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Lake Terrace Cemetery Conservation Management Plan



Fifth Creek Studio for City of Mount Gambier 2007

Lake Terrace Cemetery Conservation Management Plan

Prepared by Fifth Creek Studio for the City of Mount Gambier

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Cover photograph by Fifth Creek Studio: Angel statue on Edwards grave

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1. INTRODUCTION

Location and Current Heritage Listing

Lake Terrace Cemetery is located on the Cemetery Reserve, Lake Terrace, Mount Gambier. Its Certificate of Title is 116/79.

Recognising the historic value of this cemetery that has been in operation since 1868, the City of Mount Gambier Heritage Survey of 1994, written by McDougall & Vines, made the following recommendation:

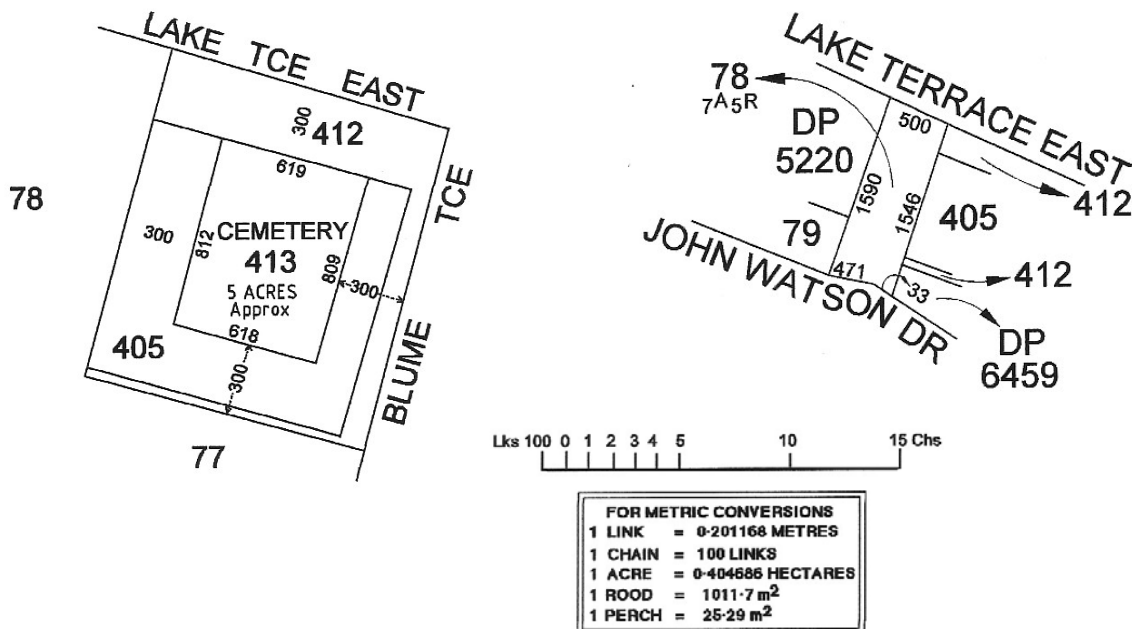
It is recommended that the Cemetery Reserve, including the Sexton's Cottage and the entrance gates be included on the list of places of local heritage value in the Mount Gambier Development Plan.

Subsequently the cemetery has been listed as a Local Heritage Place in the Mount Gambier (City) Development Plan, consolidated 22 June 2006. It is Place No. 98. The listing covers the 'Extent of Cemetery Reserve including Sexton's cottage, Entrance gates and gravestones and enclosures'. (refer to *Table MtG(C) 5, Schedule of Local Heritage Places Outside of Local Policy Areas*, City of Mount Gambier website)

Local Heritage Place listing requires that the place satisfies at least one of the six Criteria in Section 23(4) Criteria (as stated in the Development Act, 1993):

- (a) it displays historical, economic or social themes that are of importance to the local area; or
- (b) it represents customs or ways of life that are characteristic of the local area; or
- (c) it has played an important part in the lives of local residents; or
- (d) it displays aesthetic merit, design characteristics or construction techniques of significance to the local area; or
- (e) it is associated with a notable local personality or event; or
- (f) it is a notable landmark in the area.

Lake Terrace Cemetery is listed as satisfying a, c, d, e and f of the above criteria.



Current Legislative Controls and Management

Legislation of particular relevance to Lake Terrace Cemetery includes the *Local Government Act, 1934: Part XXX Cemeteries* (or subsequent legislation) and *Local Government (Cemetery) Regulations 1995*.

Lake Terrace Cemetery is managed and controlled by the City of Mount Gambier, but with two sections within the grounds coming under the control of other authorities:

- The Office of Australian War Graves South Australia has control of an area set aside for war graves, currently containing four graves, adjacent to Section M
- The Mount Gambier Cemetery Trust controls Section J for new ground burials and portion of Section H for vaults



Australian War Graves



Sections for new burials

Part of the cemetery reserve land along the southern rear boundary is leased to WIN TV for use as a carpark. The current fencing between the cemetery and the television station is therefore not on the actual boundary line.

Cemetery plots are leased to families on a 50 year lease. During the 50 year period Council makes every reasonable attempt to contact family members and advise them of any proposed works on the monuments. At the expiration of a lease Council assumes the responsibility to determine what should happen to any remaining fixtures on the plot, and whether the gravesite should be maintained, cleared or reused.

Conservation Management Plan

The City of Mount Gambier's Project Design Officer first recommended in 2003 that the commissioning of a conservation management plan be considered for Lake Terrace Cemetery. By early 2006 Council committed to the process, and subsequently commissioned Fifth Creek Studio (FCS) to undertake the project.

The project commenced in August 2006, with the brief covering:

- landscape master plan
- reference to shape and form of new replacement toilet block

- reference to a specific children’s memorial area
- fencing for the cemetery outer boundary
- maintenance and repair principles for gravesites
- maintenance principles for buildings
- on-site interpretation of heritage and history
- comment on existing public library data base on burial sites
- conferral with Mount Gambier Cemetery Trust, Mount Gambier Heritage and History Society, and other special interest groups

The conservation management plan was completed over several months, with FCS directors Graeme Hopkins and Christine Goodwin visiting Lake Terrace Cemetery on a number of separate occasions to conduct site analysis and take photographs, and to conduct intensive research and consultation with Council officers and members of the community. Also consulted in relation to the project were Keith Thorogood, South Australian State Manager of the Office of Australian War Graves, and Jim Everett, Board Member of the Adelaide Cemeteries Authority.

Burra Charter principles were taken into consideration in the preparation of this conservation management plan. These principles are described in relation to various aspects of the cemetery and specific examples later in this document, however the overarching principle is to respect the cemetery as it exists today and to do as much as necessary to conserve it, but with as little intervention or change as possible.



Heritage elements include gravesites



Heritage elements include significant trees

Initial consultation with Council officers and members of the Mount Gambier Heritage and History Society indicated that this conservation management plan needed to be a practical document, with special concentration on principles and examples for maintenance and protection of headstones, railings and other physical aspects of gravesites. FCS directors Graeme Hopkins and Christine Goodwin attended a Cemetery Conservation Seminar organised by Heritage South Australia in October 2006. This valuable seminar was conducted by heritage consultant David Young, and included a theory session followed by a site visit to West Terrace Cemetery in Adelaide.

FCS recommended to the City of Mount Gambier that David Young be invited to conduct a similar program in Mount Gambier, with a focus on Lake Terrace

Cemetery. This Cemetery Conservation Workshop was held on 1 December 2006, with 25 people attending, including invited representatives from surrounding Councils. David Young's advice was instrumental in the preparation of the *Conservation Principles in Action* section of this document.

To maximise the legibility and usefulness of this conservation management plan both written and graphic components are included. Although this is a comprehensive, illustrated plan for the conservation management of Lake Terrace Cemetery, its recommended conservation policies and actions should be reviewed regularly, and priorities and allocation of resources reassessed where necessary.



Monument with angel dating from 1934

2. HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Historical Development of Cemeteries in Mount Gambier

In the early years of settlement in the South East of South Australia burials were conducted on station properties or in unmarked graves. However, once the township of Mount Gambier was founded in 1854, it became necessary to establish an official burial ground.

There have been conflicting accounts about which cemetery was the first to be established in Mount Gambier. According to a 1967 article in *The Border Watch* the 'old German cemetery, bounded by Boandik Terrace, Warren, Griffiths and Tandara Streets, was the first cemetery in Mount Gambier. It was the graveyard of the early German settlers, who came to this district'. The writer of this article states that 77 people were buried here, with about two-thirds being children less than ten years of age, mostly the result of 'gastro-enteritis resulting from a diet deficiency'. The second cemetery is said to be the one at the corner of Crouch Street South and Gwendoline Street, now Pioneer Park.

In contrast, the City of Mount Gambier Heritage Survey of 1994, while crediting the Meischel Park Cemetery Reserve as the site of 'the first burial ground for settlers of the Lutheran faith, mainly of German descent', states that 'Pioneer Park was the site of the first burial ground established in Mount Gambier in 1854'.

This is in accord with historian Les Hill, who states in his book *Mount Gambier: city around a cave*, that Pioneer Park was the site of the first cemetery in Mount Gambier, with the first interment in 1854 and the last in 1912. He states that it was originally known as the Burying Ground, although it is elsewhere referred to as the Burial Ground. He says that the 'little known cemetery' established by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of South Australia at the corner of Warren and Griffiths Streets was the site of 77 burials, dating from the early 1860s until the 1880s.

The chronology of the first two cemeteries is clarified in the Mount Gambier Heritage and History Society's *Lake Terrace Cemetery Discovery Walk* booklet: Pioneer Park's first interment was in 1854 and the last in 1913, but there are no accurate records of burials; and Meischel Park was active from 1864 to 1907, with 76 burials. This booklet also notes three unmarked, but known, graves in the Mount Gambier Gaol.

The third and fourth cemeteries in Mount Gambier are, respectively: Lake Terrace Cemetery and Carinya Gardens Cemetery. Lake Terrace Cemetery, or the New Cemetery as it was first known, was first planned in 1861, but the first interment was not until August 1868. The Mount Gambier Garden Cemetery, now named Carinya Gardens Cemetery, at the corner of White and Grant Avenues was opened in January 1967. Although Lake Terrace Cemetery was closed for nearly 30 years after Carinya Gardens opened, it reopened in 1993 to cater for vault and monumental burials. Both cemeteries continue to function as active cemeteries at the present time, each catering for different interment options.

Although there is no conjecture about the identities of the third and fourth cemeteries, there has been some confusion over their names. A 1965 article in *The Border Watch* attempted to clarify the issue of cemetery names:

It seems that Mount Gambier has so many cemeteries that citizens are becoming confused by City Council reports which do not name the particular cemetery....Mount Gambier's cemeteries are:-
The "Old Cemetery" situated on the corner of Gwendoline Street and Crouch Street – now a lawned area; "The Cemetery", situated on Lake Terrace East and what is to be the "Garden Cemetery" on Grant Avenue.

No mention of the German cemetery is made, perhaps affirming Les Hill's observation that its existence was no longer widely known.

History of Lake Terrace Cemetery

The following chronological summary draws on information provided by the Mount Gambier Heritage and History Society, and newspaper articles and reports (mainly from *The Border Watch*).

As noted above, Lake Terrace Cemetery dates from 1861, as confirmed in a newspaper report on a recent District Council meeting in March 1866:

In the 1861 surveys, a general cemetery site was set apart by the Government, being a block in the centre of Sections 76 and 77, near the Blue Lake, with surrounding lands to extent of these sections; the whole lying westward of Section No.18.

Of interest, this report highlighted the ongoing unclear legal status of the cemetery:

The land does not appear to have been legally dedicated, but, on Treasurers receiving advice of trustees nominated at a meeting of the inhabitants of the district, it would be at once handed over, by grant to such trustees.

The trustees should represent various religious bodies, in order, to its being a fairly "general" cemetery.

The report continued with acknowledgements that land had been contributed by Helen Mitchell and executors, and Mr. Cunningham, to be held in trust by the Council as a cemetery. The report concludes by explaining:

A District Council has no control over a public reserve unless it be specially conferred on the Council by the Government.

In 1864 the District Council called tenders for fencing the cemetery, with only one tender received at first, which was not accepted. By July 1868 the cemetery had been fenced, but it was reported that the standard was unsatisfactory, including defective posts, so the contractors were required to 'make necessary alterations', and were allowed £6 on account. In September of that year a cemetery board and posts were acquired for £4 15s., and the 'writing on same' was authorised at a cost of £1 10s.

In April 1866 a public meeting was held in the Oddfellows' and Foresters' Hall to elect trustees for the new cemetery, and 'to decide whether the old cemetery should be closed or still kept open'. The meeting was chaired by Dr Wehl, who drew attention

to a letter from the Under Secretary suggesting that each denomination should be represented among the trustees. The meeting duly elected the following trustees: Mr J. Watson for the Presbyterian Church, Mr C.G. Doughty for the Church of England, Mr G. Shelton for the Baptist Church, Dr Wehl for the German Lutheran Church, Mr T. Newton for the Roman Catholic Church, and Mr J. Derrington for the Wesleyan Church. At a suggestion that a trustee be appointed to represent 'those who had no creed' the 'Chairman thought it would not be necessary to do so'. The meeting then went on to decide that although the old cemetery was seen by many as a health hazard due to its proximity to the town its closure could wait until after the new cemetery was established.

Council had appointed Mr W.W. Watson as curator of the new cemetery in June 1865, but it was not until 25 July 1868 that advertisements were placed in the Mount Gambier Standard and The Border Watch on behalf of the District Council of Mount Gambier West, stating that 'the new Cemetery was now open for the purposes of interment'.

As the cemetery at Pioneer Park was approaching its capacity a competition was held to design the layout of burials for the new cemetery. In April 1868 eight plans were submitted to the Council, with Mr. R.H. Gardener being the successful designer. About a week later tenders were called for grubbing trees in the new cemetery.

Perhaps the length of time between the identification of the cemetery land in 1861, and the active use of the cemetery in 1868, was in part due to resolving the legal issues noted previously. Alternatively Council was planning well ahead for the time when Pioneer Park would reach capacity and a new cemetery be required. According to the Border Watch, the first interment took place on Saturday August 31 1868, when 'the young child named Edward Hodge, son of Mr. John Hodge, of Cavetown, was committed to the earth'. Edward Hodge was 13 weeks old.

The second burial, of Mrs. G.W. Harris, took place on September 9 1868. Mr G.W. Harris wrote to the Chairman of the District Council of Mount Gambier West on November 4, 1868 acknowledging that the regulations prohibited timber fences, but nevertheless requested permission to erect a 'temporary' timber fence around the first class grave he had recently purchased. He also took the opportunity to point out the 'very high rate of charges for ground at the Cemetery'. His request was refused by Council, who said they could not interfere with the regulations.

On 1 October 1869 the Standard's report of a recent Council meeting stated that the 'Surveyor submitted plan of proposed building at new Cemetery which was approved of. – Resolved that the Surveyor prepare working plans and specifications, and call for tenders for the same'.

In May 1872 there was a suggestion to employ another man to manage the cemetery, dig graves and receive payments from people to keep graves in order, but the curator Mr Watson was apparently unhappy with this suggestion. The average number of burials at the time was forty-six per year, and the amount of general work involved in 'reclamation ... from a wilderness state' was considerable. It was resolved that the Council would seek to raise donations from public subscriptions, to be matched by Council revenue.

In 1879 Council purchased an additional 7 ¾ acres of land on the western side of the cemetery. The area measured 500 links by 1546 links and extended from Lake Terrace to John Watson Drive.

By December 1883 the cemetery was being praised for its first class maintenance, and well tended, flourishing trees and shrubs. New headstones and monuments were being erected, 'the size and character of which are at once indicative of the wealth and taste of the people of the district', and credit was paid to the work of Mr T. Kelly, sculptor. Over the next few years there was at least one report of the remains of deceased persons being relocated from the old cemetery, which was 'always out of order and fast going to ruin', to the new cemetery.

In April 1884 the members of the Town Council, along with the Town Clerk, Surveyor, and a representative of each of the local papers undertook the annual town inspection, including the cemetery on Lake Terrace. A site for a drinking fountain was proposed for the north-west corner 'in order to save the extra expense of having the water main continued to the cemetery gate, but it was thought better to defer the matter until the new gates are erected'. The new wrought iron gates were commissioned from Fulton & Co. in Adelaide and installed in late 1884 after some delay in finding suitable stone for the pillars. The masonry work was undertaken by Mr. Owen Jones.

Mr Lewis is named as the cemetery caretaker at the time of the 1884 inspection, and he was 'complimented on the very excellent condition in which everything was found'. It was noted that a 'number of the old cypresses were found to have succumbed to the heat of the past few weeks, and they were being removed preparatory to filling their places with some more hardy shrub'. It was also ordered that fences which had been protecting plantations in the lower corners of the cemetery for some years should now be removed, allowing public access to the 'now pretty and well-grown shrubbery'. According to Lynn Lowe of the Mount Gambier Heritage and History Society, the Cedars in the main drive and in Section M were planted around this time. In 1896 there were several newspaper reports of the theft of flowers and shrubs from the cemetery, with honey-suckle and protea flowers specifically mentioned.

In November 1889 there was some negotiation between Council and the cemetery caretaker or sexton Mr Unwin over payment of the costs of erecting a one roomed building with a fireplace and chimney for residential purposes. It is not known where this building was located, however several masonry blocks are currently partially exposed adjacent to the current cottage. An archaeological assessment would be required to determine whether these blocks are part of the original building.

Mr Joseph Hosking (senior) built the Gothic styled sexton's cottage in 1904, to the architectural plan of Mr Thomas Hall. The sexton Mr Richard Unwin had the use of two rooms, while visiting clergy used the third room. Richard Unwin had previously survived a serious workplace accident, when a grave he was digging collapsed in on him. He was trapped for several hours before being found and rescued, and was eventually taken to hospital suffering a broken leg and severe exhaustion. He was unable to return to work for several weeks, so Mr. J. McNamee was appointed to take over the sexton's duties in his absence. (refer to Appendix for a detailed account of

this 'serious accident' reported by The Border Watch in 1893) Thankfully no further serious workplace accidents at Lake Terrace Cemetery have been reported.

In March 1910 the Town Clerk presented a report to Council detailing his recent inspection of the cemetery. He was particularly concerned that a 'number of the wooden fences are in such a dilapidated condition that they are not worth repairing'; in fact 85 were in this condition, with a further 26 needing 'minor repairs and a couple of coats of paint to make them look respectable'. He also considered that 125 iron kerbs needed painting, and that generally many graves appeared neglected. He suggested that copies of Regulation No. 20 which gave the Curator 'power to order the same to be kept in repair, and also to remove, or order the removal of any dilapidated fence' be posted on notice boards at the cemetery and advertised in the local papers. It seems that the original prohibition of timber fences around graves had been relaxed over the intervening years.

Tenders were called in 1916 for renovation of the cottage, or Lodge as it was known at the time, with Brown and Howland successful with their tender of £15 12/6. Also at this time it was noted that considerable general maintenance and repairs to gravesites, fencing and the grounds was required. Of particular interest was the mention of wooden fences around graves being in need of painting or else removal. Council's General Works Committee ruled that 'any temporary fence not removed within a month be taken away from the grave'. In addition a total of 57 panels of the cemetery fence were in need of renovating and painting.

Again in 1939 a 'comprehensive plan of improvements' was called for at the cemetery. It was ordered that drums be placed throughout the cemetery for the 'depositing of used cut flowers', and these were to be 'emptied by the Corporation dray every two weeks'. Refuse was to be burned at the 'old gravel pit at the top end of the cemetery'. The old water tank at the sexton's cottage was to be removed and other arrangements made for water supply. It was also noted that the cemetery records needed to be updated and kept in better order.

To contribute to this comprehensive plan in 1939 a detailed inspection was conducted by the Curator of Parks and Gardens Mr Robinson, the Sexton Mr Storck, and the Cemetery Curator (Town Clerk). The Curator's report set out the tree and shrub removal considered necessary:

1. Cross Drives and New Drive on West Side – Comprises clearing of old shrubs in six cross drives leading off the main drive. Altogether 95 shrubs are to come out. The bulk of these have been in form many years and have butts some up to a foot in diameter. Only five shrubs and trees to come out in the new drive.
2. Main Drive – A few old shrubs and seven big straggly pines (*Macracarpa*), now dangerous, to be removed; and several other old shrubs to come out. Leave the pines near the main gate (the *Semervirions*), and the funeral cypress, and also the Lebanon Cedar at the top of the drive. This main drive can then be planted with suitable trees and made a very beautiful avenue. Suitable trees for replanting now at the nursery. (Council's nursery at Vansittart Park)

3. The 3-chain Reserve on north side fronting South Terrace – For the present take out a few dead trees and straggly bushes and at an early date draw up a plan for planting and care of the whole of this area which can be made very beautiful with the right type of trees that will provide the proper setting for a cemetery.



Lebanon Cedar at top of main drive, dating from 1880s and mentioned in 1939 report as a tree of significant value

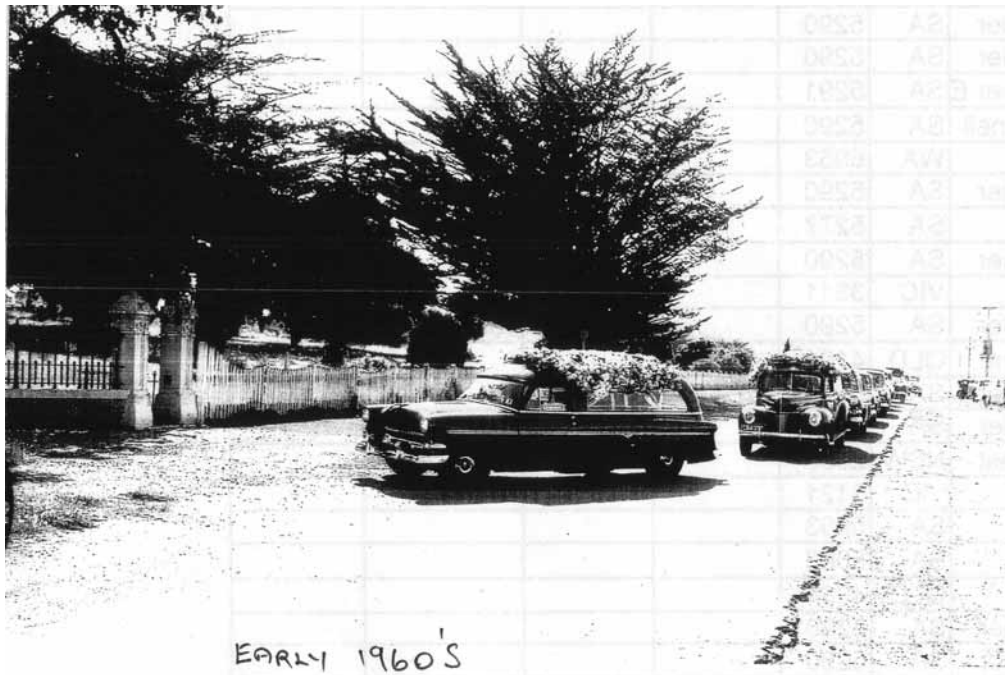
This report went on to suggest that the Corporation should increase its labour allocation to two to three men and the tractor for the task, as the removal of the seven pines along the main drive was ‘a job on its own’. It was estimated that the removal of these pines would cost £40, with £30 obtainable from its sale as firewood.

In June 1958 Council’s Parks and Gardens Committee recommended that five Cypress trees be removed at a cost of £180 to £200 as they were ‘rotten and dangerous’. The removal would ‘involve tearing up 1 ½ chains of road and its reinstatement’. It was also noted that children were ‘making swings of the cypress trees and breaking ironwork around graves’. The Parks and Gardens Committee were under pressure at this stage for over-spending their budget, so were asked to hold off on the tree removal until the next financial year.

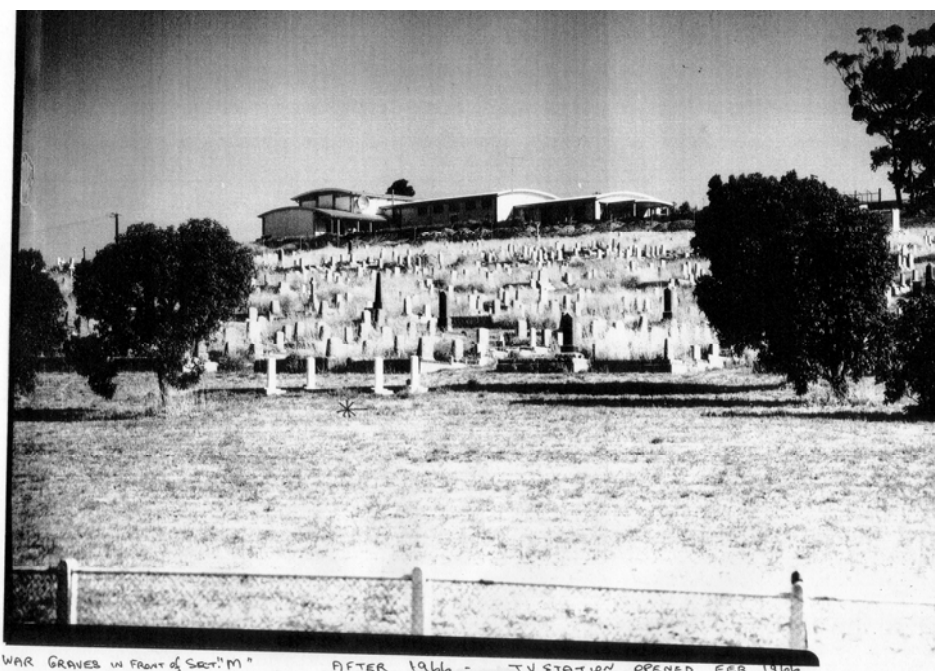
Also in the mid 1950s a 10 acre portion of land that had been previously purchased for the cemetery was subdivided into building blocks and sold. This land was ‘situated at the corner of Lake Terrace East and Blume Terrace on the east side of Blume Terrace. Frontage to Lake Terrace, 708 links, depth along Blume Terrace, 1412 links’. Rather than expand Lake Terrace Cemetery any further, it was decided

that a new site should be purchased, so that a new garden cemetery could be developed. Consequently the land at Grant Avenue was purchased, with the sale of the 10 acres at Lake Terrace assisting to cover this cost.

A photograph provided by Pat Galpin of the Mount Gambier Heritage and History Society indicates that in the early 1960s a white picket fence still existed along the Lake Terrace frontage of the cemetery.



Another photo dating from 1966 or later shows the newly built WIN TV facility behind the cemetery, with a chain mesh fence separating the two properties. A fence is also shown in the foreground along the Lake Terrace frontage. This is not a picket fence, but is chain mesh, with painted timber uprights and piping along the top.



In the 1970s there was considerable discussion about maintenance of the cemetery and the role of Council in keeping the grounds tidy. There were also several incidents of vandalism, bringing to a head the need for Council to take a lead role in maintenance of gravesites where there was no direct community care. In September 1978 Council restricted vehicle access to the cemetery to specified daylight hours in an attempt to prevent further vandalism to headstones and graves.

In May 1986 it was reported that the northern boundary fence was to be ‘removed and replaced with a planter strip of trees and shrubs’, as the ‘boundary fence had been a problem for several years’. This ‘visual barrier’ was to be from 2 to 5 metres wide, and extend the entire length of the Lake Terrace boundary. The cottage was extensively refurbished by the City of Mount Gambier in 1988, and has been used since by the Mount Gambier Heritage and History Society. In 2006 Council reinstated a picket fence in front of the Sexton’s Cottage at the same time as constructing a new public toilet block near the cottage.



Sexton’s Cottage and reconstructed picket fence *Architectural detail*

As mentioned, Lake Terrace Cemetery was closed for new burials when Carinya Gardens Cemetery opened, but due to lobbying from the community was reopened nearly 30 years later, in 1993. In the interim years, some people wanting options other than the lawn burials available at Carinya Gardens had chosen to use other cemeteries in the district, such as Port MacDonnell.

Discussion in Council and media reporting of vandalism increased in early 1990, resulting in a proposal to convert the reserve land along Lake Terrace East and Blume Terrace into housing blocks. Thus the ‘back fences of houses in the residential land division would be the cemetery’s enclosure’. Alternatively a chain wire mesh fence was proposed, but some saw this as just providing a ‘challenge to vandals’. The actual extent of vandalism was questioned by some, with the deterioration evident at the cemetery seen to be more likely a result of ‘the ravages of time’. By June 1990 plans to divide off residential allotments were ‘officially shelved’ due to overwhelming community response against such a proposal.

During 1992-93 Council undertook a major upgrade, in association with the Mount Gambier Heritage and History Society’s development of the *Lake Terrace Cemetery Discovery Walk* booklet. Restoration of 60 nominated graves was undertaken initially, with about 280 headstones or graves receiving attention to date. Refer to Pat Galpin’s comprehensive summary, *Repairing and Restoring Headstones, Grave*

Surrounds, Cross Replacements, appended to this report. In 1994 Lake Terrace Cemetery was given a special mention by the KESAB Tidy Towns judges. Again in 2003 and 2006 major clean-up days were run by the Mount Gambier Heritage and History Society in conjunction with Service Clubs and the City of Mount Gambier.

Burials at Lake Terrace continue today within some family plots in the historic sections and in new grave sites being provided in Section J and vaults in Section H.



Graves and vaults in the current use sections of the cemetery

Australian War Graves

In 1942-43 one chain of the three chain strip 'at the northern side of the Cemetery' along the Lake Terrace road frontage was 'set aside as a burial ground for deceased members of the Australian forces', as reported in the Border Watch on 24 December 1942. This decision was made after it had already been decided by the Town Council that the three chain strip would be set aside as a reserve and not used as a cemetery. The press of the day reported a series of motions, rescinded motions and resolutions made in Council to ensure the remaining two chain strip was protected as a reserve.

At the time the War Graves Commission provided Council with a letter pointing out that 'the maintenance, grassing and beautification of the section were the responsibilities of the Commonwealth Government through the Department of Army'. A plan accompanied the letter, showing the graves to be used first. Unfortunately it has not been possible to locate this plan through the current Office of Australian War Graves South Australia.

It was stated in correspondence from the military authorities in August 1942 that reservation of the land would 'be for the duration of the war' and that at 'the cessation of hostilities, that portion of the war cemetery not used by the Commonwealth, will revert back to the trustees, but the War Memorial Committee may enter into an agreement with the council'. This return of unused land can be assumed to have taken place, as no contradictory documentation has been discovered.

There are currently four graves located here, adjacent to Section M; all of RAAF servicemen who lost their lives while training in the region. The first burial was in May 1943, with the other three in August 1945.



Australian War Graves designated area with four graves

Significant Burials

Since 1868 over 8,000 plots have been used for over 10,000 interments. Those buried here come from all sections of the community, and so the cemetery provides valuable insights into Mount Gambier’s development and into the changing tastes, customs and design styles of the community.

The Mount Gambier Heritage and History Society’s booklet *Mount Gambier Heritage Walks: Lake Terrace Cemetery Discovery Walk* details 40 burial sites of special interest. These include prominent members of the community such as:

- The District Council’s first Chairman Dr. Edward Wehl (died 1876)
- Member of Parliament George Riddoch (died 1919)
- Editor of The Border Watch newspaper for 62 years John Watson (died 1925)

Other graves highlighted in the booklet include those of:

- Jimmy Win Wah (died 1951) the ‘last of the original Chinese colony who settled in Mount Gambier’
- Christina Smith (died 1893) remembered for her educational services to the Boandik tribe
- Mary Julia Buchan (died 1875) who met her death ‘at the hands of an assassin’



Watson family plot



Riddoch crypt

3. SITE ANALYSIS

This section should be read with reference to *Drawing No. FCS-79-01*.

Landform

The Lake Terrace Cemetery site is located on the northern side of Blue Lake Crater, receiving full sun exposure and shelter from cold south and south west winter winds. The land slopes down uniformly towards the north, resulting in even drainage over the slope.

Access

The major vehicular access is through the main historic gates off Lake Terrace East. There is also a minor access at the north west corner off Lake Terrace East which is usually locked.

Pedestrian access is off both street frontages, also from John Watson Drive via the south west corner near the WIN TV entry, as well as through vacant land off John Watson Drive.

This site is well used by walkers and for dog exercising, with people transecting the site diagonally and in all directions. It is important to maintain this public access and ease of pedestrian movement.

Drainage

There are drainage issues caused by the side paths within the cemetery cutting across the slope and concentrating the surface runoff into streams. These concentrated streams are flowing along the edge of the foundation stones of historic graves, causing erosion and undermining the foundation stones.



Inadequate drainage undermining foundation stones

Visual

Views into the cemetery along the road frontage of Lake Terrace East are blocked by 1980s plantings, except for glimpses into the site at the Sexton's Cottage and the entry gates.

To open up the cemetery and invite the public into this site the planting could be removed or thinned out along the northern boundary. This would give greater public surveillance to the upper slopes of the cemetery.

Section J (used for new burials) is screened by an assortment of plantings that are under stress. This screen should be reinforced to create a separation between the new and old sections.

Also there is a visual and physical conflict between the historic sites in Section H and the current use of the neighbouring section. The monument form, materials and paving used in current practice are not compatible with the historic areas. Thus a physical visual barrier must be erected between these two areas because of their close proximity. The current visual conflict is devaluing the historic significance of this part of the cemetery.



Inadequate separation between historic and new sections of the cemetery

Historic

As detailed elsewhere, the cemetery has many major historical elements that make up this historic place:

1. The historic main drive, including the gates
2. The historic Sexton's Cottage
3. The historic grave sites, including Sections A, B, C, CA, D, E, F, G, H, I
4. Historic trees dating back to the 1880s
5. Australian War Graves

Buildings

The Sexton's Cottage, dating from 1904, is in a state of good condition, and is well maintained by Council. Some minor issues were identified, particularly in relation to roof drainage and surface drainage, and Council's Architect is taking the appropriate action. As detailed by heritage consultant David Young, the stone walls of the building should be left un-painted and un-coated, allowing the natural breathing processes to take place.

The new toilet block, designed by Council's Architect, is in keeping with the style and materials of the Sexton's Cottage, and should be maintained in a similar manner using the conservation management principles and techniques outlined in this report.

Description of the Cemetery and its Plan

The 1994 City of Mount Gambier Heritage Survey provides the following description of Lake Terrace Cemetery:

Cemetery contains excellent examples of early cast and wrought iron grave railing set into dressed limestone and less commonly basalt plinths. The early graves date from 1868 to the 1890s. The periods of burial are clearly distinguishable and new graves have not been allowed to intrude upon the character of the early sections of the cemetery. The stepped character of the cemetery up the hillside add(s) to the physical charm and character of the cemetery. The cemetery retains some important mature trees and commands a fine view back north over the town.

The integrity of Gardener's 1868 cemetery plan has been maintained to the present time, with each newly developed section adhering to the same general layout and orientation. However some visual incongruities between the early graves and more recent graves of relatively different design have been identified, as outlined above and shown on *Drawing No. FCS-79-01*.

Within the layout of the cemetery there are two main types of plots: first class plots mainly sited on the front, side or back of sections; and single plots comprising the remaining graves, although some family plots have been achieved through leasing several adjacent plots. The earliest graves follow the main drive, two rows deep, from north to south. Section K was the last section to be filled, and has no first class graves.

Section J and portion of Section H are available for current interments, under the management of the Mount Gambier Cemetery Trust, within a set of design and construction specifications that include permissible materials, and height and size limitations.

Recording

The Mount Gambier Heritage and History Society has undertaken a detailed recording project over several years, including cross referencing with cemetery registers held by Council. To date this data has not been computerised or converted into a GIS system, although the need for this has now been discussed by Council and volunteer workers. Progressing this process, to ensure this information is not lost and to improve its accessibility, is one of this conservation management plan's recommendations.



Lake Terrace Cemetery gravesites locational map

4. STATEMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The cultural significance of Lake Terrace Cemetery is multi-faceted:

1. Lake Terrace Cemetery's original grid layout, designed by R.H. Gardener in 1868, is still largely intact, and is a good example of formal cemetery design of that era. When studying a plan of the layout it is evident that the main drive was originally designed to sit at the centre of the site, but the cemetery was expanded westwards, placing the drive off centre. The community's growth is reflected in the cemetery's plan and its evolution.
2. Lake Terrace Cemetery demonstrates historical social patterns within the local community through its relatively even distribution of types of graves, but with the larger first class graves lining the main drive demonstrating a level of economic distinction among the gravesites. With only one religious division within the cemetery, the Catholic section, a high level of religious and ethnic cohesion within the community from the mid 1800s until the mid to late 1900s is indicated.
3. Lake Terrace Cemetery was the only functioning cemetery in Mount Gambier for about one hundred years, so it has played an important part in the lives of most local residents over that time. It continues as an active cemetery in contemporary times, now offering alternative burial styles to the lawn interments at Carinya Gardens Cemetery. This has particular significance to inter-generational local families, with some choosing interment within the historic gravesites of their forebears.
4. Lake Terrace Cemetery features many cast and wrought iron grave railings, with most remaining in fair to very good condition, giving the cemetery a distinctive character. There is a preponderance of dolomite and limestone base and kerbing stones, which is particularly significant due to the substantial size and depth of these stones. This indicates the local availability of these materials, and the construction skills displayed in the use of these local stones demonstrates a high level of stone masonry expertise within the community.
5. Lake Terrace Cemetery's Sexton's Cottage is a fine example of turn of the century (1904) Gothic Revival style architecture. This compact building is constructed of local dressed dolomite with limestone dressing, and features mock half timbering at the gable ends and diamond paned pointed windows. The cemetery's main entrance gates dating from 1884 are constructed of dolomite and well detailed limestone, with cast iron railing and gates.
6. Lake Terrace Cemetery contains some significant historic tree plantings dating from the 1880s, including remnant Cedar and Cypress species along the main drive through the original centre of the cemetery.
7. Lake Terrace Cemetery is the burial place of many notable people, including community leaders who helped shape the community in its early years. It contains locals who served in the world wars, and four graves in the designated war graves area belonging to RAAF servicemen from other places

who died in the Mount Gambier region. The cemetery includes people from all walks of life, including many babies and young children.

8. Lake Terrace Cemetery's location on the upward slope of the Blue Lake crater provides an expansive outlook into the distance, while its internal formal grid layout and the softening effect and protective cover of the mature trees also creates intimate spaces within the cemetery. The cemetery is well used by local people as parkland for walking through, and its tranquil, historic character is an attraction to visitors from outside the community.



Lake Terrace Cemetery's cultural significance is multi-faceted



The many cast and wrought iron railings create a special character

5. CONSERVATION PRINCIPLES

Conservation Principles

As detailed in the statement of cultural significance, Lake Terrace Cemetery provides a multi-faceted insight into the Mount Gambier community over a timeframe spanning approximately 140 years, and so needs to be conserved for future generations.

Conservation principles underlying this conservation management plan and its recommendations:

1. Do as much as necessary but as little as possible – DAMANBALAP

The overarching principle is to respect the cemetery as it exists today and to do as much as necessary to conserve it, but with as little intervention or change as possible. This acknowledges that the cemetery is a place of significance - due to its history, its role in the lives of people within the community in the past and present, and the fabric that exists today.

2. Understand and respect existing fabric

The fabric of the cemetery includes its formal grid layout, and the landscape with its chronology of plantings dating from the 1880s through to recent plantings. Of particular significance are the gravesites, monuments and associated stonework, fences and railings. In addition to the physical significance of these gravesites they are culturally important for their inscriptions and representations of the people they commemorate. Better understanding of all the elements within the cemetery's fabric, including their stability or how they are deteriorating, will lead to more informed decisions about their conservation.

3. Significance should guide decisions

By understanding the fabric of the cemetery we are able to determine what is significant about this place. As stated in the previous chapter, this significance is multi-faceted and has been summarised into eight main clauses in the statement of cultural significance. Conserving the historical aspects of the cemetery must be balanced with making it accessible to local residents, and providing interpretive information to visitors. Protecting the character of the historical sections of the cemetery must be balanced with providing contemporary interment options, while maintaining an overall sense of cohesion. The cultural significance of this cemetery means that most decisions about conservation methods are likely to favour traditional techniques, however proven modern techniques may also be acceptable.

4. Involve associated people

Lake Terrace Cemetery's significance to the community of Mount Gambier and the surrounding region means its conservation is of concern to many people, who should be given the opportunity to become involved at a range of levels. Preparation of this conservation management plan has involved consultation with members of the community, and ongoing recording, collating histories, and conservation work within the cemetery is conducted by community volunteers in association with Council. This community involvement should be encouraged and facilitated in the future to ensure that the cemetery continues to be valued and protected.

5. Keep records

Any repairs or changes made to the fabric of the cemetery and the reasons for doing so should be recorded, so that before and after evidence is available to people who will conserve the cemetery in the future.

Conservation Principles in Action

From initial consultation with Council officers and members of the Mount Gambier Heritage and History Society it was clear that a hands-on approach to conservation of the fabric of the cemetery is required. Conservation work has been undertaken by Council, community volunteers, and families of the deceased over the years, with some successes and also some less desirable outcomes. Establishing some conservation guidelines will ensure that any future work provides the most appropriate and economical solutions, so that the longevity of the cemetery infrastructure is extended well into the future.

The photographs used in this conservation management plan were all taken by Fifth Creek Studio (apart from historical photos as credited), and those used as examples in this chapter are intended to illustrate various general conservation principles and practices. It is acknowledged that past repairs were conducted in good faith by families, Council or community volunteers, and there is no intention to pass comment on any individual course of action.

The Cemetery Conservation Workshop presented by heritage consultant David Young on 1 December 2006 provided a useful theoretical base for Council officers and volunteers, and the afternoon walk around the cemetery examining specific examples of environmental and age-related damage, previous repairs and potential conservation actions directly linked conservation theory to this cemetery's specific needs.

While it should be stressed that there are no quick fix solutions to sometimes complex conservation issues, the following examples of typical problems at Lake Terrace Cemetery and their possible treatment should assist with ongoing conservation. This information is based on the presentation and on-site advice of David Young, augmented by FCS, however it should not be taken as detailed professional advice. If a problem is multi-faceted or its cause is unclear, the professional expertise of a conservator should always be sought before any work is undertaken.

Cleaning monuments

Before considering cleaning, appreciate:

- Variations in appearance due to climate
- The appearance of biological growths
- Staining patterns due to water flow down stone and over lettering
- Whether there is a real need to clean
- The possible need to clean to permit other conservation work to proceed

If you must clean

- Think again – does it really need it?
- Is it really dirty or is it just dust adding to the patina of age?
- Is the soiling due to dirt or soot?
- Or is it biological growths – lichens, algae, fungi, moulds?

There are examples of biological growths on monuments at Lake Terrace Cemetery, however most are not causing any real damage. Where the biological growth is unsightly or is rendering lettering unreadable it can be removed.

Example



The pink dolomite base of this monument is being discoloured by biological growth, which could be removed using a mild disinfectant, as detailed below.

Cleaning agents for biological growths

- Use only disinfectants based on quaternary ammonium compounds (QUATS) eg. benzalkonium chloride
- Concentration: 2% in water
- Wet and Forget (purpose made)
- Alginox (swimming pool algicide) needs to be diluted: 1 in 9 parts water

Example



The lichen growth on this stone could be removed from the front, however the growth on the rear of the stone is not creating any damage, so should be left untouched. To remove the biological growth the stone should be thoroughly wet so that water soaks into the stone, keeping the applied chemical on the surface. A disinfectant such as 'Wet and Forget' is then brushed onto the surface and left for 3 to 4 weeks. Then it should be rinsed off and if necessary given a second application. Again this should be rinsed off and then should only need to be reapplied every 4 or 5 years.

Example



In some cases it may be necessary to remove moulds where they are harbouring a build up of dirt. Although the lichen on the back of this stone can be left, the thick mould growing across the top could be removed by scraping off with a stiff plastic spatula or even a credit card, and a disinfectant solution applied if necessary. Then any dirt residue can be treated separately with mild detergent.

Cleaning agents for dirt

- Mild colourless detergents: eg.
 - Palmolive 'Dry Skin'
 - Shell 'Teepol Household Detergent', but not other varieties such as All Purpose, Gold, Heavy Duty, or Red
- Concentration: 1 ml in 10 litres of water

Never use on monuments

- Steel wool or other harsh abrasives
- Wire brushes of any form
- Sand blasting or high pressure water
- Acids: eg. spirits of salts
- Alkalies: eg. caustic soda
- Bleaches and mould removers (sodium hypochlorite, caustic soda)

It is also advisable never to coat monuments with products designed to seal or waterproof, as they can do more harm than good, and even modern paint coatings can damage by trapping moisture.

The above recommendations apply not just to stone monuments within the cemetery, but to stone used on buildings, statues and other public memorials.

Re-assembling monuments

- Re-level base stones on tamped ground
- Repair breakage of components with modern resins or adhesives
- Re-assemble components using traditional practice: ie. lime mortars
- Lime mortars give flexibility, importantly allowing some movement

Example



This headstone is an interesting example showing a succession of repairs after the three components became separated. The component on the right of the photo is actually the centre section of the monument, with the top section having been cemented directly onto the bottom section. The middle section has since been set into a new concrete base, making it difficult to re-assemble the monument into its original configuration.

Ideally the three sections should have been re-assembled using traditional lime mortar, allowing them to be separated again if needed. If one of the three sections was to be left out for some reason, it would be more appropriate to stand it up embedded in a tamped down gravel bed, giving flexibility for future repairs, or alternatively it could have been laid down in front of the other sections on a gently sloping bed of gravel or a supporting limestone slab.

Example



This monument involves base stones that need to be reset onto tamped ground. The broken headstone could be repaired using a modern adhesive, however the repaired stone might not be robust enough for re-setting into the base stones. Instead the repaired stone could be laid in front of the base stones on a sloping bed of gravel or supporting limestone slab.

Example



The monument in the mid foreground in this photo has been laid onto a limestone slab and then cement rendered around the sides. It would be preferable to leave the sides open rather than rendered, for moisture to move away from the headstone and to reduce the risk of the stone cracking through incompatible rates of heating and cooling expansion.

Example



This stone has been laid down on sloping timber supports, which allows air and moisture movement around the stone, but may not support the stone enough to prevent eventual slumping and cracking. It would be preferable to lay the stone on a gently sloping bed of gravel or a limestone slab.

Example



This marble monument has had its cross broken off, leaving the broken tenon section set in the mortice joint. The broken cross could be set back into place using stainless steel pins and a modern adhesive.

Painted monuments

- Many monuments were painted
- Sandstone monuments were particularly painted
- Later those with rendered finishes were painted
- Many show multiple layers of repainting with colours changing with the times – just like buildings
- Think hard before deciding to over-paint

Example



This sandstone monument shows various layers of painted surface, and is best left unpainted, so that its history is revealed. Over-painting would probably conceal the lettering too much and increase the risk of moisture being trapped in the stone.

Reading monument inscriptions

- Do not attempt to read difficult inscriptions by chalking or taking rubbings
- Do not spray water on inscriptions
- Do carry a small mirror and pocket torch to direct light at an angle across difficult inscriptions to assist in reading

Example



David Young demonstrates the use of a compact mirror to greatly improve the readability of faint lettering on a sandstone monument.

Lead lettering

- Lead lettering falls out over time if the stone pointing was not angled sufficiently
- Carefully collect letters that have fallen out
- Use a nylon hammer to gently tap letters back into place where possible

Example



Lead lettering has fallen out of this monument, exacerbated by the steep angle of repose. The remnant gravel of the gravesite should be collected up and sieved to retrieve lead letters lying around the stone. These should be tapped back into place if possible, and the stone laid down at a more shallow angle supported on a bed of gravel or a limestone slab.

Vegetation in grave plots

- Identify any plants growing within graves
- Identify any bulbs during growing season
- Remove weeds and inappropriate plants that are causing damage

Example



This aggressive succulent has entirely taken over the gravesite where it started, and is spreading to neighbouring graves. It is forcing out the kerbing, which may eventually fall apart and destroy the cast iron railing as well. These plants should be cut back to ground level and the stems painted immediately with an appropriate strong herbicide. This may need to be repeated several times to ensure complete removal of the plants.

Example



The shrub in this photo is concealing the monument, and will eventually damage the stone kerbing and railing. It should be cut back and its roots carefully dug out as far as possible.

Excavation and chocking

To counteract erosion and subsidence

- Excavation of buried plinths and fences
- Lowers rising damp zone in stones
- Chocking of unsupported plinths and kerbs
- Watch out for snakes
- Filling to replace eroded soil

Example



The erosion of soil from under the stone kerbing in this photo is possibly due to rabbits, and is exacerbated by water flowing from inside the grave enclosure. If left unsupported the stone kerbing will eventually break or collapse, also causing damage to the wrought iron railing. This corner should be chocked up with stones to support the kerbing, with these loose stones allowing water to escape and not build up inside the grave enclosure.

Example



The deep beam dolomite kerbing here is gradually falling away from the grave. Dolomite and limestone kerbing is strong in beam section, however is much weaker if allowed to lie flat. Before these kerbing stone sections fall they should be carefully removed and debris cleaned out so that they can be reset in place. If they are buried deeply enough their considerable weight should be sufficient to hold them in place, with no need for mortars or physical supports.

Repairs to gravel or aggregate grave floors

- After weeding remove gravel and sieve to collect items such as lead lettering
- Place a layer of geotextile over the grave floor to assist in weed control and drainage
- Match original gravel carefully and replace, laying it over the geotextile
- Do not cover grave floors with plastic as this may create drainage problems

Example



The remnant gravel on the grave floor here should be carefully cleaned up and sieved, then a layer of geotextile spread over the ground surface, and covered by a new layer of gravel or aggregate. A slightly sloping bed of gravel, or alternatively a limestone slab slightly smaller than the headstone, should be installed to support the headstone.

Repairs to concrete grave floors

- Often cracked and caved in
- Fill beneath if unsupported
- Replace only badly damaged sections

Example



The dirt could be swept up from this grave to expose its concrete floor. This would make the grave look neater and cared for, even though it appears to have lost its headstone.

Repairs to tiled grave floors

- Where the substrate is suitable loose tiles can be re-laid
- Where the base is not smooth enough remove broken and loose tiles, storing them in a labelled box for possible future use
- Some tiles, such as plain white tiles, may be easy to match, so decided on a case by case basis

Example



This grave floor has some tiles still intact, but others are loose or broken. Even if the decision is made that the substrate is not smooth enough to attempt re-tiling, a tidy up of the grave would give it a more cared for appearance. Broken and loose tiles should be removed and safely stored.

Protection of iron fences

Protect iron fences with fish oil, not paint

- Lightly brush away loose dirt using soft bristle brushes (no wire brushes)
- Flush out crevices with mineral turps
- Brush on 50:50 dilution of fish oil (Wattyl Fishoilene) in mineral turps
- Apply second coat
- Use drop cloths to protect kerbs

Example



Lake Terrace Cemetery has a wealth of cast iron and wrought iron grave railings and fences which are in need of fish oil preservation. This treatment will extend their lifespan considerably.

Fencing wire repairs

- Use traditional Australian repair method with fencing wire and pliers
- Many iron fences can be stabilised against further failure
- Use thick, soft, galvanised wire
- Don't over tighten

Example



A number of appropriate fencing wire repairs have been made at Lake Terrace Cemetery in the past. All iron fences and railings should be inspected and fencing wire repairs made where needed. The large number of iron railings in this cemetery makes this one of its special characteristics, so it is critical to preserve them.

Methods for New Monumentation and Memorialisation on Existing Graves

The Mount Gambier Cemetery Trust has established memorial specifications for new monuments in Section H for vaults and Section J for ground burials. These specifications ensure a unity of design, dimensions and materials for gravesites in these sections, in keeping with the overall heritage character of the cemetery.

It is recommended that these specifications continue to be enforced for new burials in these sections (refer to the Trust or to City of Mount Gambier for these specifications).

Within the remaining heritage sections of the cemetery great care should be taken when inserting any new memorials, to avoid visual or contextual conflicts. New monuments will harmonise with their surroundings if they vary by only one of the following factors:

- Form and shape
- Scale and size
- Material and colour
- Surface finish (polished, unpolished, rough)

6. MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Cemetery Layout

- The original layout was designed by Gardener in 1868 and its integrity has been maintained to the present.
- This layout is consistent with other cemeteries of the period, but is unique in using limestone foundation stones and excellent examples of early cast and wrought iron railings.
- The formal layout with its main drive and cross drives are strong elements and should be conserved and any additional expansion should recognise this design element.

Planting

- Heritage trees dating back to 1884 (refer to *Drawing No. FCS-79-01* for list). These must be treated as a community historic asset equal to any historic heritage building in Mount Gambier. These trees should be identified with interpretive signage for the benefit of current and future generations.
- There appears to be three major planting periods:
 1. 1880 – 90s
 2. 1940 – 50s (Robinson)
 3. 1980s
- There are many dead, dangerous and inappropriate trees that should be removed immediately (refer to *Drawing No. FCS-79-02*)
- It is recommended that the 1980s plantings along the Lake Terrace East road frontage be removed to create vistas into the cemetery and to visually incorporate the grounds into the streetscape.
- It is recommended that the 1980s plantings between Sections K and J be removed, and replanted with two rows of Funeral Pines/Cypress *Cupressus sempervirens* to create a backdrop for the heritage cemetery. These trees will link visually with the main drive and create an enclosed space for the remaining cemetery.

Main Drive – Heritage Drive

Refer to *Drawing No. FCS-79-03* for layout and design.

- Research has uncovered that that main drive was originally planned as a grand entry and journey into the cemetery. This was a tree lined drive with an entry statement, and a terminal nodal point at the top of the drive with the Lebanon Cedar *Cedrus libani*.

- The entry statement was Monterey Cypress *Cupressus macrocarpa* planted at relatively close centres in an avenue form, thus creating a more upright form than one would expect of this species. The remaining drive had Funeral Pines *Cupressus sempervirens* planted at 25 m centres, and some still occur at this spacing. As detailed in the history section, the Curator of Parks and Gardens Mr Robinson's report in 1939 stated in part:

Main Drive – A few old shrubs and seven big straggly pines (*Macrocarpa*), now dangerous, to be removed; and several other old shrubs to come out. Leave the pines near the main gate (the Semervirions), and the funeral cypress, and also the Lebanon Cedar at the top of the drive.

This indicates that the drive planting was alternate *C. macrocarpa* and *C. sempervirens*, which would be in form: tall and slender, tall and round, tall and slender, etc. These *C. macrocarpa* would have only been 40 to 50 years old in 1939 so therefore to be in a dangerous state they must have been under stress. This might be due to the depth of soil, the pH of soil, or volcanic ash or some other local condition. It should be noted that the *C. macrocarpa* in the three chain reserve area have survived quite well, indicating some local condition further up the hill that has adversely affected this species.

- It is proposed to replant the main drive with *C. sempervirens* as they have survived over time, and not use *C. macrocarpa* because of their past performance higher up the drive.

Fencing

Refer to *Drawing No. FCS-79-04*.

- The *Local Government (Cemetery) Regulations 1995* states in regulation no.7 that a cemetery is to be fenced:
 - A cemetery authority must ensure that the cemetery is securely fenced at all times.

This regulation can however be interpreted to allow public pedestrian access to the cemetery. For example, at West Terrace Cemetery which is 'securely fenced' it is the policy and practice to leave all pedestrian gates unlocked for easy access by the community.

- The fencing history of the cemetery includes a picket fence from around 1868, a chain mesh fence from the 1960s, followed by no road boundary fencing, and currently some fencing including the reconstructed picket fence in front of the Sexton's Cottage, but with the remainder of the Lake Terrace East and Blume Terrace boundaries unfenced.
- The proposed fencing for the cemetery takes its cue from Council's reconstructed picket fence in front of the Sexton's Cottage. The corners, ends and gateways should be treated as a small section of picket fencing echoing

the original fencing style. These sections are linked by plain galvanised wire, which was a common fencing material at the time of the original picket fence.

- An old pedestrian gateway onto Lake Terrace, now overgrown by Funeral Pines, should act as a symbolic gate to conserve the history and heritage of the original cemetery boundary limit.

Drainage

- The site has surface runoff drainage problems, especially when surface runoff is concentrated into narrow areas between grave sites.
- The cross drives act as contour drains across the site. By using swale drains along the cross drives the stormwater can be diverted to distribute through grassed swales. Subsoil water can be picked up by placing subsoil drains in the invert of swales on the uphill side of the graves, as shown on *Drawing No. FCS-79-05*.
- In areas of steep slope the edge of the foundation of the grave sites should be gravelled for a distance of 500 mm to prevent water erosion and undermining.

Interface of new and old areas

- With the reopening of the cemetery, especially Sections J and H, there appears to be a conflict in approaches to the materials and design of the new grave structures compared with the heritage sites. When these two different styles sit closely together they detract from one another. The proposal is to separate them from each other physically and visually by planting a screen or hedge along the interface line. The vegetation screen should be of a species consistent with the age or period of the heritage grave structures and be densely planted to create a green soft backdrop to both sections.



Heritage sections and new sections need physical and visual separation

Children's Memorial

- This should be sited at the top of the main drive, recognising the importance of this memorial within the community and the cemetery. The location in the ceremonial drive between Sections H and I is fitting, but also slightly concealed by the new Funeral Pine/Cypress to give the quiet and reflective quality of the space that is required.
- The physical structure should reflect the existing graves in each adjoining section, but be treated in a contemporary manner. The site will be enclosed by a low limestone wall on the uphill side, on which plaques can be attached, and on the lower side a new artist designed metal fence reflecting the old cast and wrought iron fencing. Within the space a monument could be placed with some sort of sculptural element, even an 'angel' to complement the neighbouring sections. Seats should be provided for quiet solitude and rest while at the memorial.



Site for Children's Memorial

Australian War Graves

- The war graves area could be treated in a similar manner to the Children's Memorial, giving a consistency to the cemetery.
- On the uphill side the area will be enclosed by a low limestone wall, but on the downhill side an artist designed metal fence could be installed on a limestone base to reflect the heritage of the old cemetery. Refer to *Drawing No. FCS-79-06*.

7. INTERPRETATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Lake Terrace Cemetery is fortunate to have received a great deal of attention over the years from the community, in particular members of the Mount Gambier Heritage and History Society. Working closely with Council, these volunteers have ensured that the cemetery's integrity has been maintained and its heritage made more accessible to the community.

The Mount Gambier Heritage and History Society's *Lake Terrace Cemetery Discovery Walk* booklet provides an informative insight into the cemetery's history and a good cross section of the people buried there. This booklet should be reassessed at intervals and updated where necessary, so that it can maintain its relevance as an important educational and promotional tool for the cemetery.

To augment the use of this booklet, signage throughout the cemetery needs to be upgraded so that the walking tour can be undertaken easily without a guide. Simple consistent labelling of rows and sections should be installed, which could also be extended to labelling the heritage trees (refer to *Drawing No. FCS-79-01* for list of relevant trees).

The current volunteer generated documentation of all gravesites should be converted to a digital format as a matter of urgency, to ensure the future protection of this information. This database needs to be made accessible through the Mount Gambier Public Library. The historic cemetery ledgers should be housed under appropriate archival conditions, rather than left in a public situation where they are very vulnerable to damage or even theft.

Of relevance is the West Terrace Cemetery's publicly accessible touch screen system for locating gravesites. A visitor to the cemetery can type a name into the system, with the location of the relevant grave then printed out, along with a summary of the deceased's date of burial, names of any others sharing the gravesite, and names on adjacent graves in the row. Some aspects of this system might be feasible when designing a computerised system for Lake Terrace, with public access to the system continuing to be available at the Mount Gambier Public Library, and potentially online. Consultation with the Adelaide Cemeteries Authority would provide further information on this type of data recording system.

Council and the Heritage and History Society should continue to plan a program of restoration and maintenance of gravesites, based on the conservation principles and techniques contained in this report. The advice of a qualified heritage conservator should be sought for any unclear situations, so that any irreversible mistakes are avoided.

8. MANAGEMENT PLAN

Underpinning the recommendations of the Conservation Management Plan is the multi-faceted Statement of Cultural Significance outlined in Chapter 4. Any maintenance, alterations or improvements to the cemetery should be undertaken in the context of this cultural significance, and under the guiding Conservation Principles provided in Chapter 5. In summary these principles are:

6. Do as much as necessary but as little as possible – DAMANBALAP
7. Understand and respect existing fabric
8. Significance should guide decisions
9. Involve associated people
10. Keep records

Recommendations

1. Maintain the integrity of the 1868 Gardener cemetery plan through consistency of layout and orientation, and through preservation of its special characteristics of limestone foundation stones and cast and wrought iron railings on the historic gravesites. Refer to *Drawing No. FCS-79-02*.
2. Improve visual access and ease of pedestrian movement through the site by thinning out the planting along the Lake Terrace East boundary. Refer to *Drawing No. FCS-79-02*.
3. Reinforce the screening between the old and new burial sections to provide a physical visual barrier between these areas. Refer to *Drawing No. FCS-79-02*.
4. Protect the identified heritage trees and provide interpretive signage. Refer to *Drawing No. FCS-79-01*.
5. Remove dead, dangerous and inappropriate trees immediately. Refer to *Drawing No. FCS-79-02*.
6. Remove the plantings between Sections K and J, and replant with two rows of Funeral Pines/Cypress *Cupressus sempervirens* to create a backdrop for the heritage cemetery. Refer to *Drawing No. FCS-79-02*.
7. Reinststate the formality of the historic tree avenue along the main drive by removing inappropriate species and replanting with *C. sempervirens*, and extending the gravel drive around the Lebanon Cedar *Cedrus libani*. Refer to *Drawing No. FCS-79-03*.
8. Fence the cemetery with post and wire fencing, and with picket fence detailing at corners and entry points, to make historical references while maintaining physical and visual accessibility. Refer to *Drawing No. FCS-79-04*.
9. Address identified drainage issues by constructing swale drains along the cross drives to divert stormwater through grassed swales, and on steep slopes add

gravel out from grave foundations to prevent water erosion and undermining. Refer to *Drawing No. FCS-79-05*.

10. Design and implement an appropriate Children's Memorial for the designated site at the top of the main drive, in close consultation with the community. This design should be based on the concept guidelines shown on *Drawing No. FCS-79-06*.
11. Consult with the Office of Australian War Graves South Australia to design and implement site identification or fencing of the war graves area that is consistent with the overall style of the cemetery. This design should be based on the concept guidelines shown on *Drawing No. FCS-79-06*.
12. Reinforce the Mount Gambier Heritage and History Society's *Lake Terrace Cemetery Discovery Walk* booklet with upgraded signage, consistent labelling of rows and sections and of the identified heritage trees.
13. Computerise or convert the information in the cemetery registers into a GIS system, and develop a publicly accessible data system. Securely store the historic cemetery registers for future reference and archival purposes.
14. Plan a program of restoration and maintenance of gravesites based on the conservation principles and techniques contained in this report, and in consultation with the community. Seek expert heritage advice as necessary.



Monument for Samuel W. Sutton dating from 1878

REFERENCES

A SERIOUS ACCIDENT

An accident befell Mr. Richard Unwin, Sexton of the Mount Gambier Cemetery, shortly after 11 o'clock on Thursday morning. He was engaged in the cemetery digging a deep grave between two burial enclosures and had nearly completed it – having reached a depth of about 8 feet - when the sides collapsed and buried him up to the neck. He was utterly unable to extricate himself having neither arms nor legs free and as his head was 2 ft. or more below the level of the ground he could not be seen by persons visiting the cemetery unless they happened to go to the hole and look in. He was only able to call out feebly but this he did, and continued to do so for a considerable time. It fortunately happened that Mr. T. Kelly and Mr. J.T.Topham and his son were working in the cemetery at distances two or three chains away, and about half past 11, Mr. Kelly heard noises floating on the wind that sounded like groans. He followed them up and discovered Mr. Unwin prematurely buried, as described, in a grave intended for someone else. He was hemmed in firmly all round with blocks of lava and *debris* that had fallen in, and the heavy stone kerbing of one of the adjoining enclosures looked as if it might at any moment fall in also upon him. Mr. Kelly called to Mr. Topham for assistance and as Mr. Unwin was very much exhausted Master Topham was sent to the town for some brandy for him. Messrs. Kelly and Topham set about digging to extricate the sexton, Mr. J.J.Driscoll who had come in, also assisting. Presently Mr. James Lewis and Mr. J.Eustace entered the cemetery and gave valuable help in digging him out. The job was no easy one, as the ground fell in several times while they were clearing the hole. Whilst they were at work Mr. Unwin said one of his legs seemed as if it was burning, and as that indicated some serious injury, Dr. Johnson was sent for. The Doctor happened to be absent from the hospital at the time, but Mr. A.V.Benson, the dispenser, speedily arrived with splints and other appliances for broken limbs. When, at nearly one o'clock Mr. Unwin was released, after an hour and a half, it was found that his right leg was fractured below the knee. Mr. Benson attended to the limb and then the injured man was conveyed to the Hospital, very much exhausted after his experiences. It will be several weeks before he will be able to resume his work and the Town Council yesterday appointed Mr. J.McNamee to attend to the Cemetery and sexton's work till he resumes it.

The Border Watch, 28th October 1893.

LAKE TERRACE CEMETERY

MOUNT GAMBIER

REPAIRING AND RESTORING

HEADSTONES, GRAVE SURROUNDS, CROSS REPLACEMENTS ETC.

Lake Terrace Cemetery has approximately 10,000 burials and 8,000 headstones.

During 1992-93 Lake Terrace Cemetery went through a major upgrade due to the Mount Gambier Heritage & History Society Inc., putting together a self-walk booklet through the Cemetery, identifying 60 significant headstones of interest. This walk is for approx. 2 hours.

Two members of the Society working in conjunction with the City Council of Mount Gambier met with Mr Greg Muller and after several meetings had permission to go ahead with the walk project.

The restoration work evolved from this project and after restoring the 60 nominated graves in 1993, each year funding has been available from the Council to continue repairing the graves. Since 1993 over 280 headstones/graves etc have been restored.

The cemetery is divided into 14 sections, with approx. 600 rows of burials and we walked and documented all headstones graves and crosses that required restoration of some type. These were put into categories of priority from 1 –10.

We looked for the older stone masons to do the restoring as they would have worked with limestone, dolomite, slate, granite, marble etc and be familiar with this type of material of which the headstones etc. a made of. We have had 3 different stonemasons over last 13 years all have done an excellent job.

The badly broken ones that lay in pieces on the ground we called the “jigsaw” ones and were top of the priority list together with any on a bad tilt. As Lake Terrace Cemetery is on a fairly steep slope on the northern side of the Blue Lake, ground movement from earlier earthquakes and normal subsidence put some of these headstones at risk of falling over and breaking up into many pieces. Also limestone bases for the heavy upright headstones have also crumbled allowing the headstone to fall.

A concrete slab in the shape of the original headstone was moulded and the pieces were then placed in order to fit. When dry this was then set upright into a new foundation base at the head of the grave. This proved to be very successful. Headstones that were broken into 3-4 large pieces were if possible pinned together with a type of fibre glass pin available from hardware stores. Both sides of the pieces were drilled, pins inserted and a “glue” was then brushed over both sides before inserting the next piece of marble. A bit like a jigsaw puzzle. Lead lettering which had fallen out and still laid on the grave was fitted back into the marble.

Huge blocks of limestone surrounds were dug out and set straight and if any missing, replacement blocks of used limestone from quarries or buildings that had been pulled down, so that the colour was in keeping with the old limestone and not the new which would have been very white. If new limestone had to be used the surrounds would then be rendered with a cement base coloured to tone with the old stone.

Some of the limestone headstones were badly fretted near the bottom and if no inscription was on this part the stone was cut off and replaced in the base. All Limestone/sandstone were given a coat of silicone wash to help preserve them.

Any Ironwork that had become loose from the surrounds was also re-cemented in at the time. The Ironwork was cleaned or left as is. The ironwork at the Cemetery is in wonderful condition considering most of it is 100-130 years old.

While the stone mason was doing his work, City Council called in the services of the Pine City Apex Club to clean the surrounds of weeds, broken glass etc. At least 70 hours of voluntary service time was given. The Rotary Club of Mount Gambier West took over this roll in 1994 and continue to help out each time headstones are restored.

Once the graves have been restored by the stone mason, the Rotary Club then lays black heavy plastic on top of the soil and a special scoria is then laid on top of that, all done voluntarily as a community service. All materials are supplied by City Council.

2 maps of the whole cemetery was drawn up by Civic Guides, Melbourne and these are placed on the main driveway, one at the beginning and the other at the top of the long main driveway to help the public find a grave. We believe this was the first type of map ever erected in a Cemetery.

The Sexton Cottage built in 1904 was restored some years ago and one room used by the Heritage & History Society the other is for the burial records etc. An Interpretive sign was erected 4 years ago with the history of the Cemetery and cottage.

The City Council maintain the area and keep the grass cut, trees and bushes trimmed.

Over the years Section posts have been erected at the front and back of each section, steel/powder coated row markers, in the shape of the letter "J" (the hook is embedded in the ground with a cement mix to stop vandals pulling them out) with the number of the bottom and top graves marked (see photo) white marker posts with a blue arrow were placed in 1993 to direct the walkers on the self-guided walk, broken crosses have been replaced with new ones and names and dates painted on front and plot no. painted on rear of cross. All these posts etc have been put in place by the Rotary Club of Mount Gambier West as a community service. Again, all have been cemented into the ground.

Council has placed red gum slab seating, rubbish bins, bitumen driveways to replace the old dirt potholed earlier roads. Taps have been repaired.

New Vaults at the top of the Cemetery have been built to accommodate those that wish to have a beautiful monument particularly the ethnic groups.

"J" Section is now open, these are a double interment grave with a small headstone erected.

Lake Terrace Cemetery opened in 1868 and is still used today for family burials in the old section and the Vaults and "J" Section.

On the 22nd June 2003 we had a Community Working Bee. It turned out to be the coldest, wettest day on record but over 60 hearty people turned up the Rotary Club of Mount Gambier West brought their Food Caravan up and supplied free BBQ Lunch and the Soroptimist International Mount Gambier ladies supplied free morning and afternoon teas. Even our Mayor Mr Steve Perryman turned up to help.

A second Community Working Bee was held in February 2006 and again over 60 willing helpers turned up and again the Rotary Club of Mount Gambier West supplied free lunch.

Other groups to be involved have been Gordon Education group, they made the new crosses, Boys Scouts, helped on clean up day, Work for the Dole, helped early days to cut grass, clean graves etc.

A semi retired sign writer has been responsible for all our sign writing needs. We have used a light grey background with Indian red for the names and number, the rest of the signs are in heritage green.

The City Council has given the Heritage & History Society members permission to locate graves etc that maybe in need of attention, to report back to the Council and then organise the stone mason etc.

The Cemetery won a Tidy Towns Award some years ago.

Bronze Plaques have been placed on graves of the last Chinese market gardener in Mount Gambier, ex Mayors, and one of the Aboriginal graves to identify the many local tribes that lived in and around Mount Gambier. We got permission from an Aboriginal Elder to place this plaque and to make sure the wording was correct.

A new toilet block is in the progress of being built based on similar design to the old Sexton's Cottage.

The 4 War Graves are now recognised every Anzac Day and Remembrance Day by the R.S.L. members. Something that had been forgotten by them until 1993.

All headstones have just been re-transcribed and are now being put onto a database by the members of the Mount Gambier Heritage & History Society Inc., and all headstones have been photographed and will be available on 10 disks in the New Year.

A Children's Memorial garden is the next project to approach.

**Compiled by
Pat Galpin
On behalf of the City of Mount Gambier
& Mount Gambier Heritage & History Society Inc.**

November 2006