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## **CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**2012 - 2019**

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**Wesleyan Cemetery, Walkerville**

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**JULY 2012**

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# CONTENTS

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## Page No.

### SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

<b>1.0</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Location and Certificate of Title	
1.2	Current Heritage Listing	
1.3	Cemetery Management and Current Operating Procedure	
1.4	Legislative Requirements	
1.5	Relevant Australian Standards	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>HISTORICAL SUMMARY</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>STATEMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1	Statement of Significance	
3.2	Assessment against Local Heritage Criteria	
3.3	Significant Elements	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>SURVEY OF CEMETERY</b>	<b>7</b>
4.1	Context and Setting	
4.2	Walls and Fences	
4.3	Paths and Soil	
4.4	Graves and Headstones	
4.5	Landscaping	
4.6	Signs and Street Furniture	
4.7	Southern Inurnment Corner	
4.8	Mapping and Recording	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>CONSERVATION POLICIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>18</b>
5.1	Cemetery as a Whole	
5.2	Retention of the Original Plan	
5.3	Specific Recommendations for Special Areas	
5.3.1	Main Burial Area	
5.3.2	Southern Inurnment Corner	
5.3.3	War Graves	
5.4	Conservation Approach for Historic Graves and Monuments	
5.5	New Monumentation and Memorialisation	
5.5.1	Existing graves and Headstones	
5.5.2	New Monumentation	
5.6	Appropriate Materials	
5.7	Signs and markers	
<b>6.0</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND BUILDINGS</b>	<b>21</b>
6.1	General Requirements	
6.2	Paths and Access	
6.3	Water Supply and Use	
6.4	Storm Water Control and Drainage	
6.5	User Facilities	
6.6	New Structures	

## CONTENTS (cont)

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	Page No.
<b>7.0 MAINTENANCE</b>	23
7.1 General Maintenance	
7.2 Removal of Rubbish	
7.3 Special Procedures for Grave Maintenance	
7.4 Original Ground Levels	
7.5 Fencing	
7.6 Notification	
 <b>8.0 GENERAL MANAGEMENT ISSUES</b>	 24
8.1 Management Structure	
8.2 Security	
8.3 Ongoing Training	
8.4 Risk Assessment	
8.5 Interpretation and Community Involvement	
8.6 Financial Operations	

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<b>APPENDICES</b>	26
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**APPENDIX ONE:** Extracts from *Management Plan Guidelines for South Australian Cemeteries*, McDougall & Vines, 2004

**APPENDIX TWO:** Extracts from *Historic South Australian Graves and Cemeteries, Conservation Guidelines*, McDougall & Vines 2004

**APPENDIX THREE:** Sources of Information

## **SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

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### **Background**

The Wesleyan Cemetery in Walkerville is an historic site established in 1849. It is a simple trapezoidal block tapering to the south west. It sits on Acre 49 of the plan of the village of Walkerville, part Section 476 in the Hundred of Yatala.

Closed to full burials in 1973, it continues to function as a place for inurnment of ashes. The site has been managed since 2004 for the Walkerville Council by Doug Dick & Co Pty Ltd (ACN 083 981 382). There is an active community committee, the Friends of the Wesleyan Cemetery group which has overseen the care of the historic fabric of the cemetery, since 1999.

Over time, the Cemetery has assumed a pleasant character, with a quiet contemplative value as well as an educational resource for schools and historical research.

### **Heritage Status and Legal Requirements**

The Wesleyan Cemetery is scheduled as a Local Heritage Place and work in the Cemetery is subject to the development provisions of the Walkerville Development Plan, the Development Act and the cemetery regulations of the Local Government Act.

### **Conservation Policies**

This Conservation Management Plan sets out appropriate policies to conserve and maintain the heritage value of the Wesleyan Cemetery.

In summary, the policies cover:

- the retention of the plan and layout of the Cemetery,
- care and development of special areas, including the western inurnment area,
- conservation of the significant physical elements including headstones, monuments, grave fencing and stone walls,
- use of appropriate materials to retain the historic character of the Cemetery,
- new memorialisation,
- new and existing signs and markers

### **Recommendations**

The conservation and ongoing management of the Wesleyan Cemetery will best be achieved by:

- establishment of a joint Cemetery Advisory Group with members from Council, Friends and the Cemetery Manager to consider, discuss and advise on certain management practices and works proposed in the Cemetery
- careful maintenance of historic character through appropriate actions on the site, including the immediate conservation of the stone walls
- reassessment of the design of the western inurnment area
- implementation of appropriate work protocols for infrastructure, paths and access, water use and drainage and new structures

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and Certificate of Title

The Wesleyan Cemetery is located in Walkerville, between Smith Street and Gawler Terrace. It occupies lot 49 in the 1838 town plan of Walkerville, Section 476, Hundred of Yatala.

Current Certificate of Title: 5874/230 [Earlier titles: LX(60)/37 5755/681]



Aerial View of Wesleyan Cemetery, Walkerville



### 1.2 Current Heritage Listing

The historic value of the Wesleyan Cemetery, Walkerville has been acknowledged for some time. It was assessed in the first comprehensive Heritage Survey of Walkerville in 1989 and it was resurveyed as part of the Walkerville Heritage Survey 2004.

The Wesleyan Cemetery, Walkerville is now scheduled as a Local Heritage Place in the Walkerville Development Plan.

### 1.3 Cemetery Management and Current Operating Procedure

The Wesleyan Cemetery, Walkerville is an historic cemetery which is available for the inurnment of ashes.

The cemetery is managed for the Walkerville Council by Doug Dick & Co Pty Ltd (whose administrative functions are outsourced to Life's Memories) under a management agreement drawn up with Walkerville Council in 2004. The engagement is for 10 years, with right of renewal for 5 years thereafter. It should be noted that this agreement was drawn up prior to the establishment of the Local Heritage schedule in the Walkerville Development Plan in 2007.



## 1.4 Legislative Requirements

Management of the cemetery must be in accordance with:

- the Local Government (Cemetery) Regulations 2010 under the Local Government Act 1934
- the requirements of the Development Act 1993 with regard to the development of places of local heritage value.
- the heritage and development provisions of the Walkerville Development Plan

## 1.5 Relevant Australian Standards

Monumentation of new inurnments should accord with Australian Standard AS 4204-1994 Headstone & Cemetery Monuments.



**View from the north corner of the Cemetery looking south**

## 2.0 HISTORICAL SUMMARY

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This early cemetery was opened in 1849 and is one of Adelaide's earliest village cemeteries. It is located on Acre 49 in the 1838 plan of the village of Walkerville. The land was sold to the Trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist congregation in Walkerville for £12 by the then owner James Pitcher. (The ten Trustees were men who lived in the Walkerville area, also Prospect, North Adelaide and along Main North Road, of which seven were buried in the cemetery) The original Methodist chapel was constructed in 1844 on Walkerville Town Acre 54, on the opposite side of Smith Street to the cemetery. The first chapel was replaced by a larger chapel in 1855. A third even larger church was built at the same location in 1912.

Burials, of settlers of Methodist and other denominations, began in the Cemetery in 1850. The trustees thus avoided sectarian segregation by allowing all denominations to be buried in the Wesleyan Cemetery. A Parliamentary enquiry into West Terrace Cemetery received a petition from Walkerville residents about the potential health hazards of a cemetery being located in a township. A protest in 1854 was ignored by the Legislative Council, but the controversy continued into the 1860s.

Unfortunately the cemetery was not well maintained and by 1882, its dilapidated condition was such that the trustees resolved to close it to new burials, retaining existing burial rights only. The stone walls on the north west and south east boundaries of the acre were erected in 1883, and it would seem that it was possible to walk through the cemetery to pass from Smith Street to Gawler Terrace. Fencing to Gawler Terrace and Smith Street was installed in the 1890s, but this was also not maintained, and the cemetery continued to fall into disrepair.

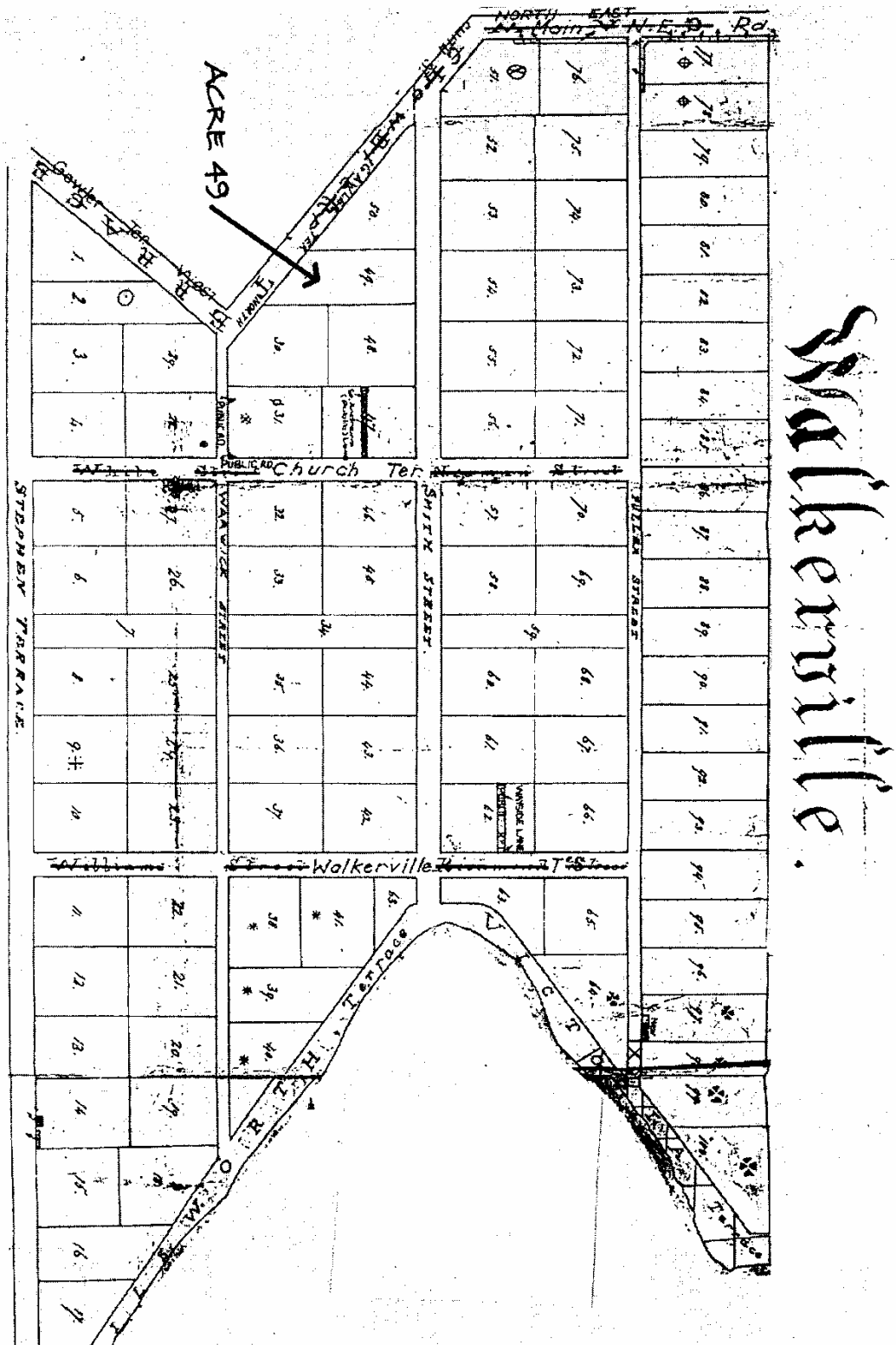
The Wesleyan Cemetery contains the graves of notable local identities. Many of the citizens who made significant contributions to the growth of the area and indeed State were buried in this cemetery. These include J W A Sudholz, chairman of the Yatala South District Council and parliamentarian in the 1860s and 70s, Sir Samuel Davenport, Samuel Braund, first chairman of the Prospect Council, and members of the Le Cornu, Ragless, Rake, Wigg, Bridgland, Cleland families among many others.

The cemetery retains many early rolled, wrought and cast iron surrounds, a variety of headstones, brick and concrete drainage systems and some early landscape elements.

The existing plan of the Cemetery has 1,008 plots delineated, many of which are large family plots. However, over time the monuments or markers for many of these burials have been lost and the rectilinear plan obscured in many areas. The last recorded full burial took place in May 1973. Cemetery records indicate that 3,785 burials have taken place, and the plan of the plots notes the burial places.

After a public campaign highlighting the lack of care and the deteriorated condition of the cemetery, the Methodist Trustees transferred the control of the cemetery to the Walkerville Council in 1972. Council has since overseen the conservation of the cemetery and the associated records. The cemetery has been the subject of a number of conservation projects, most notably as a 1986 Jubilee 150 event, when the grounds were cleaned up and records taken of all headstones. Since 1999, the Friends of the Wesleyan Cemetery group have been involved in maintaining and conserving the cemetery with assistance from Council. In 2004 the ongoing management of new inurnment of ashes in the Cemetery was handed to a commercial concern.

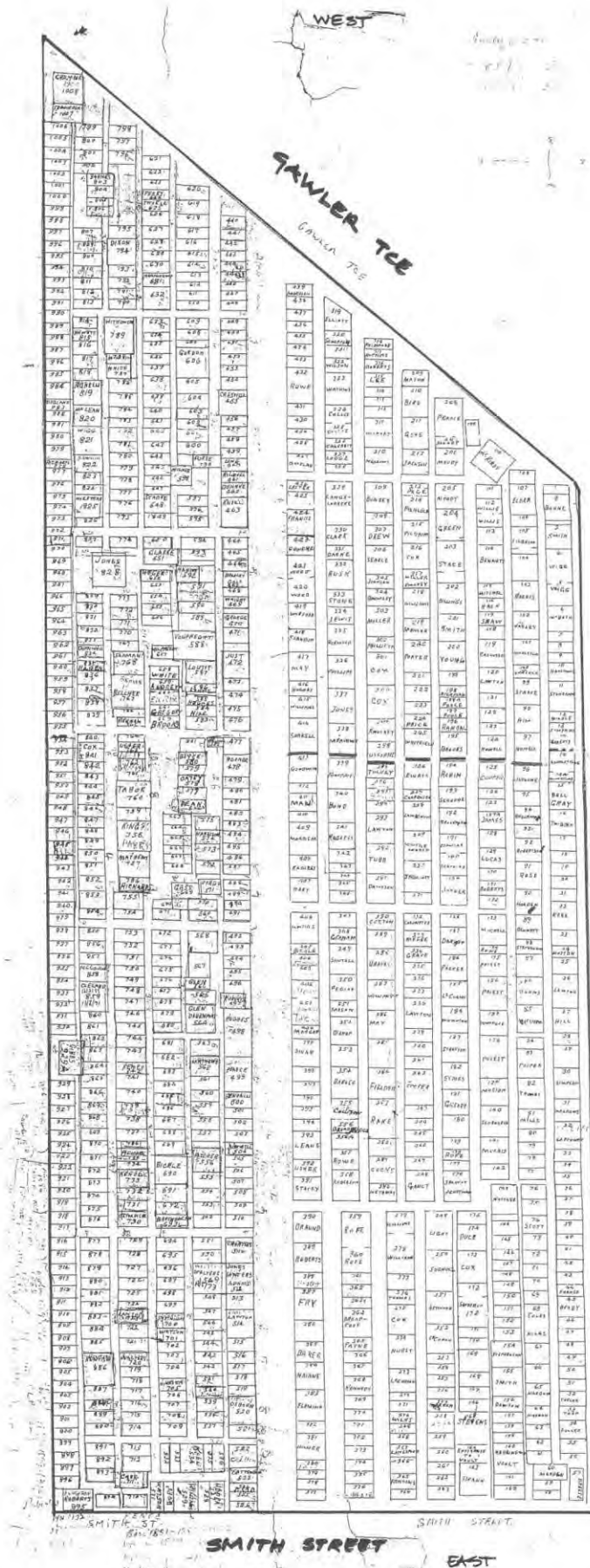
Over time, the Cemetery has assumed a pleasant character, with a quiet contemplative value as well as an educational resource for schools and historical research.



1838 PLAN OF WALKERVILLE WITH 100 ONE ACRE ALLOTMENTS







PLAN OF WESLEYAN CEMETERY - with 1008 plots  
[Walkerville Council Records]

### 3.0 STATEMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

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#### 3.1 Statement of Significance

Wesleyan Cemetery, Walkerville is an important record of the life and death of residents of the area and also as a repository of significant funerary architecture and grave styles. The cemetery has high aesthetic and memorial value, as a representative example of an early village cemetery of the 1840s and 1850s.

#### 3.2 Local Heritage Criteria Assessments

This cemetery was recommended as a Local Heritage Place in the 2004 *Walkerville Heritage Survey*.

The cemetery and its reserve fulfil criteria **a**, **c**, **d** and **f** under Section 23 (4) of the *Development Act 1993* as a place of local heritage value:

- a)** It displays historical, economic and social themes of importance to Walkerville as it is one of the earliest cemeteries in South Australia and is associated with the early village development of the area. It is also a continuous record of the composition of the district's population from 1849.
- c)** This cemetery has played an important part in the lives of local residents being the burial place of the family and friends of residents of the district.
- d)** It displays aesthetic merit, design characteristics and construction techniques of significance to the Walkerville area as it is an excellent repository of monumental art, and it contains many notable individual monuments which are of high sculptural quality.
- f)** It is a notable landmark in the area.

#### 3.3 Significant Elements

- The original plan and rectilinear layout of grave plots within the acre of the Cemetery
- The monuments and headstones which represent a wide range of South Australian monumental mason's work from the 1840s to the early 1900s.
- The grave surrounds, particularly the fine examples of rolled, cast and wrought iron fencing.
- The 1883 stone and brick boundary walls along the northwest and southeast edges of the Cemetery

## 4.0 PHYSICAL SURVEY OF CEMETERY

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### 4.1 Context and Setting

The Wesleyan Cemetery in Walkerville is a simple trapezoidal block tapering to the south west. It sits on Acre 49 of the plan of the village of Walkerville, part Section 476 in the Hundred of Yatala.

The layout of the grave plots within the cemetery is relatively regular and rectangular with almost all the plots running northwest/southeast, and narrow paths either side of the main central road. Some larger plots incorporate family inurnments.

Generally the fabric of the cemetery now appears well tended. Council maintenance workers undertake major works such as re-surfacing of paths and general maintenance and gardening, and the Friends group have a program of conservation and interpretation which they implement as funding is available. The Friends also undertake garden care.

The south corner of the cemetery has been adapted for new inurnment of ashes, and a rotunda installed. The plots here are small and delineated by a variety of materials. A park bench and lawned area has been installed to encourage visitors to stay and sit awhile.

### 4.2 Walls and Fences

#### Description

The cemetery is separated from the adjacent residential development on the northwest, and the school block and residential development on the southeast, by 1.5 – 2 metre high random sandstone walls with brick coping. These boundary walls were constructed in 1883. The sandstone blocks sit on a base course of random bluestone visible in some sections of the lengths of the wall. The bitumen damp proof course is evident between the bluestone base course and the sandstone upper level in many places. The stone wall on the northwest side of the cemetery is linked to a brick corner pillar at Gawler Terrace, and a brick pillar at the Smith Street end.

The fencing to Smith Street is recent (1986) and was constructed in white timber pickets on timber railings with steel posts bolted to a dwarf wall. The boundary of the cemetery along Gawler Terrace is marked by a tall and wide *Duranta repens* hedge which appears to have been planted behind a woven wire fence.

#### Condition and Analysis of Heritage Impact

The 1980s picket fence to Smith Street is in good condition and well maintained. The *duranta* hedge is maintained by Council.

Both 1880s stone walls are now in various states of disrepair.

- The original lime mortar coping over the bricks is intact in some places, but is seriously deteriorated, causing water penetration. The coping is missing in places, and has been replaced by solid concrete coping in the south east section adjacent to the school block.
- Sections of the walls have been repointed at various times with hard cement mortar which is now creating some problems of rising damp and fretting of early lime mortar.
- The pointing to the bluestone base course of the north west wall has fretted and is in poor condition.
- There is serious deterioration of the masonry, and the brick pillar, at the Gawler Terrace end of the northwest wall.
- The ground level on the adjacent property to the north west has been built up against the wall, breaching the original bitumen damp proof course of the north west wall.

Works to the walls should maintain their original form, construction and materials as far as possible as these are highly significant structures which form the boundaries of the Cemetery

acre. Repairs currently required, particularly to the central section of the northwest wall, should be as conservative as possible, without compromising public safety.



**Views of Boundary Stone Walls**

### **4.3 Paths and Soil**

#### **Description**

There is a central path of bitumen, installed in early 2000, with a shallow brick gutter edge on the northwest side. The bitumen is 3 metres wide.

Some early paths survive and one is notably constructed of a shallow screed of high aggregate concrete. Later paths are dolomite gravel or crushed dolomite in a deep grey colour.

The soil of the cemetery appears to be highly reactive clay, which causes a problem in maintaining the kerbing around gravestones.

The level of the surface of some later paths is above the original ground level in some places.

#### **Condition and Analysis of Heritage Impact**

New compacted dolomite paths have been installed in the cemetery by council workers. These were first installed in 2010 and resurfaced in late April 2011 (in preparation for History Week). The path in the southeast section of the cemetery runs southeast between two rows of graves.



The headstones and surrounds as constructed are irregularly located. The most obvious is the Jones grave which is on the centre line of the path as shown in the photograph on page 9.

Grey/blue limestone chippings have been used on a few scattered plots as before in keeping with the use of stone coloured chippings on many plots since the cemetery was opened. The fresh material is expected to weather over time.

Materials for use in the cemetery should be stored elsewhere until needed and used promptly, assuming normal conditions.

As the plan and layout of the cemetery are considered to form part of its heritage value, the original plan has over time been altered nominally by the irregular positioning of some grave sites which affects the alignment and levels of new works. This minor effect can be minimised by following the original intentions of the original Trustees as closely as possible as indicated on the plans. The dolomite, a traditional material in Walkerville and surrounding districts, is to be found at many old grave sites and weathers in time, to a variety of subdued colours. Dolomite sand and the ground in the cemetery contains salts to varying degrees and care should be taken to keep metal work and softer stone clear of build up where practical.



**Views of new grey dolomite path and storage heap**





**Views of early paths and natural ground colour**



## 4.4 Graves and Headstones

### Description

Upright headstones characterise the most significant quality of the cemetery. However, there are a number of other notable grave types. The grave headstones are predominantly in white marble or sandstone, with a number of early slate headstones in various degrees of deterioration. Many of the graves are surrounded by rolled metal, cast or wrought iron rails, particularly those of the 1880s.

Notable monuments include the sandstone monument to the Stevens family and the sandstone Gothic monument to John Taylor, the early small slate headstones, and the ornate marble forms.

### Condition and Analysis of Heritage Impact

Early headstones reflect various forms of deterioration including loss of lettering, lichen and dirt encrustation. Many early headstones are broken, and some are almost obscured by soil.

A number of headstones which were broken have been reset in concrete beds lying horizontally on the grave plot (possibly during the 1980s work).

### Work to date - Headstone conservation

The Friends group has undertaken the repair of a large number of headstones, particularly along the main central path. This has been done using the process of attaching a matching panel to the rear of the headstone and fixing the parts to this. Other repair methods used include pinning and resin repairs. The repaired headstone is then re-erected in the appropriate burial plot. (Refer Section 5 following).

This conservation work is commendable as it has been carefully undertaken and has reinstated a large component of the Cemetery's heritage value and character. Advice on specific repair issues should continue to be provided in consultation with Council and Council's Heritage Adviser. Sand and gravel of a colour to match the base of the grave should be used when re-erecting the headstone.





### General view of marble headstones and fencing



### Examples of sandstone headstones and monuments



### Examples of small slate headstones

## 4.5 Landscaping

### Description

Many cemeteries form important cultural landscapes or contain significant vegetation - native or introduced. There is no significant native vegetation remaining in the Walkerville Wesleyan Cemetery. There are a number of trees growing throughout the cemetery of various species including Planes (*Platanus sp.*), two or three different types of Cypress pines (*Cupressus sp.*), and more recently planted Manchurian Pears (*Pyrus ussuriensis*). A central arched arbour of Wisteria provides shade along the central path.

A series of landscape beds edged with historic random bluestone similar to that used for early street kerbing have been established along the central path which runs between Smith Street and Church Terrace.

The introduced planting is of a recent date. The trees provide shade and are appropriate for the Cemetery.

### Condition

Irrigation was installed in 1986 but sections of it no longer function. The cemetery currently has a minimum number of water taps.

The garden elements in the Cemetery are maintained by Walkerville Council staff with assistance from the Friends when required.

Generally, the landscaping has created a pleasant environment for visitors to the Cemetery. While not all elements are traditional, the general character of the Cemetery is enhanced by the garden beds, trees, wisteria arbour and seating.



**Garden beds, trees and landscaping**



## 4.6 Signs and Street Furniture

### Description

Seats, lights and bins have been installed in the Cemetery. There are a number of signs in the cemetery, including signs at the Smith Street and Gawler Terrace entrances, interpretation sign at Smith Street end and a new location sign for ANZAC memorials. There is a sign on the Crittendon grave to note the 1986 Work project and a metal plaque on a large rock, both located near the Smith Street entrance.

### Smith Street:

Cemetery sign on Smith Street 5 metres north of entrance gate, interpretation sign inside gate along central path.



### Smith Street Entrance and Signs



### Gawler Terrace:

The main sign at this entrance is a new Cemetery sign with information about new inurnments. No historic information is included.



**Gawler Terrace Entrance and Sign**

### Condition and Analysis of Heritage Impact

The existing signs are recent and in good condition. Existing entrance signs should be updated to reflect that the site is Council owned and provide details to visitors to the Cemetery (with regard to staying on paths), and contact details for the Cemetery Manager.

## 4.7 Southern Inurnment Corner

### Description

Since 2004, the south corner of the cemetery has been appropriated for new inurnments of ashes. The types of memorialisation vary greatly in this small area. A series of plots have been created in a very informal pattern and edged with bluestone, similar to early road edging. In contrast to these in-ground plots, there is a formal layout of plots around a recently constructed rotunda.

In addition, new headstones have been erected along the central path, two of which is an actual inurnment, the other two being display stones.

The traditional layout of this area has been compromised by the new forms and paths installed, some of which have been undertaken in non-traditional materials

### Condition

This area is well kept but lacks cohesion of design and does not sit easily with the historic qualities of the remainder of the cemetery

The heritage value of the Wesleyan Cemetery lies in its historic qualities and this section of the Cemetery does not reinforce or complement that established value.

Careful consideration should be given to the redesign and integration of this area with the rest of the site.





**Rotunda**



**Various Memorialisation Options**





**New Headstones**

#### **4.8 Mapping and Recording**

A description of and information on one hundred significant burials/headstones was prepared by Rob Nicol in 1998.

There is currently a detailed record of the existing headstones in Wesleyan Cemetery, Walkerville being prepared by the Friends group and this is based on the Nicol survey. As part of the work of the Friends this detailed record of the grave sites and burial plots should continued to be prepared and collated with the cemetery plan held by the Council.

An up-to-date plan of the existing headstones and marked graves in the Cemetery should also be prepared.

## 5.0 CONSERVATION POLICIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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### 5.1 Cemetery as a Whole

The Walkerville Wesleyan Cemetery has both historic and cultural heritage value, and these aspects require protection, maintenance and enhancement. The Cemetery should look old but well cared-for, so the outcomes of any work in the cemetery should aim to maintain this appearance.

### 5.2 Retention of the Original Plan

The original rectilinear plan and layout of the Cemetery is an integral part of its historic character and should be easily discernible. This will require the reinstatement of some of the original pathways.

The 1880s northwest and southeast stone boundary walls should be conserved and retained.

Areas appropriate for continuing inurnment will need to be delineated. The management agreement in place requires this.

### 5.3 Specific Recommendations for Special Areas

#### 5.3.1 Main Burial Area

Remaining historic graves and railing within the main burial area should be conserved following appropriate processes and techniques recommended in the *Cemetery Conservation Guidelines* available from the Department of Environment and Heritage. (Also refer to Appendix for extracts from the Guidelines) The historic graves in this area remain from the 19th and early 20th Centuries, and materials and elements should be conserved using appropriate methods.

#### 5.3.2 Southern Inurnment Corner

The 'new' area of the cemetery should either blend with the original character or be viewed as separate from it. This area requires redesign to a form more suitable to the character of the historic cemetery, as it currently contains a confusing number of alternative forms of memorialisation. Further discussions with the Cemetery Manager should be held to determine an appropriate design 'theme' for this area.

Specifically, the two 'advertising' headstones which have been installed at the Gawler Terrace entrance should be removed. Given the current number of inurnments all 'advertising' plots should be removed as they are no longer required. The two sites which have already been used for inurnment should be retained. Given the location, nature and size of these plots, this area could be further developed as family plot sites providing the historic nature of the cemetery is maintained and any new memorials are consistent with the local historical nature of the Cemetery.

#### 5.3.3 War Graves

Any graves of war dead should be cared for appropriately.

Council, the Friends group and other interested parties should contact the Department of Veteran's Affairs when any works are proposed to any graves of people with war service in the Cemetery. Assistance may be available for maintenance and repairs.

South Australian State Manager

Phone: 8277 3993

Postal address: PO Box 410, Melrose Park, SA 5039

## 5.4 Conservation Approach for Historic Graves and Monuments

The Friends group should continue to undertake the conservation of graves and monuments, in consultation with Council who in turn will seek comment from the Council's Heritage Advisor. The guidelines provided in *Historic South Australian Graves and Cemeteries - Conservation Guidelines*. Conservation techniques for headstones, iron works, kerbing, grave tops and ledgers should be consulted and where possible adhered too. The guidelines can be downloaded from the Department of Environment website. (Refer also to Appendix 2 for extracts from the Guidelines)

The technique currently used by the Friends group when repairing broken headstones is to reassemble the broken pieces and fix them to an exactly matching back plate of marble of the same dimensions as the original headstone. This is a neat and well finished solution. When there are small gaps between the pieces, the cracks should be filled with an epoxy resin mixed with marble or stone dust to match the colour of the headstone, and all excess material cleaned carefully off the face of the headstone. Large gaps should be left unfilled. Sand and gravel of a colour to match the base of the grave should be used when re-erecting the headstone.

### General Conservation Issues

A number of headstones have been set horizontally in a bed of concrete. Where headstones have been laid flat care should be taken to keep the ground level away from the stone itself – there are a number of examples where the ground level is slowly being built up above the headstones.

Fallen or broken headstones should be propped at a slight slope to ensure drainage away from the face of the stone.

Care should be taken not to obliterate the actual grave plot size when infill takes place to rectify subsidence that has occurred.

When headstones are re-erected after repairs and conservation, some indication of the associated grave plot could be marked on the ground. This would assist in reinstating the original plan of the Cemetery.

## 5.5 New Monumentation and Memorialisation

### 5.5.1 Existing Graves and Headstones

Walkerville Council has determined that within the Wesleyan Cemetery new inurnment of ashes may take place in existing graves where a relationship exists to the original family by birth, adoption or marriage. New memorialisation on the existing family graves should be undertaken in a similar manner to that used on the existing headstone, or where necessary, a separate small footstone could be used. It is preferable not to attach metal plaques to historic headstones.

Some freestanding small glass plaques have been placed in grave plots to clarify inscriptions or provide additional biographical information. This is acceptable but should be kept to minimum. Historic photographs should **not** be placed on or in early graves - this is an inappropriate location for photographs and alters the historic character of the grave and cemetery.

### 5.5.2 New Monumentation

New headstones or monuments within areas which have retained a large number of historic graves should not detract from the historic qualities of those areas, and the general principle should be that the new headstone be lower than the existing, and preferably in a light colour to blend with the early headstones. New monumentation in areas which do not contain a large number of historic graves can be undertaken in a more contemporary but still sympathetic form.

So that the heritage qualities of the Cemetery are reinforced and not further compromised, new memorialisation of a consistent form and design should be developed, in close consultation with Council, Council's Heritage Advisor, the Friends and the Cemetery Manager.



New headstones in the main early section of the cemetery should be white or light grey marble, simple form, thick, low, black lettering only, no images, carefully located, so that the plot looks to be original size.

## **5.6 Appropriate Materials**

The use of appropriate materials which will reinforce and not change the existing character of the Cemetery is essential.

The use of grey dolomite as a maintenance material should be restricted to occasional use and white or sandstone coloured gravel used for grave topping in the future. Any additional paths should be lightly marked out in gravel which blends with the ground colour.

## **5.7 Signs and Markers**

Any new signs should be carefully considered, for content, design, construction and location.

The current signs and notices should be updated. It is recommended that minimal signs be added to those already present in the Cemetery as they can detract from the historic nature of the site.

It may be appropriate to use a small numbered marker to locate graves identified in the Cemetery Guide produced by the Friends group.

An information board listing all recorded burials in the Cemetery may assist in the historic nature of the site by providing a visual readily accessible record of burials in the site.

## **6.0 DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND BUILDINGS**

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### **6.1 General Requirements**

As this is an historic cemetery, the plan and original appearance of the cemetery is important. The design and development of infrastructure and buildings should be carefully considered in terms of the overall affect on the appearance and character of the cemetery and should be undertaken in a consistent manner with designs appropriate for the historic values and quality of the cemetery itself.

The installation of new infrastructure needs a clear protocol established for workers. The boundary of the work area must be delineated clearly, and restrictions placed on the type and size of machinery and other equipment to be used within the Cemetery.

### **6.2 Paths and Access**

#### **Pedestrian Access**

As noted earlier the central path through the Cemetery links Smith Street and Gawler Terrace. Until 2011, there were no other formal paths in the Cemetery, apart from the walkways between the rows of graves. Pedestrian access should be constrained to the existing paths.

New paths should be kept to a minimum –any new paths that are required should be lightly marked in stone coloured gravel. [ Refer conservation Policies Sec 5]

However reinstatement of the existing pathways to reflect the original layout of the Cemetery should be worked towards.

A pathway should be constructed to provide access for pedestrians to the lawned area and bench seat in the Western Burial Area.

#### **Vehicle Access**

Any vehicle access should be restricted to the central pathway.

### **6.3 Water Supply and Use**

#### **Watering of Trees**

Many of the trees sit close to graves and they should be monitored to ensure that continuous damage is not occurring through the spread of roots. There is evidence of some trees having been removed for this reason.

There is an additional new water supply throughout the cemetery.

There is evidence of earlier irrigation systems randomly located around the cemetery, and any non- functioning sections should be carefully removed in consultation with Council Depot Staff.

### **6.4 Storm Water Control and Drainage**

There is a concrete gutter abutting the southeast wall adjacent the school block which discharges into a catchpit at the high end of Short Street. There is a brick gutter on the high side of the central path which discharges into a catchpit and thence to the Gawler Terrace gutter. There are some small catchpits in the grassed area of the new inurnment corner which discharge into the Gawler Terrace gutter. The Central path was originally constructed with a hanging crown but the shape was largely lost when the centre path was surfaced with bitumen causing irregular disposal of stormwater. Rectification can be carried out when the path is resurfaced. The surface of the cemetery is mainly unpaved and what little rain that falls evaporates quickly or soaks away harmlessly.

## **6.5 User Facilities**

It is not intended to provide toilet facilities on site. The relatively isolated nature of the cemetery means that there are few visitors to the cemetery at any one time.

Bench seats have been installed along the arched arbour. A bench seat has been installed in the Southern Inurnment Corner in the lawned area. A further bench seat is available to be installed in the Cemetery. The location and installation of this seat will need to be carefully considered.

Rubbish bins should be located close to the entrance for ease of emptying by Council rubbish collectors.

## **6.6 New Structures**

Various new structures have been installed since 2004 by the Cemetery Manager, including a substantial rotunda.

If new structures are required, they need to be located unobtrusively and traditional in appearance.

## **7.0 MAINTENANCE**

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### **7.1 General Maintenance**

The ongoing maintenance needs of the cemetery must be accurately assessed, systems determined and resources made available. Walkerville Council and the Friends group should consult frequently on the matter of maintenance and its effectiveness.

### **7.2 Removal of Rubbish**

Council has a responsibility to remove all rubbish from the cemetery site.

Rubbish bins have been provided.

All drivers should be instructed to keep vehicles on the centre path.

### **7.3 Special Procedures for Grave Maintenance**

Maintenance of and around historic graves should be undertaken with care so that historic elements are not damaged. Whipper snippers and other slashers can cut fragile stone and iron work.

### **7.4 Original Ground Levels**

Reinstatement and maintenance of original ground levels is essential to ensure that deterioration to grave sites, both historic and recent does not occur.

In the Walkerville Wesleyan Cemetery new ground levels have been created during recent conservation works. Appropriately coloured gravels, should be contained within the grave plot boundaries and excess material not used when stabilising headstones should be carefully removed.

### **7.5 Fencing**

Under the *Local Government Act* the cemetery reserve requires fencing. Council should monitor and maintain the condition of the perimeter fences and walls

### **7.6 Notification**

Council maintenance workers should notify the manager for environmental matters if any potential public safety or other matters are identified during routine works.

## 8.0 GENERAL MANAGEMENT ISSUES

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### 8.1 Consultation and Decision Making

In functioning historic cemeteries, all management issues need appropriate policy decisions and resources.

The Walkerville Wesleyan Cemetery is an unusual case in that it is managed by a company under a management agreement from the Walkerville Council. Installations of memorials under this agreement have at times come into conflict with the existing historic qualities of the Cemetery.

It is recommended that a Cemetery Advisory Group (Advisory Group) be formed. Membership is to represent all groups currently involved in the Cemetery: Walkerville Council, the Cemetery Manager and the Friends. The Advisory Group should meet quarterly to review the requirements of the Cemetery on such matters as maintaining the historical nature of the site whilst encouraging integration and new inurnments in the Southern Inurnment Corner and existing burial sites (where appropriate).

This would include discussions on redesign and expansion of the Western Burial Area (if necessary) and maintenance and works where consultation with all parties is considered necessary by Council.

This proposed Cemetery Advisory Group may need to review the existing management contract for the Cemetery, now that the Cemetery is a listed heritage place, and provide Council with required appropriate amendments if necessary. The advisory group would also be responsible for contact with and instruction to Council staff.

The advisory group should have a working knowledge of such useful publications as

- *Management Plan Guidelines for South Australian Cemeteries*, McDougall & Vines, 2004
- *Historic South Australian Graves and Cemeteries, Conservation Guidelines*, McDougall & Vines 2004

It is not intended that the Advisory Group would meet to discuss the works currently undertaken by the Friends' which includes but is not limited to, raising funds for the restoration of graves, selecting headstones for professional repair, applying for grants to fund headstone repairs and general weeding and maintenance of the Cemetery (as per the Friends' Terms of Reference), these works would continue to be managed by the Friends'.

### 8.2 Security

From time to time the Cemetery is subject to attacks by vandals. There has been generalised damage to headstones in the past and most recently, in May 2011, a small early slate headstone was smashed to pieces. This type of vandalism is difficult to control, as it usually occurs at night. Night lighting levels in the Cemetery should be reviewed by Council. Additional lighting may be a nuisance to neighbours, and not deter vandals.

### 8.3 Ongoing Training

Training and guidance should be made available to people working in the Cemetery, particularly for the Friends group which is involved in the on-going conservation and maintenance of the Cemetery.

The Heritage Advisor for Walkerville could provide this on-site advice and training from time to time, if required.

### 8.4 Risk Assessment

There are inherent risks in working in or visiting an historic cemetery. Often pathways have been obliterated or headstones are not secure.



Walkerville Council's risk assessment officer should undertake an assessment of the risks associated with the Wesleyan Cemetery including a full assessment of insurance requirements and liability issues and develop a risk minimisation policy in line with Council policies in other areas. All visitors to the Cemetery (including but not limited to volunteers, invitees, contractors and Council staff) should be made aware of the risks and risk assessment undertaken when required. All Standard Operating Procedures should be regularly reviewed to ensure they are suitable to meet requirements.

It is also recommended that identification of any grave sites which pose a threat of subsidence and threat to public safety be undertaken, and these sites made safe.

## **8.5 Interpretation and Community Involvement**

A cemetery is a community resource. It is important this resource is used in the most effective and interesting way.

The Wesleyan Cemetery, Walkerville is fortunate in having a Friends group which acts in a voluntary capacity to maintain and generally enhance the cemetery as well as researching background history and the history of people interred there. The Friends group also should be congratulated on the work they have undertaken so far.

Appropriate interpretation signage has already been installed in the Cemetery and a printed cemetery guide is available from Council. The genealogical information included in the 1988 Nicol report is available in the Local History Collection at Walkerville Library.

## **8.6 Financial Operations**

The management of any cemetery requires careful financial decision-making. The following matters should be considered in relation to the size of the cemetery and the money available for its management.

- Income and expenditure
- Budgets and funding
- Financial viability and financial management strategies
- Continuing use policy
- Development priorities and staging
- Records management systems
- Available funding assistance

This Plan is for a seven year period from 2012 to 2019 (this brings the plan into line with the finalisation of the Cemetery Management contract assuming the right of renewal is exercised).

During Council's annual budget review processes, the Plan and the financial decisions for the upcoming year should be considered.

## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX ONE: Extracts from *Management Plan Guidelines for South Australian Cemeteries*, McDougall & Vines, 2004

#### CLEANING HEADSTONES AND MONUMENTS

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

- Carefully check the condition of the headstone or monument. If the stone is cracking, splitting, flaking or scaling, or has a grainy surface, do not attempt to clean it. If it is subject to rising damp and sounds hollow when tapped, it should not be cleaned and should be handled carefully.
- Decide what the soiling is that you want to remove, and indeed whether it should be removed at all. The usual causes are:
  - dirt, dust and grime from urban pollution
  - soot or smoke staining
  - organic growth (algae, fungi, lichens, mosses)
  - other stains from metals, oils or other materials
  - efflorescence from soluble salts in the stone
- First brush gently, using only as much force as the condition of the headstone would indicate. This may be enough.
- Start any cleaning by using the most gentle method, soaking the headstone with clean water to soften the dirt and grime.
- Continue rinsing with clean water and gently brush with a soft bristle brush (natural or nylon bristles) using a circular motion. Organic growth can be gently pried off with wooden skewers or an icy pole stick. Do not use metal scrapers.
- Always start at the bottom and clean upwards to avoid any streaking or staining downwards. Rinse regularly while cleaning and keep brushes clean.
- If after patient work this does not move the soiling sufficiently, choose an appropriate detergent like Kodak Photo-Flo (from photographic suppliers). Or use the mildest dishwashing liquid available, and test first to make sure no film or residue is left on the stone.
- Test before you apply any cleaning materials. Do this in an inconspicuous small area on the headstone. Always thoroughly wet the monument with water before applying any chemical cleaning solutions. This prevents excessive penetration into the stone and softens the stains or soiling.
- Finally rinse thoroughly with clean water to remove all residue which might cause blotches or further staining. Cleaning solutions must not dry on a monument.
- If you need to use stronger cleaning methods get some expert advice. Make sure you use the most effective cleaning method for each case. One method won't solve all problems, and could damage stonework further.
- **Remember, if you are in any doubt, get some expert assistance particularly if metal lettering is involved as the fixing method is notoriously fragile.**

## WHAT TO DO FIRST

### Basic maintenance and initial conservation measures for grave sites

There are some things that can be done before a Cemetery Conservation Management Plan is prepared. These basic tasks will ensure that no further deterioration occurs and will keep things in place until more complicated works can be arranged, if necessary.

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

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

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

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

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

*These notes are based on recommendations made by David Young, Heritage Consultant and*

*Conservation Scientist, for conservation at West Terrace Cemetery in 1997*

## PERSONAL SAFETY

There are a number of hazards to look out for when walking or doing work around cemeteries. As long as adequate precautions are taken accidents can generally be avoided.

***Do not walk on grave sites:*** Soil overlying graves may gradually subside over time or may collapse when walked on.

***Do not lean on headstones or monuments or railings:*** As a result of soil collapse, monumentation may become unstable. If monuments collapse they may be irreparably damaged as well causing serious personal injury.

***Do not use whipper snippers:*** whipper snippers can accidentally come into contact with fragile stone, metal or other loose objects. As well as potentially damaging grave monumentation, they can cause serious personal injury.

***Snakes and other biting things:*** Snakes are a part of Australia's native fauna and may naturally belong in the areas of indigenous vegetation within the cemetery. Snakes are shy by nature and will only attack when threatened. Take care, however, especially in warm weather and where work is being undertaken in areas of dense, long grass that have been unattended for some time. Avoid killing snakes wherever possible.

Also be aware of ants and other biting or stinging insects in grasses and on graves.

## **APPENDIX TWO: Extracts from *Historic South Australian Graves and Cemeteries, Conservation Guidelines*, McDougall & Vines 2004**

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### **8.0 NEW WORKS IN CEMETERIES**

#### **8.1 Infill**

New graves in historic areas of cemeteries should preferably be in previously unused plots. New graves which are dug beside existing graves should be excavated with care to ensure that no damage is caused to the structure of the existing grave through subsidence or other movement.

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

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

#### **8.2 Reuse of Grave Plots**

The issue of how to approach the reuse of graves of the long-dead and the sites of possibly more recent but unacknowledged burials are contentious. The reuse of significant grave sites is generally contrary to the conservation of the cultural significance of any historic cemetery. New inurnment should not occur in grave sites where historic burials have occurred and where these are marked by significant monuments, despite the grave site lease having expired.

The retention of significant monuments within the cemetery due to their heritage value usually precludes reuse, unless the elements of the original monumentation are retained, and the new inurnment is discreetly marked. This should be by a separate foot-stone in an appropriate colour and design.

#### **8.3 New Monumentation/Memorialisation**

Additional inurnments can and will occur in family plots, but new memorialisation of the grave should be through carefully considered additional inscription on the existing monument separate from and below the original (or possibly on another face of the monument) or by the use of a separate new tablet at the base of the existing monument or at the foot of the grave, inside the grave surround. The new tablets should be complementary in material to the existing headstone. Attaching metal plaques to old headstones as a way of marking new inurnments is not recommended.



New inurnments in graves which already have monuments or headstones but where the grant has been purchased by a new lessee not related to the original lease holder should be marked by a simple new tablet at the foot of the grave in complementary material.

#### **8.4 Introduction of New Structures**

Columbaria, lawn cemetery areas, historic markers and memorial areas for still-born burials, and other structures for shade and shelter are often incorporated into cemeteries.

New structures should be carefully considered in historic cemeteries. Their design, location and materials must not intrude on the historic cemetery landscape. If such elements are required within historic cemeteries the structure should be carefully designed to complement the historic character. This can be done successfully by repeating the existing form or details of structures already in place or by using a very simple modern structure.

The trend to lawned sections in cemeteries is a result of increased costs and reduced resources. These areas are usually not appropriate in historic cemeteries and should not be used to replace historic areas of larger cemeteries. If lawned areas are unavoidable they must be designed so that they do not disturb the established plan and layout of burial allotments, but rather continue the plan. Preferably, they should be located outside the original cemetery plan boundaries.

### **APPENDIX THREE: SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

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- John Lewis, *The Walkerville Story - 150 Years*, Corporation of the Town of Walkerville, 1988
- *Heritage Survey of the Town of Walkerville*, 1989, Rob Linn and Associates
- *Walkerville Heritage Survey*, 2004, McDougall & Vines
- Local History Collection, Walkerville Library
  - LHC - WAL - RE00003-1, includes 1970s photos, before clean up.
  - 2, newspaper clippings of events in Cemetery
  - 3, (includes p/copy of Smith Street Cemetery, Walkerville, Heritage Survey, Robert Nicol, 1988)
- Interpretation plaque in cemetery