

Willaston Cemetery CONSERVATION and MANAGEMENT PLAN

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CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT PLAN

<u>Directorate</u>	Planning & Infrastructure
<u>Department</u>	Engineering
<u>Program Area</u>	Depot Services – Civil & Horticulture
<u>Responsible Officer</u>	Manager Infrastructure and Engineering
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<u>Version</u>	Three

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This consolidated Conservation Management Plan for the Willaston Cemetery has been prepared by Flightpath Architects in order to achieve the following goals;

- Finalise the 2003 draft document, prepared by McDougall & Vines Conservation and Heritage Consultants (who are no longer trading)
- Incorporate feedback from the Town of Gawler on the draft Conservation Management Plan
- Consolidate the three volumes relating to the Willaston Cemetery in one location for future reference.
- Gain endorsement by the State Heritage Unit of the Department for Environment Water and Natural Resources, for the recommended actions contained within the executive summary and action plan (Volume 3). (Note this does not remove the need for separate approvals for new structures and proposed alterations to the cemetery, which are only generally described within Volume 1.)

The three volumes have been reviewed and put out to public consultation; volume 1 is retained as original within this document. Volume 2 has been removed and is being reviewed as it is now incomplete and will be incorporated once the review and update has finished. Volume 3 is retained as per the original document.

Volume 1 is the original Conservation Management Plan document prepared by McDougall and Vines, with minor edits not affecting the intent of the original document. It sets out the history and significance of the cemetery, and proposes a number of recommended policies to manage the cemetery into the future, some of which are not practical to implement.

Volume 3 is a costed six-year action plan, prepared by Town of Gawler staff, and it sets out to place the report in the context of a council budgeting and works programs and to address access and drainage issues in and around the site.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

McDougall and Vines Heritage Consultants were engaged over 10 years ago to prepare a Conservation Management Plan (Volume 1 of this document) for the Willaston Cemetery, by the Town of Gawler. This document was never issued in a final version. In the meantime, council staff prepared a costed works plan to address issues of drainage and access throughout the site and updated Volume 2 of the report to incorporate colour photos and update information. Attempts were also made to address aspects of the Volume 1, which overlooked some of the practicalities and implementation issues within the recommended policies.

In addition, simply due to the time that has elapsed since the original CMP was commissioned, a review of the original document was warranted. Although, it should be stressed, this version has not included any additional research or a review of the significance or condition of the site and graves.

Within the context of the above, the following recommendations therefore are made; *(superseding any contradictory policy recommendations in the original CMP)*;

Policy Recommendations

Responsibility

The original CMP (Volume 1) makes a number of recommendations for conservation and maintenance actions, however it is recognised that these must be prioritised and balanced within councils budgeting processes and it may not be feasible to undertake all recommendations.

Currently the equivalent of one half-time position is resourced for the management of the landscape and setting of the cemetery, with extra staff available for specific projects when funds are available.

Ultimately it is the Town of Gawler's responsibility (as the owner of the State Heritage Place) to ensure that they do not intentionally damage or neglect the cemetery, in accordance with the Heritage Place Act 1993.

In addition, other than the State Heritage listed significant graves, individual headstone maintenance and repair is the responsibility of the leaseholder.

Conservation of Graves - Limitations

The Town of Gawler recognises the desire to conserve all identified significant graves, and will endeavour to do what it can to ensure they survive into the future within budgetary constraints.

There are however limitations, in particular Volume 1 recommends that large earth moving equipment not be used, and vehicles be fitted with balloon tyres. Every attempt to achieve these goals should be made, but it must be recognised that these measures are not always practical or possible.

Drainage, Paving, roads and pathways

Paving and paths throughout the cemetery are an important element in the understanding and reinforcement of the original layout.

A combination of paved and gravel paths are necessary to facilitate equitable movement throughout the site, and also (in the case of gravel paths) to retain the unique bushland setting.

Drainage is also a significant problem at the site, with only one area partially draining sufficiently to remove water runoff, the remainder of the site relies on graded soil and open drains to remove the water that accumulates on the site. This has caused areas to be gouged out by the run off, which intern has become a problem for pedestrians.

The six-year action plan (Volume 3) sets out to address the drainage issues within the site and should be completed along the main road system to ensure effective site drainage installed. This could be carried out on a progressive basis with using day staff or minor construction tenders.

Traffic management should also be considered on the site, to minimise the chance of vandalism or accidental damage.

Vegetation

Fundamentally the recommendations described in Volume 1 are supported, with the overarching policy that the areas of remnant native bushland in the outer and inner rim of the cemetery are of primary significance and must be managed to conserve and support this area of native vegetation. Non-indigenous species, such as *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* (sugar gum), are not to be planted or maintained in this area.

The remnant native vegetation is to be excluded from cemetery activities and will be managed as a remnant vegetation area, no burials or interment is to take place in the defined area. Restrictions on public walking paths through this area should be confined to the present points of access.

The original CMP policy recommendation to retain and continue the row of sugar gums within the reserve (inner rim, as highlighted in the South-west and South-east quadrants) is not supported and a preferred species list is to be prepared and the use of succession planting is to be applied as per plan.

Further Expansion - Burial

There are approximately 100 burials at the Willaston Cemetery every year. Current projections estimate that with presently available plots, including those already identified for re-use, there is 7-11 years of capacity remaining at the cemetery.

Further expansion will not be able to occur, constraints being of main highways, housing and streets have not allowed for further expansion of the grounds or burial areas. Therefore, if it is to remain open, the cemetery will need to engage strategies that reduce or reuse areas within the constraints of the cemetery, or an alternate site will need to be found within the region.

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While Volume 1 identifies the North-west and North-East of the reserve as a possible area of expansion, specific policies were general and limited to notes on the proposed cemetery plan (page 40) stating 'potential new burials on existing grid, scattered amongst native vegetation and/or cremation memorials'.

Since the CMP was written in 2003, there has been a shift in burial practices, following a 2008 Parliamentary enquiry into 'Natural Burial Grounds' and subsequent amendments to the Burial and Cremation Act (2013). According to the Parliamentary Report;

A Natural Burial Ground is a place where human burial "takes place in a biodegradable coffin or shroud, and a tree, shrub or wildflowers are planted as a memorial instead of a headstone". It is essentially a type of 'green' cemetery, where the occasion of death and the burial of human bodies provides an opportunity to repair the environment through establishing native bush on cleared land.

Therefore, the principal rationale for Natural Burial Grounds is an environmental one. There are other social issues, however, which are driving interest in this approach to burial. For example, when this Inquiry began, many members of the public contacted the Committee out of concern about the current system of interment rights and the cost of renewing leases. This is likely to become a greater social issue as the lack of land available in existing cemeteries leads to increasing rates of grave reuse. There is a need to provide land for burial and the disposal of cremated remains, and this need will increase in the coming decades due to our aging population.

Investigation into 'Natural' Burials within the Northwest and Northeast quadrants (inner rim only, not including the area of remnant bushland) **has been considered. However this area is unknown to have been cleared and being unknown must be treated as natural growth of normal means. The Native Vegetation Council will need to be applied to for referral to carry out works in what would be classed as remnant vegetation, the application would be highly unlikely approved.**

Further Expansion - Cremation

There are currently only 14 spaces for memorials remaining in the existing rose garden walls for cremation memorials. Volume 1 identifies six additional areas for expansion of similar cremation memorials to maintain the symmetry of the cemetery plan and allow for further expansion. These locations are found at the central ends of rows A & B. (Refer Hilary Hamnet Plan page 41 of Volume 1).

Detailed design of walls and gardens in these locations should be undertaken to maximise capacity and maintain the character and symmetry of the cemetery.

Further cremation memorial walls may be able to be facilitated in conjunction with a redevelopment of the entrance to the cemetery, along with conservation of the Pioneer Park headstones (refer entrance policies below).

New Graves – Approval Processes

Current council processes for burial within the Willaston Cemetery include applications for memorial permits to place a new headstone. This process is supposed to include a proof of the proposed inscription and the dimensions of the headstone.

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It is evident from some examples within the cemetery that the size and design of headstones is either not being reviewed, or policies are being ignored. Headstones must be subject to clear approval processes and the policy recommendations for materials, finishes and sizes, so that the setting and significance of the cemetery is not detrimentally affected. (An extreme example of an inappropriate headstone c2005 can be found at the northern end of the cemetery and is testament to this need).

Lawn Conversion

There is a current preference for new burials within the 'lawn and plinth' area, although this may change if natural burial practices become available and prove popular.

Volume 1 restricted the use of lawn to the areas that have already been converted, as the appearance of the cemetery has been significantly altered by this change. However the symmetry of the overall cemetery is also adversely affected by this limitation.

Furthermore the area adjacent to the existing lawn and beside the stillborn memorial (Block 1 – Rows L,M,N approximately) have been previously cleared and appears un-tidy.

The first three rows (A/Q, B/P and C/O) of Block 1 are predominantly early graves and of historic significance, these areas should remain un-lawned. However, the remainder of Block 1 could be converted to lawn, provided original orientation and historic pathways and pattern of gravesites is followed as recommended in Volume 1).

If the conversion of Block 1 to being a grassed area is successfully achieved, maintaining the original layout and pathways, conversion of Block 4 (excluding the first three rows A/Q, B/P and C/O) may be considered for lawn conversion in order to maintain the symmetry of the cemetery plan.

Under no circumstance should lawn be introduced into perimeter reserve sites on the southern side. Similarly, lawn should not be allowed for the first 3 rows on each side of the axis and Blocks 2 & 3 where historic graves are concentrated and to maintain the symmetry of the plan.

Detailed Design

The existing plans and diagrams contained in Volume 1 are very general and policies are described in words rather than designed and drawn in detail.

Detailed documentation for the cemetery should be prepared in order to achieve the following outcomes;

1. To maximise the capacity for cremation memorials and burial sites within the context of the CMP policies.
2. To interpret the descriptions and policies contained within Volume 1 into built form, which will enable the policies to be implemented and not forgotten or ignored.
3. To provide clarity to maintenance staff about what works are to happen and where.

4. To have one clear plan approved by the State Heritage Unit rather than having to seek approval for each intervention on site.
5. To provide clarity to the community about the future of the cemetery.

This detailed documentation could also be used for a 'live plan' with vacant plots colour coded to the type and location of all burials within the site. A version could also be made available on the Town of Gawler website to support historic research and navigation around the site.

Cemetery entrance

As identified in Volume 1, the entrance area is under-utilised and a number of policy recommendations regarding the upgrading of the existing entrance to reinforce the formality of the entrance gates were made (refer 6.2.2 (page 21)).

In addition existing shedding, bin storage, permapipe barriers and toilets are considered to be too prominent, out of date and inconsistent with the character of the cemetery.

The entry also includes original pioneer park headstones, which have been set into concrete low to the ground. These headstones are showing signs of considerable weathering and will soon be illegible. Photos should be taken, rubbings made and records kept of the early headstones before there is no detail left. Remaining headstones from the depot may also be relocated if they are of historic or aesthetic interest.

It is recommended that the entrance be re-designed to include the required services and functions and additionally that consideration be given to incorporating additional cremation memorial walls and weather protection for historic Pioneer Park headstones. Any new design for this area will need to be sensitively undertaken and will require approval from the State Heritage Unit.

WILLASTON CEMETERY CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT PLAN

2003

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With minor formatting amendments by the Town of Gawler

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The assistance of members of the Gawler community, particularly Mrs Beverley Burke, Local Cemetery Historian, and Town of Gawler Officers, particularly David Diprose and Gary Kerr, is gratefully acknowledged by members of the study team.

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SUMMARY OF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Background

Willaston Cemetery was included on the State Heritage Register in 2001. This Conservation Management Plan was commissioned by the Town of Gawler to guide the repair, stabilisation, conservation and adaptation of the cemetery based on an understanding of its history and significance.

Willaston Cemetery was established in 1866, replacing the original Gawler Cemetery located in the centre of town. It has been the main place of burial for residents from Gawler and the surrounding district since that date. The establishment of the Smithfield Cemetery in 1986 relieved some of the pressure previously placed on Willaston Cemetery and Town of Gawler now wishes to manage further development of the cemetery in an appropriate manner.

Statement of Heritage Value

The Willaston Cemetery is a square area of land which is framed by a belt of natural bushland, divided into the Plantation Reserve which retains rare endemic vegetation and a second Reserve with further native vegetation, surrounding the grid layout of the cemetery. The exterior roadway around the old cemetery follows a diamond-shaped pathway with the points at north, south, east and west.

This diamond frame is bisected by two major roadways from which a series of regularly spaced lanes or paths run north-south, and a smaller number of lanes run east-west. At the centre of the grid is a circular area with modern columbarium walls containing cinerary urns. Features of the cemetery include an exceptionally fine collection of 19th Century cast-iron railings, a variety of significant monuments and gravestones, and an ornate, cast iron gateway. A significant natural feature is the belt of bushland around the cemetery with planted perimeter rows of mature eucalypts.

Conservation Policies and Implementation

It is recommended the formal and symmetrical plan of the cemetery be retained and conserved, including the vegetation reserves and the significant historic graves and monuments. To assist this:

- All significant graves and areas should be conserved and maintained according to the policies and methods recommended
- No Further areas should be converted to lawn cemetery as these are contrary to the established character of the historic cemetery.
- The entrance to the cemetery should be upgraded to reinforce the formality created by the entrance gates.

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- Planting and landscaping should conserve and reinforce the perimeter Plantation Reserve of remnant native vegetation
- Further planting and landscaping within the burial area proper should continue the formality of the symmetry of the cemetery plan and be of low scale.
- Paving should be completed along the main east west road and effective site drainage installed.

Future Management Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- The reuse of cleared areas and individual grave sites should be undertaken in a manner which recognises the character and qualities of the historic core of the cemetery and reinforces traditional burial methods.
- The design and materials of new graves within the historic core of the cemetery should accord with the principles provided in this report.
- Areas of potential expansion within the cemetery should be limited to the northern areas of the Reserve and the ends of rows in specific locations.
- Staff Training in the recommended conservation processes and methods for graves and monuments, and in the recognition and management of native vegetation, should be developed.
- A management plan for the remnant vegetation area and Conservation guidelines for the individual monuments and headstones should be prepared.

Interpretation and Community Involvement

The natural and cultural heritage value of the cemetery should be enhanced and made available to the local community and visitors:

- through information at the entrance to the cemetery, and a program of interpretation including individual grave identification and a heritage trail for visitors to follow through the cemetery.
- through continued support from Town of Gawler for local community groups and individuals who have an interest and involvement in Willaston Cemetery

Individual Grave Assessment and Recommendations

Graves identified as having some significance at a local or State level, or as significant examples of monumental work have been individually photographed and assessed, and recommendations made for their conservation in a separate volume (Volume Two).

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ACTION PLANS

The action plans are based on a timeline for completion. The three different timelines will allow the more pressing items to be completed which may have a component of necessity to complete the longer time goals.

The first two years will prepare the basis for the management of the cemetery with inclusion of the community playing a large roll; this will be the foundation of future works and care of the cemetery as a whole.

The roll of Curator will facilitate community outcomes from the Friends of the Willaston Cemetery Group. The direct connection of both parties will enable better management decisions to be made.

Action plan 0 – 2 years

Curator Management

The curator is to be the manager of the depot under the new appointment. The curator will be responsible for the overall management of the cemetery.

Rules for leasing graves

Rules on leasing will be explored using the rules gathered from other cemetery managers. After the rules are collated, legal opinion will be sort before Council proceeds with implementation

Seating plan and placement

A budget bid will be placed to enable Council to plan and install seating throughout the cemetery.

Friends of the Willaston Cemetery

A community group is to be established with direction of the curator that will enable the community to engage in the implementation of the Conservation and management plan. Works will be both directional advice and hand on works.

Prepare a preferred planting plan for whole of the cemetery grounds

With consultation with the Friends of Willaston Cemetery and the Trees For Life organisation, a whole planting plan needs to be drawn up for each different area of cemetery including the rimmed area of indigenous native vegetation. This will identify the lost species needed for revegetation in the Biodiversity Plan.

Identify the cemetery into the Biodiversity Plan

From the work preparing the planting plan, submission of lost species are to be included into the Biodiversity Plan.

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The three year plan will see signage and media formulated which will coincide with the numbering of the cemetery, this will enable visitors to easily find grave plots and easy identification of significant graves.

Action Plan 0 to 3 years

Signage plan and placement for cemetery, Indigenous Flora and Precious Soules

A budget bid will be placed for Council to undertake sign development and placement for the whole of the cemetery. Signs should have a common theme and style or sub style for each of the areas. Consultation will be in part from the Friends of Willaston Group who will be the community representatives in the process. Corporate branding and graphic design will be incorporated for uniform outcome of all signs.

Media and promotional material – Tourism and Visitor information

A similar corporate branding procedure can be applied to media and literature used for visitor information. Media should include from corporate video to YouTube video, priority of needs and intent should be set through consultation before any productions are undertaken. Consultation should be in the form of interested parties and executives.

Row numbering system to be identified, acquired and installed

Budget monies and Grant funding should be sort to acquire and install row numbering. Design of numbering and the amount of numbering should be considered before a budget bid or grant is applied for.

The five year plan will see the completion of the significant grave register which will intern allow the commencement of restoration to begin.

Action Plan 0 to 5 years

Significant graves list to be finalised - Community restoration to begin

The list of significant graves is to be finalised with all submission being made final by this time. All significant graves will be justified and a maintenance plan of the grave site specified. Identified restoration works to be separated into professional and non-professional works. Professional works are to be budgeted for and non-professional woks can be allocated to volunteers and council labour/project staff.

Community restoration will be sort to reduce the cost of maintaining graves which have ended the lease period.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Reasons for Report

Cemeteries are important as both social and aesthetic elements of a community. They contain and commemorate members of that community. They also reflect the values and concerns of the society which established them in their planning and the care they receive. Graves and monuments are part of the total landscape of the cemetery and are a focus for private grief, mourning and remembrance and also public memory. As private mourning at individual grave sites is replaced by public awareness of the value of the whole of the cemetery, the conservation of the heritage of the place becomes important.

The Town of Gawler has prepared a brief for the preparation of this Conservation Management Plan to guide the repair/stabilisation/conservation/adaptation of Willaston Cemetery based on an understanding of its history and significance, an investigation of its physical condition and an analysis of its construction and integrity. This has become necessary since the inclusion of the cemetery on the State Heritage Register.

1.2 Heritage Status

The Willaston Cemetery is entered on the State Heritage Register. It was included on the Register on 8 November 2001 and its file number is 18316.

1.3 Location and Title Details

The Willaston Cemetery, 11 Dawkins Road, Willaston, is situated in the Local Government Area of the Town of Gawler, and is Section 463 in the Hundreds of Mudla Wirra. The Certificate of Title is Vol 1816 Folio 1. The Cemetery Reserve was transferred to the Corporation of the Town of Gawler as a land grant from the Crown on July 3, 1946, as a dedicated cemetery site.

1.4 Legislative Requirements

Any work in the Willaston Cemetery classified as development is subject to the requirements of the *Heritage Act 1993* and the *Local Government (Cemeteries) Regulations 1993*.

The Heritage Act sets the requirements for the retention of heritage value of the cemetery. Any work in the cemetery must have the approval of the minister through the delegated authority of the [DEWNR Principal Conservation Architect].

The regulations under the *Local Government Act* set out the acceptable burial practices for new interments.

2.0 HISTORICAL SUMMARY

2.1 Gawler's First Cemetery

The Gawler Special Survey of 1839 set aside 140 acres in Colonel William Light's plan of the township for public amenities including a burial ground in Murray Street. The Town of Gawler assumed management of the cemetery in 1857, but no burial records or plan of graves remained from the initial 17 year period of use. This cemetery soon grew too small for the rapidly growing Town of Gawler and ratepayers considered it to be too close to the town centre and posed a danger to public health. Therefore a much larger cemetery was laid out at Willaston in 1866 and the old cemetery was closed to new interments in 1870. In 1911, the gravestones in the old cemetery were removed by the Gawler Corporation and stored. It appears that many were lost. Gawler's first public burial ground is now known as Pioneer Park.

The surviving stones from the old cemetery were mounted just inside the Willaston Cemetery gates during the early 1990s.

George Loyau, in *The Gawler Handbook* notes there were three cemeteries in Gawler in 1880; the (old) Gawler Cemetery, Willaston Cemetery, and the Church of England Cemetery (being the smallest) situated.¹ Willaston Cemetery served as the main burial ground for the surrounding rural areas also.

In early 1839 the township of Gawler was laid out by Light, Finniss & Co, being part of a Special Survey commissioned by H D Murray, John Reid, Stephen King, and others. 15 000 acres were surveyed, with 240 acres finally being set aside for the creation of the township. 140 acres of the allocated land set aside was to be used for public purposes such as parklands, schools, churches, streets, markets and burial grounds.² The first cemetery in Gawler was situated on Murray Street, but was not managed by the Town of Gawler until 1857. No burial records or locations of the graves had been kept and the grounds were in a poor state by the time the council took control.³

By 1860 the ratepayers called for the cemetery's closure. It was generally thought that being so close to the inhabitants of Gawler it was a health hazard, and the unkempt contaminated ground would transmit disease to the populace. A report in the *Bunyip* newspaper in 1864

¹ Loyau, George. 1880. *The Gawler Handbook: a record of the rise and progress of that important town; to which are added "Memiors of Mckinlay the Explorer and Dr. Nott"*. Goodfellow & Hele: Adelaide, pg 116.

² Heritage SA. 2001. *Willaston Cemetery: assessment of heritage value*. Internal paper, pg 2.

³ Nicol, Robert. 1994. *At the End of the Road: government, society, and the disposal of human remains in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries*. Allen & Unwin: NSW, pg 123.

said that 'The cemetery is an evil which is a growing one and should be dealt with at once'⁴. It was widely believed that burial grounds were to blame for the cause of severe illness such as typhus fever because of the decaying bodies polluting the soil and air⁵. The cemetery was also considered incapable of catering for the rapidly increasing population of the town and district⁶.

2.2 Willaston Cemetery

After receiving a petition from the residents of Gawler, the council applied for a grant of fifty acres at Willaston for a new cemetery in 1858. The Surveyor-General, William Younghusband, thought that this was an unnecessarily large amount of land and told the council that ten acres with a surrounding reserve of land would be sufficient. This then became the established plan of most future public cemeteries established by Government grant, that they should be surrounded by a strip of reserve land to prevent buildings being erected too close to established graves.⁷ This plan form is clearly seen on the later title to the Willaston Cemetery.⁸

The concern of Gawler residents regarding the location and condition of their cemetery was echoed across settled South Australia. As a consequence, the Regulation of Cemeteries Act was passed in 1862 which gave the government the power to draw up regulations for the proper and sanitary management of all cemeteries, including closure if required.⁹

By July 1866, the Mayor of Gawler urged that the new cemetery should be opened immediately and this was unanimously agreed upon by the other council members. It was decided that a curator for the new cemetery would be employed at a salary of £2 per week. The curator was required to take charge of the cemetery, digging graves, keeping accounts and managing new planting in his spare time.¹⁰

On 20 July 1866 an advertisement in the *Bunyip* announced that the new cemetery would be opened on 1 August 1866 and that anyone wishing to secure an allotment on lease was to apply to the Curator of the Cemetery, George Gitsham.¹¹ The following charges were set for use of the new cemetery:

⁴ "Sanatory", *Bunyip Newspaper*, 6/2/1864, pg 1.

⁵ Nicol, Robert. 1988. *Cemeteries of South Australia: a heritage survey*. Department of Environment & Planning: Adelaide, pg 26.

⁶ Heritage SA. 2001. *Willaston Cemetery: assessment of heritage value*. Internal paper, pg 4.

⁷ Nicol, Robert. 1994. *At the End of the Road: government, society, and the disposal of human remains in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries*. Allen & Unwin: NSW, pg 108.

⁸ C.T.1816/1 - LTO

⁹ Nicol, Robert, 1988, *Cemeteries of SA Heritage Survey*, DEP, p26-28

¹⁰ "Gawler Corporation", *Bunyip*, 14/7/1866, pg 2.

¹¹ "Public Cemetery Near Willaston", *Bunyip*, 28/7/1866, pg 1.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

*Leases for 99 years at £2/10/-... Every grave in leased ground £-/8/-. Every grave in public ground (adults) £-/13/-. Every grave in public ground (children) £-/8/-. For permission to erect headstone in ground not leased £-/10/-. For permission to erect footstone in ground not leased £-/5/-. Digging child's grave £-/8/-. Digging adult's grave £-/12/-.*¹²

Even though the Government superintendent of cemeteries strongly recommended the immediate closure of the old cemetery it remained open until January 1870 at the recommendation of the Cemeteries Committee¹³. There was apparently some continuing concern from townspeople regarding continued use of the old cemetery, relating to family allotments (such as vaults and reserved graves). Council apparently consulted with a lawyer, who in turn informed them that they could go ahead with the complete closure of the cemetery ‘...providing no one had been granted a lease or permission to build a family vault¹⁴’. A proclamation in the *Government Gazette*, 9 June 1870, stated that the old Gawler cemetery:

*...shall be totally closed, and cease to be used as a cemetery, saving, nevertheless, the right of all persons who have acquired a portion of the said cemetery for a vault or grave to bury any member of their respective families therein.*¹⁵

In this way the rights of existing leaseholders were to be preserved, but in practice it was unlikely that anyone would wish to be buried in the old cemetery. The Return of Public Cemeteries in 1872 noted that there were no burials in the Gawler Cemetery in 1871, as compared to 60 in the Willaston Cemetery. Over the previous four years the numbers of interments had been falling in Gawler and increasing in Willaston.¹⁶



¹² "Gawler Corporation", *Bunyip*, 4/8/1866, [page ?], from LH/CEM/12, *Willaston Cemetery Articles from the Bunyip*, Gawler Library.

¹³ ["Town Council Meeting"], *Bunyip*, 10/3/1866, [page ?], from LH/CEM/12, *Willaston Cemetery Articles from the Bunyip*, Gawler Library.

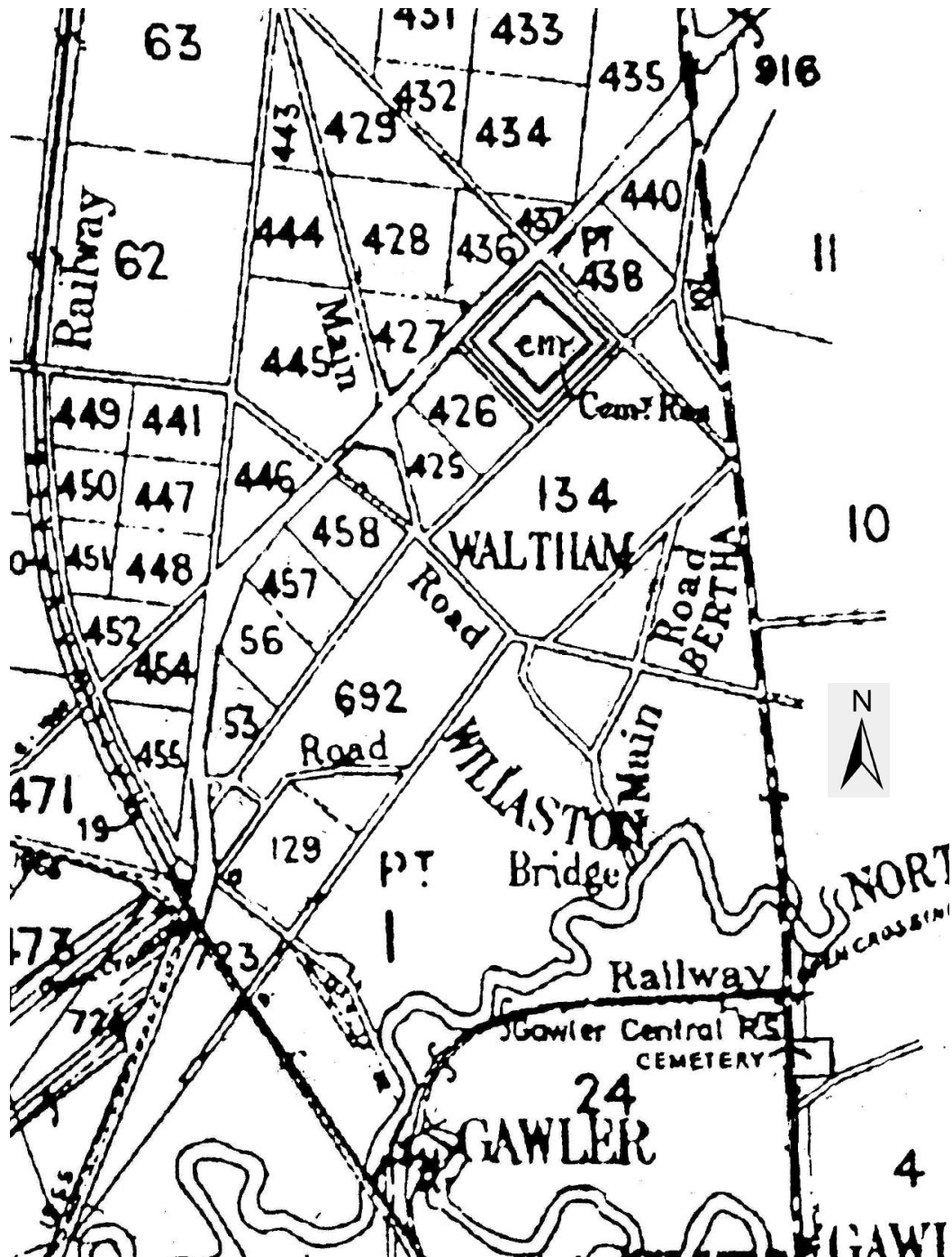
¹⁴ Allery, Linda. 1998. *Willaston Cemetery*. [Publisher Unknown – the author?], page 4.

¹⁵ *South Australian Government Gazette*, 9/6/1870, pg 686.

¹⁶ *SAPP no 119, 1872, Return of Public Cemeteries*

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

EXTRACT FROM HUNDRED MAP OF MUDLA WIRRA SHOWING FIRST GAWLER CEMETERY AND WILLASTON CEMETERY RESERVE (Section 463)



(Source: Lands Titles Office)

In 1888 the *Bunyip* suggested levelling off the ground in the old cemetery and placing the headstones in the surrounding walls, as had already been done in other areas, to perpetuate the memory of the dead.¹⁷ Unfortunately, this did not happen, and of the 471 known burials only thirty eight headstones survived. For many years the headstones were stored at the Gawler Corporation works depot.¹⁸ Wendy Treloar, local history officer, remembered as a child playing on lumps of concrete with writing on, lying beside the creek that passed the corporation depot not realising they were the old headstones.¹⁹ The old burial ground eventually became a parkland named "Pioneer Place". This is believed to have occurred in about the 1930s²⁰. Sometime in the very late 1980s or early 1990s the remaining headstones were set on a sloped concrete base at the entrance of Willaston Cemetery.

Over the years, burials in the cemetery were undertaken from the central rows outwards in each block, with later graves being closer to the edges of the cemetery. The first burial after cremation took place on 4 June, 1933, when the ashes of Margaret Wilson were interred in the family plot.

On 15 January 1937, the *Bunyip* published an article critical of the condition of Willaston Cemetery. Not only did it despair at the ordering of the financial conditions, but also at the general management and maintenance of the graves and surrounding areas of the cemetery. The then Town Clerk of Town of Gawler is said to have stated '...that in his opinion the burial ground would last not more than another 20 years' and that more land would need to be purchased to meet the future needs of Willaston, Gawler, and other surrounding townships that used this cemetery.²¹

By 1943, the cemetery land was granted to the Corporation of the Town of Gawler for use 'at all times as a cemetery reserve'.²² The Title of the Cemetery Reserve was formally transferred to the Corporation of the Town of Gawler from the Crown on July 3, 1946 as a dedicated cemetery site.

As had been predicted in 1937, as Elizabeth (and the surrounding northern suburbs) started to develop into a substantial urban district during the 1950s and 1960s, the growth of Gawler as a township followed suit, subsequently placing more demands on the limited capacity of Willaston Cemetery. By 1986, the new Smithfield Cemetery became one of the main northern locations for interments. This eventually assisted in relieving the pressure previously placed on Willaston Cemetery.²³

¹⁷ "The Old Cemetery", *Bunyip*, 22/6/1888, pg 2.

¹⁸ Nicol, Robert. 1988. *Cemeteries of South Australia*, pg 243.

¹⁹ Linda Allery interview with Wendy Treloar, local history officer, The Corporation of the Town of Gawler, 17 April 1998.

²⁰ Josephine Henderson interview with Bev Burke, local cemetery historian, Willaston, 23 June 2003.

²¹ "Willaston Cemetery, a Trust, and Trust Fund", *Bunyip*, 15/1/1937, [page ?], from LH/CEM/12, *Willaston Cemetery Articles from the Bunyip*, Gawler Library.

²² CT 1816/1

²³ Josephine Henderson interview with Bev Burke, local cemetery historian, Willaston, 23 June 2003.

In 1989 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the town the Rotary Club of Gawler erected a monument in Pioneer Place with a list of known burials and the following inscription:

ERECTED TO THE MEMORY OF
THOSE PIONEER FAMILIES OF'
GAWLER AND DISTRICT
IN ETERNAL REST IN THIS PARK.²⁴

From the 1960s it became obvious that Willaston Cemetery was close to reaching its burial capacity, as designated allotments then stood. It also signalled the transition from being a cemetery divided into denominational areas, to a general burial ground where the religion of the deceased had little importance to the respective place of interment. This came about due to the declining availability of allotments in the main four blocks of the cemetery.

In the 1960s, the Reserve sections surrounding Blocks 1 and 2 were converted to grave plots. After this, the two corner tips of blocks one and two were eventually divided grave plots. This occurred during 1980 and 1990.²⁵ In 1994-95, a committee was formed to manage the native vegetation which remained in the Plantation Reserve and in the grounds.

As burials in Willaston Cemetery quickly filled these newly allocated areas, new ground had to either be found or acquired. In about 1997-98 Town of Gawler initiated a reuse scheme for the cemetery plots to cater for future use. Numerous meetings were held where various areas of the current cemetery were suggested, but some community members protested against their particular use. One of these areas was the Stillborn and Paupers section in Block One. The area finally selected for reclamation was row "F, E, and D" of Block One. Interestingly, when the leases were drawn up for these three rows, row "D" was labelled as "G", conflicting with the original row "G". Council had already finalised the leases (that had already been purchased), and stated it would be impractical to change it again. Consequently, it is now referred to as the "new row G".²⁶

Previously, these three rows were the burial location for people that had not been baptised, mostly young children typically below the age of 12 years, (though some are known to have been 14 years old). The original row "D" contained children who were buried during 1870 to 1897. Row "E" contained children buried from 1874 to 1882. Row "F" contained children buried from 1879 to 1891.²⁷ It is uncertain how these three rows were prioritised in regards to their use during these overlapping periods. These graves have not been dug up, instead,

²⁴ Plaque situated in Pioneer Place, Gawler.

²⁵ Josephine Henderson interview with Bev Burke, local cemetery historian, Willaston, 23 June 2003.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

the rows have been manicured with lawns and cement strips for the future placement of headstones. These new graves are buried to 4 ft, the original ones being interred 6 ft to 10 ft in the ground. The newly allotted graves were also reduced in their overall dimensions, allowing more burials to a row, compared to the original layout.²⁸

In October-November 2002, Town of Gawler held a town meeting regarding the random allotments situated in the four main blocks. It was proposed that all graves with no current lease, markings or trappings to distinguish that allotment, be deemed as reusable for future interments. It was also proposed to place a monument on the Stillborn section, in recognition to all the babies previously buried there. Many well-respected and important citizens of Gawler buried their infants at this unmarked location from the beginning of the cemetery's history.²⁹

At times, Willaston Cemetery has suffered from vandalism and neglect. Of particular note is the damage to the monument marking the grave of Sarah Woodward Clement. (She was the first person to be buried in the cemetery, on 18/11/1866.) This monument featured a tall fluted column, which was dislodged by vandals and now lays in scattered broken pieces in her fenced grave allotment. Other damage has occurred to tall monuments which are easy to dislodge or break.

The Willaston Cemetery continues to be the responsibility of the Town of Gawler. In 2001, it was entered on the State Heritage Register, and all works in the cemetery now need to be carefully considered. Consequently, descendants of the families interred in this cemetery have expressed uncertainty as to the obligation of who should maintain the graves, Town of Gawler or the family themselves³⁰. Only a handful of graves have been maintained by family descendants. In Block One, some "mysterious graves" have appeared that are not listed on the Cemetery Burial Register. It is assumed they are illegally buried.

2.3 Significant Burials

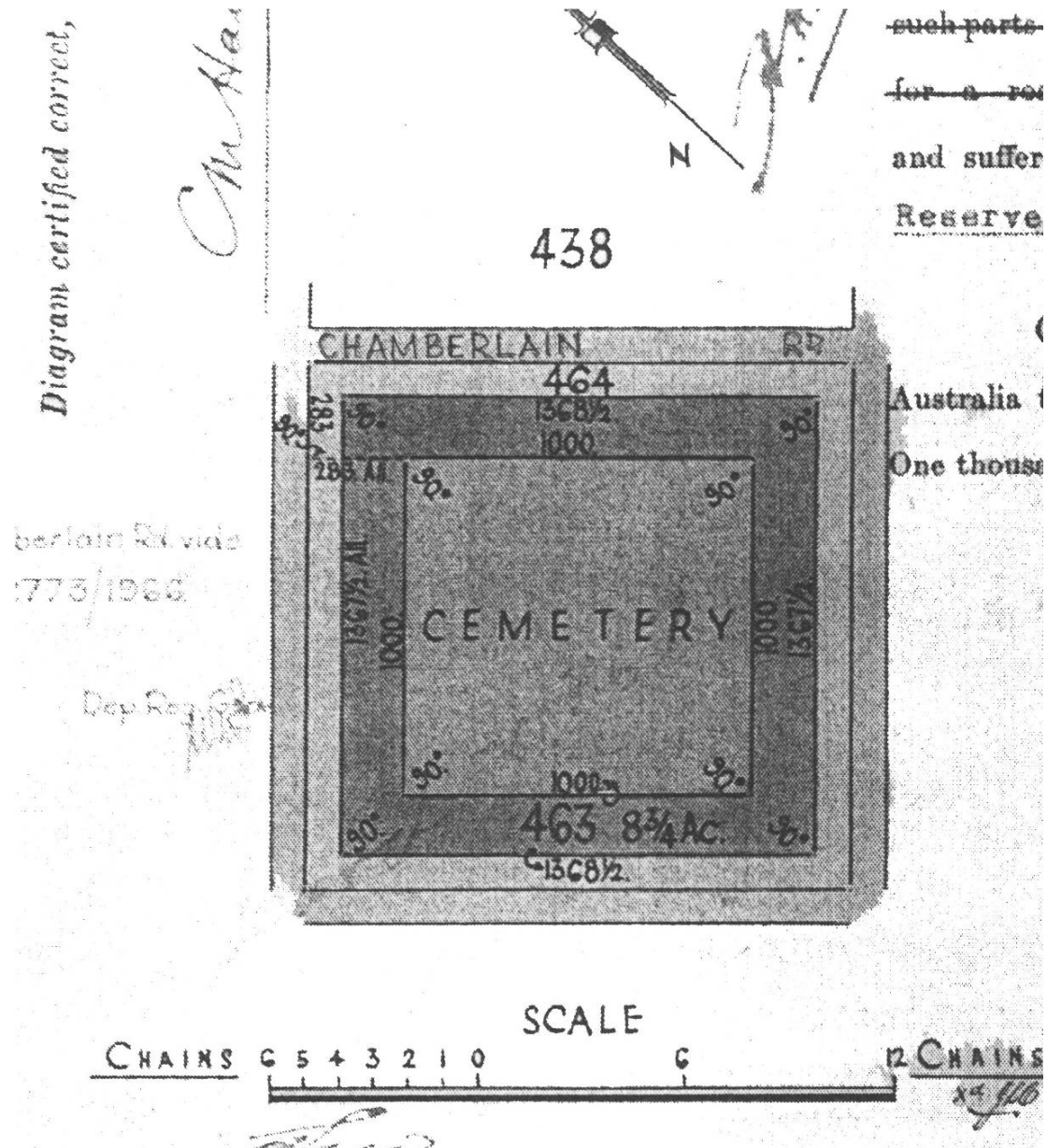
There are a number of significant burials in the Willaston Cemetery. The significance derives from the importance of the person buried, in State or local terms or the notable qualities of the grave monumentation itself or sometimes a combination of both aspects.

Significant burials within Willaston Cemetery have been documented and located are included in this report. (Conservation recommendations are also given for each significant grave.) This analysis has formed the basis of the interpretation recommendations also.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.



SURVEYED EXTENT OF CEMETERY RESERVE

(extract from Certificate of Title 1916/1 - 1943)

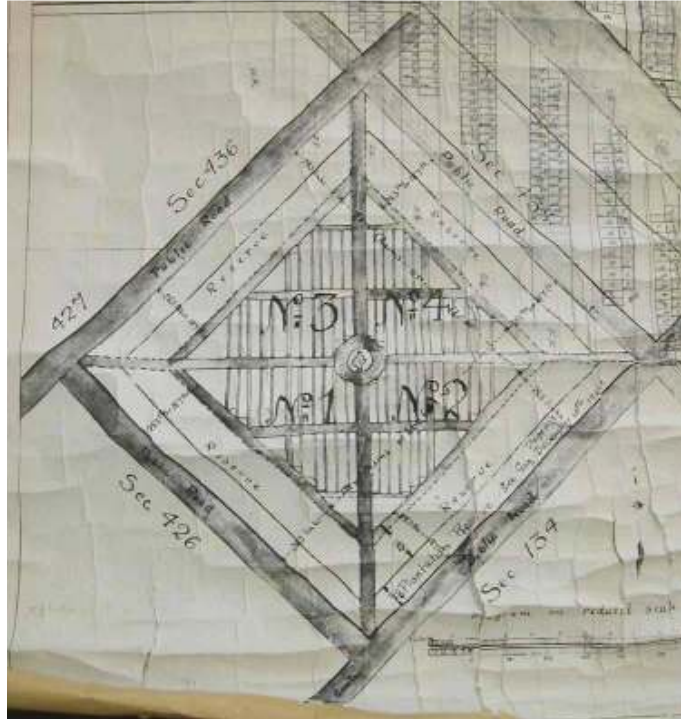
3.0 SURVEY OF FABRIC

3.1 Current Description of Cemetery and its Plan

The Willaston Cemetery retains its original size and layout, as delineated in 1864 on the plan held at Town of Gawler (Plan of the Gawler Suburban Cemetery at Willaston in the Hundred of Mudla Wirra 1864 - see below). It is a north-south oriented diamond shape and the burial plots are laid out east-west within a network of north-south and east west roads and paths. The basic measurement module for the design of the cemetery is one chain or 66 feet or 22 yards (20.108 metres). The original diamond of the cemetery is ten chains square (660 square feet). The central circular element of the plan, where the columbarium is now located, is one chain in diameter and encircled by a road of half a chain width. The main cross roads and the diagonal roads around the boundary are half a chain, 33 feet or 10.05 metres, wide and the secondary roads are twenty feet wide. The pathways between the double grave plots are ten feet wide and the burial plots, laid out in double rows, each measure ten feet long by five feet wide..

On the outside of the boundary roads is a band 283 links (187 feet) wide which is nominated as Reserve and then another band nominated Plantation Reserve³¹

³¹ Government Gazette, 10 December 1942, page 1123).



Plan of the Gawler Suburban Cemetery at Willaston in the Hundred of Mudla Wirra 1864

(Source: Town of Gawler)

The plan divides the cemetery into four triangular Blocks. Each Block is divided into fourteen rows of diminishing length, and then into burial plots ten by five feet. The designation of the rows alphabetically radiates out from the centre. The plot numbers start at the southern end of each row, above the each crossroads, and run from south to north and then back to south again. In each Block new rows were made in the corners of the diamond at a later date. Various areas within the cemetery were allotted to specific uses such as rows U and V of Block 1 where no specific grave plots are marked was to be used for still-born babies.

In the reserve and plantation reserve belts on the north east and north west of the cemetery, the fence sits outside the line of Sugar Gums and the two bands are not delineated separately as is the case in the south west and south east reserve and plantation reserves.

The cemetery currently retains this clear delineation of the diamond form with associated enclosing reserves, and this is one of the most important elements of its significance. The extension of the rows into the southern reserve areas behind a row of sugar gums was done with careful continuation of the original pattern.

The clearance work of dilapidated graves in Blocks 1 and 3 has changed the appearance of these quadrants, particularly where the lawn burial section has been introduced into Block 1.

The entrance to the cemetery is marked by substantial cast iron gates and gate posts which were cast in Scotland by W McFarlane & Company, Glasgow. The entry gates and fence consist of six substantial decorative cast iron square posts linked by cast iron railings (which would appear to be missing their top spears). The railings sit on a sandstone plinth. The gates have been painted and will require repainting soon as there is evidence of rust coming through.

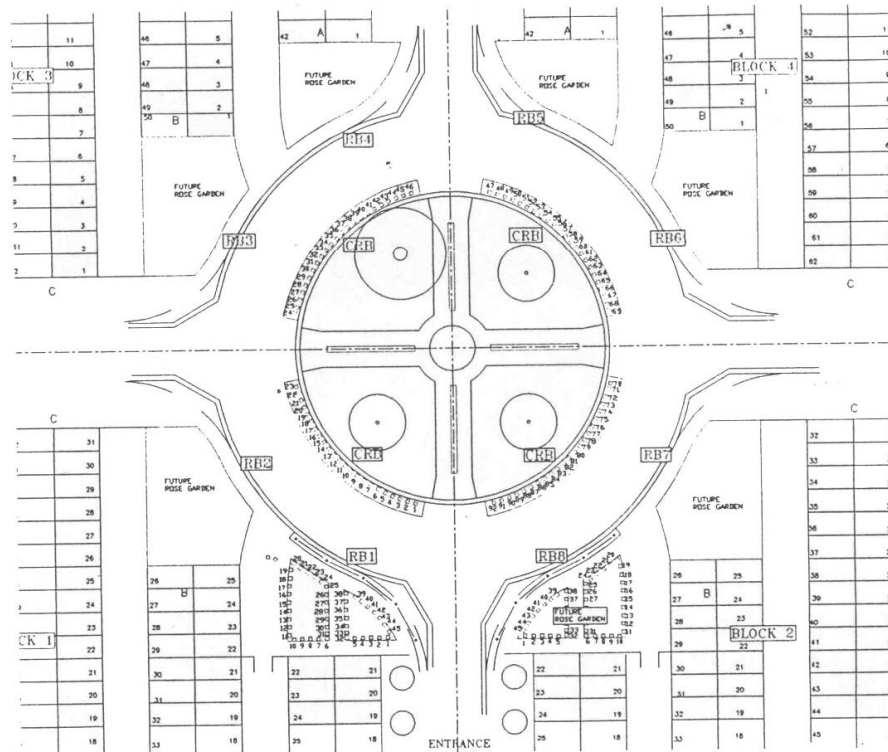
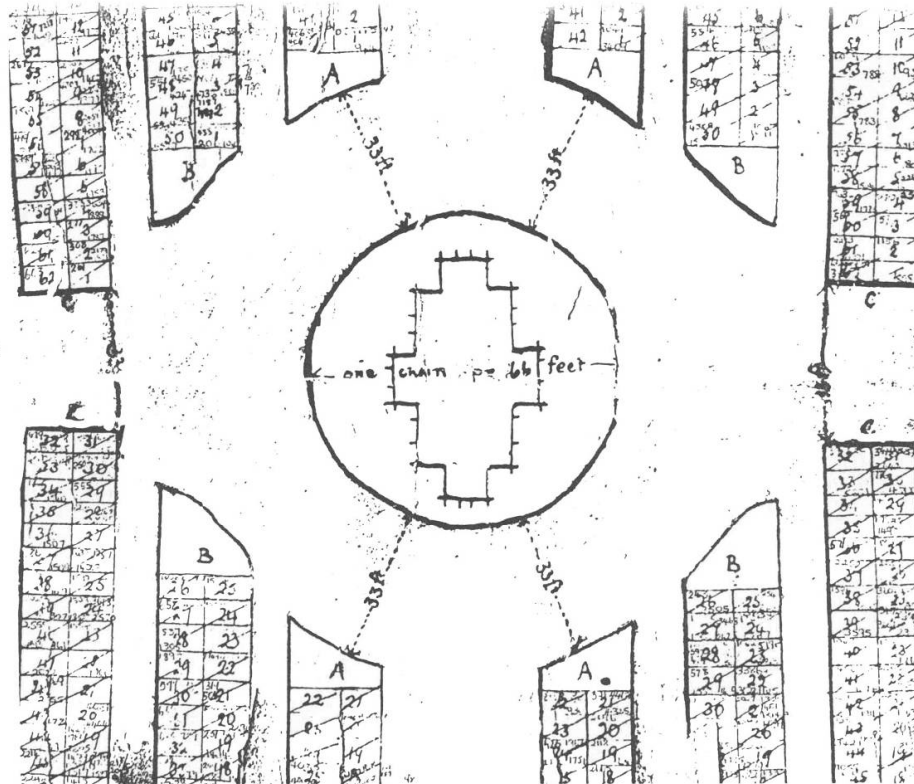
The Willaston Cemetery also includes some of the collected headstones from the earlier Gawler cemetery in Pioneer Park. These have been mounted on sloping platforms either side of the entrance road, inside the main gates at the southern corner of the cemetery.

A new columbarium was been constructed in the centre of the cemetery after 1997, this circular area was obviously intended to be built on, as the original plan shows the outline of a structure, possibly a small funeral chapel with buttresses, on this space. However, nothing was initially built here and it now serves as a landscaped area with walls trees and seats.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

ORIGINAL AND CURRENT PLAY LAYOUT OF CENTRAL SECTION OF CEMETERY

(at similar scale) (Source: Town of Gawler Records)



CURRENT VIEW OF WILLASTON CEMETERY



3.2 Development of Cemetery and Ages of Graves

The patterns of burials indicate that the burial plots were utilised from the north-south road outwards.

The four main blocks can be basically broken down to these religious denominations: block one is predominantly Methodist; block two is predominantly Anglican; block three is predominantly Catholic; and block four is frequently referred to as being the “other” religions, such as Lutheran (top half of the block) and Congregational / Presbyterian (bottom left half) and the bottom right half of this block is the lesser religions, and the military burial area.³² This site, consisting of rows “L, M, N, O, P, Q” totalling 560 graves (each measuring 7ft x 4ft), was allocated for military burials in the early 1940s³³.][to be confirmed]

Block 1 the first three remaining rows A/Q, B/P and C/O are consistent early graves in reasonable condition, but there have been some later burials, apparently on plots not previously used, in the 1960s. There have also been some ad hoc repairs of monuments in these rows, including replacement of headstones and surrounds, and setting of headstone pieces in concrete slabs. Graves in this area retain a large amount of cast iron fencing, which is generally reasonable, but some is in poor condition.

Large areas of Block 1 have been cleared including rows D, E, F, M, N and L (where scattered graves still remain). The lawned section, developed on cleared rows is located in original rows D, E and F. Rows G, H, I, J and K have been cleared, but retain a few scattered early grave remnants. Rows R, S and T were used for new burials in the 1980s.

Block 2 rows A/Q, B/P, C/O, and D/N contain a concentration of pre 1910 graves. Row E contains graves from 1910 to 1920. Row F, M and L contains graves from the 1920s. Rows R and S contain unmarked graves, apart from two dating from the 1950s. Row G, H and I contain graves dating from the 1930s. Rows J and K contain graves from the 1940s and 50s including some children's graves from the 1930s in row K. Rows T, U and V contain graves from the 1950s and 60s.

Block 3 rows J, K, R, S and T have been used for new burials including graves with canopy form headstone monumentation. These burials tend to date from the 1990s. Rows G, H and I have been cleared and one small child's grave remains. Rows U and V contain graves from the 1970s and 90s. Rows E and F contain graves from the 1950s to the 1990s. Rows A, B, C and D retain early graves with iron rails and marble headstones, apart from un-monumented graves which may have been selectively cleared. There is evidence of recent vandalism of the sandstone cross on the top of Elizabeth Jane Mary Lowe's Memorial (in Row A marked with a cross on the map).

³² Josephine Henderson interview with Bev Burke, local cemetery historian, Willaston, 23 June 2003.

³³ “Willaston Cemetery”, *Bunyip*, 19/6/1942, [page ?], from LH/CEM/12, *Willaston Cemetery Articles from the Bunyip*, Gawler Library.

Block 3 rows P and Q retain pre 1910 graves. Rows N and O contain pre 1960s graves. In rows L and M the graves date from the 1960s to the 1980s. Rows W, W and Y contain graves from the 1990s.

Block 4 rows U, V and W contain graves from the 1980s and 1990s. Rows G, H, L, M, N, O P and Q contain graves from the 1950s and 60s. Rows G north, H north, I, J, K, R, S and T contain graves from the 1940s, 50s and 60s. Rows G south and H south contain graves from the 1940s to 1960s. Rows E and F contain a mixture of graves from different periods including the 1920s and 30s. Rows A, B, C and D contain pre 1910 graves.

The burials in grave sites in the south west and south east reserves start from the mid 1960s to more recent burials.

3.3 Grave Types and Condition

As noted, most of the graves in the early central sections of the cemetery date from the 1870s up to 1910. The size of the graves varies from a single plot to up to eight amalgamated plots forming a large family grave site.

Monumentation

There is also a range in the size and detail of the monumentation on each grave, dependent on the position and ostentation that was considered appropriate at the time. The most common materials for monuments and headstones are as follows:

Marble

Most of the marble used in graves in South Australia is Italian Carrara marble which is fine grained and greyish. Monumental masons imported this to Adelaide from the 1860s. Willaston Cemetery has some excellent examples of Carrara marble headstones and sculpture including angels, obelisks, urns and crosses, set usually on marble pedestals. Angaston marble is sometimes used, particularly for kerbing and surrounds, and is whiter and more coarsely grained than the Italian marble. Marble in the Willaston Cemetery shows a high degree of staining and discolouration from dust and organic material

Sandstone

Sandstone was also used for headstones. However, most sandstone in cemeteries is used for kerbing or railing blocks or as plinths for marble headstones. Sandstone headstones are susceptible to weathering and erosion. This is obvious in the sandstone monuments in Willaston, particularly in the Causby Family gravestone (14, Q, 2).

Granite

Some earlier monumentation is in granite, usually in the form of columns and obelisks. Often granite monuments were imported, such as the obelisk on the grave of McKinlay the explorer(55, Q, 2). Headstones on more recent graves generally are of black or pink granite, and this is usually highly polished.

There is a high degree of lichen growth on the unpolished surfaces of the granite headstones, along the top surfaces particularly, and often the rear of the granite headstones. This is particularly noticeable on the 1940s graves.

Slate

The earliest headstones in most cemeteries, particularly near quarry areas, were cut from slate, usually Mintaro or Willunga slate. Many of the headstones from the first Gawler Cemetery (Pioneer Park) which are now at the entrance to Willaston are of slate. Early slate headstones often show serious delamination and deterioration, particularly where rising damp is an issue. Slate headstones in the Willaston Cemetery are generally sound, if still set in the original plinth. The slate headstones from the Gawler Cemetery need to be protected from water run-off down the base on which they are fixed.

Grave Surrounds and Kerbing

Grave surrounds in the Willaston Cemetery are constructed in a variety of materials and designs, depending on the size and importance of the burial plot. Grave surrounds of early graves are most commonly cast or wrought iron rails or fences, or marble or slate kerbing set in sandstone or marble blocks. Rendered brick was frequently used as a base for kerbing or fences.

The cast iron railing or fencing surrounds show an amazing range of designs for the 1870s - 1890s graves. The fences vary in height, detail and decorative elements, and many bear a makers mark, often those of Gawler iron founders, such as D Thomson. Most of the iron surrounds are currently painted in a pale grey enamel paint.

Recent Grave Design

Later graves display a more consistent form, particularly from the 1930s onwards, as the headstones are generally low simple polished granite headstones. They are typically of black or pink polished granite around 100mm thick and less than one metre high. These headstone are typically associated with kerbing and ledgers

The more recent grave plots with monuments are located in Blocks Two and Four, in the eastern point of the cemetery diamond, and along the south-east and south-west sides within the reserve strip.

In the lawned section of Block One, a 'beam and headstone' system has been established, with no grave surrounds in the grassed area.

Existing Grave Repairs

Some grave repairs have already been undertaken at different times, and the appropriateness of previous repairs varies. Some marble slabs have been repaired with thin mortar joints and possibly pinning, which is an acceptable form of repair. However, some broken marble slabs have been roughly reassembled and encased in concrete slabs. This method is fairly crude and concrete has been smeared across the face of the stone remnants.

3.4 Alterations and Adaptations to the Cemetery

The Town of Gawler undertook a reassessment of the Willaston Cemetery and produced a Development Plan on 29 May 1997 (Endorsed by council) which included a range of future projects. These were summarised on a plan and included):

- Lawn burial (Section 1), 1996/97 project which included drainage works.
- Children's memorial (Section 2), not for further burials, set aside as a park memorial.
- Heritage/history zone, erection of some form of memorial or pioneer park to record names of people formerly buried in reused areas.
- Future lawn burial (Section 4), coffin burial extending Section 1. These areas had been identified as reuse as 99 year lease had expired. This are required drainage, etc.
- Rose garden and columbarium for burial of ashes.
- Future rose garden (Section 6), intended for burial of ashes. Requires drainage work.
- Compound (Section 7)
- Other issues were identified including - seating for elderly visitors, dog control, markers for rows, directory and entrance signage, pergola area with seating by west wall of niche area (Section 5).

All of these proposed works reflected the needs of users of the cemetery and most have been implemented to a certain degree. Works were undertaken including upgrading of roads to the central and western sections and further clearing of graves in Section 4 to prepare it for future lawn burial. However major work has been halted pending the recommendations of this Conservation Management Plan.

4.0 SURVEY OF LANDSCAPE

4.1 Planting within Cemetery

What little planting there is within the cemetery contributes strongly to its mostly formal character. The central diamond forming the main part of the cemetery is framed and enclosed by a row of mature sugar gums, *Eucalyptus cladocalyx*, planted on the outer edge of the surrounding boundary road and occasionally interspersed with pines. The gums retain their natural form, and have not been pollarded, unlike many sugar gums in the locality. The date of planting is unknown but may be concurrent with the original layout of the cemetery, although there is some variation in the height and trunk diameter of the trees. Those adjacent to the southern blocks, where there are burial sites within the reserve, are generally larger in height and trunk diameter than the trees within the northern blocks where the sugar gums are growing amongst endemic vegetation.

This boundary planting is incomplete, as a continuous section of trees is missing from about two-thirds of the northern portion of the southeast boundary. It is not known whether the missing trees were ever planted, or if so, why they have been removed. The other rows are mostly complete, with the tree usually planted at the end of each row of burials. A few stray sugar gums grow at the western end of the central east-west road within the main cemetery reserve.

A pair of sugar gums marks the main entry of the cemetery but they are planted at such a distance from the road that they have little impact on the sense of formality and symmetry.

About 5% of the trees within the cemetery can be defined as [Regulated] trees under the recent 'Regulated Tree' amendment to the Development Act 1993, having a trunk circumference of 2.0m or more measured at a point 1.0m above natural ground level. Any proposals to remove these trees would require Development Approval under the Act.

An avenue of Italian cypress, *Cupressus sempervirens stricta*, defines the central north-south roadway. Again the date of planting is unknown, but may have occurred at the time of the columbarium development during the 1960s. These trees have the tops clipped square at approximately two metres above ground level and the canopy tied in a number of places to keep branches in place and maintain a formal and tidy appearance. Within the northern section of the avenue are two mature and visually dominant pine trees.

A central reserve within the cemetery is divided into four quadrants by the columbarium walls. Each quadrant is lawned and planted with one central tree. These are of mixed species, age, size and character, three being deciduous trees and the fourth a heavily canopied evergreen: *Photinia robusta*. A narrow garden bed defines the outer edge of the circular reserve and is planted with miniature roses marking cremation memorials. Diagonally across the road reserve from the south-west quadrant is an additional area of cremation memorials marked by two low box hedges and protected from traffic by a row of bollards.

Within the area of burials there is very little consciously planted vegetation. One burial site has two large *Viburnum tinus* shrubs overtaking the monumentation and another site has two well-clipped and maintained golden cypress planted at the head. The remaining vegetation is a small number of self-sown indigenous plants that have sprung up in the Paupers and Stillborn burial areas where there are patches of open ground and few headstones. Trees and shrubs include a couple of *Eucalyptus porosa* (one of which has recently died), some wattles, and a good specimen of *Dodonaea viscosa*.

Most ground cover vegetation is self-sown, including native species *Dianella revoluta* and the very ornamental native grass *Austrostipa elegantissima*, and the ubiquitous sea lavender.

4.2 Natural Landscape Boundary

The cemetery is enclosed on all four sides by remnant native vegetation, which provides a natural buffer zone between the cemetery, the surrounding residential areas and the Gawler bypass. The area contains a high diversity of plant species and is an important example of pre-European settlement vegetation, in a district that has been extensively cleared. In 1987 the Hundred of Mudla Wirra, in which the cemetery is located, was recorded as having 0.4% of the original vegetation remaining. The four plant associations on the site can be classified as follows:

- *Eucalyptus porosa* (Mallee box) woodland
- *Callitris preissii* (Southern Cypress-pine) woodland
- *Eucalyptus porosa/Eucalyptus socialis* (Red mallee) low woodland
- *Alyxia buxifolia* (Sea box) low shrubland

The native vegetation is fenced on both sides to restrict access and a rubble pedestrian and cycle track has been constructed through the vegetation, with connections to the cemetery and adjacent residential streets at the corners.

Generally the vegetation is in a healthy condition and current maintenance practices appear to have established a level of control over weed species. However invasive environmental weeds are present on the site, particularly resprouting/seedling *Olea europaea* (Olive) and *Myrsiphyllum asparagoides* (Bridal creeper). An ongoing commitment by Council and/or volunteer Bush Care Groups is required to maintain the integrity of this vegetation.

4.3 Current Management

Currently Council staff are available for undertaking management of the landscape and setting of the cemetery to the equivalent of one half time position. However, extra staff are available for specific projects when funds are available.

The interior post and wire fencing was replaced eighteen months ago, and the external fencing ten to twelve years ago.

The avenue of pines leading from the entrance gates along the North- South drive of the cemetery was probably planted in the 1960s and is pruned three times a year.

Council requires some advice on the control of spreading statice known as Sea Lavender (*Limonium companianus*). This seeds in summer and autumn and has spread throughout the cemetery and into adjacent streets. Generally the Sea Lavender has colonised bare ground and graves. Control would only be affective where alternative ground treatments occur after eradication to prevent reinfestation or colonisation by other weed species.

Sea Lavender flowers from winter to early summer (May - December), therefore weed control will be most affective if programmed to prevent seed set and where herbicide is to be used, application should be during periods of active growth.

Currently **Trees For Life** are also involved in the management of the native vegetation reserve which surrounds the cemetery. As well there have been Community Land Care projects in place.

4.4 Report from GEHA

A report was prepared by Andrew Philpott, member of the Gawler Environment and Heritage Association, on the management of native vegetation in the Willaston Cemetery and presented to Council in 1995.

Recommendations from Report

In summary the report made the following recommendations

- Gradually replace sugar gums with **indigenous species** long term
- Undertake careful weed control program using least disturbance approach
- Train staff in recognition and identification of native and introduced species
- Establish a species collection for reference 'herbarium'
- Policy of no more dumping in bushland. Debris should be removed by hand
- No vehicles driven through vegetation bands
- Keep traffic to bike track
- Mark boundaries of native vegetation reserve clearly – kerbing or bollards
- Replant denuded areas using seed and tubestock collected from site
- Undertake training programs for Council staff

This Conservation Management Plan endorses the recommendations made in the GEHA report for management of the native vegetation reserve, other than the proposal to replace the sugar gums with an **indigenous species**.

The boundary planting of sugar gums, *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* has in the past contributed to the cemetery as well forming a defined edge to the four central blocks. As the remaining species are removed through natural attrition, the new planting will need to be in-line with preferred species from the preferred cemetery planting list.

5.0 STATEMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The following Statement of Cultural Significance is included in the citation for the Willaston Cemetery as the basis for its inclusion on the State Heritage Register.

The Willaston Cemetery is an almost square section of land which is framed by a belt of natural bushland surrounding the grid layout of the cemetery. The exterior roadway around the old cemetery follows a diamond-shaped pathway with the points at north, south, east and west. This diamond frame is bisected by two major roadways from which a series of regularly spaced lanes or paths run north-south, and a smaller number of lanes run east-west. At the centre of the grid is a circular area in which are modern columbarium walls containing cinerary urns. Features of the cemetery include an exceptionally fine collection of 19th Century cast-iron railings, a variety of significant monuments and gravestones, and an ornate, cast iron gateway. A significant natural feature is the belt of indigenous bushland around the cemetery. Other natural features include a number of mature eucalypts throughout the cemetery and some use of low bushes flanking paths.

5.1 Statement of Heritage Value

This exceptionally fine South Australian cemetery features significant iron-work and monuments; contains rare species of native flora; has significant historical associations; and commemorates many significant South Australians.

5.2 Relevant Criteria

- (a) *It demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history,* being an early South Australian cemetery which displays a significant collection of indigenous flora, an outstanding collection of iron-work which is linked to the Industrial significance of Gawler, is associated with the development of the town itself, and is the burial place and displays memorials to many of the significant South Australians who were associated with Gawler
- (b) *it has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance,* retaining several plant species of regional conservation status including one species which is rare in South Australia.
- (c) *It may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history,* containing an important area of pre-European remnant woodland.
- (d) *It is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance,* being a particularly fine South Australian cemetery with an outstandingly high quality of monuments and cast-iron fencing set amidst a relatively well-preserved and managed natural environment.
- (e) *It demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics,* containing an excellent collection of cast-iron railings.

- (f) *It has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it, providing the Gawler community with a strong sense of identity and being associated with the families of many residents.*
- (g) *It has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance, being the burial place of a number of significant South Australians including John McKinlay.*

ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE

Criterion (a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history

The Willaston cemetery's surviving belts of indigenous bushland provide a record of the local landscape prior to European settlement.

The man-made features of the cemetery include an outstanding collection of iron-work which is a product of local foundries, and is thus associated with the significant industrial development of Gawler. The memorials in the cemetery record personal information relating to the development of Gawler, and are associated with many significant South Australians who were connected with Gawler.

Criterion (b) it has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.

The cemetery is framed by a belt of bushland which is recorded by Kraehenbuhl as containing a variety of rare plants. A total of seventeen species have a Conservation Status in the Southern Lofty botanical region, including four with Rare status: *Alyxia buxifolia* (Sea box), *Exocarpos sparteus* (Broom ballart), *Pittosporum phylliraeioides* (Native apricot) and *Goodenia willisiana* (Silver goodenia). One species, *Austrostipa platychaeta* (Flat-awned spear-grass) has a Threatened status and *Cassinia arcuata* (Drooping cassinia) is considered Vulnerable. *Choretrum glomeratum* var. *chrysanthum* (Berry broombush) is Endangered in the Southern Lofty region and is classified as Rare within South Australia. Many of the other plants recorded by Kraehenbuhl, although not of regional conservation significance, represent some of the last communities of these species on the Adelaide Plains.

Parts of this area of the cemetery are at risk from the impacts of cemetery activities on the bushland.

Criterion (c) it may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history.

The belt of native bushland bordering the Willaston Cemetery yields significant information relating to the State's natural history, and particularly about the flora of the Willaston area. Reports of the late 1830s record the Gawler area as being mostly grasslands with a light coverage of trees. Exceptions were Willaston and Peachey Belt, both of which had areas of dense scrub.

The bushland in the Willaston cemetery is the best preserved area of pre-European vegetation in the Gawler area. The variety of significant flora is described in detail in the survey by Darrell Kraehenbuhl. This assessment identifies the presence of many significant native species, as well as seventeen plant species of Conservation Status in the Southern Lofty botanical region, including 4 Rare, 1 Threatened, 1 Vulnerable and 1 Endangered species, *Choretrum glomeratum* var. *chrysanthum*, which is also Rare within South Australia.

Within the cemetery there survives an 'excellent remnant' of Mallee box *Eucalyptus porosa* woodland which was part of the forest which was cleared by early settlers. This contributes to an understanding of the early colonial harnessing of the natural environment. Neagle (1995) describes *Eucalyptus porosa* woodland as Priority 5 conservation status as it is poorly conserved in South Australia, represented by numerous large examples, but many having degraded understorey and/or are currently under threat.

Criterion (d) it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance

The Gawler Cemetery at Willaston is an outstanding example of an historic cemetery, displaying iron-work and monuments of an exceptionally high quality.

This cemetery also preserves a significant natural environment. The only other cemetery in the Adelaide area which is recorded by Kraehenbuhl as having significant indigenous flora in the West Terrace cemetery.

Criterion (e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.

The fine collection of cast-iron railings in the cemetery are associated with the significant industrial history of Gawler, as the cemetery displays some of the finest iron lacework produced by the significant Gawler foundries. This is appropriate for the burial place of some of the State's most significant Industrial figures, some of whom were associated significant technical and creative achievements using iron.

Criterion (f) it has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it.

The cemetery provides a strong sense of identity for the Gawler community, being the burial place of most of the significant pioneers of the town, people who contributed to the growth of the town and made it one of the most significant and remarkable towns in South Australia. It is also associated with many later residents of Gawler, and is the burial place of family members of many current residents.

Criterion (g) it has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance.

The Willaston Cemetery is the burial place for a number of significant South Australians who were associated with the development of Gawler. These include John McKinlay and the Pile family. John McKinlay was a significant South Australian explorer who led the expedition to find Burke and Wills in 1861. McKinlay is commemorated by a significant large memorial at the front of Pioneer Park on Murray Street, as well as by the gravestone over his grave in the Willaston cemetery, in which his body was buried along the north to south axis as is usual for explorers.

The cemetery also contains the surviving gravestones, from Pioneer Park, Gawler's earliest cemetery, thus commemorating some of Gawler's very early residents.

6.0 CONSERVATION POLICIES & IMPLEMENTATION

These policies are formulated to retain the integrity and heritage value of the Willaston Cemetery as established in the Statement of Cultural Significance in Section 5.

6.1 Comprehensive Policies for the Cemetery as a whole

Policy 1: Retain the distinctive diamond plan and layout of the Willaston Cemetery. Significance derives from the layout of graves within the plan, the verticality of the monuments, the edge reserve and vegetation, the sense of space and the significant burials.

Implementation:

- Maintain the cemetery site intact, including the boundaries and divisions.
- Retain all remaining evidence of the original plan and layout of the graves within the cemetery. Limit the grassed areas to the section in Block 1. Changes should be contained in Block 1, where the lawn cemetery has been established, and the layout of new grave sites should follow the historic pattern of the graves, particularly the paths through the site, between rows of graves.
- Retain evidence of the patina or passage of time through the cemetery and avoid over-renewal. The approach embodied in the principle “Do as much as necessary and as little as possible” should guide all works.
- Prepare documentation and works programs for conservation and implement as part of a prioritised works program.
- Highlight in the interpretation of the cemetery the importance of the form and early planning of the cemetery within Gawler.
- Ensure that the methods of burials and maintenance do not damage monuments, fences or structures in any way.

Policy 2: Conserve and maintain the significant collection of ironwork and the monumental masonry within Willaston Cemetery, as much of the significance of Willaston Cemetery derives from the outstandingly high quality of the cast iron fencing and the substantial examples of monumental art. All significant graves identified should be retained and conserved, particularly those relating to significant burials, both on State and Local level. The entrance gates and fence should be retained and maintained, and any missing elements reinstated if necessary.

Implementation:

- Prepare a program of works to implement conservation recommendations for significant grave sites as provided in this Conservation Management Plan
- Ensure that methods of burials and maintenance do not damage monuments, fences or structures in any way. Review current practices, including the use of front end loaders in the cemetery.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Inform all cemetery and Council staff of the significance of individual graves and areas within the cemetery and develop comprehensive strategies for each, incorporating staff input.
- Document, record and illustrate all evidence within the cemetery of the work of monumental masons and iron founders.
- Ensure new graves which are located amongst early graves are appropriate in design, scale and materials. Provide guidelines for the design and location of new graves between historic graves (refer to volume 2).
- Prepare conservation documentation for the entrance gates.

Policy 3: Conserve and manage the belt of bushland surrounding the Cemetery as part of the original plan of the cemetery. The natural vegetation should continue to be protected and maintained. Conserve and manage the layout and structures that form part of the initial cemetery landscape. This includes maintaining the intent of the early plantings, the geometric network of paths and all other significant landscape elements.

Implementation:

- Develop an appropriate natural resource management program for the cemetery which allows for the retention of both native and planted non-local species of historical significance, to enable the integration and retention of historic value and environmental conservation.
- Ensure no further degradation of the identified significant native vegetation occurs through inappropriate practices or the extension of public access through the site.
- Establish a planting list of revegetation species, with guidelines on seed collection, propagation and locations of suitable provenance local species for collection of propagation material.
- Maintain a register of significant species and their locations and relative rarity.
- Implement the recommendations of the landscape plan prepared as part of this Conservation Management Plan (refer to section 9).

Policy 4: The sense of place, cultural and spiritual associations and sense of identity for the Gawler community should be retained and strengthened within the Willaston Cemetery. The special association with the life and work of the notable South Australians from the Gawler district buried in Willaston Cemetery should be identified and interpreted.

Implementation:

- Ensure all information, including historical, biographical and other details, is included in a record system developed for the cemetery. This should be updated as more research is undertaken.
- Ensure the interpretation material available for visitors to the cemetery includes all information relating to significant burials and grave sites.
- Establish a process of informing and involving all relevant groups associated with the cemetery and specific grave sites in management of areas and sites.

- Develop guidelines to assist families and descendants to care for graves appropriately.
- Develop a comprehensive interpretation program, including a walk and information leaflet, system of marking or numbering graves to identify significant plots using existing numbering system.
- Develop an information leaflet on the endemic vegetation within the reserve, to be made available from council on request.

6.2 Specific Recommendations for Policy Implementation

6.2.1 General Plan

Description: The plan remains intact apart from the areas in Block One which have been cleared for the establishment of the lawn burial area. This has created narrower plots in Rows G, E and F which encroach into the original road width. The Stillborn area is to be developed as a memorial area. There were no delineated grave plots in this triangle.

Recommendations:

- Allow for a slight variation in the pattern of development in Block 1, to be balanced by continuing use of original grave delineation in the other three quadrants.
- Continued conversion to lawn areas must stop at the main east west road edges to allow for future avenue planting. This will mean fewer grave plots. Retain through paths. It is considered appropriate to insert north south path lines through the lawned area.
- No further burials should occur to the north in rows WW and VV in Block [2], and rows RR and QQ in Block [1] as these will impinge on the east west axis of the main road of the original plan.
- Any planting of shade trees in the still-born memorial area should be regular in form and placement and repeated at the same location in the other three Blocks. Some additional native screen planting may occur within this small area.

6.2.2 Entrance to Cemetery

Description: The area around the entrance to the cemetery has become cluttered with structures and facilities which require rationalisation and careful consideration in terms of the formality of the approach to the cemetery proper. The entry requires definition as currently the formal planting starts 60 metres from gate, and parking and access is not clearly defined. Run off and rain water flows across the ground to sumps, currently creating mud puddles. Permapine post and wire fencing currently marks edge of reserve.

Recommendations:

- Create formal defined entrance to cemetery on either side of main entrance drive.
- Provide some screening along main entrance drive from gates to Cyprus avenue to continue formality of planting.
- Change opening to spoil bin to allow access from existing gate along south west boundary fence, close to the cast iron entrance gates, not through formal entrance.

- Define a parking area on the east side of the entrance drive, close to existing toilets.
- Remove shed and cyclone wire mesh fence and all galvanised pipe fence posts.
- Reconfigure access to toilet block with some screening from main entrance driveway.
- Remove all heavy vehicle traffic from entrance driveway and define appropriate heavy vehicle route using edge roads where possible, not main roads through centre of cemetery. Heavy vehicles are not appropriate for travelling within cemetery area and any backhoes should have balloon tyres.
- Repair subsided paving sections of entrance driveway.
- Permapine barriers should be replaced with a more appropriate form, particularly close to the entrance points.
- Install a moulding to the top section of the concrete sloping block holding the early grave stones to re-direct run-off down the block and prevent further deterioration, particularly of the slate headstones.

6.2.3 Planting and Landscaping

Description: The main element of introduced planting in the cemetery is the rows of Sugar Gums which edge the Reserve. The south east row of Sugar Gums is incomplete, and the north east and north west rows merge with the vegetation in the Reserve. The avenue of Italian cypresses along the north south road is recent but appropriate.

Recommendations:

- Retain the current inner row of tall tree planting, as this marks the original formal edge of the cemetery, and separates the later strips of burials in the southern Reserves. The boundary planting of sugar gums should be strengthened with plantings of more appropriate native trees that will eventually supersede the Sugar Gums as they are removed by natural attrition, completion of planting with more appropriate species where trees are missing particularly along the south east edge can be carried out. It is recommended that advanced trees are sourced, planted and irrigated until established. Unless irrigation is to be provided for establishment of new tree plantings, timing of new tree planting is critical to ensure benefit of seasonal rains.
- Inspect and monitor the condition of the existing trees, and undertake remedial action where required to minimise the occurrence of sudden limb failure. Concerns regarding limb failure in the species are generally related to trees that have been pollarded. New growth is weakly attached and disease may cause the development of internal hollows which are not always easy to detect.
- Repeat the avenue planting of the main north south road along the east west main road using the native pine *Callitris preissii*. This would be sympathetic to the Italian cypress avenue in general colour and form but with a subtle difference

- In the long term it is recommended that the three Aleppo pines along the north section of the main road between quadrants three and four should be removed and replaced with plantings of cypress to match existing.
- Reinforce natural reserve area wherever possible, using material from the existing indigenous plants in the reserve.
- Introduce a symmetrical planting of jacarandas following the shade tree proposals for the Babies memorial (refer plan Section 9)
- Restrict future ornamental ground cover plantings to defined areas adjacent to the central reserve and columbarium (refer plan Section 9). Species to be selected from a recommended schedule.
- Provide documentation of the current management techniques and regimes of the native vegetation reserve in collaboration with current volunteer groups. Ensure Council staff are familiar with current management techniques and associated costs for maintenance of the Plantation reserve. **Foster relationship with Trees For Life to ensure current level of volunteer support and bushland management is maintained.**

6.2.4 Paving and Roads

Description: Approximately half the roads and paths are paved with cement pavers, incorporating drainage and edging. The remaining roads and paths are unmade and boggy when wet after rain.

Recommendations:

- Pave the east west main road from the columbarium to the easternmost entry, to match the other main roads. The paved areas should extend only as far as burial sites, retaining an unpaved surface through the reserve areas. (Refer to 7.4.1)
- Paths through the reserve should be finished in rubble or gravel.
- Generally, new paving materials are to match existing as closely as possible for continuity. Do not introduce new colours, sizes or shapes. New gravel paths should also match existing.
- Within the vegetation reserves, remove any permapine logs used as bollards. These are used currently to mark the approved pedestrian access into the reserve strips and are probably not required. Without the bollards, access to the existing paths can be marked with loose gravel which would be sufficient to indicate to pedestrians where they are.
- Whenever possible, use Sugar Gum timber removed from any existing trees as posts to mark corner entry points to cemetery, particularly northern entrance.

6.2.5 Structures and Furniture

Description: The current street furniture in the cemetery is standard council issue. Bins are currently green plastic, and apart from in the columbarium area the seats are concrete and timber slat style dating from the 1960s.

Recommendations:

- Install recommended style bin in locations noted on plan.
- Continue use of columbarium seats in recommended locations around cemetery.

6.2.6 Stillborn Memorial Section

Description: The triangular plot set aside for stillborn burials in Block One of the original plan of the cemetery is to be redeveloped in a memorial form. The aim is to create an area of commemoration and contemplation for parents of stillborn babies interred in the cemetery.

Recommendations:

- The design for this area should accord with the policies provided in this conservation management plan.
- Any vertical planting such as trees within this stillborn site should be echoed at the same geometric point on the plan in the other three Blocks. This will allow the landscaping of the stillborn site to be linked with other areas of the cemetery plan.

6.2.7 Columbarium Area

Description:

The Columbarium has been constructed in the centre of the cemetery, which was set aside in the original plan for a structure of some type. It consists of four niched walls aligned with the main roads. Plots for ashes have also been created around the perimeter of the central circle and the ends of the adjacent rows.

Recommendations:

- Create a formal central garden area reinforced by a ring of small trees and extra seating, since this area has been altered from the original bare space already. Replant garden edges to recommended design incorporating box and rose edging as already used in this central section.
- Realign existing memorial seats to face south west and north east in the centre.
- Cap columbarium walls with appropriate moulding to link new structure with formal Victorian character of graves immediately surrounding.
- Replace the smallest, most recently planted tree with an advanced *Photinia robusta* to balance the tree planting between the niche walls.

6.2.8 Floral and Other Tributes

Description:

Historic graves have floral tributes contained in specific areas including marble block vases or at the foot of graves. A new trend is to use substantial amounts of floral tributes, often artificial flowers, windmills and other decorative elements.

Recommendations:

- Introduce a limit on the size of floral tributes within the historic grave area and a reasonable limit to floral tributes in other areas of the cemetery from a short period after initial burial.

6.3 Historic Graves and Monuments

6.3.1 Ground Level

Description: In many areas, particularly in the historic core, the ground level has slowly built up around each grave, covering significant elements including kerbing, brick edging and cast iron feet to railings.

Recommendations:

- Lower ground level wherever possible and re-expose the surroundings or railing feet which can then be repaired appropriately (see below).
- Ensure that run off and drainage does not erode the areas around graves once the ground level has been lowered.
- Ensure any new surface to paths has effective drainage or is at a lower level than the base of existing graves. Any works to paths should reinforce the original ground level.

6.3.2 Headstones

Description: The headstones within the cemetery are a range of forms and materials, mostly marble.

Recommendations:

- Clean each headstone as required, remembering not to remove too much of the patina which may damage the surface of the stone.
- Repair all damaged or broken headstones using appropriate methods as set out in the conservation section below.
- Investigate those headstones already repaired to determine if previous methods of repair can be reversed and more appropriate methods used.
- Re-set lead lettering in headstones
- Do not reinscribe inscriptions, rather copy what is there and make a note of this on a separate tablet within the grave surrounds.

6.3.3 Iron work

Description: Currently much of the iron railing and fencing in Willaston Cemetery is painted grey. This paint was also used on the entrance gates.

Recommendations:

- Ironwork in the cemetery needs protection against corrosion, and in most cases a routine application of fish oil (Wattyl Killrust Fishoilene) or other metal preservative will inhibit further rust. The railings should be gently brushed back with a bristle brush to remove loose, flaking iron scales prior to the application of any preservative surface. This work should be undertaken in dry weather.
- The grave surrounds that are currently unpainted should be treated with rust proofing and left unpainted. Some grave surrounds which are currently painted black should be kept black. Any grave surrounds which are to be repainted should be done in black satin enamel paint, use a primer coat that is two part epoxy and a top coat of satin black in a two part epoxy.
- An iron railing or fence should only be disassembled if the blocks on which it stands require replacement. Loose sections of fence can be strengthened by tying with soft galvanised wire.
- Grave fence feet should be retained and repaired if possible or replaced with matching feet where necessary and possible.
- Clean paint off entrance gates, rust proof, cut back any severely rusted areas and re-fill with appropriate epoxy filler, and then paint in black satin enamel paint.

6.3.4 New Monumentation/Memorialisation

Description: Many of the graves in the early historic core have had new interments and new memorialisations on the existing headstones. Additional interments can and will occur in family plots, but new memorialisation of the grave should be through carefully considered.

Recommendations:

- additional inscription on the existing monument separate from and below the original (or possibly on another face of the monument) or by the use of a separate new tablet at the base of the existing monument or at the foot of the grave, inside the grave surround.
- The new tablets should be complementary in material to the existing headstone. Attaching metal plaques to old headstones as a way of marking new interments is not recommended.
- New interments in graves which already have monuments or headstones but where the grant has been purchased by a new lessee not related to the original lease holder should be marked by a simple new tablet at the foot of the grave in complementary material.

6.3.5 Grave Tops and Ledgers

Description: Many of the grave tops have broken due to subsidence and ledgers have been dislodged.

Recommendations:

- Fill all subsidence with firm aggregate fill and level tops of graves.
- Replace topping where required and re-lay decorative gravel top.

7.0 FUTURE MANAGEMENT

7.1 New Graves in Historic Areas

Location

It is possible to use unused grave sites for new burials.. Any new graves which are constructed in historic areas must follow the recommendations of the Conservation Policies in Section 6. The following recommendations should be implemented whenever this is to occur:

- New graves in the historic core of Willaston Cemetery should preferably be in previously unused plots. (In 1990, some 56 plots in the historic areas of the cemetery were identified as not ever having been used.)
- Individual lessees of grave plots should be informed of the constraints relating to the installation of new graves in historic areas within Willaston Cemetery.
- New graves which are dug beside existing graves should be excavated with care to ensure that no damage is caused to the structure of the existing grave through subsidence or other movement.

Appearance

Generally, if the following principles are followed, any new graves should not detract from the existing character of the historic areas of the cemetery.

- New headstones should reflect the existing character of the area in which they will be located. Elements to consider are form, height, materials, colour, inscriptions and surrounds.
- Generally, they should be of similar form and dimensions to those adjacent or close by. Simple designs are usually the most appropriate forms.
- New headstones should not be higher than the general height of the headstones in the immediate area and definitely not higher than any significant monuments.
- The colour of new headstones should not be darker than those adjacent, and so will be mainly white or grey in areas where there are predominantly marble headstones. Polished granite of various colours may be appropriate in areas of later burials.
- Grave plots can be marked by simple stone kerbing, low fencing, or have no surrounds. Ledgers and grave tops can be used within surrounds. These elements should be traditional in form and materials, and similar to those existing in the immediate area. New high cast metal fencing is not appropriate.

Approval

Approval for the design and location of infill headstones should be the responsibility of the Heritage Advisor

7.2 Reuse of Areas and Grave Sites

The issue of how to approach the reuse of graves and areas within an early cemetery is contentious.

Cleared Areas

The reuse of areas which originally had graves in them should be undertaken carefully so as not to disturb existing human remains. If this occurs there is a large degree of community outcry and Council will be criticised for this action. Careful compacting of human remains in any reused areas should be undertaken and new burials made at a shallower level than the original. Early coffins are usually located six to ten feet (1.83- 3.05 metres) below the ground, current grave burials are allowed at four feet (1.22 metres).

As Town of Gawler has embarked on a process of grave clearance and reuse of areas in Section 1 as lawned cemetery areas, the policy has been developed in Section 6 that this should continue as long as the grave plots are aligned with the historic layout of the cemetery and appropriate pathways which line up with existing pathways in other sections are allowed for.

Specific Grave Sites

The reuse of specific significant grave sites is generally contrary to the conservation of the cultural significance of any historic cemetery. The retention of significant monuments within the cemetery due to their heritage value usually precludes reuse of such grave plots, unless the elements of the original monumentation are retained, and the new interment is discreetly marked.

The following recommendations are made:

- New interment should not occur in grave sites where historic burials have occurred and where these are marked by significant monuments, despite the grant of the grave site having expired.
- Additional interments can and will occur in family plots, but new memorialisation of the grave should be through carefully considered additional inscription on the existing monument or by the use of a separate new tablet at the base of the existing monument or at the foot of the grave, inside the grave surround. The new tablets should be complementary in material to the existing headstone. Attaching metal plaques to old headstones as a way of marking new interments is not recommended.
- New interments in graves which are already memorialised but where the grant has been purchased by a new lessee should be marked by a new tablet at the foot of the grave in complementary material.

- New graves which are dug beside existing graves should be excavated with care to ensure that no damage through subsidence is caused to the structure of the existing grave.

7.3 Opportunities for Expansion

There is limited opportunity to create further grave plots apart from those which are already in existence, and principles governing the reuse of these are given above. However, two possibilities for further plots could be considered which will not unduly detract from the cultural significance of the cemetery.

- There are some opportunities to extend the existing rows of graves. The current diagonal edge roads do not use the full width of the road allowance on the original plan, and graves could be added to the ends of each row. Any new graves in these locations should accord with the principles for new graves in historic sections and should occupy a full grave plot the same size as the original sites.
- Additional grave sites of the traditional dimensions (10x5 feet) can be added to the ends of each row along the main east west road. This will still allow for the recommended avenue planting of *Callitris preissii* and the paving of the eastern half of this road.

7.4 Infrastructure

7.4.1 Roads

Roads should follow the pattern created in the original plan of the cemetery. The paved roads are narrower than the original road space and it is recommended that the available land at the end of each row be considered for extra grave plots (see above), apart from the main east west road, which should retain an unused edge for further avenue planting. The main road surfaces should be paved and intervening laneways and paths should not be paved, but gravel should be used, following the original pattern.

7.4.2 Drainage

Effective drainage across the cemetery is essential to prevent erosion and damage to historic grave sites, and dislocation of existing burials. Drainage gutters and other structures should be discrete and sumps located in areas which do not impinge on historic grave sites.

7.4.3 Landscaping and Furniture

Future management of landscaping should be according to the policies and recommendations established in Section 6 and the Landscaping Development Plan in Section 9. No ad hoc planting should occur and all landscaping should follow a consistent pattern as recommended.

bins, seats, shed, rubbish enclosure

7.5 Maintenance

Maintenance of the cemetery is essential and all maintenance must be undertaken with care to ensure that no damage is done to the historic plan of the cemetery or existing grave sites or landscaping.

- If large earth moving equipment is used, damage will occur to existing grave sites. Smaller units rather than large front end loaders should be utilised for simple tasks such as filling graves. Heavy equipment must not be used in historic areas of the cemetery. All large vehicles should be fitted with balloon tyres.
- Currently earth moving equipment is being driven across the cleared section of the cemetery. All vehicles must stay on the established paths and roads.

7.6 Security

A well cared for cemetery is less likely to attract vandalism and random acts of destruction than one which is in a dilapidated state. An urban cemetery which is well lit at night will deter vandals.

Willaston Cemetery sits within residential area and has a clearly defined fence line which allows viewing of the cemetery.

A 'cemetery watch' system could be established with local residents able to call council staff or police if any vandalism is observed. Local police should be requested to add the cemetery to their patrol program.

7.6.1 Public Safety

Large unstable monuments, or grave sites which have subsided, should be fenced off to ensure that there is no risk to public safety and no one is injured. This is better than dismantling large structures prior to determining the conservation requirements. Recommendations for individual graves are given in Appendix two and Priorities section.

7.6.2 Fire Precautions

As part of the management program for the plantation reserve and reserve areas, they should be kept clear of weeds which might add to the fuel load in dry conditions. Burning off should not be used as a method of weed control.

7.7 Staff Training

The recommendations of this Conservation Plan should be presented to staff who are responsible for planning and management within the cemetery and the outcomes expected from the implementation of this Conservation Plan explained carefully. Some training in the maintenance and repair of historic graves will be required, particularly if Council is intending to assist volunteer groups with information, materials and techniques for conservation work within the cemetery.

Training should be given in:

- Conservation techniques for graves, including filling of subsided graves and repairing stone headstones
- Cleaning techniques for headstones, particular biological growth (lichen)
- Weed control in cemetery particularly in and around grave sites
- **Recognition of indigenous species in natural bushland**
- Weed control techniques in reserve
- Vermin control

7.8 Priorities and Staging

It is recommended that the following priorities be addressed in the implementation of the recommendations of this Conservation Management Plan:

Infrastructure works

- Paths and drainage.
- Installation of irrigation system for the central circle.
- Design, manufacture and installation of information sign at entrance.

Conservation

- Preparation of program of work for significant areas, specifically the historic core of the cemetery.
- Immediate conservation of the graves identified as requiring filling or major headstone repairs. (Refer Volume Two – Significant Graves)

Landscape

- Pre-order Sugar Gums, to plant as soon as possible, depending on budget, season and availability.
- Program for comprehensive checking of existing Sugar Gums and create a program of maintenance and monitoring.
- Program the upgrading of planting and landscaping to central area. Plant in pairs if staging sections, to retain symmetry of design.

Information and Interpretation

- Preparation of manuals or information sheets for native vegetation management and for grave site care for volunteers and lessee/family information and guidance.
- Schedule training sessions for staff

Friends Groups/Volunteers

Trees For Life and volunteers trained and supported under its Bush For Life program are a notable partnership with the Town of Gawler has been helping manage the remnant native vegetation in Willaston Cemetery since 1997.

Other recommendations to be implemented as appropriate. A staged program which takes into account the resources of both Council and volunteers, and appropriate time frames and seasonal conditions should be drawn up.

8.0 INTERPRETATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

8.1 Methods of Interpretation

Cemeteries are extremely significant sites within any community and the Gawler community has indicated that they recognise the value of the Willaston Cemetery. Therefore, visitors to the cemetery also require some guidance and information on the importance of graves at their location. The cultural value of the cemetery should be available for visitors to appreciate. There are a range of recommended methods of interpretation. The most straightforward of these are:

- Grave marking with signs
- Large permanent map at entrance with marked graves annotated
- Printed leaflet with annotated map and information on significant graves and areas
- Educational units on cemetery for use in local schools

8.1.1 Signage and directions

Historical markers increase public awareness of individual or institutional associations with the cemetery. Some cemeteries do not require signs, but visitors to Willaston Cemetery will benefit from some help in finding significant areas and graves. The plan of the cemetery is currently displayed at the entrance. The plan of the cemetery is straightforward and regular and it is easy to determine the location of each Block. It is considered that markers at grave plots will assist in identifying the significant burials in each Block, and will assist in locating significant unmarked burials.

The design of such markers needs to be carefully considered so that the signs themselves are useful, but do not compromise the historic and aesthetic qualities of the graves and the cemetery as a whole. A system of small, discreetly located signs or numbers is best, but of course these should be legible.

The following markers could be considered. Often some design advice is valuable at the outset if marker signs are being considered, as a logo for the cemetery should also be developed.

Other Information for visitors

A well designed easily followed pamphlet or annotated map of the cemetery may reduce the need for a large number of signs or markers. Pamphlets should be available at Council and the information centre. . However, pamphlets can cause litter. The large-scale map of the Cemetery at the entrance may suffice.

8.2 Educational Units for Use in Local Schools

Council should consider raising the awareness of the value local of the cemetery by offering teachers suggestions for teaching units based on the cemetery. These could be based on community history, including the role of the foundries in the development of the area, the occupations of various significant local identities buried in the cemetery, examples of infant mortality, local epidemics or catastrophic events. Also, headstone designs, for instance, could be used as the basis for an Art study unit which could be integrated with English creative writing ,social studies or history units. Gawler library staff could also assist with information and further sources for these study units

8.3 Friends Groups/Volunteers

Any cemetery needs friends. Historic cemeteries can become an integral part of the community. Awareness and education are among the best ways to guarantee the conservation of a cemetery and are a valuable security strategy

Willaston Cemetery is fortunate in having members of community organisations who are involved in both the historic and the environmental aspects of the place. (National Trust and GEHA)

These groups need to be actively supported and guided by Town of Gawler, as the authority responsible for the management of Willaston Cemetery. Further assistance with materials, equipment, funding or even manpower for heavy work should be available when the recommendations of this report are being implemented by these community groups. Council should also provide training days or workshops to establish correct procedures for Friends groups to follow in their activities in the Willaston Cemetery.

Friends groups can develop a pro-active program which will bring the value of the cemetery to the notice of their community. Some suggestions are:

- Allocate members responsibility for care and maintenance of specific graves or areas.
- Stage periodic clean up or maintenance days with specific tasks based on the recommendations of these guidelines or a Conservation Management Plan.
- Run short regular articles in the local newspaper about the lives of individuals or families buried in the cemetery
- Assist teachers in implementing study units based on the cemetery

9.1 Indicative Plan of Landscape Works for Cemetery



10.0 CONSERVATION GUIDELINES

10.1.1 Conservation Actions

Conservation of monumental masonry and graves within a cemetery is dependent on a range of issues including the materials of the monument, its current condition, the context and setting of the monument and general requirements for cleaning and repairs.

Conservation can be a range of actions from stabilisation through to complete repair. Once a headstone or other cemetery element is damaged, repair should take place as soon as possible to prevent further deterioration. Wherever possible, existing materials and traditional methods of construction should be used. Only badly damaged elements should be replaced with new materials.

For the Willaston Cemetery, conservation and maintenance recommendations have been prepared for individual significant graves as well as these general guidelines for conservation works. These individual recommendations form Volume Two of this report.

10.1.2 Personnel Experience

Conservation work for monuments and graves varies in complexity and will often require the input of an experienced tradesperson or mason. However, basic maintenance and repairs can be carried out by volunteers working carefully to sensible instructions (refer to 'What to Do First'), with the aim of retaining original materials and appearance.

10.1.3 Removal of elements

Many elements are often removed from graves, usually because of deterioration or in the interests of 'tidiness'. All elements of a grave are significant and none should be removed. This includes headstones, footstones, fences and railings and any other original elements such as vases or flower holders.

10.1.4 Staging of Works

It is recommended that a staged program of general maintenance for existing graves, based on the assessments provided as part of a survey of the cemetery be developed and implemented as time, money and labour are available. This will be particularly useful if volunteer labour is involved, as tasks can be assigned as willing workers become available.

Information on the requirements of the graves and methods of care and maintenance could also be passed on to families who regularly tend their graves currently.

In the short term, the approach recommended for initial works in the adjacent table should be undertaken:

10.2 CONSERVATION AND REPAIR OF ELEMENTS

Headstones

Cleaning of headstones. Stone headstones, particularly white marble ones, are often discoloured by dust and soil or have biological growth on them. Where the fungi, lichen, moss or mould does not obscure information, this will generally cause little damage and cleaning may not be necessary. The decision to clean stones must be based on the necessary care of the headstone. If headstones are carefully cleaned, the appearance should not be 'like new'. No headstone which is particularly brittle or fragile should be cleaned. (see 'Cleaning headstones and Monuments')

The process should involve brushing with a soft bristle brush to remove loose, dry material, and then generous wetting with clean water and scrubbing with a soft bristle brush. No wire brushes or metal tools should be used. Cleaning should start from the base up to avoid streaking. Household bleach should not be used to whiten marble or remove moss and lichen, and other acidic or corrosive chemical cleaners should be avoided. Ph neutral soap may be useful in some cases, but tests should always be undertaken first. If the headstone is covered in lichen or moss which is causing deterioration of the stone and cannot be removed by brushing, an appropriate biocide can be used. It is important to test any cleaning process on a small, hidden portion of the stone first. Do **not** sandblast or pressure clean a gravestone.

Leaning and falling monuments. Headstones or other monuments on graves often show some degree of tilting or leaning. This is not a problem unless the stone is in danger of falling due to its own weight, or the angle of leaning invites vandals to assist it to fall. It is appropriate to leave headstones which are only tilting marginally. The cause of tilting includes root growth, collapse of underground structures, variations in soils or clays, or inadequate drainage. If straightening is required, a secure base should be created using compacted fill of firmly tamped soil, sand and gravel which will enable adequate drainage. In all cases it is essential that the ground surface be adjusted to slope away from the monument. Headstones should be monitored to determine whether they require support if they are tilting to an increased degree.

The same approach should be used to straighten headstones still firmly set in sandstone plinths. Any repairs to sandstone plinths should be carefully undertaken in a lime mortar (one part lime putty to two parts fine matching sand). The sand in the mortar should match the stone in grain size and colour as closely as possible.

Disassembled monuments (not broken). Monuments which have been knocked or fallen but not broken should be reassembled carefully and made stable. This may require dowels or carefully sited adhesives of appropriate composition. Ensure the base or plinth is stable before resetting stones and other elements.

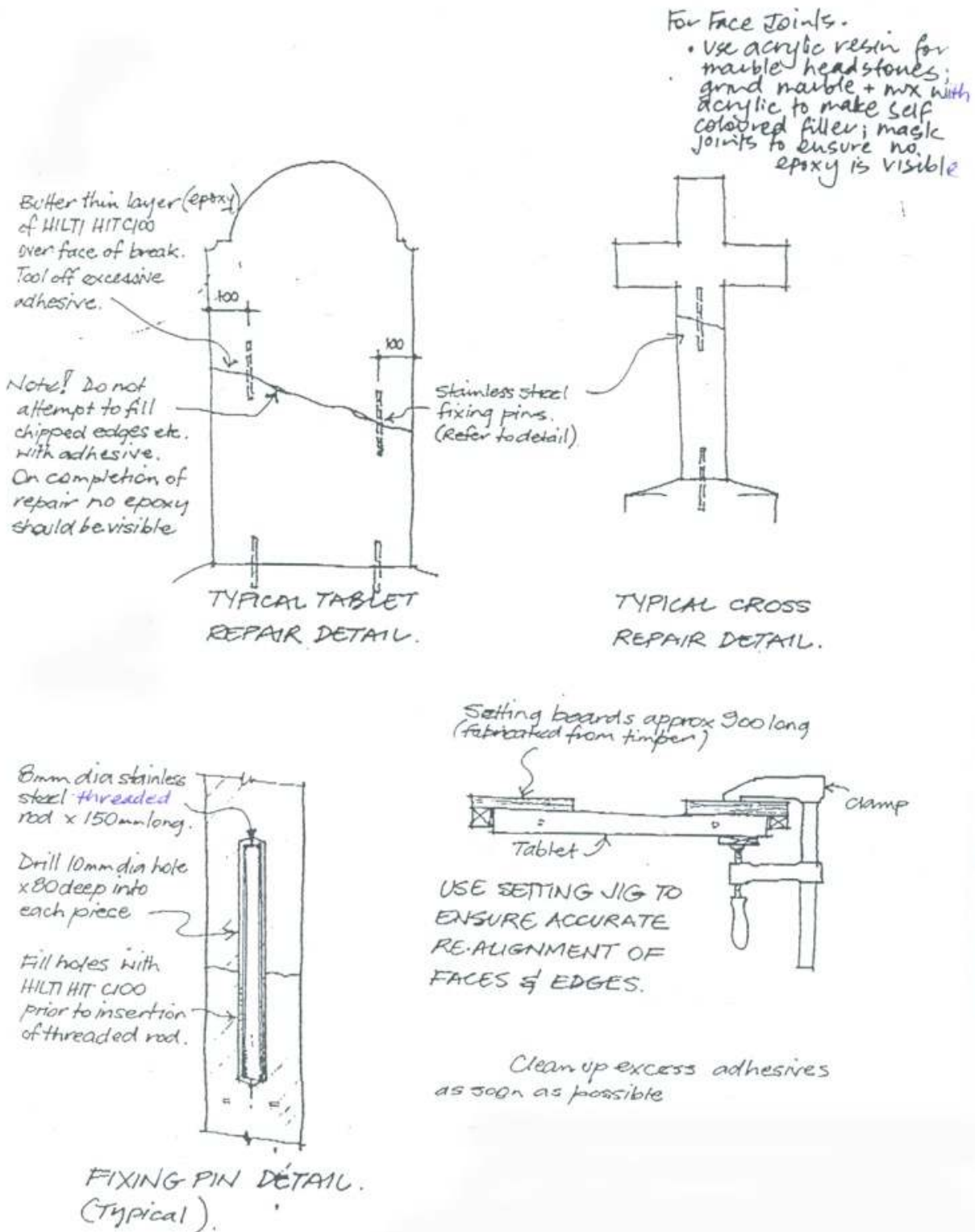
Broken Monuments or Headstones. If headstones, or monuments such as crosses, have broken above their base or plinth, these should be repaired using stainless steel or nonferrous dowels and pins. Adhesives should be used to hold the sections and dowels in place. Epoxy resins pre-mixed with fillers are most effective. This type of work should be done by an experienced conservator or mason. [See also Bob Terrett's notes]

Alternatively, the headstone can be repaired using a back plate, smaller than the headstone but of the same material and thickness. This can be either adhered with an acrylic or epoxy glue, or fixed with bronze or stainless steel pins, making sure the pins are shorter than the thickness of the two pieces to be joined. [Bob's illustration] Other methods include attaching a metal strip on the back.

If the repaired headstone has no base and can not be re-erected, it should be laid, but not stuck, on an appropriate sloping concrete bed constructed in the grave top. It is important to keep it in the correct plot.

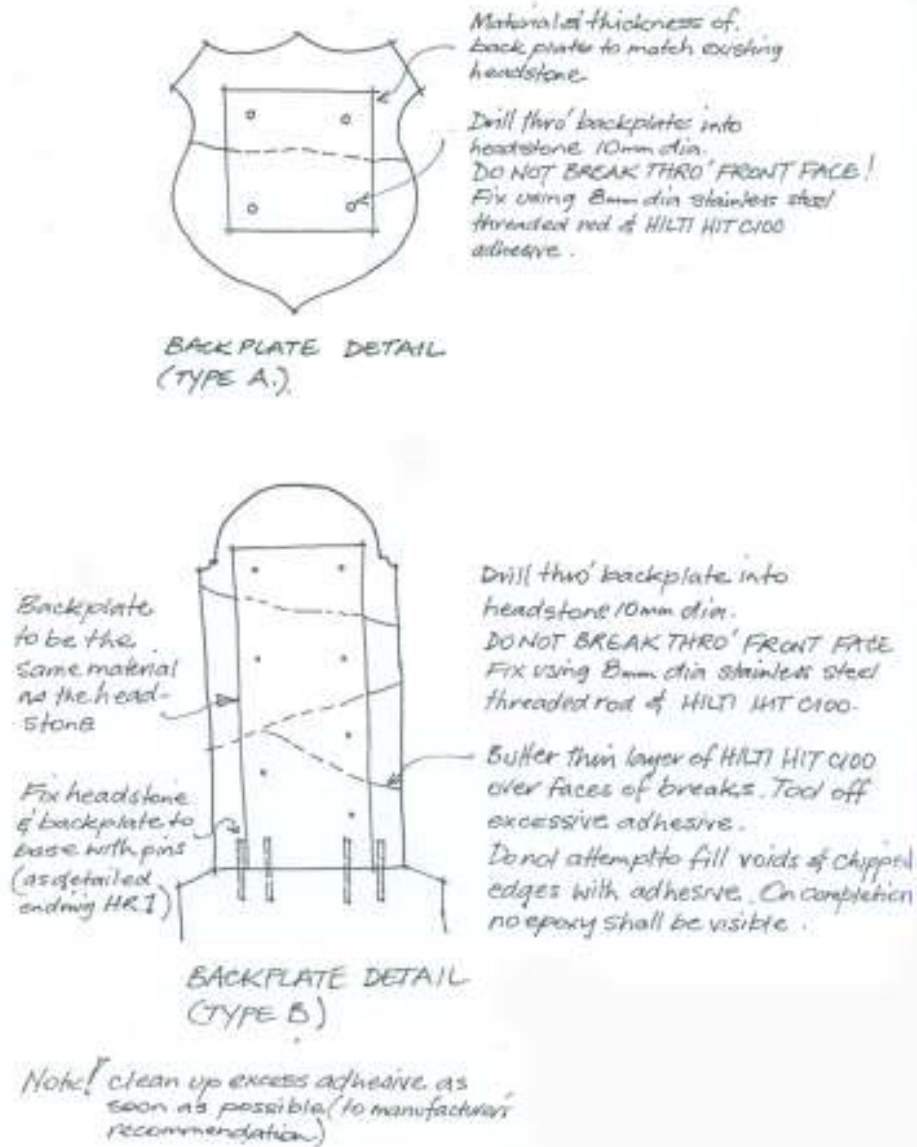
Cracking masonry. Masonry will crack due to pressure from misalignment or expanding metal dowels or fixings. Straighten the masonry element or remove rusting metal and replace with new fixings isolated from stone work by lead lining or fillers. Ensure any water run-off is directed away from the connection points of stone and metal fixings.

Spalling, fretting and delamination of stone monuments. This type of deterioration is almost always caused by rising damp or accumulation of corrosive salts or rainwater. Drainage and run-off must be improved and flaking stone removed or, where advisable, re-adhered with acrylic resin or stone consolidant.



Appropriate Methods of Repair of Marble Headstones

(Source: DAIS Heritage Unit)



Appropriate Methods of Repair of Marble Headstones

(Source: DAIS Heritage Unit)

10.3 Plinths and kerbing

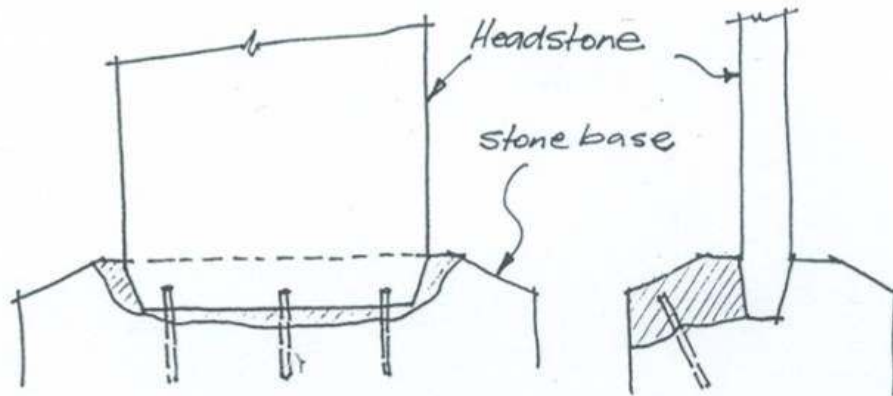
Cracked or broken plinths. Broken plinths may also be dowelled together or repaired with lime mortar, following the procedure recommended for headstones.

Replacing Plinths. It is possible to replace badly damaged and deteriorated plinths with appropriately cast concrete plinths and reset headstones into them, ensuring separation of the stone from the concrete by the use of fillers. This will ensure the salts in the cement do not damage the stone.

Movement of kerbing Any sandstone, slate or marble kerbing which exists should be carefully straightened if required, and it should be ensured that the ground level is sufficiently low as to not cause pressure on the kerbing or the blocks which hold it. A mixture of sand, gravel and soil can be used to create a secure base under areas of kerbing and surrounds which have moved out of original alignment.

Any simple, clean cracks in the masonry kerbing should be repaired with a lime mortar of one part lime putty to two parts fine washed sand.

Cast iron kerbing should be treated with a rust inhibitor such as Watty! Killrust Fishoilene, in the same way that cast and wrought iron grave surrounds are treated.



Repair base as follows :

- if broken-off piece is available, pin back as shown.
- if broken-off piece is missing, scabble exposed face, insert pins and build up using concrete to match original profile.
- Pin details to be as drawn on drawing HR.1.

Note! Clean up excess adhesive as soon as possible (to manufacturer's recommendation).

Method of Repair for Broken Plinth

(Source: DAIS Heritage Unit)

10.4 Inscriptions

Carved inscriptions should be generally brushed back and cleaned, re-blackening could be undertaken if required, using lamp black and linseed oil. Recarving of inscriptions is not generally recommended, however, if the original inscription is illegible, re-inscription could be undertaken by a monumental letter cutter. The work should be guided by a clear and detailed photograph taken, if possible, well before the work becomes necessary. It is also necessary to add a footnote or inconspicuous plaque which notes the fact that re-inscription of the original has taken place, and the year noted. Alternatively a plaque fixed to an inconspicuous part of the grave site can note the original inscription which had been transcribed.

Loss of lead lettering Any lead letters which have fallen out of the headstone can often be found close by on the ground. These should be retained and carefully replaced in the appropriate position. Replacement of missing lead lettering with new letters requires expert assistance, and may not be necessary if the inscription can still be clearly read.

Fretting of inscriptions on stone monuments This is due to natural weathering or rising damp. Ensure that all sources of moisture penetration are reduced or removed completely. Record any deteriorated inscriptions before they are lost entirely.

Adding new lettering No new lettering should be added to original inscriptions. Any new inscriptions for new interment in family graves should be separated from the original and clearly marked as new with a current date.

10.5 Grave surrounds

An iron railing or fence should only be disassembled if the blocks on which it stands require replacement. Loose sections can be strengthened by neatly tying with soft galvanised wire.

Rusting of cast and wrought iron memorials and grave surrounds Many railings and fences around nineteenth and early twentieth century graves are constructed in cast iron or wrought iron, often unpainted. This ironwork needs protection against corrosion, and in most cases a routine application of fish oil (Wattyl Killrust Fishoilene) or other metal preservative will inhibit further rust. The railings should be gently brushed back with a bristle brush to remove loose, flaking iron scales prior to the application of any preservative surface. This process should be undertaken in dry warm weather. It is not recommended that the grave surrounds be painted if they are currently unpainted.

Broken cast iron railing It is possible but complex to recast broken sections of cast iron railings and expert advice should be sought if this is required.

10.6 Grave floors and ledger slabs

Concrete and aggregate floors Often early graves are covered with concrete slabs, creating a floor which is often covered in gravel or aggregate. Occasionally the concrete floors are tiled, usually with plain white tiles. Concrete floors often fracture and frequently cave in due to subsidence below. Where possible pieces of the concrete floor should be raised to level by packing earth or gravel beneath. This means they can be retained in situ and not replaced. However, if the floor is badly broken, it will need to be replaced and the new floor should be at the same level as the original. Once all elements of the grave topping or tiling have been removed, the grave should be filled with earth and compacted gently. A new

level floor of 40-50mm depth of concrete should be installed with an allowance for expansion around the edges if kerbing is in place. All elements of the existing grave including kerbing and headstones should be protected during the reinstatement or replacement of the concrete floor. Ensure that the new concrete floor drains appropriately and water does not collect on the grave top. Low alkali type cement should be used for the concrete. Once the top has cured the aggregate toppings or tiling should be replaced.

Tile repairs Repairing tiled grave tops or ledgers is difficult and should be undertaken with care. Accurate matching should be the aim, but this may be difficult. Each case will need to be assessed on its merits and specialist advice should be sought if necessary.

Grave Floor/Topping Where grave floors have subsided or broken, the grave itself should be filled with compacted material (gravel and filling) and used to support the sections of the grave top which remain. If a new grave top must be laid, this should be undertaken very carefully after filling of the grave site. The fill which is used to even up the surface must not allow water to pond beneath the surface and the existing surface should be reshaped to enable water to drain away. The appropriate topping, usually white or grey gravel, should be reused. If there is evidence of other topping, this should be matched. Extra topping can be added to level off grave floors which have sagged a little.

Drainage holes through the kerbing or grave surrounds should be cleared and made workable.

Ledger Slabs Ledger slabs sit on top of grave toppings, often resting on the kerbing. If these have moved and are in one piece, they can be gently lifted and replaced in the correct position. Kerbing may need to be reinstated to its original levels to support ledger slabs securely. It is recommended that any packing should be solid and inert. Timber is not appropriate as it swells and shrinks with moisture changes.

10.7 Repointing of joints

All pointing of joints in the monument must also be made sound to prevent water penetration. Any jointing should be as fine as possible and match any existing on the grave or one similar in materials and design. An appropriate mortar mix for repointing is a relatively dry mortar mix of 1 part slaked lime putty : 2 parts fine washed sand. All mortar for fine stonework or rubble stonework should match the existing wherever possible in colour and texture. When any repointing is done all excess mortar should be immediately removed from the face of the stonework.

10.8 Painting and protective coatings

No protective coatings should be used on old stone or masonry. If any original paint is evident this should not be removed with cleaning as this is evidence of original finishes. To retain the early character of an historic cemetery it is probably better not to repaint any sections including old iron work, rather it should be conserved as recommended in the section under metals in these guidelines.

10.8 Removal of graffiti

Graffiti should be removed as soon as possible, both to discourage further graffiti and to minimise damage to headstones and other historic materials. Graffiti removal is technically complex and should be undertaken by skilled persons using appropriate techniques and

materials. Generally, solvents can cause inks and dyes to spread further into porous stonework, while poultices draw the staining material out. Occupational Health and Safety requirements must be met when working with toxic chemicals.

10.9 Drainage and water run-off

Graves can be easily undermined by erosion. Drainage away from grave sites and bases of monuments is essential to prevent any water damage. Roadways and paths must not be built up above the original ground level without specific drainage systems to carry the water away from the base of graves.

WHAT TO DO FIRST

Basic maintenance and initial conservation measures

There are some basic tasks that can be done to ensure that no further deterioration occurs and will keep things in place until more complicated works can be arranged, if necessary.

Location and collection of fragments. Pieces of any damaged headstone or part of a monument such as lettering, tiles and other fragments should be collected together and kept temporarily at the relevant gravesite until appropriate repairs can be done. If there is any risk of further damage on site, the fragments should be securely stored, clearly labelled and their location identified, for later reinstatement.

Temporary placement of broken monuments. Broken pieces of headstones should be collected and laid on the grave with the inscription upwards. These pieces should be set on a sloping bed of coarse aggregate to allow water run-off, and also allow the inscription to be read by visitors. More permanent conservation should be carried out as soon as possible.

Basic weeding. Weeds and invasive vegetation should be removed carefully by hand, poisoned with a herbicide which does not damage stonework, carefully trimmed or mowed or a combination of these methods. Any specifically planted grave plants, such as bulbs or roses, should be carefully protected and retained.

Excavation to expose plinths or kerbs. Any soil or debris which has built up around the base of the grave or its surrounds should be carefully removed, using hand tools, to reduce sources of damp and deterioration. Ground levels should slope gently away from the base of graves. Check any removed soil for grave fragments such as lead lettering.

Chocking beneath unsupported plinths and kerbs. The gaps beneath unsupported masonry of headstones and grave surrounds should be chocked with coarse stone and gravel bound with a stiff mortar made from low alkali cement. This will provide some resistance to further erosion, until major conservation works can be done if necessary.

Filling to counteract erosion. If erosion has occurred the ground surface should be built up with an outward sloping surface to direct water run-off away from the base of graves and prevent further erosion and undercutting.

**These notes are based on recommendations made by David Young,
Heritage Consultant and Conservation Scientist, for conservation at
West Terrace Cemetery in 1997**

CLEANING HEADSTONES AND MONUMENTS

It is possible to remove some long term dirt and organic growth on headstones if it is damaging the stone or inscriptions. Remember, though, that old headstones do not have to be shiny and new looking after cleaning. They should retain some evidence of their age and character. The following approach is considered the best:

- Carefully check the condition of the headstone or monument. If the stone is cracking, flaking or scaling, or has a grainy surface, do not attempt to clean it. If it is subject to rising damp and sounds hollow when tapped, it should not be cleaned and should be treated carefully.
- Decide what the soiling is that you want to remove. The usual causes are:
 - dirt, dust and grime from urban pollution
 - soot or smoke staining
 - organic growth (algae, fungi, lichens, mosses)
 - other stains from metals, oils or other materials
 - efflorescence from soluble salts in the stone
- Start any cleaning by using the most gentle method, soaking the headstone with clean water to soften the dirt and grime. Continue rinsing with clean water and gently brush with a soft bristle brush (natural or nylon bristles) using a circular motion. Organic growth can be gently pried off with wooden skewers or an icy pole stick. Do not use metal scrapers.
- Always start at the bottom and clean upwards to avoid any streaking or staining downwards. Rinse regularly while cleaning and keep brushes clean.
- If after patient work this does not move the soiling sufficiently, choose an appropriate material to assist with the cleaning. Start with a non-ionic detergent like Kodak Photo-Flo (from Photographic suppliers). Note that this not ordinary soap or detergent which will leave a residue on the stone.
- Finally rinse thoroughly with clean water to remove all residue which might cause blotches or further staining. Cleaning solutions must not dry on a monument.
- If you need to use stronger cleaning methods get some expert advice on other tools and materials for cleaning grave monuments.
- Test before you apply any cleaning materials. Do this in an inconspicuous small area on the headstone. Always thoroughly wet the monument with water before applying any chemical cleaning solutions. This prevents excessive penetration into the stone and softens the stains or soiling.
- Make sure you use the most effective cleaning method for each case. One method won't solve all problems, and could damage stonework further.
- Remember, if you are in any doubt, get some expert assistance.

APPENDIX ONE - SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Historic photos

No historic have yet been located

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APPENDIX TWO - BURRA CHARTER

THE AUSTRALIA ICOMOS CHARTER FOR THE CONSERVATION OF PLACES OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (THE BURRA CHARTER)

This revised Charter was adopted on 26 November 1999

Preamble

Considering the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (Venice 1964), and the Resolutions of 5th General Assembly of ICOMOS (Moscow 1978), the following Charter has been adopted by Australia ICOMOS (the Australian National Committee of ICOMOS) on 19 August 1979 at Burra, South Australia. Revisions were adopted on 23 February 1981, 23 April 1988 and 29 November 1999.

The Burra Charter provides guidance for the conservation and management of places of cultural significance (cultural heritage places), and is based on the knowledge and experience of Australia ICOMOS members.

Conservation is an integral part of the management of places of cultural significance and is an ongoing responsibility.

Definitions

Article 1. For the purpose of this Charter:

- 1.1** *Place* means site, area, land, landscape, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, and may include

components, contents, spaces and views.

- 1.2** *Cultural significance* means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations.

Cultural significance is embodied in the *place* itself, its *setting*, *use*, *associations*, *meanings*, records, *related places* and *related objects*.

Places may have a range of values for individuals or groups.

- 1.3** *Fabric* means all the physical material of the *place* including components, fixtures, contents and objects.

- 1.4** *Conservation* means all the processes of looking after a *place* so as to retain its *cultural significance*.

- 1.5** *Maintenance* means the continuous protective care of the *fabric* and *setting* of a *place*, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves *restoration* or *reconstruction*.

- 1.6** *Preservation* means maintaining the *fabric* of a *place* in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

- 1.7** *Restoration* means returning the existing *fabric* of a *place* to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

- 1.8** *Reconstruction* means returning a *place* to a known early state and is distinguished from *restoration* by the introduction of new material into the *fabric*.

- 1.9** *Adaptation* means modifying a place to suit the existing *use* or a proposed use.

- 1.10** *Use* means the functions of a place, as well as the activities and practices that may occur at the place.

- 1.11** *Compatible use* means a *use* which respects the *cultural significance* of a *place*. Such a use involves no, or minimal, impact on cultural significance.

- 1.12** *Setting* means the area around a *place*, which may include the visual catchment.

- 1.13** *Related place* means a *place* that contributes to the *cultural significance* of another place.
- 1.14** *Related object* means an object that contributes to the *cultural significance* of a *place* but is not at the place.
- 1.15** *Associations* mean the special connections that exist between people and a *place*.
- 1.16** *Meanings* denote what a *place* signifies, indicates, evokes or expresses.
- 1.17** *Interpretation* means all the ways of presenting the *cultural significance* of a *place*

Conservation Principles

Article 2. Conservation and management

- 2.1** *Places of cultural significance* should be conserved.
- 2.2** The aim of *conservation* is to retain the *cultural significance* of a *place*.
- 2.3** *Conservation* is an integral part of good management of *places of cultural significance*.
- 2.4** *Places of cultural significance* should be safeguarded and not put at risk or left in a vulnerable state.

Article 3. Cautious approach

- 3.1** *Conservation* is based on a respect for the existing *fabric*, *use associations* and *meanings*. It requires a cautious approach of changing as much as necessary but as little as possible.
- 3.2** Changes to a *place* should not distort the physical or other evidence it provides, nor be based on conjecture.

Article 4. Knowledge, skills and techniques

- 4.1** *Conservation* should make use of all the knowledge, skills and disciplines which can contribute to the study and care of the *place*.
- 4.2** Traditional techniques and materials are preferred for the *conservation* of significant *fabric*. In some circumstances modern techniques and

materials which offer substantial conservation benefits may be appropriate.

Article 5. Values

- 5.1** *Conservation* of a *place* should identify and take into consideration all aspects of cultural and natural significance without unwarranted emphasis on any one value at the expense of others.
- 5.2** Relative degrees of *cultural significance* may lead to different *conservation* actions at a place.

Article 6. Burra Charter Process

- 6.1** The *cultural significance* of a *place* and other issues affecting its future are best understood by a sequence of collecting and analysing information before making decisions. Understanding cultural significance comes first, then development of policy and finally management of the place in accordance with the policy.
- 6.2** The policy for managing a *place* must be based on an understanding of its *cultural significance*.
- 6.3** Policy development should also include consideration of other factors affecting the future of a *place* such as the owner's needs, resources, external constraints and its physical condition.

Article 7. Use

- 7.1** Where the *use* of a *place* is of *cultural significance* it should be retained
- 7.2** A *place* should have a *compatible use*.

Article 8. Setting

Conservation requires the appropriate visual *setting* and other relationships that contribute to the *cultural significance* of the *place*.

New construction, demolition, intrusions or other changes which would adversely affect the setting or relationships are not appropriate.

Article 9. Location

- 9.1** The physical location of a *place* is part of its *cultural significance*. A building, work or other component of a place should remain in its historical location.

Relocation is generally unacceptable unless this is the sole practical means of ensuring its survival.

- 9.2** Some buildings, works or other components of *places* were designed to be readily removable or already have a history of relocation. Provided such buildings, works or other components do not have significant links with their present location, removal may be appropriate.
- 9.3** If any building, work or other component is moved, it should be moved to an appropriate location and given an appropriate use. Such action should not be to the detriment of any *place* of *cultural significance*.

Article 10. Contents

Contents, fixtures and objects which contribute to the *cultural significance* of a *place* should be retained at that place. Their removal is unacceptable unless it is: the sole means of ensuring their security and *preservation*; on a **Conservation Processes**

Article 14. Conservation processes

Conservation may, according to circumstance, include the processes of: retention or reintroduction of a *use*; retention of *associations* and *meanings*; *maintenance*, *preservation*, *restoration*, *reconstruction*, *adaptation* and *interpretation*; and will commonly include a combination of more than one of these.

Article 15. Change

- 15.1** Change may be necessary to retain *cultural significance*, but is undesirable where it reduces cultural significance. The amount of change to a *place* should be guided by the cultural significance of the place and its appropriate *interpretation*.
- 15.2** Changes which reduce *cultural significance* should be reversible, and be reversed when circumstances permit.
- 15.3** Demolition of significant *fabric* of a *place* is generally not acceptable. However, in some cases minor demolition may be appropriate as part of *conservation*.

temporary basis for treatment or exhibition; for cultural reasons; for health and safety; or to protect the place. Such contents, fixtures and objects should be returned where circumstances permit and it is culturally appropriate.

Article 11. Related places and objects

The contribution which *related places* and *related objects* make to the *cultural significance* of the *place* should be retained.

Article 12. Participation

Conservation, *interpretation* and management of a *place* should provide for the participation of people for whom the place has special *associations* and *meanings*, or who have social, spiritual or other cultural responsibilities for the place.

Article 13. Co-existence of cultural values

Co-existence of cultural values should be recognised, respected and encouraged, especially in cases where they conflict.

Removed significant fabric should be reinstated when circumstances permit.

- 15.4** The contributions of all aspects of *cultural significance* of a *place* should be respected. If a place includes *fabric*, *uses*, *associations* or *meanings* of different periods, or different aspects of cultural significance, emphasising or interpreting one period or aspect at the expense of another can only be justified when what is left out, removed or diminished is of slight cultural significance and that which is emphasised or interpreted is of much greater cultural significance.

Article 16. Maintenance

Maintenance is fundamental to *conservation* and should be undertaken where *fabric* is of *cultural significance* and its maintenance is necessary to retain that *cultural significance*.

Article 17. Preservation

Preservation is appropriate where the existing *fabric* or its condition constitutes evidence of *cultural significance*, or where insufficient

evidence is available to allow other *conservation* processes to be carried out.

Article 18. Restoration and reconstruction

Restoration and *reconstruction* should reveal culturally significant aspects of the *place*.

Article 19. Restoration

Restoration is appropriate only if there is sufficient evidence of an earlier state of the fabric.

Article 20. Reconstruction

20.1 *Reconstruction* is appropriate only where a *place* is incomplete through damage or alteration, and only where there is sufficient evidence to reproduce an earlier state of the *fabric*. In rare cases, reconstruction may also be appropriate as part of a *use* or practice that retains the *cultural significance* of the place.

20.2 *Reconstruction* should be identifiable on close inspection or through additional interpretation.

Article 21. Adaptation

21.1 *Adaptation* is acceptable only where the adaptation has minimal impact on the *cultural significance* of the place.

21.2 *Adaptation* should involve minimal change to significant fabric, achieved only after considering alternatives.

Article 22. New work

22.1 New work such as additions to the *place* may be acceptable where it does not distort or obscure the *cultural significance* of the place, or detract from its *interpretation* and appreciation.

22.2 New work should be readily identifiable as such.

Article 23. Conserving use

Continuing, modifying or reinstating a significant *use* may be appropriate and preferred forms of *conservation*.

Article 24. Retaining associations and meanings

24.1 Significant *associations* between people and a *place* should be respected, retained and not obscured.

Opportunities for the *interpretation*, commemoration and celebration of these associations should be investigated and implemented.

24.2 Significant *meanings*, including spiritual values, of a *place* to people should be respected. Opportunities for the continuation or revival of these meanings should be investigated and implemented.

Article 25. Interpretation

The *cultural significance* of many *places* is not readily apparent, and should be explained by *interpretation*. Interpretation should enhance understanding and enjoyment, and be culturally appropriate.

Conservation Practice

Article 26. Applying the Burra Charter process

26.1 Work on a *place* should be preceded by studies to understand the place which should include analysis of physical, documentary, oral and other evidence, drawing on appropriate knowledge, skills and disciplines.

26.2 Written statements of *cultural significance* and policy for the *place* should be prepared, justified, and accompanied by supporting evidence. The statements of significance and policy should be incorporated into a management plan for the place.

26.3 Groups and individuals with *associations* with a *place* as well as those involved in its management should be provided with opportunities to contribute to and participate in understanding the *cultural significance* of the place. Where appropriate they should also have opportunities to participate in its *conservation* and management.

Article 27. Managing change

27.1 The impact of proposed changes on the *cultural significance* of the *place* should be analysed with reference to the policy for managing the place. It may be necessary to modify proposed changes

following analysis to better retain cultural significance.

- 27.2** Existing *fabric* and *use* should be recorded before any changes are made to the *place*.

Article 28. Disturbance of fabric

- 28.1** Disturbance of significant *fabric* for study, or to obtain evidence, should be minimised. Study of a *place* by any disturbance of the fabric, including archaeological excavation, should be undertaken only to provide data essential for decisions on the *conservation* of the place; or to obtain important evidence about to be lost or made inaccessible.

- 28.2** Investigation of a *place* which requires disturbance of the *fabric*, apart from that necessary to make decisions, may be appropriate provided that it is consistent with the policy for the place. Such investigation should be based on important research questions which have potential to substantially add to knowledge, which cannot be answered in other ways and which minimises disturbance of significant fabric.

Article 29. Responsibility for decisions

The organisations and individuals responsible for management decisions should be named and specific responsibility taken for each decision.

Article 30. Direction, supervision & implementation

Competent direction and supervision should be maintained at all stages, and any changes should be implemented by people with appropriate knowledge and skills.

Article 31. Documenting evidence and decisions

A log of new evidence and additional decisions should be kept.

Article 32. Records

- 32.1** The records associated with the *conservation* of a *place* should be placed in a permanent archive and made publicly available, subject to

requirements of security and privacy, and where this is culturally appropriate.

- 32.2** Records about the history of a *place* should be protected and made publicly available, subject to requirements of security and privacy, and where culturally appropriate.

Article 33. Removed fabric

Significant *fabric* which has been removed from a *place* including contents, fixtures and objects, should be catalogued, and protected in accordance with its *cultural significance*.

Where possible and culturally appropriate, removed significant fabric including contents, fixtures and objects, should be kept at the place.

Article 34. Resources

Adequate resources should be provided for *conservation*.

Fees and Documentation

INTERMENT REGISTER

REGISTER

Grant No.

0000

WILLASTON CEMETERY

INTERMENT and INURNMENT GRANT

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that...

John Citizen

Of

89 Murray Street, Gawler SA 5118

has been REGISTERED in the Cemetery Register of Interment and Inurnment Grants as the HOLDER of a Grant, as described hereunder for a term of **99** years, expiring on **13th** day of **March 2083**, subject to the regulations now or at any time or from time to time in force for the General Management of the Cemetery.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Dated at Gawler this 13th March, 1984

DESCRIPTION OF GRANT	
Section	1
Niche Wall	
Row	AB
Site Number	25
Fee Paid	\$.00
Receipt No.	

Authorised Officer

NOTE: This Certificate must be produced whenever ground is to be used for Interments and Inurnments, erection of Monuments, Disposal or Transfer to any person(s) other than Grantee(s) named hereon.

SITE RECORD

	Burial No.	Name	Age	Date of Burial	Depth	
1	766					
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

CONDITIONS RELATING TO BURIAL AND MEMORIAL SITES CONTROLLED BY THE AUTHORITY

1. The Grantee and any other person or persons nominated by the Grantee or his representative shall have exclusive right to the site
2. No burial or placement of cremated remains shall take place until a valid Grant has been produced
3. The rights hereby granted are transferable however, shall not be binding on the Authority until recorded in the Register of Burial Grants
4. During the life of the Grant it may be extended in 1 year increments for a minimum tenure period of 10 years to a maximum tenure period of 50 years
5. Where the Grant tenure has expired, a new Grant may be issued for a minimum tenure period of 50 years subject to the applicant meeting the relevant requirements of the Authority's Burial & Cremation Grants Policy and payment of the prescribed fee
6. No monument decoration work or inscription shall be placed unless permission shall have first been obtained from the Authority.
7. The rights hereby granted are subject to compliance by the grantee with all the rules and regulations established under the relevant Acts and Authority's Operating Policies as varied from time to time.

WILLASTON CEMETERY - SCHEDULE OF FEES (FROM 1/7/2013 – 30/6/2014)

Town of Gawler, Infrastructure & Environmental Services Dept, 23 High Street, cnr Calton Rd, Gawler ph: 8522 9248 fax: 85229292

BURIALS	\$
50 Year Lease Fee <i>per burial site</i>	1080
Stillborn Fee	180
Under 10 Years of Age Fee	540
Grave - Single Capacity	1150
Grave - Double Capacity	1280
Grave - Triple Capacity	1350
Removal of Existing Slab	575
Placing Ashes Under Slab (by Controlling Authority)	385
Placing Ashes Under Slab (by Undertaker)	not permitted
Vault – Permit to construct (<i>approval required prior to construction</i>)	155
Vault – Fee to excavate for installation of vault per 1 cubic metre	460
Vault – Internment (<i>re-opening/sealing of vault by Monumental Mason/Builder</i>)	920

NICHE WALL (Cremation)	\$
50 Year Lease Fee	770
Purchase of Plaque	540
Purchase of Plaque incorporating Omega vase	640
Removal of Plaque and Ashes	230
Specific Niche Wall Site - Extra to Lease Fee	230
Interment Fee for Reserved Niche Wall Site	230

1867 – 1990.....99 Year Lease

1990 >.....50 year Lease

GST included in all fees EXCEPT Memorial Permits

ROSE GARDEN (Cremation)	\$
50 Year Lease Fee - Single	920
50 Year Lease Fee - Double	1280
Purchase of Sloper Memorial with Plaque or Inscription	
• 1 st Placement	770
• 2 nd Placement (includes adjustment of inscription or plaque)	385
Removal of Sloper Memorial and Ashes	230
Specific Rose Garden Site - extra to lease fee	215
Addition of photo on Sloper	POA

LAWN BURIAL	\$
50 Year Lease Fee <i>per burial site</i>	1280
Grave - Single Capacity	1150
Grave - Double Capacity	1280
Grave - Triple Capacity	1350

OTHER (General) FEES	\$
Memorial Permits/Fees - for Monumental Masons (including additional lettering) Note: Permit Required	145
Additional Fee for Burial on:-	
• Saturday (9am to 12 noon)	770
• Monday to Friday (before 8am, after 4pm), per hour or part thereof (must be available to Council workers by 4pm)	210
• Saturday (before 9am, after 12 noon), Sundays, Public Holidays	920
• Additional Fee for Placement of Ashes outside of normal working hours (9am-5pm)	125
Exhumation Fee	P.O.A.
Leases can be renewed of periods of a minimum of 10 year to a maximum of 50 years (example: \$1080 ÷ 50yrs = \$21.60 x 10 years = \$216) + administration fee	+ 90
Alteration to Grant if not done at time of burial	90

Willaston Cemetery Action Plan

The Willaston Cemetery Action Plan is a budgetary plan for the next six years to bring the cemetery up to a standard which will allow access via a network of road and access paths throughout the site to provide a stable platform of access to all graves .

Drainage is a big problem at the site, with only one area being partially drained sufficiently to remove water runoff, the remainder of the site relies on graded soil and open drains to remove the water that accumulates on the site. This has caused areas to be gouged out by the run off, which intern has become a problem for pedestrians.

The other problem that Council faces is the amount of places left to utilise for burial, the lawn and plinth area is the preferred area of burial along with cremation sites in the Rose garden, both currently running out of room, unless further gardens an lawn areas are upgraded as was envisaged when previous plans were drawn up for the master plan a decade ago.

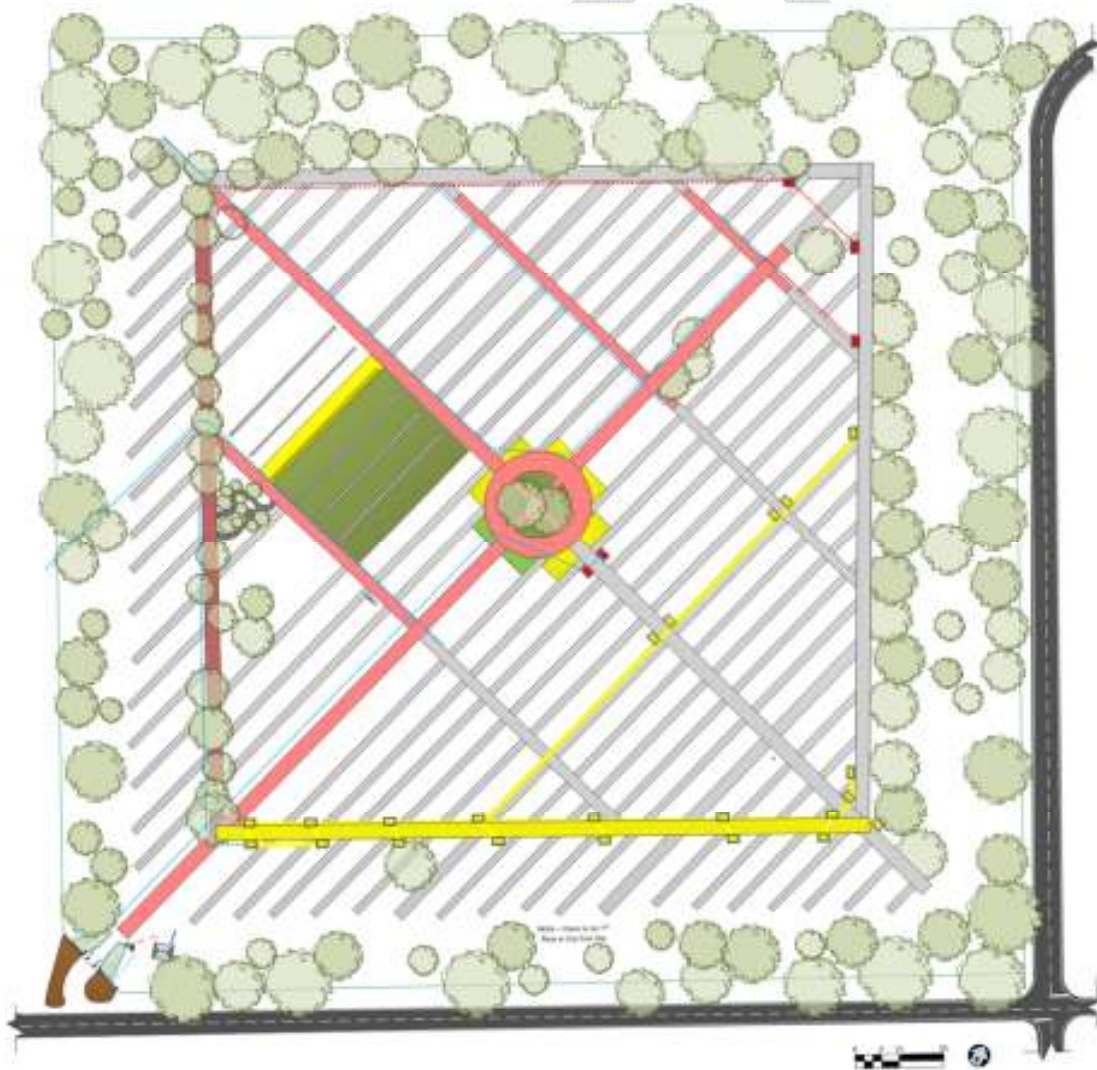
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

2015/2016 – BUDGET \$188,659.32

This is the biggest of the budgets to be carried out, almost half a kilometre of drainage and side entry pits are required, this will lay the base for the rest of the future drainage, as with all drainage, working backward from the bottom up will enable ease of connection for future works, it will also allow for current water runoff capacity which will be captured once the first stage is completed.

A new Plinth and lawned area between Row G & H are also needed to allow for a capacity buffer as the current lawn area is restricted in the amount of plots that are left. An outline of works and costings are detailed below.

Yellow areas are work areas to be carried out in this budget year.



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Drainage

Total Materials **\$37,991.20**

Total Labour & Machinery **\$39,060**

New Concrete Plinth for Lawn Burials

Total Plinth **\$15,777.53**

Road Paving

Total Paving **\$53,427.53**

Rose Garden South Eastern Side

Total Rose Garden **\$26,372.56**

Supervisory Cost **\$16,030.50**

TOTAL COSTING 2015/16 BUDGET \$188,659.32

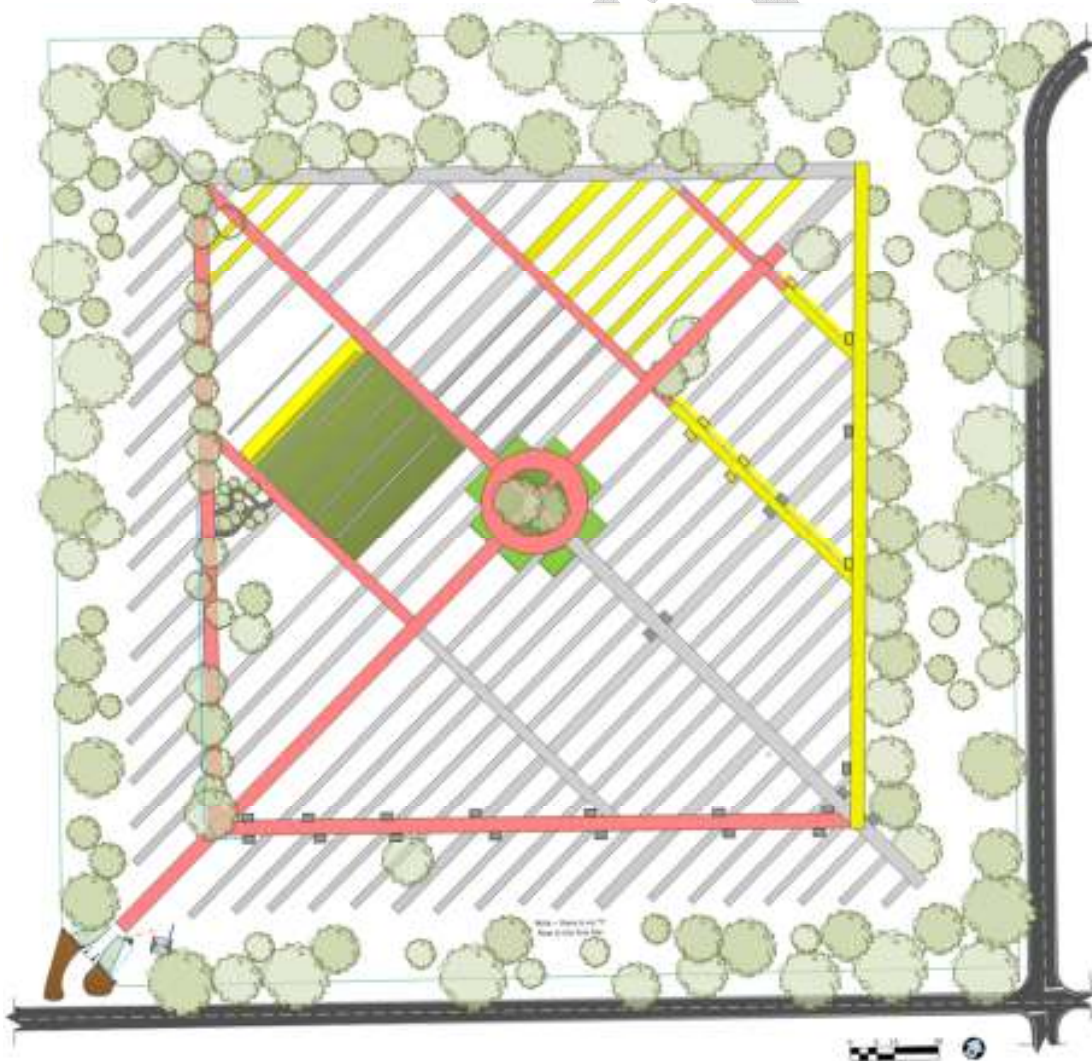
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

2016/2017 – BUDGET \$144,930.87

This budgeted works come in at \$48,000 under the previous budget, the major works are paved roadways and gravelled access tracks, two small amounts of stormwater drainage will also be installed.

A new Plinth and lawned area between Row I & J is also planned to keep the buffer of burial supply and demand at an acceptable level

**Yellow areas are work areas to be carried out in this budget year*.*



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Drainage

Total Materials **\$7,685.87**

Machinery

Total Labour & Machinery **\$12,940**

New Concrete Plinth for Lawn Burials

Total Plinth **\$15,777.53**

Road Paving

Total Paving **\$76,544.20**

Gravel paths

Total Gravel paths **\$18,812.65**

Supervisor Cost **\$13,170.62**

TOTAL COSTS 2016/17 BUDGET \$144,930.87

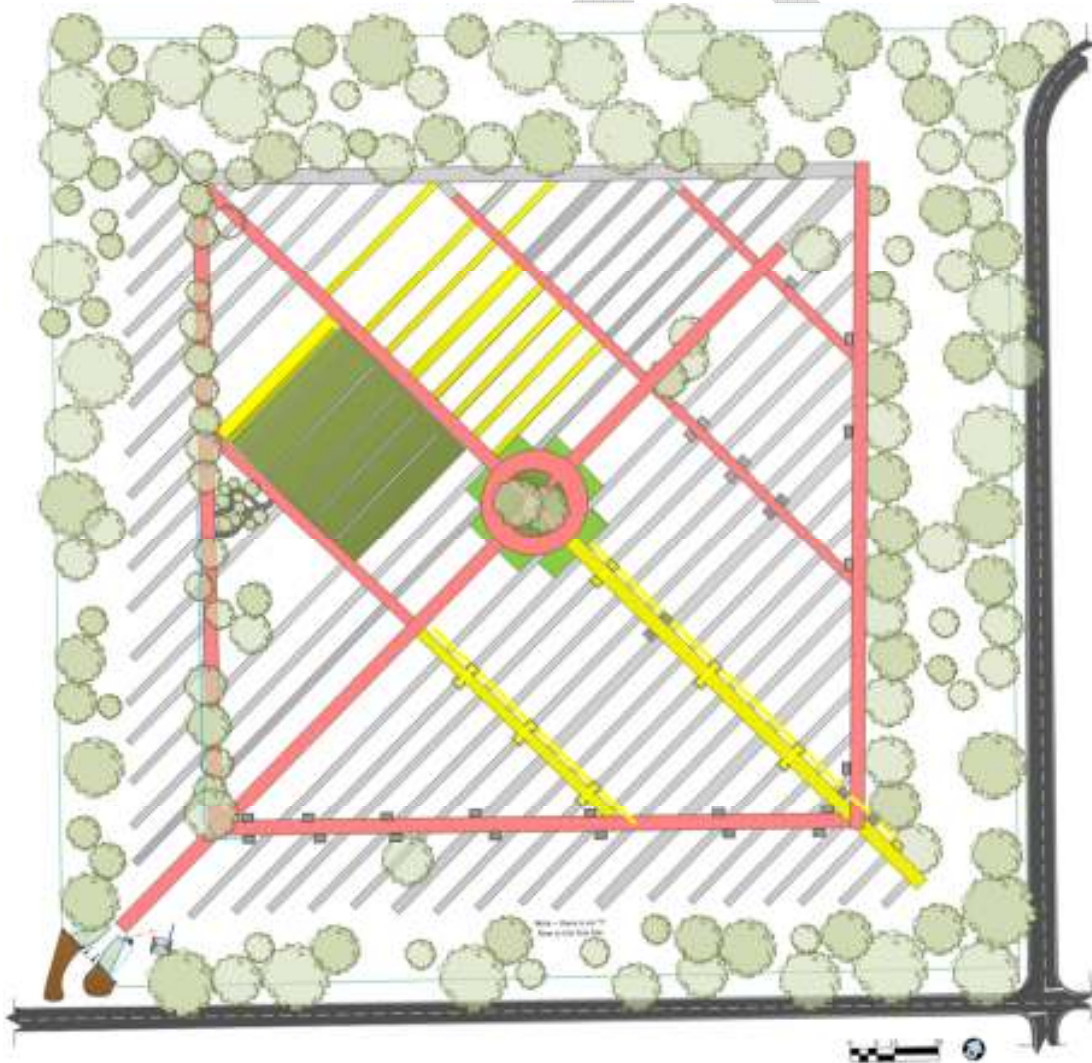
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

2017/2018 – BUDGET \$133,041.35

The works required for this third stage will cover the last of the major road pavement in blocks 2 and 4, and the last of the major drainage pipe install, also several more of the gravel paths are to be completed in block 3.

A new Plinth and lawned area between Row K & R is also planned to keep the buffer of burial supply and demand at an acceptable level

Yellow areas are work areas to be carried out in this budget year.



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Drainage

Total Materials **\$7,885.49**

Machinery

Total Labour & Machinery **\$18,188**

New Concrete Plinth for Lawn Burials

Plinth

Total Plinth **\$10,869.71**

Road Paving

Paving Materials

Total Paving **\$65,548.74**

Gravel paths

Total Gravel paths **\$18,613.61**

Supervisor Costs **\$11,935.80**

Total costs 2017/18 budget **\$133,041.35**

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

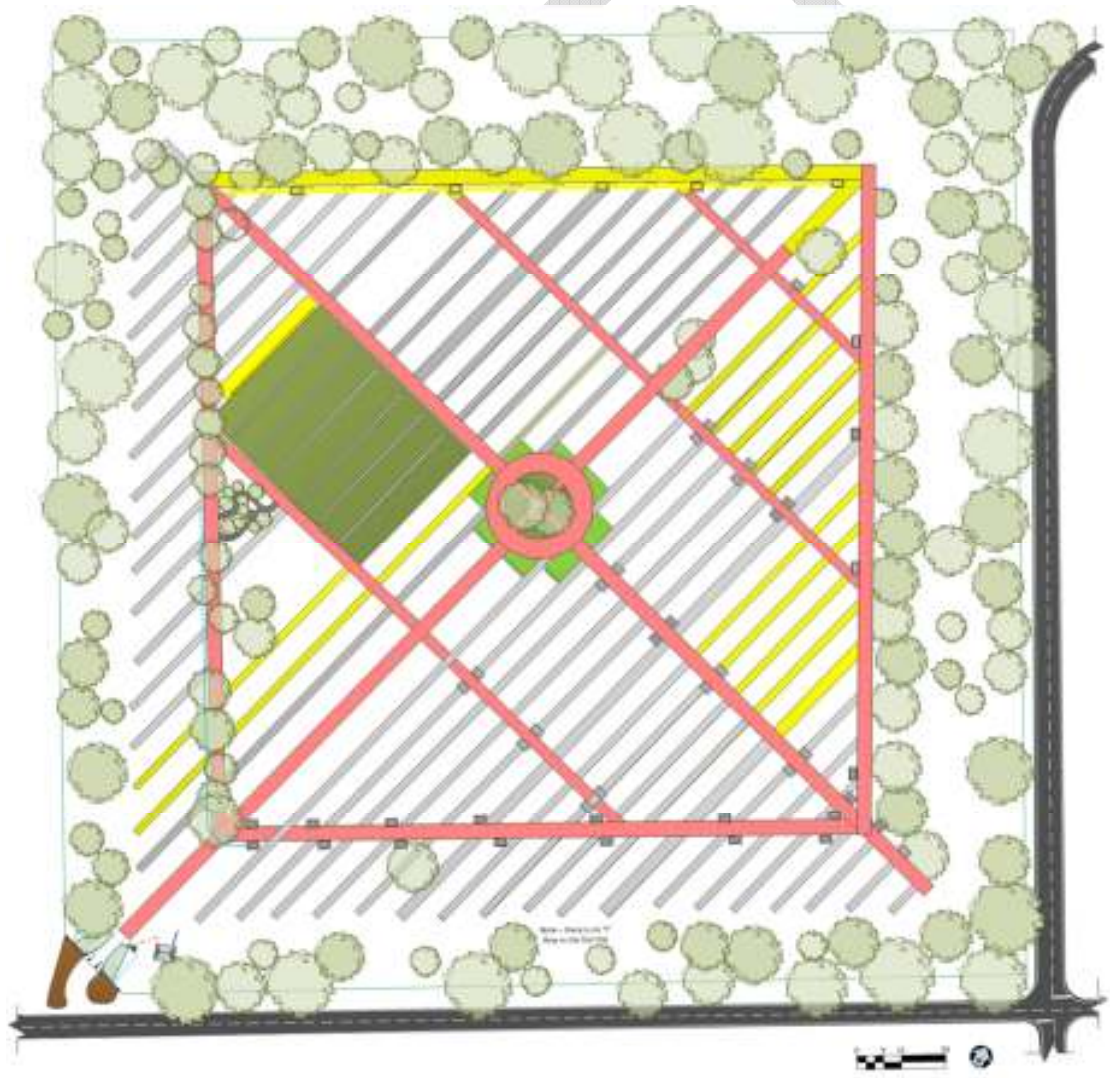
2018/2019 – BUDGET \$126,206.14

The works required for this forth stage will cover the last of the major road pavement in block 3, and the last of the major drainage pipe install also in block 3.

Block 4 will have the majority of its gravel paths completed leaving only the ¼ block to finish in 2019/2020.

A new Plinth and lawned area between Row K & R is also planned to keep the buffer of burial supply and demand at an acceptable level

Yellow areas are work areas to be carried out in this budget year.



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Drainage

Total Materials **\$11,270.72**

Machinery

Total Labour & Machinery **\$13,300**

New Concrete Plinth for Lawn Burials

Plinth

Total Plinth **\$10,869.71**

Road Paving

Total Paving **\$53,804.80**

Gravel paths

Total Gravel paths **\$25,487.63**

Supervisor Costs \$11,473.28

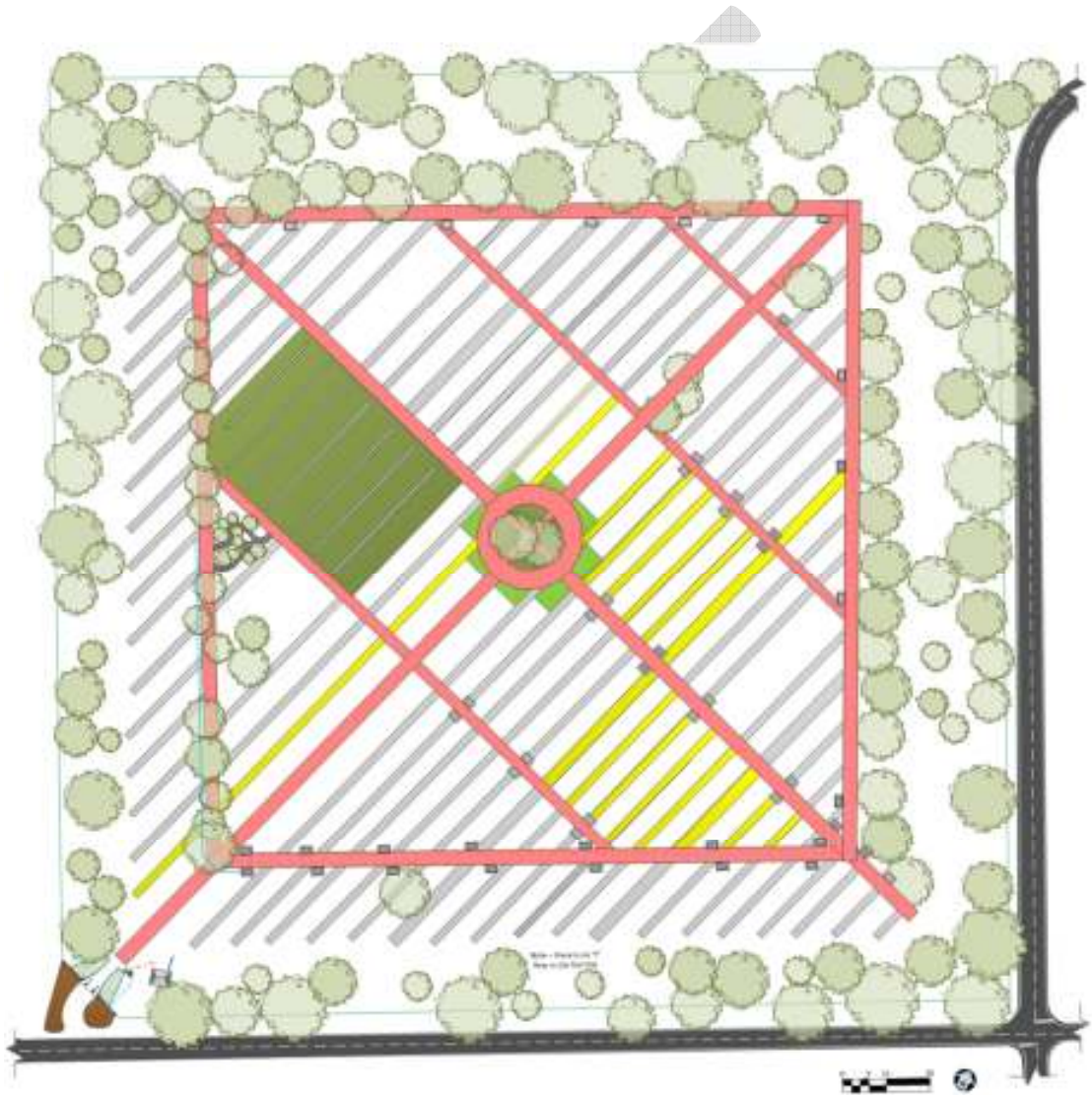
Total costs 2017/18 budget \$126,206.14

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

2019/2020 – BUDGET \$51,082.09

The fifth stage of works required will cover the last of the gravel paths in block 4 and another rose garden, no drainage is needed for this stage.

Yellow areas are work areas to be carried out in this budget year.



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Gravel paths

Total Gravel paths	<u>\$46,025.79</u>
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Supervisor Costs	\$5,056.30
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Total costs 2017/18 budget	\$51,082.09
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DRAFT

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

2020/2021 – BUDGET \$35,335.33

The final stage of works will consist of the last area of gravel paths in Block 2 and the last rose garden.

Yellow areas are work areas to be carried out in this budget year.



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Gravel paths

Total Gravel paths	<u>\$31,482.54</u>
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Supervisor Costs	\$3,852.79
Total costs 2017/18 budget	\$35,335.33

DRAFT