

# BLUE MOUNTAINS CEMETERIES



## CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

### Volume 1: General Analysis and Conservation Policies

Prepared for:  
**CITY OF BLUE MOUNTAINS**

Prepared by:  
**HUBERT ARCHITECTS**  
in conjunction with  
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**Final**

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Cover Photo:  
An example of the work of Paterson,  
a prominent monumental stonemason in the Blue Mountains.  
Katoomba Cemetery 1 Aug 2001

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## **Executive Summary**

The cemeteries of the Blue Mountains are important in containing valuable records of the history and growth of the region. The monuments within cemeteries often reflect the status and aspirations of individuals. Often, a cemetery is the most tangible record of an individual's life and association with a place and thus acquires a special and often very personal significance. Some of the monuments have importance for their technical and creative accomplishment. The inclusion of columbaria, memorial gardens and other monuments associated with the ritual of cremation reflects changing attitudes towards death and internment in our society.

A common thread through the cemeteries of the Blue Mountains is the presence of native bushland. This varies from the bushland as a perimeter to the cemetery creating a background element as found at Wentworth Falls, to Mount Irvine Cemetery where the surrounding bushland is the dominant element and the gravesites become less dominant. At Megalong Cemetery the native landscape has overtaken the cemetery creating another individual and beautiful character.

This character of the cemeteries in the Blue Mountains should generally be maintained and enhanced. At some sites, most notably Lawson Cemetery, there is scope for additional planting to enhance the visual amenity of the cemetery. The existing character of the native bushland can be used to guide new landscaping. The use of native species is encouraged. For more formal planting schemes, natives can be used and there is a *Casuarina* species in the Anglican section of Springwood Cemetery whose weeping habit is particularly suitable for use in cemeteries.

Of the nine cemeteries examined for this report (Springwood, Faulconbridge, Lawson, Wentworth Falls, Katoomba, Blackheath, Megalong, Mount Victoria and Mount Irvine) two are no longer open for traditional burials. They are Faulconbridge and Megalong. There is some potential for Megalong Cemetery to be reopened for burials. Faulconbridge, the burial place of Sir Henry Parkes and most important of the cemeteries in the Blue Mountains, should remain closed for burials, although the Arbuste Gardens at the site should continue to be used.

There is potential in some of the cemeteries to allow for future growth with memorial gardens and minimum maintenance sections. These will increase the potential to utilise the land, thereby reducing future requirements for additional land dedicated for cemetery use. However, these and any other new elements in the cemeteries must be carefully designed to ensure they do not detract from the character of the existing burial areas.

There does need to be adequate funding allowed for maintenance. The current system of burial fees is not sufficient to cover long term maintenance of cemeteries. This could be relieved by allocating more funding from regular budgets or establishing a reasonable trust fund for cemetery maintenance. Interest from the fund can then contribute towards maintenance and the fund should be supplemented by part of each burial fee.

Considering the low level of funding, the cemeteries have been reasonably well maintained although some notable problems exist. Katoomba Cemetery has problems with soil erosion exacerbated by the slope of the site, poor attention to cleaning of drains and the need for a comprehensive landscaping plan to ensure retention of soil on the site. The conflict of stock and funeral monuments is apparent at Megalong Cemetery where one of the two surviving headstones has been dislodged by stock which are allowed to walk through the site.

Maintenance of individual graves is generally considered to be the responsibility of living descendants. Where there are no living descendants it falls upon the Council as the responsible

authority to maintain monuments. Maintenance procedures for cemeteries need not vary between sites and general guidelines are given.

Maintenance should only be undertaken by skilled professionals who have proven experience in the care and conservation of monuments. Work by unskilled people, however well intentioned often causes other long term problems or causes more problems leading to additional costs.

## **G1 Introduction**

### **G1.1 The Brief**

The brief for this Conservation Management Plan for Blue Mountains Cemeteries was prepared by the City of Blue Mountains and amended by Hubert Architects. The amended brief is included as Appendix G1. Subsequent to this report being commissioned, Megalong Cemetery was added to the brief.

### **G1.2 Definition of the Study Place and Setting**

This report discusses the cemeteries under the management of the City of Blue Mountains. This includes the following:

CEMETERY	ADDRESS	LEGAL TITLE
Springwood	40 Davesta Road, Springwood	Lot 7005, DP 94061
Falconbridge	25A Sir Henry's Parade, Falconbridge	Lot 7015, DP 94063 Lot 1, DP 125990
Lawson	80-90 Wilson Street, Lawson	Part MS 1418
Wentworth Falls	278-312 Great Western Highway, Wentworth Falls	Site 1 MS 116
Katoomba	2-16 Cemetery Road, Katoomba	Part L7060, DP 751627 L1, DP 668399 L1, 2 & 3, DP218127 L1, 972550 L1, 668400
Blackheath	322-331 Great Western Highway, Blackheath	Site C1360, Crown Land
Megalong	The Six Foot Track, Megalong Valley	L1, DP 127946
Mount Victoria	10 Victoria Falls Road, Mount Victoria	L187, DP751644
Mount Irvine	7-9 Danes Way, Mount Irvine	Lot X, Sec 8, MS 8669

Location plans and site plans for the individual cemeteries are included with the sections for each site.

### **G1.3 Methodology**

This study and report generally follow the methodology and structure outlined in J S Kerr, *The Conservation Plan*, the National Trust of Australia (NSW), fifth edition, 2000. The report is also consistent with the principles of the *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance* (1999) and its Guidelines. Additional documents considered in the preparation of

the report include The Department of Planning / Heritage Council *Cemeteries - Guidelines for their care and conservation*, 1992, the *Heritage Manual*, 1996, and the National Trust of Australia (NSW) *Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation* 2002 (<http://www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au/cemscontents.html>). These documents outline criteria for assessing the significance of cemeteries and address other matters to be considered in examining cemetery conservation issues.

General Policies relating to the conservation management of cemeteries are given in section G6 of this report. These are followed by individual sections for each cemetery. Each section gives a description, historical background, constraints and opportunities and policies specific to that cemetery.

#### **G1.4 Natural and Aboriginal Significance**

This report only addresses the European cultural significance of the place, except at Megalong Cemetery where there is at least one known Aboriginal burial.

#### **G1.5 Terms**

The terms fabric, conservation, maintenance, preservation, restoration, reconstruction, adaptation, compatible use, and cultural significance used in this report are defined in the *Australia ICOMOS Charter for the conservation of Places of Cultural Significance - The Burra Charter*, which is included in this report as Appendix G2.

Terms used to describe monuments and grave furniture follow those published in the National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.) *Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation* and reproduced here as Appendix G3. They were based on descriptions published by Lionel Gilbert in *A Grave Look at History*, 1980.

#### **G1.6 Author Identification**

This report was prepared by Pamela Hubert of Hubert Architects in conjunction with R. Ian Jack, heritage consultant, Siobhan Lavelle, archaeologist and Colleen Morris, Landscape Consultant.

The physical survey of the fabric of the place was undertaken between June and September 2001 by the above study team.

Unless otherwise stated, photographs reproduced in this report are by the author.

#### **G1.7 Acknowledgements**

The authors wish to acknowledge the assistance of the following people in the preparation of this report:

Laurie Clark

Mid-Mountains Historical Society

Mount Irvine Progress Association

Mount Victoria and District Historical Society

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Blue Mountains Historical Society

Marion Bamgarten, Blayney Local Library

#### **G1.8 Abbreviations**

The following abbreviations are used in the text of this report:

HUBERT ARCHITECTS  
in conjunction with  
SIOBHAN LAVELLE, R. IAN JACK  
& COLLEEN MORRIS

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DP Deposited Plan  
L Lot  
LTO Land Titles Office  
ML Mitchell Library  
S Section  
OPBM Our Past Blue Mountaineers

### **G1.9 Bibliography**

The bibliography below pertains to the general analysis and policies section. Sections for each cemetery have bibliographies specific to that section.

#### **G1.9.1 State Records**

Regulations for the Employment of Licensed Surveyors, 1886, State Records NSW, Surveyor General, Miscellaneous, 3/8705C

Department of Lands, Miscellaneous Branch, Precedent Book 1894-1899, 11/21988 p.274, 'General Cemetery,' Circular no.97-26, 22 November 1897

#### **G1.9.2 State Library**

Circular to Licensed Surveyors, 1859, Q 526.9/N

#### **G1.9.3 Blue Mountains City Council**

Cemeteries Files

#### **G1.9.4 Other sources**

Sydney Diocesan Archives, 1994/102/27

*Heritage Act*, 1977, no. 136, s.4 (1).

Australia ICOMOS, The Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter), 1981, and subsequent revisions, most recently: *The Burra Charter, The Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Cultural Significance*, 1999

P Marquis-Kyle and M Walker, *The Illustrated Burra Charter*, Australia ICOMOS, 1992

Department of Planning, *Heritage Assessment Guidelines*, 1990

J Domicelj, *State Heritage Inventory Status and Scope Evaluation Criteria and Application Guidelines*, report prepared for the Department of Planning, 1990

J Kerr, *The Conservation Plan*, The National Trust of Australia (NSW), 5th edition, 2000

*Archaeological Assessment Guidelines*, NSW Heritage Office and NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, Sydney, September, 1996

Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, *NSW Heritage Manual*, Sydney, 1996.

National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.) *Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation* 2002

## **G2 Physical Summary**

### **G2.1 General**

Detailed descriptions for each cemetery are given in the sections for each cemetery.

### **G2.2 Monuments**

Monuments come in a variety of patterns which can include one or more of the following: a headstone, footstone, grave surround, slab, surrounding fence. Definitions of terminology and individual monument types are described in National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.) *Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation 2002* which is included in this report as Appendix G3.

The monuments are often the work of local artisans and contribute to the distinctive character of each cemetery. In the Blue Mountains, Paterson was a local stonemason and there are fine examples of his work throughout the cemeteries (Refer Figure G1).



**Figure G1**

An example of the work of the Paterson family at Katoomba Cemetery  
1 Aug 2001

In some cases, the only monument used on a gravesite is the standard identification marker provided by the Council. Currently this is a small concrete block with an aluminium plate fixed with adhesive. The plate gives the name of the deceased and date of death. It does not provide any information about the date of birth, limiting important information for future researchers. In some cases, the plates have been lost. Earlier standardised gravemarkers were a simple wooden cross with the name of the deceased, date of birth and date of death. While these provided more information, the wood is prone to decay and the cross is not appropriate to all religious groups.



**Figure G2**

Standard grave marker supplied by Blue Mountains City Council. The aluminium plate identifying the deceased has been lost.

Lawson Cemetery

28 Jun 2001



**Figure G3**

Standard Council grave marker from mid to late twentieth century

This style marker is no longer in use due to the religious symbolism of the cross being irrelevant for some of the population

Springwood Cemetery

28 June 2002

### **G2.3 Layout and Landscaping**

The layout of all cemeteries allowed for paths which gave access to the various sections. The layouts of the Blue Mountains Cemeteries are almost invariably grid systems, with Blackheath cemetery having a diamond path arrangement.

Tree planting was often a feature of nineteenth century cemeteries, with evergreen species being preferred in many cases. In the cemeteries of the Blue Mountains, native species are often a greater feature, particularly where native bush has been retained around the perimeter of the cemetery to provide a setting for the place and to screen the cemetery from encroaching residential development.

Grave plantings have often been added by relatives of the deceased. These are also often exotic species. In many cases, the grave plantings are inappropriate. This can be for a number of reasons including:

- the species grows too large and undermines the structure of the monument
- the species is an invasive weed

Some species however do not cause problems and add to the aesthetic quality of the cemeteries.

In many cases, native grasses have survived in cemeteries where they add to the visual amenity of the site, reduce the spread of weeds and reduce maintenance requirements.

### **G3 Historical Summary**

Fitting treatment of the dead has been a problem for all societies at all periods. In European Australia the first burial-places were simply a matter of expediency, located close to the eighteenth-century township of Sydney, serving convict and free of whatever religious persuasion.

After 1810 the dominant Anglican clergy, with the support of Governor Macquarie, established the first denominationally controlled burial grounds. These were in a close and specific relationship to the Anglican churches completed or proposed in Macquarie's five Hawkesbury-Nepean towns and in Liverpool. Most of these burial-grounds were physically separated from the church, but St Matthew's at Windsor developed into a churchyard when the church was completed within the same location ten years after the cemetery had opened. The dedication of such burial-grounds was encouraged and in 1825 it was officially directed, largely for reasons of health, that they should be sited outside the built-up area of townships.

In the country, including the Blue Mountains, it was common for people to be buried close to their place of death, often on their own property, in isolated graves or in small private cemeteries. Although Macquarie had prohibited this in the Hawkesbury valley after opening the official Anglican cemeteries there in 1811, the practice remained quite common in the valley and elsewhere, for obvious reasons of convenience.

In the interior of New South Wales, the isolated graves and informal private burial-places in general predate church cemeteries. The land for public cemeteries was initially supplied by the government and up to 1836 was largely in the hands of the Anglican clergy, who were entitled from 1823 onwards to charge for burials and the erection of grave-markers.

In 1836 the Church Act gave equal opportunities to Christian denominations other than Anglican. Under the Church Act the various denominations were enabled to open their own burial-grounds and their clergy could charge fees just like Anglicans. So in the 1840s and after, various Christian churches in newly expanding areas were given crown land often totalling 3 acres (1.2 hectare), characteristically earmarked for a church building (usually on 1 acre), a burial-ground (also 1 acre), often a manse (on 0.5 acre) and a school (on 0.5 acre). The new denominational burial-ground was administered by trustees chosen by the church concerned. As a result managerial responsibility for death passed from the colonial government to ecclesiastically appointed trustees. Where land was not granted by the government, local philanthropists, such as Sir Henry Parkes at Faulconbridge, might lay aside a few acres of their estates.

The Surveyor General was responsible for the siting and accurate surveying of all cemeteries on crown grants and it was common from the 1840s onwards for various separate denominational burial areas to be grouped together instead of adjoining the relevant church. A further step towards a genuine general cemetery was taken in 1847 when the General Cemetery Act was passed in New South Wales, creating the legislative possibility of a large necropolis with denominational sections, instead of an amalgam of separate denominational cemeteries. This Act was applicable state-wide and although it was not implemented in Sydney until 1867 (when Rookwood was finally approved), general cemeteries in country towns were created immediately after the Act became law in 1847. Dungog was the first in 1848 with five denominational sections.

The Surveyor General's office developed standards for the denominational proportions within such general cemeteries. On the basis of the 1856 census, the Surveyor General recommended that a cemetery of 8 acres (3.2 hectares), which was a standard size for the new general cemeteries, should be apportioned on the approximate basis of population:

Denomination	Acres	Rods	Perches	Population
Anglican	2	2	0	130 000
Catholic	1	2	0	78 000
Presbyterian		2	10	28 000
Methodist		1	15	16 000
Independent			10	3 000
Jews			5	1 400
General	2	2	0	
Roadways etc		2	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>256 400</b>

Obviously these proportions might not fit individual districts, with other religious mixes, but the standard designs of 1859 were still being recommended in 1882. (Regulations for the Employment of Licensed Surveyors, 1882, State Records NSW, Surveyor General, Miscellaneous, 3/8705A)

In 1886 more specific guidelines were laid down:

The cemetery must be outside the town limits; as a general rule the distance should not exceed two miles from the probable nucleus of town settlement, and therefore may be within suburban limits... The position should be remote from the noise and interruption of traffic, but of easy access... The site should be elevated, and not in close proximity to a watercourse; the soil should be friable, and should be tested by digging a pit at least 6 feet deep, such pit to be indicated on plan; and the conditions should be otherwise suitable for burial purposes.<sup>2</sup>

There was then a fair stability in government regulation of the design for general cemeteries throughout New South Wales for most of Victoria's reign. The first substantial amendments were in 1897: cemeteries henceforth should be larger, in excess of 10 acres (4 hectares), but should initially have only a small area, some 3 acres (1.2 hectare), cleared, fenced and used for interments.

Four model designs were supplied with the 1882 and the 1897 Regulations, and were repeated in the 1901 version. These four designs all applied to the standard 8 acre (3.2 hectare) cemetery and had several important common features. There was to be a single entrance to the cemetery; a main drive should give access to the larger denominational sections; an area for 'unsectarian interment' must always be provided; and it was

desirable to leave an area for ornamental plantation around a Cemetery, and the arrangement thereof may admit of providing sites for a caretaker's residence, waiting-rooms, &c.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Mitchell Library, Circular to Licensed Surveyors, 1859, Q 526.9/N

<sup>2</sup> Regulations for the Employment of Licensed Surveyors, 1886, State Records NSW, Surveyor General, Miscellaneous, 3/8705C

<sup>3</sup> State Records NSW, Department of Lands, Miscellaneous Branch, Precedent Book 1894-1899, 11/21988 p.274, 'General Cemetery,' Circular no.97-26, 22 November 1897

Administration of a general cemetery was delegated by the colonial government not to a single group of trustees, but to a constellation of denominational trustees. These bodies of trustees operated with greatly different degrees of efficiency and success: trustees who were not local residents were particularly unsatisfactory. The records of these trustees, being held separately by one of their number, were prone to loss and in the Blue Mountains the only Anglican minute-book which is known to survive is for a few years at the beginning of Springwood cemetery.<sup>4</sup>

Despite public recognition that many denominational sections were poorly administered by the trustees to the frustration of the local people, nothing was done to change the situation until 1966, when the Local Government (Control of Cemeteries) Amendment Act was passed. This legislation discharged the denominational trustees and transferred public cemeteries (with a few exceptions, such as Rookwood) to the appropriate local councils, which then became the trustees of the whole cemetery, 'charged with the care, control and management thereof'.

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<sup>4</sup> Sydney Diocesan Archives, 1994/102/27

## G4 Assessment of Significance

### G4.1 General

The concept of cultural significance attempts to define the aspects of a place or item which make it of value to the community. The Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter defines cultural significance as aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations. The term, "cultural significance" is essentially interchangeable with the term "environmental heritage", as defined by the NSW *Heritage Act*, 1977: it "means those buildings, works, relics or places of historic, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic significance".<sup>5</sup> Of these listed adjectives, "cultural" significance has become the generic term, with the other adjectives attempting to provide more comprehensive detail.

The methodology and guidelines used to assess cultural significance have been standardised by conservation practitioners in recent years and there is now a considerable quantity of material on this subject published and disseminated by a number of heritage authorities and groups.<sup>6</sup> Various categories of significance may be applied when attempting to determine the heritage value of an individual site or item. The range of heritage values assessed will generally include the major categories of historic, social, and aesthetic/technical, and the comparative values of rarity, and representativeness. These are in accordance with the criteria and methodology developed by the NSW Heritage Office and originally described in the *Heritage Assessments* document in the *NSW Heritage Manual*.<sup>7</sup>

Amendments to the *Heritage Act* gazetted in 1999 referred to alterations in the assessment criteria. The criteria have been updated in a new NSW Heritage Office document, called *Assessing Heritage Significance*, published in July 2001. The revised 'new' criteria of the 2001 version remain very similar to those listed above. They include the values of history or historic association (Criteria a and b), aesthetic (Criterion c), social or spiritual (Criterion d) and information potential (Criterion e) plus rarity (Criterion f) and representative ability to demonstrate (Criterion g).<sup>8</sup> The seven criteria (a to g) allow an item to be assessed against two levels within NSW, those of State and Local significance. They are consistent with criteria used by the Australian Heritage Commission for National Estate

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<sup>5</sup> Heritage Act, 1977, no. 136, s.4 (1).

<sup>6</sup> Reference information includes:

Australia ICOMOS, The Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter), 1981, and subsequent revisions, most recently: The Burra Charter, The Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Cultural Significance, 1999.

Australia ICOMOS, Guidelines to the Burra Charter: Cultural Significance, 1984;

P Marquis-Kyle and M Walker, The Illustrated Burra Charter, Australia ICOMOS, 1992;

Department of Planning, Heritage Assessment Guidelines, 1990;

J Domicelj, State Heritage Inventory Status and Scope Evaluation Criteria and Application Guidelines, report prepared for the Department of Planning, 1990;

J Kerr, The Conservation Plan, The National Trust of Australia (NSW), 5th edition, 2000.

Archaeological Assessment Guidelines, NSW Heritage Office and NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, Sydney, September, 1996.

<sup>7</sup> Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, NSW Heritage Manual, Sydney, 1996.

<sup>8</sup> NSW Heritage Office, Assessing Heritage Significance (a NSW Heritage Manual Update) Sydney, 2001.

listing and they also encompass the four values — historic, aesthetic, scientific and social — used in *The Burra Charter*, which also functions as a national guideline document.

#### **G4.2 Specific Criteria for Cemeteries**

In 1985, the National Trust published a policy paper on cemetery conservation. This was revised in 2002 as *Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation*. That document includes information about the aspects of significance considered by the National Trust when assessing cemeteries for inclusion in the Trust's Register of heritage items. Criteria defined by the National Trust comprise:

Historic Values; Social Values; Religious Values; Genealogical Information; Artistic, Creative and Technical Elements; Setting; Landscape Design; Botanical Elements, Life Support Elements and Human Remains.<sup>9</sup>

The criteria appropriate for considering the categories of cultural significance as defined in the NSW Heritage Act in relation to cemeteries were also considered in detail in a publication by the Department of Planning/Heritage Council of NSW, *Cemeteries: Guidelines for Care and Conservation* (1992). The major categories outlined in the *Guidelines* document (Section 2: The Significance of Cemeteries) are summarised below.

#### **G4.3 General Significance**

All cemeteries are of some cultural significance. They contain valuable records of the history and growth of an area. Often, a cemetery is the most tangible record of an individual's life and association with a place and thus acquires a special and often very personal significance.

The division of cemeteries into areas based on religious associations reflects the social structure of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The monuments within cemeteries often reflect the status and aspirations of individuals. Some of the monuments have importance for their technical and creative accomplishment.

The inclusion of columbaria and other monuments associated with the ritual of cremation reflects changing attitudes towards death and internment in our society.

#### **G4.4 Historic Significance**

Cemeteries provide a direct historical record of their local communities and in the case of some of the older cemeteries, an historic record of importance to the whole of Australia. The monuments within cemeteries document the nation's growth and provide valuable insights into its history. Cemeteries record significant events or periods in the history of a region or district and, unlike most other histories, cemeteries record the lives of all, whether rich or poor, famous or infamous. Headstones and memorials may also document facts about an individual or a family, particularly when they were important locally or famous nationally.

The genealogical value of cemeteries is an important component of their historic significance, as nearly all monuments include some biographical or genealogical information. In the historical context of New South Wales, headstones which pre-date the introduction of civil registration in 1856, through which all births, deaths and marriages were officially recorded, may provide the only record of early settlers who have left little impact on the documentary record.

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<sup>9</sup> National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.) *Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation*. Section 5.1

#### **G4.5 Social and Cultural Significance**

A considerable amount of the social and cultural history of the State is contained within cemeteries. Much of the value of cemeteries lies in their ability to evoke the customs and tastes of their time and to document the particular social mores of a period. The capacity cemeteries have to demonstrate custom is most clearly shown in the surviving large Victorian era public cemeteries which are vast repositories of funerary monuments revealing the taste, style and sentimentality of the Victorian age.

A further aspect of the ability of cemeteries to demonstrate the customs and beliefs of societies, groups or individuals is seen in those burial grounds used by specific religious or national groups or provided because of particular community sentiment, such as War Graves Cemeteries.

Cemeteries in the Blue Mountains reveal something of its social history. A number of important people in New South Wales history who retired to the Blue Mountains or had holiday retreats in the area are buried in the cemeteries. Another aspect of social history in the Blue Mountains, the draw of the region for the treatment of tuberculosis in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, is also revealed by the graves of other people from distant places such as Victoria and New Zealand.

#### **G4.6 Archaeological Significance**

Cemeteries have archaeological significance as changes to their fabric over time provide physical evidence of past attitudes to death and the evolution of cultural landscapes. Funerary monuments and architecture record community tastes, fashions and attitudes to death. Because funerary monuments and plantings are seldom replaced or updated even if fashions and styles change, cemeteries often remain as permanent records of cultural preference and shifts in preferences. They have important implications as specially designed and created repositories of material evidence considered appropriate for the commemoration of the dead by a living community.

Cemeteries often provide some of the most intact physical evidence surviving in an area from earlier periods. This physical evidence includes the landscape itself, which has been deliberately created, and the individual monuments and other artefacts placed within burial grounds. As archaeological artefacts, headstones are readily available, and are usually in their original locations and contexts. Cemeteries provide a direct and permanently accessible record of history and culture, available for observation, quantification and interpretation.

#### **G4.7 Architectural Significance**

This category of significance includes consideration of the artistic merit or technical accomplishment of the items found within cemeteries, and of the relationship between cemeteries and contemporary theories of planning or design. The monuments erected in cemeteries tend to be influenced by current developments in architectural style.

Many cemeteries also include a range of monumental sculpture, and sections of larger cemeteries may contain row upon row of imposing white marble sculptures.

Quality of craftsmanship may also be evident in a less dramatic fashion, with examples of the skills and work of local craftsmen contained within a local cemetery. Examples might also include ceramic edging tiles of local manufacture and wrought or cast surrounds by blacksmiths or foundries.

#### **G4.8 Aesthetic Significance**

The aesthetic significance of a cemetery usually derives from the interaction of a number of factors. These will include the quality of design, the presence of harmonious materials, unified form and scale, and the setting of the cemetery. The overall quality of a cemetery in this sense may often be

determined by the combined effect of landscape design, monuments, setting and plantings. The relation of the cemetery to the wider landscape, its context and setting, may also be important. This may include its relationship to either a built, modified, or natural environment. A cemetery, or even an individual monument, may be clearly visible as a prominent element which enhances the surrounding landscape. Individual monuments or other elements within a cemetery may also be of aesthetic significance owing to their particular artistic merit, design or technical accomplishment and will contribute to the cemetery's overall aesthetic quality.

#### **G4.9 Scientific Significance**

This category includes scientific, natural and botanical significance. Cemeteries frequently provide environments which have been little modified since the first settlement of an area. A cemetery may also harbour populations of rare plants or animals by providing an important microclimate. As deliberately developed landscapes, cemeteries may also be important for the presence of introduced species. Species of exotic plants such as Victorian horticultural varieties of roses or creepers which are no longer in fashion and may no longer be evident in private gardens are often found to survive in cemeteries. In this sense a cemetery may provide a valuable horticultural or botanical collection resource.

## **G5 Constraints And Opportunities**

### **G5.1 The Burra Charter**

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) was founded at a meeting in Warsaw in 1965 and comprises professional people involved in the conservation of historic sites and places. In 1966, ICOMOS adopted the Venice Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites.

In August 1979 Australia ICOMOS (the Australian National Committee of ICOMOS) adopted the Burra Charter to provide guidance for the conservation and management of places of cultural significance (cultural heritage places). This charter was revised in 1981, 1988 and most recently in 1999. It is reproduced in this report as Appendix G2.

### **G5.2 Significance**

Because cemeteries do have cultural significance, they should be conserved. The most appropriate conservation procedure for cemeteries is usually preservation. In some cases, such as where monuments have fallen, restoration might be appropriate. Occasionally, reconstruction or adaptation might be appropriate.

### **G5.3 Legal and Public Health Issues**

#### **G5.3.1 Ownership and Responsibility**

The cemeteries within the scope of this study are in Public Ownership, generally as Crown Land. Because they have been dedicated for use as cemeteries, there is a responsibility of the vested responsible authority, in this case the Blue Mountains City Council, to manage and care for the land as a cemetery.

#### **G5.3.2 Zoning**

Most of the cemeteries (with the notable exception of Megalong Cemetery) are zoned Special Uses under the existing planning instrument Blue Mountains City Council Local Environment Plan 1991 (LEP 1991). This gives the land statutory protection against other uses or development on the site. Some have additional protection under the Heritage Provisions of LEP 1991 through their inclusion on the Heritage Schedule of LEP 1991.

All of the cemeteries covered by this report except Megalong Cemetery are zoned "Special Uses A". This gives the cemetery statutory protection against other use or development of the site without approval of a change of zoning by the Council.

Megalong Cemetery is zoned Rural Conservation. While this gives some protection to the landscape qualities of the cemetery, this zoning is not appropriate to use of the place as a cemetery.

In addition, the following are included as Heritage Items on Schedule 2 of the Blue Mountains City Council LEP 1991 (LEP 1991):

- Springwood Cemetery
- Sir Henry Parkes Grave (Faulconbridge Cemetery)
- Headstones, Old Blackheath Military Cemetery (Blackheath Cemetery)
- Megalong Valley Cemetery
- Mount Victoria Cemetery
- Mount Irvine Cemetery

This gives these items additional protection under the Heritage Provisions of LEP 1991

The Blue Mountains City Council currently has a draft Local Environment Plan on exhibition, Draft LEP 2002. Under that document the following cemeteries above have been zoned as Recreational Open Space/Special Uses – Cemetery.

Springwood  
Faulconbridge  
Lawson  
Wentworth Falls  
Katoomba  
Blackheath  
Mount Victoria.

This zoning is consistent with the ongoing use of the places as cemeteries.

Under Draft LEP 2002, the following cemeteries have been given additional protection as heritage items:

Springwood  
Faulconbridge  
Wentworth Falls  
Blackheath

Megalong and Mount Irvine Cemeteries are outside the area covered by Draft LEP 2002.

### **G5.3.3 Exhumations**

Rules of exhumation have been in existence since 1906, but are not statutory requirements. The rules prohibit the exhumation of a body after seven days of burial and then for a period of seven years.

### **G5.3.4 Public Health Act**

While the Public Health Act has no specific regulations relating to cemeteries, it does provide that if something is deemed to be a nuisance (i.e. against the health of the community) then it is against the act.

Generally, if work at a cemetery does not disturb existing burials, no objections will be raised.

Graves can only be disturbed where:

- There is no health hazard in disturbing the grave (eg. The body did not have an infectious disease).
- the developer pays for the exhumation.

### **G5.3.5 Ordinance 68 of the Local Government Act**

Ordinance 68 of the Local Government Act provides regulations dealing with the burial of the dead.

### **G5.3.6 The Heritage Act**

*The Heritage Act* provides that “A person shall not disturb or excavate any land for the purpose of discovering, exposing or moving a relic, not being a relic subject to a conservation instrument, except in accordance with an excavation permit.”

For the purposes of the Heritage Act, a relic is defined as “any deposit, object or material evidence relating to the settlement prior to 1<sup>st</sup> January 1900, or such date as may be prescribed of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being aboriginal settlement”.

Under this act, any feature of a cemetery in New South Wales, predating 1900, is defined as a relic and cannot be disturbed without an excavation permit.

#### **G5.3.7 The Australian Heritage Commission**

The Australian Heritage Commission (AHC) is a statutory body of the Commonwealth Government administered within the Australian and World Heritage Group of Environment Australia. One of the responsibilities of the AHC is to maintain the Register of the National Estate.

The Register of the National Estate is the only nation-wide heritage list for Australia that encompasses natural, Indigenous and historic places.

The Register is compiled by the Australian Heritage Commission. Listing in the Register of the National Estate does not legally affect management of a place unless it is a property owned by the Commonwealth.

Of the cemeteries under the mantle of the Blue Mountains City Council, only Faulconbridge Cemetery, the site of Henry Parkes' grave is listed on the Register of the National Estate.

#### **G5.3.8 Condition**

Most of the cemeteries have been maintained in a reasonable condition. Problems of individual cemeteries have been noted in the individual reports on each cemetery.

The condition of individual monuments has generally not been addressed as these are normally considered to be the responsibility of the descendants of the interred.

### **G5.4 Maintenance Needs and Costs**

#### **G5.4.1 General**

Maintenance of cemeteries is desirable as part of the long term conservation of the sites. Maintenance of cemeteries usually includes the upkeep and repair of roads, fences, paths, landscape features, plantings as well as any buildings on the site.

#### **G5.4.2 Monuments**

Each element of the monument is important and should not be removed.

Because a monument might become the only record of the deceased to survive, monuments need to be durable and well maintained. They should, as a minimum contain the following information:

- full name of deceased
- date of birth
- date of death

It is also desirable that monuments have sufficient space to record family relationships.

The maintenance of monuments where descendants of the interred are known to survive is usually considered the responsibility of the descendants. Other monuments eventually become the responsibility of Council.

#### **G5.4.3 Landscaping**

The general landscaping of the cemeteries in the Blue Mountains is established by the existing paths. A feature of the cemeteries in the Blue Mountains is the presence of native trees around the perimeters. The major landscaping features of the cemeteries needs to be conserved and reinforced.

Maintaining the native plantings is sometimes in conflict with the presence of exotic species due to the problems of using herbicides and strong fertilisers around many native species. Mowing is also problematic, particularly with native grasses.

While grave plantings are desired by relatives of the deceased to personalise graves, these also need to be monitored to ensure appropriate species are used.

#### **G5.4.4 Maintenance Costs**

The cost of maintaining cemeteries to a good standard is not currently met by burial fees. Burial fees barely cover the cost of grave digging (which in the Blue Mountains is often higher due to the presence of sandstone at high levels).

Unless burial fees are increased, the low income from burial fees needs to be supplemented from external sources.

#### **G5.5 Community Values and Desires**

Cemeteries are highly valued by the community. There is often a very personal significance to individuals as well as the overall value of the record they provide of our past.

The high esteem in which the community holds cemeteries means that there is a responsibility to maintain cemeteries for the community and future generations.

There is also a strong community desire to continue the practice of human burial. Approximately 46% of bodies are still disposed of by burial, whether for religious or other reasons. In many cases, there are very strong religious convictions influencing the decision to be buried. This needs to be respected and accommodated by the continued provision of cemetery space.

#### **G5.6 Location & Neighbourhood**

Cemeteries were originally located on the outside of town boundaries. With the general growth of population, many are now becoming bounded by residential areas. Others such as Katoomba are bounded by sensitive bushland and have additional constraints which are addressed in the individual reports on those sections.

The presence of residential development does not pose major problems. It is generally screened on two or more sides by a perimeter of bushland and, where not screened, can provide some additional surveillance which assists with security on the sites.

The presence of sensitive bushland does pose some concerns where clearing for cemeteries and the use of the land for burials presents problems with runoff, erosion and the spread of weeds, particularly in locations where slopes are steep.

#### **G5.7 Access**

All the cemeteries in the study have good access with available parking relative to the size of the cemetery.

## **G6 General Conservation Policies**

### **G6.1 General**

These policies are general policies for the cemeteries administered by the Blue Mountains City Council. Policies which are specific to particular cemeteries are included in the separate section of the report for that cemetery.

Specific policies are given in italics. Supplementary notes are given in normal type.

### **G6.2 Ownership**

*Ownership of the cemeteries should remain with the public.*

Dedicated as Crown Land for the specific purpose and being a valuable resource to community both in their ongoing role as burial places the cemeteries should remain in public ownership.

### **G6.3 Management**

*The management of the cemeteries as a public resource should remain with either the Blue Mountains City Council (the Council). Alternatively, allow management of the cemeteries by a private company, providing that the cemeteries remain public burial places and that the private company must report to the Council at regular (maximum yearly) intervals.*

*Burial fees should be kept affordable so that the cemeteries remain as a publicly available burial facility.*

Management of cemeteries has for some time been a Council activity thanks to Local Government (Control of Cemeteries) Amendment Act 1966. The Council cannot divest itself of this responsibility. However, it may choose to give the day to day administration and management to a private company. Because the cemeteries are a public asset, the Council must maintain some control of the management and be able to answer any community concerns regarding the management of the cemeteries.

Under no circumstances should the cemeteries be made private burial grounds. It is necessary to retain the cemeteries as an affordable burial option for the general public.

### **G6.4 Layout**

*Generally maintain the historic layout of paths, roadways and denominational sections, unless specifically allowed otherwise in the policies for an individual cemetery.*

Maintaining the basic layout of the paths (where they were originally created and survive) will assist in maintaining the character of the cemeteries. Major paths are also necessary for present and future maintenance of cemeteries.

The denominational sections of the cemeteries reflect the values of the society at the time a cemetery was established and should as much as possible be maintained as a record of that society.

### **G6.5 Planting**

#### **G6.5.1 Trees**

*Where a pattern of planting is discernable, new plantings should follow the pattern of the earlier planting. Refer to sections for individual cemeteries for specific policies for each cemetery.*

*Generally maintain the setting of native bush around the perimeter of each cemetery.*

Tree planting was often a feature of nineteenth century cemeteries, with evergreen species being preferred in many cases. In the cemeteries of the Blue Mountains, native species are often a greater feature, particularly where native bush has been retained around the perimeter of the cemetery to provide a setting for the place. These stands of native trees should be retained.

The early patterns of plantings should be respected and, where appropriate, reinforced.

### **G6.5.2 Grave Plantings**

*Restrict grave plantings to low scale bulbs, ground covers, grasses and shrubs which will not destabilize monuments.*

*Cut and poison grave plantings which are unsuitable and have the potential to destabilise monuments.*

*Do not allow plantings of invasive weed species on graves.*

Grave plantings have often been added by relatives of the deceased. These are also often exotic species. In many cases, the grave plantings are inappropriate. This can be for a number of reasons including:

- the species grows too large and undermines the structure of the monument
- the species is an invasive weed

Such species should be removed using appropriate methods such as poisoning.

Species that do not cause problems and add to the aesthetic quality of the cemeteries can be retained.

### **G6.5.3 Grasses**

*Encourage the growth and maintenance of native grasses.*

*Do not mow grasses except where necessary to reinforce major pathways.*

*Grass around monuments should only be cut by manual tools. Do not use whipper snippers near monuments.*

Unmown grasses are not necessarily a problem at cemeteries. In many cases, native grasses have survived in cemeteries where they add to the visual amenity of the site and reduce the spread of weeds. It is often possible to reduce maintenance by encouraging natural grasses and mowing only the major paths. This has the additional benefit of reducing watering requirements and therefore runoff.

Mowing is often best kept only to major paths, allowing natural grasses to dominate.

The use of mowers, slashers and whipper snippers near monuments is not desirable as they can cause irreparable damage to the fabric of the monument (usually stone) by direct abrasion or flying debris. Alternative methods of controlling grasses around monuments include hand trimming, poisoning where appropriate, hand pulling and scalding with hot water.

### **G6.5.4 Weeds**

*Remove weed species using appropriate careful methods.*

*Do not spray herbicides for the control of weeds within the vicinity of native flora.*

As noted above, some species introduced to cemeteries are problematic and should be removed. In particular self sowing species such as camphor laurels, hollies and some species of wattle can cause considerable damage. Their careful removal is desirable. This might need to be by manual methods

to ensure additional damage to monuments is avoided. Invasive trees or weeds might need to be poisoned and, if necessary to avoid damage to monuments, left in situ.

Spraying of herbicides might be appropriate where there are large areas of weeds, providing there are no areas of native flora which will be adversely affected by the herbicides. Spraying of herbicides close to surviving areas of native bush should not be allowed as this is part of the layout and inherent character of the cemeteries. Alternative methods of removing larger weeds include cut and poison.

## **G6.6 Maintenance**

### **G6.6.1 General Monument Conservation and Repair Guidelines**

*Maintenance of monuments should generally be in accordance with Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation 2002 National Trust of Australia (NSW).*

Conservation works carried out with respect to a place of cultural significance, should endeavour to retain identified significant attributes and to enhance or recover them. Guidelines for the conservation of monuments set out in National Trust of Australia (NSW) *Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation 2002* are included in this report as Appendices G4, G5 and G6.

*Each element of the monument is important and should not be removed.*

*Maintenance of monuments should be undertaken only by skilled professionals who have proven experience in this type of work.*

*Repair of monuments should only be undertaken where sufficient resources and expertise are available to ensure the works are carried out to an acceptable conservation standard.*

Repair of broken or unstable monuments, including re-dowelling of disassembled sections, should be completed by a qualified monumental mason or other conservation practitioner experienced in the repair of aged and fragile monument fabric. Although it is always desirable that conservation costs be minimised, the repair of broken monuments using inappropriate materials and techniques may exacerbate physical problems, result in increased deterioration, and increase the long-term costs of conservation. Repairs by unskilled workers, while it is motivated by good intentions, often causes additional and ongoing damage.

Contractors should be asked to provide a list of completed projects, and should also provide examples of patching and repair techniques as necessary before the completion of on-site works. A detailed repair quotation (including a works specification) should be obtained.

### **G6.6.2 Conservation of Surrounds**

*All existing surrounds should be retained and conserved. These include ironwork grave railings, concrete and stone kerbing, and any timber picket surrounds.*

The surrounds of monuments contribute to the character of the gravesite and overall character of the cemetery. For most iron surrounds, appropriate cleaning and surface preparation followed by a periodic application of fishoil or other preservative would be sufficient to retard deterioration. Timber elements can be preserved by painting with linseed oil.

More detailed guidelines for their conservation are given in the "Tabulated Guide to the Conservation of Monuments" in National Trust of Australia (NSW) *Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation 2002* which is included in this report as Appendix G4.

### G6.6.3 Repairs

*Repairs should be in accordance with the “Tabulated Guide to the Conservation of Monuments”, “Conservation of Gravestones and “Notes on the Conservation of Wooden Cemetery Features” in National Trust of Australia (NSW) Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation 2002 and included in this report as Appendices G4, G5 and G6.*

*In carrying out physical work on damaged cemetery monuments, the following principles should be applied:*

- *wherever possible original fabric should be retained and preserved, thereby maintaining the integrity and authenticity of the original monument;*
- *Monuments should be retained in-situ and conserved.*
- *displaced fabric should be reinstated to its original location, where this is known, thereby restoring both original fabric and form;*
- *careful regard should be paid to the landscape and setting of the site, and the physical and visual relationships of individual elements within the cemetery;*
- *the information content of monuments should be retained;*
- *reconstruction, using new fabric, should be limited to works which are essential, in order to allow preservation and restoration of existing fabric.*
- *Wherever practicable, existing damaged fabric should be retained and incorporated in repair work.*
- *The temptation to replace fabric with “new” works should be resisted, as it is inevitable that an old cemetery will show evidence of its age in the form of some wear and tear. Even if it is damaged, the original fabric has greater integrity and authenticity than any replacement fabric, and could always be replaced at a later date - the reverse process is impossible once the original material has been discarded.*

Tilting and leaning monuments are only a problem if the stone is liable to fall under its own weight, if it is unstable, or if it may attract the attention of vandals. To discourage future vandals it is considered desirable that broken monuments are dowelled to provide additional strength. It is important that the plinth and stone be re-set level, and that appropriate dowelling and fixing material is used. Non-ferrous dowels (preferably bronze) should be used, set in lead, mason’s putty or other appropriate inert compound.

Cleaning of stones is not considered a priority unless it is required to facilitate the repair and re-erection of broken monuments. Cleaning should not attempt to restore the stone to “new” condition, and should not remove the natural surface hardening of the stone. Cleaning should only seek to remove surface soiling and agents of deterioration. Where required, for example to enable accurate patching of broken stones, or to make inscriptions more visible cleaning should generally be done with water and a bristle brush.

In some cases small fragments are missing, so repaired headstones would have gaps between rejoined pieces. In such cases patching with reconstituted stone may be undertaken. For example, for sandstone headstones, patching may be undertaken with epoxy resin and sand (or other approved mix). Patching should aim to match the colour and texture of the existing stone, and should be completed flush with the surface of the stone (the break line may need to be trimmed before the adhesive is completely set). Where reconstituted stone patches cross areas of incised lettering this may be reinstated where the prior wording is accurately known and its replacement will facilitate the reading of the original inscription. Lettering should not be reinstated where wording is conjectural.

The re-inscription of monuments, in order to conserve and present their genealogical and historic information, is not generally necessary. The cemeteries within the City of Blue Mountains are

generally not of such age that monuments are becoming illegible within the possible exception of some of the Stockade Cemetery headstones at Blackheath, and the discarded memorial at Mount Victoria. As a general rule inscriptions should not be re-cut, as inscription weathering is part of the natural history of the stone. In cases where the family of the deceased wishes the monument to be re-inscribed and repair of the inscription can be easily achieved, re-inscription may be considered. The re-blackening or re-gilding of headstones to keep them easily legible is also a traditional and appropriate maintenance procedure.

If re-blackening or re-gilding will not suffice to restore legibility, then as an alternative to re-cutting a small bronze plaque which reproduces the original inscription may be erected in an unobtrusive place at the rear or base of the stone, or on plinth or kerbing.

#### **G6.6.4 Responsibility for Maintenance and Repair**

*Where there are known to be surviving descendants, the repair of monuments should be the responsibility of the descendants.*

*Where there are no surviving descendants, the repair of monuments should be the responsibility of the Blue Mountains City Council*

*The maintenance of the general landscape, drainage and the prevention of erosion etc which might otherwise contribute to the deterioration of monuments should be the responsibility of the Council.*

*A regular maintenance plan should be instigated which ensures the following are properly attended to:*

- *stormwater drains kept clean (two monthly except in autumn where this should be done monthly)*
- *weeds removed (when weeds are under control, six monthly)*
- *lawns mown (as necessary for exotic grasses, six monthly for native grasses and ground covers)*
- *rubbish removed (weekly)*
- *roads and paths maintained (monitored by maintenance staff and repaired as necessary)*
- *fences maintained (monitored by maintenance staff and repaired as necessary)*

The responsibility for maintenance and repair of monuments is generally considered to lie with living descendants of the interred. This avoids problems with work undertaken by authorities or other parties being disputed by surviving descendants. In some cases, no surviving descendants are known, and responsibility generally falls to the managing authority.

The overall maintenance of landscape items, paths, fences, drainage etc however, remains with the managing authority. As the delegated body responsible for the management of public cemeteries, this is therefore the responsibility of Blue Mountains City Council. A regular maintenance plan needs to be instigated and budgeted for.

#### **G6.7 Movement of Monuments**

*Do not allow movement of monuments from their original site.*

*Where a monument has been moved from its original site within the cemetery, it should only be reinstated if documentation of the correct location is available.*

*For monuments such as those at Blackheath Stockade where the remains and monuments have been relocated and the original site has been redeveloped, the monuments should not be relocated.*

The significance of a monument is greatly reduced if it is removed from its context. Where the original location is known, it may be reinstated to its original relocation.

At Blackheath, the stockade cemetery monuments were moved in the late nineteenth century with the associated bodies. Their original site is now a residential allotment and it would be inappropriate to relocate the bodies and /or monuments now.

### **G6.8 Fencing**

Refer to sections for individual cemeteries for policies regarding fencing.

### **G6.9 Resources & Funding**

*Funding for the conservation of the cemeteries should remain the responsibility of the Blue Mountains City Council with the exception of Faulconbridge Cemetery where State and Federal funding could be sought to contribute to the conservation of the burial ground area, particularly the grave of Sir Henry Parkes.*

*Funding for selected maintenance projects and for archival projects such as the updating of cemetery transcripts could be applied for.*

The funding for cemeteries is largely derived from burial fees. In older sections of cemeteries the funds provided by burial fees have been long since spent and income from new burials is inadequate to meet overall ongoing maintenance costs. This does not negate the responsibility of the Blue Mountains City Council to provide adequate funds for cemetery maintenance.

Options to increase funding include:

- increasing burial fees;
- establishing a trust fund which has adequate funds for interest income to contribute towards maintenance work. Burial fees could, in part, be contributed to the trust fund;
- allocating additional funds from Council's annual budget towards cemetery maintenance; and
- entering into a management arrangement for an external company to manage the cemeteries.

The fourth option could be viable if the external company was given income either from Council's budget or from an additional source. This could be from operating a related facility such as a crematorium. At present there is only one crematorium in the Council's area and this is a privately operated facility located at Leura. A crematorium in the lower Blue Mountains could also service some areas of the Penrith region and provide additional income which could contribute to general cemetery maintenance.

There are some other limited opportunities for funding assistance. These include:

#### N.S.W. Heritage Office

The NSW Heritage Office Incentives Program supports the community's identification, assessment, management and interpretation of NSW heritage.

Funding is available for:

Site works and presentation projects.

Projects involving physical conservation works and the interpretation and presentation of individual heritage items.

Funding is only available for items which are protected by a statutory heritage listing such as a local council LEP or the State Heritage Register. This program usually operates in two-year cycles.

#### Commonwealth Natural Heritage Trust Program

Because most of the Blue Mountains cemeteries include natural landscapes as an important component, the Commonwealth Natural Heritage Trust Program might be a potential funding source for weed removal and bush regeneration work.

#### NSW Environmental Trust Program

The NSW Environmental Trust Program for natural environment projects is administered through the Environment Protection Agency. It might provide assistance with natural landscape components of the cemeteries.

#### Royal Australian Historical Society

The Royal Australian Historical Society administers the Small Grants Heritage Assistance Program for Archives and Local History. Under this scheme you may apply for funding for the recording of a cemetery, cemetery transcripts or other work that can be made available through libraries, historical societies, the internet or other public areas. Grants can also be obtained to employ an expert to run workshops on preserving archival records, basic maintenance procedures in cemeteries or similar activities where members of historical societies, cemeteries friends' groups and other community members can learn skills to ensure ongoing conservation.

### **G6.10 Uses**

*Continue the use of the places as cemeteries. Do not allow use of the places for new uses unless specifically allowed in the individual policies for a specific cemetery.*

*Refer to policies for each cemetery regarding use of the cemeteries for new burials.*

The cemeteries are on Crown Land that was reserved to provide space for burial. The use of the cemetery land for the dedicated purpose of burial is still very important to a large sector of the community. While there is still a demand for this use, burials should continue in the cemeteries unless there is a specific policy at an individual cemetery for it to be closed.

Of the cemeteries administered by Blue Mountains City Council, two (Faulconbridge and Megalong) have not been used for burials for some time. The sections of this report for the individual cemeteries give specific policies for re-opening the cemeteries for burials.

### **G6.11 Interpretation**

*Support the revision and continued publication of Our Past Blue Mountaineers by the Blue Mountains Family History Society.*

*Circulate copies of new and revised editions of the above publication to local libraries and historical societies.*

*Provide cemetery guides for circulation to local tourist information places and local historical societies.*

*Provide grave markers on unmarked graves of early pioneers and residents, as well as other people of historic importance.*

Community support for the conservation of the cemeteries should be encouraged through circulation of information on the history and heritage value of the cemetery to interested parties (eg local historical society).

Continuing research and publication about the cemeteries should be encouraged, particularly as additional information might be found which would further assist the development of conservation policy and interpretation. As noted in policy G6.9, some funding assistance might be sought to assist with this ongoing work.

Where people of importance have been buried in the cemeteries, brochures distributed at local tourist outlets, historical societies and Council offices could highlight this to potential visitors. Some of these graves are presently unmarked. A simple grave marker would help visitors identify the location of such unmarked graves. Local historical societies should be consulted to help identify where such markers should be introduced.

Refer to sections for individual cemeteries for further policies regarding interpretation.

### **G6.12 Statutory Protection**

*Retain the zoning of Mount Irvine cemetery as Special Uses A under LEP 1991.*

*Endorse the zoning of Springwood, Faulconbridge, Lawson, Wentworth Falls, Katoomba, Blackheath and Mount Victoria Cemeteries as Special Uses – Cemeteries under Draft LEP 2002.*

*Re-zone Megalong Cemetery as Special Uses A under LEP 1991.*

*Include Lawson and Katoomba Cemeteries as heritage items on the heritage schedule of Draft LEP 2002.*

*Endorse the inclusion of Springwood, Faulconbridge, Wentworth Falls and Blackheath Cemeteries as heritage items on the heritage schedule of Draft LEP 2002.*

*Retain Megalong, Mount Victoria and Mount Irvine Cemeteries as heritage items on the heritage schedule of LEP 1991.*

The zoning of the cemeteries as Special Uses A under LEP 1991 or as Special Uses – Cemeteries is appropriate to their ongoing role as cemeteries, whether open or closed for burials.

Not all of the cemeteries which are the subject of this report have been included as heritage items in the relevant Blue Mountains LEPs. This should be revised so that all of the cemeteries are given statutory recognition as heritage items. Additionally, Faulconbridge and Blackheath Cemeteries should be recognised as whole entities, not just for selected graves as is the case on LEP 1991.

### **G6.13 Re-use of Graves**

*Allow the reuse of graves only where provision has been made at the time of the first burial.*

*Gain permission from living descendants of the first burial prior to the reuse of graves.*

In some cases, permission is given at the time of a burial for the grave to be re-used. Only in these instances should the site of a known burial be re-used. Re-use of a grave without permission is very likely to cause offence to surviving relatives of the first burial and should not be allowed.

*Apart from standard council markers, do not remove the original monument when re-using a grave. Standard council markers should only be removed where they are to be replaced by a purpose made monument.*

The monument is at the minimum an important historical record of the original burial and in many cases has social and aesthetic importance as well as sentimental value to the relatives of the original

burial. The original monument can be dismantled sufficiently to allow the additional burial, but should always be reassembled in its original configuration.

*Allow the interment of ashes in existing burial sites where the ashes are from a person related to the original burial.*

Interment of ashes in existing burial sites is a common way of ensuring the ashes are places where there will be a tangible monument and of keeping family groups together.

*Where a grave site has been purchased but not used for a period of 60 years or more, allow the reuse of the site. Permission from the original purchaser or the family of the original purchaser should be obtained before the site is re-allocated.*

Grave sites are often purchased many years in advance. In some cases, they become unused due to circumstance such as the purchaser moving away from the area and being buried elsewhere or due to cremation. Unused Burials Legislation has recently been passed allowing for such sites to become available for re-use, provided a thorough search for the rightful owners is undertaken. It is acceptable in circumstances such as these for the grave site to be used by another person. Compensation should be paid to the original owner.

#### **G6.14 New Elements**

##### **G6.14.1 General**

*New elements such as seating, maintenance buildings etc within the curtilage of the cemetery should be carefully considered to ensure they do not intrude on the character of the cemetery. Refer to policies for the individual cemeteries.*

In general the introduction of new elements into the cemeteries or their curtilage is not recommended. If new elements (for example seating) become desirable for future development of the site, the precise need, location and design would require careful future consideration in order that such elements did not diminish or obscure the cultural significance of the place. Refer to policies for each cemetery for further guidance.

##### **G6.14.2 New Burials and Monuments**

*Continue burials in established areas of the cemetery unless otherwise stated otherwise in the individual policies for the cemetery. All new work or fabric must be compatible with the existing character of the site.*

#### **G6.15 Columbaria**

*Allow the construction of columbaria. New columbaria are to be sensitively located and designed so that they are not intrusive into the character of the cemetery. Refer to the sections for individual cemeteries for locations of columbaria.*

Columbaria reflect changes in burial practices in the twentieth century and allow monuments for those who have been cremated to be located within an area which commemorates the lives of our forbears.

The design and location of columbaria must be carefully considered to ensure the character, particularly of early sections of cemeteries, is not adversely affected.

#### **G6.16 Memorial Gardens and Walks**

*Refer to policies for individual cemeteries regarding the establishment of memorial gardens and walks.*

As for columbaria, memorial gardens or walks reflecting changes in burial practices in the twentieth century and allowing monuments for those who have been cremated to be located in an area which commemorates the lives of our forbears.

Memorial gardens and walks provide an opportunity to place ashes within a pleasant garden or bushland setting. Their location and design must be carefully considered to ensure the character of the cemeteries is not adversely affected.

#### **G6.16.1 Minimum Maintenance Sections**

*Allow the establishment of areas of minimum maintenance sections where these do not encroach on the general character of the existing cemetery. Refer to the sections for each cemetery for further guidance.*

Minimum maintenance sections include the use of concrete strips as a continuous monument plinth with grass between the concrete strips. This more recent practice has advantages of reducing long term maintenance costs (by making mowing easier and providing a standardized monument) and maximizing the use of the space in the cemetery.

They do however have a remarkably different character to traditional cemeteries and the establishment of these sections, as with columbaria, must consider the individual character of a cemetery and should not intrude on existing elements.

#### **G6.17 Signs and Markers**

##### **G6.17.1 General**

Refer to sections on individual cemeteries for the location and content of major signs and section signs at the cemeteries

##### **G6.17.2 Row Markers**

*Ensure row markers are legible and easily read with a permanent inscription*

*Row markers should be of simple design such as a low timber post with the row number carved into the timber.*

There are a variety of row markers used in the various cemeteries, some more successful than others. In many cases, the lettering is painted on and has washed off the marker. Timber markers with carved lettering or metal markers with engraved lettering will overcome problems of weathering paint. These markers should be properly maintained to assist visitors in locating graves.

##### **G6.17.3 Grave Markers**

*Standardized grave markers provided by the Council should include the following information about the deceased as a minimum:*

- *Full name of deceased*
- *Date of birth*
- *Date of death*

*Additionally, information about relationships may be added if desired.*

*Standardised grave markers should be designed to ensure the information plate cannot be removed from the base.*

The present standardized grave markers lack details about the date of birth of the deceased and about family relationships. As these are sometimes the only marker to remain on a gravesite, it is vital for future researchers that this basic information as well as the name and date of death of the deceased is

included on the marker. Information about family relationships is also useful, but might be more difficult to establish.

The present markers include a metal plate fixed to a small concrete base. The metal plate can be dislodged without great difficulty and the information is then lost. Fixing with permanent screws or pins and stronger adhesive would assist in keeping information for future researchers.

#### **G6.18 Access**

*Retain public access to all dedicated Cemeteries within the management of Blue Mountains City Council.*

Cemeteries are an important public asset. They provide valuable historical information about our past and should be accessible to the public.

*Provide systems to restrict vehicular access to cemeteries other than that which is necessary for funerals.*

Vehicles in cemeteries are a cause of some damage to monuments. While they should not be restricted completely from cemeteries, there should be limitations on their access. This can be achieved by providing adequate parking near the entry to the cemetery, without the need to traverse through burial areas. Some roadways to burial areas are necessary, but should be accessible only with lockable gates.

Refer to the policies for individual cemeteries for more specific guidelines about roads and pathways.

#### **G6.19 Vandalism**

*Provide regular patrols of cemeteries at night to reduce vandalism. Refer to sections for individual cemeteries for further policies.*

Vandalism causes much of the damage in cemeteries and is perhaps the hardest problem to resolve. Lighting of cemeteries in urban areas has proved effective in reducing vandalism. Night patrols by rangers or police is also a deterrent. Effective maintenance and public interest has also assisted in reducing vandalism.

#### **G6.20 Policy for Adoption and Review of Conservation Policy.**

##### **G6.20.1 Adoption of Conservation Policy**

*Adopt this Conservation Management Plan for the place to guide the operation and management of the place. Should this Conservation Management Plan not be adopted, revise this policy and adopt the revised policy before further works or activities are carried out at the place.*

##### **G6.20.2 Review of Conservation Policy**

*The conservation policy should be reviewed after the first major works at the cemeteries and, in any event, at regular intervals of no more than ten years.*

*Ad hoc changes to the Conservation Management Plan are to be avoided. Any changes to policy are to be consistent with a complete revision of the Conservation Management Plan.*

##### **G6.20.3 Distribution of Conservation Management Plan**

*This conservation management plan should be distributed to the following:*

- Blue Mountains City Council
- Blue Mountains Library
- Blue Mountains Local Family History Society

- *All historical societies in the Blue Mountains*
- *National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.)*
- *Any persons involved in the future management or maintenance of cemeteries in the Blue Mountains.*

## Appendix G1

The brief for this report.

### The Conservation Plan

The report would be in accordance with *The Conservation Plan* by J.S. Kerr and the *Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter)*, and its guidelines and the *N.S.W. Heritage Manual*. The report would include the following:

#### Table of Contents

#### Executive Summary

#### Introduction

The introduction would include the following sections:

The Brief

Site Definition

Methodology

Terms

Author Identification

Acknowledgement

- Abbreviations

#### Bibliography

Sources consulted would include

State Library including Mitchell Wing;

Land Titles Office;

Local History Societies;

Blue Mountains Library Local Studies Collection; and

- Other sources as necessary.

#### Historical Background

A brief history of each of the eight cemeteries would be provided as well as a general history of cemeteries in the Blue Mountains. Where important or unusual monuments are found, brief individual histories of the associated person/s would also be provided.

#### Physical Survey

Surveys of each of the eight cemeteries would be undertaken and would include

sketch plan of the cemetery;

identification of major monuments in the cemetery;

inventory forms for monuments considered to be of individual significance;

identification of significant layouts, if any;

- identification of historically significant plantings associated with the burial ground area, if any.

#### Assessment of Significance

The assessment of the significance of each site would be undertaken in accordance with the guidelines "Assessing Heritage Significance" (2000 edition) given in the *N.S.W. Heritage Manual*.



The report would not include the Faulconbridge Historical Precinct as the extent of this precinct has not been clearly identified. Further the Corridor of Oaks and nearby sites of heritage significance in Faulconbridge, while certainly worthy of conservation planning, are not relevant to the cemeteries study.

### **Qualifications**

The report would not include the following areas of study referred to in your brief:

#### Koori Heritage Values

As the sites are likely to be of primarily European cultural value, the report will not include a detailed assessment of Koori heritage values. Should the graves of any Koori persons be identified, these would be surveyed as part of the report and attention would be drawn to the monument. Should any important Koori history or archaeology be identified in the course of the study, the team would alert the Council immediately and additional assessment of this would be undertaken as a variation to the report at an additional agreed fee. Consultation with the local Koori community would be undertaken only as part of such a variation.

#### Natural Features

The report will focus on the cultural landscape relating to the burial ground area of the site. Surviving natural landscapes such as hanging swamps on the sites but unrelated to the area of the site used as a burial ground will be identified if appropriate, but policies for the management of such features will not be provided as part of the report. Recommendations would be made for further assessment and study if necessary.

Geodiversity and biodiversity issues referred to under Natural Heritage on page 5 of your brief will not be addressed except as mentioned above.

#### Development Control Planning

Development Control Planning will not be included as part of the report as it is envisaged that the sites will remain in use as cemeteries for the foreseeable future.

#### Interpretation

Policies for interpretation will be generalised. Programs for tours, displays and the like will not be provided. If it is thought that such interpretive measures are appropriate, policies would provide only a direction for further work in that area.

#### Community consultation

A maximum of two meetings with community groups are included in the project. The meetings would be organised by the Council at a venue provided by the Council.

#### Other

The report will provide generalised policies for the maintenance and care of monuments at the cemeteries. Where it is determined that an individual cemetery is of such importance that an individual conservation plan is warranted for that site, a policy recommending such a report will be provided.

Plans and policies for individual buildings as required in the Non-indigenous Heritage section of your brief would not be provided. Surveys will be provided only as described above as part of the Physical Survey section of the report.

No information or policies would be provided for movable heritage as it is not anticipated that this would be a significant component of the sites.

Historic inscriptions will only be recorded for monuments considered to be of outstanding importance, not for each monument on the site.

As each cemetery can be considered to be a non-indigenous archaeological site, the descriptions of potential non-indigenous archaeological sites will be as set out in the proposed Physical Survey.

It is not envisaged that the significance of the cemeteries relates to the international context. Hence, assessment and policies will relate to the local context and, where appropriate, state or national context.

## Appendix G2

*Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance - The Burra Charter*

# The Burra Charter

(The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance)

## Preamble

Considering the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (Venice 1964), and the Resolutions of the 5th General Assembly of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) (Moscow 1978), the Burra

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.

### Who is the Charter for?

The Charter sets a standard of practice for those who provide advice, make decisions about, or undertake works to places of cultural significance, including owners, managers and custodians.

### Using the Charter

The Charter should be read as a whole. Many articles are interdependent. Articles in the Conservation Principles section are often further developed in the Conservation Processes and Conservation Practice sections. Headings have been included for ease of reading but do not form part of the Charter.

The Charter is self-contained, but aspects of its use and application are further explained in the following Australia ICOMOS documents:

- Guidelines to the Burra Charter: Cultural Significance;
- Guidelines to the Burra Charter: Conservation Policy;
- Guidelines to the Burra Charter: Procedures for Undertaking Studies and Reports;
- Code on the Ethics of Coexistence in Conserving Significant Places.

### What places does the Charter apply to?

The Charter can be applied to all types of

Charter was 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 26 November 1999.

places of cultural significance including natural, indigenous and historic places with cultural values.

The standards of other organisations may also be relevant. These include the Australian Natural Heritage Charter and the Draft Guidelines for the Protection, Management and Use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Places.

### Why conserve?

Places of cultural significance enrich people's lives, often providing a deep and inspirational sense of connection to community and landscape, to the past and to lived experiences. They are historical records, that are important as tangible expressions of Australian identity and experience. Places of cultural significance reflect the diversity of our communities, telling us about who we are and the past that has formed us and the Australian landscape. They are irreplaceable and precious.

These places of cultural significance must be conserved for present and future generations.

The Burra Charter advocates a cautious approach to change: do as much as necessary to care for the place and to make it useable, but otherwise change it as little as possible so that its cultural significance is retained.

## Articles

### Article 1. Definitions

For the purposes 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 *fabric*, *setting*, *use*, *associations*, *meanings*, records, *related places* and *related objects*.

Places may have a range of values for different 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 earlier 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

## Explanatory Notes

The concept of place should be broadly interpreted. The elements described in Article 1.1 may include memorials, trees, gardens, parks, places of historical events, urban areas, towns, industrial places, archaeological sites and spiritual and religious places.

The term cultural significance is synonymous with heritage significance and cultural heritage value.

Cultural significance may change as a result of the continuing history of the place.

Understanding of cultural significance may change as a result of new information.

Fabric includes building interiors and sub-surface remains, as well as excavated material.

Fabric may define spaces and these may be important elements of the significance of the place.

The distinctions referred to, for example in relation to roof gutters, are:

- maintenance — regular inspection and cleaning of gutters;
- repair involving restoration — returning of dislodged gutters;
- repair involving reconstruction — replacing decayed gutters.

It is recognised that all places and their components change over time at varying rates.

New material may include recycled material salvaged from other places. This should not be to the detriment of any place of cultural significance.

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*.

Associations may include social or spiritual values and cultural responsibilities for a place.

Meanings generally relate to intangible aspects such as symbolic qualities and memories.

Interpretation may be a combination of the treatment of the fabric (e.g. maintenance, restoration, reconstruction); the use of and activities at the place; and the use of introduced explanatory material.

## 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.

The traces of additions, alterations and earlier treatments to the fabric of a place are evidence of its history and uses which may be part of its significance. Conservation action should assist and not impede their understanding.

The use of modern materials and techniques must be supported by firm scientific evidence or by a body of experience.

Conservation of places with natural significance is explained in the Australian Natural Heritage Charter. This Charter defines natural significance to mean the importance of ecosystems, biological diversity and geodiversity for their existence value, or for present or future generations in terms of their scientific, social, aesthetic and

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 retention of an 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

life-support value.

A cautious approach is needed, as understanding of cultural significance may change. This article should not be used to justify actions which do not retain cultural significance.

The Burra Charter process, or sequence of investigations, decisions and actions, is illustrated in the accompanying flowchart.

The policy should identify a use or combination of uses or constraints on uses that retain the cultural significance of the place. New use of a place should involve minimal change, to significant fabric and use; should respect associations and meanings; and where appropriate should provide for continuation of practices which contribute to the cultural significance of the place.

Aspects of the visual setting may include use, siting, bulk, form, scale, character, colour, texture and materials.

Other relationships, such as historical connections, may contribute to interpretation, appreciation, enjoyment or experience of the place.

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 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.

For some places, conflicting cultural values may affect policy development and management decisions. In this article, the term cultural values refers to those beliefs which are important to a cultural group, including but not limited to political, religious, spiritual and moral beliefs. This is broader than values associated with cultural significance.

### **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.

There may be circumstances where no action is required to achieve conservation.

#### **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*.

When change is being considered, a range of options should be explored to seek the option which minimises the reduction of cultural significance.

**15.2** Changes which reduce *cultural significance* should be reversible, and be reversed when circumstances permit.

Reversible changes should be considered temporary. Non-reversible change should only be used as a last resort and should not prevent future conservation action.

**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*. 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.

Preservation protects fabric without obscuring the evidence of its construction and use. The process should always be applied:

- where the evidence of the fabric is of such significance that it should not be altered;
- where insufficient investigation has been carried out to permit policy decisions to be taken in accord with Articles 26 to 28.

New work (e.g. stabilisation) may be carried out in association with preservation when its purpose is the physical protection of the fabric and when it is consistent with Article 22.

**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*.

Adaptation may involve the introduction of new services, or a new use, or changes to safeguard 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* 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 a *place* should be analysed with reference to the statement of significance and the policy for managing the place. It may be necessary to modify proposed changes following analysis to better retain cultural significance.

New work may be sympathetic if its siting, bulk, form, scale, character, colour, texture and material are similar to the existing fabric, but imitation should be avoided.

These may require changes to significant *fabric* but they should be minimised. In some cases, continuing a significant use or practice may involve substantial new work.

For many places associations will be linked to use.

The results of studies should be up to date, regularly reviewed and revised as necessary.

Statements of significance and policy should be kept up to date by regular review and revision as necessary. The management plan may deal with other matters related to the management of the place.

6.20.3.1.1.1.1.1

**27.2** Existing *fabric, use, associations* and *meanings* should be adequately 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 only be undertaken 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 such decision.

**Article 30. Direction, supervision and 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 this is 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*.

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

**Article 34. Resources**

The best conservation often involves the

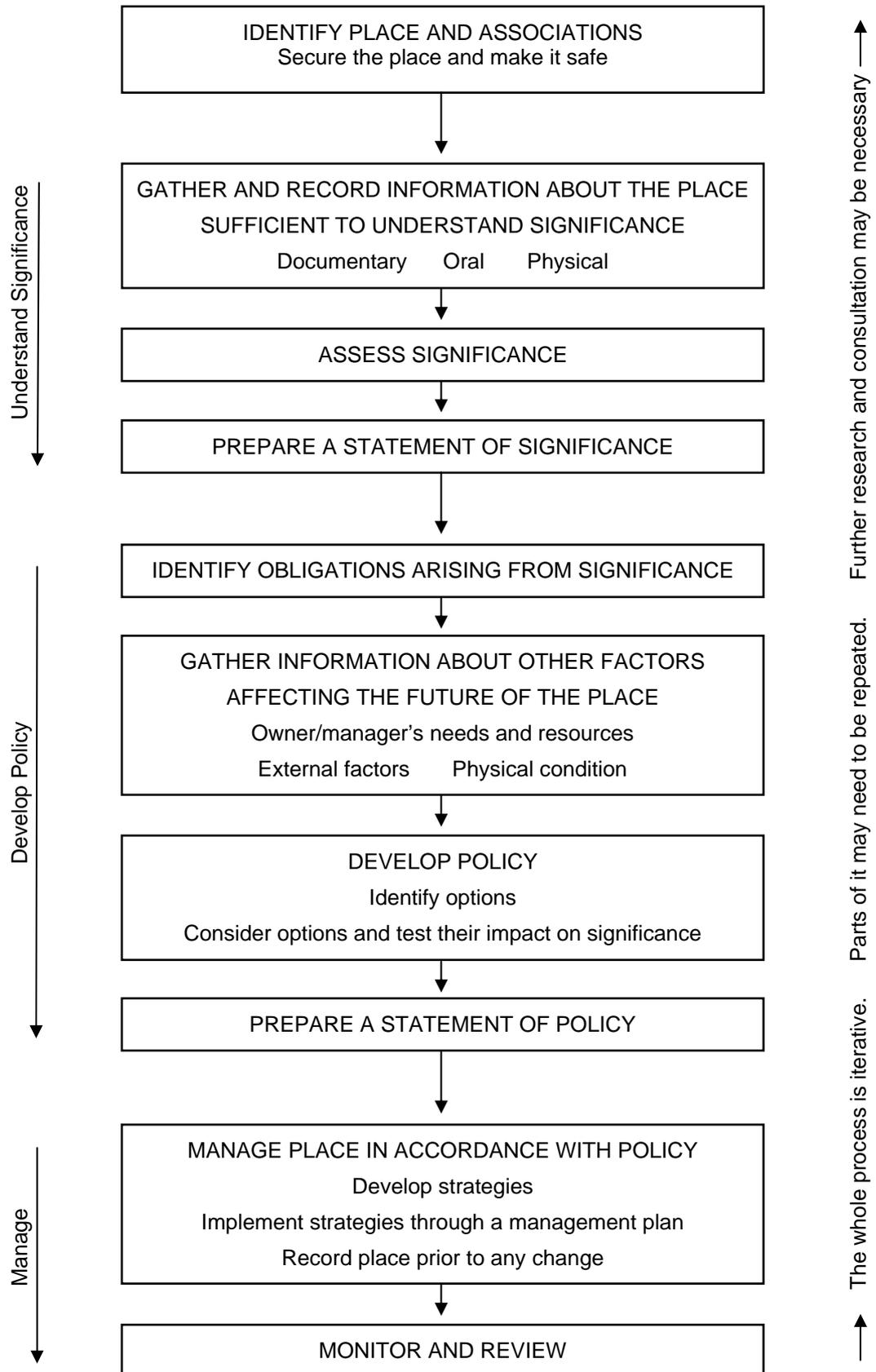
Adequate resources should be provided for *conservation*.

least work and can be inexpensive.

*Words in italics are defined in Article 1.*

## The Burra Charter Process

Sequence of investigations, decisions and actions



### Appendix G3

“Suggested Gravestone Terminology” *Cemeteries – A Policy Paper* (1987) National Trust of Australia (NSW)

#### SUGGESTED GRAVESTONE TERMINOLOGY

**These notes present some suggested terms and labels. They will not be agreed upon by all monumental masons and other interested parties.**

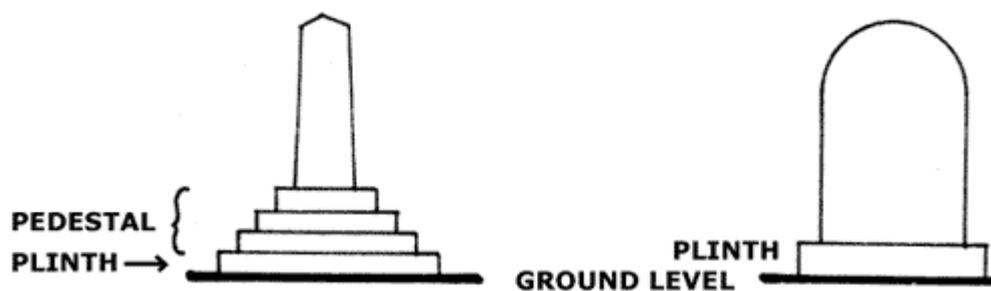
All built features on a grave are monuments.

**Gravestones** are actual markers (i.e. headstones, footstones, sculpture).

The most common type is the **upright slab** or **stele**.

**Plinth** - course in contact with ground only.

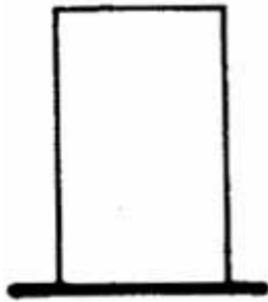
**Pedestal** - any other courses.



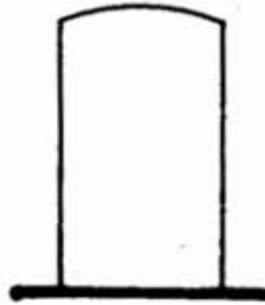
**Six major classes of monument shape are defined:**

- A. Upright slabs/stelae
- B. Crosses
- C. Pillars
- D. Sculptures
- E. Horizontal slabs
- F. Miscellaneous

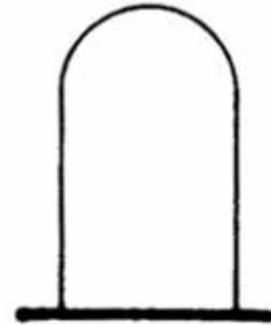
## A. UPRIGHT SLABS/STELAE



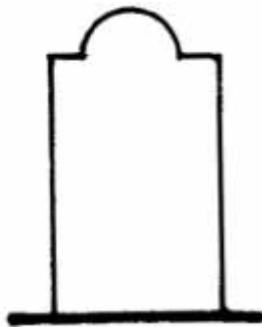
1. Rectangular



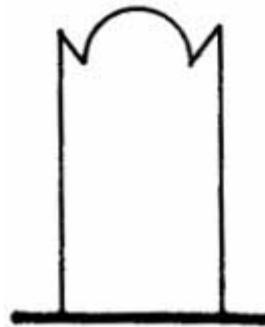
2. Cambered



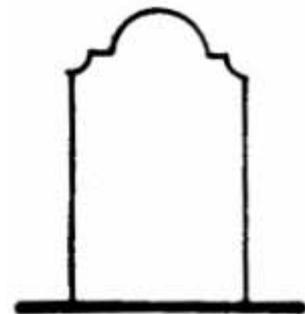
3. Semicircular



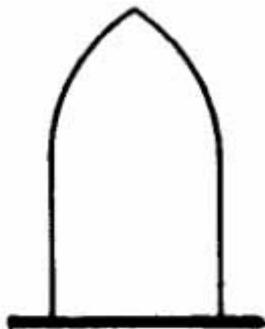
4. Semicircular with shoulders



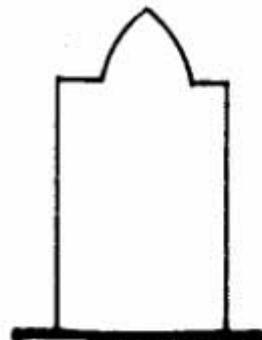
5. Semicircular with  
acroteria



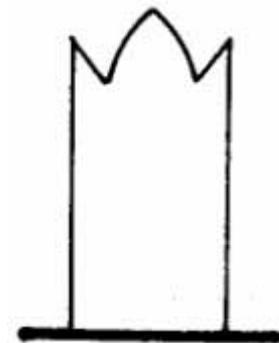
6. Semicircular with  
cut away shoulders



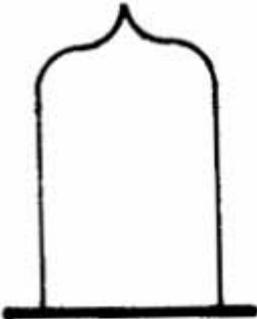
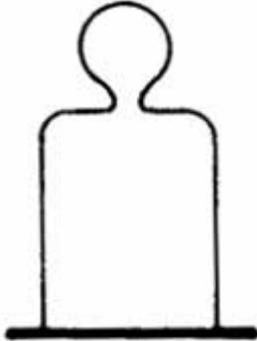
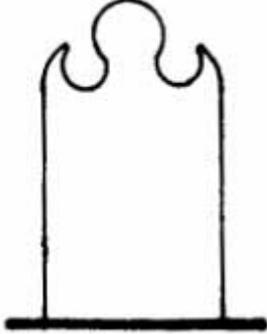
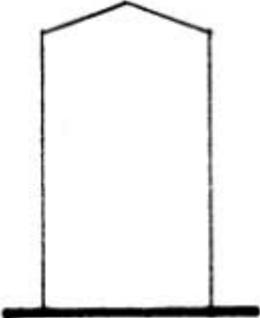
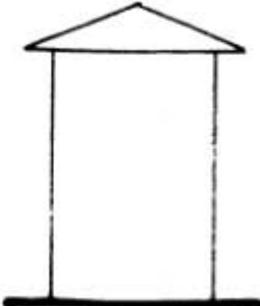
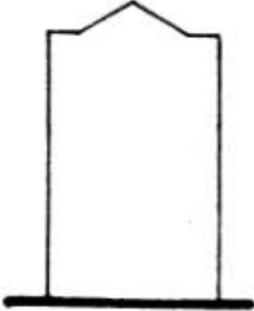
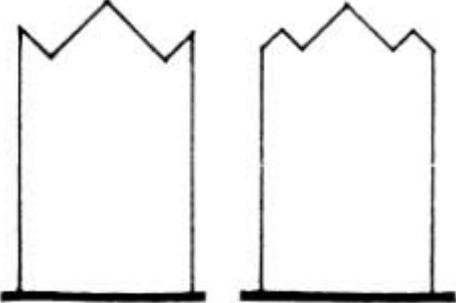
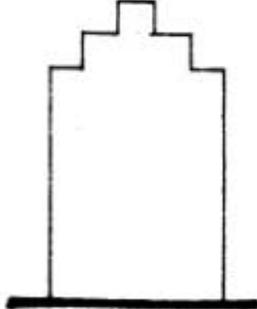
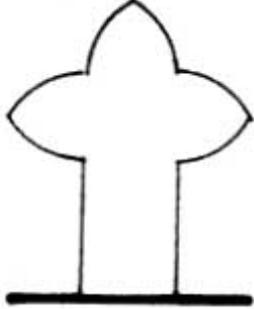
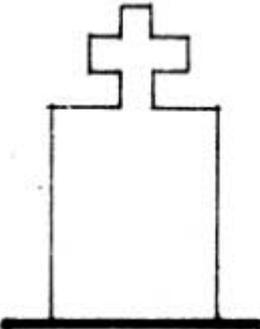
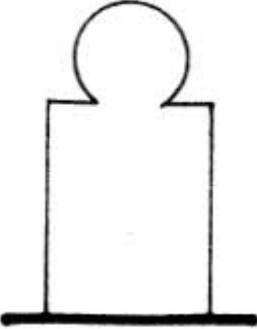
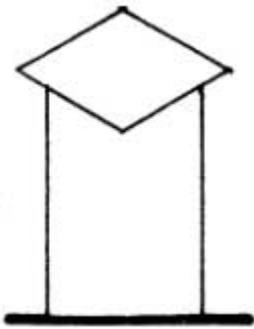
7. Gothic

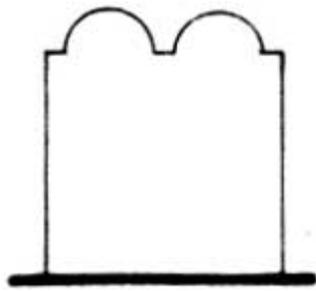


8. Gothic with  
shoulders

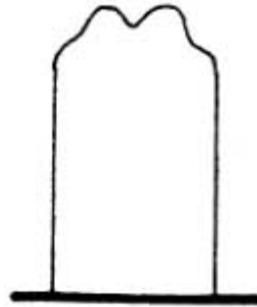


9. Gothic with  
acroteria

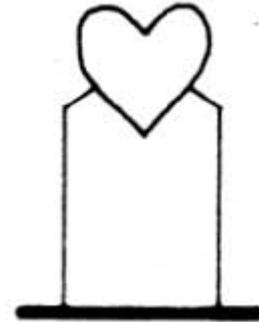
 <p>10. Ogee</p>	 <p>11. Anthropomorphic</p>	 <p>12. Anthropomorphic with peaked shoulders</p>
 <p>13. Gabled</p>	 <p>14. Pedimented</p>	 <p>15. Gabled with shoulders</p>
 <p>16. Gabled with peaked shoulders</p>	 <p>17. Stepped</p>	 <p>18. Cruciform</p>
 <p>19. Cross surmount with shoulders</p>	 <p>20. Circular surmount with shoulders</p>	 <p>21. Diamond</p>



22. Double



23. Stylised double

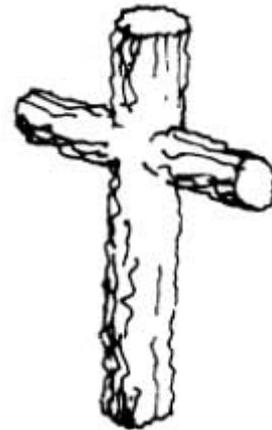


24. Miscellaneous e.g.  
Heart

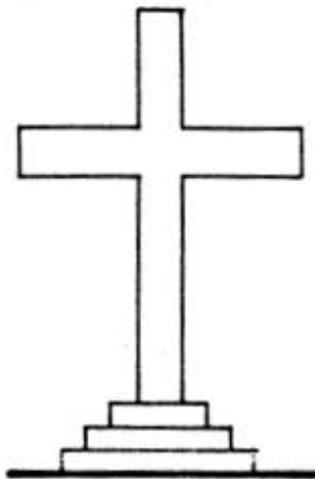
## B. CROSSES



1. Circular Latin



2. Rustic Latin



3. Roman/Latin (with 3 steps - Calvary)



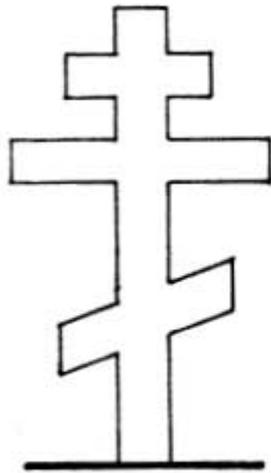
4. Celtic



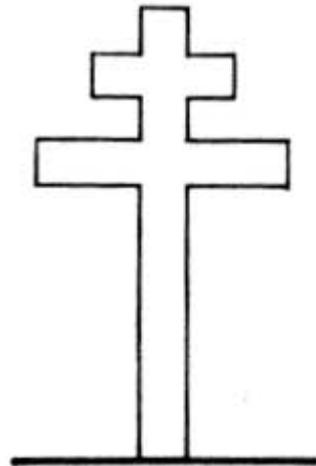
5. Saxon



6. Cornish

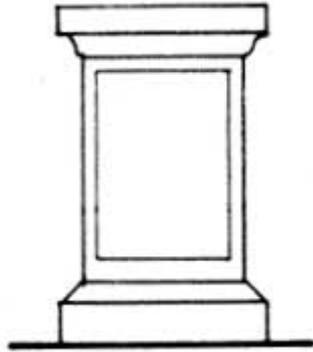


7. Eastern/Russian Orthodox

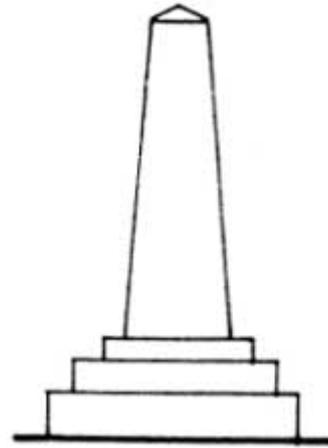


8. Lorraine

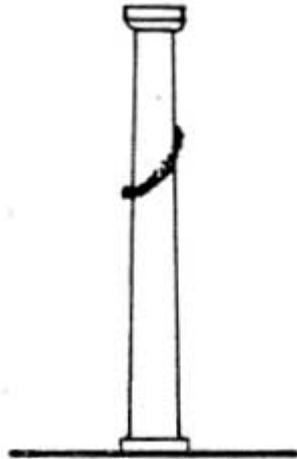
## C. PILLARS



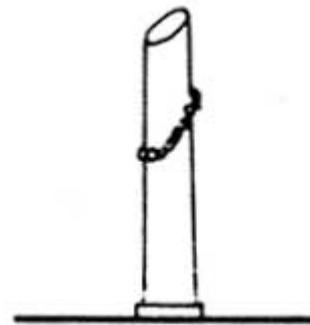
1. Pedestal (Chamfered base)



2. Obelisk (Stepped base)



3. Column

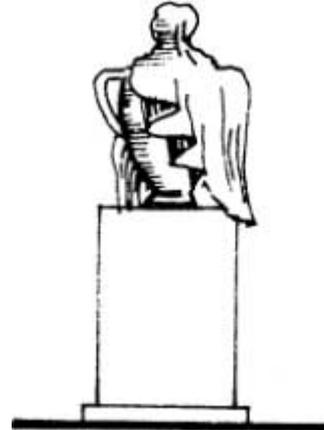


4. Broken Column

## D. SCULPTURES



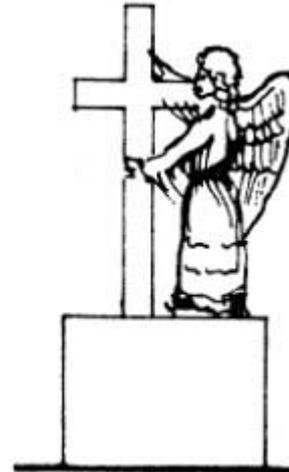
1. Urn



2. Draped Urn

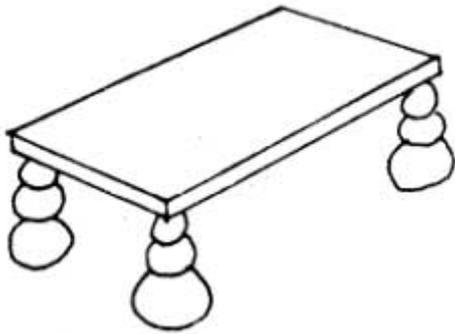


3. Angel

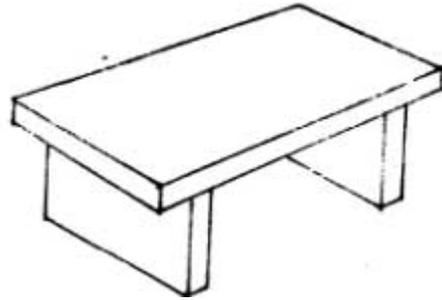


4. Composite - Angel and Cross

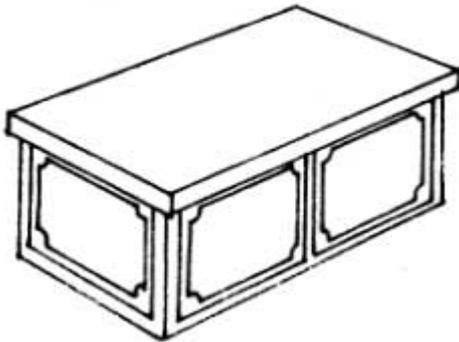
## E. HORIZONTAL SLABS



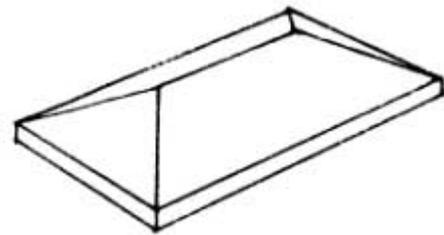
1. Table



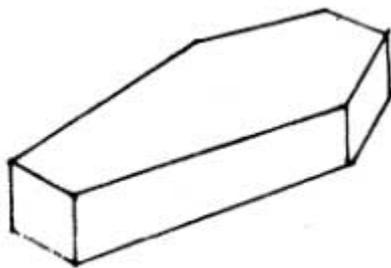
2. Table



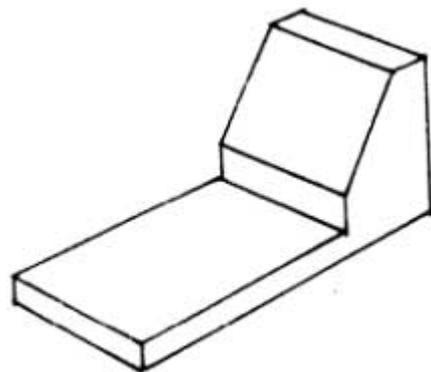
3. Altar



4. Sarcophagus

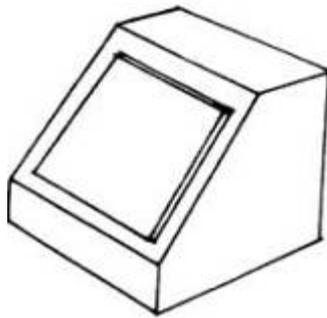


1. Coffin

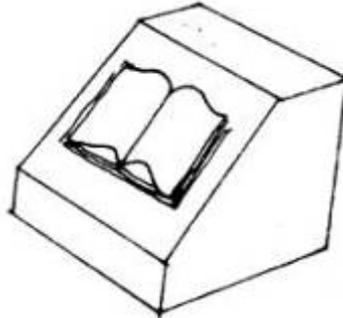


2. Slab and desk

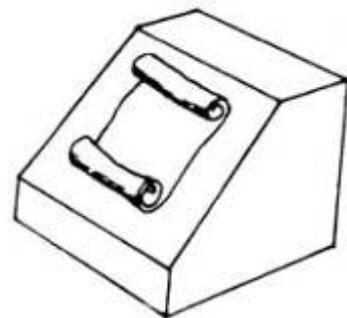
## DESK DECORATION



1. Tablet

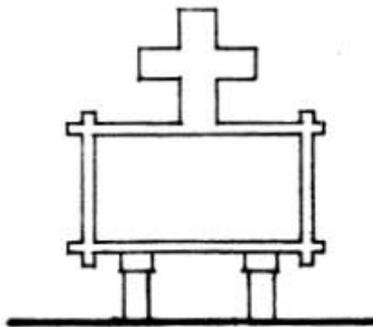


2. Book



3. Scroll

## F. MISCELLANEOUS



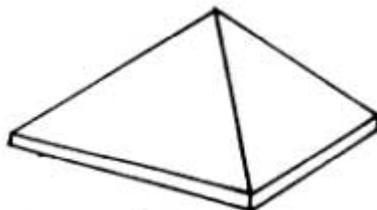
1. Iron 'Etna'



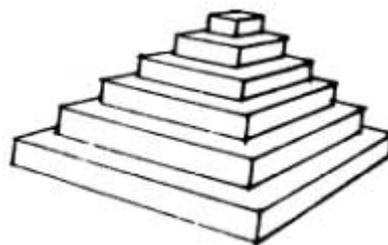
2. Cairn



3. Rustic pedestal



4. Pyramid

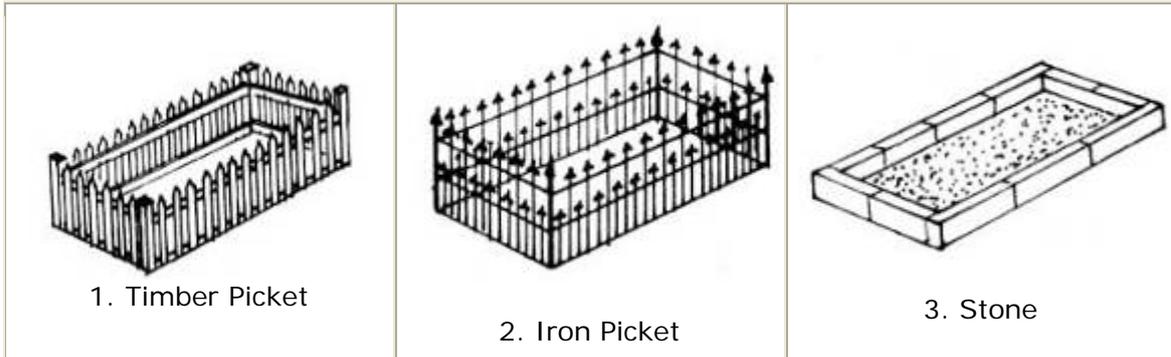


5. Stepped Pyramid

## G. SURROUNDS

**These are usually distinguished by material and motif.**

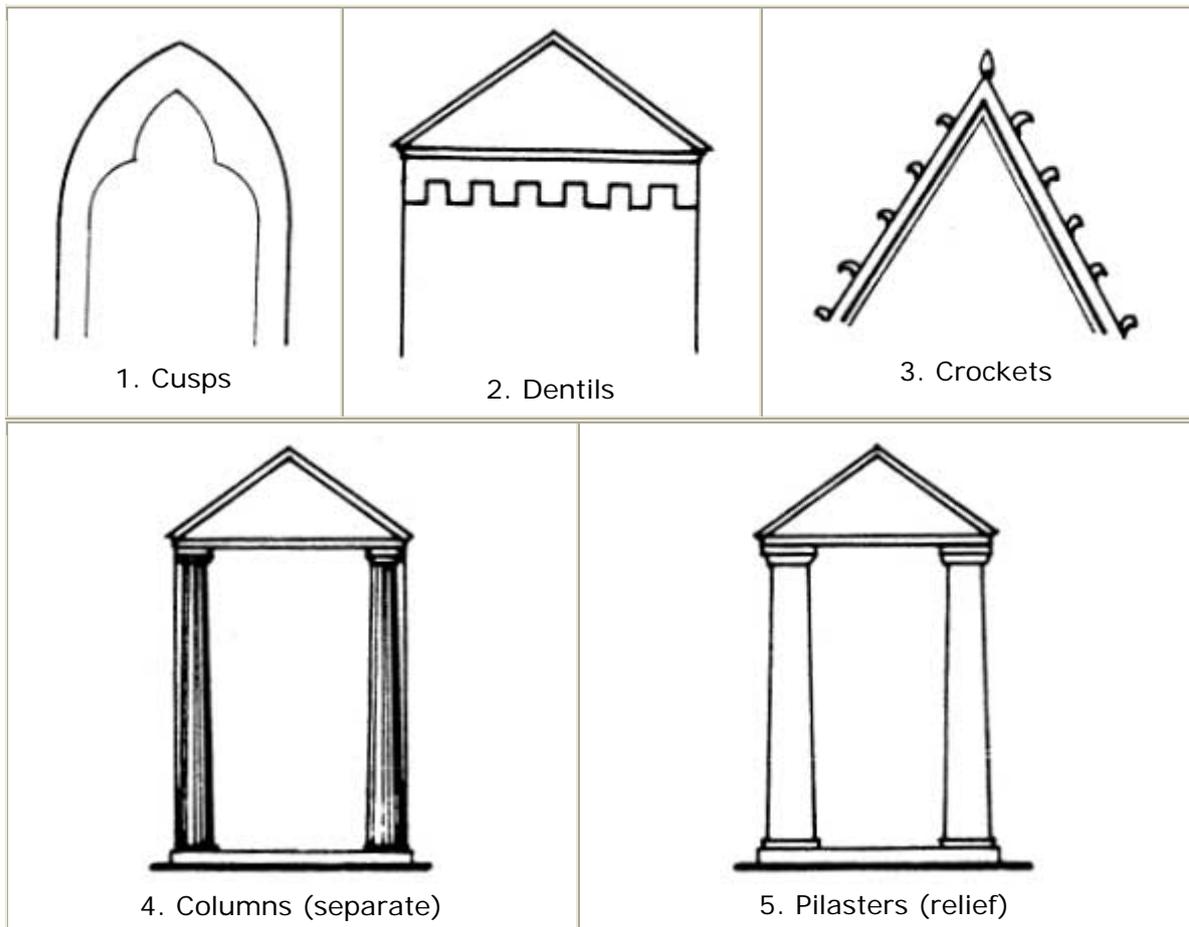
Examples:	Cast iron	Wood	Arrowheads
	Wrought iron	Concrete	Fler de Lys
	Stone	Brick	Floral Motif



## H. EMBELLISHMENT

**Architectural terms should generally be used.**

**Examples:**



## Appendix G4

“Tabulated Guide to the Conservation of Monuments” *Cemeteries – A Policy Paper* (1987) National Trust of Australia (NSW)

### TABULATED GUIDE TO THE CONSERVATION OF MONUMENTS

The following notes are intended as a general guide to recommended procedures in the conservation of cemetery monuments. The recommended solutions should be regarded as options and not as definitive answers as they will not apply in every case. It is recommended that professional advice be sought prior to the commencement of any restoration work.

Problem	Due to	Solutions
1. Leaning and fallen monuments	Failure of footings and/or foundations because of:	
	normal compaction of grave fill	Wait to stabilize them. Re-bed monument on porous fill, e.g. sand.
	vault distortion or collapse	Seek professional advice on stabilization or re—construction.
	water erosion	Correct drainage problem.
	rabbit burrows	Fill holes with cobbles and earth.
	tree roots raising one side	Chop off offending root.
	differential compaction, e.g. one side on rock and other on fill, or one side dry and the other side wet due to broken drain or hollow in ground	Check drainage, improve if necessary and re—bed in sand.
	soil creep on hillside	Generally an intractable problem, however avoid the removal of local bushes and trees. It is sometimes caused by poor subsurface drainage, in which case an agricultural drain on the uphill side may help.
	soil slump, i.e. localized movements of land usually after heavy rain  a) on river banks and gullies  b) in slate and shale areas  Note that a slight lean is not a problem unless the cemetery is subject to	a) erosion control measures  b) uphill drainage control.

	vandalism, in which case the lean will attract the attention of vandals, or unless the lean is causing the lettering to fret on the leaning side.	
2. Monuments disassembled but not broken	Vandalism or temporary removal to permit essential works.	Check top of plinth to ensure that it is level, re—bed if necessary. Re—assemble, avoiding Portland cement. For tall structures vulnerable to vandalism consider introduction of non ferrous dowels (e.g. bronze).
3. Broken Monuments  (i) Breaks in sturdy stone monuments  (ii) multiple breaks in relatively thin slabs.	Accident, vandals and cattle; often involving heavy falls on masonry or iron surrounds or uneven ground.	In general, employ an experienced monumental mason to reset stone on plinth and dowel parts together using waterproof epoxy resin adhesive. It is important to avoid Portland cement. If re-erected they will be vulnerable to vandalism. The alternatives are:  a) leave lying on ground.  b) erect a solid slab, and pin the pieces to slab with bronze dowels and waterproof epoxy resin.  c) pin pieces to horizontal or sloping slab (so that water will not lie on upper surface). e.g. Granites can be horizontal but limestones should have water thrown off.  d) pin stones to a local structure (a last resort)  e) prepare a facsimile for erection on site and remove original to museum.  f) leave pieces on site, reproduce inscription on small stainless steel plate and erect inconspicuously on site.
5. Monuments with cracked or broken mortise in the plinth	Fall	Where mortise is damaged the options are:  (a) replace plinth with a facsimile.  (b) cut back existing plinth and remortise.  (c) set stone in similar moulded concrete plinth with mortise, in the same way as original.
6. Masonry	Pressure from the	(a) where iron cramps within the

<p>cracking</p>	<p>continuing process of iron rusting and expanding when damp</p>	<p>masonry have expanded replace with bronze clamps, and repair masonry.</p> <p>(b) where wrought iron rails posts and bars have expanded and cracked masonry:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• remove iron from masonry</li> <li>• scrape away loose rust</li> <li>• treat as set out in 10. (hot dip galvanize if possible)</li> <li>• apply protective paint</li> <li>• repair masonry</li> <li>• lead-in prepared hole in masonry ensuring that no part of iron is in contact with stone</li> <li>• stop interstices in masonry to make watertight and ensure that water is diverted from area.</li> </ul>
<p>7. Spalling, fretting and delamination of monuments</p>	<p>Rising damp particularly near the base of the stone)</p> <p>Salt accumulation (particularly under mouldings)</p> <p>Ponding of rainwater (particularly on shoulders and carving of monument)</p>	<p>Improve drainage at the base of the stone.</p> <p><i>Note that re—setting stone monuments improperly in concrete will accelerate this deterioration and any work should be avoided unless it is strictly in accord with the procedures outlined in Appendix C.</i></p> <p>Where significant monuments are already so set and deteriorating, the concrete base should be broken off as carefully as possible and the monument re—bedded.</p> <p>Stones should be reset vertically if they are leaning in such a way that the inscription or decorative side is inclined to the ground.</p> <p>Remove loose and flaking stone. Fill cracks with acrylic resin.</p> <p>Remove overhanging branches which trap airborne dust and salt particles and shed them upon the stone.</p> <p>Repair pointing to prevent entry of water if it is a compound monument. Ensure that water is thrown off monument.</p>
<p>8. Inscriptions</p>	<p>See (7).Also abrasion by</p>	<p>Treat cause as in (7) above, but first</p>

<p>fretting on monuments</p>	<p>vegetation in a wind</p>	<p>record as much of inscription as possible and photograph with the sun slanting across the face of the stone. Lodge record with local History Society and Society of Genealogists.</p> <p>As a general rule inscriptions and decorations in stone which are of interest because of their style and character should not be recut. In such cases a small stainless steel plate with punched inscriptions may be fixed to the rear of the stone with water-proof epoxy resin adhesive.</p> <p>In exceptional cases where the character of the inscription and detailing of the monument is of such significance that it must be preserved, it should be carefully removed to a prepared location in a local museum and a facsimile monument erected in its place.</p> <p>Other inscriptions may be recut provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• it is carried out by a competent letter cutter.</li> <li>• the precise character and mistakes of the original are meticulously retained.</li> <li>• the initials or symbol of the new cutter and the year are cut in an inconspicuous place.</li> </ul>
<p>9. Rusting of cast iron memorials and loss of inscriptions</p>	<p>Exposure to elements</p>	<p>Rusting of cast iron memorials such as those by ETNA and PATTON is superficial and presents no structural problems. However as the inscriptions are generally painted on, these are rapidly lost and should be recorded before all trace is gone. Failing this, documentary and oral sources should be tapped.</p>
<p>10. Rusting of wrought iron memorials and surrounds</p>	<p>Exposure to damp</p>	<p>Rusting surfaces on most wrought iron is not seriously damaging unless it is flaking heavily. However where treatment is necessary the iron work should be dismantled, grit blasted back to a hard surface and rust inhibitor Alternatively the iron can be applied galvanized and painted.</p>
<p>11. Iron monuments</p>	<p>Vandalism</p>	<p>Parts can be joined if necessary by pin or splint.</p>

broken in parts		
12. Monuments astray from their original location		Attempt to ascertain from documentary (cemetery surveys and registers) and oral sources (family) the correct location and reinstate.  Where the original location cannot be found, place the monument in a group of strays.
13. Odd alignment of monuments	This is not a problem, such stones are usually early and date from a period before the cemetery was surveyed. As such they and their alignment are of particular interest and should be carefully preserved.	
14. Deterioration of leaded lettering on marble monuments	Frequently weathering of marble adjacent to letters	Can be re-leaded: may require extensive work.
15. Red staining on white marble from lead lettering	Chemical attack on lead, mainly in industrial areas.	Partial removal by scrubbing with water and soft bristle brushes.
16. Growth of mosses, lichens and fungus on monuments	Moisture and type of stone used. e.g. marble are liable to black mould and sandstones to lichen	These growths offer some physical protection to the stone and at the same time do slight damage. On balance they may be left unless they are unsightly or obscure the lettering. In such cases an organic poison should be applied and the growth allowed to dry and fall off over a period of time. Don't attempt to scrape it off.
17. Growth of disruptive vegetation on masonry	Lack of maintenance	Where sturdy shrub or tree seedlings take root on monuments and surrounds they should be poisoned and allowed to die and decay. They should not be pulled out where it will damage the masonry.
18. Damage by cattle and horses to monuments	Inadequate fencing and gates	Ensure that fencing is cattle, horse and pig proof. Much damage can be done by cattle and horses leaning on monuments to scratch themselves. Sheep and goats if tethered and supervised can make useful lawn mowers provided that edible plants important to the cemetery landscape are not present.

## **Appendix G5**

“Conservation of Gravestones” *Cemeteries – A Policy Paper* (1987) National Trust of Australia (NSW)

### **CONSERVATION OF GRAVESTONES**

The visible parts of a cemetery consist essentially of monuments, generally of stone; the inscriptions upon them; and the setting and environment in which they stand.

Restoration and conservation of a cemetery thus includes the maintenance and conservation of the gravestones and inscriptions, as well as their actual surroundings. The following notes are divided into three sections corresponding to the three main classes of stone used in NSW cemeteries, viz, granite, marble and sandstone. Some of the comments can be carried over to rarer types of stone, such as slate, quartzite and basalt; but technical or professional advice should be sought where these stones are used.

#### **1. GRANITE**

Granite is a hard, crystalline, generally coarse—grained rock which takes a high polish that persists for many years. True granites are generally pink or grey, but monumental masons apply the term to other hard crystalline rocks, including so-called “black granites” which are generally rocks of gabbro type.

Most granites are almost immune to weathering. Some may gradually lose their polish. They will not generally be physically damaged by re-polishing, but:

1. It must be realized that a re—polished stone is no longer “the original”.
2. Loss of polish may indicate that the stone was poorly selected, and that cracks are actually developing within and between the constituent grains. In this case, physically handling the stone may cause serious damage.
3. In the case of “black granite”, loss of polish may be caused by solutions washed out of unsuitable jointing (especially Portland cement) above the polished surface. Replacement of such jointing with an inert filler is more important than re—polishing of the stone.

#### **2. MARBLE**

The term marble is applied by masons to any rock consisting dominantly of calcite (calcium carbonate), and includes limestones as well as true marbles. Calcite is white, but minor impurities can give marble colour —red, brown, grey or even black. All marble can be readily scratched with a knife or key, and the powder is always white.

Calcite is slightly soluble in rain—water, so marble gravestones always become rounded. The polished surface becomes rough because of uneven weathering of individual grains. To preserve the inscription in this situation, the carved lettering is filled with lead or a metal alloy, to preserve the sharpness of the writing. In time, however, the marble dissolves away from this lettering and the letters peel away from the stone.

This natural destruction is inevitable, but the process can be slowed to some degree by appropriate management.

The situations which lead to rapid erosion of marble are:

- (a) exposure to exhaust fumes from cars and smoke from coal fires;
- (b) growth of black moulds on the stone surface or green moulds just inside the stone;
- (c) overhanging tree limbs, which may produce organic acids, and which act as traps for industrial fall—out which trickles onto the stone in conditions of misty rain or heavy dew.

Where marble is slightly more permeable than usual, problems can also result from sea spray blown inland, and from soil water (“rising damp”) entering through the base of the stone by capillary action. In these cases the stone will show fretting, blistering or spalling, usually in a band a small distance above ground level.

### **3. SANDSTONE**

Sandstones are rocks consisting of sand—sized particles (individually visible to the naked eye) held together by natural mineral cements. White or brown sandstones usually consist mainly of quartz grains; grey and greenish sandstones usually have grains composed of very fine grained aggregates of mineral material. Quartz sandstones may fret and shed individual grains, but the grains themselves are extremely resistant. Other sandstones, however, may weather or decay evenly, sometimes by surface grains dissolving away, in a similar manner to limestone.

Sandstone deteriorates in similar ways to limestone, but rising damp is relatively more important. The amount of salt and industrial fallout is also important: in Sydney region, cemeteries near the coast show considerably greater deterioration of sandstone monuments than those 10—20km inland.

The Sydney quartz sandstone sometimes shows fretting at the apex of decorations, or in shoulders near the top of the stone. This may result from leaching of cementing minerals, caused by rainwater percolating downwards. In this case it is advisable to remove any overhanging tree branches, but use of surface consolidants (resins, silicones etc.) is **not** recommended.

In other cases a thick (1—3cm) layer of stone may spall off the surface of the monument. Again, the mechanism is not fully understood, but injection of a hydroxy consolidant may sometimes be justified here on the grounds that the surface will fall away entirely if left untreated. In the present state of the art, however, such consolidants must be seen as a palliative, not a solution to the problem.

### **4. SOME COMMENTS ON “ARTIFICIAL” PRESERVATION OF SANDSTONE**

Where sandstone items are of extreme value, the only way they can be indefinitely preserved is by placing them under cover, in a controlled atmosphere, isolated from the natural ground surface and their “natural” environment.

Developments overseas now enable stones to be completely saturated in hard—setting resins, but there are four objections to the process.

The first is that it is irreversible; the second that it alters the stone’s appearance; the third that its long—term effects must still be suspect. Finally, is such action actually preservation, when the whole nature of the material has been changed, and its natural history (including deterioration) interrupted?

Similar problems arise in considering re-inscription of gravestones. To the extent that the words are important, they are best preserved by transcripts and photographs. Until the message is actually illegible, the stone is still “original”; re-inscription destroys this originality. In this case it may well be argued that relettering is a natural and traditional maintenance operation, and therefore more

acceptable than use of consolidants. (There is a counter—argument that development and use of new maintenance methods is equally a traditional process in society!)

Technically, re-inscription does not always cause problems. The newer surface tends to weather faster than the older one, and this should be realized; but the “readable life” of the monument is almost invariably extended.

Different people and groups will react differently to the principles discussed here, and it is not suggested that there is a single “right” answer. Indeed, most people will conclude that the whole approach to conserving a gravestone will depend on the reason it is important, in the same way that techniques used will vary according to the nature of the monument.

## **5. REPAIRING DAMAGE OF VANDALS**

One of the most important agents of tombstone deterioration is man. Vandals break stones and push monuments off their pedestals; and in some cases, still more damage is done by individuals attempting to set things right.

Two basic principles can be laid down. Firstly, never use Portland cement or plaster of Paris in repair work: both can react with stone, and cement can even spoil the polish of some “granites”. Secondly, never use iron or steel dowels or clamps in repair work - they expand when they rust, and can crack even the strongest gravestone or pedestal.

Where a stone is cracked across, it is best repaired by use of bronze dowels set in lead or mason’s putty. Some masons now use epoxy resin cements, both for setting the dowels and for sealing the crack. Note, however, that a special, waterproof grade must be used, or it will deteriorate with time: standard Araldite, for example, is quite unsuitable. There is a problem in use of resins in sandstone and marble, as it prevents moisture migration in the stone; it is therefore undesirable in situations where the stone is subject to rising damp, especially if it shows any signs of natural weathering.

In some cases, financial constraints are such that the only alternative to abandoning a cemetery may be to set the stones individually in concrete pedestals. If this is done, it is essential that the cement mix be made as waterproof as possible, by using a commercial waterproofing agent; that the base of the stone be underlain by at least 5 cm of concrete; and that the upper surface of the cement block be well clear of the ground, and slope away from the stone to shed rainwater.

## **Appendix G6**

“Notes on the Conservation of Wooden Cemetery Features” *Cemeteries – A Policy Paper* (1987) National Trust of Australia (NSW)

### **NOTES ON THE CONSERVATION OF WOODEN CEMETERY FEATURES**

The factors affecting the life of wood elements under the severe conditions likely to be experienced in cemeteries are:—

- (1) mechanical damage and vandalism
- (2) weathering
- (3) decay
- (4) insect attack
- (5) fire.

#### **MECHANICAL DAMAGE**

Damage from vandalism, the operation of gravedigging equipment and mowers etc., is largely dependent on the degree of supervision possible which in most instances would be virtually negligible. Some timbers which might be chosen for durability against weathering and decay (e.g. Californian redwood, western red cedar) could be very soft and easily damaged.

#### **WEATHERING**

Wood is by nature absorbent of moisture and the surface layers readily take up dew and rain, with consequent expansion of the wood substance. Then the sun heats up the surface and the air humidity is reduced, resulting in contraction so the surface layers are continually buffeted by dimensional change. A multitude of fine surface cracks will often form and thus assist the erosion of the surface, a process speeded up by the softening of those surface layers by fungal organisms encouraged to develop by continuing dampness.

End grain is more susceptible to breakdown than side grain because of its much greater absorbency so the provision of some inhibitor of water entry (e.g. metal caps on the tops of fence posts, coatings of bitumen or paint on other end grain) can be helpful.

#### **DECAY**

Decay (or ‘rot’ as it is commonly called) is the breakdown of the constituents of wood by various fungi when the moisture content of the wood is favourable to their growth. Wood kept reasonably dry (say, below 20% moisture content), or when saturated with water, is usually safe from attack. An illustration of the conditions favouring attack can often be observed on old fence posts removed from the ground: most of the decay will be within the zone 300mm above to 300mm below the groundline in the zone where the moisture content of the wood will be in the range of say 20% to 50%.

The wood of the tree’s stem may be subdivided into sapwood and heartwood. The sapwood is the usually paler coloured wood just under the bark and often about 25 to 35mm wide. It is the conductor of the life processes of the tree and usually contains a lot of sugars and starches which enhance its attractiveness to the decay organisms. The sapwood of all species is liable to decay readily.

Heartwood is non-living tissue; when it is converted from sapwood the connections between cells become blocked with materials with varying degrees of toxicity to fungi, depending on the tree species. The blocking of the cells also makes the heartwood much less absorbent of moisture.

While density is a useful guide to the comparative durability of species, there are many exceptions (e.g. cedar, redwood). The very dense Australian eucalypts such as ironbark, grey gum, tallowwood and white mahogany have excellent durability but the colder climate ash—type eucalypts are only of moderate durability.

The presence of sapwood is advantageous when preservatives are to be impregnated into the wood because of its greater permeability; otherwise, all sapwood should be removed from components which are to be exposed to the elements or ground contact.

It should be noted that it is very difficult to obtain penetration of preservatives into the heartwood of most species except under very specialised and costly conditions.

### **INSECT ATTACK**

Termites and borers cause significant damage to wood but termites are by far the greater hazard, especially the subterranean termites which cause millions of dollars damage each year to buildings throughout Australia, except for the colder districts of Tasmania and south—eastern Victoria. Because of their subterranean habits their presence often goes unnoticed until considerable damage has been done and only an outside shell of untouched wood remains. Wood in ground contact can be protected by treating the adjacent soil with solutions of the termiticides chlordane or dieldrin. Such work should be carried out by qualified operators, with care taken to ensure that children and animals are kept away from the treated soil.

The presence of borer holes on a piece of timber does not mean that it is under attack. Some borers, such as the common pin—hole borer die soon after the log is sawn up and reinfestation does not occur. The only type liable to cause some concern in cemetery wood components is the lyctid borer which attacks only the sapwood of some hardwoods; this attack usually occurs within the first year or two of service. Since only a small section of the component is likely to be affected the attack can usually be ignored; if extensive, replacement of the affected component is preferable to attempts at chemical treatment.

### **FIRE**

If cemeteries are allowed to become overgrown with vegetation the resulting fire hazard presents a great risk to wood components.

Timber of large section area does not burn readily since its low thermal conductivity slows the penetration of heat. However, most wood components will be of small section and ignite readily.

Most commercial fire retardants are water soluble and thus only suitable for treating internal members.

For further information see

Bootle, K. 1983

***Wood in Australia***

McGraw Hill