with exposed tree roots extending outwards and creating an uneven surface. The larger dedicated boundary contains a toilet block and the remains of a possible house or shed.

The cemetery is enclosed by an unpainted timber picket fence with access via a pedestrian access gate. Except for the fence enclosing the marked burials there is no evidence of formal landscaping (gardens, paths, drainage, etc) associated with the Half Moon Farm Cemetery.

The headstone of James Nash (d. 1812) is earliest dated monument in the cemetery. Ellen Reilly is the last recorded burial in the cemetery in 1875. Two memorial plaques dating to 1998 and 2000 are located within a tree.

### Condition

#### *Monuments*

Overall, the cemetery is in fair to good condition. All monuments within the Half Moon Farm Cemetery are sandstone stelae with footstones in a range of shapes. Almost every monument is marked 'IHS' (*Iesus Hominum Salvator*, Latin meaning 'Jesus saviour of mankind') with a cross, which is most common among (but not exclusive to) Roman Catholic monuments.

The site contains several damaged and worn headstones, with some being unidentifiable due to missing letters and text (Figure 8). There is a significant amount of plant litter on the ground, due to the area's heavily forested location. Aerial photos of the site taken in 2010 and in 2018 show that there has been a significant amount of tree growth, especially in the immediate vicinity of the cemetery. Two large

peppercorn trees are situated within the fenced boundary of the cemetery and appear to have displaced some of the monuments.

Some footstones have been placed adjacent to headstones, while some broken headstones have been relocated so they appear to be footstones.

Broken headstones and footstones extend across the fenced portion of the cemetery and most of the stelae inscriptions have been painted black.

Several of the headstones are buried deep in surrounding leaf litter with their inscriptions obscured (Figure 7).

### **Marked Burials**

- Feneley, Jean Elizabeth [nee Brown]—possible memorial plaque.
- Feneley, Paddy—possible memorial plaque.
- Hern, Mary.
- Lamb, Michael—son of Michael Lamb who is also registered as being buried at this site.
- McFadden, Shirley Margaret [nee Williams]—possible memorial plaque.
- Nash, James.
- Pendergast, John.
- Reed, Ann.
- Reilly, Joseph.
- Whalen, Hugh.
- Wood, ??san (Susan).
- 2X ??unknown??—there are two headstones with no markings.

### *Unmarked Graves*

There is potential for at least seven additional unmarked burials to exist within the cemetery according to St Rose burial records.<sup>9</sup>

Potential unmarked burials need to be identified and their location formally recorded prior to any ground disturbing maintenance works, including excavation for new fences or other works at the cemetery. Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) investigation has proven somewhat useful in other Hawkesbury cemeteries to locate unmarked graves without the need for excavation or archaeological investigation.<sup>10</sup>

### **Unmarked Burials**

- Hearne, John.
- Lamb, Michael—father of Michael Lamb, who was also buried at this site.
- Moran [nee Howe formerly Harrison], Catherine.

- Reilly, Ellen.
- Sullivan [nee Stubbs], Elizabeth.
- Sullivan, Jeremiah.
- Woods, Henry James.

### *Other Elements*

The cemetery is marked with a polychromatic lithographed metal sign. The sign is located along the fenced part of the cemetery away from the access gate.

### **Key Issues**

- Headstones may have been moved/relocated.
- Damage from trees within fenced area.
- Cemetery signage is located away from the entrance to the cemetery.
- Fencing may not capture the full burial area, which may extend across the surrounding river terrace knoll landform.
- Potential for historical archaeological remains and unmarked graves affected by floods.

### **Interested Groups**

Council welcomes the interest and support of the community in relation to the upkeep and improvement of cemeteries in its care. Some of the key interest groups and information sources relevant to this cemetery include:

- Hawkesbury Historical Society;
- Hawkesbury Cemeteries Register Group (update Cemetery Register record);
- Hawkesbury on the Net;
- Hawkesbury Family History Group; and
- relatives and descendants.



Figure 7 View of burials. Note the inscriptions of some headstones are partially buried in leaf litter. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 8 View of burials including incomplete headstones. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 9 Grave belonging to Hugh Whalen (d. 1839). (Source: GML Heritage 2019)



Figure 10 View northwest across burial plots towards the entry gate. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 11 View looking north towards the cemetery contained within the timber paling fence. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

## Historical Archaeological Potential

**As Half Moon Farm Cemetery is an old cemetery, with all graves predating the Civil Register of 1856, the graves provide significant potential archaeological information about early burials and burial practices. The area may also contain remains of a c1840 church and burial remains affected by historic Hawkesbury River floods.**

'Archaeological potential' refers to the likelihood of archaeological remains to survive at a site. It should be distinguished from 'archaeological significance', which refers to the heritage values of any remains that may prove to have survived. Thus, there may be 'low potential' for certain remains to survive, but if they do survive, they might be assessed as being of 'high significance' (for example, if they are rare examples from the convict period). The potential archaeological resource within a cemetery can include evidence from a variety of different activities and associated elements depending on the history of the place before and during its existing function.

Historical archaeological evidence associated with pre-cemetery activity may have resulted from ephemeral uses of the area. Potential archaeological remains can consist of land clearing and timber-getting as areas of the Hawkesbury first began to be settled by Europeans.

The Pendergast family are recorded as having provided two acres of land for a small Catholic church at Lower Portland in 1838, precise location unknown. Historian Michelle Nichols has suggested that the chapel of St Rose of Lima, consecrated on 30 August 1840 by Bishop Polding, may have doubled as the school and been located close to the cemetery.<sup>11</sup> The church was subsequently swept away during a flood. Any surviving historical archaeological evidence associated with pre-cemetery clearance activity and potential structures such as the church/school may be assessed as having local or state significance, depending on their nature and extent.

Many of the cemeteries identified in this SCMP are considered likely to have high archaeological potential in association with the burials that have been excavated in each. Although interments currently cover each cemetery to varying degrees, as archaeological items, these hold significance for the data they might provide with regards to past ways of life and cultural perceptions of life and death. Most of the interments (including unmarked burials) would be of local significance, while the remains of individuals of historical or cultural significance in NSW would have the potential to be of state significance.

Changes to landscape elements through their use as cemeteries as well as gradual burial of some features (particularly in areas not regularly frequented or landscaped or where flood activity is likely or known to have washed away, moved or buried some elements) have likely resulted in their partial or complete burial. Buried or partially demolished landscaping elements associated with cultural landscapes of exceptional or high significance have the potential to be of state significance, depending on their nature and extent. Other elements associated with creating formal landscapes within the Council cemeteries would be of local significance.

Examples of activities and remains that may retain historical evidence include:

Activity	Potential Remains
Early land clearing	Tree roots, charcoal deposits, artefact scatters, soil deposits, evidence of camp sites etc.
Burials	Skeletal remains, coffins, coffin hardware, grave goods and utilitarian items (buttons, buckles etc). Several potential unmarked burials within the grounds.
Grave furniture	Headstones, crosses etc that may have fallen or been moved.
Former landscaping	Paths, edging, fence rails, etc.

In addition to visible graves, grave goods and associated elements, the cemetery and surrounds at Half Moon Farm have the potential to retain the following buried historical era archaeological remains:

- evidence associated with construction of a small Catholic church associated with the cemetery built by 1840 and subsequently swept away in a flood; and
- unrecorded inhumations and associated remains including footstones, headstones and other grave goods affected by historic floods.

### Aboriginal Archaeological Potential

It is also important to remember that if any archaeological evidence relating to Aboriginal use is discovered at the cemetery, including during any general maintenance works, then works should cease in the area and the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) (formerly Office of Environment and Heritage [OEH]) must be notified immediately.

An Aboriginal survey undertaken in 1988 identified one isolated artefact and an open area as well as six large shelters in the vicinity of the Half Moon Farm Cemetery, none of which contained artefacts.<sup>13</sup> This investigation was only partially completed due to the dense vegetation making parts of the Half Moon Farm property and surrounding area inaccessible. Further research would be required to determine the area's potential for Aboriginal cultural remains.



Figure 12 Headstones at Half Moon Farm Cemetery. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



## Significance

### Assessment of Significance

The following table provides a heritage assessment for the Half Moon Farm Cemetery site against the State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria:

#### SHR Criterion a) [Historical significance]

Half Moon Farm Cemetery has historical significance at a local level as an example of an early private Catholic cemetery. The cemetery provides evidence of the early settlement and community of the Lower Portland area and reflects early official recognition of the Catholic faith by the colonial government in the 1830s. The earliest burial is believed to be of John Pendergast, son of James and Sophia Pendergast, who died on 30 August 1830. Most of the marked graves predate the Civil Register of 1856 and may be the only record of individuals buried there.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

#### SHR Criterion b) [Associative significance]

Half Moon Farm Cemetery has associations with original convict settlers in the area including the Pendergast family as well as notable local Catholic identities including Bishop Polding.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

#### SHR Criterion c) [Aesthetic significance]

Although not known to feature designs by notable masons or craftsmen, the semicircular sandstone stelae at Half Moon Farm Cemetery feature simple craftsmanship of aesthetic significance in their unique decorative elements and naïve script. The cemetery demonstrates aesthetic qualities in its quiet, picturesque, riverside locations within the rural Hawkesbury River landscape setting.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

#### SHR Criterion d) [Social significance]

The Half Moon Farm Cemetery has spiritual significance to the local community as a place of burial.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

#### SHR Criterion e) [Research potential]

Half Moon Farm Cemetery has the potential through its archaeology and gravestones to contribute important data to the local history of the area. Most of the marked graves predate the Civil Register of 1856 and may be the only the record of individuals buried there. The

graves themselves provide potential archaeological information about early burials and burial practices, which would become apparent in any geophysical survey.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

#### **SHR Criterion f) [Rarity]**

Although the cemetery is notable for its age, there are many rural cemeteries of a similar age and older. It is one of many examples of its type, although it demonstrates headstone designs of particular interest for their simple craftsmanship and unique decorative elements and naïve script.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

#### **SHR Criterion g) [Representativeness]**

Half Moon Farm Cemetery is representative of early private rural colonial burial grounds. It is historically comparable to other early rural colonial burial grounds.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

#### **Integrity/Intactness**

Half Moon Farm Cemetery has been subject to considerable alteration. Several headstones have been re-engraved or have had the lettering blacked to make it clearer. Several headstones are damaged and worn, with some being unidentifiable due to missing letters and text. Some of the headstones appear to have been moved and/or rotated, and several appear to be out of their original context and may have been relocated. Similarly, some footstones have been placed adjacent to headstones, while some broken headstones have been relocated so they appear to be footstones.

## Statement of Significance

*Half Moon Farm Cemetery is of local significance for its historical, associative and social qualities and research potential. The cemetery provides evidence of the early settlement and community of the Lower Portland area and reflects early official recognition of the Catholic faith by the colonial government in the 1830s. The earliest burial is believed to be of John Pendergast, son of James and Sophia Pendergast, who died on 30 August 1830.*

*The cemetery has associations with original convict settlers in the area, including the Pendergast family, as well as notable local Catholic identities including Bishop Polding.*

*Half Moon Farm Cemetery has the potential through its archaeology and burials to contribute important data to the local history of the area. Most of the marked graves predate the Civil Register of 1856 and may be the only record of individuals buried there. The graves themselves provide potential archaeological information about early burials and burial practices, which may become apparent in any geophysical survey.*

## Management and Care

The table below identifies cemetery elements and recommended actions to consider in the future management of Half Moon Farm Cemetery. The priority of action for each activity at the cemetery is suggested subject to ongoing Council and grant funding opportunities.

Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommended Action
Heritage Listing	Locally list Half Moon Farm Cemetery.	High	Consider adding Half Moon Farm Cemetery to Schedule 5 of the Hawkesbury LEP.
Landscaping/ Planting	Improve landscaping and plantings where relevant to enhance the cemetery grounds and encourage visitation and visibility of monuments and flourishing flora.	Low	Remove woody weeds and weed sources in proximity.
		Low	Undertake weeding and regular maintenance of the existing landscape.
Unmarked Burials  Historical Archaeology	Make attempts to locate unmarked graves to protect them from accidental damage or disturbance.  Understand the archaeology of the site to assist in future management.	Medium	Consider Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) investigations where there is potential or physical evidence for unmarked graves.
		Medium	A historical archaeological assessment should be prepared for the site by a qualified archaeologist to determine the likelihood of intact unmarked burials and survival of remains associated with the earlier church potentially located in the area.
Security— Fences, Gates and Lighting	Provide adequate fencing and security to protect against issues including antisocial behaviour, vandalism, illegal dumping, property encroachments and carparking on unfenced edges.  Council permission is required to access the cemetery via a key to a locked gate at the property entrance.	Medium  Ongoing High and Ongoing	The existing timber picket fencing appears secure, though damaged in places and not stylistically contemporary with the graveyard. Repairs should be made to protect the cemetery from animals and other encroachments.  Maintain security elements.  Conduct regular drive-by and physical inspections of cemeteries to monitor vandalism and other issues affecting safety and significance.
Signage	Promote understanding by identifying the site through the signage. Additional interpretation could also be used to assist visitation, community and cultural interest by providing a brief history of the site.	Low	As the cemetery is relatively tucked away the existing signage at the entrance to the cemetery is considered appropriate.
		Low	Consider low-key interpretation if appropriate for consistency of Council cemeteries as a group. Also consider identifying significant graves and monuments and/or providing interesting information about prominent grave and monument styles as well as landscape and flora species present.
Restoration	Some of the headstones have been restored with clearly visible inscriptions. Others are broken, requiring repair.	Low	Source funding to restore headstones and grave furniture and replace moved headstones and footstones to their original position where known.  Workers and volunteers should be encouraged

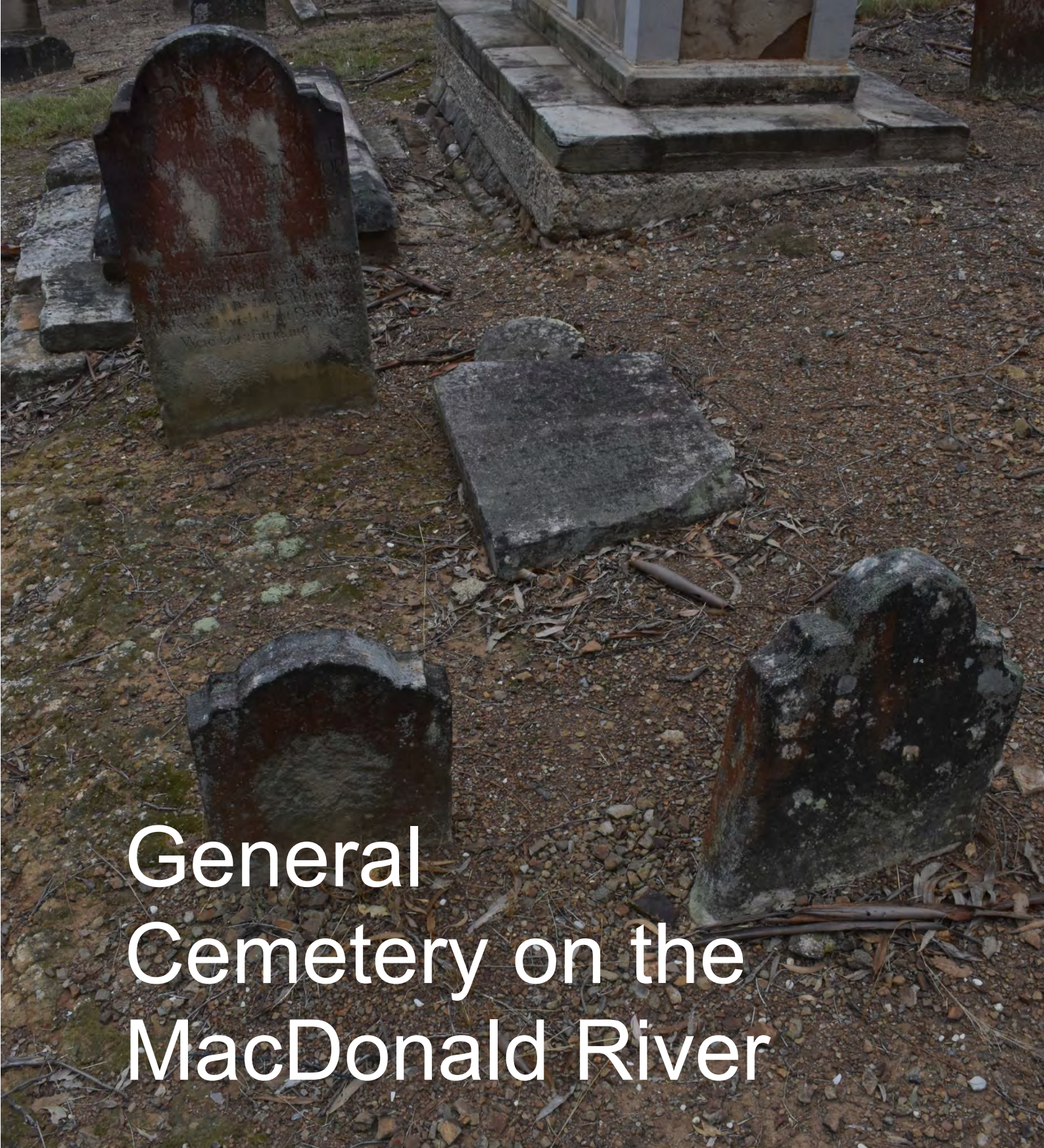
		High and Ongoing	to be familiar with working on heritage sites and should be provided with copies of documents such as the <i>Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .
Significant Graves	Retain the condition of significant graves, headstones and monuments.	Medium	Work with living relatives/families to source funding/grants to assist in the conservation of these items.
Safety Issues	Identify cemetery elements that may pose a safety threat to visitors or their own stability whether due to vandalism, ground movement, age/deterioration, or other causes.	High and Ongoing	Ensure that safety issues are addressed as they arise, and that specialist assistance is sought when repairing fallen or dangerous monuments or trees.
Interested Groups	Continue to engage and work with interested communities, groups and individuals.	Ongoing	Continue to identify, acknowledge and work with interested community groups including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hawkesbury Historical Society;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Cemeteries Register Group (update Cemetery Register record);</li> <li>• Hawkesbury on the Net;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Family History Group; and</li> <li>• relatives and descendants.</li> </ul>
		High and Ongoing	Consider developing a work plan for the cemetery together with interested groups.
		Medium and Ongoing	Local cemetery community groups should be encouraged and supported to undertake training in the recording, maintenance and conservation of historic cemeteries. Training could be provided by stonemasons, cemetery workers and other professionals that work with cemeteries on a regular basis.
		Ongoing	Liaise with authors of Hawkesbury on the Net Cemetery Register and provide access to this SCMP to enable update of cemetery data into the Cemetery Register.
Accessible Funding/ Resources	Investigate available grants.  Investigate the use of volunteers, schools, local community services and others to assist in appropriate aspects of cemetery maintenance.	Ongoing	Work with living relatives/families and/or interested local community support groups to source funding/grants to assist in the conservation of identified items and to undertake ongoing research into the history of the cemetery.  Use the actions in this SCMP to guide applications for funding for conservation and maintenance work.
		Ongoing	

## References

- <sup>1</sup> Nichols, M, A Brief History of the Land at Upper Half Moon Reach, Hawkesbury River, 1995, pp 2–3.
- <sup>2</sup> ‘SOME OLD RIVER HISTORY’, *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 24 August 1917, p 9, viewed 6 February 2019 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article85880162>>.
- <sup>3</sup> Nichols, M 1995, ‘A Brief History of the Land at Upper Half Moon Reach, Hawkesbury River’, pp 2–3, viewed 6 February 2019 <[http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/half\\_moon\\_farm/history.pdf](http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/half_moon_farm/history.pdf)>; ‘SOME OLD RIVER HISTORY’, *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 24 August 1917, p 9, viewed 6 February 2019 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article85880162>>.
- <sup>4</sup> ‘Old Landmarks’, *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 8 May 1918, p 3, viewed July 17 2019 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article86213027>>.
- <sup>5</sup> Nichols, M 1995, ‘A Brief History of the Land at Upper Half Moon Reach, Hawkesbury River’, p 3, viewed 6 February 2019 <[http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/half\\_moon\\_farm/history.pdf](http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/half_moon_farm/history.pdf)>.
- <sup>6</sup> Nichols, M 1995, ‘A Brief History of the Land at Upper Half Moon Reach, Hawkesbury River’, p 4, viewed 6 February 2019 <[http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/half\\_moon\\_farm/history.pdf](http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/half_moon_farm/history.pdf)>.
- <sup>7</sup> Auld, J and Nichols, M, Half Moon Farm Cemetery—Lower Portland, Hawkesbury on the Net: Cemetery Register, September 2003, viewed 6 February 2019 <[http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/half\\_moon\\_farm/](http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/half_moon_farm/)>; National Trust (NSW), Half Moon Cemetery Index Card, 1986; Nichols, M, A Brief History of the Land at Upper Half Moon Reach, Hawkesbury River, 1995, pp 2–3.
- <sup>8</sup> Unmarked burials information from various sources, including death certificates as noted: <[http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/half\\_moon\\_farm/](http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/half_moon_farm/)>.
- <sup>9</sup> Sourced at <[http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/half\\_moon\\_farm/](http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/half_moon_farm/)>.
- <sup>10</sup> Hubert Architects, in conjunction with R. Ian Jack Consulting, Wilberforce Cemetery Conservation Management Plan, Final, April 2008, prepared for Hawkesbury City Council, p 90; AHMS, *Windsor Roman Catholic Cemetery: Historical Archaeological Test Excavation Report*, prepared for NSW Roads & Traffic Authority, June 2006.
- <sup>11</sup> Nichols, M 1995, ‘A Brief History of the Land at Upper Half Moon Reach, Hawkesbury River’, viewed 6 February 2019 <[http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/half\\_moon\\_farm/history.pdf](http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/half_moon_farm/history.pdf)>.
- <sup>13</sup> McDonald, J, Hawkesbury Aboriginal Sites Study: Final Report, Brayshaw McDonald Consulting Archaeologist, report prepared for Hawkesbury City Council, March 1989, pp 32–35.



Figure 13 Half Moon Farm Cemetery. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



# General Cemetery on the MacDonald River

Handbook

**GML**  
HERITAGE

## Overview

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Other Name(s)	'Jurd's Private Cemetery'
Heritage Listing(s)	<i>Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP), Listing I430</i>
Date Dedicated	1871
Period of Use	1866–1922
Location (Coordinates)	Lat: -33.340606 Long: 150.979508
Primary Address	1001 Settlers Road, Central MacDonal, NSW
Property Description	Lots 74–79 DP 755258, Lot 87 DP 650624 West side of Settlers Road, 2.5km south of Wrights Creek
Parish	St Albans
County	Northumberland
Local Government Area	Hawkesbury
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Metropolitan

This handbook is intended as a handy standalone guide for use by Hawkesbury City Council (Council) or for issue to community groups to guide their understanding and contribution to the management, care and maintenance of this cemetery. Relevant sections of this handbook should be updated as additional historical or other information becomes available and/or works are undertaken that change the condition of the cemetery.

The Management & Care table at the end of the Handbook identifies elements, recommended actions and timing priorities to consider in the future management of the cemetery. Using the Handbook as a starting point to develop a Cemetery Working Plan, relatives, descendants, interested groups and individuals, working closely with Council, can be guided to manage the cemetery together: to implement high priority actions first, seek specialist advice and training when needed and together create opportunities for ongoing care of the cemetery and its elements. Engaged management aims to enhance visitation, community interest and appreciation of these special places of eternal rest and commemoration.



## Summary History

- This cemetery was dedicated in 1871 and divided into six denominational sections but only the Church of England section was ever used.
- There are only 12 graves visible at this site and they appear to be arranged around an old cypress tree. To the south of the graves is a house built of materials from the original Jurd family house.
- The grave of Henry JA Morris (d. 1869) predates the official dedication of this cemetery. Grace Karskens, historian, suggests that this isolated burial led to the planning/location of a subsequent cemetery and perhaps this occurred at other cemeteries within the valley.<sup>1</sup>
- Other well-known local families buried here include the Morris, Books and Rose families. The Rose family internments are descendants of Richard Rose, original grantee of this land.
- This cemetery also contains wrought ironwork similar to that in other MacDonalld River cemeteries.
- Research undertaken as part of the Hawkesbury on the Net: Cemetery Register identifies 12 registered burials, 14 recorded names and only six graves.<sup>2</sup> A c1979 sketch of visible graves indicates four additional graves that were not recorded on the later 1990 sketch plan or visible during the 2019 site inspection.

Note that confusion exists in some references and records between this cemetery and a smaller, private cemetery on nearby private land, named Jurd's Private Cemetery. Both the State Heritage Inventory listing and the LEP listing I430 for 'Jurd's Private Cemetery' instead describe the General Cemetery on the MacDonalld River. Information in each of those listings requires clarification of site location and history.

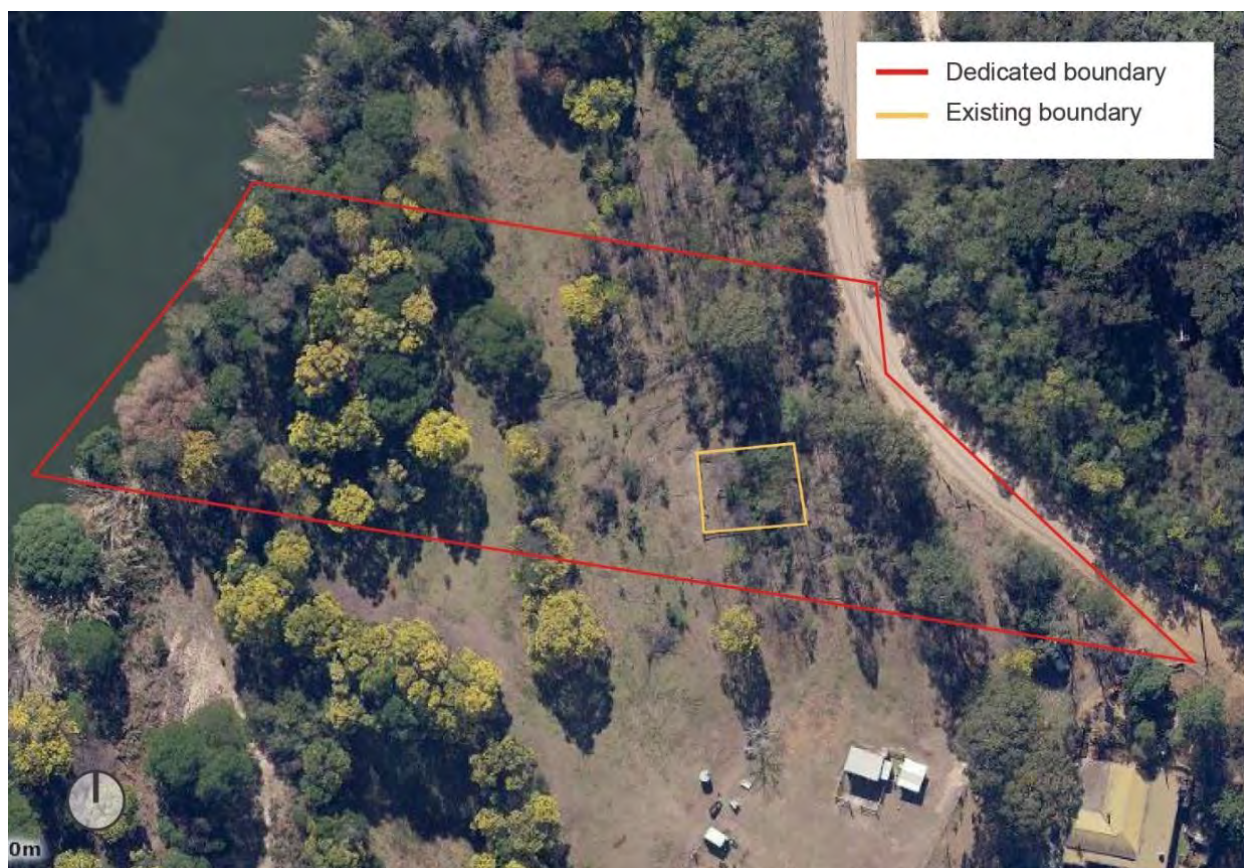


Figure 1 Location of the cemetery dedication (red) and the location of the known burials (yellow). (Source: SIX Maps with GML overlay)

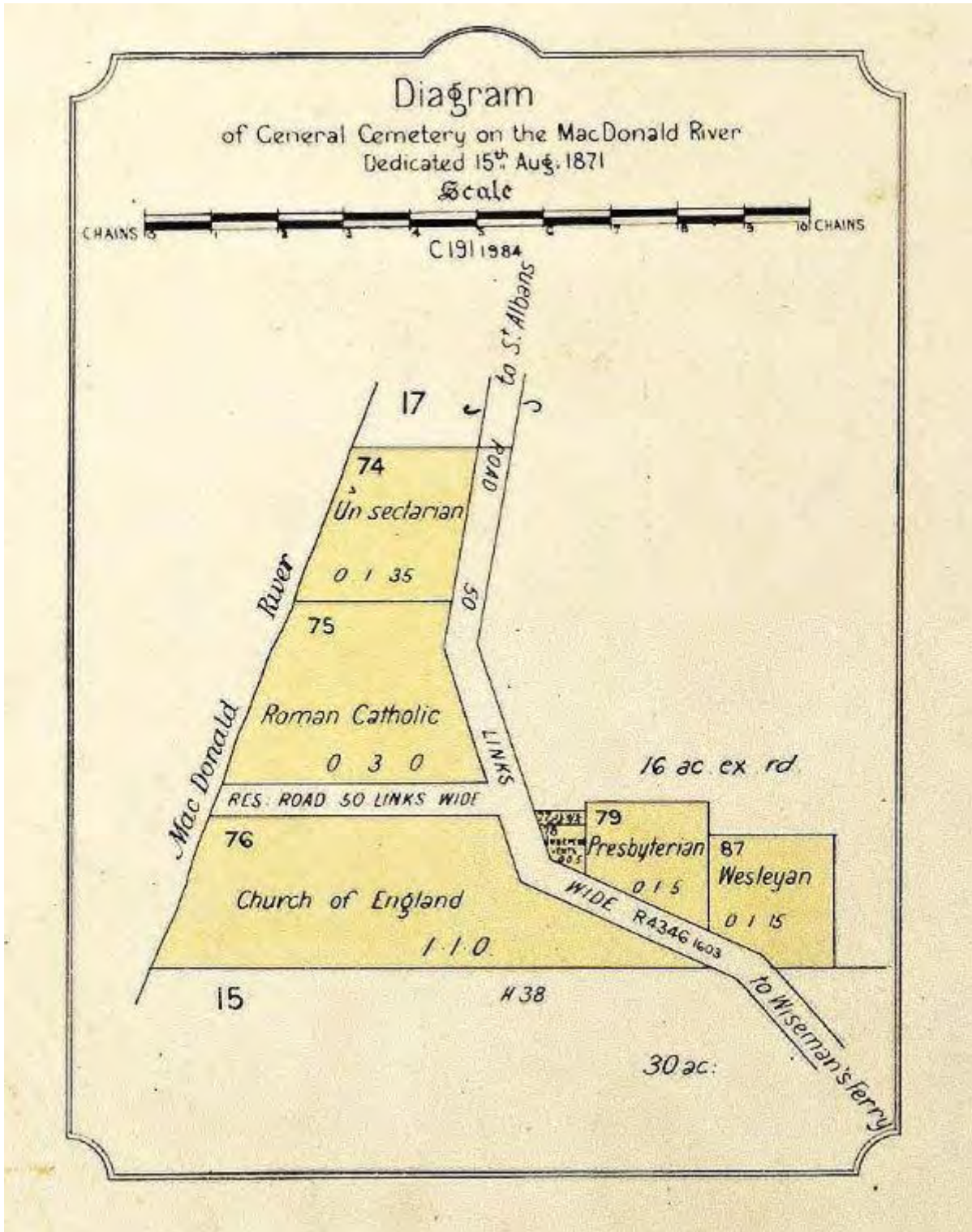


Figure 2 Diagram of the General Cemetery on MacDonald River included on the 1974 St Albans parish map. Note that graves are only visible within portion 76. (Source: Historical Land Records Viewer, Land and Property Information)

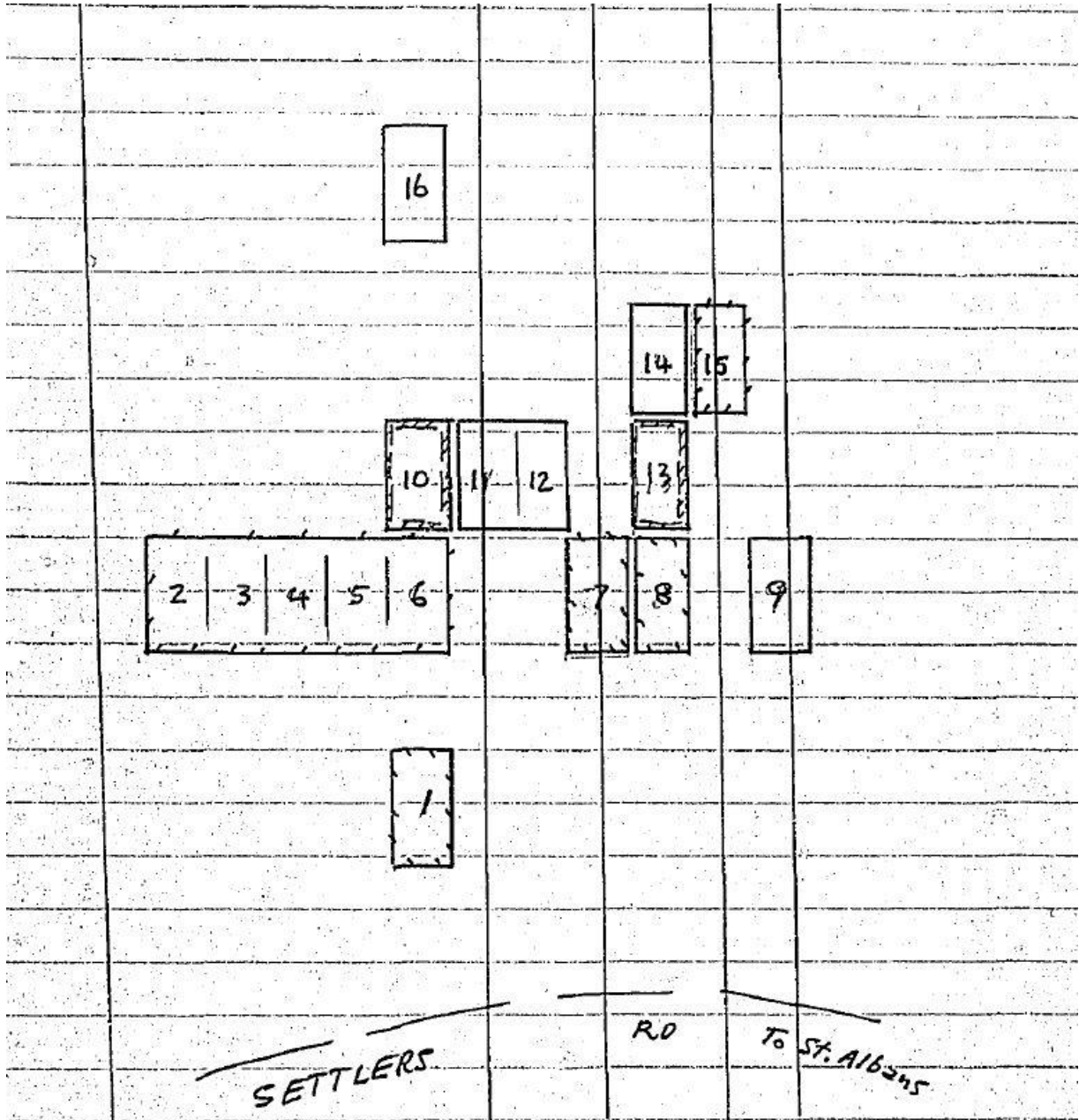
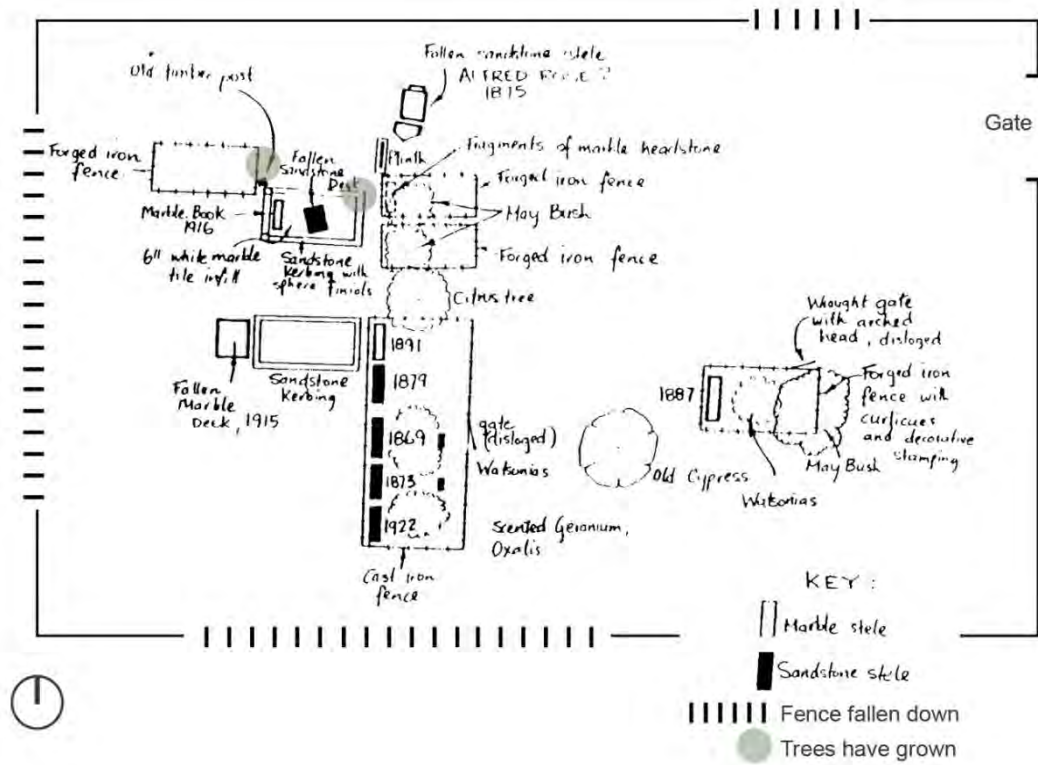


Figure 3 c1979 sketch of visible graves in the General Cemetery on MacDonald River. Graves were only found in portion 76. (Source: File 82-5, Colo Council Files, held at Hawkesbury City Council)



Figure 4 1980 photograph of the General Cemetery on the MacDonalld River. (Source: National Trust [NSW])



**LOCATION PLAN:**

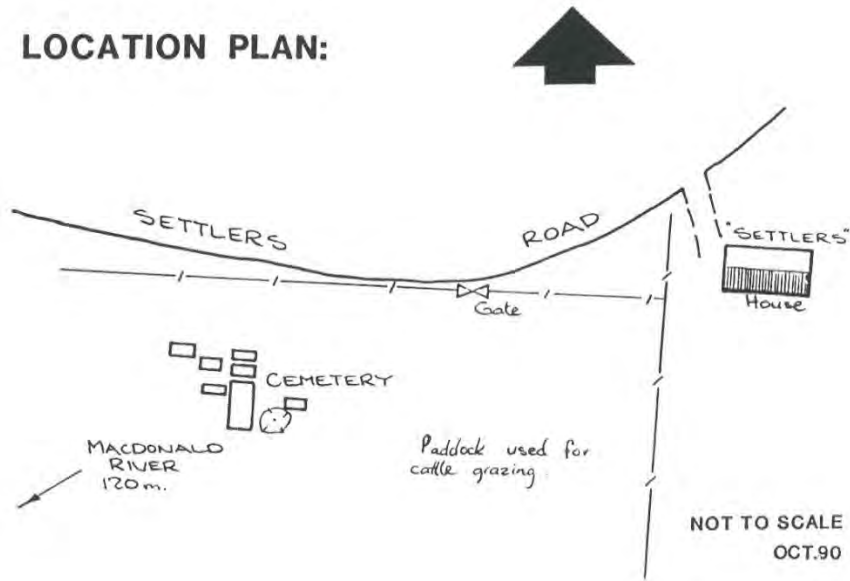


Figure 5 1990 sketch and location plan of the General Cemetery on MacDonald River, updated by GML Heritage in 2019. (Source: S. Lavelle, St Albans Old General Cemetery—Cemetery Description Form, Godden Mackay, MacDonal River Valley, Colo River Valley—Cemeteries Study, Final Report, report prepared for Hawkesbury City Council, 1991, Appendix A, with GML overlay)

## Description

### Setting

The General Cemetery on the MacDonald River is located at Central MacDonald on the west side of Settlers Road approximately 2.5 kilometres south of the Wrights Creek Road. The cemetery is on a west-facing hill which slopes down to the MacDonald River (Figure 1).

The cemetery is not visible from the road and is down a slope from Settlers Road. It is located to the north of a house built of materials obtained from the original Jurd family house.

### Physical Description

The cemetery was dedicated in 1871 and included six denominational sections located north and south of Settlers Road (Figure 2). Only the Church of England section appears to have been used as all the extant monuments are located in this section, 18 metres south of the road. The cemetery contains 12 graves, arranged in four east-facing rows (Figure 5). Two graves are marked by forged iron fences only, without any extant headstone or other identification. The cemetery also contains two desks, five sandstone stelae and three marble stelae.<sup>3</sup> The graves appear to have been arranged around an old cypress tree (Figure 4; Figure 6). Several graves feature plantings. Species noted include watsonias, may bush, scented geranium and ornamental oxalis.

The cemetery is the property of Hawkesbury City Council. Council's permission is required to access the cemetery via a key to a locked gate at the property entrance.

### Condition

The cemetery is in generally poor condition. Vegetation is overgrown, obscuring some of the headstones, with at least four mature trees now growing inside the cemetery boundary. The fence around the site has fallen in some places, leaving the cemetery accessible to livestock (Figure 7). The dense vegetation that has grown in the cemetery poses a risk to the graves, as falling branches could damage stones, and the roots can damage fences and upend headstones. Several fallen monuments require resetting (Figure 8).

#### *Landscape*

The cemetery is enclosed by an unpainted timber post and rail fence with access via a pedestrian access gate. Parts of the fence are damaged. Several large trees are situated within the fenced boundary of the cemetery and appear to have displaced some of the monuments.

Other than the fence enclosing the marked burials there is no evidence of formal landscaping (gardens, paths, drainage, etc) associated with the MacDonald River General Cemetery.

#### *Other Elements*

The cemetery is marked with a polychromatic lithographed metal sign. The sign has fallen and was laying on the ground at the time of inspection.

### Key Issues

- Some headstones may have been moved/relocated.
- Fallen, broken headstones.

- Damage from trees and tree roots within the fenced area.
- Fallen signage.
- Broken fence sections leave the cemetery open to damage from livestock.

### Interested Groups

Council welcomes the interest and support of the community in relation to the upkeep and improvement of cemeteries in its care. Some of the key interest groups and information sources relevant to this cemetery include:

- Hawkesbury Cemeteries Register Group (update Cemetery Register record);
- Hawkesbury on the Net;
- Hawkesbury Family History Group;
- Hawkesbury Historical Society; and
- relatives and descendants.



Figure 6 The General Cemetery on the MacDonal River with ironwork around graves. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 7 The General Cemetery on the MacDonald River. Note damaged fencing. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)





Figure 8 A fallen, damaged headstone at the General Cemetery on the MacDonald River. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 9 Examples of carved headstones. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

## Historical Archaeological Potential

**Since the General Cemetery on the MacDonald River is an old cemetery, the graves provide significant potential archaeological information about early burials and burial practices.**

'Archaeological potential' refers to the likelihood of archaeological remains to survive at a site. It should be distinguished from 'archaeological significance', which refers to the heritage values of any remains that may prove to have survived. Thus, there may be 'low potential' for certain remains to survive, but if they do survive, they might be assessed as being of 'high significance' (for example, if they are rare examples from the convict period). The potential archaeological resource within a cemetery can include evidence from a variety of different activities and associated elements depending on the history of the place before and during its existing function.

Historical archaeological evidence associated with pre-cemetery activity may have resulted from ephemeral uses of the area. Potential archaeological remains can consist of land clearing and timber-getting as areas such as the Hawkesbury began to be settled by Europeans. More substantial evidence might include the remains of early farms and associated outbuildings as well as church facilities and sealed artefact deposits, although in most of the cemeteries these are unlikely to exist. Historical archaeological evidence associated with pre-cemetery establishment and use may be assessed as having local or state significance, depending on its nature and extent.

Many of the cemeteries identified in this SCMP are considered likely to have high archaeological potential in association with the burials that have been excavated in each. Although interments currently cover each cemetery to varying degrees, as archaeological items, these hold significance for the data they might provide with regards to past ways of life and cultural perceptions of life and death. Most of the interments (including unmarked burials) would be of local significance, while the remains of individuals having historical or cultural significance in NSW would have the potential to be of state significance.

Changes to landscape elements through their use as cemeteries as well as gradual burial of some features (particularly in areas not regularly frequented or landscaped or where flood activity is likely to have washed away, moved or buried some elements). Buried or partially demolished landscaping elements associated with cultural landscapes of exceptional or high significance have the potential to be of state significance, depending on their nature and extent. Other elements associated with creating formal landscapes within the Council cemeteries may be of local significance.

Examples of activities and remains that may retain historical evidence include:

Activity	Potential Remains
Early land clearing	Tree roots, charcoal deposits, artefact scatters, soil deposits, evidence of camp sites etc.
Burials	Skeletal remains, coffins, coffin hardware, grave goods and utilitarian items (buttons, buckles etc). Four potential unmarked burials within the grounds.
Grave furniture	Headstones, crosses etc that may have fallen or been moved or vandalised.
Former landscaping	Paths, edging, fence rails, etc.

It is also important to remember that if any archaeological evidence relating to Aboriginal use is discovered at the cemetery, including during any general maintenance works, then works should cease

in the area and the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) (formerly Office of Environment & Heritage [OEH]) must be notified immediately.



Figure 10 Detail of headstone. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

## Significance

### Assessment of Significance

The following table provides a heritage assessment for the General Cemetery on the Macdonald River against the State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria and includes data from the existing LEP listing for the site:

#### SHR Criterion a) [Historical significance]

The General Cemetery on the MacDonald River demonstrates the early settlement and community of the MacDonald River Valley. The cemetery was dedicated in 1871 and divided into six denominational sections but only the Church of England section was ever used. The cemetery provides a local record of the early European settlement in the MacDonald River area. The earliest surviving grave of Henry JA Morris (d. 1866) predates the official dedication of the cemetery and provides evidence of the planning/location of the subsequent extant cemetery.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

#### SHR Criterion b) [Associative significance]

The General Cemetery on the MacDonald River has associative significance at a local level. The cemetery includes the burials of members of several valley pioneer families including the Morris, Books, Rose and Thompson families.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

#### SHR Criterion c) [Aesthetic significance]

While the cemetery is notable in the context of the valley for the survival of the traditional grave plantings, characteristic ironwork and burial ornamentation, it has been considerably impacted by the dense vegetation. The cemetery is not known to feature designs by notable masons or craftsmen, nor does it demonstrate landmark qualities within the area.

The cemetery is not considered to meet the threshold for this criterion.

#### SHR Criterion d) [Social significance]

The General Cemetery on the MacDonald River has spiritual significance to the local community as a place of burial.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

#### SHR Criterion e) [Research potential]

The General Cemetery on the MacDonald River has the potential through its archaeology and gravestones to contribute important data to the local history of the area.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

#### **SHR Criterion f) [Rarity]**

Although the cemetery is notable for its age, there are many rural cemeteries of a similar age and older. It is one of many examples of its type and does not demonstrate designs of particular interest.

The cemetery is not considered to meet the threshold for this criterion.

#### **SHR Criterion g) [Representativeness]**

The General Cemetery on the MacDonald River is representative of early colonial burial grounds in the local area. The cemetery also includes examples of the characteristic ironwork found in several MacDonald Valley cemeteries.

As the grave site of members of principal pioneering families of the MacDonald Valley, the site should be seen in the context of all the other private and early burials in the valley, as an essential document representing the history of this relatively isolated and enclosed colonial community. As one of a small group of historic cemeteries, lone graves and private family burial grounds in the valley, the cemetery contributes to a representative social record of the area's history.

#### **Integrity/Intactness**

The cemetery's integrity and intactness has been diminished by dense vegetation that has grown there and impacted several graves. Further conservation work is needed for collapsed headstones and other grave markers overgrown by vegetation.

### Original Statement of Significance (from the LEP 2012)

*Being the grave site of members of principal pioneering families of the Macdonald Valley the site should be seen in the context of all the other private and early burials in the Valley, as being an essential document of the history of this relatively isolated and enclosed colonial community.*

### Revised Statement of Significance

*The General Cemetery on the MacDonalld River has local significance for its historic, associative and social qualities. The cemetery was dedicated in 1871 and demonstrates the early settlement and community of the MacDonalld River Valley. The cemetery was originally divided into six denominational sections but only the Church of England section was ever used. The cemetery provides a local record of the early European settlement in the MacDonalld River area and includes the burials of members of several valley pioneer families including Morris, Books, Rose and Thompson. The earliest surviving grave of Henry J.A. Morris (d. 1866) predates the official dedication of the cemetery and may therefore provide evidence of the planning/location of the subsequent extant cemetery.*

*Through its archaeology and gravestones the cemetery has the potential to yield information that contributes to the local history of the area.*



Figure 11 Detail of ironwork. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

## Management and Care

The table below identifies cemetery elements and recommended actions to consider in the future management of the General Cemetery on the MacDonald River. The priority of action for each activity at the cemetery is suggested subject to ongoing Council and grant funding opportunities.

Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommended Action
Landscaping/ Planting	Improve landscaping and plantings where relevant to enhance the cemetery grounds and encourage visitation and visibility of monuments and flourishing flora.	High	Undertake light weeding and regular maintenance of the existing landscape with community volunteer assistance. Monitor growth of mature trees to determine whether these require removal if threatening to disrupt monuments. Remove woody weeds and weed sources.
Unmarked Burials	Make attempts to locate unmarked graves to protect them from accidental damage or disturbance.	Low/ Medium	Consider Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) investigations where there is potential or physical evidence for unmarked graves.
Historical Archaeology	Understand the archaeology of the site to assist in future management.	Low/ Medium	A historical archaeological assessment should be prepared for the site by a qualified archaeologist to determine the likelihood of intact unmarked burials.
Security— Fences, Gates and Lighting	Provide adequate fencing and security to protect against issues including anti-social behaviour, vandalism, illegal dumping, property encroachments and carparking on the edges of unfenced cemeteries.	High  Ongoing  High and Ongoing	Existing timber post and rail fence needs damage repair; it's not stylistically contemporary with the graveyard but with repairs is adequate to protect the site from livestock damage.  Maintain security elements.  Conduct regular drive-by and physical inspections of cemeteries to monitor vandalism or other issues affecting safety and significance.
Signage	Erect cemetery signs as appropriate. Signage could also be used to assist visitation, community and cultural interest by providing a brief history of the site.  Consider identifying significant graves and monuments and/or providing interesting information about prominent graves and monument styles as well as landscape and flora species present.	Low/ Medium  Low/ Medium	The existing sign needs repairing, reinstating or replacing.  Consider low-key interpretation and updated signage if this is considered appropriate for consistency of Council cemeteries as a group.
Restoration	Undertake restoration of significant monuments within the cemetery.	Ongoing  Low  High and Ongoing	Source funding to restore fallen, broken headstones and overgrown burials.  Treat cemetery ironwork against rust. Restore/reinstate broken headstones.  Workers and volunteers should be encouraged to be familiar with working on heritage sites and should be provided with copies of documents such as the <i>Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .




Significant Graves	Retain the condition of significant graves, headstones and monuments.	Medium	Work with living relatives/families to source funding/grants to assist conservation of these items.
Safety Issues	Identify cemetery elements that may pose a safety threat to visitors or their own stability whether due to vandalism, age/deterioration, ground movement or other causes.	Ongoing	Existing timber picket fencing needs repairing. Fallen headstones require attention.
		High and Ongoing	Address safety issues as they arise and seek specialist assistance when repairing fallen or dangerous monuments or trees.
		Ongoing	Maintain security elements.
Interested Groups	Continue to engage and work with interested communities, groups and individuals.	Ongoing	Continue to identify, acknowledge and work with other interested community groups including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hawkesbury Cemeteries Register Group (update Cemetery Register record);</li> <li>• Hawkesbury on the Net;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Family History Group;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Historical Society; and</li> <li>• relatives and descendants.</li> </ul> Consider developing a work plan for the cemetery together with interested groups.
		High and Ongoing	Local cemetery community groups should be encouraged and supported to undertake training in the recording, maintenance and conservation of historic cemeteries. Training could be provided by stonemasons, cemetery workers, or any other profession that works with cemeteries on a regular basis.
		Medium and Ongoing	Liaise with authors of HOTN Cemetery Register and provide access to this SCMP to enable data update in the Cemetery Register.
Accessible Funding/ Resources	Investigate available grants. Investigate the use of volunteers, local community services and prisoners to assist in appropriate aspects of cemetery maintenance.	Ongoing	Work with living relatives/families and/or interested local community groups to source funding/grants to assist conservation of identified items and to undertake research into the history of the cemetery.
		Ongoing	Use the actions in this SCMP to guide applications for funding for conservation and maintenance work.

## References

- <sup>1</sup> Godden Mackay, MacDonal River Valley, Colo River Valley—Cemeteries Study, Final Report, report prepared for Hawkesbury City Council, 1991, p 16.
- <sup>2</sup> Auld, J and Nichols, M, General Cemetery on the MacDonal River—MacDonal, Hawkesbury on the Net: Cemetery Register, April 2003–February 2009, viewed 6 February 2019 <[http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/macdonald\\_river\\_general/index.html](http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/macdonald_river_general/index.html)>.
- <sup>3</sup> A description of the cemetery including monument and burial details is available in the Cemetery Inventory Sheet for the site in Godden Mackay, MacDonal River Valley, Colo River Valley—Cemeteries Study, Final Report, report prepared for Hawkesbury City Council, 1991, Appendix A, Site 11.



Figure 12 Detail of ironwork. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



# St Albans General Cemetery (Old)

Handbook

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HERITAGE

## Overview

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Other Name(s)	'St Albans Old General Cemetery', 'General Cemetery (Old)', 'Settlers Cemetery', 'Old River Cemetery'
Heritage Listing(s)	<i>Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP)</i> , Listing I439; Register of National Estate, Place ID 3218
Date Dedicated	c1820s
Period of Use	1820s–1924
Location (Coordinates)	Lat: -33.3064 Long: 150.9833
Primary Address	1626 Settlers Road, St Albans, NSW
Property Description	Lot 72 DP 755258 Located adjacent to the east bank of the Macdonald River, 3.5km southeast of St Albans via Settlers Road
Parish	St Albans
County	Northumberland
Local Government Area	Hawkesbury
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Metropolitan

This handbook is intended as a handy standalone guide for use by Hawkesbury City Council (Council) or for issue to community groups to guide their understanding and contribution to the management, care and maintenance of this cemetery. Relevant sections of this handbook should be updated as additional historical or other information becomes available and/or works are undertaken that change the condition of the cemetery.

The Management & Care table at the end of the Handbook identifies elements, recommended actions and timing priorities to consider in the future management of the cemetery. Using the Handbook as a starting point to develop a Cemetery Working Plan, relatives, descendants, interested groups and individuals, working closely with Council, can be guided to manage the cemetery together: to implement high priority actions first, seek specialist advice and training when needed and together create opportunities for ongoing care of the cemetery and its elements. Engaged management aims to enhance visitation, community interest and appreciation of these special places of eternal rest and commemoration.



Figure 1 The cemetery's dedicated lot boundary (in red) with Settlers Road cutting through the centre. The known burials are located in the clearing to the immediate north of the road. (Source: SIX Maps Imagery with GML overlay)

## Summary History

- St Albans Old General Cemetery is the earliest official cemetery in the MacDonald River Valley.
- Located on one of the big bends of MacDonald River, the cemetery was laid out in 1826 and dedicated as an Anglican cemetery.
- Opposite the cemetery was a schoolhouse/church and a cottage for the sexton. The sexton would row students home and also convey the dead to the cemetery.
- Sarah Matthew, wife of surveyor Felton Matthew, **visited this location in 1833 and described the burial ground as ‘...a square railed enclosure, containing several graves, most of them surrounded with a neat paling’.**<sup>1</sup>
- During the late 1860s, the cemetery was enlarged and converted into a general cemetery. Sections laid out included Wesleyan, Presbyterian, Independent and Jewish.
- Although officially dedicated in 1871, the additional area on the hilly side above Wright Creek Road was never used for burials.
- Due to its location on the MacDonald River, the cemetery was badly affected by early floods with some sections being washed away. A new site (St Albans New General Cemetery) was selected in 1869 but the Old General Cemetery remained in use until 1924.
- Floods of 1889 and 1949 destroyed much of the General and Roman Catholic sections. During the later floods, coffins and bones were swept downstream. Some of these were able to be retrieved and reinterred.
- Maintenance of the cemetery was carried out by a pensioner who lived in an adjacent hut, up to the 1960s. After he died, the cemetery was subject to vandalism. Marjorie Hutton Neve, a historian, transcribed some of the earliest gravestones in 1961. She described the cemetery as being in an extremely neglected condition, overgrown with scrubs and wild ferns. Some **headstones had collapsed and iron railings surrounding individual graves were ‘dilapidated and rusty’.**<sup>2</sup>
- Another flood occurred in 1978 and the site was covered in a thick layer of silt.
- In 1979, Colo Shire Council maintenance workers removed most of the protective trees to make space for a picnic area. Passing travellers would drive into the cemetery and park on top of gravestones. Gravestones were also used as barbeques.
- In 1980, a fence constructed of telegraph poles was erected around the cemetery to keep vehicles out.
- This cemetery is listed in the Hawkesbury LEP 2012 as a heritage item of local significance.

## Notable Burials

- Pioneering families represented in the cemetery include the Baileys, Thompsons, Jurds, Prestons, Flemings and Sternbecks.
- The earliest surviving monument in this cemetery is that of Richard Bradley (d. 1837).
- Sarah Sternbeck (d. 1841), wife of ex-convict Christian Sternbeck.
- William Douglas Jurd (d. 27 November 1838), a convict who arrived on the *Alexander* in 1788. The Jurd family were licensees of the Settler Arms Inn at St Alban for 80 years.
- Joseph Sternbeck (d. 28 December 1875), 5 years old, drowned in MacDonald Valley River.
- Susannah Jane Fernance (d. 16 February 1878), wife of St Albans pioneer Joseph Fernance—there is another memorial dedicated to her on the other side of MacDonald River. It is not clear where she is buried.
- John Joseph Walker (d. 5 June 1856) and his wife Jane (d. 16 May 1896). The Walker family are MacDonald Valley’s earliest Methodist preachers, starting with John Joseph. John Joseph was a son of two ex-convicts, John Walker and Anne Gill. He **and his brother intermarried with other local families. Four of John Joseph’s sons became lay preachers and four grandsons entered the ministry.**<sup>3</sup>

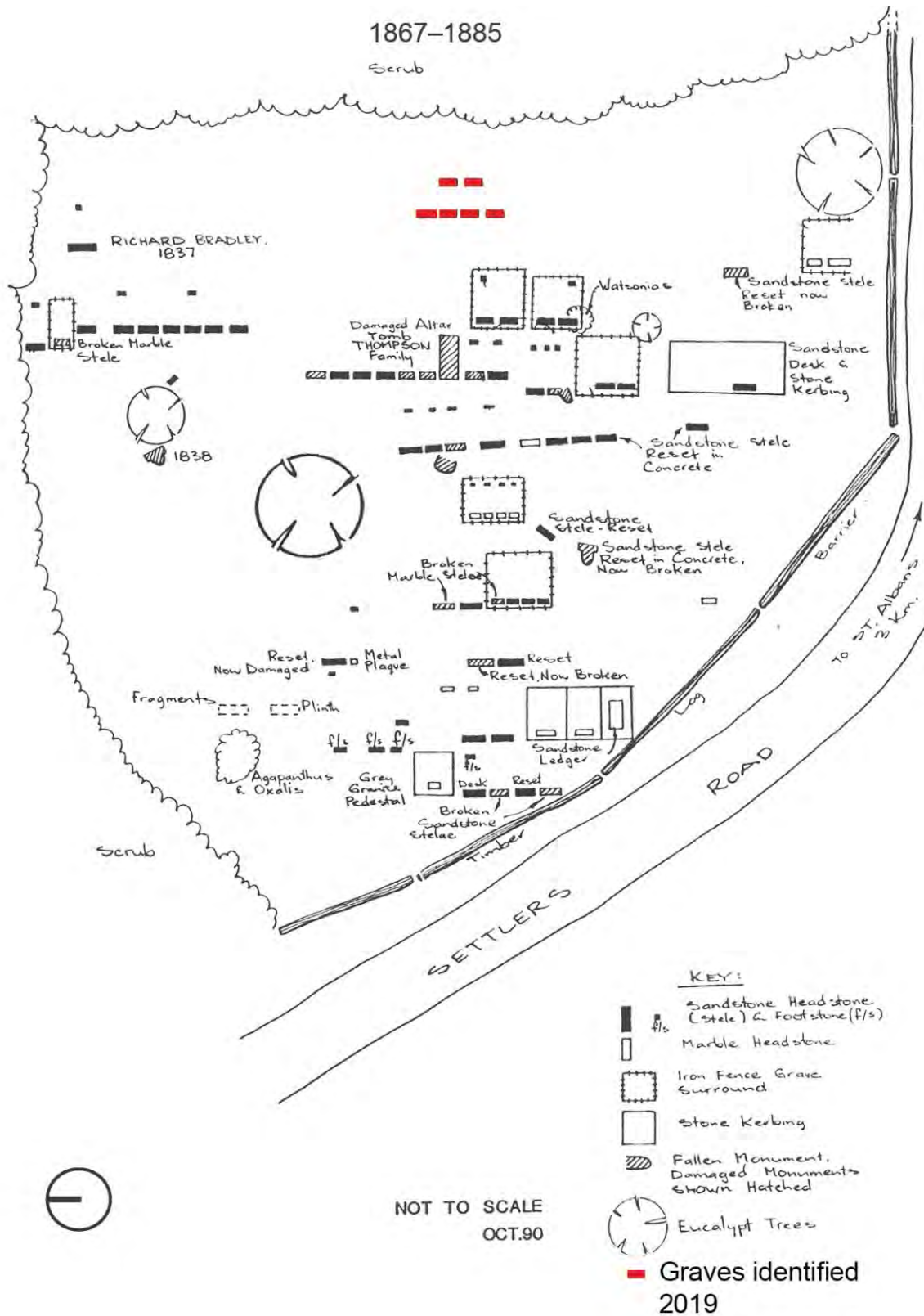


Figure 2 A 2019 annotation of a 1990 Sketch of St Albans Old General Cemetery. (Source: S. Lavelle, St Albans Old General Cemetery—Cemetery Description Form, Godden Mackay, MacDonalld River Valley, Colo River Valley—Cemeteries Study, Final Report, report prepared for Hawkesbury City Council, 1991, Appendix A, with GML overlay)

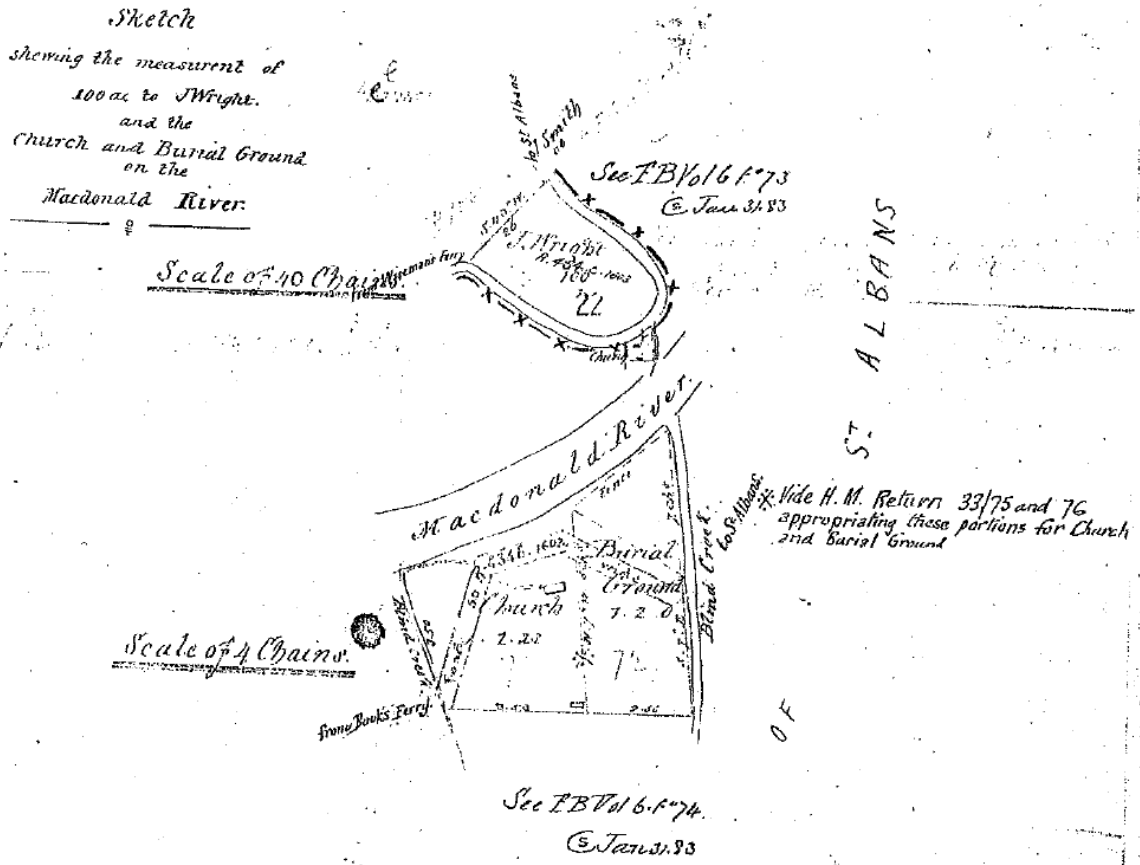


Figure 3 1833 sketch of St Albans Old General Cemetery. (Source: Crown Plan 114-645, Hawkesbury City Council)

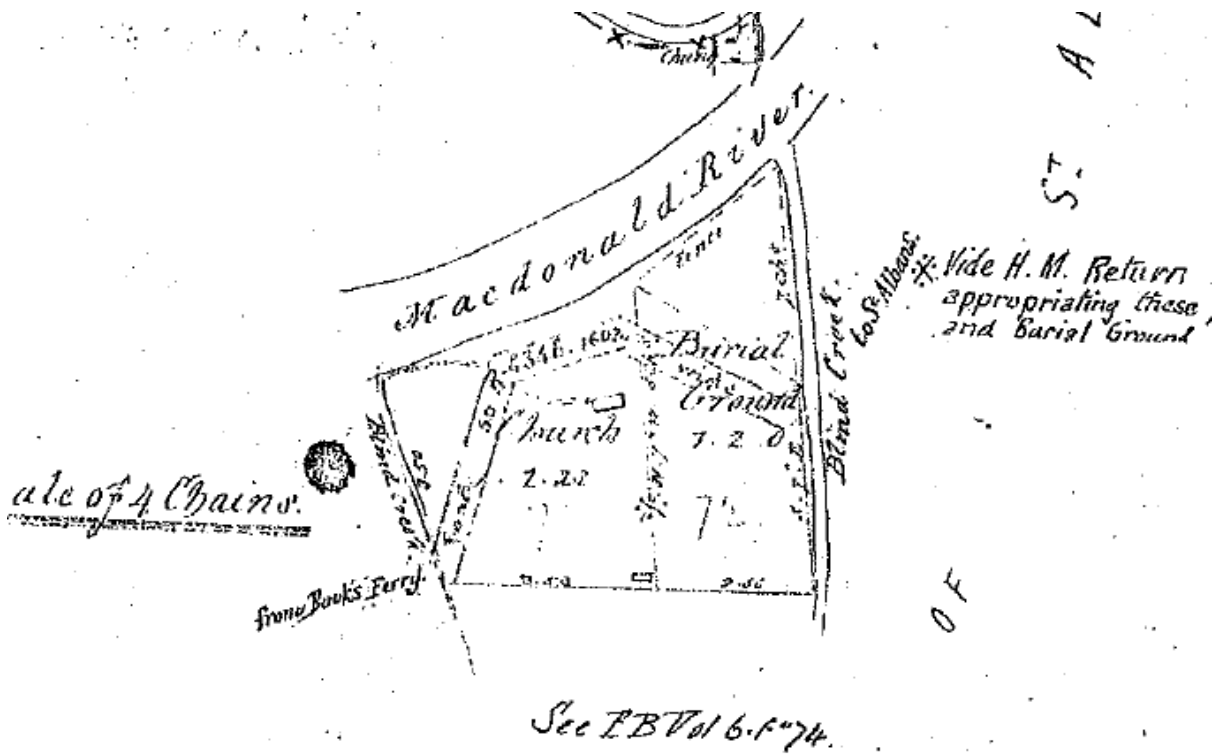


Figure 4 Detail of 1833 sketch of St Albans Old General Cemetery. (Source: Crown Plan 114-645, Hawkesbury City Council)



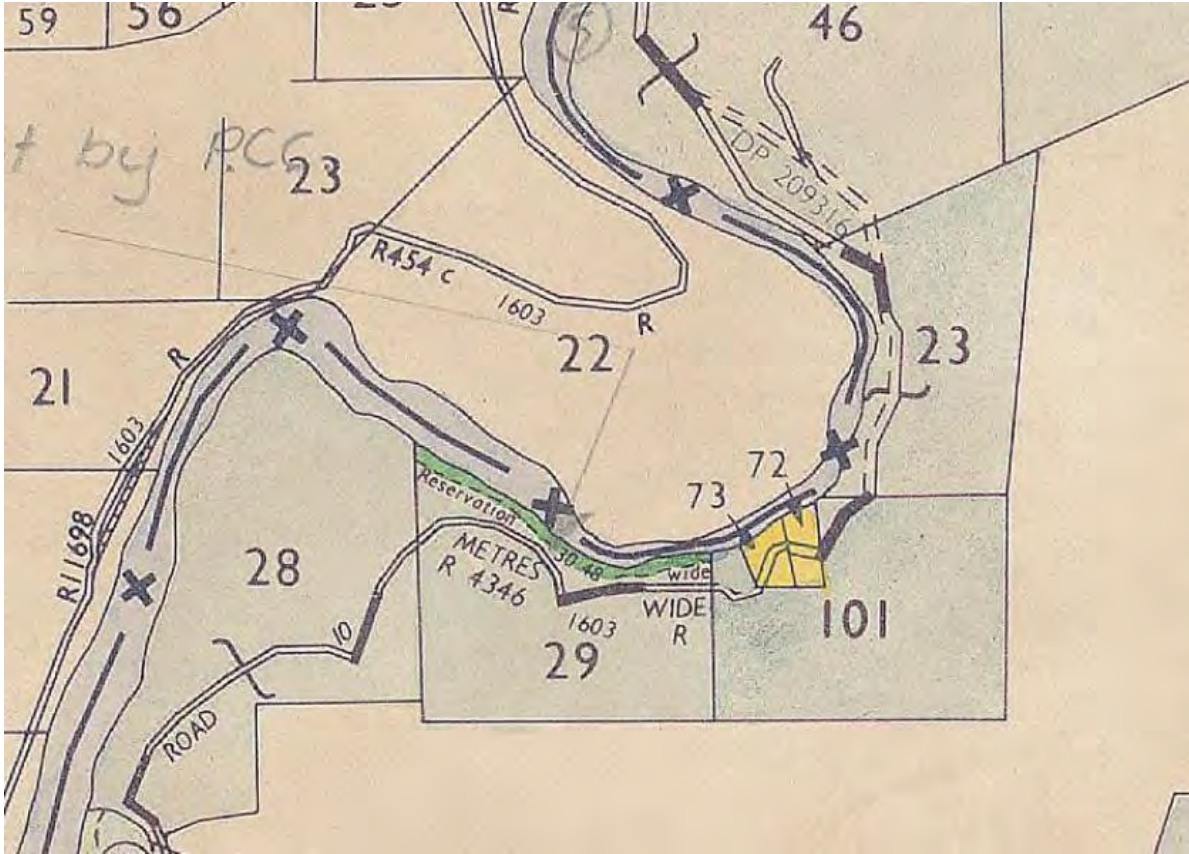


Figure 5 Close-up of 1976 St Albans Parish Map. St Albans Old General Cemetery is highlighted in yellow. 72—Burial Ground 73—Church. (Source: Historical Land Records Viewer, Land and Property Information)



Figure 6 1979 photograph of St Albans Old General Cemetery. (Source: National Trust [NSW])

SETTLER'S CEMETERY, (ALSO KNOWN AS ST. ALBAN'S OLD GENERAL CEMETERY)

SETTLERS ROAD

SURVEYED BY: CEMETERIES COMMITTEE

DATE: 19/10/1980

DRAWN BY: IAN WOOD BRADLEY

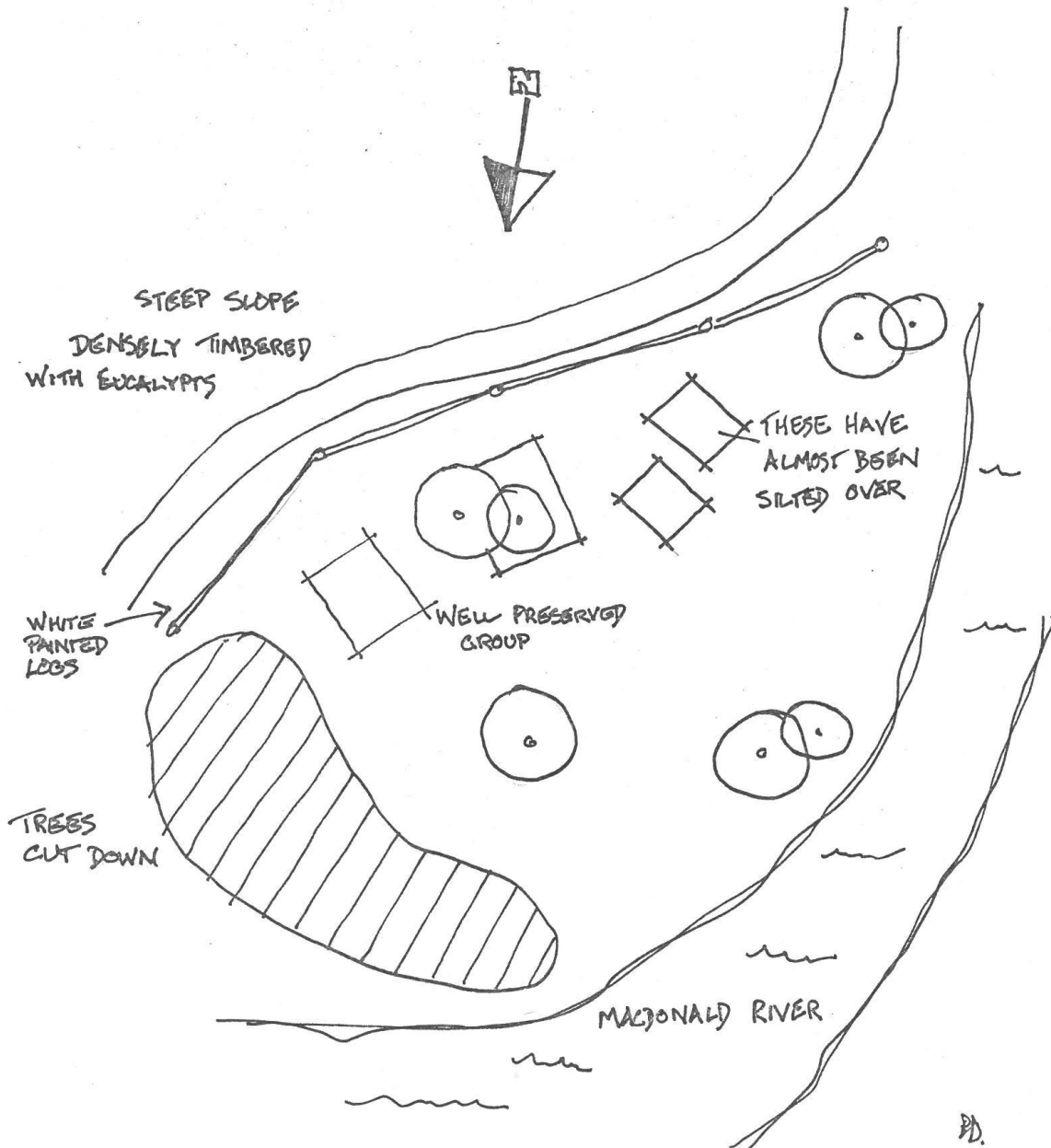


Figure 7 1980 sketch showing where trees were removed at St Albans Old General Cemetery. (Source: National Trust [NSW], St Albans Old General Cemetery Index Card)

## Description

### Setting

The land dedicated for the St Albans Old General Cemetery is divided by Settlers Road, which extends roughly northwest–southeast through the site. The used portion of the cemetery is situated on the west side of Settlers Road above the MacDonald River approximately 2.5 kilometres south of the village of St Albans.

The cemetery is surrounded by native scrub on the north and east sides. Settlers Road is adjacent to the south and west sides of the cemetery. Visible burials are only located on the north side of the road, on a river terrace overlooking the Hawkesbury River to the north (though the river is not visible through the vegetation along the riverbank). The site is relatively flat and enclosed by native vegetation on all sides, with a significant break in slope downhill to the north on its northern boundary and another break in slope downhill to the northeast of its eastern boundary, which is bounded by a deep drainage channel leading to the Hawkesbury River. These breaks in slope were inspected for evidence of burials extruding from the banks, but none were observed.

The southern side within the dedicated cemetery boundary has no evidence of burials, though the trees covering the site are likely twentieth-century regrowth. It consists of a ridge oriented north–south sloping gradually downhill to the north with large sandstone outcrops. The northern extent of the ridge was clearly cut to accommodate Settlers Road.

### Physical Description<sup>4</sup>

The cemetery boundary along Settlers Road is marked by wooden logs, while the other three boundary fences consist of a barbed wire and star picket fence. The graves all have the same east–west orientation with headstones facing to the east.

The cemetery was established during the 1820s although several sections (General and Roman Catholic) were washed away by successive severe floods. The earliest surviving monument is a sandstone stele to Richard Bradley from 1837. Graves generally face east and are arranged in 11 main rows.

A polychromatic lithographed metal sign is posted at the entrance to the north side of the cemetery.

#### *Monuments*

The cemetery contains a total of 67 monuments. Monuments are predominantly nineteenth-century sandstone stelae (headstones), commonly semicircular topped and of simple Georgian style. These monuments feature elegant Roman, Italic and Copperplate Script. Two pedimented sandstone stelae with relief wreaths are by stonemason Cobby and are of Ravensfield sandstone. The late nineteenth century sandstone stele to John Bailey (1890) features a well-executed hand and rose motif; the stele to Elizabeth Preston (1856) also features well-carved relief florals.

The sandstone stelae, headstones and footstones are mostly semicircular with cut away shoulders. Granite obelisk and a single sandstone altar tomb also feature. Mid to late nineteenth-century monuments also feature sandstone kerbs, some of which have cast iron or wrought iron surrounds. Four headstones and two footstones were identified during the 2019 cemetery site inspection and added to the existing 1990 National Trust site plan in Figure 2.

Descendant and genealogical group activities are evident including plaques on an altar tomb and evidence of past restoration attempts.

### *Landscape*

The northern Settler Road frontage is enclosed by a sturdy timber post and rail fence painted mission brown with a single pedestrian access gate, erected sometime after 1991. The northern, eastern and western boundaries are enclosed by star picket and wire fences.

The cemetery area is covered by a scatter of eucalypts and closely mown grass. The only planting evident is a small clump of Agapanthus near the west boundary and Oxalis. There is no evidence of paths, drains or other formal landscaping within St Albans Old General Cemetery.

There is evidence of cutting and poisoning of two tree stumps in areas where the trees were likely to impact on monuments. Overgrowth is creeping in from the eastern and northern edges, slowly overtaking monuments. Piles of greenery stacked within the cemetery give evidence of recent maintenance yet require removal as they present a trip hazard for visitors.

### **Condition**

A significant amount of vegetation has built up around the site and is encroaching on some graves that are close to the boundary fence. Recently pruned vegetation has been left in piles around the cemetery and large tree stumps remain throughout the site. Many gravestones have been damaged, either through natural aging or vandalism, although vandalism at this cemetery appears to not be a common occurrence. Several headstones have been replaced or cleaned. There is evidence that some stones have been poorly repaired and have since rebroken.

There is evidence of both successful and failed repair, with stainless steel pins in broken stelae. Some leaning and broken stelae are also evident. Lichen growth is present on some of the sandstone stelae, some show evidence of having been cleaned.

### **Key Issues**

- Vegetation creep (invasive vines and undergrowth) on northern and eastern boundaries.
- Broken headstones in contact with ground.
- Some potential for unmarked graves and grave furniture to have been buried or moved by historic flooding episodes in the cemetery.
- Trip hazard (stacked piles of greenery) to be removed.

### **Interested Groups**

Council welcomes community interest and support regarding the upkeep and improvement of cemeteries in its care. Some of the key interest groups and information sources relevant to this cemetery include:

- Hawkesbury Cemeteries Register Group (update Cemetery Register record);
- Hawkesbury Family History Group;
- Hawkesbury Historical Society;
- Hawkesbury on the Net; and
- relatives and descendants.



Figure 8 St Albans Old General Cemetery. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 9 Evidence of previous restoration projects. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 10 Example of carved relief florals. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 11 Vegetation overgrowth and four headstones recorded in 2019. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 12 Recent commemoration of early burials and wrought iron fencework. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

## Historical Archaeological Potential

### **St Albans Old General Cemetery may provide significant potential archaeological information about early burials and burial practices.**

'Archaeological potential' refers to the likelihood of archaeological remains to survive at a site. It should be distinguished from 'archaeological significance', which refers to the heritage values of any remains that may prove to have survived. Thus, there may be 'low potential' for certain remains to survive, but if they do survive, they might be assessed as being of 'high significance' (for example, if they are rare examples from the convict period).

The potential archaeological resource within a cemetery can include evidence from a variety of different activities and associated elements depending on the history of the place before and during its existing function.

Historical archaeological evidence associated with pre-cemetery activity may have resulted from ephemeral uses of the area. Potential archaeological remains can consist of land clearing and timber getting as areas such as the Hawkesbury began to be settled by Europeans. More substantial evidence might include the remains of early farms and associated outbuildings as well as church facilities and sealed artefact deposits, although in most of the cemeteries these are unlikely to exist. Historical archaeological evidence associated with pre-cemetery establishment and use may be assessed as having local or state significance, depending on its nature and extent.

Many of the cemeteries identified in this SCMP are considered likely to have high archaeological potential in association with the burials that have been excavated in each. Although interments currently cover each cemetery to varying degrees, as archaeological items, these hold significance for the data they might provide with regards to past ways of life and cultural perceptions of life and death. Most of the interments (including unmarked burials) would be of local significance, while the remains of individuals of historical or cultural significance in NSW would have the potential to be of state significance.

Use of each site as a cemetery has resulted in changes to landscape elements as well as gradual burial of some features (particularly in areas not regularly frequented or landscaped or where flood activity is likely to have washed away, moved or buried some elements). Buried or partially demolished landscape elements associated with cultural landscapes of exceptional or high significance have the potential to be of state significance, depending on their nature and extent. Other elements associated with creating formal landscapes within the Council cemeteries would be of local significance.

Examples of activities and remains that may retain historical evidence include:

Activity	Potential Remains
Early land clearing	Tree roots, charcoal deposits, artefact scatters, soil deposits, evidence of camp sites etc.
Burials	Skeletal remains, coffins, coffin hardware, grave goods, utilitarian items (buttons, buckles etc).
Grave furniture	Headstones, crosses etc have fallen in a number of locations. It is likely that similar grave furniture has fallen and lies buried across the cemetery.
Former landscaping	Paths, edging, fence rails, etc.



St Alban's Old General Cemetery was used for approximately 83 years (1837–1920). The General and Roman Catholic sections were subsequently washed away in severe floods. In addition to visible graves, grave goods and associated elements, the Cemetery has the potential to retain now unmarked inhumations and associated remains including footstones, headstones and other grave goods.

It is also important to remember that if any archaeological evidence relating to Aboriginal use is discovered at the cemetery, including during any general maintenance works, then works should cease in the area and the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) (formerly Office of Environment & Heritage [OEH]) must be notified immediately.



Figure 13 St Alban's Old General Cemetery. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

# Significance

## Assessment of Significance

The following table provides a heritage assessment for the St Albans Old General Cemetery site against the State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria:

### SHR Criterion a) [Historical significance]

St Albans Old Cemetery is the earliest official cemetery in the MacDonald River Valley. It is a significant local record of the early European settlement with the earliest known surviving burial dating to 1837. It demonstrates the development of the area's close-knit early European community, descendants and familial relationships during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

This cemetery is considered significant at a state level under Criterion A.

### SHR Criterion b) [Associative significance]

The cemetery has a strong association with early families who settled in the local area—the Baileys, Thompsons, Jurds, Prestons, Flemings and Sternbecks. The cemetery includes the graves of early Methodist preacher John Joseph Walker and his wife Jane who are associated with the development of Methodist beliefs in the MacDonald Valley. The cemetery also contains the burial of William Douglas who was transported on the First Fleet ship *Alexander* in 1788.

The cemetery is considered significant at a state level under Criterion B.

### SHR Criterion c) [Aesthetic significance]

St Albans Old General Cemetery has local aesthetic significance with predominantly nineteenth-century sandstone stelae (headstones), commonly semicircular topped and of simple Georgian style. Two pedimented sandstone stelae with relief wreaths are by stonemason Cobby and are of Ravensfield sandstone. These monuments feature elegant roman, italic and copperplate script and wrought iron lacework.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

### SHR Criterion d) [Social significance]

The cemetery is locally significant to the St Albans community identity as a place of mourning and burial. It provides evidence of the community's religious beliefs and their cultural links to the First Fleet and early occupation of the area. Ongoing connection to the cemetery is evident from activities by descendant and genealogical group activities including plaques on altar tombs and past restoration projects.

The cemetery is considered significant at a state level under this criterion.

**SHR Criterion e) [Research potential]**

The monuments in St Albans Old General Cemetery provide data for the study of the local community and for family history. The graves themselves provide potential archaeological information about early burials and burial practices, which would become apparent in any geophysical survey.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

**SHR Criterion f) [Rarity]**

St Albans Old Cemetery does not meet this criterion.

**SHR Criterion g) [Representativeness]**

The group of headstones are representative at a local level of different periods of burials from 1837 through to the twentieth century and later plaques marking commemorations of significance to the community.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

**Integrity/Intactness**

St Albans Old Cemetery is relatively intact with some invasive vegetation creep and broken or leaning headstones in contact with the ground. The cemetery has potential for unmarked graves and grave furniture to have been buried or moved by historic flooding episodes.

### Original Statement of Significance (RNE 1980 Place ID 3218)

*St Albans Old Cemetery should be entered in the National Estate because all the pioneering families are buried there. The first burial was 1837. Richard Bradley died 19 October 1837 aged 36 years and a first fleeter, William Douglas of the transport ship Alexander 1788, died 27 November 1838 aged eight-one (sic) years. A first fleeter, that's something!*

(A note in the State Heritage Inventory entry for the site advises that the above data was mainly provided by the nominator and has not yet been revised by the Australian Heritage Commission. The Register of the National Estate was closed in 2007 and is no longer a statutory list.)

### Revised Statement of Significance

*The headstone of Richard Bradley dated 1837 is the earliest surviving monument in the cemetery. Together with other cemeteries in the MacDonald Valley, St Albans Old General Cemetery provides a significant record of the initial **settlement and occupation of the area's** close-knit European community, its descendants and their familial relationships during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Pioneering families represented in the cemetery include the Baileys, Thompsons, Jurds, Prestons, Flemings and Sternbecks. The cemetery contains a range of monument types and styles and includes examples of the elaborate wrought ironwork found in several cemeteries in the MacDonald Valley area. (Adapted from Hawkesbury Cemetery Study 1990)*



Figure 14 Headstone of Richard Bradley. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

## Management and Care

The table below identifies cemetery elements and recommended actions to consider in the future management of St Albans Old General Cemetery. The priority of action for each activity at the cemetery is suggested subject to ongoing Council and grant funding opportunities.

Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommended Action
Heritage Listing	List St Albans Old General Cemetery on the SHR.	High	Consider applying to have St Albans Old General Cemetery listed on the SHR.
Landscaping/ Planting	Improve landscaping and plantings to enhance the cemetery grounds and encourage visitation and visibility of monuments and flourishing flora.  Retain the heritage character of the cemetery.	Medium	Undertake light weeding and regular maintenance of the existing landscape with community volunteer assistance.
		Medium	Remove vegetation creep on the northern and eastern boundaries.
		Medium	Remove woody weeds and weed sources in proximity of headstones.
Unmarked Burials  Historical Archaeology	Make attempts to locate unmarked graves to protect them from accidental damage or disturbance.  Understand the archaeology of the site to assist in future management.	Medium	Consider Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) investigations prior to any subsurface disturbance associated with general cemetery maintenance or other works to identify and formally record the likely location of unmarked graves and associated grave goods.
Security—Fences, Gates and Lighting	Provide adequate fencing and security to protect against issues including anti-social behaviour, vandalism and illegal dumping.	Ongoing  High and Ongoing	Maintain existing enclosure and any security elements. Consider sensor lighting in areas where vandalism is common, if needed.  Conduct regular drive-by and physical inspections of the cemetery to monitor vandalism and other issues affecting safety and significance.
Signage	Promote understanding by identifying the site through signage. Signage could also be used to assist visitation, community and cultural interest by providing a brief history of the site.  Consider identifying significant graves and monuments and/or providing interesting information about prominent grave and monument styles, landscape and flora species present.	Low	Consider low-key interpretation and updating of existing signage at the cemetery entrance to encourage visitation and connection with the site <b>including online information on Council's website</b> , if this is appropriate for consistency of the Council cemeteries as a group.
Restoration	Some of the headstones have been restored with clearly visible inscriptions (1994). Others are broken, requiring repair.	Ongoing	Source funding to engage specialists to establish correct position of moved stones and restore significant monuments, headstones and grave furniture.
		Low	Treat cemetery ironwork against rust.  Workers and volunteers should be encouraged to be familiar with working on heritage sites and

		High and Ongoing	should be provided with copies of documents such as the <i>Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation</i> .
Significant Graves and Monuments	Retain/reinstate the condition of significant graves, headstones and monuments to maintain the <b>cemetery's</b> heritage character.	Ongoing	Work with living relatives/families to source funding/grants to assist in the conservation of these items.
Safety Issues	Identify cemetery elements that may pose a safety threat to visitors or their own stability whether due to vandalism, age/deterioration, ground movement or other causes.	High	Remove piles of vegetation from recent maintenance activity as these are a trip hazard for visitors.
		High and Ongoing	Ensure safety issues are addressed as they arise, and seek specialist assistance when repairing fallen or dangerous monuments or trees.
		Ongoing	Maintain security elements.
Interested Groups	Continue to engage and work with interested communities, groups and individuals.	Ongoing	Continue to identify, acknowledge and work with other interested community groups including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hawkesbury Cemeteries Register Group (update Cemetery Register record);</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Family History Group;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Historical Society;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury on the Net; and</li> <li>• relatives and descendants.</li> </ul> Consider developing a work plan for the cemetery together with interested groups.
		High and Ongoing	
		Medium and Ongoing	Encourage & support local cemetery community groups to undertake training in the recording, maintenance and conservation of historic cemeteries. Training could be provided by stonemasons, cemetery workers, or any other profession that works with cemeteries on a regular basis.
Accessible Funding/Resources	Investigate available grants.  Investigate the use of volunteers, local community services and prisoners to assist in appropriate aspects of cemetery maintenance.	Ongoing	Work with living relatives/families and/or interested local community support groups to source funding/grants to assist in the conservation of identified items and to undertake ongoing research into the history of the cemetery and early settlers buried there.
		Ongoing	Use the actions in this SCMP to guide applications for funding for conservation and maintenance work.

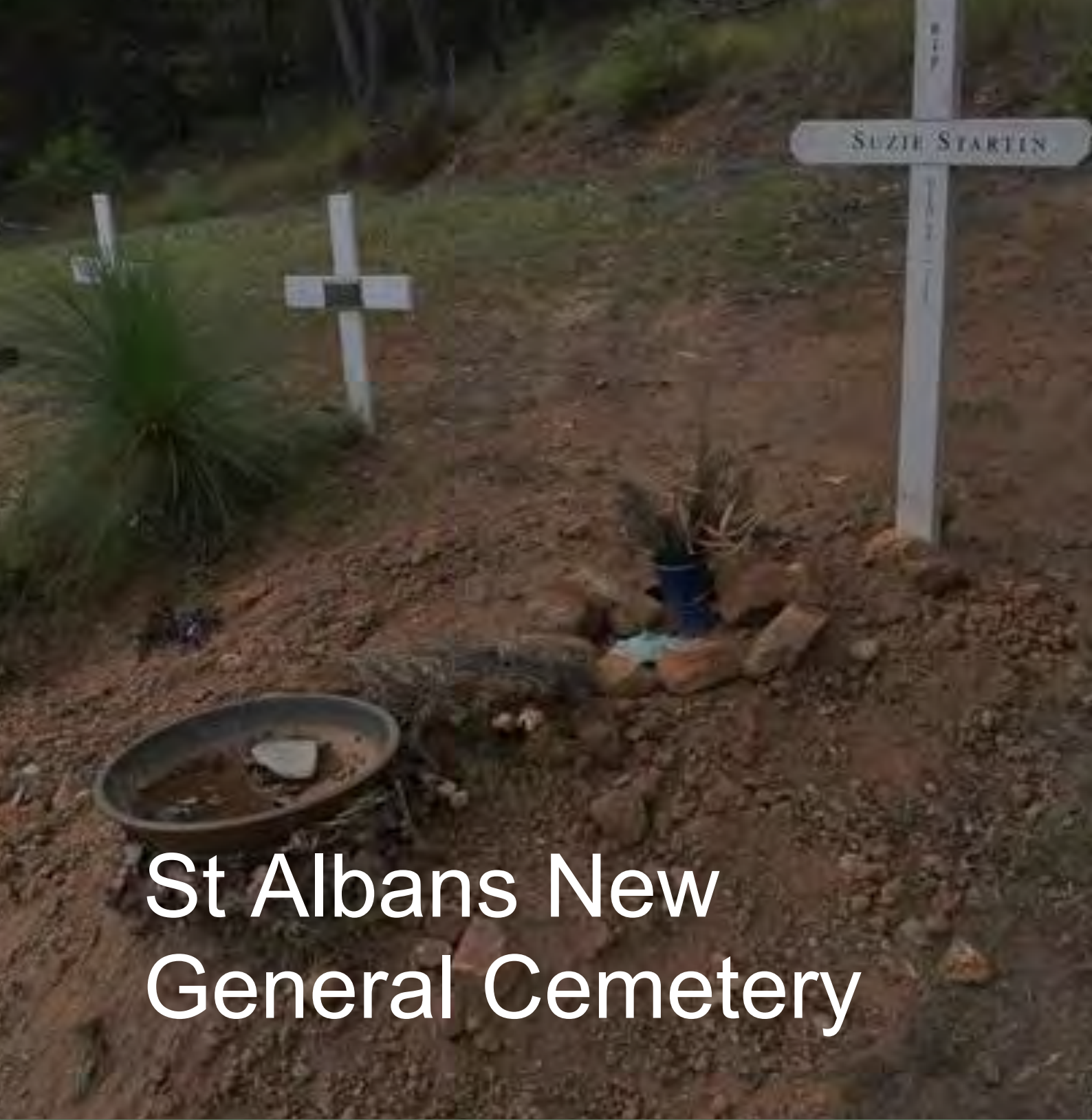
## References

- <sup>1</sup> Cited on **St Alban the Martyr**, 'History of the Church of St Alban the Martyr', viewed 26 February 2019 <<http://www.stalbanthemartyr.org/history.htm>>.
- <sup>2</sup> Cited in Godden Mackay, MacDonal River Valley, Colo River Valley—Cemeteries Study, Final Report, report prepared for Hawkesbury City Council, 1991, p 16.
- <sup>3</sup> Godden Mackay, MacDonal River Valley, Colo River Valley—Cemeteries Study, Final Report, report prepared for Hawkesbury City Council, 1991, pp 16–17; National Trust (NSW), St Albans Old General Cemetery Index Card, 1981.
- <sup>4</sup> A description of the cemetery including monument and burial details is available in the Cemetery Inventory Sheet for the site in Godden Mackay, MacDonal River Valley, Colo River Valley—Cemeteries Study, Final Report, report prepared for Hawkesbury City Council, 1991, Appendix A, Site 12.



Figure 15 Tombstone of Sarah Sternbeck. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)





# St Albans New General Cemetery

Handbook

**GML**  
HERITAGE

## Overview

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Other Name(s)	'St Albans New Cemetery'
Heritage Listing(s)	<i>Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP), Listing I434</i>
Date Dedicated	1869
Period of Use	1869 to present
Location (Coordinates)	Lat: -33.280540 Long: 150.968964
Primary Address	140–170 Wollombi Road, St Albans, NSW
Property Description	Lots 1–16 DP 758924 East side of Wollombi Road, approximately 1.3km north of Settlers' Arms, east side of the Macdonald River
Parish	St Albans
County	Northumberland
Local Government Area	Hawkesbury
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Metropolitan

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The Management & Care table at the end of the Handbook identifies elements, recommended actions and timing priorities to consider in the future management of the cemetery. Using the Handbook as a starting point to develop a Cemetery Working Plan, relatives, descendants, interested groups and individuals, working closely with Council, can be guided to manage the cemetery together: to implement high priority actions first, seek specialist advice and training when needed and together create opportunities for ongoing care of the cemetery and its elements. Engaged management aims to enhance visitation, community interest and appreciation of these special places of eternal rest and commemoration.



Figure 1 Plan identifying the dedicated cemetery land and actual existing usage area. (Source: SIX Maps imagery with GML overlay)

## Summary History

- Ground for the St Albans New General Cemetery was dedicated in 1869 and extended in 1892 and 1935. It was intended for the new cemetery to replace the St Albans Old General Cemetery but they were used concurrently until 1924.
- Gravestones date from 1887 to the present day. Members of many local family groups are buried here including the Baileys (45), Jurds (31), Fernances (8), Sternbecks (18) and Thompsons (49).
- The cemetery has been divided into 16 separate denominations, including Roman Catholic, Church of England, Independent, Jewish, Presbyterian and Wesleyan.
- The cemetery includes at least 266 inscriptions.
- This cemetery is listed in the Hawkesbury LEP as a heritage item of local significance.

## Notable Monuments and Other Elements

- Henry Fleming (d. 1907)—finely carved open book motif.
- Josie Thompson (d. 1932)—marble child angel (Figure 13).
- A range of grave surrounds—most significant are the wrought iron surrounds that feature elaborate decorative curlicue and spiral works and decorative hand stamped motifs. Each wrought fence is slightly different in design but believed to have had the same, presumably local, maker. Examples of this ironwork appear in other MacDonal Valley cemeteries. One **unidentified child's grave** featured a wrought iron fence with a wrought dome or pyramid structure over the grave (the structure is now detached [Figure 14]).<sup>1</sup>



Figure 2 Diagram identifying the main family groups in the cemetery. (Source: SixMaps imagery with GML overlay)

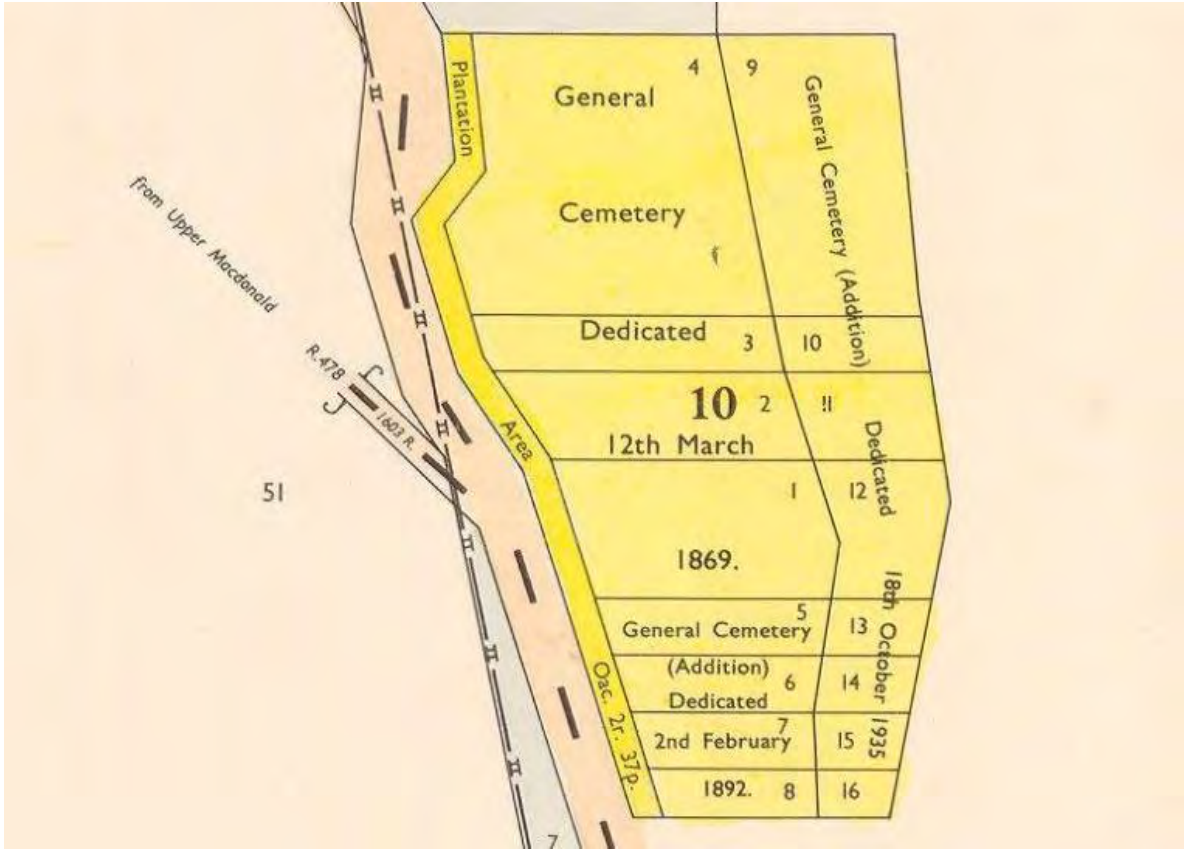


Figure 3 1971 Town Map of St Albans, showing the different allotments and expansion of the St Albans New General Cemetery: 1—Wesleyan, 2—Roman Catholic, 3—Wesleyan, 4—Church of England, 5—General, 6—Presbyterian, 7—Independent, 8—Jewish, 9—Church of England, 10—Wesleyan, 11—Roman Catholic, 12—Wesleyan, 13—General, 14—Presbyterian, 15—Independent, 16—Jewish. (Source: Historical Land Records Viewer, Land and Property Information)



Figure 4 1980 photograph of St Albans New General Cemetery. (Source: National Trust [NSW])

ST. ALBANS NEW GENERAL CEMETERY,

WOLLOMBI RD, ST ALBANS

SURVEYED BY : CEMETERIES COMMITTEE

DATE : 19/10/1980

DRAWN BY : IAN WOOD-BRADLEY

MEDIUM DENSITY EUCALYPT FOREST  
SURROUNDING SITE.

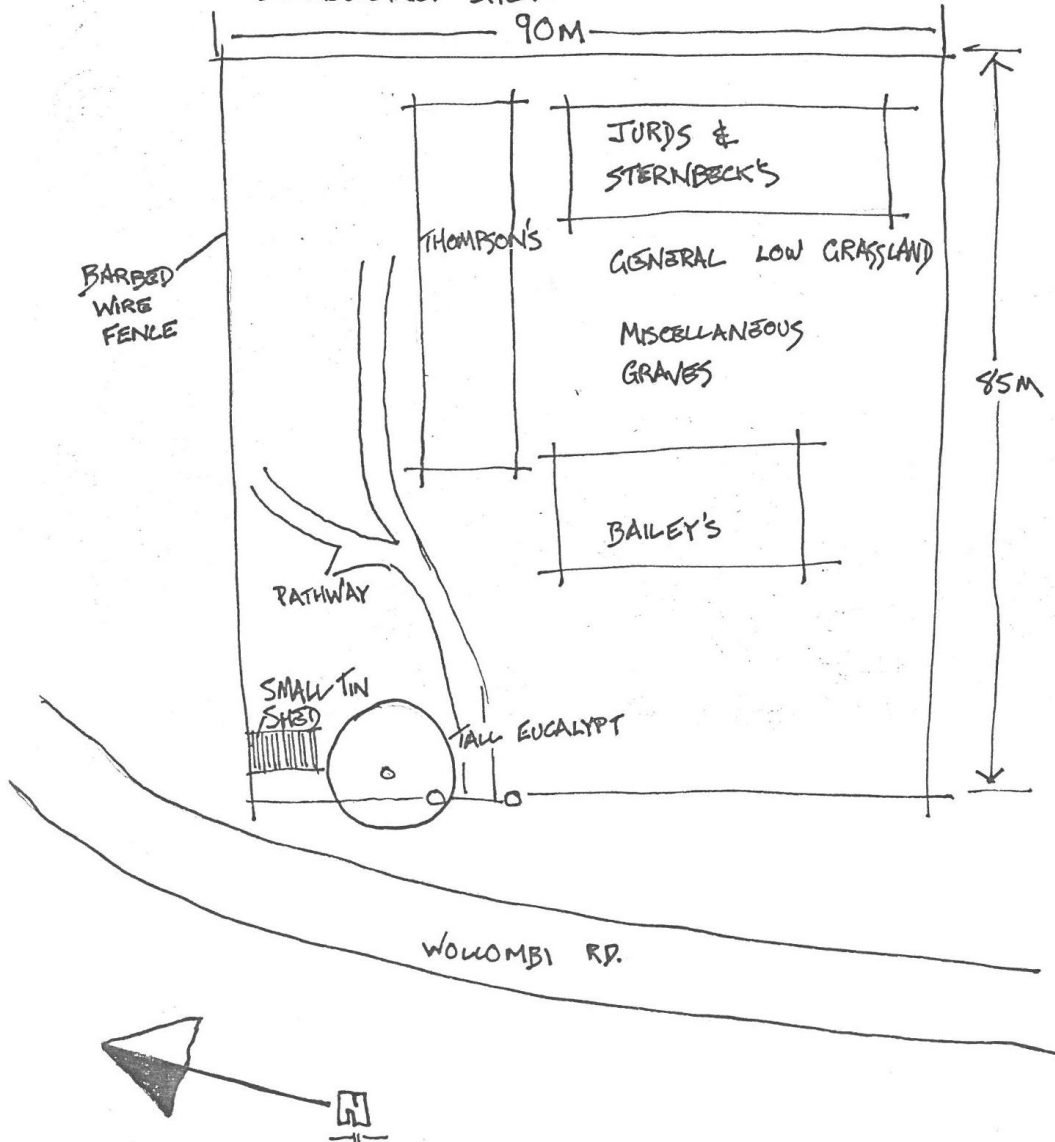


Figure 5 1980s sketch of St Albans New General Cemetery. (Source: National Trust [NSW], St Albans New General Cemetery Index Card)

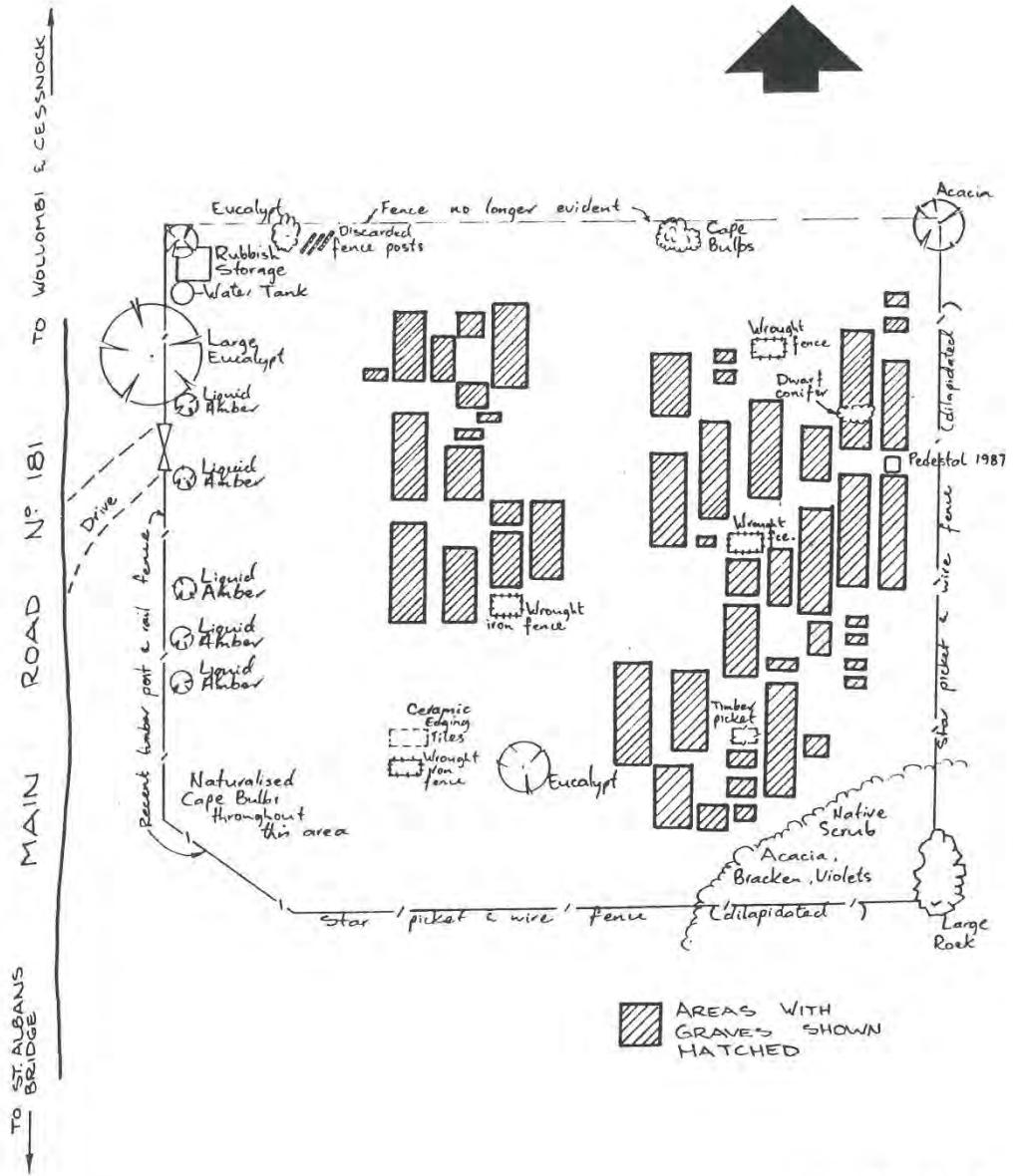


Figure 6 1990 sketch of St Alban New General Cemetery. (Source: S. Lavelle, St Alban Old General Cemetery—Cemetery Description Form, Godden Mackay, MacDonalld River Valley, Colo River Valley—Cemeteries Study, Final Report, report prepared for Hawkesbury City Council, 1991, Appendix A)

## Description

### Setting

The St Albans New General Cemetery is situated on a west-facing hillside above and to the east of Wollombi Road, approximately 1.3 kilometres north of the village of St Albans. The area dedicated for use as the St Albans New General Cemetery comprises 16 allotments designated for use by eight separate religious denominations and adjacent reserves, but only Lot 4 (Church of England) has been actively used for burials (Figure 1). There is some evidence that Lots 2 and 3 have been recently cleared with a gravel access track introduced to expand useable burial space.

The cemetery allotment in active use fronts Wollombi Road to the west and slopes steeply downhill towards it, providing sweeping views of pastoral land and the Hawkesbury River in the distance (Figure 7). A large drainage channel bounds the site to the north, while the remainder of the site is enclosed by forested margins and surrounded by an as yet unused cemetery reserve or large semi-rural residential lots.

### Physical Description<sup>2</sup>

The cemetery is reasonably well maintained with most monuments in good condition for their age. The western Wollombi Road boundary of the cemetery is fenced with a recent timber post and rail fence. The southern and eastern boundary are fenced with a barbed wire and picket fences. The site slopes down from a highpoint at the southeast of the site down to the northwest (Figure 7). A toilet is located in the northwestern corner of the cemetery and a columbarium has recently been constructed nearby, around 20m from the gate (Figure 8).

Older graves are located in the centre of lot 4, with graves becoming more recent radiating outwards, with the newest plots at the top of the hill. Most of the graves are in family groups, with the newer graves being more dispersed throughout the cemetery. The Church of England area is at the north of the dedicated area and is approximately half full—the rest of the dedicated area remains as undeveloped native scrub/pasture. Graves are roughly arranged in west-facing grave rows. This orientation is unusual (east or east and west facing rows are more common) but probably relates to the topography of the site. The materials used and style of headstones varies greatly throughout the cemetery.

Plantings within the cemetery include a large eucalypt near the gate and a row of recently planted liquidambar along the west (road) boundary. The cemetery contains a range of nineteenth and twentieth century monument types. Nineteenth-century monuments are sandstone or marble stelae (headstones), some with floral motifs. A wide range of twentieth-century monuments is represented in the cemetery including desks in sandstone, marble, grey or black granite, terrazzo and concrete or granolite.

A polychromatic lithographed metal sign is positioned on the west side of the cemetery midway along the white painted timber post and rail fence line.

### *Landscape*

The site slopes steeply downhill to the west. A sandstone gravel loop path extends up access points from Wollombi Road on the north and south sides of the cemetery and curves around the east end of the active burial area. Gated access to the site (vehicle accessible) is available from these two points and the cemetery is identified and marked by a sign on the Wollombi Road frontage. At the southeast corner of the active burial area, a new gravel road leads toward a cleared area within Lots 2 and 3.



The site is bounded by a star picket and wire fence along its east and north boundaries, as well as part of the west side of the active burial area. A white painted timber post and rail fence extends along the Wollombi Road frontage. An avenue of trees extends north–south within the cemetery grounds parallel to the timber fence and Wollombi Road.

No trees or gardens are evident within St Albans New General Cemetery, but grave plantings are present within the site, particularly within the more recent graves.

### *Monuments*

A wide range of materials and styles are represented at the St Albans New General Cemetery, indicative of its ongoing use from the late nineteenth century through to the present. Older burials are indicated by sandstone and marble stelae with sandstone kerbing, some with wrought or cast iron enclosures (Figure 10). A unique pyramidal wrought-iron grave enclosure is located within the cemetery, though it currently sits behind its associated burial and headstone (Figure 14).

Enclosures consisting of sandstone kerbing with sandstone obelisks at the corner and connected with steel posts (diamond-shaped in cross-section) not seen at other Council cemeteries within the SCMP cemetery group were observed in the St Albans New General Cemetery (Figure 11).

Desk-and-slab monuments were erected from the early twentieth century and constructed in a range of materials, including granite, dry-pressed brick, sandstone and concrete (Figure 17). Sculptural monuments, erected in the twenty-first century, are also present at the site and accompanied by grave plantings (Figure 9 and Figure 15).

Timber crosses and concrete blocks with pressed metal plates provide evidence of more modest monuments afforded to all members of society. This represents a change in burial practice—through most of the nineteenth century, if a monument that met the cemetery trustees' criteria could not be afforded by the deceased or their descendants the grave would remain unmarked.<sup>3</sup>

Family groupings are evident across the site, both as clusters of consistent last names common to the Hawkesbury region and as graves with shared kerbing and/or enclosures (Figure 16).

A single large natural boulder is located at the southeast corner of the cemetery, just outside of the circular drive, with a bronze plaque dedicated to Ethel Agnes White (b. 1901, d. 1986).

### *Other Elements*

Two low sandstone columbaria have been erected at the northern entrance from Wollombi Road, with a Colorbond maintenance shed situated at the northwest corner of the site (Figure 8 and Figure 17). Both appear to have been introduced in the last five years and are not evident on contemporary aerial photographs of the site.

There is evidence of a new access road being built across a drainage ditch to Lot 3, possibly for more burials.

### **Condition**

Generally, monument fabric is of fair to good condition. There is evidence of subsidence and lichen or moss on some monuments. There is limited evidence of the vandalism, encroachment of invasive vegetation, or leaning/broken headstones observed in other cemeteries within the Council cemetery group. Several name plates have slipped and/or broken off from their desks or stelae and are propped against grave monuments. In general, the site seems to be regularly maintained.

### Key Issues

- Some subsidence.
- Some evidence of erosion, possibly due to water running down the steep hillslope.
- Several graves in poor condition, mostly due to natural aging.

### Interested Groups

Council welcomes the interest and support of the community in relation to the upkeep and improvement of cemeteries in its care. Some of the identified key interest groups and information sources relevant to this cemetery include:

- Hawkesbury Family History Group;
- Hawkesbury Historical Society;
- Hawkesbury Cemeteries Register Group (update Cemetery Register record);
- Hawkesbury on the Net;
- relatives and descendants.



Figure 7 Setting on slope with views of pastoral land and the Hawkesbury River in the distance. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 8 Sandstone columbarium in the northwestern corner of the cemetery. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 9 View looking southwest across the cemetery showing various grave marker styles in the cemetery and columbarium on the far right. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 10 Looking northeast showing a range of monument styles present in the cemetery from the late nineteenth century to the present. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 11 A range of materials and styles are represented at the St Albans New General Cemetery. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figures 12 & 13 The cemetery contains many infant and child burials. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)



Figure 14 A unique pyramidal wrought-iron grave enclosure, separated from infant burial in foreground. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)  
Figure 15 A 2013 burial with modern marble figurine, marker plate and grave planting. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

## Historical Archaeological Potential

**St Albans New General Cemetery may provide significant potential archaeological information about burials and burial practices from the late nineteenth century.**

'Archaeological potential' refers to the likelihood of archaeological remains to survive at a site. It should be distinguished from 'archaeological significance', which refers to the heritage values of any remains that may prove to have survived. Thus, there may be 'low potential' for certain remains to survive, but if they do survive, they might be assessed as being of 'high significance' (for example, if they are rare examples from the convict period).

The potential archaeological resource within a cemetery can include evidence from a variety of different activities and associated elements depending on the history of the place before and during its existing function.

Historical archaeological evidence associated with pre-cemetery activity may have resulted from ephemeral uses of the area. Potential archaeological remains can consist of land clearing and timber getting as areas such as the Hawkesbury began to be settled by Europeans. More substantial evidence might include the remains of early farms and associated outbuildings as well as church facilities and sealed artefact deposits, although in most of the cemeteries these are unlikely to exist. Historical archaeological evidence associated with pre-cemetery establishment and use may be assessed as having local or state significance, depending on its nature and extent.

Many of the cemeteries identified in this SCMP are considered likely to have high archaeological potential in association with the burials that have been excavated in each. Although interments currently cover each cemetery to varying degrees, as archaeological items, these hold significance for the data they might provide with regards to past ways of life and cultural perceptions of life and death. Most of the interments (including unmarked burials) would be of local significance, while the remains of individuals of historical or cultural significance in NSW would have the potential to be of state significance.

Use of each site as a cemetery has resulted in changes to landscape elements as well as gradual burial of some features (particularly in areas not regularly frequented or landscaped or where flood activity is likely to have washed away, moved or buried some elements). Buried or partially demolished landscaping elements associated with cultural landscapes of exceptional or high significance have the potential to be of state significance, depending on their nature and extent. Other elements associated with creating formal landscapes within the Council cemeteries would be of local significance.

Examples of activities and remains that may retain historical evidence include:

Activity	Potential Remains
Early land clearing	Tree roots, charcoal deposits, artefact scatters, soil deposits, evidence of camp sites etc.
Burials	Skeletal remains, coffins, coffin hardware, grave goods, utilitarian items (buttons, buckles etc).
Grave furniture	Headstones, crosses etc that may have fallen or been moved or vandalised.
Former landscaping	Paths, edging, fence rails, etc.

It is also important to remember that if any archaeological evidence relating to Aboriginal use is discovered at the cemetery, including during any general maintenance works, then works should cease in the area and the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) (formerly Office of Environment & Heritage [OEH]) must be notified immediately.



Figure 16 St Albans New General Cemetery. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

## Significance

### Assessment of Significance

The following table provides a heritage assessment for the St Albans New General Cemetery site against the State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria:

#### SHR Criterion a) [Historical significance]

St Albans New General Cemetery has historic significance as an operational cemetery serving the Hawkesbury area since 1869, with the earliest gravestones dating from 1887. The cemetery provides historic evidence of several local family groups buried here, containing the graves of descendants of many important pioneering families of the MacDonald Valley.

It meets the threshold for local heritage listing under Criterion A.

#### SHR Criterion b) [Associative significance]

The cemetery has associative significance with local families buried here, including members of the Bailey, Jurd, Fernance, Sternbeck and Thompson families. Family groupings are evident across the cemetery and link to other families in the Hawkesbury area.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under Criterion B.

#### SHR Criterion c) [Aesthetic significance]

Although St Albans New Cemetery contains a few notable monuments it is not known to feature designs by notable masons or craftsmen.

The cemetery is not considered to meet the threshold for this criterion.

#### SHR Criterion d) [Social significance]

St Albans New Cemetery has strong associations with the local community and contributes to the community's sense of place as a place of burial and mourning. The cemetery is an important representation in the history of this pioneering, tight-knit colonial community of the MacDonald Valley through time.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.

#### SHR Criterion e) [Research potential]

St Albans New Cemetery has the potential through its archaeology and gravestones to contribute important data to the local history of the area.

The cemetery is considered significant at a local level under this criterion.



**SHR Criterion f) [Rarity]**

It is not considered to meet the threshold for local heritage listing under Criterion F.

**SHR Criterion g) [Representativeness]**

The cemetery is broadly representative of late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century funerary sites and tombstones.

It is not considered to meet the threshold for local heritage listing under Criterion G.

**Integrity/Intactness**

Generally, St Albans New General Cemetery is intact. There is evidence of subsidence and lichen or moss on some monuments, but there is limited evidence of vandalism, encroachment of invasive vegetation, or leaning/broken headstones observed in other cemeteries within the Hawkesbury area. In general, the site seems to be regularly maintained.

### Original Statement of Significance (from the Hawkesbury LEP)

*This cemetery contains the graves of descendants of all major pioneering families of the MacDonalld Valley. This site should be seen in context of all the other private and early burials in the valley as being an essential document of the history of the irrelatively isolated and enclosed colonial community.*

### Revised Statement of Significance

*St Albans New General Cemetery has local significance for its historic, associative and social qualities. The cemetery was dedicated in 1869 and demonstrates ongoing use from the late nineteenth century through to the present. Family groupings are evident across the site, both as clusters of consistent surnames of local Hawkesbury region families and graves with shared enclosures. The earliest gravestone dates from 1887. The range of monuments erected reflect changes in burial practices over time and identify the cemetery as an important representation in the history of the pioneering, tight-knit colonial community of the MacDonalld Valley through time.*

*Through its archaeology and gravestones, the cemetery has the potential to yield information that contributes to the local history of the area.*



Figure 17 St Albans New General Cemetery. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)

## Management and Care

The table below identifies cemetery elements and recommended actions to consider in the future management of St Albans New Cemetery. The priority of action for each activity at the cemetery is suggested subject to ongoing Council and grant funding opportunities.

Element	Requirement	Priority	Recommended Action
Landscaping/ Planting	Vegetation management assists to maintain the character of the cemetery.	Ongoing	Stabilise areas of subsidence where possible and undertake light weeding and regular maintenance of the existing landscape with community volunteer assistance.
Security— Fences, Gates and Lighting	Provide adequate fencing and security to protect against issues including antisocial behaviour, vandalism, illegal dumping, property encroachments and carparking on unfenced edges.	Ongoing	Cemetery is well maintained and secured. Vandalism does not appear to be an issue.
Signage	Promote understanding by identifying the site through the signage.  Signage could also be used to assist visitation, community and cultural interest by providing a brief history of the site.  Consider identifying significant graves and monuments and/or providing interesting information about prominent grave and monument styles as well as landscape and flora species present.	Ongoing  High and Ongoing	Cemetery is well signposted.  Consider low-key interpretation and updated signage if this is considered appropriate for the consistency of Council cemeteries as a group.  Conduct regular drive-by and physical inspections to monitor vandalism or other issues affecting safety and significance.
Restoration	Undertake restoration of significant monuments within the cemetery where damage has occurred to wrought iron enclosures and through subsidence.	Low  Ongoing	Treat cemetery ironwork against rust and repair subsidence and cracked structures where possible.  Source funding to restore significant monuments, headstones and grave furniture where possible.
Significant Graves	Retain/reinstate the condition of significant graves, headstones and monuments.	Low	Work with living relatives/families to source funding/grants to assist in the conservation of these items.
Columbaria, Lawn and Monument Interments	Accommodate demand for ashes interments/columbaria, lawn or monument burials within relevant active cemetery areas.	Ongoing	Ensure availability of sufficient space for memorialisation of the deceased in columbaria, lawn and monument sections within active cemetery areas.  Identify areas for future expansion as space for these types of interment decreases.

Safety Issues	Identify cemetery elements that may pose a safety threat to visitors or their own stability whether due to vandalism, age/deterioration, ground movement or other causes.	Ongoing  High and Ongoing	Work with living relatives/families or interested local community support groups to source funding/grants to assist in the conservation of these items.  Ensure that safety issues are addressed as they arise, and that specialist assistance is sought when repairing fallen or dangerous monuments or trees.
Interested Groups	Continue to engage and work with interested communities, groups and individuals.	Ongoing  High and Ongoing  High and Ongoing  Ongoing	Continue to identify, acknowledge and work with interested community groups and individuals including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hawkesbury Family History Group;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Historical Society;</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Cemeteries Register Group (update Cemetery Register record);</li> <li>• Hawkesbury on the Net; and</li> <li>• relatives and descendants.</li> </ul> Consider developing a work plan for the cemetery.  Local cemetery community groups should be encouraged and supported to undertake training in the recording, maintenance and conservation of historic cemeteries. Training could be provided by stonemasons, cemetery workers, or any other profession that works with cemeteries on a regular basis.  Liaise with authors of Hawkesbury on the Net Cemetery Register and provide access to this SCMP to enable update of data for this cemetery in the Cemetery Register.
Accessible Funding/ Resources	Investigate available grants.  Continue to investigate the use of volunteers, local community services and prisoners to assist in appropriate aspects of cemetery maintenance.	Ongoing  Ongoing	Work with living relatives/families and/or interested local community support groups to source funding/grants to assist in the cemetery's conservation and upkeep and to undertake ongoing research into the history of the cemetery and families of the MacDonald Valley area buried here.  Use the actions in this SCMP to guide applications for funding for conservation and maintenance work.

## References

- <sup>1</sup> Godden Mackay, MacDonal River Valley, Colo River Valley—Cemeteries Study, Final Report, report prepared for Hawkesbury City Council, 1991, pp 16–17; National Trust (NSW), St Albans New General Cemetery Index Card, 1980; Office of Environment and Heritage, 'St Albans New General Cemetery', State Heritage Inventory, viewed 23 January 2019 <<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=1741224>>.
- <sup>2</sup> A description of the cemetery including some monument and burial details is available in the Cemetery Inventory Sheet for the site in Godden Mackay, MacDonal River Valley, Colo River Valley—Cemeteries Study, Final Report, report prepared for Hawkesbury City Council, 1991, Appendix A, Site 9.
- <sup>3</sup> Murray, LA, *Cemeteries in Nineteenth Century New South Wales: Landscapes of Memory and Identity*, PhD thesis, Department of History, University of Sydney 2001, p 170.



Figure 18 St Albans New General Cemetery. (Source: GML Heritage, 2019)