

# **BLUE MOUNTAINS CEMETERIES**



## **CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### **Volume 4: Megalong, Mount Victoria and Mount Irvine**

Prepared for:  
**CITY OF BLUE MOUNTAINS**

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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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## **MEGALONG CEMETERY**

### **ME1 Introduction**

#### **ME1.1 General**

This Megalong Cemetery section of the Blue Mountains Cemeteries Conservation Management Plan should be read in conjunction with the General Analysis and Conservation Policies section of the Conservation Management Plan.

#### **ME1.2 Location**

Megalong Cemetery is located on the Six Foot Track near Megalong Road, Megalong. The legal title of the property is L1, DP 127946.

#### **ME1.3 Bibliography**

M Shaw, *Megalong: a History*

J. Smith, 'Megalong Cemetery', typescript 2001

B. O'Reilly, *Cullenbenbong*

J. Yeoman, *Historic Blackheath*, Rotary Club of Blackheath, Blackheath

W. Russell, *Recollections*

*Mountaineer*, 23 November 1894, 20 September 1895

## ME2 Physical Summary

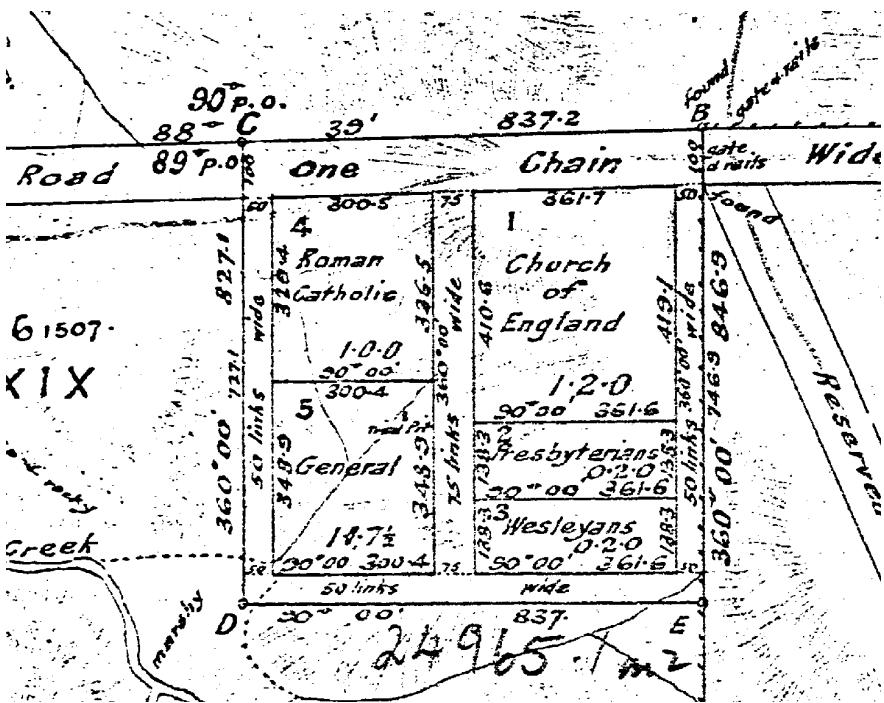
### ME2.1 Setting

Megalong General Cemetery is situated on the western side of the unsurfaced main Megalong Valley road close to the Six-Foot Track, an early tourist route from Katoomba to the Jenolan Caves which was formally surveyed in 1884. The cemetery area is fairly level, being on a ridge above two creek lines.

The cemetery is not visible until reached along the adjacent track. It is completely covered by regrowth native vegetation of an open woodland character with native grass ground cover. There are some invasive weed species including blackberry which is present within the McLaughlin grave enclosure. From the cemetery there are glimpses through the tall Eucalypt trees of extensive views of the lower areas of the open valley enclosed by distant timbered hills to the west and northwest.

### ME2.2 Design and Layout

When the Megalong Cemetery was dedicated in 1898, it was laid out as a square area placed beside the junction of the two local access tracks. The dedicated area was approximately 7 acres (2.8 hectares) with dimensions approximately 170 metres by 170 metres. The cemetery diagram indicates that the cemetery was laid out with a main north-south running driveway in the centre and plantation or drive reserves along the other boundaries. This was a typical general cemetery layout, with standard features such as the division of the area into denominational subdivisions (allocated according to the strength of the particular denomination in the surrounding district) roads or driveways, and reserved plantation areas. Comparison of the cemetery diagram with the current layout indicates that of the total dedicated area only a small part of the allocated Catholic cemetery section now contains monuments. The additional reserved area for the cemetery remains essentially unused and contains regrowth native vegetation and grasses.



**Figure ME 1**

Megalong Cemetery

Plan showing layout of sections

This plan also refers to the trees used to mark the survey points which identify the corners of the cemetery. Those at B and C can still be identified.

Source: Parish Map, Parish of Megalong, County of Cook

The used cemetery area is unfenced, and stock (cattle) graze across the cemetery area. There is no formal or designed older landscape planting evident, and no grave plantings.



**Figure ME 2**

Megalong Cemetery  
Aerial Photograph

The general slope of land to the southwest can be seen by the contour lines. The track used by stock to the dam south of the cemetery can also be identified.

Source: Blue Mountains City Council

A large stone cairn constructed of granite pieces bonded with cement has been placed at the centre of the northern boundary of the cemetery, approximately in the position of the intended main central drive.



**Figure ME 3**

Megalong Cemetery  
General view from north showing the stone cairn and post and rail fence  
17 Sep 2001

### **ME2.3 Monuments and Grave Furniture**

Megalong Cemetery includes only two extant headstones, which are about 20 metres apart within the allocated Catholic cemetery area. There are also a number of other depressions in this cemetery area which probably indicate unmarked graves. It is likely that some of the now

unmarked graves were previously marked by timber surrounds, crosses or other monuments which have not survived due to the effects of weathering, decay and bushfires. One possible vernacular grave surround of brick fragments, concrete and local river pebbles exists in the Church of England section of the cemetery. It has been scattered and displaced by stock.

The extant headstones are as follows:

Semicircular topped sandstone headstone with a chamfered edge. Central circular medallion on face with a relief carved broken lily (symbolic of a life cut short). The inscription on this headstone reads:

Sacred  
to the Memory of  
FANNY  
Beloved wife of  
WILLIAM LYNCH  
Aged 50 years

The sandstone headstone has been broken off its base (old iron dowels are visible) and the upper section of the headstone has two major fissures through it which have broken it into 4 pieces.



**Figure ME 4**

The grave of Fanny Lynch.

This grave has been damaged, probably due to cattle grazing in the grounds. The path in the left photo is used by cattle travelling between land to the north of the cemetery and a dam to the south of the cemetery.  
17 Sep 2001

The second extant headstone in the Megalong Cemetery is a white marble headstone within a cast iron surround. The iron grave surround is set into sandstone posts, the marble headstone also has a sandstone plinth. The iron is of a common design with hoops and fleur-de-lys finials. It has been painted 'heritage' green (probably in 1988) which is unlikely to be an original colour. Traditionally ironwork was painted with linseed oil or casein (milk) based paints, or using black tannate conversion coatings produced from plant sources; oil/carbon based coatings such as blacking; and other patented formulations. Evidence of the original finish may survive in sheltered areas on the ironwork and might be recovered by careful paint-scrapes. The visible surface of the iron is generally in fair condition.

The white marble headstone is of simple gothic style with an arched top and pilasters on each side. There is a trefoil shaped medallion in the centre of the face of the headstone with a relief carved passion flower (symbolic of the passion of Christ, and also of the wounds of the Crucifixion). The inscription on this headstone is carved using lead-inlaid lettering in a combination of gothic, roman and italic scripts. The inscription reads:

In Memory Of  
My Dear Husband  
THOMAS McLAUGHLIN  
Who Departed This Life  
29 May 1912  
Aged 67 Years.  
Also My Daughter  
ALICE  
Who Departed This Life  
24 October 1910  
Aged 34 Years.  
Rest. Perfect Rest.

The headstone is signed by the mason, Acton, Lithgow.



**Figure ME 5**

Megalong Cemetery  
Grave of Thomas McLaughlin and Alice McLaughlin  
The surrounding cast iron fence has protected the monument from damage by grazing stock  
17 Sep 2001

The large pyramidal shaped stone cairn at the site (Figure ME 3) was constructed as a Bicentennial Project in 1988. The project was funded by a grant from the Australian Bicentennial Authority; it was not conceived or sponsored by the National Trust. The cairn has three inset metal plaques. They read as follows:

Dedicated to the Memory  
Of the Men and Women who  
Pioneered Megalong Valley.

A Bicentennial Project  
Unveiled By  
Max Kelly B.Comm. M.Comm.  
President National Trust of Australia

N.S.W.  
On the 14th May, 1988.

On the opposite side (facing the cemetery) is a larger plaque, which records fourteen individuals thought to have been buried in the cemetery between 1894 and 1931. It reads:

Extensive Research has revealed  
the following people have been  
Interred in this Megalong Cemetery

Elizabeth Bowland 1894  
Selina Russell 1895  
Annie Duff 1899  
Henry W England 1899  
Emma McLaughlin 1900  
Fanny Lynch 1900  
William A Sheard 1901  
William Lynch 1913  
Ann Tolhurst 1908  
Joseph England 1908  
Joseph F England 1908  
Alice Hilton 1910  
Thomas McLaughlin 1912  
Thomas McLaughlin 1931

May They Rest in Peace

Note that the history prepared for this report has suggested that some of the burials included in the list above may have actually been elsewhere.

#### **ME2.4 Landscaping**

The site is covered with native bush, much of which appears to be regenerated. Eucalypts, tea tree and native grasses dominate the planting. This bushland, and the location of the cemetery away from any built up area, gives the cemetery a very tranquil atmosphere.

There are some areas of weed infestation, particularly blackberry.

Of interest near the northeast and northwest corners of the cemetery are two trees which retain the axe marks from the original survey of the cemetery. (Refer Figure ME 6 and Figure ME 7)



**Figure ME 6**

Megalong Cemetery  
Tree near northeast corner of the cemetery showing the scar caused by the axe marks used to mark the surveyor's reference point  
28 Nov 2001



**Figure ME 7**

Megalong Cemetery  
The post in the foreground is probably an original or early corner post for the cemetery fence. In the background, behind the modern post and rail fence can be seen the marked tree which was used for the surveyor to measure to the northwest corner of the cemetery.

#### **ME2.5 Condition**

The sandstone headstone of Fanny Lynch requires repair and re-erection.

There is minor staining of the marble McLaughlin headstone by growth of black mould, but otherwise it remains essentially intact and in good condition. The large cairn is a robust structure and remains in good condition.

Aesthetically this cemetery has a very attractive bush setting. The native vegetation within the cemetery should be conserved. The invasive weeds should be removed.

The site undoubtedly has archaeological potential. It is known that a number of burials are no longer marked and it is possible that there are more burials not known about.

With a large number of unmarked graves and the native bushland allowed to regenerate, the cemetery has lost some of its integrity. However, it is not thought that any burials have been moved.

#### **ME2.6 Buildings**

There are no buildings on the site.

### **ME3 Historical Summary**

#### **ME3.1 Megalong Cemetery**

The inscrutable general cemetery in Megalong Valley lies in a strategically significant position, close to Megalong Creek and at the intersection of two ancient Aboriginal trackways used as access routes by early white settlers. The cemetery lies on 2.8 hectares (7 acres) excised from portion 19 in Megalong parish, county Cook. This 16 hectare (40 acre) portion was surveyed for an abortive conditional purchase in 1870 and was finally purchased in 1876 by John Fitzpatrick (Smith, 'Megalong Cemetery', 2001).

The population of Megalong Valley increased sharply when The Glen oil-shale deposits were developed first by Thomas Sutcliffe Mort in the 1870s and 1880s and then in earnest by the Australian Kerosene and Oil Co. in the early 1890s. A miners' village sprang up in Nellies Glen with some forty families (Shaw, *Historic Megalong Valley*, 116-8). The pastoral exploitation of the valley had also become more intensive, so there was local agitation for the establishment of a general cemetery. The local Progress Committee lobbied their member of Parliament in 1895 and as a result of Joseph Cook's representations to the Minister of Lands, the north-east sector of portion 19, now held by John Moore as part of Megalong Station to the north, was surveyed in June 1896, resumed a year later and gazetted as a general cemetery on 23 July 1898 (Smith 2001: plan of Megalong Cemetery, Lands 96.7023, 1896). Trustees seem to have been appointed only for the Anglican and General sections (Smith 2001).

The 2.8 hectares (7 acres) were laid out in a conventional rectangle with a broad avenue running north-south up the middle, separating the Catholic and General sections on the west from the Anglican, Presbyterian and Wesleyan sections on the east. In order of magnitude, the sections were:

Anglican	1a.	2r.	0p.
General	1a.	1r.	7.5p.
Catholic	1a.	0r.	0p.
Presbyterian		2r.	0p.
Wesleyan		2r.	0p.

Despite this allocation of space, Catholicism was very strong in Megalong and Burragorang valleys and a Catholic church was built about 1902 very close to the cemetery, just across the Six Foot Track. This church burnt down, but was replaced by another wooden building on the same site in 1922. This church was moved bodily some distance to the west in 1952 and the original site is now only subtly defined (Yeoman, *Historic Blackheath*, 148). The only surviving gravemarkers are both in the Catholic section.

There was also a traditional Aboriginal burial ground near Megalong Creek. There is some ambiguity about the resting-place of Selina Russell (the wife of William Russell, the well-known Werriberri, 'last king of the Burragorang blacks'), who died of influenza in 1895, but because this is a year before the cemetery had even been surveyed it is likely that she was buried in or near the traditional Aboriginal area, like Elizabeth Boland in the previous year who was buried on a hillside close to the traditional burying place (Smith 2001; *Mountaineer*, 23 November 1894, 20 September 1895; Russell, *My Recollections*, 1914; O'Reilly, *Cullenbenbong*, 168).

There is firm evidence of only two Aboriginal interments in the European cemetery. Fanny Lynch, who with her husband Billy was a ken speckle figure in Megalong, Kanimbla and Katoomba, died in 1900 and was buried in the Catholic section. The Lynches had had a close relationship with the Catholic O'Reillys in Kanimbla Valley and 'seemed part of the family', though 'when they became too old for regular work they too drifted with the restlessness of their kind' (O'Reilly, *Cullenbenbong*, 169).

Billy lived on until 1913 and died in the Aboriginal reserve at Katoomba, but was buried at Megalong in an unmarked grave (Shaw, *Megalong* 128).

Fanny Lynch's headstone remains, although dislodged. The only other surviving gravemarker is also in the Catholic section, commemorating Old Tom McLaughlin, whose slab cottage on Galong Creek partly survives, and his daughter Alice, who died two years earlier in 1910. The McLaughlins were of Irish extraction: Old Tom's father had come free to Australia in 1852 and Tom and his wife settled in Megalong around 1890 (Shaw, *Megalong* 59-61). Old Tom's son, Young Tom, who died in 1931, and Young Tom's niece, Emma, who died within a day of her birth in 1900, are also buried in the cemetery but in an unmarked grave.

The other burials are only known through the indefatigable efforts of the local historian, Mary Shaw. She has identified the following additional seven unmarked burials (Shaw, *Megalong* 59-61):

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1899 | Annie Duff, a baby                             |
|      | Henry William England, 39                      |
| 1901 | William Alfred Sheard, 17                      |
| 1908 | Anne Tolhurst, baby                            |
|      | Joseph and Joseph Francis England, twin babies |
| 1910 | Alice Hinton, 34                               |

## **ME4 Assessment of Significance**

### **ME4.1 State Heritage Office Criteria**

To be assessed for listing on the State Heritage Register, an item will, in the opinion of the Heritage Council of NSW, meet one or more of the following criteria.

Criterion	Level of Significance
<b>ME4.1.1 Criterion (a): An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)</b>  Megalong Cemetery provides tangible physical evidence about the origins and nature of this small local community during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The cemetery is the burial place of significant local pioneers and local families. The cemetery includes the burials of significant local Aboriginal people, Fanny and William Lynch.	Local
<b>ME4.1.2 Criterion (b): An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)</b>  The Megalong Cemetery includes the burials of significant local Aboriginal people, Fanny and William Lynch. This gives the cemetery an important link to the Aboriginal community of Nellies Glen, Megalong and the Katoomba Reserve. The siting of the cemetery was strategic as it was close to ancient Aboriginal trackways and also to an earlier Aboriginal burial ground in the vicinity of the dedicated historic cemetery.	Local
Megalong Cemetery reflects very modest economic circumstances in the surrounding community. There are only two extant monuments, otherwise the graves in the cemetery are unmarked.	Local
<b>ME4.1.3 Criterion (c): An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area)</b>  The Megalong Valley Cemetery is of aesthetic significance for its tranquil, isolated setting and for its fine stands of mature trees and re-growth vegetation.	Local
<b>ME4.1.4 Criterion (d): An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons</b>  The detailed transcripts compiled by the Blue Mountains Family History Group and the other histories written about the Megalong Cemetery indicate that the cemetery has some contemporary community esteem and that there is interest in the preservation of the information recorded by the monuments in the cemetery and in its history.	Local

**ME4.1.5 Criterion (e): An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)**

Completion of further research, including more detailed family history may Local yield new insights into local relationships and historic and social connections.

Completion of work such as ground penetrating radar or other appropriate investigations would assist in the mapping and recording of additional sub-surface evidence of the cemetery layout, including the positions of unmarked graves.

**ME4.1.6 Criterion (f): An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)**

The monuments of Megalong Cemetery are not rare, and do not qualify under this criterion.

**ME4.1.7 Criterion (g): An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's (or the local area's) cultural or natural places or environments**

Not an applicable criterion for this cemetery.

**ME4.2 Summary Statement of Significance**

Megalong Cemetery is a valuable component of the heritage of the City of Blue Mountains because it provides tangible physical evidence about the origins and nature of this small local community during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The cemetery is the burial place of significant local pioneers and local families. It includes the burials of significant local Aboriginal people, Fanny and William Lynch. This gives the cemetery an important link to the Aboriginal community of Nellies Glen, Megalong and the Katoomba Reserve.

Megalong Cemetery has an attractive setting and landscape, principally comprised of re-growth native vegetation.

Using the assessment framework provided by the NSW Heritage Criteria, the Megalong Cemetery qualifies as an item of LOCAL Heritage Significance.

## **ME5 Constraints and Opportunities**

### **ME5.1 The Burra Charter**

References in parentheses refer to the relevant articles of the Burra Charter. Reference should be made to the copy of the Burra Charter in the Appendix 2 of Volume 1 of this report.

- 5.1.1 The cultural significance of the cemetery should be maintained. Provision should be made for its security, maintenance and future. (Article 2)
- 5.1.2 All conservation work should be based on respect for the extant fabric and should involve minimal intervention to existing fabric. (Article 3)
- 5.1.3 An appropriate visual setting for the cemetery should be maintained. No new construction or other development which detracts from the heritage value or context of the cemetery should occur. Environmental intrusions which will adversely affect the appreciation or enjoyment of the place should be excluded. (Article 8)
- 5.1.4 All fabric within the cemetery should remain in its historical location. Relocation of fabric should not occur unless moving it is the sole means of ensuring its survival. Any fabric removed under these circumstances should be returned to its correct location if changed circumstances make this feasible (Article 9 and Article 10)
- 5.1.5 All features of the existing cemetery should be taken into consideration. Fabric from all periods should be recognised as contributing to the significance of the cemetery. (Article 16)
- 5.1.6 Where appropriate, reconstruction should be limited to the reproduction of fabric the form of which is known from physical and/or documentary evidence. (Article 19)
- 5.1.7 Any major work on a cemetery should be preceded by a detailed study or plan. Existing fabric should be recorded prior to disturbance. (Article 23)
- 5.1.8 Disturbance of fabric should only occur to provide evidence needed to make decisions on the conservation of the cemetery. (Article 24)
- 5.1.9 The process of decision making and individuals responsible should be identified. (Article 26)
- 5.1.10 Appropriate professional direction and supervision should be maintained at all stages of the work. (Article 27)
- 5.1.11 Records should be kept of new evidence and subsequent decisions. (Articles 25 and 27)
- 5.1.12 Copies of all reports and records should be placed in a permanent archive and made publicly accessible. (Article 28).

### **ME5.2 Constraints arising from the Statement of Significance**

- 5.2.1 Megalong Cemetery should be conserved in accordance with established conservation principles.
- 5.2.2 All cemetery monuments should be retained and conserved.
- 5.2.3 All grave surrounds should be retained and conserved.

- 5.2.4 Monument layout and orientation should not be altered.
- 5.2.5 The cemetery should be protected from vandalism and other physical threats.
- 5.2.6 Existing elements of the current cemetery landscape, including the regrowth native vegetation, should be conserved and should be sympathetically maintained.

### **ME5.3 Zoning**

Megalong Cemetery is zoned as Rural Conservation in Blue Mountains City Council LEP 1991. This zoning is not appropriate to its significance as a burial place. Rural activities such as grazing stock also conflict with the conservation of the two surviving headstones and the potential re-use of the site for burials.

### **ME5.4 Condition**

The sandstone headstone of Fanny Lynch requires repair and re-erection. It is likely that this headstone was damaged by grazing stock.

The marble headstone and surround are in good condition.

The cemetery does not appear to be subject to any vandalism.

### **ME5.5 Maintenance Needs**

The natural vegetation on the site is in reasonable condition. This is in part due to the grazing of stock which has kept weeds in check. The need to slash twice yearly and control weed infestations would be a consideration of good land management regardless of the use of the site.

#### **ME5.5.1 Monuments**

There are only two surviving monuments. One of these, the sandstone monument of Fanny Lynch, is in need of repair. Before this is done, either the cemetery or the gravesite should be fenced off to protect it from further damage by grazing stock.

#### **ME5.5.2 Landscaping**

The need to slash twice yearly and control weed infestations is an ongoing maintenance cost regardless of the use of the site.

### **ME5.6 Future Burials**

At present the cemetery is not used for burials. The fact that the location of most burials on the site is not known restricts the potential for future burials until further investigation is undertaken to establish the gravesites.

### **ME5.7 Community Values and Desires**

The Megalong Valley Progress and Sporting Association conducted a survey of the local community in 2001-2002 to "ascertain resident opinion on whether the Megalong Valley Cemetery should

- a. be re-opened as a public cemetery
- b. be restored and preserved as an historic site
- c. be left as it is."

Of the 18 surveys returned, the majority (12) favoured re-opening the cemetery.

### **ME5.8 Location and Neighbourhood**

The location of the cemetery on the Six Foot Track, near the junction of the track with Megalong Road, is in a rural area. It is surrounded by farm land used primarily for grazing stock. While

this has assisted with reducing the spread of weeds it has caused damage to one of the two surviving monuments.

#### **ME5.9 Access and Parking**

The site is easily accessible from Megalong Road. Parking is available off the road, in part for access for day walkers on the Six Foot Track

## **ME6 Conservation Policies**

### **ME6.1 General**

*Megalong Cemetery should be conserved in accordance with the Burra Charter of Australia ICOMOS and other appropriate guidelines including those published by the National Trust and the Heritage Council of NSW.*

Megalong Cemetery is an item of environmental heritage for the local area, and continues to provide an essential public service for the surrounding community. The cemetery has local historic and social value for current and future generations.

### **ME6.2 Layout**

*Should the cemetery be re-opened for burials, an area for new burials should be designated. Consider the re-establishment of the original central path in opening a new area for burials.*

*Allow the present livestock path to regenerate.*

It is not known to what extent burials at Megalong followed the subdivision of the reserve into denominations. The original secular division is no longer evident, except perhaps in the location of the two known graves, and is not a characteristic of high significance at the cemetery. If the cemetery is to be re-opened, it will be necessary to establish an area for new burials, and this need not necessarily follow the original sub-division. However, re-establishing the original central path will allow access for vehicles for burials and give some relationship to the historic layout.

The present livestock path is an intrusive element and prevents the maintenance of the Fanny Lynch monument. It should be allowed to regenerate and a livestock route outside the cemetery boundaries established.

### **ME6.3 Planting**

#### **ME6.3.1 General**

*Maintain the park-like character of the cemetery by maintaining the current level of tree cover through the judicious removal of young sapling trees where necessary.*

*Encourage the regeneration of existing species on the site.*

*Do not introduce new species to the site.*

*Carefully clean around the graves.*

Much of the appeal of Megalong Cemetery is in the quality of the regenerated native bush. This should be maintained and any future burials (if the cemetery is re-opened) worked within the existing plantings. New species should not be introduced to the site as they could intrude on the character of the cemetery.

The level of tree cover is presently maintained by the grazing stock. This is at odds with the need to fence around any burial area where stock could damage monuments. If the cemetery is fenced, it will be necessary to monitor the growth of saplings and remove as necessary. This could be achieved by yearly slashing, or by using a technique recommended by NPWS.

#### **ME6.3.2 Weeds**

*Invasive species and weeds should be subject to a controlled eradication program.*

Control the growth of blackberries using a cut and poison technique

### **ME6.4 Maintenance and Repair**

*Maintenance of the cemetery should generally follow the policies of Section 1 of this report.*

In the case of the Lynch headstone, repair would require that the plinth (base section) be excavated and be rebedded level in the ground. The upper circular portion and other broken pieces should be re-fixed to the lower part of the headstone using drilling, dowels and adhesive. Non-ferrous dowels (preferably bronze or phosphor-bronze, not stainless steel) should be used, set using an appropriate adhesive or other inert compound. A dotted application should be used to prevent the creation of a moisture barrier across the join. Patching of the cracks may be done using an epoxy resin and sand (or other approved mix). Patching must 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).

If the biological growth on the marble McLaughlin monument is removed it should be done in accordance with the recommendations given in Volume 1 of the Conservation Management Plan. A bristle brush and water should be used, not any chemicals or solvents. The ironwork could be painted a more appropriate traditional (dark) colour. This should be researched by means of paint scrapes. The ironwork should not be harshly cleaned back; no metal brushes should be used. As an alternative to re-painting the iron may be treated with fishoil to prevent rusting.

Repair work should be undertaken by a monumental mason or other conservation practitioner skilled in the repair of aged and fragile monument fabric.

### **ME6.5 Future Burials**

*Allow the cemetery to be re-opened for future burials.*

*Prior to re-opening the cemetery for burials, conduct a ground penetrating radar survey to establish and record the location of existing burials.*

*Do not allow new burials where existing or future research indicates there are existing burials.*

*Do not allow burials in areas of the cemetery where the location of earlier burials has not been established by existing or future research.*

The local community has expressed its desire to re-open Megalong Cemetery for burials. This is only possible if further research is undertaken to establish where existing burials are located. Ground penetrating radar surveys have proved very successful in this type of research and would be appropriate at Megalong Cemetery. If a decision is made to re-open the cemetery to burials, it is not necessary to survey the entire cemetery reserve. A smaller area could be selected to provide sufficient space for burials for a period of say 100 years. This smaller area could then be surveyed and designated as the area for future burials. If a survey is only undertaken on a selected area of the cemetery, no new burials should be allowed outside that area until further survey work is completed. This will ensure that existing gravesites are not disturbed.

The layout of any new gravesites cannot be determined without first determining the location of existing burials, selecting a new burial area and surveying the new area to determine where existing trees and shrubs which are to be retained are located. As noted in 6.3.1, the existing park-like character and bushland setting of the cemetery should be retained. New gravesites should be arranged within the existing landscape. This need not preclude the use of rows; rows may need to be interrupted by existing trees.

### **ME6.6 Fencing**

*Construct simple wire fencing to restrict access to livestock.*

*If the cemetery is proposed for re-opening, then fence the area to be used for burials as well as the area where existing monuments survive.*

*If the cemetery is to remain closed, fence the area around the grave of Fanny Lynch.*

The major problem for this cemetery is to control the trespassing of stock into it and the damage they impart to the extant gravesites. It is desirable that the surviving monuments (two headstones) are fenced in order to provide protection from uncontrolled grazing stock.

If the cemetery is re-opened for burials, it will be necessary to protect the new monuments as well as existing from damage by stock. This can be done by either fencing the whole cemetery along the original boundary or partially fencing the cemetery by utilising the original boundary line in the section of the cemetery affected and the location of the graves to determine an appropriate boundary. If the cemetery remains closed to burials, fencing may be placed around each monument separately or a larger area which includes both extant monuments could be fenced.

Fencing should be of a simple design in keeping with this simple bush cemetery. Rural style fencing or traditional plain timber post and rail fencing would be appropriate. Koppers log fencing is not an appropriate style.

## **ME6.7 New Elements**

### **ME6.7.1 General**

*All new work or fabric must be compatible with the existing character of the site.*

The cemetery is no longer in use for burials. It may be used for future interments or for the inurnment of ashes, but if so, a new area separated from the old section, appropriately screened and sympathetically designed would need to be developed. The actual curtilage and boundary of the used cemetery area would need to be accurately established by further research such as a ground penetrating radar survey.

The old part of the Megalong Cemetery which has been used should be managed primarily as an historic site and open space/passive recreation resource for members of the local community and visitors. Use of this part of the site as an educational and research resource would be highly desirable.

With the exception of an interpretative sign, new elements should not be introduced into the old cemetery area.

### **ME6.7.2 Columbaria**

*Do not construct a columbarium in the cemetery.*

A columbarium wall would be out of character with the cemetery. Should it be desired to place ashes or memorial plaques at the cemetery a memorial walk would be more sympathetic.

### **ME6.7.3 Minimum Maintenance Sections**

*Do not allow the establishment of a minimum maintenance section within Megalong Cemetery.*

Part of the significance of Megalong Cemetery is the tranquil setting amid the regenerated native bush. A minimum maintenance section would destroy this character.

### **ME6.7.4 New Buildings**

*Do not allow new buildings within the cemetery reserve. Should any new building for amenities be required in the future, restrict these to the Six Foot Track reserve.*

It is not envisaged that new buildings are needed at Megalong Cemetery. However, if in the future an amenities or shelter building is desired, it should be located on the Six Foot Track Reserve where it will not impact on the character of the cemetery.

### **ME6.7.5 Memorial Walk**

*Allow the establishment of a memorial walk within the existing bush landscape.*

A memorial walk could be established within Megalong Cemetery to allow for the interment of ashes and placement of memorial plaques. Any such walk should incorporate a simple track with simple plinths or similar for mounting plaques at ground level. A memorial walk which is designed within the existing bush landscape would maintain the tranquil character of the cemetery.

### **ME6.8 Signage**

*If the cemetery is re-opened, provide a sympathetically designed sign with the following information:*

- Megalong Cemetery
- brief historical information
- contact telephone number at Blue Mountains City Council
- a request not to damage the monuments or landscape.

An informative and sympathetically designed sign should be introduced to the site. Because most of the monuments have disappeared, some brief historical information about the cemetery should be included on the sign.

Megalong Cemetery is an item of environmental heritage for the local area, and an important local historic site. The cemetery has local historic and social value for current and future generations. The significance of the cemetery should be explained to visitors.

### **ME6.9 Uses**

*The site should continue to be used as a cemetery.*

The significance of the site is in its use as a cemetery and this use should not change.

*Re-open the site to burials.*

From all available research there have been only a small number of burials at Megalong Cemetery. There is clearly ample space for additional burials and the local community has expressed its desire to have the cemetery re-opened. However, before this is done, the location of existing burials must be ascertained and the cemetery, or a designated burial area, must be fenced to protect monuments from stock.

### **ME6.10 Interpretation**

*Community support for the conservation of the cemetery should be encouraged through limited circulation of information on the history and heritage value of the cemetery to interested parties, including adjoining property owners and the local community.*

Continuing research and publication about the cemetery should be encouraged, particularly as additional information might be found which would further assist the development of conservation policy and interpretation.

### **ME6.11 Access and Parking**

*Maintain access to the cemetery from the Six Foot Track with parking on Megalong Road.*

The present access and parking facilities are sufficient for present needs and future needs if the cemetery is re-opened.

**ME6.12 Vandalism**

*Megalong Cemetery should be protected from vandalism and other physical threats. Consider the use of regular patrols by Council rangers should there be any evidence of deliberate vandalism in the future.*

There is no evidence of vandalism, the monument which is fallen was probably inadvertently damaged by grazing stock. The cemetery is situated away from passers-by and its location probably protects it from undesirable attention. Should there be evidence of a problem in the future, regular patrols by Council rangers should be used to monitor activity.

**ME1.1 Statutory Protection**

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

*Retain Megalong Cemetery as a heritage item on the heritage schedule of LEP 1991.*

## **MOUNT VICTORIA CEMETERY**

### **ME2 Introduction**

#### **MV6.13 General**

This Mount Victoria Cemetery section of the Blue Mountains Cemeteries Conservation Management Plan should be read in conjunction with the General Analysis and Conservation Policies section of the Conservation Management Plan.

#### **MV6.14 Location**

Mount Victoria Cemetery is located at 10 Victoria Falls Road, Mount Victoria. The legal title of the property is L187, DP751644.

#### **MV6.15 Bibliography**

*Our Past Blue Mountains Pioneers* Blue Mountains Family History Society

Helen Gibson 'A Teacher to Remember', *Hobby's Outreach* III iii Sept-Oct. 1992, III iv Nov.-Dec. 1992

G.F.J. Bergmann, *John William Berghofer*, 1954

## **MV7 Physical Summary**

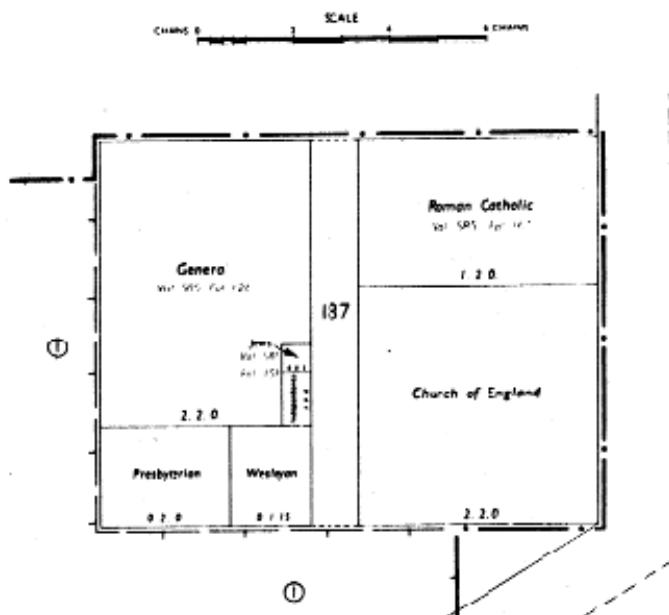
### **MV7.1 Setting**

The Mount Victoria General Cemetery is situated about one kilometre east of the township. It is accessed by a dirt track which branches off from Victoria Falls Road, an unpaved minor road which leads through bushland to Victoria Falls in the Grose Valley, part of the Blue Mountains National Park. The cemetery occupies a flat ridge-top site, about 150 metres north of the Great Western Highway.

The area of the cemetery which has been used for burials adjoins the dirt track on the front boundary. It is surrounded by native ridge-top vegetation on the other sides. The site is enclosed by the surrounding vegetation and has no extensive views beyond its own boundaries, although looking the northwest there is a visual link to the Mt Victoria township which is marked by mature pine trees.

### **MV7.2 Design and Layout**

Mt Victoria Cemetery was dedicated in 1881 as a square area. The dedicated area of just over 8 acres (approximately 3.25 hectares) had fairly regular (maximum) dimensions, being approximately 200 metres east to west and 200 metres north to south. The cemetery diagrams from various editions of the 'Hartley' Parish Map indicate that the cemetery was laid out with a main north-south running driveway in the centre on the southern boundary. Denominational areas were laid out on each side of the central drive.



**Figure MV 1**

Mount Victoria Cemetery  
General Layout  
Parish Map, Parish of Hartley, County of Cook, Sheet 2  
Source: Department of Lands N.S.W.

This was a fairly typical general cemetery layout. The most characteristic feature of the 'general' cemeteries established in the late nineteenth century was internal denominational division and depending upon their size and the topography, the use of one or more axial roads or pathways between the separate denominational sections. The denominational subdivisions were allocated according to the strength of the particular denomination in the surrounding district. For the Mt Victoria Cemetery sections included Roman Catholic, Church of England (now known as Anglican), General, Presbyterian, Wesleyan, Jewish and Unsectarian. Comparison of the

cemetery diagram with the current topographic map ('Mt Wilson' 8930-1-N, 3rd edition) and a recent aerial photograph (Figure MV 2) indicates that of the total dedicated area only a small part of the allocated General cemetery section has been used.



**Figure MV 2**

Mount Victoria Cemetery

Aerial photo

The photo shows that only a small section of the general area of the cemetery has been cleared for burials.

Source: City of Blue Mountains

The area which has been used for burials has been fenced with star picket and wire mesh fencing. The access road (dirt track) runs along the eastern side of this fenced and used cemetery area. The maps and plans indicate that this track alignment is actually that of the originally intended main central drive which means that the large amount of remnant native vegetation around the fenced area is actually within the areas originally allocated as part of the 8 acres for the cemetery but not yet developed or used for burial.

Entry to the fenced and used cemetery area is through gates near the southeast corner. From the gateway a drive leads west into the burial area to a small turning circle at the western end of the fenced cemetery. The drive loops around a small gable roofed shelter shed constructed from timber log framing and clad with corrugated iron. The main drive is unsealed but has remnants of an older quartz gravel surface, probably using pebbles obtained locally from the weathering of conglomerate inclusions in the surrounding sandstone geology.



**Figure MV 3**

Mount Victoria Cemetery  
General View form northeast  
17 Sep 2001

Within the fenced cemetery area the grave rows appear to have been laid out in relation to the minor driveway (being perpendicular to it). The grave rows have been oriented to face east (90°). The east facing orientation of graves is a traditional practice, ascribed to solar models and later justified by theological doctrine.

### **MV7.3 Monuments and Grave Furniture**

Mount Victoria Cemetery contains about 50 monuments in 7 main grave rows. The most recent monuments are situated in the northwestern quadrant of the fenced cemetery area. There are many more burials in the cemetery than monuments, about 70 are recorded on monuments and there are also many more unmarked graves, about another 60 burials. It is likely that some of the unmarked graves were previously marked with timber surrounds, crosses or other monuments which have not survived due to the effects of weathering, decay, rot and periodic bushfires.

Mount Victoria Cemetery includes examples of the common monument types known during the late nineteenth and the twentieth century. The majority of monuments in the cemetery date from the 1890s to the 1940s. There are a few 1960s monuments and also one 1980 monument. Monumental masonry tends to reflect current developments in architectural style and changing cultural attitudes towards death and its commemoration. Monumental masonry is also influenced by taste, fashion, and religious beliefs. The materials chosen for monuments and associated elements such as surrounds may reflect the local economic circumstances, and the availability of materials, technology and skilled labour during various periods.

In the late nineteenth to early twentieth century sandstone or marble headstones, sometimes with sandstone kerbing and cast iron surrounds were used in the Mount Victoria Cemetery. Examples include: Esther Moore 1891; Palmer Law, 1892; Anne Perry 1892; William Wye, 1906.

The oldest monument in the cemetery is the gothic style sandstone headstone with arched hood moulding to Elizabeth Burrup Stanley died 5 May 1891 aged 66 years. This headstone is signed by the mason, R Thomas, Rookwood.

The most elaborate of the marble headstones is probably that of the historically significant Berghofer family. This headstone has a highly stylised celtic knot motif with a central IHS monogram. The 'I.H.S.' monogram, representing the Greek characters for the first three letters of Jesus, and also often taken to mean *Jesus Hominum Salvator* (Saviour of Men). The motif is usually found on Catholic headstones. The headstone commemorates Ethel Alfreda Berghofer died 1917 aged 27; John W Berghofer died 1927 aged 87 and Catherine Berghofer died 1945 aged

95. The mason was D.B. Acton, Lithgow. As noted in the history for this cemetery, Berghofer was a significant local citizen who had been President of Blaxland Shire. He was responsible for the new road descent from Mt Victoria opened in 1912 and named 'Berghofer's Pass'. A Trustee of the Mount York Reserve from 1892, he had also been instrumental in the erection of the obelisk at Mount York in 1900. With the anti-German feeling aroused by World War I, an Act passed in 1916 prevented persons of enemy origin from holding political office and Berghofer was removed from his Shire Councillor position. By this stage his name had been defaced on Berghofer's Pass and he had changed the name of his property at Little Hartley from "Rosenthal" to "Rosedale".



**Figure MV 4**

Mount Victoria Cemetery  
Headstone of Ethel Alfreda Berghofer, John W. Berghofer and Catherine Berghofer  
17 Sep 2001

Other notable monuments in Mt Victoria Cemetery are the two marble ledger slabs within a low cast iron and sandstone surround near the southeast corner of the fenced area. These ledgers (slabs placed at ground level) are to members of the locally prominent Rienits family and record the burials of: Dietrich G Rienits 1891 and his wife Christine Rienits 1920; Katie Rienits 1924 and Henry Guenther Rienits 1928 (her husband).



**Figure MV 5**

Mount Victoria Cemetery

Reinitz family grave

17 Sep 2001

Photo: R. Ian Jack

Charles Hutchison died 1898 is commemorated by a very elaborate grey granite headstone with a sandstone kerb and a 'barley twist' iron railing surround. The mason's name was not very legible but may be Chambers and Culleen (?), Melbourne.

Ole Olsen died 1891 is commemorated by a handsome sandstone celtic cross with very finely executed carved floral motifs and a winged hourglass (symbolic of 'time flies'). This monument shows evidence of having previously been painted. The stone kerbing has been infilled with concrete which may be causing a rising damp problem resulting in the spalling of sandstone from the base of the plinth.



**Figure MV 6**

Mount Victoria Cemetery  
Grave of Ole Olsen  
17 Sep 2001

A sandstone obelisk on a square pedestal with a (later replacement?) marble tablet commemorates Joshua Leyden Colledge died 1901. This monument is signed by masons, Ross and Bowman. The obelisk has fallen from the plinth and needs re-setting.

A marble celtic cross on a sandstone plinth records the burial of Edith Wilkinson, 1905. This monument is signed by the mason G W Cleveland, Nth Sydney. Ada Foley died 1898 is commemorated by a marble cross with relief carved florals which stands on three steps (symbolic of both the Trinity and the three virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity). The cross is within a cast iron surround with finials shaped as opium poppies (symbolic of sleep). The cross is broken and needs repair and re-setting.

Henry John Wynne died 1898 is also commemorated by a marble Calvary cross, signed by the mason: Patten, Rookwood.



**Figure MV 7**

Mount Victoria Cemetery  
Grave of Henry Wynne  
17 Sep 2001  
Photo: R. Ian Jack

A very handsome and substantial sandstone sarcophagus style monument has been erected for Bessie Yeend, 1901.



**Figure MV 8**

Sarcophagus monument for Bessie Yeend  
17 Sep 2001

Rather surprisingly, another substantial sloped sarcophagus type monument has been discarded near the western boundary of the fenced cemetery area. The inscription on this monument has been defaced. The date of death recorded appears to be 6 February 1892. This is the date of death of Palmer Law who is buried in grave 5, row 1. It appears that the sandstone slab was replaced by an altar style monument over the original base in 1919 when Law's grandson, Frederick Garne Challands was buried in the same grave.



**Figure MV 9**

Monument on west boundary of cleared area.

The name of the deceased has been scratched out on this stone. This appears to be the discarded slab from the grave of Palmer Law. The slab was probably replaced in 1919 when Law's grandson, Frederick Garne Challands was buried in the same grave.

17 Sep 2001

Photo: R. Ian Jack

From about 1920 onwards, the desk (a small wedge-shaped monument) becomes the dominant monument type. The most common form initially is of sandstone with a marble tablet. Other design variants include those with marble surmounts or desks shaped as unfurled scrolls, including some in white marble. An example in Mount Victoria Cemetery is the white marble scroll to John Mills died 1924. His inscription includes the statement that he was '1st Govt. Valuator N.S.W.'

In the earlier twentieth century the desk monuments are combined with stone kerbing and commonly have a cement slab with either gravel chips or tile infill covering the grave itself. From the 1930s into the 1950s examples occur in other materials such as black, grey or red granite. In the 1950s some manufactured materials such as concrete (later 'granolite') and terrazzo are also used for cemetery monuments. From the 1960s, desk monuments (red, black granite) also begin to be combined with solid slabs as infill on grave kerbing. Examples of these types in the Mount Victoria Cemetery include the monuments to Norman Tuckwell 1931 and the sandstone desk with red granite plaque and tile infill on the slab to Sadie Lanfranchi died 1936 and Thomas Lanfranchi died 1967. Some burials have been marked by metal plaques affixed to cement kerbs or desks for example Maria Burch, 1943. The local stonemason, Paterson of Katoomba is noted on one of the sandstone desk monuments. The most recent monument is a cement desk and kerb with pebble infill and a black granite tablet to Charles Minty died 1980.



**Figure MV 10**

The desk monument of Sadie and Thomas William Lanfranchi

17 Sep 2001

For such a small cemetery a very wide range of monumental masons are represented, indicating access to firms from a wide geographical range. Examples have been noted above.

Mount Victoria Cemetery is also notable for its range of monument designs with examples of the main monument types present in the cemetery, the only elements not represented in this collection are monumental sculptures such as angels or other figures.

The cemetery also contains a fairly typical range of grave enclosures. There are examples of cast iron grave enclosures, with 'barley twist' rails and fleur-de-lys finials. Other types of surrounds in the cemetery include standard stone kerbing, often with a chamfered top.

### **Symbolism**

Mount Victoria Cemetery also includes a range of fairly typical symbolic motifs, incorporated on the individual monuments. Examples have been described above but they include the 'open book', symbolic of the Bible, book of Knowledge or book of Life; which occurs as a marble tablet on the desk monuments. Desks which are carved in the form of unfurled scrolls symbolise the record of the individual's life.

### **Inscriptions**

The inscriptions in the cemetery also illustrate the social and cultural values and attitudes to death in the surrounding community. The older monuments commonly include verses and biblical texts, which reflects the strength of religious faith in past eras. Many of the verses deal with the pain of loss or the suddenness of the bereavement, as well as the hope for reunion and resurrection.

### **MV7.4 Condition**

The majority of the monumental masonry and other fabric within the Mount Victoria Cemetery is in reasonably good condition. Some vandalism is evident, and the more elaborate monument forms such as obelisks and crosses have generally been targeted. Some of these monuments require components to be re-set. Problems with some individual monuments have been noted above. The isolation of the cemetery from the town may be a factor which encourages sporadic vandalism.

### **MV7.5 Landscaping**

The cemetery is located in an isolated ridge top bushland setting with views toward Mt Victoria. The perimeter fencing of chicken wire is attached to a large old hardwood post. The 1980 National Trust survey described a white bush pebble drive from the entrance gates to a corrugated iron chapel shelter. This has not been maintained and only patches of it are visible.

There is no formal landscape planting evident, however, within the fenced cemetery area there are several mature native trees including endemic Eucalypt and Acacia species. Native understorey vegetation is also present across the fenced cemetery area including species such as native orchids, native heath and Dilwynia species. Individual grave plantings observed include snow drops; there may be other traditional bulb species which were not in flower at the time of the site visit. There is no use of herbicides or plant poisoning evident, which probably enhances the survival of plant species within the cemetery.

The ground surface throughout the cemetery contains good examples of the local heath (*Epacris* sp.) and Fringed Lily (*Thysanotus* sp.). These act as good groundcovers which are charming and low maintenance. There are also clumps of Snowflakes (*Leucojum* sp.), some of which are on graves. Several of the graves are decorated with coral and shells.

Cotoneaster and Tea tree have self-seeded throughout the cemetery and there is a large wattle tree in one of the graves.

#### **MV7.6 Buildings**

The only building at Mount Victoria is a small gabled shed of corrugated iron. The shed is of simple design and construction and provides shelter for visitors.



**Figure MV 11**

Mount Victoria Cemetery  
Shelter building  
17 Sep 2001

## **MV8 Historical Summary**

### **MV8.1 Mount Victoria Cemetery**

Mount Victoria cemetery was dedicated in 1881 in a quiet bushland setting a kilometre south-east of the railway station, but accessible only via the Great Western Highway and then a detour north-east along the track leading to Victoria Falls. The village had grown up around the toll house of 1849, itself built because Broughton's Waterholes nearby had created a drovers' camping place ever since Cox's road system of 1813 had been developed by the building of Mitchell's Victoria Pass in the 1830s. The coming of the railway across the Mountains gave Mount Victoria a new significance. While the western line was being built from Penrith westwards, a village reserve was declared at Mount Victoria in 1866 and the railway station, opened in 1868, encouraged the building of new inns and shops nearby, catering for the railway gangs and for the increasing number of residents in the new village. A postal service was established in 1866, the public school in 1868 and an Anglican church in 1875. Tourists became more and more numerous in the summer and services were created to meet their needs. The dedication of the cemetery in 1881 was a natural corollary to the developments of the previous fifteen years.

The cemetery layout remained in practice very simple, containing only a general section with four parallel double rows. The earliest burial in Mount Victoria cemetery is 1891, the latest 1991. Since there was no burial ground in Mount Wilson until after the building of the Anglican church there in 1913 and no cemetery in Mount Irvine until 1934, Mount Victoria served initially as a general cemetery for the settlers on both sides of the western Grose Valley, although most of the interments are of Mount Victoria residents or visitors. The cemetery is still open, although the last burial was in 1991.

### **MV8.2 Persons of Note Buried at Mount Victoria**

#### Henry Rienits (1851-1928).

A noted, though controversial, educator, Henry Rienits came to Australia from north Germany in 1863 to join his parents, Dietrich and Christine, who had already settled in the Monaro ten years before. He became a public school teacher in 1873, first at Hill End, then at Bourke and at Cooyal near Mudgee, finally coming to Mount Victoria in 1880, where he and his wife had a stormy career, which ended in 1885 when he opened his own private premises, The School, in Montgomery Street, Mount Victoria. Despite competition from both the public school and other private schools, Rienits succeeded in maintaining The School until 1913, when he retired at the age of 62 but continued to take a forceful role in the local Progress Association. His wife Kate Terry died in 1924, Henry four years later, and both were buried in the cemetery beside Henry's father and mother who had come to Mount Victoria in their old age and died there, Dietrich in 1891 and Christine in 1920. (*OPBM I 5; Helen Gibson, 'A Teacher to Remember', Hobbys Outreach III iii Sept-Oct. 1992, III iv Nov.-Dec. 1992*)

#### John William Berghofer

John William Berghofer (1840-1927), who died a year before his friend Rienits, was also German-born and also came to Australia to join a father already established in the Sydney area. John Berghofer first crossed the Blue Mountains in 1870 when he went gold-seeking at Hill End and Gulgong and in 1876 he became manager of Ebenezer Vickery's sheep station in Kanimbla. After thirteen years in Kanimbla, the Berghofers moved back to their parents' suburb of Kogarah but in 1892 they bought the old Victoria Inn at the bottom of Victoria Pass and, like Rienits and his wife, bought investment property in Mount Victoria, capitalizing on the tourist trade. Berghofer built leasing cottages close to Rienits' The School in Montgomery Street and Selsdon Street and a general store on the corner of Selsdon Street and the highway. The Berghofers, however, continued to live in the former Victoria Inn, renamed Rosenthal and later Rosedale, except for the years 1898 to 1903 when Berghofer resumed his position as manager of Kanimbla station. When Blaxland Shire, which included Rosedale but not Mount Victoria, was created in

1906, Berghofer became its first President and gained lasting fame as the creator of Berghofer's Pass as an alternative route to Victoria Pass in 1907. Like Rienits, Berghofer suffered from anti-German sentiment during World War I and was obliged to resign from his position as Shire President, but he continued to have close links with Mount Victoria and, after his death in 1927, his widow lived in a Mount Victoria house at 2 Selsdon Street which they had built as an investment in the 1880s. She was buried beside her husband at Mount Victoria when she died at the age of 95 in 1945. (*OPBM 1 5-6; G.F.J. Bergmann, John William Berghofer, 1954*)

## **MV9 Assessment of Significance**

### **MV9.1 State Heritage Office Criteria**

To be assessed for listing on the State Heritage Register, an item will, in the opinion of the Heritage Council of NSW, meet one or more of the following criteria.

Criterion	Level of Significance
<b>MV9.1.1 Criterion (a): An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)</b>  The Mount Victoria Cemetery provides documentary evidence about the origins and nature of the local community over the past 100 years. The monuments are a direct record of the local area's population, including the origins, composition and changes in the population of the area over this period. The cemetery is the burial place of many local identities and business people including John Berghofer, the Rienits family, and Louis Howell. Many of the monuments include some biographical detail and the adjacent groupings of monuments within the cemetery are frequently indicative of family connections.	Local
<b>MV9.1.2 Criterion (b): An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)</b>  Mount Victoria Cemetery contains the graves and monuments of individuals from all classes and social levels, providing a complete cross-section of the society that has existed in the local area over the past 100 years. Among the important individuals represented at the cemetery are John Berghofer, (of state importance) and Henry Rienits.	State
The substantial monuments in this small cemetery are representative of a prosperous local community. The cemetery monuments are representative of the beliefs and tastes of the local community.	Local
<b>MV9.1.3 Criterion (c): An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area)</b>  The Mt Victoria Cemetery is of aesthetic significance on a local level for its pleasant elevated setting with views to Mt Victoria. The wider bush environment, the native groundcovers and trees, and the simple design of the structures and layout of the place combine in an evocative example of a mountain cemetery.	Local
The monuments and surrounds in the cemetery display the work of a wide range of local, regional and even interstate firms. A few display considerable creative and technical accomplishment, indicative of a high degree of skill in their execution.	Local

**MV9.1.4 Criterion (d): An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons**

The detailed transcripts compiled by the Blue Mountains Family History Local Group indicate that the cemetery has some contemporary community esteem and that there is interest in the preservation of the information recorded by the monuments in the cemetery.

**MV9.1.5 Criterion (e): An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)**

Completion of further research, including more detailed family history may yield new insights into local relationships and historic and social connections.

**MV9.1.6 Criterion (f): An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)**

The Mount Victoria Cemetery includes significant surviving remnant Local indigenous vegetation in the areas originally reserved for cemetery sections but not yet developed or used. The allocation of the additional area is indicative of nineteenth century planning and expectations for growth of the surrounding district which have remained unfulfilled.

**MV9.1.7 Criterion (g): An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's (or the local area's) cultural or natural places or environments**

Mount Victoria Cemetery contains representative examples of the range of monumental masonry available over the past 100 years. In their design and execution they demonstrate the skills of monumental masons both local, Sydney-based and even interstate.

**MV9.2 Summary Statement of Significance**

Mount Victoria Cemetery is an important component of the heritage of the City of Blue Mountains as it directly records a number of individuals and families prominent in local history, including the Berghofer and Rienits families. Mount Victoria Cemetery provides a direct historical record of the people of the local district for nearly a century.

Mount Victoria General Cemetery contains a representative range of many nineteenth and twentieth century monument types, executed by a wide range of monumental masons, including local, regional and interstate firms. These monuments are important for their ability to demonstrate the craft skills and the attitudes of past generations.

Mount Victoria Cemetery includes significant surviving remnant indigenous vegetation in the areas originally reserved for cemetery sections but not yet developed or used.

Using the assessment framework provided by the NSW Heritage Criteria, the Mount Victoria Cemetery qualifies as an item of STATE heritage significance.

## **MV10 Constraints and Opportunities**

### **MV10.1 The Burra Charter**

References in parentheses refer to the relevant articles of the Burra Charter. Reference should be made to the copy of the Burra Charter in the Appendix 2 of Volume 1 of this report.

- 5.1.1 The cultural significance of the cemetery should be maintained. Provision should be made for its security, maintenance and future. (Article 2)
- 5.1.2 All conservation work should be based on respect for the extant fabric and should involve minimal intervention to existing fabric. (Article 3)
- 5.1.3 An appropriate visual setting for the cemetery should be maintained. No new construction or other development which detracts from the heritage value or context of the cemetery should occur. Environmental intrusions which will adversely affect the appreciation or enjoyment of the place should be excluded. (Article 8)
- 5.1.4 All fabric within the cemetery should remain in its historical location. Relocation of fabric should not occur unless moving it is the sole means of ensuring its survival. Any fabric removed under these circumstances should be returned to its correct location if changed circumstances make this feasible (Article 9 and Article 10)
- 5.1.5 All features of the existing cemetery should be taken into consideration. Fabric from all periods should be recognised as contributing to the significance of the cemetery. (Article 16)
- 5.1.6 Where appropriate, reconstruction should be limited to the reproduction of fabric the form of which is known from physical and/or documentary evidence. (Article 19)
- 5.1.7 Any major work on a cemetery should be preceded by a detailed study or plan. Existing fabric should be recorded prior to disturbance. (Article 23)
- 5.1.8 Disturbance of fabric should only occur to provide evidence needed to make decisions on the conservation of the cemetery. (Article 24)
- 5.1.9 The process of decision making and individuals responsible should be identified. (Article 26)
- 5.1.10 Appropriate professional direction and supervision should be maintained at all stages of the work. (Article 27)
- 5.1.11 Records should be kept of new evidence and subsequent decisions. (Articles 25 and 27)
- 5.1.12 Copies of all reports and records should be placed in a permanent archive and made publicly accessible. (Article 28).

### **MV10.2 Constraints arising from the Statement of Significance**

5.2.1 Mount Victoria Cemetery should be conserved in accordance with established conservation principles.

5.2.2 All cemetery monuments should be retained and conserved.

5.2.3 All grave surrounds, including ironwork and stone kerbing should be retained and conserved.

- 5.2.4 Monument layout and orientation should not be altered.
- 5.2.5 Existing elements of the current cemetery landscape, including indigenous native vegetation, should be conserved and should be sympathetically maintained. The present maintenance practices (eg no poisoning or intensive mowing) are sympathetic and will assist the future survival of some of the cemetery plants. The cemetery should not be top-dressed.
- 5.2.6 The simple cemetery shelter shed should be retained and conserved.

### **MV10.3 Zoning**

The site is zoned for Special Uses which is consistent with its use as a cemetery.

### **MV10.4 Condition and Maintenance Needs**

#### **MV10.4.1 Monuments**

The cemetery appears to be subject to periodic vandalism, with some monuments suffering mechanical damage and breakage. Some monuments in the cemetery require immediate action and repair if they are to be effectively conserved.

#### **MV10.4.2 Landscaping**

Generally, the landscaping features of the site are in reasonable condition. However, some landscaping elements of the site, notably the gravel drive have been poorly maintained and are in need of reinstatement.

There are few trees and shrubs within the cleared burial area. Some of these are buried on or close to graves where they threaten the stability of the monuments. In the case of the large wattle on one grave, the damage has already been done. Other plantings of teatree and cotoneaster should be removed before it causes further damage.

Native grasses and groundcovers at this cemetery do not require regular mowing. In fact, mowing and topdressing should be avoided where it could harm these plants and native heaths.

### **MV10.5 Future Burials**

At present, while there are no restrictions on burials at Mount Victoria Cemetery new burials are infrequent. Hence, there is no current pressure for extending the existing burial area. Should this need arise in the future, there is ample space in the original reserve to open a new area for future burials.

### **MV10.6 Community Values and Desires**

The cemetery has not been used for over 20 years, however several descendants and other members of the local community retain an interest in the appearance and condition of the site.

### **MV10.7 Location and Neighbourhood**

The location of the cemetery is away from the main township and is unlikely to be encroached upon by residential or other development in the foreseeable future. This isolated location presents some problems with potential vandalism as there is no constant.

### **MV10.8 Access and Parking**

Access to Mount Victoria Cemetery is via a gravel drive leading from Victoria Falls Road. A small parking area is available within the cemetery area, opposite the present burial area. This parking is adequate for the present size and irregular use of the cemetery, but might need upgrading if use of the cemetery increased substantially.

## **MV11 Conservation Policies**

### **MV11.1 General**

*Mount Victoria Cemetery should be conserved in accordance with the Burra Charter of Australia ICOMOS and other appropriate guidelines including those published by the National Trust and the Heritage Council of NSW.*

Mount Victoria Cemetery is an item of environmental heritage for the local area, and continues to provide an essential public service for the surrounding community. The cemetery has local historic and social value for current and future generations.

### **MV11.2 Layout**

*Maintain the layout of the existing gravel drive and burial area.*

*Reinstate the white gravel path within the existing burial area.*

*Allow the clearing of new burial areas, providing an adequate buffer of native vegetation is maintained around the existing burial area.*

The remnant vegetation adjoining this area forms an appropriate visual barrier which negates the impact of nearby elements such as the Great Western Highway which might otherwise be intrusive.

Reinstating the white bush pebble drive in its former location from the gates to form a loop around the shelter will assist in defining this drive and will contribute to the character of the cemetery.

The original denominational layout of Mount Victoria Cemetery is not reflected in the use of the cemetery. The existing burial area uses only part of the area reserved for general burials. This small cleared area reflects the size and values of the local community. The diversity of monuments also reflects the prosperity of the local community. Retaining this cleared area as an individual element will assist in conserving this record of the Mount Victoria district as a small and substantially intact genealogical record.

New burial areas could be created at the cemetery, retaining the present main driveway. These would not necessarily need to observe the original denominational divisions of the cemetery reserve. However, the character of the existing burial area should be maintained by the retention of a buffer of native vegetation around the clearing and the reinstatement of the white gravel path within the area.

### **MV11.3 Planting**

#### **MV11.3.1 General**

*Existing elements of the landscape, notably the mature native trees and native ground cover vegetation in the cemetery should be conserved and maintained.*

*In particular conserve and maintain surviving sections of native forest around the perimeter of the cemetery and the present cleared burial area.*

*No new plantings should be introduced unless these are endemic native species already present in the cemetery and its environs, or are known (from further research) to have been planted in the cemetery.*

The existing mature native trees and native ground cover vegetation should be conserved and maintained. Ground cover should continue to be provided by existing low-scale native grasses, orchids, heath and the small scale traditional grave plantings noted above.

No new plantings should be introduced unless these are endemic native species already present in the cemetery and its environs, or are known (from further research or observation at different seasons) to have been planted in the cemetery.

#### **MV11.3.2      Trees**

*The existing native trees and understorey vegetation which form a buffer to the existing burial area should be maintained.*

*Retain the large wattle that has grown in one of the graves as the damage has already been done.*

*Cut and poison Teatree and cotoneaster that is growing in graves.*

*Remove the eucalypt growing between the Howell and Martha Lanfranchi graves to avoid damage to those graves.*

The character of the cemetery is derived in part from the surviving native plantings. Maintaining these, with their understorey will ensure this character is conserved.

Some trees are threatening to damage monuments and these should be carefully removed. Where the damage has already been done, the tree could be retained.

#### **MV11.3.3      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.*

Grave plantings must be restricted to a small scale creepers and shrubs to ensure they do not cause damage to the associated or nearby graves. Larger plants also tend to obscure adjacent graves. Existing inappropriate plantings should be removed before they cause further damage. This should be by cut and poison methods rather than attempting to remove root systems as this might also dislodge monuments.

#### **MV11.3.4      Grasses**

*Ground cover should continue to be provided by existing low-scale native grasses, groundcovers and small scale grave plantings.*

*Restrict mowing to a minimum to encourage the growth of native grasses and groundcovers.*

*Do not backfill around monuments with topsoil unless in discussion with a recognised heritage consultant.*

The use of low scale native grasses and groundcovers will maintain the character of the cemetery and is recognised as a valuable method of reducing maintenance.

The use of topsoil to reinstate foundation material around monuments is not necessary at this cemetery. It could be considered for only two or three monuments but should be followed up by seeding native grasses.

#### **MV11.3.5      Weeds**

*Cut and poison self-seeded cotoneaster and tea-tree from graves.*

*Do not allow the planting of known weed species, in particular cotoneaster and conifers, on graves.*

Mount Victoria Cemetery does not have substantial problems with weeds apart from some cotoneaster and tea-tree. Existing plantings of cotoneaster and tea-tree should be carefully removed before causing further damage. Future plantings of these species on monuments, as well as some species of conifers should not be allowed.

#### **MV11.4 Maintenance**

*Maintenance of the cemetery should generally follow the policies of Section 1 of this report.*

Some damaged monuments have been noted in the description given above. Conservation treatment (essentially repair/resetting) is recommended for those monuments. The cost of such repairs has been estimated as requiring approximately \$ 3,000. Repair should only be undertaken by an appropriate trade professional.

#### **MV11.5 Fencing**

*The present fenced boundaries of the existing burial area should be maintained.*

Retaining the fenced boundaries of the existing burial area will help to ensure the character of this small clearing is retained as an individual entity within the greater cemetery reserve.

#### **MV11.6 New Elements**

##### **MV11.6.1 General**

*Do not introduce any new elements other than grave monuments into the existing burial area.*

In general the introduction of new elements into the existing burial area is not recommended.

*Allow the establishment of new burial areas within the cemetery reserve, but separated from the existing burial area by the retention of a buffer*

It would be possible to extend the cemetery at a future date into the undeveloped but already reserved areas adjoining the currently fenced section of the cemetery. This would require development of an appropriate and sympathetic design and layout. Any future development would have to be sited so it did not intrude into the setting and immediate curtilage of the old cemetery area.

In the longer term the used part of the Mount Victoria Cemetery should be managed primarily as an historic site and open space/passive recreation resource for members of the local community. Use of the site as an educational and research resource would be highly desirable.

##### **ME11.6.2 New Burials and Monuments**

*Continue burials in existing burial area of the cemetery. New burials should continue pattern of existing paths and rows.*

All new work or fabric must be compatible with the existing character of the site.

##### **MV11.6.3 Columbaria**

*Allow new columbaria only in new areas of the cemetery and separated from the existing burial area by either a buffer of existing native bushland or the existing drive.*

*The design of columbaria should be sympathetic to the overall character of the cemetery.*

Columbaria are appropriate for the continued use of the cemetery, but their design and location should be sympathetic to the overall character of the cemetery.

Separating the columbaria from the existing burial area by a buffer of native bushland or the existing drive ensured they will not impact on the visual quality of the existing burial area.

#### **MV11.6.4 Minimum Maintenance Sections**

*Allow new minimum maintenance sections only in new areas of the cemetery and separated from the existing burial area by either a buffer of existing native bushland or the existing drive.*

Minimum maintenance sections are appropriate for the continued use of the cemetery, but their design and location should be sympathetic to the overall character of the cemetery.

Separating the minimum maintenance sections from the existing burial area by a buffer of native bushland or the existing drive ensured they will not impact on the visual quality of the existing burial area.

#### **MV11.6.5 New Buildings**

*Do not construct any new buildings within the existing burial area of the cemetery.*

#### **MV11.6.6 Memorial Gardens and Walks**

*Allow the construction of a memorial garden or walk within previously undeveloped areas of the cemetery. Any new memorial garden should be separated from the existing burial area by a buffer of native bushland.*

*The existing native bushland should be incorporated into a memorial garden or walk.*

Separating a memorial from the existing burial area by a buffer of native bushland or the existing drive ensured they will not impact on the visual quality of the existing burial area.

Incorporating the existing native bushland into a memorial garden or walk will assist in retaining the general bush setting at the cemetery.

#### **ME11.7 Signage**

*Include on signage at the entry the following information:*

- Mount Victoria Cemetery
- Plan showing sections of cemetery
- A request not to damage the monuments
- A telephone number for the relevant contact personnel at the Blue Mountains City Council

*Provide and maintain simple row markers of an appropriate design.*

#### **MV11.8 Uses**

*The site should continue to be used as a cemetery.*

The significance of the site is in its use as a cemetery and this use should not change.

#### **MV11.9 Interpretation**

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

The cemetery has high heritage significance and this should be highlighted by encouraging local groups to circulate information on the cemetery and some of the important local individuals who are buried there.

*An informative and sympathetically designed sign or other interpretative media may be introduced to the site.*

Refer to the general section for other aspects of interpretation.

*Continuing research and publication about the cemetery should be encouraged, particularly as additional information might be found which would further assist the development of conservation policy and interpretation.*

**MV11.10 Access and Parking**

*Maintain access to the cemetery from Victoria Falls Road.*

*Maintain the existing parking at the end of the drive from Victoria Falls Road.*

The present access and parking arrangements at the cemetery are adequate and should be maintained.

**MV11.11 Vandalism**

*Provide regular patrols with local rangers to monitor activity at the cemetery.*

*Include a request not to damage monuments on the sign for the site.*

Mount Victoria Cemetery remains in fair condition, with the majority of its monuments being intact. The vandalism which has occurred could be easily repaired.

The site is clean and tidy, and it is known that a ‘cared-for’ appearance assists in discouraging vandals.

Because the cemetery is some distance away from the township any new interpretative sign could include a request not to damage the site and might also suggest that it is regularly patrolled by Council rangers. Rangers should be assigned to make periodic visits.

**ME1.2 Statutory Protection**

*Endorse the zoning of Mount Victoria Cemetery as Special Uses – Cemeteries under Draft LEP 2002.*

*Include Mount Victoria Cemetery as a heritage item on the heritage schedule of Draft LEP 2002.*

## **MOUNT IRVINE CEMETERY**

### **ME3 Introduction**

#### **MI11.12General**

This Mount Irvine Cemetery section of the Blue Mountains Cemeteries Conservation Management Plan should be read in conjunction with the General Analysis and Conservation Policies section of the Conservation Management Plan.

#### **MI11.13Location**

Mount Irvine Cemetery is located at 7-9 Danes Way, Mount Irvine. The legal title of the property is Lot X, Sec 8, MS 8669.

#### **MI11.14Bibliography**

Helen Naylor and Bill Scrivener, *Mount Irvine: a History*, Mount Irvine Progress Association, Mount Irvine 1997, passim

Blue Mountains Family History Society, *Our Past Blue Mountaineers*, I, 2000, 1-3

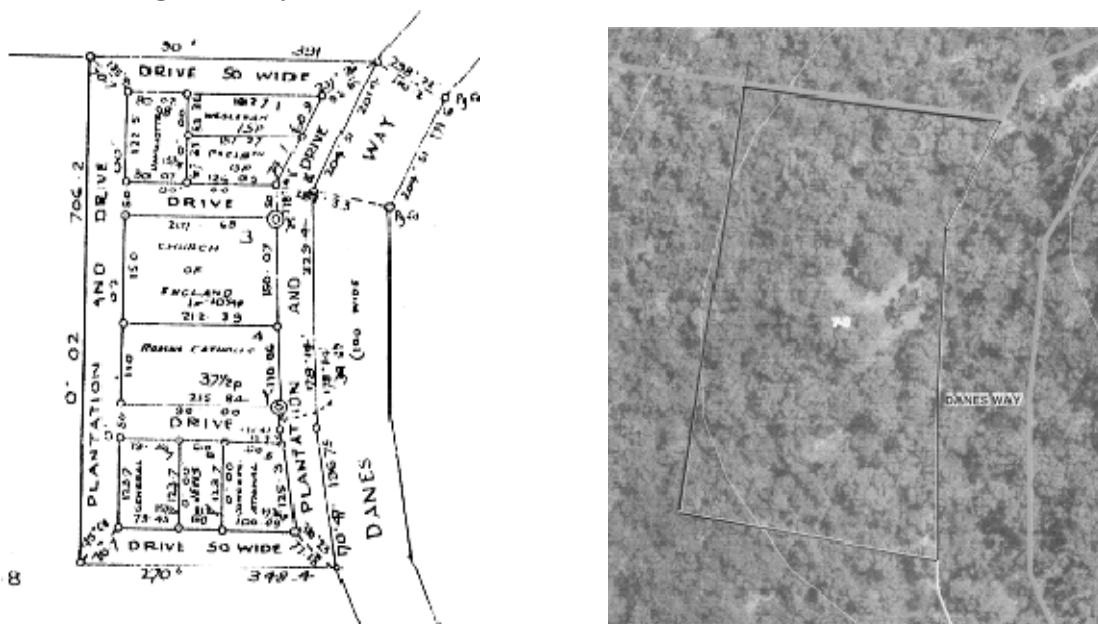
## **MI12 Physical Summary**

### **MI12.1 Setting**

Mount Irvine General Cemetery is situated on the western side of Danes Way, an unsurfaced minor local road in the vicinity of the small settlement of Mount Irvine. The cemetery area is gently sloping to the west. It is surrounded by remnant native vegetation. This comprises mature Eucalypt and Acacia trees and thick understorey vegetation and native shrubs.

The cemetery is not visible until it is reached along the adjacent local road. It is completely enclosed by the surrounding tall vegetation and has no views beyond its own boundaries.

### **MI12.2 Design and Layout**



**Figure MI 1 (left)**

General layout of Mount Irvine Cemetery  
Plan of Cemetery. Parish of Irvine, County of Cook  
9.10.1934  
Source: Blue Mountains City Council MS 8669SY

**Figure MI 2 (right)**

Aerial photo of Mount Irvine Cemetery  
The cemetery boundary is shown by the dark line and the reserve for Danes Way is on the right of the cemetery. Only a small portion of the reserved cemetery land in the Church of England section has been cleared.  
Source: Blue Mountains City Council

When the Mount Irvine Cemetery was dedicated in 1935, it was laid out as a rectangular area placed beside the curve of the local road. The dedicated area was approximately 2 acres (0.8 hectares) with dimensions approximately 140 metres by 70 metres. The cemetery diagram from the 'Irvine' Parish Map (Figure MI 1) indicates that the cemetery was laid out with a main north-south running driveway and plantation reserve (100 links wide) along the road (east) boundary and another on the west boundary. The cemetery was further subdivided with internal driveways between separate denominational burial areas. The Mount Irvine Cemetery was thus given a typical small general cemetery layout, with several standard features. They include the division of the area into denominational subdivisions which were allocated according to the strength of the particular denomination in the surrounding district; roadway or driveways, and reserved plantation areas. Comparison of the cemetery diagram with the current layout and a recent aerial photo (Figure MI 2) indicates that of the total dedicated area only a small part of the allocated

Church of England cemetery section has been used. Since 1981 the Church of England has been known as the Anglican Church of Australia. The additional reserved area for future cemetery expansion remains unused and still contains remnant indigenous forest vegetation.

The used cemetery area is unfenced. There is no formal or designed older landscape planting evident, and no grave plantings. The area is covered by grass which is kept mown and appears as a small clearing in the surrounding forest. There is only one grave row which has been oriented so that the graves face east (90°). There are two main groups of graves at either end of the single row. The east facing orientation of graves is traditional.



**Figure MI 3**

Mount Irvine Cemetery

View of cleared area from northeast showing the setting of the cemetery within the remnant native bushland.

27 Jun 2001

### **MI12.3 Monuments and Grave Furniture**

Mount Irvine Cemetery includes only nine monuments. All are of twentieth century slab or slab and desk type with a solid slab on the surface of the grave. They document burials over a sixty year period between 1934 and 1992. All of the slab and desk monuments in the cemetery are of standard simple form and plain design. There are no elaborate monuments. They comprise:

Grey granite desk with cement kerb and tile infill, Charles Passfield Scrivener and Edith Lethbridge Scrivener, Pioneer Residents of Mt Irvine 1897 - 1938.

Granolite (concrete) slab and desk, black granite tablet, Dorothy P Scrivener (1990).

Concrete desk and kerbing, tile infill and marble tablet, Basil F Knight Brown (1968).

Sandstone desk and kerbing with cement sloper, slab and tile infill, Julia W Knight Brown (1948) and Patricia J Angus (1955). Monument also commemorates Noel H Knight Brown, who was killed in England in 1943.



**Figure MI 4**

Mount Irvine Cemetery

Graves of Dorothy Pasfield Scrivener (left), and Charles and Edith Scrivener (right)  
The death of Charles Scrivener was the incentive for establishing Mount Irvine Cemetery  
27 Jun 2001



**Figure MI 5**

Mount Irvine Cemetery

Graves of Basil R. & Julia Knight Brown (left), R.O. Noel Henry, Patricia & Joy Angus Knight Brown

These four monuments are at the northern end of the row. There is then a gap and the next group of monuments at the southern end of the row:

Double slab and desk monument with white tile infill on the slab. Hubert E Smart died 1952 and Florence M Smart died 1961.

Single slab and desk monument, concrete with marble plaque, Richard A Smart, 1982.

Granolite ledger slab monument with cast bronze plaque in centre, 1992.

Red granite ledger slab monument with small red granite sloper in centre, Maureen Kerridge, 1985.



**Figure MI 6**

Mount Irvine Cemetery  
Graves of Florence Mary Smart and Hubert Edward Smart  
27 Jun 2001



**Figure MI 7**

Mount Irvine Cemetery  
Graves of Richard Smart & Jill Ramsay (right), Hubert Edward Smart (centre), and Maureen Kerridge  
27 Jun 2001

#### **MI12.4 Buildings**

There are no buildings at Mount Irvine Cemetery

#### **MI12.5 Condition**

The monuments in Mount Irvine Cemetery are in good condition.

## **MI13 Historical Summary**

### **MI13.1 Mount Irvine Cemetery**

Like Mount Wilson, some fourteen kilometres to the south-west, Mount Irvine is an oasis of rainforest and tree-ferns growing on rich basaltic soil, the remnant of ancient volcanic activity. Mount Irvine was not easy of access, either from Mount Wilson or from Bilpin via Bowens Creek valley to the south. The first survey of a route from Mount Wilson was as late as 1897, when Charles Robert Scrivener, a government surveyor, successfully blazed what is essentially the present roadway.

In the same year 1897, Scrivener returned to Mount Irvine, taking with him his son, Charles Pasfield Scrivener, and two of the young man's fellow students at Hawkesbury Agricultural College at Richmond. The government had rejected the elder Scrivener's suggestion that the volcanic plateau should become a national reserve and in July released 400 hectares (1000 acres) for conditional purchase. The three young men, all eighteen or nineteen years old, Charles Pasfield Scrivener, Basil F. Knight-Brown (a New Zealander) and Harold B. Morley (son of a Sydney musician), took up the first grants in 1897 and spent the rest of their quite long lives at Mount Irvine.

The three all established houses and families: both Charles Pasfield Scrivener and Harold Morley married daughters of the Lethbridge Kings of Dunheved, descendants of Governor King, while Basil Knight-Brown and his brother Norman also married sisters. Charles Robert Scrivener, the original surveyor, who had gained fame for his role in choosing Canberra as the national capital in 1909, retired to Mount Irvine in 1915, joining his son and grandchildren. Scrivener houses were Kookootonga (built in 1908 and burnt down in 1939) and Taihoa; the Knight-Brown homes were Painui (built in 1901), Cooinda (built on Basil's marriage in 1912) and Campanella; while the Morleys lived at the furthest end of Mount Irvine at Irvineholme.

After World War I, other families settled at Mount Irvine, such as the Clarkes, but the families of the original three settlers continued to have interests in the area: the elder Scrivener's property was inherited by four children on his death in 1923, while Charles Pasfield Scrivener was succeeded by six daughters and two sons. The original Basil Knight-Brown lived on until 1968 and Henry Morley's widow even longer.

The incentive for the creation of a cemetery at Mount Irvine was the death of Charles Pasfield Scrivener in 1934. Clearly, unlike his father, the younger Scrivener or his family felt that it was appropriate for the founder to be buried on the mountain. A small general cemetery on Danes Way, the principal thoroughfare, was laid aside by the government and formally dedicated on 11 January 1935. It contained the full range of denominational divisions - Anglican, Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregational and Jewish, as well as general and unspecified - but only the Anglican section has been used for the interment of thirteen persons in a single row.

Three of the Scriveners lie there: Charles Pasfield Scrivener, his widow Edith Lethbridge King and their daughter Dorothy, who died in 1990. (Refer Figure MI 4) Basil Knight-Brown, who died at ninety in 1968, his wife Julia (who had died twenty years before) and their son Noel, a flying officer in World War II who was accidentally killed in England in 1943, represent the other foundation family. (Refer Figure MI 5) The Morleys are not buried locally.

Five of the other six burials are of members of the Smart family of Carisbrooke, who had come to Mount Irvine rather later. (Refer Figure MI 6 and Figure MI 7) The cemetery is still open and the most recent burial was in 2001.

## **MI14 Assessment of Significance**

### **MI14.1 State Heritage Office Criteria**

To be assessed for listing on the State Heritage Register, an item will, in the opinion of the Heritage Council of NSW, meet one or more of the following criteria.

Criterion	Level of Significance
<b>MI14.1.1 Criterion (a): An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)</b>  Mount Irvine Cemetery provides documentary evidence about the origins and nature of the local community during the twentieth century. The monuments are a direct record of the local area's population, including its origins and composition. The cemetery is the burial place of significant local pioneers and major local families. Adjacent groupings of monuments often reflect family connections.	Local
<b>MI14.1.2 Criterion (b): An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)</b>  The monuments in Mount Irvine Cemetery are also representative of the beliefs and tastes of the local community. In style and design they reflect relatively modest economic circumstances. There are no expensive or pretentious monuments.	Local
<b>MI14.1.3 Criterion (c): An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area)</b>  Mount Irvine Cemetery's aesthetic significance lies in its attractive setting amid remnant native bushland characterised by native eucalypts with a thick understorey of native shrubs.	Local
<b>MI14.1.4 Criterion (d): An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons</b>  The detailed transcripts compiled by the Blue Mountains Family History Group indicate that the cemetery has some contemporary community esteem and that there is interest in the preservation of the information recorded by the monuments in the cemetery.	Local
<b>MI14.1.5 Criterion (e): An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)</b>  Completion of further research, including more detailed family history may yield new insights into local relationships and historic and social connections.	Local

**MI14.1.6 Criterion (f): An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)**

The monuments of Mount Irvine Cemetery are not rare, and do not qualify under this criterion.

**MI14.1.7 Criterion (g): An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's (or the local area's) cultural or natural places or environments**

Mount Irvine Cemetery contains representative examples of typical twentieth century slab and desk monuments. The monuments chosen for the cemetery reflect the aspirations and economic circumstances of the local community.

**MI14.2 Summary Statement of Significance**

Mount Irvine General Cemetery is a valuable component of the heritage of the City of Blue Mountains as it provides a direct historical record of the people of the district for much of the twentieth century. It includes the burials of families prominent in the local area, including early pioneers.

Mount Irvine General Cemetery contains a typical sample of twentieth century slab and desk monument types. In this cemetery they also indicate fairly modest economic circumstances, since only standard styles and designs occur.

Mount Irvine Cemetery includes significant surviving remnant indigenous vegetation in the areas originally reserved for cemetery sections but not yet developed or used.

Using the assessment framework provided by the NSW Heritage Criteria, the Mount Irvine Cemetery qualifies as an item of LOCAL heritage significance.

## **MI15 Constraints and Opportunities**

### **MI15.1 The Burra Charter**

References in parentheses refer to the relevant articles of the Burra Charter. Reference should be made to the copy of the Burra Charter in the Appendix 2 of Volume 1 of this report.

- 5.1.1 The cultural significance of the cemetery should be maintained. Provision should be made for its security, maintenance and future. (Article 2)
- 5.1.2 All conservation work should be based on respect for the extant fabric and should involve minimal intervention to existing fabric. (Article 3)
- 5.1.3 An appropriate visual setting for the cemetery should be maintained. No new construction or other development which detracts from the heritage value or context of the cemetery should occur. Environmental intrusions which will adversely affect the appreciation or enjoyment of the place should be excluded. (Article 8)
- 5.1.4 All fabric within the cemetery should remain in its historical location. Relocation of fabric should not occur unless moving it is the sole means of ensuring its survival. Any fabric removed under these circumstances should be returned to its correct location if changed circumstances make this feasible (Article 9 and Article 10)
- 5.1.5 All features of the existing cemetery should be taken into consideration. Fabric from all periods should be recognised as contributing to the significance of the cemetery. (Article 16)
- 5.1.6 Where appropriate, reconstruction should be limited to the reproduction of fabric the form of which is known from physical and/or documentary evidence. (Article 19)
- 5.1.7 Any major work on a cemetery should be preceded by a detailed study or plan. Existing fabric should be recorded prior to disturbance. (Article 23)
- 5.1.8 Disturbance of fabric should only occur to provide evidence needed to make decisions on the conservation of the cemetery. (Article 24)
- 5.1.9 The process of decision making and individuals responsible should be identified. (Article 26)
- 5.1.10 Appropriate professional direction and supervision should be maintained at all stages of the work. (Article 27)
- 5.1.11 Records should be kept of new evidence and subsequent decisions. (Articles 25 and 27)
- 5.1.12 Copies of all reports and records should be placed in a permanent archive and made publicly accessible. (Article 28).

### **MI15.2 Constraints arising from the Statement of Significance**

- 5.2.1 Mount Irvine Cemetery should be conserved in accordance with established conservation principles.
- 5.2.2 All cemetery monuments should be retained and conserved.
- 5.2.3 All grave surrounds should be retained and conserved.
- 5.2.4 Monument layout and orientation should not be altered.

5.2.5 Existing elements of the current cemetery landscape, including indigenous native vegetation, should be conserved and should be sympathetically maintained. The present maintenance practices (eg no poisoning or overly intensive mowing) are sympathetic.

### **MI15.3 Zoning**

The site is zoned Rural Conservation under Blue Mountains City Council LEP 1991. This is not an appropriate zoning for a cemetery.

### **MI15.4 Condition**

All monuments in the cemetery are in good condition.

The cemetery does not appear to be subject to any vandalism.

### **MI15.5 Maintenance Needs**

#### **MI15.5.1 Monuments**

The small number of the monuments at the cemetery and their overall good condition minimises the maintenance needs for the monuments at Mount Irvine Cemetery.

#### **MI15.5.2 Landscaping**

The retention of native plants and grasses at the cemetery reduces the maintenance needs for the landscaping at the site. The most appropriate approach to the care of the native grasses and plants is to cut the grass at very long intervals (if at all) and to monitor the presence of weeds.

### **MI15.6 Future Burials**

It is important to the local community that Mount Irvine Cemetery continues to operate as an open cemetery. Considering the relatively slow rate of burials at this site, there is ample room in the existing cleared area to provide for burials for many years to come.

### **MI15.7 Community Values and Desires**

Members of the local community retain a strong interest in the appearance and condition of the site. They have expressed a desire to provide a facility for the placement of ashes and the associated memorials.

The community have also noted that they do not want to substantially alter the appearance and amenity of the cemetery by erecting fences, signs or amenities buildings.

### **MI15.8 Location and Neighbourhood**

Mount Irvine Cemetery is at relatively secluded location on the outskirts of the village. The location is desirable in creating a peaceful ambience at the cemetery. The seclusion could create future problems with vandalism as there no regular presence to monitor activity at the place.

### **MI15.9 Access and Parking**

Access to Mount Irvine Cemetery is via Danes Way. While this is a gravel road, it is well maintained and provides good access. There is no formal parking area at the cemetery. However, parking is possible on Danes Way and obstruction of traffic with parked vehicles should not be an issue.

## **MI16 Conservation Policies**

### **MI16.1 General**

*Mount Irvine Cemetery should be conserved in accordance with the Burra Charter of Australia ICOMOS and other appropriate guidelines including those published by the National Trust and the Heritage Council of NSW.*

Mount Irvine Cemetery is an item of environmental heritage for the local area, and continues to provide an essential public service for the surrounding community. The cemetery has local historic and social value for current and future generations.

### **MI16.2 Layout**

#### **Setting and Landscape**

*Maintain the remnant native landscape around the present cleared area of the cemetery to provide a visual buffer to the cemetery.*

The present boundaries of the cemetery clearing should be maintained, and an appropriate visual buffer formed by vegetation should be retained around the site. The existing native vegetation surrounding the cemetery should be conserved.

### **MI16.3 Planting**

#### **MI16.3.1 General**

*New plantings should only be introduced if they are endemic native species already present in the cemetery and its environs, or are known (from further research) to have been previously planted in the cemetery.*

The appeal of Mount Irvine Cemetery is in a large part due to its setting amid remnant native bushland. New plantings, if any, should respect this character.

#### **MI16.3.2 Grasses**

*Retain the existing native grasses in the cemetery clearing*

The native grasses in the cemetery clearing contribute to the character of the cemetery and reduce maintenance requirements.

#### **MI16.3.3 Weeds**

### **MI16.4 Maintenance and Repair**

*Maintenance of the cemetery should generally follow the policies of Section 1 of this report.*

### **MI16.5 Fencing**

*Do not introduce fencing at the cemetery.*

As there is no evidence of damage from stock, native fauna or vehicles, fencing or the introduction of other elements is not required at present. Fencing could potentially impact on the character of the cemetery which is presently a simple bush clearing and therefore should be avoided.

### **MI16.6 Future Burials**

*Continue the use of the existing cleared area for burials.*

*Allow for the future extension of the burial area into undeveloped parts of the cemetery reserve, maintaining a curtilage from the existing cleared area. New burial areas should be screened from the existing clearing by a buffer of retained bushland.*

It would be possible to extend the cemetery at a future date into the undeveloped but already reserved areas adjoining the currently used part of the cemetery. This would require development of an appropriate and sympathetic design and layout. Any future development would have to be sited so it did not intrude into the setting and immediate curtilage of the used cemetery area. There is sufficient space available in the current clearing that pressure for additional burial space is not likely to arise for considerable time.

### **MI16.7 New Elements**

#### **MI16.7.1 General**

*Any new elements at the cemetery should be carefully designed and sited so that they do not intrude on the existing burial area.*

New elements may be introduced into the cemetery if required, for example a columbarium. Consideration should be given to design and siting of any new elements so that they do not become intrusive (eg use of screen planting, not positioned close to old burial areas, etc).

#### **MI16.7.2 Placement of Ashes**

*Provide a system for the placement of ashes at the cemetery in a manner which fits into the character of the cemetery.*

The local community has expressed a desire to allow for the placement of ashes at the cemetery, but is concerned that the general character of the cemetery is not lost.

At Mount Irvine Cemetery, a columbarium should respect the intimate scale of the cemetery created by the small bush clearing. It should also consider the style of monuments which is exclusively low slabs. Small tablets could be placed at the edge of the cleared area where ashes could be placed. This could also provide space for memorial plaques for those whose ashes are not placed at the cemetery but are members of the local community.

A more conventional style columbarium wall, if desired by the local community, should be designed and located to have minimal impact on the present cleared area.

#### **MI16.7.3 Minimum Maintenance Sections**

*Do not provide a minimum maintenance section at Mount Irvine Cemetery,*

While minimum maintenance sections allow for reduced maintenance costs, the maintenance requirements at Mount Irvine Cemetery are not substantial. The cemetery has ample space within the existing clearing for many years at present burial rates. This and the need to maintain the native flora on and around the site conflict with any desire for a minimum maintenance section.

#### **MI16.7.4 New Buildings**

*No new buildings should be erected at this site.*

There has been no desire expressed to erect new buildings whether for shelter, amenities or storage at this cemetery. Because burials occur infrequently at this cemetery, there is no present need for any new buildings at the site. Keeping the cemetery free of buildings will assist in retaining the intimacy of the cemetery as a small clearing in the native bush.

#### **MI16.7.5 Memorial Gardens**

*Allow the establishment of a memorial garden within a presently uncleared area of the cemetery. Any memorial garden should be separated from the present cleared area by a buffer of native vegetation.*

A memorial garden would provide a system for the placement of ashes and other memorials within the cemetery area. Separating such a garden from the present cleared area would ensure the character of the present burial area is maintained.

#### **ME16.8 Signage**

*Do not provide any new signs at this site.*

The cemetery has a distinctive character as a small cleared area in the bush which “appears” along the roadway. New signage could disrupt this character. The local community has expressed a desire that no signage should be erected at the Mount Irvine Cemetery. Because of the secluded location of the cemetery and its strong relationship to the local community, it is not necessary in this case to provide signage at the site.

#### **MI16.9 Uses**

*Maintain the use of the site as a burial place.*

The primary significance of this cemetery is in its ongoing use as a burial place for local residents.

#### **MI16.10 Interpretation**

*Encourage the continued work of the Blue Mountains Family History Society in documenting burials at the cemetery.*

The documentation of burials in Our Past Blue Mountaineers by the Blue Mountains Family History Society is sufficient interpretation of this cemetery. Additional interpretation is not necessary at this site.

#### **MI16.11 Access and Parking**

*Maintain access to the cemetery via Danes Way.*

*Allow the continuation of parking on Danes Way for visitors to the cemetery.*

The present access to the cemetery and parking at Danes Way are adequate for the usage of the cemetery and do not need to be modified.

#### **MI16.12 Vandalism**

*Mount Irvine Cemetery should be protected from vandalism and other physical threats. Consider the use of regular patrols by Council rangers should there be any evidence of deliberate vandalism in the future.*

The Mount Irvine Cemetery remains in good condition and is intact. There is no evidence of vandalism. The site is regularly maintained, and it is known that a ‘cared-for’ appearance assists in discouraging vandals. The cemetery is also situated away from passers-by and its location probably protects it from undesirable attention. Should there be evidence of a problem in the future, regular patrols by Council rangers should be used to monitor activity.

#### **ME1.3 Statutory Protection**

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

*Retain Mount Irvine Cemetery as a heritage item on the heritage schedule of LEP 1991.*