



Hawkesbury City Council

attachment to item 214

Attachment 1
The Wilberforce
Cemetery Conservation
Management Plan
- Volumes 1

date of meeting: 21 October 2008
location: council chambers
time: 5:00 p.m.

WILBERFORCE CEMETERY



CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Final

Volume 1

Prepared for:
HAWKESBURY CITY COUNCIL

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7 April 2008

Cover Photo:
Wilberforce Cemetery 2004. Source: Hawkesbury City Council, taken by Energy Australia

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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Introduction

This report was prepared by Pamela Hubert of Hubert Architects and Jan Barkley-Jack of Ian Jack Heritage Consulting for Hawkesbury City Council. The report was commissioned by Hawkesbury City Council to determine policies and procedures for the conservation of Wilberforce Cemetery.

As part of the preparation of the report, the local community were consulted to determine their concerns about the cemetery and to have the opportunity to suggest what changes, if any, they would like to see in the future. The response of the local community was unusually enthusiastic and helpful both during the preparation of the draft report and in their comments on the draft report.

1.2 Significance

Wilberforce Cemetery is of national significance.

It contains rich and rare evidence of Australia's earliest ex-convict pioneer society building a community. The cemetery has an unusually high number of burials of eighteenth century arrivals in the colony of New South Wales including seven members of the first fleet, fifteen members of the second fleet and twelve members of the third fleet. Over 70 people who arrived in New South Wales in the 18th century are buried there and a large number of their original gravemarkers survive. Family burials continue over seven generations, representing families that settled on nearby farms before 1806, some at the very beginning of Hawkesbury settlement in 1794. These people, whether convict, free settler or military were integral to the development of European settlement in Australia. Wilberforce Cemetery is thus an unparalleled documentation of a particularly early district's ex-convict pioneer endurance, spirit and development, emphasised by their descendants' regular pilgrimages and reunions.

When laying out the towns of the Hawkesbury district as part of his implementation of instructions about town planning outside Sydney in 1810, Governor Macquarie placed great importance on the location and layout the burial ground, church and school group. Wilberforce is the only Macquarie town where the burial ground, school house, church and square remain as a group and are central features of the town.

Wilberforce Cemetery contains a remarkable collection of monuments from the early nineteenth century to the present day. Many styles of monuments survive including a fine collection of altar style slab monuments and a rare example of a table style slab monument. The work of one of the finest local masons, George Robertson of Windsor, is well represented in the cemetery.

The cemetery has been a focal point for the local community from the 1810s until the present day and in more recent times members of the pioneer families show their attachment to the burial ground by annual reunions, attracting people from far afield.

1.3 Historical Development

A burial ground at Wilberforce was established in 1811 as part of Governor Macquarie's planning of towns in the Hawkesbury district. A burial ground adjacent to the site designated for the Anglican Church and schoolhouse and close to a town square or park was integral to the plan of the town.

Located on the northern bank of the Hawkesbury (opposite the Sydney side of the river), Wilberforce was not as attractive to free settlers as the Macquarie towns of Windsor, Richmond, Pitt Town and Castlereagh. Even prior to Macquarie laying out the township of Wilberforce, the area had begun to develop with a greater proportion of ex-convict settlers to free settlers than

was found on the opposite bank of the river. When the surveyor James Meehan surveyed the settlement of Wilberforce in 1811, he allocated land for the cemetery along with a church and square.

St John's Church of England Cemetery, as the cemetery became known, thus became the resting place for a large number of early arrivals in the colony of New South Wales including members of the first, second and third fleet. At least sixteen graves of eighteenth century settlers in the new colony survive at Wilberforce Cemetery. Many of the families of the early settlers remained in the Wilberforce district and descendants of these settlers can be found in Wilberforce to the present day. There are up to seven generations of some families buried in Wilberforce Cemetery, documenting the history of the local community and of some of Australia's oldest families of European descent.

Wilberforce Cemetery was enlarged at the end of the eighteenth century with the designation of land to the northeast, on the opposite side of the track that connected St John's Anglican Church and Schoolhouse with Old Sackville Road, for a Wesleyan Cemetery in 1896. An additional wedge of land was added to the northeastern end of the Church of England area in 1906, taking up the space between St John's Church of England Cemetery and the track to St John's Anglican Church. Local residents believe that bodies are interred in the section designated for Wesleyan burials although no documentary record has been found to confirm this and no headstones survive. The wedge added to the Church of England Cemetery was well used from 1911.

Wilberforce Cemetery continued to be the main burial place of the local community through most of the twentieth century. The monuments in the cemetery show the continued growth of the community and the stories of its members. A few new names begin to appear in the mid twentieth century although the older Wilberforce families still dominated. Military insignia indicate the service of members in the armed forces.

Apart from existing burial rights, Wilberforce Cemetery was closed for burials in 1986. Burials have continued where graves had previously been reserved, the most recent burial being in 2007. A pair of columbaria walls built in the 1970s has provided space for the interment of ashes.

1.4 Physical Description

Wilberforce Cemetery is located on the northern side of the township of Wilberforce bounded by Copeland Road and Old Sackville Road to the north, Duke Road to the west and Clergy Road to the southeast. To the northeast is residential subdivision.

The cemetery is in two sections. The main section is the former St John's Church of England Cemetery to the southwest and is a trapezoid shaped block. It is divided into four sectors by northwest-southeast and northeast-southwest paths. A smaller section to the northeast on the opposite side of a roadway between St John's Church and Old Sackville Road was designated on early plans as a Wesleyan Cemetery and later shown as a General Cemetery. The two sections are separated by an unnamed roadway connecting St John's Church and Hall to Old Sackville Road.

The site slopes from the north to the southwest (corner of Duke Road and Clergy Road). Burials are concentrated on higher land although there is no clear pattern of earliest burials being confined to a single area or quadrant. Patterns of burial appear to relate more to using higher ground and selecting plots close to other family members.

All of the marked burials are within the former St John's Church of England section of the cemetery. Monuments survive from the early nineteenth century to the present day and represent a variety of styles and forms. Notable in the cemetery are some well designed altar style slab monuments of Georgian and gothic influences. A rare table style slab survives. Stellae, many with high quality carving and representing a variety of styles are the most common form of

monument from the nineteenth century. Slab and desk style monuments are the favourite of the twentieth century.

A pair of brick columbaria walls built c.1979 are at the northeastern entry to the former St John's Church of England section of the cemetery.

The former St John's Church of England section has no trees or shrubs planted within the section. It is partly screened from surrounding roads by indigenous trees. By contrast, the former Wesleyan section is characterised by its stand of indigenous trees, diagonally bisected by a rough roadway.

The former St John's Church of England section of the cemetery is enclosed by a high metal palisade fence built in 2004-5 to deter vandalism.

1.5 Constraints and Opportunities

1.5.1 General

As a place of national significance it is important that Wilberforce Cemetery is managed to ensure its long term conservation. The cemetery is also held in high esteem by the local community who were enthusiastic in contributing their concerns about the future management of the place.

Some of the main constraints and opportunities identified regarding Wilberforce Cemetery include:

1.5.2 Vandalism

Increasing problems with vandalism in the past decade have been addressed by the construction of a fence around the cemetery and the installation of floodlights in 2004-5. This has substantially reduced the problem. However, many monuments damaged by vandalism still need to be repaired.

1.5.3 New Burials

Apart from existing burial rights, Wilberforce Cemetery is closed for new burials. The local community and descendants and relatives of people who are already buried in the cemetery have clearly expressed their desire to be able to be buried in Wilberforce Cemetery.

The designation of areas for new burials, a memorial garden and a new columbarium all need to be considered.

1.5.4 Unmarked Graves

An analysis of burial registers and the monuments at Wilberforce Cemetery makes it clear that there are unmarked graves at the cemetery. It would be necessary to locate all unmarked graves prior to creating new graves or other memorial areas.

1.5.5 Drainage

The slope of the site has led to problems with drainage leading to erosion of foundation material around monuments and creating a damp area on the southwestern side, particularly in the southern sector. The damp area was given as the reason for closing the cemetery to burials in 1986.

1.5.6 Access

Unless vehicle gates are open for funerals, public access to Wilberforce Cemetery is only available through a pedestrian gate at the northeastern end of the cemetery. The grounds of the cemetery are sloping making access for people with limited mobility.

1.5.7 Former Wesleyan Area

Information on the use of the former Wesleyan area of Wilberforce Cemetery is limited. At present it is a lightly treed area used primarily for access to adjacent residential properties. It is

also zoned for recreational use rather than for use relating to its original designation as a cemetery.

1.6 Conservation Policies

Considering the national significance of Wilberforce Cemetery, the following policies have been recommended for its ongoing conservation.

1.6.1 Burra Charter

Policy 1

Wilberforce Cemetery is a place of national significance and should be conserved in accordance with the Burra Charter.

1.6.2 Ownership

Policy 2

Ownership of the cemetery should remain with the public.

1.6.3 Management

Policy 3

The management of the cemeteries as a public resource should remain with Hawkesbury City Council.

1.6.4 Uses

Policy 4

Continue the use of the place as a cemetery.

Policy 5

Allow new burials at the place for descendants of existing burials and for members of the local Wilberforce community.

1.6.5 Unmarked Graves

Policy 6

Prior to creating any new gravesites, conduct a ground penetrating radar investigation of the former St John's Church of England section of the cemetery to establish where unmarked gravesites might be located.

Policy 7

Undertake ground penetrating radar investigation of the former Wesleyan section of Wilberforce Cemetery to establish whether unmarked gravesites are located therein.

Policy 8

Unmarked gravesites located as a result of ground penetrating radar or other investigation should be located on Council's plan of the cemetery and should be identified by a grave marker.

1.6.6 Layout

Policy 9

Generally maintain the historic layout of paths within the former St John's Church of England section of the cemetery.

Policy 10

New burials in the cemetery should continue the layout of rows of graves in northwest-southeast rows aligning with the existing rows.

Policy 11

Develop a plan for use of the southwest sector of the former St John's Church of England section of the cemetery as a minimum maintenance cemetery.

Policy 12

Develop a plan to utilise the former Wesleyan section of the cemetery as a memorial garden.

1.6.7 Drainage

Policy 13

Investigate cause of poor drainage on southwestern side. Provide surface and sub-surface drainage that addresses cause of drainage problems without disturbing existing graves.

Policy 14

New surface drains should be limited to brick drains at the edge of the main paths.

1.6.8 Re-use of Graves

Policy 15

Allow the reuse of graves where provision has been made for re-use at the time of the first burial.

Policy 16

Gain permission from living descendants of all burials in a gravesite prior to the reuse of graves.

Policy 17

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

Policy 18

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

Policy 19

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

1.6.9 New Elements

Policy 20

New elements such as seating, maintenance buildings etc within the cartilage of the cemetery should be carefully considered to ensure they do not intrude on the character of the cemetery.

Policy 21

Following the investigation of unmarked gravesites, allow new burials in the former St John's Church of England section of Wilberforce Cemetery.

Policy 22

Allow the establishment of a minimum maintenance sections in the southern sector of the former St John's Church of England section of Wilberforce Cemetery.

Policy 23

New monuments in existing rows within the former St John's Church of England section of Wilberforce Cemetery should be compatible with the existing character of the row and of immediately adjacent rows.

1.6.10 Columbaria

Policy 24

Allow the construction of new columbaria. New columbaria are to be sensitively located and designed so that they are not intrusive into the character of the cemetery.

1.6.11 Memorial Gardens and Walks

Policy 25

Allow the establishment of a memorial garden in the former Wesleyan section of Wilberforce Cemetery.

1.6.12 Signs and Markers

Policy 26

Provide new row markers at the end of each row of burials. Ensure row markers are legible and easily read with a permanent inscription. Row markers should be of simple design such as a low timber post with the row number carved into the timber.

Policy 27

Provide a map at the entry to the cemetery to assist with interpretation of the row numbers.

Policy 28

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

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

Additionally, information about relationships may be added if desired. Standardised grave markers should be designed to ensure the information about the deceased is not easily removed or lost.

Policy 29

Standardised grave markers for unmarked graves should be left blank unless information is found that confirms the identity of the person/s buried in the grave.

1.6.13 Planting

Policy 30

Generally maintain and reinforce the perimeter plantings of native trees on the northwest and northeastern sides of the cemetery.

Policy 31

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

Do not allow plantings of invasive weed species on graves.

Policy 32

Maintain grassed areas around monuments and in the former St John's Church of England section of the cemetery.

Policy 33

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

Policy 34

Develop a landscape plan for a memorial garden in the former Wesleyan section of Wilberforce Cemetery that incorporates a selection of ground covers, shrubs and trees.

Policy 35

Monitor the presence of weed species and, where necessary, remove weed species using appropriate careful methods.

1.6.14 Maintenance and Repair

Policy 36

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

Policy 37

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

Policy 38

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

Policy 39

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

Policy 40

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

Policy 41

Allow reconstruction of surrounds where there is sufficient evidence to guide reconstruction.

Policy 42

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

Policy 43

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

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

Policy 44

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

Where no surviving descendants can be established, the repair of monuments should be the responsibility of the Hawkesbury City Council

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

Policy 45

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

- Stormwater drains kept clean (two monthly except in autumn where this should be done monthly)
- Weeds removed (six monthly)
- Lawns mown (weekly to three weekly, as necessary)
- Rubbish removed (weekly)
- Roads and paths maintained (monitored by maintenance staff and repaired as necessary)
- Fences maintained (monitored by maintenance staff and repaired as necessary)

1.6.15 Movement of Monuments

Policy 46

Do not allow movement of monuments from their original site.

Policy 47

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

1.6.16 Fencing

Policy 48

Maintain the existing metal picket fence and gates around the former St John's Church of England section of the cemetery.

Policy 49

Allow an additional pedestrian gate on the southeastern side of the cemetery, adjacent to the existing vehicular gate.

1.6.17 Resources and Funding

Policy 50

Funding for the conservation of the cemeteries should remain the responsibility of the Hawkesbury City Council.

Policy 51

State and Federal funding could be sought to contribute to the conservation of the burial ground area. Funding for selected maintenance projects and for archival projects such as the updating of cemetery transcripts could be applied for.

1.6.18 Interpretation

Policy 52

Support the revision and continued publication of *Sacred to the Memory; A Study of Wilberforce Cemetery* by N. McHardy. Circulate copies of new and revised editions of the publication to local libraries and historical societies.

Policy 53

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

1.6.19 Statutory Protection

Policy 54

Retain the zoning of the former St John's Church of England section of Wilberforce Cemetery as Special Uses (a) under the Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 1989 (Amended).

Amend the zoning of the former Wesleyan section of Wilberforce Cemetery to Special Uses (a) under the Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 1989 (Amended).

Policy 55

Amend the listing of Wilberforce Cemetery as a heritage item on the Heritage Schedule of Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 1989 (Amended) to include both the former St John's Church of England area of the cemetery and the former Wesleyan area of the cemetery.

Policy 56

Nominate the place for listing on the State Heritage Register and the National Heritage List

1.6.20 Access

Policy 57

Retain public access to Wilberforce Cemetery via pedestrian gates and/or pathways.

Policy 58

Allow upgrading of the existing northwest-southeast and northeast-southwest paths with a stabilised gravel surface. Edges of the paths should be finished with simple three brick drains and/or kerbs.

Policy 59

Ensure pedestrian gates to the former St John's Church of England area of Wilberforce Cemetery are open between sunrise and sunset.

Policy 60

Allow access to vehicles via the northeast-southwest and northwest-southeast paths during funerals.

Policy 61

Close the gravel track through the former Wesleyan section of the cemetery to prevent vehicular access to adjacent residential property.

1.6.21 Vandalism

Policy 62

Maintain the existing fencing and gates and any future gates as set out in Policies 48 and 49. Ensure the pedestrian gates to the cemetery are opened at sunrise and closed at sunset each day to allow visitors access to the cemetery.

Policy 63

Maintain the existing lighting of the cemetery.

Policy 64

Include night patrols of the cemetery by Council rangers and/or police on a regular basis.

1.6.22 Adoption and Review of Conservation Policy

Policy 65

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

Policy 66

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

Policy 67

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

Policy 68

This conservation management plan should be distributed to the following:

- Hawkesbury City Council
- Hawkesbury Library Local Studies Collection
- The Friends of Wilberforce Cemetery
- National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.)
- Any persons involved in the future management or maintenance of Wilberforce Cemetery

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The Brief

The brief for this Conservation Management Plan for Wilberforce Cemetery was prepared by Hawkesbury City Council. The brief is included as Appendix 1.

2.2 Definition of the Study Place and Setting

Wilberforce Cemetery includes Crown Land Reserves at Wilberforce bounded by Copeland Street and Old Sackville Road to the northwest, Duke Road to the southwest and Clergy Road to the southeast. A map of the site is at Figure 1.

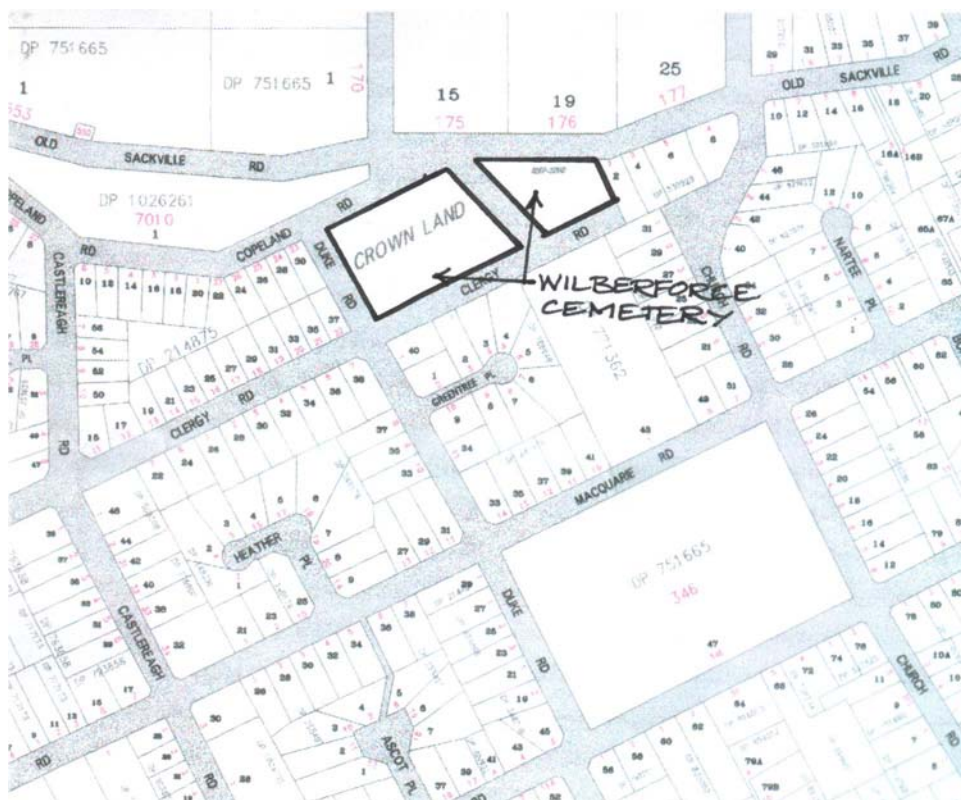


Figure 1
Location Plan – Wilberforce Cemetery
Source: Hawkesbury City Council

2.3 Methodology

This study and report generally follow the methodology and structure outlined in J S Kerr, *The Conservation Plan*, the National Trust of Australia (NSW), fifth edition, 2000. The report is also consistent with the principles of the *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance* (1999) and its Guidelines. Additional documents considered in the preparation of the report include the National Trust of Australia (NSW) *Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation* 2002 (<http://www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au/cemscontents.html>). These documents outline criteria for assessing the significance of cemeteries and address other matters to be considered in examining cemetery conservation issues.

2.4 Natural and Aboriginal Significance

This report only addresses the European cultural significance of the place.

2.5 Terms

The terms fabric, conservation, maintenance, preservation, restoration, reconstruction, adaptation, compatible use, and cultural significance used in this report are defined in the *Australia ICOMOS Charter for the conservation of Places of Cultural Significance - The Burra Charter*, which is included in this report as Appendix 2.

Terms used to describe monuments and grave furniture follow those published in the National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.) *Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation* and reproduced here as Appendix 3. They were based on descriptions published by Lionel Gilbert in *A Grave Look at History*, 1980.

2.6 Author Identification

This report was prepared by Pamela Hubert of Hubert Architects Pty Ltd in conjunction with Jan Barkley Jack of Ian Jack Heritage Consulting Pty Ltd.

The physical survey of the fabric of the place was undertaken between March and April 2007 by the above study team.

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

2.7 Acknowledgements

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3 HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

3.1 History And Context

3.1.1 Background:

Both Aborigines and Europeans have been drawn to live and die beside the river we now know as the Hawkesbury. To the Aborigines of the Darug tribe, who had dwelt in the arms of the Deerubbin (Hawkesbury River) for thousands of years before Europeans took up abode there, the river represented more than a provider, it controlled their lives. Beside the river in the vicinity of Little Cattai Creek, in 1796, Governor Hunter and his party bore the only recorded witness to preparations for a funeral where a pyre was in readiness, and they understood that “a large number of natives ... had assembled for the purpose of burning the corpse of a man who had been killed in some contest among themselves”. The preferred process of farewell to those Aborigines who died of natural causes or those killed by Europeans at the Hawkesbury in conflict over ownership and access to land, is not known. However, from a recognisable similarity with the ceremonies described in the Sydney area, it is probable that young clan members were buried, and those of middle age or older, were cremated.¹

Already at the time of the recorded Hawkesbury Aboriginal cremation, Europeans, too, had died “at the river”. The polarity in the attitudes of the two cultures, so visible in all aspects of their daily lives, was also evident in death: all Europeans in colonial days, no matter what their age, were buried. The most common reasons for Mulgrave Place frontier death— natural causes, wounds sustained stopping Aboriginal access to food supplies, or drowning— also had no impact on the method of interment, although it sometimes influenced the place of burial. Some whose relatives could afford it were taken to a Sydney or Parramatta graveyard. Matthew Lock, for example, ensured that his partner, Euphemia Graham, was buried in the Parramatta Cemetery with a marked headstone.² Most were buried on the property on which they lived.

Around the beginning of the nineteenth century, the first public cemetery at Mulgrave Place came into being, located on the western bank of lower South Creek just upstream of the present-day Fitzroy Bridge in Windsor. It served the entire Hawkesbury district. The burial ground was recorded in use following the March 1806 flood, when the bodies of innkeeper John Chapman Morris and carpenter William Green, were laid there.³ Both these men had drowned in the vicinity of what is today known as Wilberforce. Green, as well as Euphemia Lock and Thomas Webb, a resident who died after an Aboriginal attack on his farm, had all been resident in what became the Wilberforce area.⁴

Matthew Lock, together with Euphemia, had been farming at Mulgrave Place since 1794, the first year that Europeans settled in the district. Amongst the 80 ex-convict settlers taking up land in that year, Lock and a few others had chosen to farm on the northern bank of the river. Along with David Lankey and ex-sailor Thomas Reiby he began cultivating opposite the farms at Pitt Town Bottoms in one of the central reaches of the settlement. This part of the river is now known as Wilberforce Reach. Recent study of the early granting patterns of Acting-Governor Grose indicates that others, who did not have their grants registered until 1795, were also possibly established on the northern bank in this same reach by December 1794. These could include John Molloy, John Laurell, John Ryan (*Friendship?* 1788), John Cobcroft and William Cross.⁵

¹ D. Collins, *An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales*, ed. B.H. Fletcher, Reed, Sydney 1975 (originally published 1798) 1, pp. 299-504

² B. Hardy, *Early Hawkesbury Settlers*, Kangaroo Press, Kenthurst 1985, p. 157

³ *Sydney Gazette* 6.4.1806, 13.4.1806

⁴ Hardy, p. 196; Collins, I, p. 350

⁵ J. Barkley Jack, *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed*, forthcoming

The Mulgrave Place settlement of 30-acre farms at the Hawkesbury, as set up by Grose, was a creation with hidden recesses. It had, in reality, almost twice as many people with proposed land as appears from the official records. Wilberforce can claim its beginnings from 1794, for Wilberforce Reach appears to have had functioning farms along its entire northern length by the end of that year. As well, a solitary grant to soldier John Atkins had been promised in what became York Reach.⁶ This was the next reach downstream, where the town of Wilberforce was created in 1810.

It was the three grants promised in York Reach in 1795 by Acting-Governor Paterson more than any others, that set up the present-day positioning of Wilberforce. The Baker, Fowkes and Waring grants⁷ ensured Wilberforce a focus in York Reach from interregnum times and determined that both Wilberforce and York Reaches developed in tandem. Hunter confirmed these allocations in 1797 and 1798 and consolidated them. He issued additional grants on the remaining northern river bank in York Reach from 1796.⁸ William Mackay received his land in 1797, John Howith registered there in 1798 and in 1799 soldier Charles Watson gained the last available water frontage in the reach.⁹ Also on the north banks of Wilberforce, York or Foulweather Reaches between 1798 and 1800, Samuel Woodham, William Cross, Lawrence May and others received land.¹⁰

Free settlers too had come to the area early. William Burgess had received 150 acres as a grant in 1802 pushing ever downstream into May Pole Reach (now Clarence Reach). As well, ex-convict settlers Thomas Chaseling (or Chasland) and Matthew Everingham received grants even further down river.¹¹ At the same time, an immigrant settler, Thomas Rose, and his family moved into the northern bank district, giving up their attempts to farm between Parramatta and Sydney. The Roses purchased Laurell's grant in Wilberforce Reach from Lawrence May.¹²

Identity first came to the northern bank area with the creation of a Common there by Governor King in 1804. It was one of many Common Lands inaugurated by King throughout the settlements to provide additional grazing pasture for the farmers. For the first time since the Hawkesbury area began, the settlement of Mulgrave Place officially became a series of smaller districts, each one clustered beside a Common, and in some cases taking its name from the Common.¹³

From this time, the farms in the vicinity of Wilberforce and York Reaches to Clarence Reach on the northern side of the river adjoining the large Phillip Common were known as the district of Phillip.¹⁴ The physical shape of the district also became fixed in that no further land was available for allocation behind the existing farms since all unclaimed land at that time became incorporated into the Common. It was a part of the Phillip Common, central to those farms but on higher ground, which was later chosen by Governor Macquarie to become the town of Wilberforce. The district then took this name.

⁶ Governor Hunter, 'Account of Lands granted or leased in .. New South Wales .. 1796 .. to 1800' *Historical Records of Australia [HRA]*, series 1, II pp. 454-464; Department of Lands, Grants Register 2, p.151

⁷ *HRA*, series 1, II pp. 457, 459; Grants Register 2, pp.175, 198, 250

⁸ William Roberts, parish map of Wilberforce, portion 43.

⁹ *HRA*, series 1, II p. 457; Grants Register 2, pp.192, 245, 373

¹⁰ Grants Register 2, p.347; Grants Register 3, pp.2, 3

¹¹ Grants Register 3, pp. 82, 105, nos 2, 5

¹² D. G. Bowd, *Hawkesbury Journey: Up the Windsor Road from Baulkham Hills*, Library of Australian History, North Sydney 1973, p. 100

¹³ Grants Register 3, pp.164, 165; *Sydney Gazette*, 12.8.1804

¹⁴ State Records New South Wales [SRNSW], Map 5962, 1804

Those farmers in present-day Wilberforce-Freemans Reach (the eastern end of Freemans Reach early being considered part of Wilberforce) were no exception, when it came to claiming extra lands to supplement their holdings just before the Commons were proclaimed. Between 1802 and 1804 when Phillip Common was gazetted, no less than eleven additional properties for nine existing Phillip farmers were registered east of Gorricks Lane. Five of them were noted as given “for his children”, an early indication that these farmers intended to stay. All these acreages were between 30 and 150 acres.¹⁵

By 1804, close to Phillip Common, David Brown held 155 acres, David Dunston 90 (120 acres by 1806), John Howith 140 acres, Matthew Lock 135 acres, John Cobcroft 120 acres, Edward Reynolds 60 acres and William Singleton 222 acres.¹⁶ Phillip more than any other district in Mulgrave Place developed as a thriving and almost completely ex-convict settlement farmed by many of its original grantees as continuing owners of large farms. Gentlemen investors from Sydney were less interested in consolidating land with no direct road link to Sydney,¹⁷ and this in turn meant more room for the ex-convict farmers to add to their holdings close to their original grants.

Some of the early grantees of the district of Phillip rented parts of their lands to help sustain their farms. Those taking up the rental properties were mostly ex-convicts, who desired to remain independent on a small acreage. A few early settlers sold up to more former transportees. So it was that as early as 1806 many of the ex-convict forebears of Wilberforce’s most respected and enduring families were already living in the district, even though some of them never received a grant. Names such as Paul Bushell, Thomas Leeson, Peter Clarke, Isaac Gorrick, John Yeomans, Michael Nowland, Charles Cross, William Birch, Robert Farlow, Henry Greentree and Joseph Ware appear in the 1806 Census as residents, along with those of the grantees.¹⁸

The dangers faced by the early settlers of the Phillip District could at times be acute. In addition to Thomas Webb who died of his wounds, David Brown had been speared in the throat as he brought water to his stock and, as already related, some residents had died in the 1806 floods in spite of rescue attempts by Thomas Reiby.¹⁹ The most poignant death of all in the early years of the nineteenth century came to the Howith family on their York Reach property. There on an October day in 1804, the elder boy, John, aged 11 years was fatally bitten by a snake as he searched hollow logs for bandicoots.²⁰

Whether the Mulgrave Place Burying Ground was in use at that time is not positively known, but certainly no burial ground on the northern bank existed. The Howith plot on the river bank of their property also had other burials, as the entire family died within a few years of each other. Almost one hundred and sixty years later, John Howith’s headstone was all that remained in that private graveyard. The headstone so redolent of youthful Hawkesbury tragedy was brought to a special resting place beside the schoolhouse at Wilberforce in 1960 for the occasion of the sesqui-

¹⁵ Grants Register 3, pp.100-147 (Cobcroft, Lock, Brown, Robinson, E. Reynolds, Raby, Howith, Dargon, Singleton)

¹⁶ C. J. Baxter ed., *Muster and Lists, New South Wales and Norfolk Island, 1800-1802*, Australian Biographical and Genealogical Record, Sydney 1988, pp. 74-85; C. J. Baxter ed., *Musters of New South Wales and Norfolk Island, 1805-1806*, Australian Biographical and Genealogical Record, Sydney 1989, pp.140-141

¹⁷ Simeon Lord against John Palmer, Supreme Court of NSW, Court of Civil Jurisdiction Proceedings 1788- 1809, SRNSW Reel 25, CY1092, 10.8.1802-7.7.1803, pp. 315, 335

¹⁸ *Hawkesbury Pioneer Register*, II, Hawkesbury Family History Group, Windsor 2001, p. 90; Baxter ed., *Musters 1805-1806*, *passim*

¹⁹ Hardy, p. 76; *Sydney Gazette*, 6.4.1806

²⁰ Hardy, pp. 147, 148

centenary celebrations of the town, where it can still be seen today. Curiously, it was not incorporated into the Wilberforce Cemetery which was long in existence nearby.²¹

It was not until five years after John Howith's burial that the nearby community downstream, a mainly free, Presbyterian group of settlers, built themselves a church.²² An extant stone shows that by 1812 another burial ground in the Mulgrave Place District had come into existence beside that church at Portland Head, now Ebenezer. It is not known if the Ebenezer graveyard was in existence in 1810 when a move to provide burial grounds close to the residents' farms (and so to prevent river bank burials on unconsecrated ground), came from Governor Macquarie. With an eye to relieving the "deepest Misery and Distress" of the Hawkesbury settlers, Macquarie determined to give them access to land beyond the reach of floodwaters, announcing a set of new official Church of England cemeteries to be in each of his newly formed towns in 1810.²³

The governor embarked on an exploration looking for likely town sites during November and December 1810, choosing a part of Phillip Common as the sole situation for a township on the northern bank in the reaches close to the centre of settlements on Thursday, 6 December 1810.²⁴ Later that evening, at a dinner party, the governor christened the five townships he had decided upon, describing:

"... the township for the Phillip District, on the north or left bank of the Hawkesbury, I have named Wilberforce in honor of and out of respect to the good and virtuous Wm. Wilberforce Esqr. M.P. a true patriot and the real friend of mankind."²⁵

Macquarie's instructions went to Surveyor James Meehan on 26 December 1810. Meehan was to carry out a survey of Wilberforce, and as with the other Hawkesbury towns, to lay out each in "a clear and distinct manner ... with the assistance of Mr Evans, the Deputy Surveyor". Wilberforce was duly measured out around 5 January 1811, noted by Meehan in his notebook at the time as "W36 S5 to the mark 1R[?] of 10[?] makes a square of 4 by 5 for the Burying Ground 2 acres". Just days later, on 11 January, during a return tour of the district, Macquarie's third area for inspection and approval was that surveyed for the site of Wilberforce. The Governor noted that:

"... mounting my horse (I) rode through the Phillip District to survey the scite ... for this part of the country; and having finally fixed upon the proper ground, and the great square, burying ground, and principal streets being marked out by the Surveyor with strong posts, the name (Wilberforce) being painted on a board was nailed on a high post and erected in the middle of the large square in presence of a great number of the most respectable settlers in this district."²⁶

In this laying out of Wilberforce, as in the other towns, the governor was mindful of his Royal Instructions. He had been told to set aside a spot "in or as near each town as possible ...for the building of a church". From Viscount Castlereagh came urgings to provide also for education in

²¹ Plaque at Howith gravemarker beside Wilberforce Schoolhouse

²² R. M. Arndell, *Pioneers of Portland Head*, Smith & Paterson, Fortitude Valley, 1976, pp. 217-222

²³ J. Barkley and M. Nichols, *Hawkesbury 1794-1994: the First 200 Years of the Second Colonisation*, Hawkesbury City Council, Windsor 1994, pp. 41,44; *Sydney Gazette*, 30.3.1811

²⁴ *Lachlan Macquarie, Governor of New South Wales: Journals of his Tours in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, 1810-1822* [Macquarie's Journals], Library of Australian History, Sydney 1979, p. 31

²⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 32

²⁶ *Ibid.*, pp.40-41; SRNSW, Reel 6002,4/3490D, pp.55-60, 26.12.1810, p.97,2.2.1811, Reel 2622, SZ888, Field Book 67, James Meehan,p.45

town planning.²⁷ At Wilberforce, like Windsor, the church sites and therefore the cemeteries were adjacent to the squares. Inevitably, as in the other towns, the burying grounds preceded the buildings.

No plan of the town of Wilberforce signed off by Macquarie himself today exists. From the 1833 map of surveyor Felton Mathew, it is clear that the town marked out was to comprise 15 blocks plus the burial ground allotment. Four streets ran north-east to south-west, the burial ground occupying the most westerly central position outside the grid, furthest from the river. The dimensions of the graveyard given by Mathew are north-south: 4.05 chains and east-west: 5 chains, exactly orientated N36 15W, E36 15N. This is the configuration which basically remains today. James Meehan's field-book shows that the two acre cemetery was laid out promptly in January 1811.²⁸

Adding to present difficulties of understanding the evolution of Wilberforce Cemetery is the fact that no early plan exists showing its internal layout. A rectangle of two acres (0.8 hectares) was set out by Meehan, with the highest land in the northern corner which is about 47 metres above normal river height. At its lowest on the southern extremities the cemetery falls to below 35 metres, still high enough to withstand all known floods.²⁹

3.1.2 Wilberforce Cemetery: the beginnings 1811-1815:

The Wilberforce government reserve, comprising square and burial ground, was so uppermost in Macquarie's mind when founding the township that these were in place before the streets themselves, by his own admission.³⁰ The surveyors Meehan and Evans were instructed specifically to "set apart 2 acres of Ground in the rear of this central square for the Burial ground ...". J T Campbell, Macquarie's secretary, then informed the Reverend Samuel Marsden that he was to "proceed as soon as convenient" to the new Hawkesbury towns and on to Liverpool to

"... consecrate the several Burial Grounds measured out and assigned for the use of those Townships - Mr Evans the Deputy Surveyor will be ordered to attend you on these occasions to point out the Several situations of the said Burial Grounds"³¹

Macquarie informed the citizens of the colony on May 1811 in a Government and General Order that:

"The respective burial grounds which were some time since marked out for the accommodation of the settlers in the several townships of Liverpool, Windsor, Richmond, Pitt Town, Castlereagh, and Wilberforce having been lately consecrated by the Principal Chaplain, His Excellency the Governor is pleased to give this public notice thereof; and at the same time directs and commands that in future all settlers and others resident in those townships, or in their respective vicinities, shall cease to bury their dead as heretofore within their several farms, and shall in a decent and becoming manner inter them in the consecrated grounds now assigned for that purpose in their respective townships.

"It is further ordered that when a death should happen, notice of the event shall immediately be given to the constable of the district wherein it has occurred; and the constable receiving such information is hereby directed to communicate the

²⁷ *Historical Records of New South Wales [HRNSW]*, VII pp. 135, 139, 145

²⁸ SRNSW, Map 5960, Reel 2622, SZ 888, Field Book 67, p.45

²⁹ *Macquarie's Journals*, pp. 31, 40; C. and N. McHardy, *Sacred to the Memory: a Study of Wilberforce Cemetery*, author, Kurrajong 2003, pp. 6, 44

³⁰ *Macquarie's Journals*, p.41

³¹ SRNSW, Reel 6002, 4/3490D, p.97, 2.2.1811, p.56, 26.12.1810

same with the least possible delay to the nearest resident chaplain, in order that he may attend and perform the funeral service. Any neglect of these orders will be severely punished.”³²

The Orders marked a major change for colonists in how they managed the physical responses to death. From 1811 all who died within some 30 kilometres of a township were to be buried in the public consecrated spaces Macquarie had set aside, not on their own property a stone’s throw from their door. Macquarie’s Orders went on to require the settlers in Wilberforce, like those in other areas, to subscribe the funds to build a school-house as well as to fence the burial ground. Macquarie called the latter their “sacred duty” since this was the best means to protect the remains of their relatives and friends. Prescriptive as ever, Macquarie required the fencing to be done immediately and securely, either by means of “a good wall or strong pallisadoes”. As an encouragement Macquarie pledged a government contribution of ten pounds sterling towards the ground’s enclosure.³³

On two occasions in May, these orders were also published in the *Sydney Gazette* so settlers at Wilberforce would have been well aware of their contents.³⁴ It is not known if the subscription was readily raised in Wilberforce, but by July 1812 the Reverend Mr Robert Cartwright received from the Police Fund the promised payment of £10.0.0 towards enclosing the graveyard at Wilberforce. Neither is it known who built the fence, unlike in Richmond, where the work was undertaken by a team organized by Magistrate William Cox.³⁵ The specifications for the fence around the Richmond Burial Ground give some idea of what could be the expected fencing initially at Wilberforce Cemetery:

“... the Fence to be of split Posts, Rails, and Paling ... the Paling to be 5 feet 6 Inches long, the Pannels to be 9 Feet in length, and 2 Rails each ... The Nails will be found, and the Stuff brought in ...”³⁶

However, whether fenced or not in 1811, the Wilberforce community’s attention was forcibly focused on their new burial ground within just months of the edict and David Brown, or another of the constables referred to, serving the District of Wilberforce, was soon called on to fulfill his new function. Early in December 1811, a triple drowning occurred³⁷ and a constable was duly called to notify the Reverend Mr Cartwright, the new chaplain of the five Hawkesbury districts, to bury the bodies. Too pressed to have developed a separate register for each of the graveyards that had replaced the original Old Burial Ground of Mulgrave Place where no record of burials had been kept,³⁸ Robert Cartwright began a listing general to the entire district. This register was entitled “Register Book for Burials of the Parish Church of Hawkesbury”. Eventually, as independent registers were begun in each district, Cartwright’s record became that solely of St Matthew’s Church of England in Windsor, where he resided. Yet in 1811, individual registers were still some way in the future, that of Wilberforce, for example, not beginning until 1826.³⁹

³² Government & General Order, *HRNSW*, VII 530

³³ Government & General Order, *HRNSW*, VII 530

³⁴ *Sydney Gazette*, 11 & 18.5.1811

³⁵ *Sydney Gazette*, 11.5.1811

³⁶ *Sydney Gazette*, 11.5.1811, 24.10.1812; D. G. Bowd, *Macquarie Country: a History of the Hawkesbury*, author, Windsor 1973, p. 71

³⁷ *St Matthews Church of England, Windsor NSW, Parish Registers 1810 to 1856: a Complete Transcription*, Lake Macquarie Family History Group Inc, Teralba 2003, p.183, nos 36, 37, 38

³⁸ J. Ritchie ed., *The Evidence to the Bigge Reports: New South Wales under Governor Macquarie*, Heinemann, Melbourne 1971, I, 152

³⁹ *Ibid.*, I, 152; *St Matthews Windsor Register*, pp.180-279; Hawkesbury Library, Microfilm Reel 15, Parish of Wilberforce Burial Register

Each of the other new Hawkesbury Church of England burial grounds had already come into use by the time the drowning victims became the first interments to take place at Wilberforce. Ex-convicts James Hamilton (Hambleton) and transported-for-life prisoner Joseph Ware were buried on 13 December 1811, the day following the tragedy. No details of the accident remain. The body of the third person, John Tunstal, a soldier in Macquarie's 73rd regiment, appears not to have been found immediately, for Tunstal was buried at Wilberforce on 14 December 1811.⁴⁰

All were in their late thirties and, with the exception of Tunstal, had been in the colony for a decade or more, working around the Wilberforce area since at least 1806. Hamilton had completed his sentence and was employed as a labourer. His last known employer was George Hall, who had a down-river farm and another almost opposite Wilberforce.⁴¹ Ware was still a prisoner who had at first been a government servant to Lieutenant Thomas Hobby in the Hawkesbury, and then obtained a ticket-of-leave for good behaviour. This allowed him to do paid work, and by 1806 he was labouring for Robert Foster [Forrester?].⁴² These three were the only burials at Wilberforce Cemetery in its first year of existence, and none of the locations is known.

Three further deaths occurred in Wilberforce the next year, 1812, but entries in the Register for two of them are ambiguous as to where they were buried, and they are not included here.⁴³

In between these two adult deaths was the only certain burial in the Wilberforce ground in 1812: that of Jane Rose, the three week-old daughter of Thomas Rose junior and Ann Yeomans (born in New South Wales). Thomas had accompanied his parents Thomas and Jane to the colony on the *Bellona* in 1793 with the first group of free immigrants ever to come to the colony.⁴⁴ Jane's appears to be the first Rose death since the family settled in Hawkesbury but unfortunately, the grave is now unmarked and its exact location unknown. Sadly for Thomas Rose junior and Ann, little Jane's death was all too soon followed by that of their next two children. Their daughters Sarah, who died at 5 months of age on 15 December 1813, and Mary Ann, whose death occurred on 23 November 1815, just two years later at age 2 months, were also laid to rest in the Wilberforce Burial Ground, both within two days of their deaths, almost certainly beside Jane.⁴⁵

In the years during which the three Rose girls' burials took place, that is between 1812 and 1815, there were 16 other burials in the Wilberforce Cemetery. Ten of them form a remarkable pattern, one that was to recur many times in this cemetery: a loss of many older, respected members of the tightly knit community within just a few years. It must have devastated the small society, for the deceased were all pioneers and long time residents in the district. All had arrived in New South Wales in the last decade of the eighteenth century as convicts and all (except for Margaret Chaseling), being over 45 years of age, had been born in England between 1750 and 1769.⁴⁶

In 1813, there had been deaths in February, May, August, two more in September and two in December. John Ruffler, who was one of the September deaths, had been transported for life,

⁴⁰ St Matthews Windsor Register, pp. 182, 183; C.J. Baxter ed., *General Musters of New South Wales, Norfolk Island and Van Diemen's Land, 1811*, Australian Biographical and Genealogical Record, Sydney 1987, p.55 no. 2518 and p.131 no. 6052

⁴¹ Baxter, *Musters 1805-1806*, p.50 no. A1961; D. Bowd, 'Settling In' in R. M. Warner ed., *Overhauling the Colony: George Hall- Pioneer*, Australian Documents Library, Sydney 1990, p.71

⁴² Baxter, *Musters 1800-1802*, p.40 no. AD271; Baxter, *Musters, 1805-1806*, p.109 no. A4621

⁴³ *St Matthews Windsor Register*, p. 183 no. 48, p. 184 no. 65

⁴⁴ Dundas to Phillip, *HRNSW*, I pt.2, p. 631, 14.7.1792; List of Settlers, *HRNSW*, II p. 477, 25.7.1792

⁴⁵ *St Matthews Windsor Register*, p.184, no. 64, p.186, no. 98, p.189, no. 153; *The Hawkesbury Pioneer Register* I, Hawkesbury Family History Group, Windsor 2nd ed/ 1994, p. 164

⁴⁶ *St Matthews Windsor Register*, pp.183-190; see Table 1

arriving in 1788. He was a First Fleeter, the first of the early pioneers from that fleet to be interred at Wilberforce. By 1806 he had purchased land in Phillip District.⁴⁷

William Moore (Mower), a Second Fleeter, also died in September 1813. He had come to the colony as a soldier, left the New South Wales Corps to settle and conduct an Inn at Hawkesbury in 1794, and remained a farmer until his death in Wilberforce.⁴⁸ Another Second Fleeter, Thomas Ambrose, was buried in 1813, just 7 months previous to Ruffler and Moore. Thomas, although a lifer, was permitted to be employed by Thomas Reiby, because he had gained a ticket-of-leave.⁴⁹

Probably the best known of the 1813 burials at Wilberforce was Hannah Singleton. Hannah was one of the few adult residents with no criminal record living in Wilberforce by 1802. She accompanied her husband, convict William Singleton, arriving aboard the *Pitt* in 1792 at the age of around 35 years along with sons Benjamin (of later water-mill and exploration fame) and Joseph. Singleton's 90-acre Hawkesbury grant was promised by Acting-Governor Paterson in 1795, and the family probably took up immediate residence, expanding to over 200 acres by 1806.⁵⁰

Of the five buried at Wilberforce in 1814 James Robinson [Robertson] had arrived on the Third Fleet, aboard the *Albemarle*, reaching Sydney in 1791.⁵¹

Six of the burials took place in 1815. Two were women who had died several reaches downriver from the town itself. Catherine Codie died suddenly in October 1815 at the age of 55 years, after Margaret Chaseling had been recorded by the minister as dying "in childbed".⁵² Margaret, an Irish girl, had been transported as Margaret McMahon on the *Marquis Cornwallis*. Her lifelong companion Thomas Chaseling (or Chasland) had received his Portland Head grant in 1803 from Governor King. In mid-1806 Thomas had been appointed constable for the lands below Little Cattai Creek on both sides of the river and they became settlers of substance. The couple married in 1812 and had Margaret lived just a few more years she would have seen the family's name linked in marriage to the Everingham, Brown and Turnbull families.⁵³

What stamps Margaret Chaseling's death and burial off from any others in those first five years, is the fact that she alone has a marked grave which survives. All other grave-markers, if they existed, have by now disappeared, and all the locations of the 21 other earliest burials in Wilberforce Cemetery by 1815 have thus been lost. Because hers is just one of many names recorded on the sides of the altar stone, it means the inscription and the monument date not from her death but likely, considering the design, from that of her relatives' deaths in the 1860s or 1870s.⁵⁴ It is probable that the interment of Thomas (and any later family member inscribed on the vault) was made into the plot where Margaret was originally laid to rest, their presence supporting the contention that this could be her burial location. Despite this, Margaret's is not the first marker to survive from burial.

⁴⁷ *St Matthews Windsor Register*, p. 186, no. 94; Baxter, *Musters 1805- 1806*, p. 132 no. BO346

⁴⁸ *St Matthews Windsor Register*, p. 186, no. 93; M. Flynn, *The Second Fleet: Britain's Grim Convict Armada of 1790*, Library of Australian History, Sydney 2001, p.449; Bowd, *Hawkesbury Journey*, p.6

⁴⁹ *St Matthews Windsor Register*, p. 185, no. 79; Baxter, *Musters, 1805- 1806*, p. 6 no. A00350

⁵⁰ *St Matthews Windsor Register*, p. 186, no. 92; Hardy, pp. 199, 200; HR4 I pt. 2 p. 458; Baxter, *Musters, 1805-1806*, pp. 140-141 no. BO627

⁵¹ *St Matthews Windsor Register*, p. 187 no.117; R. J. Ryan ed., *The Third Fleet Convicts*, Horwitz Grahame books Pty Ltd, Sydney 1983, p. 95

⁵² *St Matthews Windsor Register*, p.189 no.151, p. 188 no. 135

⁵³ Hardy, pp. 84-85

⁵⁴ McHardy, p.123

In all by the end of 1815, burials representing 20 surnames of residents had taken place in the Wilberforce Cemetery. These were mainly drawn from the “came free” and the ex-convict farming settlers, the townsfolk, their wives and families, the labourers and the assigned convicts. The townsfolk initially had been composed of only those families who ran farms, for in setting up the township, Macquarie had from 1810 required that:

“... each settler will be assigned an allotment of ground for a dwelling-house, offices, garden, corn-yard and stock-yard proportioned to the extent of the farm he holds within the influence of the floods; but it is to be clearly understood that the allotments so given, being intended as places of security for the produce of the lands in the banks of the Hawkesbury and Nepean, cannot be sold or alienated in any manner whatever, but with the farms to which they are from the commencement to be annexed, and they are to be always considered as forming an inseparable part of the said farms.”⁵⁵

The town allotments were not needed by families on the reaches far from the town, like the Chaselings who lived downriver with a backdrop of flood-free mountainous country. It was the likes of the Rose family and other owners of the low lands who were holders of early town allotments. Thus the core Wilberforce community, always remained a farming group, its townsfolk tied inextricably to the farms nearby. Yet all Wilberforce families, whether close by or more distant in the Lower Wilberforce area, needed to utilise the new Burial Ground.

The Reverend Robert Cartwright who conducted the initial 22 burials at Wilberforce Cemetery between 1811 and 1815, had to cross the river and ride his horse to attend, seeking whilst there to aid the families’ spiritual health while they were alive. From the time he took up his appointment in the Hawkesbury Parish in 1810, he was responsible for the 3,397 souls of the entire Hawkesbury area.⁵⁶

When in 1814 Cartwright was relieved of responsibility for Castlereagh and Richmond districts, he was able to perform one of his three Sunday services weekly at Wilberforce. Until the School-house/chapel was erected five years later in its central location, the minister had to give services in private homes, involving him in “a much greater distance to ride in the discharge of my duty”.⁵⁷ It would seem that the only religious service for those being buried was conducted at the graveside.

Already by 1814 the differences in the smaller town communities of Wilberforce and Pitt Town when compared to the main centre were becoming obvious. Unlike Windsor, where convicts still formed the majority of the congregation and many burials, Cartwright was aware of the tight-knit, more traditional family units that were evolving at Wilberforce.⁵⁸

Five years on, Cartwright described his Wilberforce and Pitt Town parishes, as being those where “the stated congregation is the regular families”. His approval, in part, was because of the high proportion of “Native-born” children of ex-convicts in these districts, for Cartwright included “this class” in those he found “the most generally respectable and moral in their conduct”.⁵⁹

Even though he did not have praise for ex-convicts generally, the Reverend Cartwright singled out the congregation of Wilberforce prior to 1819 as the one where there was generally “a good

⁵⁵ Government & General Order, 15.12.1810, *HRNSW*, VII, pp. 469, 470

⁵⁶ Ritchie, *Bigge Reports*, I, pp.151,152, 26.11.1819

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, I, p.154, 26.11.1819

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, I, p.154, 26.11.1819

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, I, pp.154, 155, 26.11.1819

attendance on a Sunday”.⁶⁰ But his final word on congregations was a reminder of how central the Wilberforce Cemetery was to its early community. He told the Bigge Inquiry: “But the largest assembly of free people in any of the districts is at a Funeral.”⁶¹

3.1.3 Wilberforce Cemetery: 1816-1825

The twenty-third burial in Wilberforce Cemetery was Second Fleeter, Anthony/Antony Richardson. He was buried on 4 February 1816, the first for the year, with a headstone marking his grave. There was nothing particularly special about this stone at the time, but today it is has significance because it is the earliest grave-marker intact in its original position.⁶² The marker was made of sandstone, in the shape common at the time: an upright anthropomorphic headstone, its rounded head and square double shoulders framing the carved bare details of the grave’s occupant. The mason is unknown.

As an exemplar of Wilberforce social ties, Richardson’s life and death are also instructive, as twenty-six of Anthony Richardson’s 49 or so years had been spent in the colony. As a labourer in Surrey, Anthony had been sentenced to death for stealing fancy clothing. He landed in New South Wales with the reprieve of a 14-year transportation sentence. Around 1801 he and his partner Elizabeth Humphries appear to have purchased a 15-acre farm in the Hawkesbury district where they grew a modest amount of wheat and maize to support themselves and kept 8 pigs, like most of their neighbours. Richardson even employed two free workers. By 1803 the couple were farming Atkins Farm on York Reach, Wilberforce, in debt to William Cox, but still owning the land three years later, although their reserve stores were depleted.⁶³

When Richardson married in 1812 it was to Susannah Cross, the colonial-born daughter of Second Fleeter Charles Cross, who had purchased Burgess’ 150 acres in Clarence Reach by 1806. Richardson’s young widow’s life after Anthony’s departure shows well the compactness of the community, for her marriage to Richard Rose made her then a step-aunt to the three infant Rose girls already buried in the cemetery.⁶⁴

Including Richardson, and Edward Riley another Second Fleeter (buried 1821, listed in the Register wrongly as a free arrival),⁶⁵ the cemetery received 58 more of Wilberforce’s settlers who died between 1816 and 1825 (see Table 1). In each of the years 1816 up to 1825, the numbers being buried were fairly constant except for 1816 and 1823 when in each year only three and then two long-time residents died, including another drowning fatality. In 1817, 1819 and 1824 there were five per year, in 1818, 1821 and 1822 there were eight, in 1820 there were seven, as in 1825 (including James Clark, who died in 1825 but was buried in 1826), compared to an average of just over four per year between 1812 and 1815.

The year 1819 marked the demise, not only of Ann Turnbull a free immigrant arrival, but of two younger Anns of other well-known Wilberforce families in addition. David Brown’s daughter Ann aged 12 years, and Ann Nowland (Knowland), aged 19, were both colonial born, the type of youngsters to whom the Reverend Cartwright had made reference.⁶⁶ Another 1819 death was that of Mary-Ann Wilkinson, who had settled quietly in Wilberforce after having the misfortune to have been notoriously raped in her early days in the colony near Parramatta.⁶⁷

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, I, p. 154, 26.11.1819

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, I, pp.151-155, 26.11.1819

⁶² *St Matthews Windsor Register*, p.190 no.160; McHardy, pp. 6, 20

⁶³ Flynn, p. 498

⁶⁴ Flynn, p. 498; *The Hawkesbury Pioneer Register*, I, p. 164

⁶⁵ *St Matthews Windsor Register*, p. 203 no.431; Flynn, p. 500

⁶⁶ *St Matthews Windsor Register*, p. 198 no.348, p.197 no.337, p.198 no.342

⁶⁷ *St Matthews Windsor Register*, pp.198,344; Collins, I, p.363

The only eighteenth-century arrival not of European origin who is buried in the cemetery at Wilberforce is Black Benedict who came free to the colony in 1798. Possibly he was a Lascar, coming as a seaman on the ship *Britannia*. Employing Indian sailors was a well established practice on ships leaving that country, or on those elsewhere needing to replace deserting sailors, their employment suiting ship owners because they accepted low rates of pay. Some Lascars came to Sydney from the wreck of the *Sydney Cove*, also in 1798.⁶⁸ Only a few other non-European immigrants are known to have lived in the Hawkesbury in this early period.⁶⁹

One of the early burials, Mary Ann Wright (née Turnbull) who had arrived in the colony as a child and died in 1825 at Everingham Farm on the “Upper Branch of the Hawkesbury River”, was a murder victim. She had been killed by her husband with an axe, having received “five fractures on the fore part of her head and of which fractures and wounds she lingered...and then died”. She was only 29 years of age.⁷⁰

The trend for older male eighteenth-century arrivals to form a large part of the burials had initially continued. Matthew Everingham, a First Fleet convict, settled in the district around 1802, survived an Aboriginal spearing and had gone on to become a constable. It was while executing this duty that Matthew drowned on Christmas Day 1817.⁷¹

Next came the deaths of four other such men over 50 years of age. But soon, following the untimely deaths of four Anns before 1826, the pendulum swung to the demise of females, both mature and tragically young. Amongst the infant burials were Sarah Blackman and Elizabeth Cobcroft, cousins, who died within seven months of each other in 1824. Both were the grand-daughters of John and Sarah Cobcroft who had settled in the Wilberforce district in 1794, and it was the death of the girls, probably buried in adjacent graves that necessitated the acquisition of plots in the cemetery, that in time were to house the first of two Cobcroft vaults. The second vault dates from 1858, when it was built at a cost of £65 to entomb the bodies of the pioneers John and Sarah Cobcroft.⁷²

Youthful Elizabeth Lisson, buried in April 1820, was, like most of the young in the graveyard, a “corn-stalk” or one who had been born in the colony. Her grandmother was to die three years later and her father was buried in 1827. The family had survived a particularly horrifying experience in the March 1806 flood. With water rushing all around them, they were swept away and at the mercy of violent eddies, snagged trees and other flotsam. Thomas Lisson, his mother Hannah, his wife and two children were amongst 11 people carried thus for nearly 14 kilometres on a barley mow, until towed on shore at Howith Farm.⁷³

Perhaps the 14-year-olds Elizabeth Lisson and Susannah Simmons (buried in 1821) had been amongst the first of the Wilberforce children to attend school in the town, for Macquarie told Lord Bathurst on 28 April 1814, that a school-house had been erected at Wilberforce. This followed Macquarie indicating that he had travelled to Wilberforce “to mark out the scite for the

⁶⁸ *St Matthews Windsor Register*, p. 200 no.384; M. Nash, *Cargo for the Colony: the 1797 Wreck of the Merchant Ship Sydney Cove*, Navarine, Woden 2001, pp. 25, 27, 48, 49; J. Cobley, *Sydney Cove, 1795-1805: the Second Governor*, Angus & Robertson, 1986, V, p. 195

⁶⁹ *Sydney Gazette*, 6.8.1809

⁷⁰ *St Matthews Windsor Register*, p 213 no.568; Arndell, p.258

⁷¹ *St Matthews Windsor Register*, p.194 no.215; V. Ross, *Matthew Everingham: a First Fleeter and his Times*, Library of Australian History, North Sydney 1980, p.132

⁷² *St Matthews Windsor Register*, p.210 no.534, p.212 no.554; *The Hawkesbury Pioneer Register*, 1, pp.13, 31; Bowd, *Hawkesbury Journey*, p.100

⁷³ *St Matthews Windsor Register*, p.199 no.364, p.209 no. 508; Parish of Wilberforce Burial Register, Section 1, no.12; *Sydney Gazette*, 6.4.1806, 30.3.1806

schoolhouse” eleven months before. Payment of £50 towards the building came from the Accounts of the Police Fund, the listing appearing in the quarter ending 30 September 1813.⁷⁴

If it was constructed, the building had become unsuitable by 1819 and Wilberforce children soon became the recipients of a grand two-storey brick building in which the schoolmaster had a residence on the ground floor below the School-room which was used as a Chapel on Sundays. The schoolmaster at Wilberforce in the 1820s and 1830s was William Gow, an ex-convict who had married Maria Dunston in 1821. William had a town allotment next to the Dunstons.⁷⁵ The only one of the six Macquarie School Houses to survive, Gow’s school-house building continues to stand proudly with the square (Wilberforce Park), the cemetery and the 1859 church still today sharing the hill-side.

In Government Returns, the burial ground, the school and the chapel continued to be linked just as they had been in Macquarie’s design, and certainly as they were in the landscape and lives of the people of Wilberforce. Ex-Governor Macquarie reported in July 1822 that all six of Macquarie’s graveyards were now composed of 4 acres and all were fenced. At Wilberforce, he lists as provided:

- “1. A large two Story(sic) Brick-Built House as a temporary Chapel and School House, with good accomodation(sic) for the Schoolmaster and his Family, having a Kitchen Garden and a Grazing Paddock attached ... enclosed with a Fence ...
2. A Burial Ground of 4 acres Contiguous to the Temporary chapel, enclosed with a Strong Fence”⁷⁶

While it is true that the burials in Wilberforce Cemetery between 1811 and 1825 evidence the general pattern for Hawkesbury graveyards begun in Macquarie’s time, there is an unusual intensity of burials relating to the district’s earliest pioneering families at Wilberforce. It is the nature of those families as well as their concentrations that gives Wilberforce Cemetery a significance wider than others. The sheer numbers of those buried there who were eighteenth-century ex-convict arrivals settled in the district by 1806, together with the overwhelming count of their early colonial-born offspring interred in the family plots, makes this burial ground quite distinctive among the remaining Macquarie burial grounds. Such a composition and the intact original spatial configuration gives Wilberforce Cemetery a high importance especially as many plots retain early grave markers, no less than sixteen of them original markers on the graves of the eighteenth-century arrivals. Proportionally, Windsor graveyard, although larger, had less such burials having many interments of later-arrival, serving convicts; Richmond had less because of its higher numbers of free immigrant settlers, who rented out their land; Macquarie’s Pitt Town cemetery, which also had less because of large land consolidations, no longer exists; Castlereagh never expanded competitively; and the all important early spatial characteristics of Liverpool Cemetery have now been destroyed. In this period, around 36% of those buried at Wilberforce had reached the colony by 1800, and most were in the district by 1806, whilst another 29% were colonial born to families long resident there. (See Table 1).

⁷⁴ *St Matthews Windsor Register*, p.199 no.364, p.204 no.437; Macquarie to Bathurst, *HRA*, series 1, VIII, pp. 154, 258; M. Wymark, *The History of the Macquarie Schoolhouse 1820 and St John’s Church Wilberforce 1859*, second edition, n.d., no pagination; article, n.d., June Lewis, in scrap book now in possession of Joan Cobcroft of Wilberforce

⁷⁵ D. G. Bowd, *A Short History of Wilberforce, the Fifth Macquarie Town*, author, Wilberforce 1960, pp.2-3; SRNSW, Map 5961

⁷⁶ *HRA*, series 1, X, p. 693, 27.7. 1822

Table 1

Wilberforce Cemetery - Pre-1826 Burials not in St John's Wilberforce Register

Extant Marker	Date of Burial	Name	Status	Age	Date of Death	18 th C Arrival	Reference: St. Matthews Anglican Register
	13.12.1811	James Hamilton (drowned)	exc.	35	12.12.1811		36
	13.12.1811	Joseph Ware (drowned)	exc.	33	12.12.1811	✓	37
	14.12.1811	John Tunstal (drowned)	sol.	28	12.12.1811		38
	16.7.1812	Jane Rose		3w	15.7.1812	b.c.	64
	20.2.1813	Thomas Ambrose	exc.	45	18.2.1813	✓	79
	9.5.1813	Edward Toon	exc.	48	7.5.1813	✓	86
	19.8.1813	Hannah Singleton	c.f.	56	17.8.1813	✓	92
	28.9.1813	William Moore	exsol.	56	26.9.1813	✓	93
	5.9.1813	John Ruffler	exc.	63	3.9.1813	✓	94
	17.12.1813	Sarah Rose		5m	15.12.1813	b.c.	98
	27.12.1813	Ann Keenan	exc.	50	26.12.1813		99
	5.2.1814	James Kenney	exc.	46	4.2.1814	✓	111
	10.4.1814	James Robinson	exc.	45	6.4.1814	✓	117
	28.4.1814	Thomas Bone	con.	45	27.4.1814		118
	10.5.1814	John Temple	exc.	54	9.5.1814		120
	26.5.1814	Isaac West (drowned)	exc.	28	24.5.1814		123
[1860-70s]	5.1.1815	Margaret Chaseling	exc.	38	4.1.1815	✓	135
	21.2.1815	Thomas Payton	exc.	46	16.2.1815	✓	137
	29.4.1815	Susannah Jones	exc.	37	27.4.1815		140
	9.10.1815	Sarah Sibury		1y 10m	7.10.1815	b.c.	150
	19.10.1815	Catherine Codie	exc.	55	17.10.1815	✓	151
	24.11.1815	Mary Ann Rose		2m	23.11.1815	b.c.	153
✓	4.2.1816	Anthony Richardson	exc.	43	2.2.1816	✓	160
	1.4.1816	Virgo Baldwin [Rayner]		12w	30.3.1816	b.c.	170
	25.7.1816	Catherine Needham	exc.	48	22.7.1816	✓	173
	8.5.1817	George Tavanagh	exc.	55	6.5.1817		190
	30.11.1817	Timothy Ryan	exc.	61	29.11.1817	✓	208
	16.12.1817	Thomas Sutton	con.	56	14.12.1817		212
	27.12.1817	John McCarthy (lightning strike)	con.	33	24.12.1817		214
✓	27.12.1817	Matthew Everingham (drowned)	exc.	48	25.12.1817	✓	215
✓	15.2.1818	Thomas Reynolds (Sterling)		18	13.2.1818	b.c.	220
	6.4.1818	Peter Clark	exc.	66	5.4.1818	✓	229
✓	6.4.1818	Henry Greentree	con.	34	5.4.1818		230
	15.6.1818	Ann Shrimpton	exc.	53	13.6.1818	✓	297
	4.9.1818	Michael Bolph	exc.	63	2.9.1818	✓	302
	24.11.1818	John White	con.	45	23.11.1818		305
	30.12.1818	Jacob Hamilton	exc.	52	29.12.1818	✓	314
	31.12.1818	Thomas Siberry	exc.	30	30.12.1818	✓	315
✓	17.8.1819	Ann Brown		12	15.8.1819	b.c.	337
	23.11.1819	Thomas Allen	exc.	56	21.11.1819		341

Extant Marker	Date of Burial	Name	Status	Age	Date of Death	18 th C Arrival	Reference: St. Matthews Anglican Register
✓	27.11.1819	Ann Knowland		19	25.11.1819	b.c.	342
	5.12.1819	Mary Ann Wilkinson	exc.	47	3.12.1819	✓	344
✓	20.12.1819	Ann Turnbull	c.f.	50	18.12.1819		348
	20.2.1820	Joseph Smallsalts	exc.	60	18.2.1820	✓	356
✓	27.4.1820	Elizabeth Lisson		14	26.4.1820	b.c.	364
	12.8.1820	John Brown	exc.	50	11.8.1820	✓	375
✓	1.9.1820	Henry Cobcraft[croft]		6w	30.8.1820	b.c.	378
	8.9.1820	Sarah Church	exc.	47	3.9.1820		381
	15.9.1820	Black Benedict	c.f.	45	12.9.1820	✓	384
	12.12.1820	Jane Bushell	exc.	46	10.12.1820	✓	399
✓	10.2.1821	Philip Devine	exc.	59	9.2.1821	✓	405
	10.8.1821	James Julan	exc.	45	8.8.1821		421
	19.10.1821	John Campbell	exc.	50	18.10.1821	✓	424
	4.11.1821	Mary Lucas	exc.	27	3.11.1821		429
	4.11.1821	James Buttler		10m	3.11.1821	b.c.	430
✓	11.11.1821	Edward Riley	c.f.[x]	59	9.11.1821	✓	431
	16.12.1821	Susannah Maria Simmons		14	14.12.1821	b.c.?	437
	31.12.1821	Patrick Ross (Snake bite)	exc.	34	29.12.1821		438
	9.1.1822	Moses Storkey	con.	39	7.1.1822		440
	15.2.1822	Mary Topping	exc.	45	13.2.1822		446
	24.2.1822	Susannah Gosper		1d	23.2.1822	b.c.	448
✓	1.6.1822	Elizabeth Everingham		20m	28.5.1822	b.c.	459
	8.8.1822	Ann Buttler		2w	7.8.1822	b.c.	466
	11.8.1822	Elizabeth Wainwright	exc.	32	9.8.1822		467
	9.9.1822	Michael Owen	exc.	53	7.9.1822		469
	9.12.1822	James Holland	con.	46	8.12.1822		482
	22.4.1823	Mary Heady	exc.	54	19.4.1823		504
	17.8.1823	Hannah Lisson	exc.	78	13.8.1823	✓	508
	4.1.1824	Bridget Staples		1d	2.1.1824	b.c.	526
✓	21.3.1824	Sarah Blackman		1w	19.3.1824	b.c.	534
	27.5.1824	Jane Marsden		8y 11m	25.5.1824	?	539
	9.10.1824	Eleanor Robinson	exc.	63	7.10.1824		552
✓	21.10.1824	Elizabeth Cobcroft		9	19.10.1824	b.c.	554
	15.1.1825	Stephen Robertson		3m	14.1.1825	b.c.	566
✓	9.2.1825	Mary Ann Wright (murdered)	c.f.	29	7.2.1825		568
	10.5.1825	Richard Dunston		4d	9.5.1825	b.c.	579
	21.6.1825	Joseph Jefferson	con.	32	19.6.1825		585
✓	30.6.1825	Peter Connolly (Kangaroo shooting)		15	26.6.1825	b.c.	586
	10.12.1825	Elizabeth Parkins		15m	9.12.1825	b.c.	608
	1.1.1826	James Clark		4	?	b.c.	610

Key: exc.= ex-convict; con.= convict; sol.= soldier; c.f.= came free; b.c.= born in the colony

Wilberforce Cemetery - 1811-1825

This map includes grave positions previously identified but now no longer marked

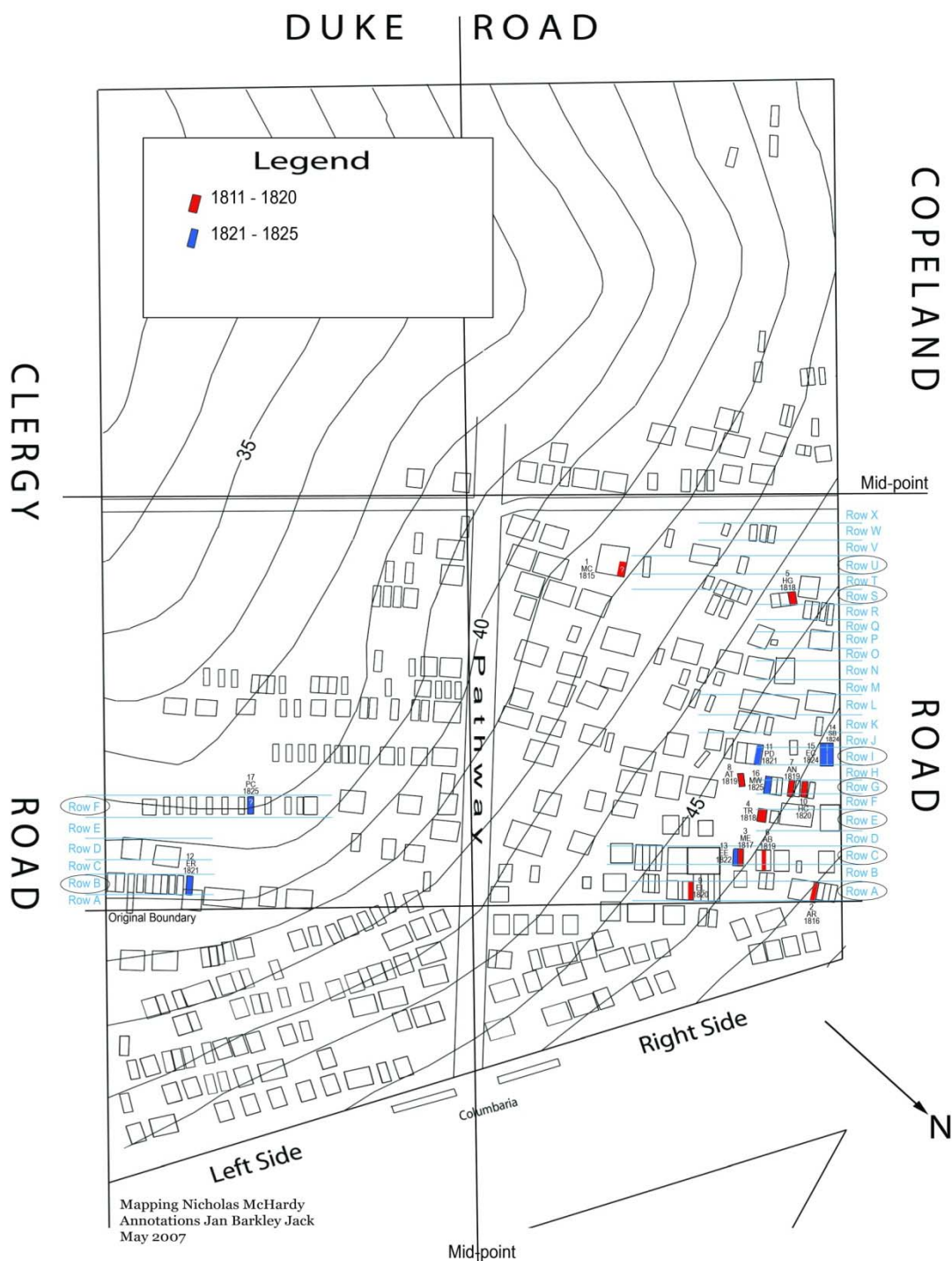


Figure 2
Plan of Wilberforce Cemetery showing all known graves with burials from 1811 to 1825 highlighted.

3.1.4 Wilberforce Cemetery: 1826-1850:

A separate register of burials for Wilberforce Cemetery, called “Parish of Wilberforce, County of Cumberland Burial Register” began in 1826. It followed the delegation to the clergy in 1825 of

registering births, deaths and marriages.⁷⁷ Its first entry, that of David Brown, appears as a record of burial in the St Matthew's Register listed under the Reverend John Cross's jurisdiction, as well as in the Wilberforce Register as an interment conducted by the Reverend Meares, both noting the funeral as taking place on 10 January 1826. Another burial, that of Sarah Kirk at Pitt Town, is likewise listed in two Registers. No other doubling up occurs. The next Wilberforce burial was in February 1826, and William Ball/Bull's interment appears only in the Wilberforce Register. The possibility that Meares began the services and the Register in February, but backdated it to begin with January deaths, remains likely since James Clark had died in 1825.⁷⁸

Matthew Devenish Meares was an Irish Protestant minister of religion, who began the newly-created Parish of Pitt Town-Wilberforce in late 1825. He resided in Windsor, and then in Pitt Town from about 1827, giving weekly services in Wilberforce. Meares continued to sign the burial Register until November 1836, except in two cases. There is no minister's signature against the burial registrations of Rose Cross or David Dunston when they were interred in November and December 1836. The three burials following, between February and November in 1837, were signed by the St Matthew's minister, the Reverend Henry Stiles. The Reverend John Espy Keane began in the parish in January 1838 and remained until well into 1840. Burials of 1841 were conducted at Wilberforce by a number of Ministers, namely J. L. Lane, Henry Stiles, Thomas Hassell and mostly by the Reverend Kemp who remained in the Parish for two years. Thomas Bodenham continued as minister to the Parish until T. C. Ewing took over by May 1846. Ewing was still conducting the burials in Wilberforce at the end of the decade.⁷⁹

The period had begun augustly with the interment of David Brown, the respected Hawkesbury constable and resident from 1795. David, who had arrived on the *Pitt* in 1792, lived at Wilberforce for over thirty years. Descendants of the Brown family are still residing there, the latest burial of a Brown having taken place in 1972.⁸⁰ As the next 25 years unfolded, from 1826 to 1850, around 170 more burials took place at Wilberforce, which number excludes the few listed that were conducted elsewhere. Elizabeth Wilberforce, an Aboriginal girl, whom Cross had baptized in 1825, was buried in the cemetery in January 1829, aged between 15 to 17 years. Only one other such Aboriginal burial is known, that of John Rickaby in the Old Hawkesbury Burial Ground in 1806.⁸¹

By 1850, four more died who had arrived together on the First Fleet, that is David Lankey a 1794 Wilberforce settler, William Field, Samuel Woodham and Catherine Moore (John'son), buried on 18 May 1838. She had begun with a colourful life, evolving from being a convict ordered 50 lashes on Norfolk Island, to having a stable partner in Tristram Moore and being the mother of his children.⁸²

Richard Shrimpton, Michael Nowland and William Pugh were Second Fleeters, like Rose Flood and Charles Cross. Married for 46 years, the Charles Crosses were amongst the first couples to wed in the colony, the ceremony taking place at Parramatta less than five months after they had arrived. By the 1790s they were the owners of two farms at the Hawkesbury, living near Bushells Lagoon; in 1806 Charles sold his 100 acres on the other side of the river to Catherine Moore.

⁷⁷ L.A. Murray, 'Cemeteries in Nineteenth-Century New South Wales: Landscapes of Memory and Identity', unpub. PhD thesis, University of Sydney 2001, p.70

⁷⁸ *St Matthews Windsor Register*, p. 216 nos. 610,611,612; Parish of Wilberforce Burial Register, Section 1, nos.1, 2

⁷⁹ J. Steele, *Early Days of Windsor*, Tyrrell, Sydney 1916, pp. 40, 77; Bowd, *Macquarie Country*, p.73; Parish of Wilberforce Burial Register, Sections 1-2, nos. 1-71

⁸⁰ Barkley Jack, forthcoming; Hardy, p. 76; McHardy, p. 49

⁸¹ Parish of Wilberforce Burial Register, Sections 1-2, nos. 1-71; *Sydney Gazette*, 27.7.1806; *St Matthews Windsor Register*, p.34 no.746

⁸² M. Gillen, *The Founders of Australia: a Biographical Dictionary of the First Fleet*, Library of Australian History, Sydney 1989, pp. 193-194, 213, 126, 392; Parish of Wilberforce Burial Register, Section 1, nos. 5,7,92, Section 2, no. 9

Charles was buried at Wilberforce Cemetery in 1835, Rose Cross in 1836, predeceasing the Moores by just a couple of years.⁸³

Matthias (Matthew) Lock from the Second Fleet was buried in the Cemetery in 1836 after having lived in the Wilberforce area for 42 years. His had been one of the very first farms in the area, dating from 1794, the first year of European farming on the Hawkesbury River. Lock, as a constable, was commended by the Reverend Samuel Marsden for his rescue efforts in the 1806 floods and four years later Macquarie approved his appointment as Chief Constable. By 1820 he was publicly being acknowledged in the newspaper as “an old and universally respected inhabitant of the Hawkesbury”. Lock’s second wife Alice had died 16 months previously.⁸⁴

Mary Mullenden had also arrived on the Second Fleet, buried under her married name of Dunston. The pioneers of the Dunston family both died in 1836, Mary in March and David in December. Although the Dunstons had lived in Wilberforce since 1804, they had had only one need (1825) of the burial ground up to this point in their 32 years residence. Yet between 1836 and 1841 the family interred seven members, all except Andrew placed within the one sandstone vault on the north-western side of Wilberforce Cemetery. Andrew is nearby in a separate grave still with the original marker.⁸⁵

Mary’s husband, David Dunston, as well as Edward Reynolds (buried 1830), William Holland (buried 1832), Daniel Phillips (buried 1833), Richard Reynolds (buried 1837), Henry Branch (buried 1844) and Isaac Gorrick (buried 1846) were all Wilberforce residents who had arrived in 1791 on the Third Fleet. The original markers of all except Holland and Branch are still intact today.⁸⁶

Between 1826 and 1850, twenty more of the earliest Wilberforce pioneers (apart from those on the first three fleets- see Table 2) died on their ground in their adopted land, surrounded in most cases by their families. Many of their headstones are extant. Jane Rose the matriarch of the early immigrant family had lived in the district 25 years when she became the first adult Rose family burial at Wilberforce. The John Armstrong buried on 30 August 1836, supposedly 80 years of age, was listed in both the Register and the 1811 Census as arriving in the colony on board the *Hillsborough* in 1799. The records, however seem to place him on the *Ganges*, on which ship he was perhaps to sail in 1797, although not from Ireland as most records have it, judging by the places of trial.⁸⁷

Several of the other burials of the period between 1826 and 1850 represent the changing scene for some at Wilberforce. In the Register they are shown as tradespeople of Wilberforce, and not listed as farmers. The 1833 plan of Wilberforce town by surveyor Felton Mathew gives some insight into this occurrence. On the town blocks are shown the names of the original owners, who themselves, their relatives or their lessees, lived on the lots, taking up town occupations. Tradesmen such as blacksmiths, wheelwrights and schoolmasters become evident. Some like David Lankey, who was the tailor, and John Wildman, a carpenter, are of unknown residence and so could still be on farms. Isaac Gorrick had an Inn on his Section 1 allotment by 1821, and Matthew Lock’s Section 1 allotment was sporting the Winten’s Safe Retreat Inn by 1837.⁸⁸

⁸³ Flynn, pp. 226, 527, 461-2, 227; Parish of Wilberforce Burial Register, Section 1, nos 14, 28, 13, 76, 84

⁸⁴ Flynn, p. 406; Parish of Wilberforce Burial Register, Section 1, no.78

⁸⁵ Flynn, p. 450; Parish of Wilberforce Burial Register, Section 1, nos. 77, 85, 80, Section 2, nos. 6, 11, 18, 22; McHardy, pp. 119,120

⁸⁶ Ryan, pp. 33, 93, 52, 88, 93, 11, 43; Parish of Wilberforce Burial Register, Section 1, nos. 85, 41, 50, 53, 87, Section 2, nos. 30, 40; McHardy, pp. 120, 106, 131, 108, 100

⁸⁷ Parish of Wilberforce Burial Register, Section 1, nos. 19, 83; Baxter, *Musters, 1811*, p.4 no.0126; Cobley, V, pp. 147, 509, 546

⁸⁸ SRNSW, Map 5961; Parish of Wilberforce Burial Register, Section 1, nos. 5, 34; J. Brunton, ‘Identification of Nineteenth Century Building Sites in Wilberforce, New South Wales’, unpublished MA assignment, University of Sydney, 1977

From the Register we learn that Richard Reynolds was the village shopkeeper, John Norman and James Winton the wheelwrights, Mary Winten the publican, Thomas Hardy the blacksmith, Nancy Stewart a laundress, Ann Brewer a char woman, Dennis Hendrick the shoemaker and Michael Ford a schoolmaster. Mary Ann Constable's husband was a carpenter, and Richard Ridge junior, was another publican. In each case, either they themselves had died or the family had lost a child in the years between 1831 and 1850.⁸⁹

In 1850, well into his 80s, a Hawkesbury identity was buried in Wilberforce Cemetery. Ex-convict Wilberforce and Pitt Town school-teacher John Downing Wood seems to have resided in Wilberforce from about 1841 when he retired.⁹⁰

Around the time Wood was thinking of leaving Pitt Town School, a new teacher was being sought for the school at Wilberforce. A free emigrant wheelwright at Pitt Town named John Wenban, took up the appointment.⁹¹ Interestingly, some of the accounts sent out by John Wenban are still available from his wheelwright days. An example tells that folk from Wilberforce, Lower Wilberforce and Portland Head as well as Pitt Town were in receipt of Wenban's services. Amongst other things, he provided coffins. One was for Ann Sealey, a labourer's wife of Cattai, who died on 7 June 1839, and was shown in the Wilberforce Register as being buried the next day (possibly at Pitt Town).⁹² Her coffin was either much more expensive than another shown, or was not an instalment price:

May 14	Jno Rose.....	£1.0.0
June 7	Ann Sealey, coffin.....	£ 2.10.0
June 11	Wm. Mason, coffin.....	£0.12.0
Sept 9	Mr Chaseling	£0.10.0 ⁹³

Wenban himself was buried in the cemetery in 1859 "leaving a wife and large family to lament their loss". His headstone and footstone are intact and leave the message "prepare to meet thy God".⁹⁴

A big venture was afoot during Wenban's time as school master, when in the 1840s' agitation began for a stone church building. The organizing committee numbered 13, eleven of whom were Wilberforce and Lower Wilberforce residents, and these same men were also generous with their financial pledges. Subscribers were the Farlows, the Vickerys, Jacob Goodrich, the Cobcrofts, the Dunstans, the Tuckermans (of Portland Head), the Robinsons, the Buttsworths, Doctors Day, Dowe and White, the Reverends Stiles and Ewing and John Wenban himself.⁹⁵ The *Herald* of 1848 commented "We shall be glad to see St John's Wilberforce, commenced, judging from the plan it will be a beautiful building, and will cost £600. Nearly £300 has been subscribed."⁹⁶

Macquarie's divine trio was finally about to reach completion (even though he himself had returned to Britain and died): church, separate school and burial ground all juxtaposed, visually imposing on the hill above the river and visible from every house in the town and from most of

⁸⁹ Parish of Wilberforce Burial Register, Section 1, no. 87, Section 2, nos. 4, 12, 2, 7, 68, 17, 37, 36, 21, 24, 58; Hardy, pp. 191, 192

⁹⁰ Parish of Wilberforce Burial Register, Section 2, no. 70; Bowd, *Hawkesbury Journey*, p. 65, Steele, p. 120

⁹¹ Bowd, *Hawkesbury Journey*, pp. 103-110

⁹² Parish of Wilberforce Burial Register, Section 1, no. 104

⁹³ Barkley and Nichols, p. 17

⁹⁴ Parish of Wilberforce Burial Register, Section 2, no. 148; McHardy p. 98

⁹⁵ Bowd, *Macquarie Country*, p. 74

⁹⁶ *Herald*, 1.3.1848, quoted in letter of William Freame, n.d., in scrapbook now in the possession of Joan Cobcroft of Wilberforce

the surrounding farms. The families that made up the Reverend Cartwright's supportive Wilberforce congregation, who sent their children to the school and who had need of the Establishment graveyard for their deceased loved ones, were never far in their daily lives from that silent reminder of God's power or their final earthly destination, just as Macquarie had arranged.

3.1.5 Wilberforce Cemetery: 1851-1900:

William Freame, the later antiquary, commented that in the 1840s "Owing to the depression prevailing at that time, the erection of the church (at Wilberforce) was not proceeded with, and further delays ensued during the early years of the goldfields period". The church, however, was completed by the time John Wenban died in November 1859. Wenban is commemorated by the vertical sundial on the northern outside wall of the new church.⁹⁷

Joshua Vickery, a newly arrived immigrant, was one actually familiar with the goldfields. In 1841 he married Mary Ann Dunstan, the widow of Stephen Dunstan of Wilberforce (and daughter of Wilberforce's Catherine John'son). Mary Ann conducted a general store, in the two-storey residence they built in the township whilst Joshua tilled Moore Farm, immersing himself in the district's Agricultural and Benevolent Societies and Sackville Church affairs; but the adventurer in him was never far away.⁹⁸

Along with seven locals including his nephew Thomas Bowd, Joshua set off for the Ophir Goldfields in 1851. But less than two years later he and William Stubbs (also from Hawkesbury), were dead and buried alongside Mt Ovens north-east of Bathurst. The following year Thomas Bowd organized the unusual undertaking of returning Joshua's body to Wilberforce by his team and dray, so Joshua could be re-buried there. Wife Mary Ann, her third husband John Dawson the circuit steward of the Hawkesbury Methodist Church, Thomas and two others of the Bowd family are also interred in the vault.⁹⁹

Surprisingly, some Wilberforce folk in the 1850s could still claim to have arrived in the colony in the eighteenth century, although their numbers were thinning. William Birch (Burge) listed with his family as one of Wilberforce's poor in 1828 (at the age of 60 years), had arrived on the *Pitt* in 1792 was it was probably he who died in his 80s in 1851.¹⁰⁰ Elizabeth Richards, the life-time partner of Michael Nowland (buried 1852 at the age of 75 years) and Paul Bushell (buried 1853 aged 84 years) were both Second Fleeters. Paul had prospered, living in the Hawkesbury for over 50 years, and owning 310 acres around Wilberforce by 1828.¹⁰¹

⁹⁷ Letter of William Freame, n.d. in scrapbook, Joan Cobcroft of Wilberforce; Bowd, *Macquarie Country*, p.75

⁹⁸ Gillen, p.193; Bowd, *Hawkesbury Journey*, p.111

⁹⁹ Bowd *Hawkesbury Journey*, pp. 111-113; McHardy, p. 107

¹⁰⁰ Parish of Wilberforce Burial Register, Section 2, no.73; M. Sainty and K. John'son, *Census of New South Wales, November 1828*, Library of Australian History, Sydney 1980, pp. 70-71

¹⁰¹ Parish of Wilberforce Burial Register, Section 2, nos 86, 88; Hardy, p.175; Flynn, pp.497, 184-185

Wilberforce Cemetery - 1811-1850

This map includes grave positions previously identified but now no longer marked

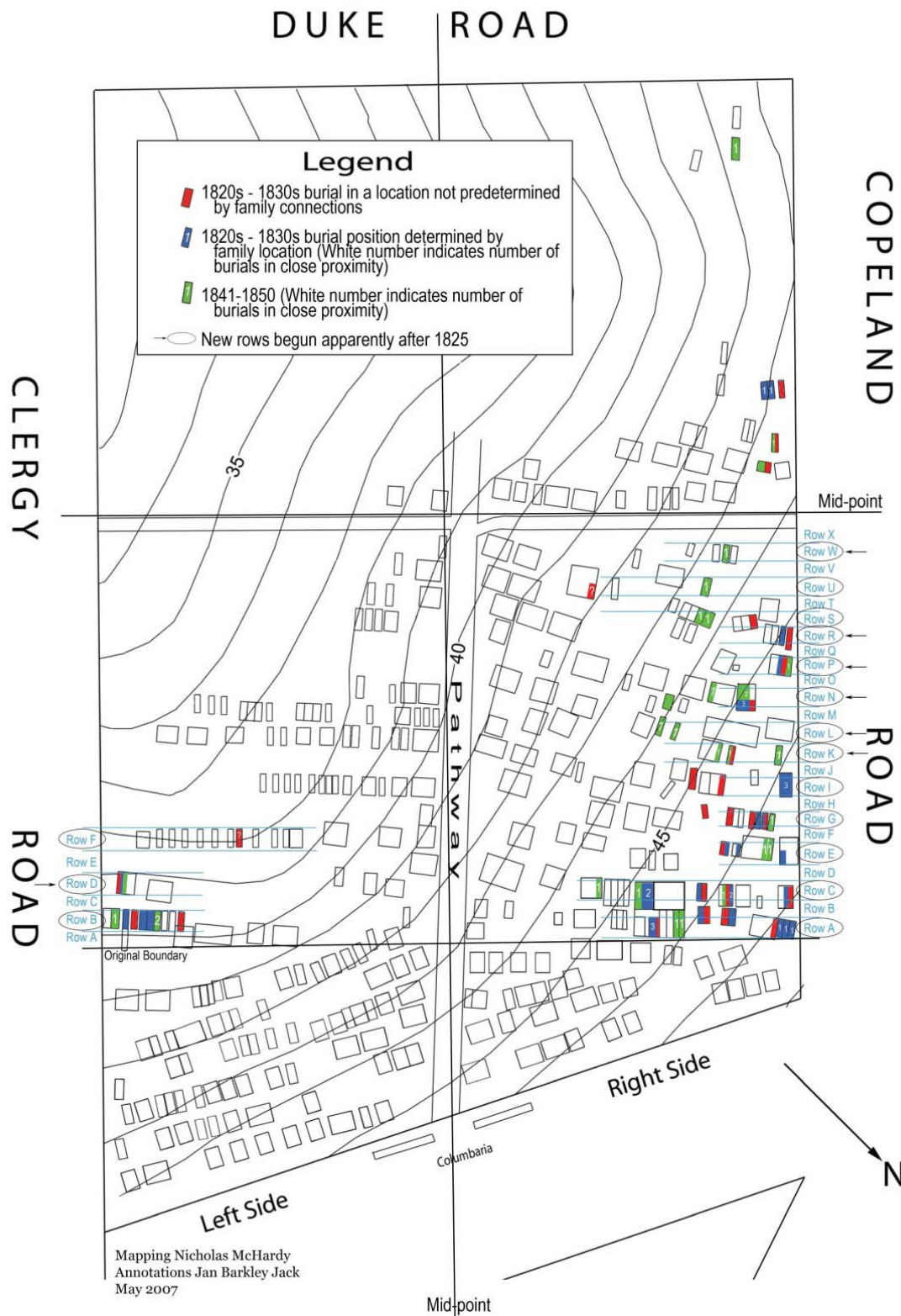


Figure 3
Plan of Wilberforce Cemetery showing all known graves with burials from 1811 to 1850 highlighted.

Table 2

Earliest Pioneers: Eighteenth century arrivals in New South Wales who are buried at Wilberforce Cemetery.

*arrived free; [] = numerical order of Wilberforce burials (approx.)

Extant Marker	Date of Burial	First Fleet (arrived 1788)	Second Fleet (arrived 1790)	Third Fleet (arrived 1791)	Other 18 th Century Arrivals	Arrival Date
	1811				Joseph Ware[2]	1798
	1813		Thomas Ambrose [5]			
	1813				Edward Toon [6]	1800
	1813				Hannah Singleton* [7]	1792
	1813	John Ruffler [8]				
	1813		William Moore* [9]			
	1814				James Kenny [12]	1797
	1814			James Robin[ert]son [13]		
[✓]late	1815				Margaret Chaseling [17]	1796
	1815			Thomas Payton [18]		
	1815				Catherine Codie [21]	1798
✓	1816		Anthony Richardson [23]			
	1816				Catherine Needham [25]	1798
	1817				Timothy Ryan [27]	1794
✓	1817	Matthew Everingham [30]				
	1818				Peter Clark(e) [32]	1797
	1818				Ann Shrimpton [34]	1792
	1818				Michael Bolph [35]	1793
	1818				Jacob Hamilton [37]	1797
	1818				Thomas Siberry [38]	1800
	1819			MaryAnn Wilkinson[42]		
	1820				Joseph Smallsalts [44]	1797
	1820				John Brown [46]	1798
	1820				Black Benedict * [49]	1798
	1820				Jane Bushell [50]	1792
✓	1821	Philip Devine/Tennant [51]				
	1821				John Campbell [53]	1793
✓	1821		Edward Riley [56]			
	1823			Hannah Lisson [68]		
✓	1826				David Brown [81]	1792
	1826	David Lankey [85]				
✓	1826	William Field* [87]				
✓	1826				Sarah/Eliz th Reynolds [89]	1798?
✓	1826				Michael Callaghan [90]	1800
	1827				Margaret Bates [91]	1793
✓	1827				Thomas Lisson [92]	1792
	1827		William Pugh [93]			
	1827		Richard Shrimpton [94]			
✓	1827				Jane Rose* [99]	1793
	1828				Rebecca Gorrick [101]	1796
✓	1828		Michael Nowland [108]			
	1829				John Wildman [114]	1791/1800
✓	1830			Edward Reynolds [121]		
	1832			William Holland [130]		
✓	1833			Daniel Phillips [133]		
✓	1833				Thomas Rose* [138]	1793
✓	1834				Alice Lock/Burroughs [144]	1796
✓	1835				Mary Yeomans [147]	1792
✓	1835		Charles Cross [156]			
✓	1836		Mary Dunstan (Mullenden) [157]			
✓	1836		Matthias Lock [158]			
	1836				John Armstrong [163]	1799
✓	1836		Rose Cross(Flood) [164]			
✓	1836			David Dunstan[165]		
✓	1837			Richard Reynolds [167]		

Extant Marker	Date of Burial	First Fleet (arrived 1788)	Second Fleet (arrived 1790)	Third Fleet (arrived 1791)	Other 18 th Century Arrivals	Arrival Date
✓	1838				Mary Singleton*(Rose)	1793
✓	1838	Catherine Moore(John'son) [172]				
✓	1838				Humphrey Taylor [180]	1792
	1841	Samuel Woodham [189]				
	1842				Thomas Bates [206]	1792
	1844			Henry Branch [210]		
	1846				Ann Brewer [215]	1796
✓	1846			Isaac Gorrick [218]		
✓	1846				Mary Field (Cawthorne) [219]	1798
✓	1847				Thomas Chaseling [229]	
	1849				Philip Roberts [239]	1792
	1851				William Birch/Burge [252]	1792
✓	1852		Elizabeth Nowland (Richards) [263]			
✓	1853		Paul Bushell [265]			
✓	1853		John Cobcroft [269]			
✓	1857		Sarah Cobcroft (Smith) [303]			
✓	1865			Eleanor Brown*(Fleming) [347]		

Three other early arrivals were buried in 1853. Convict Robert Farlow had arrived in the district in 1801 with free wife Ann. After his death the Farlow descendants remained in the area, with spouses from the Dunstan, Greentree, Markwell, Nowland, Salter and Cross families.¹⁰² Henry Buttsworth (Boswaite) was a transportee who had reached New South Wales in 1812, becoming a successful farmer with a goodly stock of cattle and sheep. For 16 years he was the miller, a central character in the still predominantly farming community's lives. He was a progressive, so by 1848 his two-storey stone mill was said to be the first driven by steam in the Hawkesbury.¹⁰³

Also in 1853 came the death of John Cobcroft at the age of 90. From his Second Fleet arrival, he and fellow Second Fleeter Sarah Smith (whom he had married just eleven years before his death) had lived in Wilberforce near on 60 years. They nurtured a family of nine (Elizabeth had died in 1795), all of whom, except James, married locally to produce a dynasty that today encompasses many hundreds of descendants, some of whom still live in Wilberforce. John was buried with son James who had died in 1830, in the second of the Cobcroft family sandstone vaults extant on the northern perimeter of the cemetery. John Cobcroft has the distinction in the Wilberforce district, of being the final remaining exconvict of those who had come to Australia in the eighteenth century, to earn freedom and to live and die in Wilberforce.

His wife Sarah died four years after John. Sarah Cobcroft, respectable and loved midwife and super-grandmother, almost certainly had come free to the colony aboard the *Neptune*, as Sarah Smith, partner of John Cobcroft. She and the wives of the other two men sentenced with John were part of a small group of women and children who accepted free passage to the colony to accompany their convicted loved ones. Her inscription on the vault includes the words "Leaving a Numerous Family and 60 Grandchildren to lament".¹⁰⁴

The very last eighteenth-century arrival buried in Wilberforce Cemetery was Eleanor Brown, the widow of pioneer David Brown. As Eleanor Fleming she had come to the colony free as a child with her family, and had grown up on her colonial-born brother's farm at Pitt Town with her mother and step-father Benjamin Jones, a wealthy ex-convict farmer. Eleanor died aged 84 in

¹⁰² *Hawkesbury Pioneer Register*, II, p.90; McHardy, p. 119

¹⁰³ Bowd, *Hawkesbury Journey*, pp.102-103

¹⁰⁴ Flynn, 541-542; *Hawkesbury Pioneer Register*, I, p. 30; Hardy, pp. 87-88; McHardy, p.108

1865, buried in the Brown family vault with her husband and many others. The vault is in an extremely collapsed condition and the inscriptions are fragmented, although luckily they have been transcribed.¹⁰⁵

Eleanor's nephew, John Henry Fleming, was buried with his wife in a separate Victorian marble-marked grave following his death in 1894, having in his later years been a church-warden at St John's Church, Wilberforce. Long before, in his youth when he had overseen his brother Joseph's northern New South Wales Gwydir River run, he had led and probably organized the stockmen to rope and massacre around 28 Aborigines in 1838. This Myall Creek massacre is well recorded. John's bush knowledge had led to his evading the police party, possibly hiding out in the Macdonald Valley, and so being the only one of the group not brought to trial.¹⁰⁶

Per decade in the latter part of the nineteenth century, the numbers of deaths at Wilberforce appears to be around 77 in the 1850s, 69 in the 1860s, 63 in the 1870s, 94 in the 1880s and 95 up until 1900 ended. These numbers can only be taken as a guide since the registers are not always accurate, and the markers can be merely memorials. Cathy McHardy warns that whilst her numbers attempt to match information from different sources, the precise number of interments is impossible to gauge. Yet, we can see that on average close to 8 persons were buried a year, almost double that of the initial years- a significant increase, even though the population had increased. Between 24 and 45 of the deaths in each of these decades were children aged in the 0-5 bracket. Only around one sixth of burials per decade were names different to the familiar farming family names that had been appearing in the cemetery for at least half a century.¹⁰⁷

The respect the Wilberforce families had for their young and elderly residents is evident in the simple but loving cemetery inscriptions and markers. Yet the consideration and the close inter-connections between the whole community and the care Wilberforce people took to mark a funeral, first remarked on in 1819 by the Reverend Mr Cartwright, were noteworthy. Newspaper reports, though anecdotal and prone to error, can reinforce the testimony of the stones in a general way as two obituaries from 1896 show:¹⁰⁸

"June: ... sad death of another child of Mr E. Martin (of Freeman's Reach), Fanny May Martin who died at her parents' residence on Saturday at the age of 7 years, from the effects of a severe attack of croup. The funeral took place on Sunday afternoon and was one of the longest ever seen at Freeman's Reach. The cortege proceeded (sic) to the Wilberforce Church, where the service was read ... by the incumbent, and the Dead March in "Saul" played by Miss Dunston, after which the remains were carried to their last resting place. Some thirty couples of little girls walked in front, carrying beautiful wreaths while the coffin was laden with many more. The pall-bearers were Messrs. A. Beecroft, G. Bowman, H. Greentree and P. Bushell. The Rev. H. Guinness conducted the funeral service, and Mr T. Collison carried out the funeral arrangements. Much sympathy is expressed for the parents in this their second bereavement within a week."¹⁰⁹

"August: ... (the cortege of) John Buttsworth ... one of the oldest farmers in the district ... proceeded to the Church of England where the service was read and

¹⁰⁵ Parish of Wilberforce Burial Register, Section 2, no.187; Hardy, pp. 76,119, 120; E. Roberts, 'The Fleming Connection' in R.M. Warner ed., *Over-Halling the Colony: George Hall- Pioneer*, Australian Documents Library, Sydney 1990, p.161; McHardy, p. 106

¹⁰⁶ Steele, p.135; N. Townsend, 'Master and Men and the Myall Creek Massacre', *Push From The Bush*, no. 20, 1985, pp. 6, 7, 8

¹⁰⁷ McHardy, p.39; Information from Cathy McHardy, 1.5.2007, transcriptions: 1953/4 by Errol Lea Scarlett, 1991 by Don and Jill Mills, 1991 by Cathy McHardy and Michelle Nichols, 2002/3 by Cathy McHardy and family

¹⁰⁸ McHardy, pp. 103, 130

¹⁰⁹ McHardy, p.130; *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 23.5.1896

from thence to the cemetery where the Rev. H. Guinness assisted by the Rev. W. Glasson conducted the burial service. ... The children of the Wilberforce Public School numbering over 100 marched in front of the hearse while the pall-bearers were Messrs. J. Lane, J. J. Paine, G. Nicholls, A. White, G. Nicholls and the Rev. W. Glasson...”¹¹⁰

By 1865, the year of the last pioneer death, at least 72 of the c.350 burials up to that time were eighteenth-century arrivals. Seven had arrived on the First Fleet, fifteen on the Second Fleet, twelve in the Third and thirty-eight on vessels between 1792 and 1800 (see Table 2). Between them they had begun at Wilberforce the families that continued to form the backbone of the Wilberforce community for its initial 100 years of settlement, and which would continue to do so for the next one hundred, and beyond. The concentrations of such early arrivals, most of whom had taken up their land by 1806, is shown to be greater at Wilberforce than elsewhere. First apparent in the initial 50 years of the cemetery’s foundation,¹¹¹ this was confirmed by the end of the nineteenth century, made even more telling by the fact that a great many of the pioneers’ markers are still extant. Wilberforce Cemetery is thus an unparalleled documentation of a particularly early district’s ex-convict pioneer endurance, spirit and development, emphasised by their descendants’ regular pilgrimages and reunions.

3.1.6 Wilberforce Cemetery: 20th Century and today:

As a sample, the list of burials between 1901 and 1910 bears a remarkable resemblance to those of other decades in the cemetery’s history. Then, a Beecroft, two Bowds, two Bushells, three Buttsworths, a Cobcroft, a Rose, three Turnbells and their relatives from the Clarke, Markwell, Rutter, Martin, Reynolds, Bowd and Teale families were buried with just seven others throughout the cemetery, many in family locations.¹¹²

A new section begun around 1911 now contains around 230 burials or commemorations in 128 plots with a remarkable repeat of the pioneer names already throughout the cemetery for generations: Turnbells, Dunstons, many more Greentrees, Browns, Cobcrofts, Buttsworths, Nicholls, Salters, Grahams, Martins to name but a few. Expansion of Wilberforce town in the twentieth century is reflected in the appearance of other surnames in the graveyard. Some, like the Hayes and Daley burials, were relatives from established families. Only a few, like the names Krahe, Schwalbach and Veljkovic, burials between 1943 and 1998, appear to represent newer migrant arrivals, the last by marriage into the Martin family. The first markers remaining in the wedge addition are from 1911, with five burials listed.¹¹³

Four were in the six rows added to the eastern corner: Charles Rose buried May 1911, Henry James Greentree buried 20 August 1911, John James Green buried 26 August 1911 and Thomas Griffiths buried December 1911. The very next year the spouses of Charles Rose and Henry Greentree were buried beside their respective husbands, the only interments for that year except for Richard Henry Hayes who was buried just north-east of the Greentrees in January 1912.¹¹⁴

In the northeastern addition in 1911, in line with the Greentree grave, Alfred Turnbull was buried in July, then in 1912 Linda May Cox was interred in April, Neil Hall, in August and William Martin in December. The most recent marker is 2000 for Shirley Buttsworth.¹¹⁵

¹¹⁰ McHardy, p.103; Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 8.8.1896

¹¹¹ *St Matthews Windsor Register*, pp. 181-279; Parish of Wilberforce Burial Register, Sections 1-2, nos. 1-71

¹¹² McHardy, pp.48-61

¹¹³ McHardy, pp.64-75, 92-98

¹¹⁴ McHardy, pp. 73, 69, 67

¹¹⁵ McHardy, p. 98, 95, 92

Eight of the graves in the new sections and columbarium, proclaim their owners served in the Australian Armed Forces during World Wars 1 or 2, and some of these graves are marked by the appropriate official metal plaque. In the eastern corner are Private R L Case, Number 5321, who served in the 20 Battalion, died in 1957 aged 79 years¹¹⁶ and Driver A. H. Fotheringham MM buried in 1949, aged 63 years, whose grave has the inscription “3529 ...13 Field Artillery Brigade”. Each has “Australian Imperial Force” insignia; Case’s is on a bronze plaque, while Fotheringham’s is inscribed on his marble marker.¹¹⁷

Other graves flagged with military insignia are to be found in the centre of the eastern quadrant of the Macquarie Church of England burial ground. Private G. Bretherton’s grave also has a standard bronze “Australian Imperial Force” plaque recording “NX35334, 2/13 Infantry Battalion” when he died in 1970 at the age of 69.¹¹⁸ Two burials of ex-servicemen from the Turnbull family are nearby in the same grave commemorated together on a family stone, with two mini decorative “Australian Military Force” insignia. Fred Turnbull was a private in the “1st Battalion AIF, Registration number 1438”. The plaque bearing the letters “ANZAC” when he was buried in 1966, aged 76 years, reveals that he served at Gallipoli. Harold Turnbull, who died 1984 aged 59 years had been a Private in the 2/28 Battalion, 9th Division in the Australian Infantry Forces. Australian Imperial Force insignia were displayed on Lloyd Buttsworth’s columbarium niche when he died in 2000.¹¹⁹

Only one of the graves with an Australian Military Service plaque is located to the north-west of the central path, among the large contingent of the Buttsworth family. Ernest Arthur Buttsworth, known as “Pat”, died in 1995, at the age of 80 years. His grave has an Australian Air Force plaque with insignia. The marker records him as “68703 L.A.C.”, a Leading Aircraftman in the Australian Air Force. The newest marker is in the northern columbarium, for Eric Young, died 17 August 2005. It records “Service no. NX 108828 1942-1946 Rank Bombardier, Unit 2/14 Field Regiment RAA 1943-1946”.¹²⁰

Other twentieth-century burials in the newer section are contained within columbariums. From around the late 1970s, niches seem to have been available in the cemetery, with 22 lots of ashes deposited within two walls close to the boundary along the fence beside the Old Kurrajong track (now an unnamed road). The ashes of 12 people are interred in the eastern wall, including names long visible in the cemetery like the Buttsworth and Smith families. The ashes of Alexander and Elsie Smith who died in the 1950s, were transferred from Rookwood Cemetery and placed in the niches when they became available. Six spaces remain. The northern columbarium has 10 niches filled and eight remaining. There also the family names are mostly familiar, Turnbull and Greentree amongst them. The latest addition to this columbarium is one of the Buttsworth family in 2000.¹²¹

In rows from the centre to the north-east/south-west central pathway in the mid-eastern quadrant, some markers remain, with a mixture of those from the more established families as well as names not before seen in the cemetery. Many of the burials in new plots there are from the 1970s and the 1980s, although those nearest the central north-east/south-west pathway reveal a sprinkling of late Victorian and early twentieth century burials.¹²²

¹¹⁶ McHardy, p.66

¹¹⁷ McHardy, p.68

¹¹⁸ McHardy, p. 87

¹¹⁹ McHardy, p. 85, 63

¹²⁰ McHardy, p. 98; site visit May 2007

¹²¹ McHardy, pp. 63-64, 90-91; Information from Jan Earle, 24.5.2007; Site visit May 2007

¹²² McHardy, pp. 80, 81, 82-90

The most recent burial in the cemetery was a member of the Salter family who was interred in 2007. McHardy puts the total known interments at 1317, with 460 monuments. She records that 842 marked interments exist and more than half that number again (at least 475) are unmarked, but cautions that in some cases, markers may be memorials not graves. Other factors act to make these tallies imprecise, including the fact that even as recently as the 1960s the minister performing the ceremony did not always sight the death certificate to check the information on the interment sheet and did not always enter this latter information personally into the Register. In addition, a burial sometimes took place without a minister being present and, it appears, a burial of a person of a denomination other than Anglican, was not always noted in the register.¹²³

Descendants of some of the oldest families currently live in Wilberforce, but many are now scattered throughout Australia. Still, numbers of them regularly make pilgrimages to the cemetery, tend family graves and attend reunions. The most recent gathering took place in April 2007 when hundreds of members of the Thomas and Jane Rose Family Society Inc., some seventh generation descendants, arrived in the Hawkesbury from most states of Australia to join local Roses. Their visits took them, of course, to the cemetery and to Rose Cottage, Australia's oldest wooden house, the family's home from around 1811 to 1961.¹²⁴

3.2 The Formation Of The Cemetery

The original fenced cemetery at Wilberforce that is the two acres instigated by Governor Macquarie in 1811, accepted its first burials in December of that year. There is no indication where the three graves were located.

During the first decade of its operation, the burial ground received 50 interments: nine of the original markers remain. No original systematic numbering appears to have survived, so it is difficult to describe their position within the grounds, in a way which is meaningful in the context within which these early burials took place.

Cathy McHardy and Nicholas McHardy developed their own system because of the limitations of the other twentieth century numbering attempts by Colo Shire Council and the Trustees before that. The numbering system and plan they devised in 2003 was to facilitate the physical location of any extant monument at the site, and as such, is unsuitable for the exploration of the original spatial layouts. To understand the development of the cemetery, a plan needs to show additional information to clearly indicate that the original two acres stretches only from Duke Street to a line drawn across from the north-easternmost tip of the grave of Anthony Richardson (RR06.20) to the northeastern most tip of the grave of Hilda Rose (LR07.01). Nicholas has kindly re-developed his plan for this report to show the development features, as seen in map 1811-1825 and map 1811-1850.¹²⁵

To help recognise the processes of formation that have taken place across the entire cemetery over almost 200 years, it is also important to see graves in their original groupings and contexts, to track by degrees their building up in an expanding space.¹²⁶ Conveniently, present-day paths divide the original cemetery into portions and if notionally extended across the remaining half of the cemetery, the lines of the paths approximate with the convenient divisions of quadrants.

¹²³ Information from Jill Vincent, April 2007; McHardy p. 6; Information from Cathy McHardy, 1.5.2007

¹²⁴ Programme, '9th Family Reunion of the Descendants of Thomas and Jane Rose', 25.3.2007, www.rosefamilyociety.org.au; Bowd, *Macquarie Country*, p.120

¹²⁵ McHardy, pp. 45, 101, 75; see maps 1811-1825, 1811-1850 drawn by Nicholas McHardy

¹²⁶ E. Dethlefsen and K. Jensen, 'Social Commentary from the Cemetery', *Natural History*, vol.86 no vi, June and July 1977, p. 35; E. Dethlefsen and J. Deetz, 'Death's Heads, Cherubs and Willow Trees: Experimental Archaeology in Colonial Cemeteries', *American Antiquity*, vol. 31 no.4, 1966, pp. 502, 507, 508; R. Francaviglia, 'The Cemetery as an Evolving Cultural Landscape', *Annals of Association of American Geographers*, no.61, p. 501

They run almost exactly along the central axes of Macquarie's ground, and as they are useful organizers by which to describe general locations within the cemetery, they will be used here when discussing the early nineteenth century formation, as dividers of the four quadrants.¹²⁷

All of the early graves are in a north-eastern to south-western orientation, and so, regardless of where the original entry was located, the north-eastern boundary is the one which all graves face and so is the 'front' of the burial ground. It has always been regarded thus in living memory¹²⁸ and is today the location of the only gates. In the earliest times, when the main town blocks were to the south of the cemetery, it is possible that another entry existed, but no knowledge now exists of it.

The earliest marked grave which is possibly in its original position is the eighteenth-century burial which dates from 1815 (Margaret Chaseling) and is to be found in the northern quadrant near the centre of the graveyard, not far in from the line of the path crossing the cemetery from north-west to south-east. The first extant grave marker to survive (that of Anthony/Antony Richardson) was put in position on his death the following year in the extreme northern corner. It does not align with that of Margaret Chaseling in any way, being near the north-western and original north-eastern fence-lines. It forms the beginning of the first apparent row (henceforth for study purposes referred to as Row n-wA). There are five burials separating the two interments.¹²⁹

Seven burials, and more than a year later, in December 1817, Matthew Everingham's is the next extant marker. It is only a couple of plots south-east of the Richardson grave, in what was probably the next row back. Two months after Everingham, the interment of Thomas Reynolds was in line along the north-western fence-line with Antony Richardson but in what would have been the fourth row back.¹³⁰

The fourth burial of known location was that of Henry Greentree, to be found just two interments later at the opposite end of the quadrant, back up near the central path, almost in line with that of Margaret Chaseling, although closer to the north-western fence.¹³¹

The pattern of early burials being situated at each end of the northern quadrant is thus evident, and continues with the sixth to the ninth old marker to survive, the latter four clumped around those already in the northern-most corner. They include Ann Brown, Ann Nowland and Ann Turnbull, all buried in 1819. The Turnbull grave marker is slightly out of line with those nearby, possibly a natural result of the terracing. The two headstones that remain from 1820 are those of Elizabeth Lisson (in what is possible Row n-wA nearest the north-eastern original fence-line about half way along towards the central path) and Henry Cobcroft, buried close to Ann Nowland in what is now notionally Row n-wG.¹³²

All nine burial locations absolutely known from the first decade of the cemetery's operation are thus to be found in the northern sector, with all except one of these (and possibly Margaret Chaseling) clustered in the extreme northern corner, on the embankments above the 45 metre contour. It must, however, be noted that a strong likelihood exists (based on later patterns) that the three infant burials from the Rose family in 1812 to 1815 are located with all other Rose family remains in the eastern segment, alongside the south-eastern boundary, near the unformed Clergy Road. Since the first extant Rose headstone dates from 1827 (being that of the girls'

¹²⁷ Site visit. 5.5.2007

¹²⁸ Information from Don Cobcroft, April 2007

¹²⁹ McHardy, pp. 123, 101; see map 1811-1825

¹³⁰ McHardy, pp.106, 108; see map 1811-1825

¹³¹ McHardy, p.125; see map 1811-1825

¹³² McHardy, pp. 106, 110, 100, 111; see map 1811-1825

grandmother, Jane), this ground is almost certainly the vicinity in which Jane, Sarah and Mary Ann Rose are buried. Adding weight to this is evidence of the interment, within close proximity, of the body of the girls' father Thomas junior, even though his burial took place over 50 years later. Thomas junior's is a double plot; one side is now unmarked.¹³³

From the end of 1820 to 1825 another 29 burials had taken place at Wilberforce, for which seven headstones are extant. Those of Edward Riley (buried 1821) and Peter Connolly (buried 1825) are located in the eastern sector in the vicinity of the Rose family groupings. Peter Connolly, the son of James and Sarah Connolly, Irish transportees, was a Roman Catholic, and his burial is quite separate and to the west of the row in which Edward Riley and the Rose family are to be found.¹³⁴ No early Catholic Burial Registers have been located, so the extent or the location of other Catholic burials has not been established, with one exception which is also to be found in the eastern sector a few rows south: the body of still-born Mary Rose O'Hare being laid to rest in 1973.¹³⁵

In fact, no burials located solely by religion have been identified. Some local residents hold the belief that the eastern sector may have been used for non-Anglican burials, but no record has been kept to substantiate this and a pattern is difficult to perceive. Henry Buttsworth was nominated as a district Wesleyan representative in 1826, but is buried, like his wife, Sarah [Rose], in the northern sector of Wilberforce Cemetery: likewise Joshua Vickery and his relatives. Jane Sophia Buttsworth from 1878 was the first teacher at the provisional school held in the Wesleyan Church building in East Kurrajong. She and husband Richard Buttsworth are also buried in the northern sector of the old Macquarie cemetery. John Turnbull and Edith and Maud Turnbull (probably his daughter and niece) were all involved in the Wesleyan Band of Hope at Sackville in 1896. None of the three appears to be buried at Wilberforce. Also in 1896 Josiah Buttsworth, Ernest James Buttsworth and John Thomas Buttsworth were nominated as Trustees for the part of the General cemetery which was "set apart for Wesleyan Burial Ground", along with two local school teachers and John Markwell. Markwell, two of the Buttsworths and the schoolteacher Louis Simpson were buried in Wilberforce Cemetery, all in the northern section. The original two acres continued to belong to the Church of England, but was, apparently, used by all local family groups.¹³⁶

From at least 1822, the positioning of many interments can be seen to be determined by existing family burials, beginning with Everingham's grand-daughter being buried beside his grave. Because of this, most interments took place in the northern sector. Forty-two burials took place between 1826 and the end of 1830 (counting James Clark). Sixteen have known markers, but only five of these show burials placed independently of the existing graves of loved ones already buried in the cemetery.¹³⁷

Three of the independently positioned graves from this era show how new possible rows were probably begun in the late 1820s: William Field (buried 1826) is the first extant grave in a possible

¹³³ McHardy, p. 58

¹³⁴ McHardy, pp.78, 80; *St Matthews Windsor Register*, p.214 no.586; *1828 Census*, pp. 98-99 no.C2050; B. Hall, *A Desperate Set of Villains*, author, Sydney 2000, p.70

¹³⁵ McHardy, p. 57; Hawkesbury Library, Cemeteries File, 'Wilberforce Cemetery, Notice of Interment' 17.4.1973, RLP Book 111, Roman Catholic Burial Register, St Matthews Roman Catholic Church, Windsor, 1972-1979, Rose O'Hare, 8.3.1973

¹³⁶ J. Colwell, *The Illustrated History of Methodism*, Brooks, Sydney 1904, p.160; McHardy, pp.104, 122, 126, 97, 96, 120; *Windsor & Richmond Gazette*, 9.5.1896, 30.5. 1896; *NSW Government Gazette*, 9.9.1896, vol. V p. 6292; Information Cathy McHardy, 2.5.2007

¹³⁷ McHardy, pp. 105, 106, 49-58; Parish of Wilberforce Burial Register, Section 1, nos 1-41; *St Matthews Windsor Register*, p.216, no. 610

Row n-wK, Michael Callaghan a few spaces south-east of Devine, and Harriott Graham whose headstone remains close to the north-western fence-line several possible rows beyond Field.¹³⁸

As only approximately 27% of the burials in Wilberforce Cemetery in the first two decades have known locations, it is inappropriate to make definitive statements about the cemetery's development, in spite of three-quarters of them being in the northern section. The reconstruction of the first two decades of burials is however, on paper, an interesting exercise and allows some tentative possibilities to be explored. It is on scribing a line along the tops of the earliest adjacent graves, and along their lowest points, that an impression of rows is produced.

Continuing to draw these notional parallel lines equidistantly throughout the entire northern quadrant, allows 24 such rows to be positioned within the northern sector (see Map 1811-1825 marked with rows n-wA to n-wX). Each row in the northern section, after it is begun, appears to be infilled or promised for future family burials, only as far as the high terraces will allow, that is, between 24 and 6 grave spaces wide, before another row, or even several new rows were begun together. The initial containment by the marked terraces of the newly formed rows appears to be a distinctive feature of this cemetery.

The other twelve of the identifiable locations up to the end of 1850 are in the eastern quadrant on flat ground of medium height. Here the locations are within just three rows which stretch from the boundary to the known length of 17 grave sites. Contained within this area is enough unmarked space to allow about 80 more graves. This space, if one takes into consideration the surrounding vacant area, has perhaps the capacity to accommodate many of the remaining graves known to exist but unmarked in the first two decades of burials at Wilberforce Cemetery. As well the northern sector within the area of the known markers, has a little additional unmarked ground. So, taken together, the northern and the eastern quadrants, in the boundaries demarcated by known headstones, have the capacity to hold all burials up until the end of 1830, but not many beyond that.

The notion that Wilberforce Cemetery initially developed in organized rows, is reinforced by what can be shown of burials in the 1830s and 1840s (see map 1811-1850).

One additional development also becomes obvious: the use of the western sector, shown by the 1833 burial of the elderly Daniel Phillips. This grave is placed about five possible rows back from the present north-west to south-east path. Phillips is the first known burial in the western sector, but not necessarily the first interred in that quadrant. The positioning of his grave follows the pattern postulated for the northern sector by being on the highest terrace of its section, close to the north-western fence. Beside Phillips were laid his son Thomas in 1836 and daughter-in-law Margaret in 1838.¹³⁹

In 1834 five-day-old Eliza Walden is known to have been buried to the north-east of Daniel Phillips, also in the western segment. Her grave footstone situated mid-way between Daniel and the path is still in situ, although the headstone was displaced by 1991. A broken, displaced marker survives for nine-month-old John Norman's grave a row closer to the path. From July 1841, two more markers are known from this western quadrant. Eliza's seven year old brother was placed in the grave adjacent whilst two-year-old William Miller was buried a row nearer the present-day path beside John Norman.¹⁴⁰

Positioning burials along the high ground close to the north-western fence in either the north or the west sections appears to have continued into the 1850s, since all of the three gravestones known to have been in the far western corner near the Duke Street boundary, were in this upper

¹³⁸ McHardy, pp. 116, 114, 121; see map 1811-1825

¹³⁹ McHardy, p. 131

¹⁴⁰ McHardy, pp. 131, 129

position. All were well inside the cemetery boundary. Mary Gardner, colonial-born of 1798 and wife of John Gardner, convict (*Marquis Wellington*) has a headstone which is intact there from 1850.¹⁴¹ The present isolation of it (and the other two known headstones once nearby) from the cluster of grave markers remaining in this sector near the pathway, has led to some speculation concerning their origins. It is rumoured that the three burials were those of suicides, or paupers buried away from the rest of those in the cemetery outside the consecrated ground.¹⁴² However, there is no documentary proof of pauper or other special burial, nor of the fence-line having been moved. From the surviving evidence on the map models (see map 1811-1850), the area at least along the fence-line between these graves and the others of the cemetery has a possibility of burial plots, even though they are now unmarked.

The graves dug across the remaining lower half of the northern quadrant from the 1850s onward, as they encounter the problem of the terraces more severely and as they markedly swing to face directly east, develop outside the structure of the early indicated rows giving the appearance of a more random placement. Many conjoined family plots of district families such as Turnbull, Greentree and Dunston are evident. In the northern quadrant the infill from these decades, within the 18 rows already established, continued.¹⁴³

More altar monuments straddling vaults appear to accommodate expanding numbers of dead in some existing family plots, although only ten such vaults remain extant in the whole cemetery. McHardy notes that five date from the period 1851 to 1860, and several are in poor condition. In some the brickwork is disintegrating. Those which have collapsed, like the Brown/Bushell monument, she describes from her study of the cemetery as 'in such a disturbed state that it was not possible to discern which burials took place in each plot'.¹⁴⁴ The altar monuments of some families, like individual headstones or footstones, have had restoration and attention over the years, although the older work does not now always accord with the latest professional advice.

Family plots have continued to receive burials, nonetheless, through the twentieth century and even to today in a few cases. Hence amongst the later marble monuments are to be found throughout, grave-markers that were typical sandstone anthropomorphic slab headstones (with footstones in many cases), dating from the beginning of the cemetery. These were simple arched shapes of extremely limited style, the variation being mostly squared or shaped shoulders and inscription details. The carved letters were often primitive but beautiful, like that on the gravestones of Thomas and Sarah Reynolds or of Anthony Richardson in the northern quadrant; on some, epitaphs are evident. By the middle of the nineteenth century they started to incorporate simple decorations, although most are still sandstone. A tasteful example is the ornate urn carved in an elongated gracious arch on the Cook family marker of the 1870s. As John and Mary Sullivan grieved, they chose an "... I am not dead but sleeping here ..." verse framed by carvings of two angels.¹⁴⁵

Like the northern corner, the eastern sector also expanded in the 1880s and 1890s, but in a more limited way. A cluster of graves came into being on the south-east side of the present-day central path and has the characteristic appearance of a typical late-Victorian set of graves: some marble, more ornate and decorated. Throughout the cemetery, some of the loveliest decorative work of this period was carried out by George Robertson and his mason, John O'Kelly, in Windsor. Like

¹⁴¹ McHardy, p. 131; Information from Cathy McHardy, 1.5.2007, including research of Bill Shute, Portland NSW

¹⁴² Information from Stanley Brown, Jill Vincent and Don Cobcroft, April 2007

¹⁴³ McHardy, pp. 117-118, 124-125, 118-121

¹⁴⁴ McHardy, pp. 18, 20

¹⁴⁵ L. Gilbert, *A Grave Look at History*, Ferguson, Sydney 1980, pp.32-35; McHardy, pp. 17, 28-29, 20, 30, 99

the Windsor Church of England and the Windsor Catholic burial grounds, Wilberforce has examples of their famous cherub and delicately-carved floral sheath designs.¹⁴⁶

On the 1896 marble headstone of John Buttsworth, in keeping with his lavish funeral, Robertson and Co. carved a Morning Glory vine intermingling with lilies, a fine example of both the craftsmanship available from the Windsor stonemasons, and the importance of symbolism that evolved in the Victorian age. The particular flowers used were to express fidelity and remembrance. Around the grave's sandstone kerb, fashionable since around 1871, was placed an iron railing, uncommon now at Wilberforce (although there are some important blacksmith-made wrought-iron railings). The Buttsworth family favoured cast-iron railings, choosing more ornate versions in the twentieth century.¹⁴⁷ Very popular in this period, judging from the 1912 photograph of the cemetery, and more modest of budget, were white picket fences.¹⁴⁸ These now have disappeared. Like elsewhere, poignant home-made markers are still to be found on a few graves, but as the twentieth century wore on, the popular use of granite became evident at Wilberforce as in other graveyards. Minimalism influenced the growth of low, smaller monuments, well evidenced in the new wedge addition to the cemetery.¹⁴⁹

One hundred years after the Church of England Wilberforce burial ground's inception, a small piece of land just 1 rod 20 perches in area, was added to the cemetery. It had by chance lain waste between the burial ground and the track from Kurrajong to Portland Head and Sackville as it meandered down the north-east side of the ground from the 1820s or earlier.¹⁵⁰ Extending the available space on the entire north-eastern boundary of the original two-acre rectangle, it was well used along with the main sections from the second decade of the twentieth century.

This is the only land that has been added to the Church of England cemetery at Wilberforce. From around 1911 the burials in this new wedge-shaped addition were continuous, many in family groupings as in 1993 in the eastern corner where Douglas Bowd OAM, a local historian was interred with earlier family members. On the eastern side of the central path, it allowed basically an additional six rows of graves, over the years incorporating around 148 burials in 86 plots, the last in 1995. In the northern new sector, burials continued from 1911 until 2000 finishing with a Buttsworth interment.¹⁵¹

To the north-west of the central path within the four new rows additional to the cemetery there, only one plot included in McHardy's numbering as part of her row 5 (RR05.01) seems to be an incursion from earlier times and when the line of the old boundary fence is taken, this grave from 1898 and 1909 is clearly part of the original cemetery. On this side, there were recorded 86 burials in approximately 4 rows, less than the eastern side because it is the thinner slice of the wedge.¹⁵²

¹⁴⁶ McHardy, pp. 112, cover, 11, 13, 14, 18

¹⁴⁷ McHardy, pp. 103, 23-25, 21-22

¹⁴⁸ Mitchell Library, Small Picture File, Wilberforce Cemetery, n.d., donated by A. B. Bertie, 23.3.1953; McHardy, p.5, photograph taken c.1912 by Mrs A.G. Foster

¹⁴⁹ McHardy, pp.22, 80, 89, 17, 64-72

¹⁵⁰ Department of Lands, map 1610-1507, by Surveyor C. Scrivener, 1894 (annotations 1896); SRNSW, Map 5042, survey of roads, Wilberforce and the Kurrajong; SRNSW, Map 5960, Wilberforce, 1833

¹⁵¹ McHardy, pp.70, 98, 64-75, 98; Hawkesbury City Council Records, Cemetery folder held in Sean Perry's Office, 1967 Burial Register (blue pattern cover), Receipts for Right of Burial no.071093 (loose paper), H5 C41/8, letter, Phippard to Hawkesbury City Council, 29.9.1986

¹⁵² McHardy, pp. 97, 92-98



Figure 4

1947 Aerial photo showing Wilberforce Cemetery. At this time, north-south path was quite clear. There is no evidence in this photograph of burials in the Wesleyan/General Section. The perimeter of the cemetery was bounded by reasonably dense areas of native trees.

Source: Department of Lands



Figure 5

Wilberforce Cemetery 23 March 1953. At this time some timber picket fences survived around burial sites.

Source: Mitchell Library Small Pictures File

Brick columbarium walls became available flanking the present entrance to the cemetery through the north-eastern gate, positioned either side of the central pathway. The first columbarium was apparently erected in 1979, although Colo Shire had drawn up its first plans as early as 1968,

proposing a later provision of a columbarium. On the 1974 concept plan drawn by the Colo Shire Council, the only location for a columbarium was shown in the upper western quadrant of the original cemetery. It never went ahead and despite some dispute, the columbarium was eventually located at the present entry. Although several niche placements in both walls appear to predate this, these ashes were transferred there well after cremation. Initially columbarium places with plaque cost \$70, but niches were still being sold in 2000, by then at a cost of \$200.¹⁵³

Colo Shire Council executed by need, more rows of graves to be located in the lower eastern section amongst a few graves dating from the 1960s. Burials continued there during the 1970s and 1980. On 1 January 1981 Colo Shire Council was amalgamated with Windsor Municipal Council, becoming Hawkesbury Shire Council which body then took over responsibility for the Wilberforce Graveyard. During the early 1980s Hawkesbury Shire Council continued to make placements available as required in the eastern section, even marking out a new row. Not all plots then sold have been used to date. Whilst the Colo Shire Council's concept design for future expansion of the burial area had not gone ahead by the time of amalgamation, it continued to be used as the basis for plan drawing by Hawkesbury Shire Council. It is from these planning periods between 1973 and 1982 that the current and only extant plans of the cemetery came into existence (see 4.0).¹⁵⁴ The previous plan commissioned by the Trustees in 1943 to be drawn by Mr. O. Turnbull was in process by 1949, but is now lost.¹⁵⁵



Figure 6

1975 Aerial photo showing Wilberforce Cemetery. By this time, many of the trees around the cemetery have been removed, particularly on the north and west sides.

Source: Hawkesbury City Council

In stark contrast to the rest of the cemetery no grave markers, except two in the centre corner (1903, 1979-86), are today to be found in the southern quadrant and no evidence has been forthcoming to show whether or not other burials ever took place there. Questions arise as to whether the new north-eastern sections' popularity after 1911 had to do merely with its upper

¹⁵³ McHardy, pp. 63-64. 90-9; Hawkesbury Library Cemetery File, Colo Shire Council Meetings, 10.4.1969, 22.8.1972, 26.6.1973; Hawkesbury City Council Records, memo Earle to Colo Shire Engineer, 9.11.1979; file P311/180, Part 01, additional reference L311/180/0, letters 29.2.2000, 19.4.2000

¹⁵⁴ Hawkesbury City Council Records, Plan, 'Colo Shire, Wilberforce Cemetery, proposed layout and improvements', file 82.2, plan no. M41, n.d., three versions [first extant edition, 1974, second extant edition, c.1976, third extant edition, 1982]

¹⁵⁵ Trustees of St John's Church of England, Wilberforce, Minute Book, meetings 15.10 1940, 3.11 1943, 9.2.1949, held at St John's, Wilberforce (and Microfilm, Hawkesbury Library); Barkley and Nichols, p.160.

location being preferred over the lower grounds, or whether such lack of use may be indicative of unmarked graves in the southern section. So scant is the available documentation relating to the cemetery's history, that this question of whether graves exist in the southern sector appears solvable only by physical investigation.¹⁵⁶

From November 1986 the Wilberforce Cemetery was closed to interments except for those with existing Right of Burial as owners of pre-established plots or vault placements. Columbarium niche sales continued. Although no new burial places are now currently available in the cemetery, existing rights to plots are still honoured, and additional remains are permitted with family approval, so a few further pioneer family members may still be added to the cemetery in the future. Local residents and inter-state descendants, especially members of the earliest families, are today, in 2007, vocal about the cemetery's importance and their desire to be buried there, expressing a wish to see Council reopen the ground.¹⁵⁷

Increasingly, during the twentieth century, plaques have been added to early graves. A later addition to Anthony Richardson's grave, for example, is a small metal rectangle on a separate sandstone base in memory of his wife, Susannah Richardson Rose, who died in 1872 and who is buried in an unmarked grave in Wittingham Cemetery in Singleton. Some plaques have unfortunately been attached to the original markers. On the northern columbarium there is a large plaque dedicated to the pioneer arrivals of 1788, erected by the Fellowship of First Fleeters in 1988.¹⁵⁸

The lack of records means that little is known about any other changes to the cemetery's fabric over its 196 years. Apart from grave-markers and columbariums, the boundary fencing appears to have been the only continuing structure connected with the burial ground. From the Trustees of St John's Church Cash Book it is known that in 1875 or 1876, some or all of the fencing was renewed, possibly for the first time since Macquarie had insisted on a sturdy post, rail and possibly paling enclosure 64 years previously. The Sexton, Mr Hayes, organised post and rail fencing, at a cost of £8.9.9. Mr Hayes is likely to be Edward Hayes, who at that time would have been about 58 years old. He was buried in the cemetery in August 1889.¹⁵⁹ This fence was still in place when 18 members of the Buttsworth, Cobcroft, Dunston, Beecroft and other families were buried in Wilberforce Cemetery in 1896.¹⁶⁰

The fence remained in 1939 when the Trustees decided to place 'a gate on the top side of the cemetery' and decided that 'a double gate 10 feet wide be purchased'. It cost £2. 14. 6 and the account was passed for payment a few months later. The posts were to be put in and the gate erected by Oliver Turnbull. Previously, in 1923 a cemetery clean-up had been planned, and agreement reached to engage a Mr Becker to undertake it, while at the same time the Chairman was to have the Cemetery gates painted and Oliver Turnbull, the cemetery caretaker, was given authority to purchase a "Key and Padlock" for the existing gate. For some reason these actions lapsed, and the latter two were re-proposed in 1933 when the "new lock and key" were to be

¹⁵⁶ Site visit, may 2007; Information from Cathy McHardy, 1.5.2007

¹⁵⁷ Hawkesbury City Council Records, Cemeteries folder held in Sean Perry's Office, Hawkesbury Shire Council General Manager McCully to Chandler, Funeral Directors, 19.11.1986, 1967 Burial Register (blue pattern cover), Receipts for Right of Burial no.071093 (loose paper), H5 C41/8, letter, Phippard to Hawkesbury City Council, 29.9.1986, Microfiche C41/8 letter, Hawkesbury Shire Clerk McCully to E A Buttsworth, 27.6.1988; Public meeting 23.4.2007; Jill Vincent, Submission to Hawkesbury City Council Consultants, 23.4.2007 (on behalf of The Friends of Wilberforce Cemetery)

¹⁵⁸ McHardy, pp.101, 125, 90; Site visit, May 2007

¹⁵⁹ Hawkesbury Library, Microfilm Reel 15, Trustees of St John's Church of England, Wilberforce, Cash book, 1875-1876; McHardy, pp.4,55; Trustees of St John's Church of England Cemetery, Minute Book 4.6.1921-9.2.1949, meetings 30.10.1937, 1.1.1946

¹⁶⁰ Parish of Wilberforce Burial Register, Section 2, 1896

purchased for the gate, which was to be painted white. Minor repairs were made to the fence in April 1939.¹⁶¹

Today some residents can remember this fence between the 1930s and the 1950s but it then disappeared. A few of the post stumps were still visible in 2004, just inside the present north-western perimeter.¹⁶² Stanley Brown, a descendant of pioneer David Brown, recalls:

“I remember the fence from when I was a young boy going with the old people to look after the graves. It was a slip-rail fence that went right around the graveyard. The posts were about every nine feet. When I was five or six, I went with my Grandmother Atkins who used the broom she made from tea-tree bushes collected at Currency Creek to sweep the graves. We got it around the legs if we ran across the graves and even now at 76 years of age I still dread walking on a grave.”¹⁶³

Don Cobcroft’s recollection is from 1956 when he would climb through the two strands of wire which by then had replaced the lower rails in some places. The top wooden rail remained. He remembers a type of turnstile gate in the northern area in addition to a formal entrance. He thinks part of the fence may have retained intact wooden rails.¹⁶⁴

A 1912 photograph of Wilberforce Cemetery shows the Duke Street fence as post-and-rail, but is indistinct as to whether there were three rails or four. However, it is clearly shown to be four rails on the Clergy Road boundary in a c.1939 photograph of Olive Bowd’s grave.¹⁶⁵

A concern for the burial place of so many of their ancestors has always been manifest, but none so obviously as in the community actions taken over the last 30 years with regard to fencing. Earlier letters to Hawkesbury City Council requesting clean-ups and restorations in the burial ground gave way in 2002 to outrage.¹⁶⁶ The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that the graves of First and Second Fleet arrivals lay smashed, and that “One family vault has been broken open, as has one of the caskets inside, leaving the remains of its occupant clearly visible.”¹⁶⁷

¹⁶¹ Trustees of St John’s Church of England Cemetery, Minute Book 4.6.1921-9.2.1949, meetings 20.10.1923, 20.10.1933, 20.10.1933, 15.4.1939, 11.7.1939, 1/7.11.1939

¹⁶² Information from Stanley Brown and Jill Vincent, March, April 2007

¹⁶³ Information from Stanley Brown, 26.3.2007

¹⁶⁴ Information from Don Cobcroft, April 2007

¹⁶⁵ McHardy, p.5; Mitchell Library, Sydney, Small Pictures File: Wilberforce Cemetery, showing Everingham Tomb, n.d., donated A B Bertie, 23.3.1953; photograph, c.1939, from Geoffrey Bowd made available 2007

¹⁶⁶ Hawkesbury City Council Records, file P 311/180, part 01, additional reference L 311/180/0, Wilberforce Cemetery, letters, 29.3.1997, 1.5.1997, 29.5.1998, 24.10.1999; file GC 040/008 part 3, 1.3.1993; Hawkesbury Library Cemetery File, letter, P Castle to Colo Shire Council, 27.7.1979

¹⁶⁷ Hawkesbury City Council Records, file P 311/180, part 01, additional reference L 311/180/0, smh.com.au, Thursday 5.9.2002

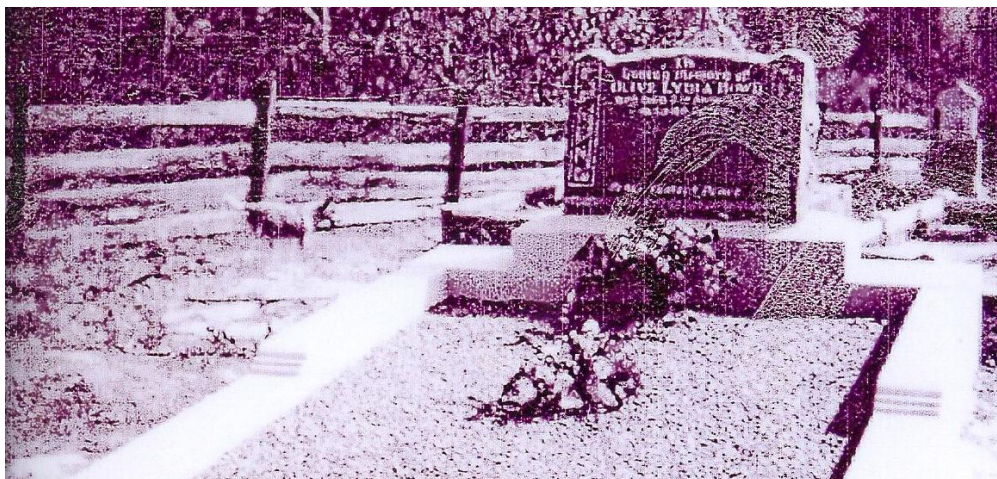


Figure 7

Clergy Road Fencing c. 1939

Source: G. Bowd

St John's Anglican Church wrote:

“For some time now the leaders of the congregation ... concerned about the neglected condition of the Wilberforce Cemetery on our back doorstep and an integral part of the heritage precinct of the Church and School Hall ... it must surely rate as one of our significant icons.”¹⁶⁸

The descendants from near and far, and local residents showed just how socially significant the cemetery remains with their fierce agitation to protect the graves from further vandalism. Growing complaints and press reports led to a meeting being organised by Audrey Robinson in April 2003 with Council's Parks and Recreation Manager Sean Perry and Heritage Advisor, Donald Ellsmore. After extreme vandalism the following September, the cost of repairs necessary to restore the worn or damaged graves in the cemetery had reached \$78,000. A comprehensive “Record of Vandalism” showing the 28 most recently affected graves was prepared by local Jill Vincent in 2003,¹⁶⁹ and the series of community meetings continued. Jill, a descendant of the Tuckerman, Turnbull, Rose and Buttsworth families, led the newly formed Friends group at first called the St John's Cemetery Watch Committee. Together with Mavis Cobcroft, Audrey and Norm Robinson, Stan Brown, Phyllis Phippard and others, the Friends of Wilberforce Cemetery convinced Hawkesbury City Council in 2004 to enclose the Macquarie cemetery and wedge addition within a 2.1 metre-high steel-pole fence, in addition to flood-lighting the site. In January 2004 the Hawkesbury City Council considered the floodlights and the following month the fence.¹⁷⁰ The Hawkesbury City Council business paper of 24 February 2004 stated that “Following ongoing vandalism, the Friends of Wilberforce Cemetery have requested that security fencing be placed around the perimeter of Wilberforce Cemetery ...”¹⁷¹

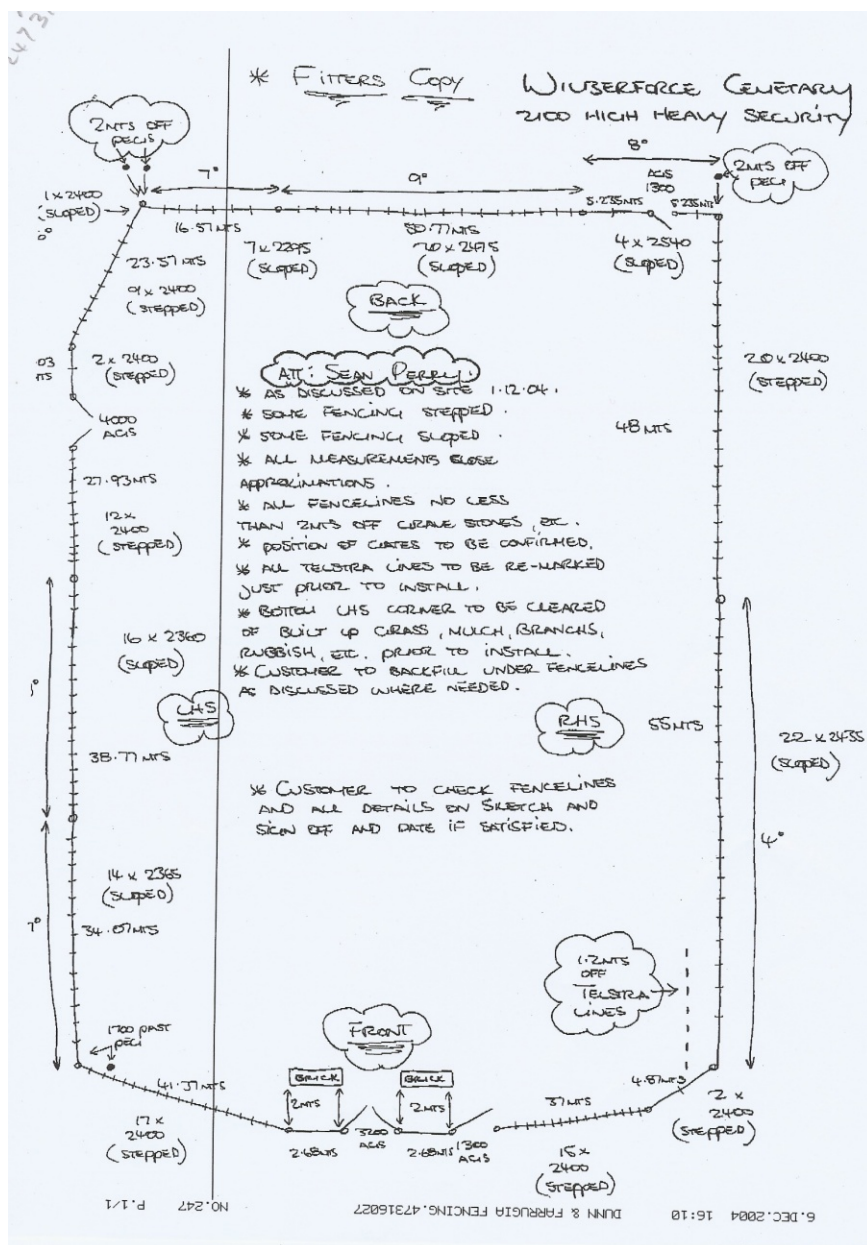
¹⁶⁸ Hawkesbury City Council Records, file P 311/180, part 01, additional reference L 311/180/0, letter 30.7.2002

¹⁶⁹ Hawkesbury City Council Records, Cemeteries folder held in Sean Perry's Office, cutting from *Windsor & Richmond Gazette/ Hawkesbury Gazette*, 4.12.1996, 24.9.2003; ‘Record of vandalism in Wilberforce Historic Cemetery, 5/6.9.2003, Council file P 311/180, part 01, additional reference L311/180/0, 6/7.2002; Information from Jill Vincent, 24.5.2007

¹⁷⁰ Hawkesbury Shire Council Records, Cemeteries folder held in Sean Perry's Office, Police Safety Audit, 3.10.2003; meetings 24.4.2003, 22.5.2003, 26.6.2003, 3.10.2003, 30.10.2003; Hawkesbury City Council, General Purposes Committee meeting 27.1.2004, section 3, p.37; *Hawkesbury Gazette*, 14.7.2004

¹⁷¹ Hawkesbury City Council Records, Hawkesbury City Council meeting 24.2.2004, sect. B, p.8, item, 13

Paul Schoten of Dunn and Farrugia Fencing Company Penrith, successfully carried out the construction of the fencing from 21 February to 2 March 2005. Ever since, the Council has ensured that the gate to the Cemetery is locked every evening and reopened each morning and vandalism has abated.¹⁷²



¹⁷² Hawkesbury City Council Records, memo to Greg Hall and General Manager re DA 0374/04, 6.10.2004; specification sheet, Dunn and Farrugia Penrith, fax 6.12.2004; Hawkesbury City Council Ordinary Meeting 14.9.2004, [Hwww.hawkesbury.local-c.nsw.gov.au/files/2191/ORDH SEP 2004 Mins.](http://www.hawkesbury.local-c.nsw.gov.au/files/2191/ORDH%20SEP%2004%20Mins.); Information from Dunn and Farrugia Penrith, 25.5.2007

The need for a Conservation Management Plan was explained to the April 2003 meeting of the 'Friends' by the Hawkesbury City Heritage Advisor, Donald Ellsmore, to ensure direction to future work and to help secure future funding.¹⁷³

3.2.1 The General Cemetery: Church of England And Wesleyan Sections

In spite of Governor Macquarie declaring on his return to Britain that all the Hawkesbury graveyards were 4 acres in size, the Church of England ground at Wilberforce had remained only the enclosed two acres (2 acres 0 rods and 5 perches by survey) throughout the nineteenth century.¹⁷⁴ If Macquarie had informally later set aside extra land beside all the Hawkesbury Burial Grounds as is implied in his Report of 1822, then at Wilberforce, the supposedly additional two acres can only have been the land to the north-east which was still sylvan and unfenced.¹⁷⁵ There remains however, no further indication that this land was kept either as a reserve or a cemetery so early, except the fact that in time this happened. The two could be unrelated, but in view of the fact that almost every aspect of the cemetery's development unfolds under similar unwritten understandings, it is possible that Macquarie's plans carried forward.

The third edition of the Parish map (1896) shows that on 4 July 1896, part of the unenclosed acres to the north-east of the Church of England Cemetery and the unnamed road (the Old Kurrajong track) was dedicated as a further Burial Ground. It was annotated on Scrivener's 1894 map, (annotated in 1896), to be a "Wesleyan Cemetery", the denominational name crossed out and "General" written above it. No gazettal of the one-acre cemetery has been located but on 9 September 1896, the *Government Gazette* notice of Trustees implied that the General Cemetery remained for the use of Wesleyans.¹⁷⁶

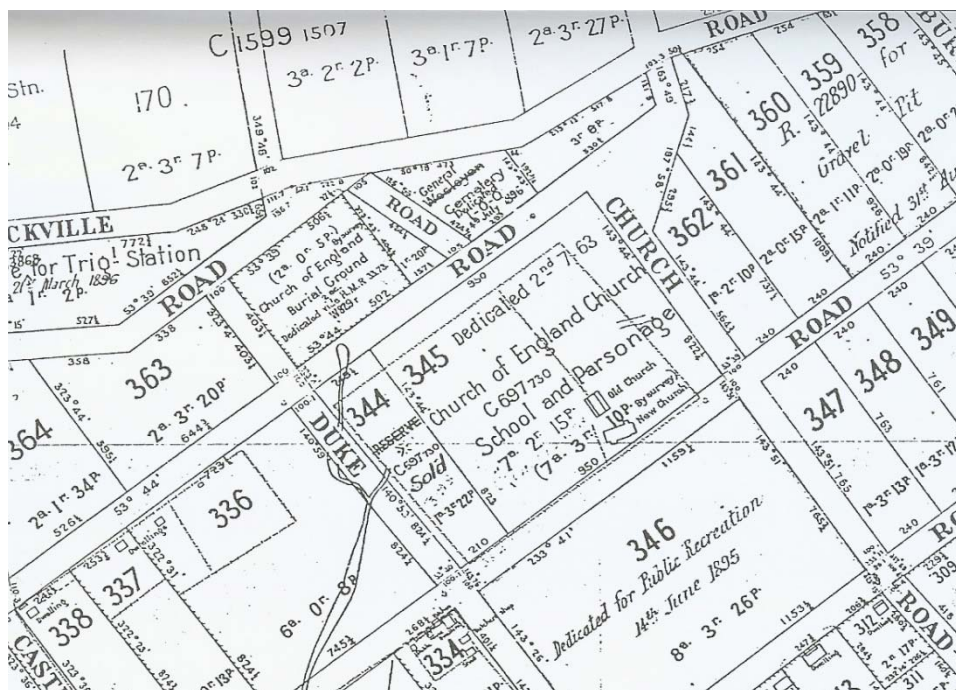


Figure 9

Detail of the 1896 Parish Map of Wilberforce showing the annotation on the Wesleyan Burial Ground indicating it was now a General Cemetery.

¹⁷³ Hawkesbury City Council Records, Cemeteries folder held in Sean Perry's Office, Minutes of Friends of Wilberforce Cemetery Meeting 24.4. 2003

¹⁷⁴ Department of Lands, map 1610-1507, by Surveyor C. Scrivener, 1894 (annotations 1896); *HRA*, series 1, X p.693

¹⁷⁵ Department of Lands, Parish map, 3rd Edition 1896, Wilberforce, County Cook

¹⁷⁶ *NSW Government Gazette*, 9.9.1896, vol. V p.6292

Officially calling the Wesleyan burial area a General Cemetery appears to have been necessary under the General Cemetery Act of 1847 which dictated that future cemeteries would no longer be a series of isolated denominational burial grounds, but that they would be located together and all considered one unit. Hence within a General Cemetery, provision was to be made for portions of the cemetery to belong to individual denominations. So, from its inception in 1896, the Wesleyan Wilberforce Cemetery can be seen to be viewed under the 1847 Act as a denominational part, along with the existing Church of England ground, of the one cemetery at Wilberforce, even though the total area had never officially had its “General” status clarified. From 1847 the Churches had the continued right of management for their portions vested with their own Trustees.¹⁷⁷

Many years later the Town Clerk of Windsor Municipal Council stated that “A general portion of the cemetery was again set apart in 1906”. This statement refers to the small wedge-shaped land utilized from 1911 between Macquarie’s Burial Ground and the now unnamed Old Sackville track to the north-east. The land shows on a Plan of the General Cemetery at Wilberforce lodged in the Land and Property Information section of the Department of Planning and reproduced below at Figure 10. Notes on the plan indicate the extension was dedicated on 22 August 1906. Approval for the extension of the Church of England Cemetery into this wedge shape was gazetted on 29 May 1907. Thus by early in the twentieth century, the Wilberforce Cemetery appears, on paper at least, to have evolved into one loose entity containing two Church of England sections and a Wesleyan section. The term General Cemetery was apparently not used until it came under Council control.¹⁷⁸

The development of the Wesleyan Section of the cemetery remains a mystery. The *NSW Government Gazette* noted that Trustees were appointed for the:

“General Cemetery at Wilberforce, dedicated 4th July 1896, set apart for Wesleyan Burial Ground:-
Messrs. Josiah Buttsworth, Louis Simpson, Ernest James Buttsworth, John Thomas Buttsworth, John Markwell, Napoleon Richard Poidevin.”¹⁷⁹

Whether all the Trustees appointed were Wesleyans is unknown: Messrs Simpson and Poidevin were the Schoolteachers at Freemans Reach and Wilberforce Schools respectively.¹⁸⁰ It is possible that, as at Pitt Town, a further burial ground was anticipated for the Labour Settlement Area population, located at Wilberforce just to the north of the new graveyard. The Phillip Common was to contain the Settlement Area after it was officially notified on 3 October 1894 to provide holdings for the poorer population.¹⁸¹

Methodism or Wesleyanism has been described in the Hawkesbury as being ‘fanned by an army of lay preachers eager to spread the teachings of John Wesley’. The Reverend J. Watkin had visited the district on horseback in the 1850s, his activities including conducting a marriage at Sackville Reach where a Chapel had been built. As early as 1816 Samuel Leigh, the colony’s first Methodist minister, had preached at “Old Tom Rose’s cottage” at Wilberforce after receiving tea and damper from Sarah Rose. Leigh had previously preached ‘in the corn-shed of Mr. T. Bushell’.¹⁸² When the Reverend Carvosso visited Wilberforce in 1820 he found it a “most

¹⁷⁷ L.A. Murray, PhD thesis, pp.74, 84-85

¹⁷⁸ Hawkesbury City Council Records, file GC040/011, part 4, barcode 091206, Cemeteries and Burial Ground Survey September 2002

¹⁷⁹ *NSW Government Gazette*, 9.9.1896, vol. V p.6292

¹⁸⁰ *Windsor & Richmond Gazette*, 25.1.1896, 6.6.1896

¹⁸¹ Barkley and Nichols, p.60; Department of Lands, map 1610-1507, by Surveyor C. Scrivener, 1894, (annotated 1896); *Windsor & Richmond Gazette*, 20.6.1896

¹⁸² Bowd, *Macquarie Country*, pp.87, 85, 88, 83; Colwell, p.71

disheartening place”, although by 1826 the congregation numbered 33, with Henry Buttsworth their nominated representative.¹⁸³

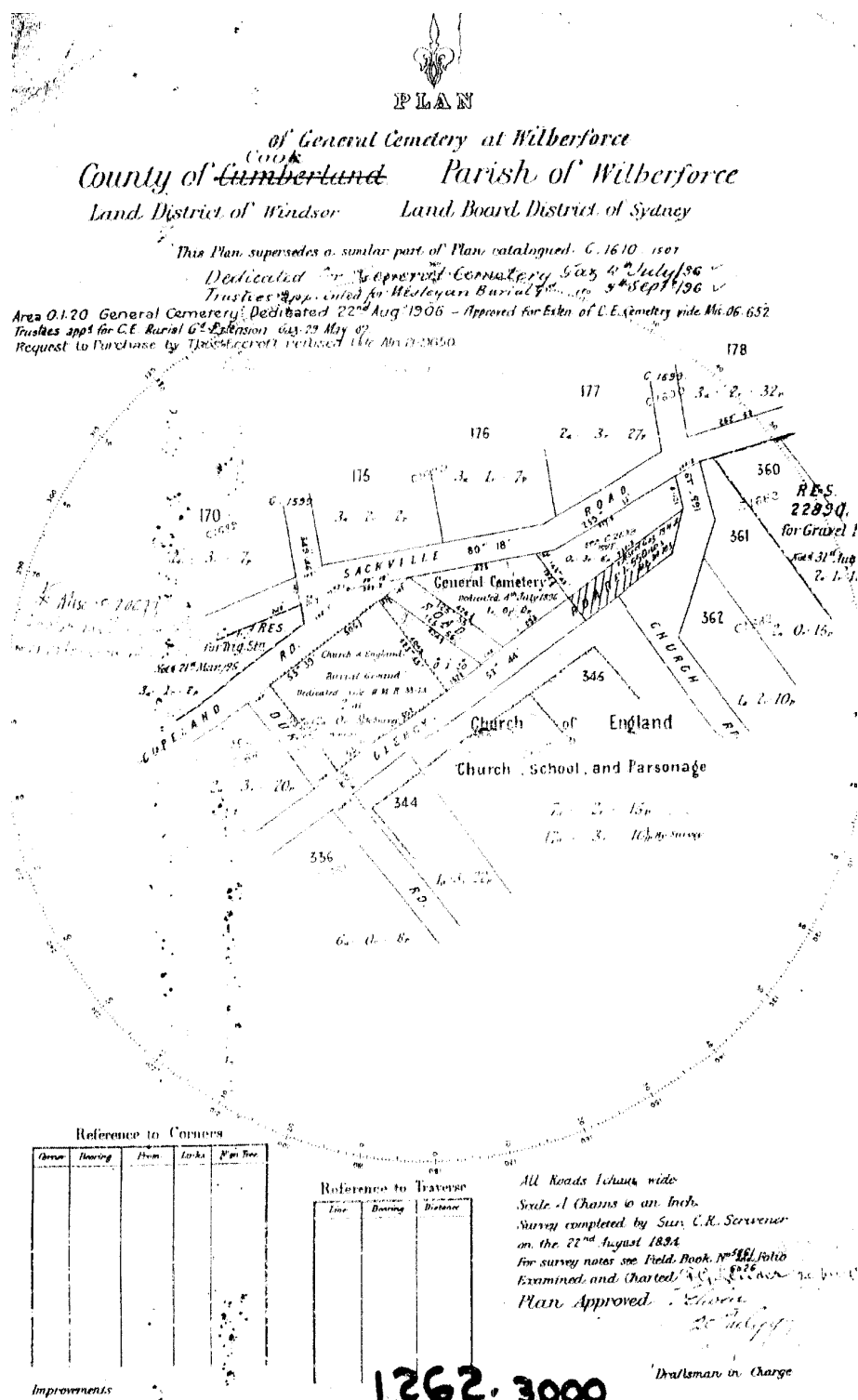


Figure 10

Plan of General Cemetery at Wilberforce showing the dedication of the General Cemetery on 4 July 1896 and the additional wedge of the Church of England Burial Ground dedicated on 22 August 1906

¹⁸³ Colwell, pp. 109, 137, 160

The Wesleyan community at East Kurrajong and at Sackville were particularly strong, and had their own church or schools in the late 1800s. At Wilberforce a Wesleyan Church building existed by 1862. There was obviously no ill-feeling between Protestant denominations in the district, so there was little problem it seems, if their new Wilberforce burial ground was not carried forward.¹⁸⁴ The sentiments of the local Methodists were summed up by their newspaper correspondent in August 1896 when he reported on the Sackville Sunday School as a place where children from “several Protestant churches are taught their respective catechisms as desired” and after one meeting he thanked “our Church of England friends” for their contributions.¹⁸⁵

It is not known if any burials were conducted in the new one-acre Wesleyan Section of the General Cemetery ground; certainly none has been conducted in living memory. No documentation relating to burials there has been located, although local belief among older Wilberforce residents is that burials relating to the Walden family may have taken place there.¹⁸⁶ There is nothing in the records of the Windsor Methodist circuit to indicate whether or not the ground was ever dedicated as a Wesleyan cemetery and there are no known burial registers to add further information.¹⁸⁷ Certainly Buttsworth family members, like those of the Rose and Bushell families, and others who had Methodist connections, continued to be buried with relatives in the Church of England ground.

3.3 Owners And Policies Of Management

From the inception of the original two acre Wilberforce Burial Ground, the management of the Cemetery was vested in the Church of England by Governor Macquarie, as the Established religion in the colony of New South Wales. Around that time options for burial places were limited, with the only other nearby burial ground of another denomination being the Presbyterian ground at Portland Head. Moreover, because burials on unconsecrated ground were no longer allowed, those of other religious persuasions had also to be buried in the Church of England ground. The instructions had been that a constable was to notify the Church of England clergyman of the Parish to allow him to conduct the burial irrespective of the religion of the deceased. This continued until around 1820 when the nearby schoolhouse became available for services, although it appears many services were still conducted by the graveside.¹⁸⁸

In 1823 the Church of England clergy with permission from Governor Brisbane could charge for burials, and in 1836 the Church Act allowed other denominations to administer burial grounds, but did not change the ownership of those existing.¹⁸⁹ Colo Shire Council’s information states that the Wilberforce Church of England Cemetery was dedicated in 1833 and again in 1848. The April 1939 Cemetery Trustees Minutes clarify the earlier date a little, stating that the original cemetery land in Wilberforce was “2 acres 0 rods 5 perches appropriated by half monthly return no. 73 of the year 1833 for a Church of England burial ground”. The need to re-establish the Church of England ownership of the Macquarie Cemetery seems to have been a consequence of the growth in the 1830s of denominational pluralism. Perhaps likewise, the 11 November 1848 re-dedication became necessary after the 1847 General Cemeteries Act, although no other denomination received cemetery land at Wilberforce until 1896.¹⁹⁰

¹⁸⁴ V. Ross, *A Hawkesbury Story*, Library of Australian History, North Sydney 1981, pp. 58,59; Bowd, *A Short History of Wilberforce*, p.7; Information from Cathy McHardy, 2.5.2007

¹⁸⁵ *Windsor & Richmond Gazette*, 9.5.1896

¹⁸⁶ Information from Don Cobcroft and Jill Vincent, April 2007

¹⁸⁷ Correspondence from Daryl Lightfoot, Synod Archivist, Uniting Church Records and Historical Society, NSW Synod, 3.4. 2007

¹⁸⁸ See Section 1.0 History and Context

¹⁸⁹ L.A. Murray, unpub. PhD thesis, pp.70,71

¹⁹⁰ Hawkesbury City Council Records, Cemeteries folder held in Sean Perry’s Office, DJM:DR:82 Town Clerk, Windsor Municipal Council to Chief Librarian, 30.12.1980, Colo Shire Clerk McSullea to National Trust 19.2.1980; Trustees of St John’s Church of England Cemetery, Minute Book 4.6.1921-9.2.1949,

At some early point, Trustees for the Church of England Cemetery had been appointed from within the district to attend to the control and management of the cemetery. The first Trustees known are those listed for 1887: William Bragg, John Henry Fleming, Jonathon Rose Buttsworth, George Greentree, Alexander Smith, Stephen John Dunston and George Nicholls. Few records still exist from the meetings of the Trustees for Wilberforce Cemetery, although the Trustees continued to have the care of the cemetery until around 1967 and did not technically hand over records until February 1968. After that point the old Church of England ground began to be unequivocally listed as a General Cemetery, as shown in Council's 2002 'Cemeteries and Burial Grounds Survey'.¹⁹¹ The Windsor Municipal Council's Town Clerk indicated in 1980 that "Many burials in recent years do not appear in the burial register which contains only details of Church of England funerals. The Trustees did not have records of a number of non-Anglican burials."¹⁹²

The current Burial Register at St John's Church, Wilberforce has been operating since March 1936. The Hawkesbury Library holds a copy of the burial records from 1826.¹⁹³

The only Minutes to survive for the Wilberforce Cemetery Trustees are for the years 1921 to 1949, although some of the general Cash Book 1869 -1944 entries contain references to the Cemetery's management, including repairs to the fence and burial ground gate.¹⁹⁴ For the twelve months ending Easter 1873, the Parish spent a total of £2.10.0 in three clean-ups, further cleaning of the Cemetery costing £1.0.0 between 1878 and 1879 and £2.15.0 between 1885 and 1886. In the years between 1875 and 1887 over twenty parishioners were charged fees to erect grave markers. These included the Curtis, Buttsworth, Dunston, Turnbull, Bushell, Ford, Becroft, Greentree and Cobcroft families, the entries showing that fees were not levied until the stones were in place. The fees ranged from 10/- for one of the Curtis headstones, and the same for the footstone, to £1.10.0 for the headstones erected by Mrs B Dunston, and Mr R Turnbull. Permission for palisading around a grave cost £1.0.0, for a railing the same.¹⁹⁵

The indications are that in the period from around the 1860s until 1887 separate Cemetery Trustees were not in place, or at least when they were, they did not handle the Cemetery's financial affairs independently as they did in the twentieth century. Mr Bragg, the People's Warden kept the cemetery accounts as part of the general parish finances.¹⁹⁶ The only extant Cemetery Trustee Minute Book indicates that the separate Trustees had not met during the First World War I years nor in 1919 or 1920. Initial business on resumption of meetings was the

meeting 15.4.1939; L A Murray, PhD thesis, pp.71, 84, 85; National Trust Heritage Survey by P. Pike, 30.4.1980, supplied by Dr George Gibbons, National Trust of Australia (NSW) Cemeteries Advisor

¹⁹¹ SRNSW, Map 5960, note on map re Alienation Branch, Department of Lands, misc. 87/10601; Hawkesbury City Council Records, Cemeteries folder held in Sean Perry's Office, JJM:CH82-2 Colo Shire Clerk McSullea to P L Castle 29.10.1979, printed sheet (from *Hawkesbury Crier*, newsletter of the Hawkesbury Family History Society, September 1994) attached to the Shire Clerk's Letter JJM:CH82-2, File GC 040/0111, Bar Code 091206, Survey 4.10.2002

¹⁹² Hawkesbury City Council Records, Cemeteries folder held in Sean Perry's Office, DJM:DR:82 Town Clerk, Windsor Municipal Council to Chief Librarian, 30.12.1980

¹⁹³ Burial Register, St John's Church Wilberforce, March 1936 to today, held at St John's, Wilberforce; Hawkesbury Library, Microfilm Reel 15, Parish of Wilberforce Burial Registers

¹⁹⁴ Trustees of St John's Church of England Cemetery, Minute Book 4.6.1921-9.2.1949; Hawkesbury Library, Microfilm Reel 15, St John's Wilberforce Cash Book 1869-1944, entries, 1875-1876, 1881-1882, 1882-1883

¹⁹⁵ Hawkesbury Library, Microfilm Reel 15, St John's Wilberforce Cash Book, entries 1872-1873, 1875-1876, 1876-1877, 1877-1878, 1878-1879, 1879-1880, 1880-1881, 1881-1882, 1882-1883, 1884-1885, 1885-1886, 1886-1887

¹⁹⁶ Hawkesbury Library, Microfilm Reel 15, St John's Wilberforce Cash Book, entries 1872-1887, 1886-1887, 1894-1895

current Cemetery fees, and the frequency of future meetings, the Trustees deciding finally to meet annually.¹⁹⁷

In spite of this, between 1922 and when the Minute Book ends, the Trustees met less than regularly. Mr Becker was engaged to clean-up the Cemetery in 1923-1933, and in 1937 a labourer was to be engaged again as the paths and fences needed chipping and the 'rotten and useless wood around the graves' was to be burnt. In 1937 the Trustees opened an account with the savings bank at Wilberforce. By 1938 Mr A Daley was elected Officer-in-charge of the Cemetery, and he proved to be an active officer, getting the meeting to agree that in future regulations would be enforced and fees collected by the undertaker, Mr Chandler. As well he personally effected repairs to the fence. In 1939 and in the 1940s new maintenance work required for the cemetery was organized, Oliver Turnbull being engaged to carry it out. During the period 1921-1949, the Church of England Trustees at various times were Messrs. G. Nicholls, E. T. Bowd, R. Greentree, A. Smith Senior, A. Daley, S. J. Dunston, W. Buttsworth, W. Salter and later Bruce Bowd, Roy Cobcroft, the Reverend G. P. Birk, the Reverend H. C. Dunston, The Reverend H. Davison, the Reverend Taplin, the Reverend Walker and the Reverend K. F. Saunders.¹⁹⁸

By 1940 the undertaker had increasing responsibility. It was the custom in the parish to have the bell tolled to mark a burial since the fee collecting for this had lapsed. The October 1940 decisions of the Cemetery Trustees to enforce charges, meant that Mr Chandler was instructed to explain "to the people that it was entirely optional whether the bell was tolled or the organist presided..." In 1949 Mr Chandler was further advised that the cost of land 8 feet by 3 feet was 10/-, that 8 feet by 6 feet was 15/-, and a plot 9 feet by 8 feet was £1.0.0 and that he was requested to collect these fees with the other costs. Informal, long-standing customs of burial, in part addressed by the Trustees in the 1940s were still a cause of problems in the 1960s. The new St John's Wilberforce minister, required to conduct a burial in August 1965 at Sackville requested a death certificate prior to the service as was the procedure in Sydney. On being told by Mr Chandler that certificates are "never asked for nor produced here", and that doctors sometimes gave only verbal advice of death by phone, the minister took the problem to a meeting of the district's Ministers' Fraternal. There it was pronounced so customary at Hawkesbury that "it was decided not to change the local practice".¹⁹⁹

The Local Government (Control of Cemeteries) Amendment Act, 1966 had dissolved the Trusts and required under instruction of the Department of Lands, that all cemetery control and management be handed to the local government authority, in this case Colo Shire Council. When the Cemeteries Act was to come into force, the Shire Clerk wrote to the local Church of England, Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Churches requesting their burial records relating to Wilberforce Cemetery. The Anglican Trustees formally relinquished their charge on 27 February 1968. The retiring Trustees, John Dean, Keith Tuckerman and Charles (Charley) Cobcroft also passed on the \$448.57 of remaining cemetery funds to Council. The Methodist minister, the Reverend David McLoughlin, answered that "the ...cemetery trust has not functioned for many years, hence there are no books nor any funds", and no reply is documented from any other religion.²⁰⁰

¹⁹⁷ Trustees of St John's Church of England Cemetery, Minute Book 4.6.1921-9.2.1949, meetings 4.6.1921, 10.6.1922, 17.5.1924

¹⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, meetings 20.10.1923, 20.10.1933, 30.10.1937, 15.5.1938, 15.4.1939, 11.7.1939, 1/7.11.1939, 15.10.1940, 11.12. 1941, 1.1.1946, 9.2.1949

¹⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, meetings, 15.4.1939, 15.10.1940, 9.2.1949; Burial Register St John's Church 1936 to today, note, p.234

²⁰⁰ Hawkesbury City Council Records, Colo Shire Council 5160/52B, letter, Trustees to Colo Shire Clerk McSullea, 27.2.1968; Cemeteries folder held in Sean Perry's Office, JJM:CH82.2 Colo Shire Clerk McSullea to P L Castle, 29.10.1979; Hawkesbury Library Wilberforce Cemetery File, letters, 4107/52B, DJMcS EB 9.11.1967, 23.11.1967

At first under Council ownership, the allocation of new grave plots continued in some confusion from lack of an existing plan, being given by request from the undertaker with individuals indicating the location preferred. The attempted 1939 action by the Cemetery Trustees to systematise the arrangement of graves by compiling a list of allotment owners appears to have advanced little. They had sought to give each grave space “a distinguish-ing number to be marked on the allotment by the respective owners”. For this information they relied on the memory of the grave-digger, Mr Oliver Turnbull. He had thus later been commissioned to draw up a plan, and on a site visit in February 1949, the Trustees tried to refine the documentation by co-ordinating Mr Turnbull’s knowledge and the plan with the Treasurer’s receipts. Ten years after Colo Shire Council received the papers from the Trustees, the General Manager wrote that no plan had been handed over.²⁰¹

Without the plan, organisation was difficult, so when Colo Shire Council considered a report on developing the cemetery in November 1968, it had to be deferred until a sketch could be drawn showing the planned division of part of the grounds into eleven sections with 30 graves in each. These were to be separated by a concrete path with graves leading from both sides and marked by a name plate on kerbing. A proposal for an initial 115 of 321 new plots, and a mooted entry gate and columbarium were again deferred in 1969.²⁰²

As well as trying to come to grips with the existing cemetery plots, Colo Shire Council in the 1970s attempted to implement its plans for future burial sites. By 1972 proposals for the new rows, a gateway from Clergy Road incorporating a columbarium, and the construction of two pathways 100 metres long and 5 metres in width running in the centre and at the top of the cemetery, resulted in approval for the use of the Trustees funds for graves along just one “pathway strip incorporating head kerbing and numbering”, one 60 metre pathway and consideration of erection of fencing and a columbarium in the 1973 Estimates. Almost immediately the grave provisions became problematic when initial work revealed that the drainage of the area was unsatisfactory.²⁰³

A new overall concept design that addressed the difficulties was called for in June 1973, resulting in another report and finally a plan co-ordinated by Assistant Shire Engineer Dreis in 1974. The earliest plan in Council’s hands today appears to date from this period. It called for the remaining, apparently unused parts of the grounds to become a lawn cemetery “with headstones laid flush with the ground surface”. In all, it provided for 707 additional graves in five sections, marked E to I, in the eastern, southern and western quadrants. The cost of over \$21,000 included kerb and guttering, sealed frontage roads with parking, access from Duke Road to Clergy Road, reconstruction and extension of the existing internal pathway and a new path from Copeland Road to Clergy Road, a drain to the north-west of the central path and a columbarium in the western sector.²⁰⁴

²⁰¹ Hawkesbury Library Cemetery File, C41-8, note to Mr Hall of phone request for a new grave to be marked out, n.d., local newspaper cutting and internal Council note, Colo Shire Council Ordinary Meeting 10.4.1969; Burial Register St John’s Church 1936 to today, p. 1; Trustees of St John’s Church of England Cemetery, Minute Book, meetings 15.4.1939, 3.5.1943, 9.2.1949; Hawkesbury City Council Records, Cemeteries folder held in Sean Perry’s Office, printed report(*Hawkesbury Crier*, Sept. 1994) attached to JJM:CH82.2;

²⁰² Hawkesbury Library Wilberforce Cemetery File, Colo Shire Council Minutes, Ordinary Meeting 10.4.1969, report to Colo Shire Council Works Committee, 8.8.1972

²⁰³ Hawkesbury Library Wilberforce Cemetery File, Colo Shire Council Minutes Works Committee 8.8.1972, Ordinary Meetings 22.8.1972, 26.6.1973

²⁰⁴ Hawkesbury Library Wilberforce Cemetery File, Colo Shire Council Minutes, Ordinary Meetings, 26.6.1973, 22.10.1974; Hawkesbury City Council Records, Plan, ‘Shire of Colo Wilberforce Cemetery, Proposed Layout and improvements’, file no. 82.2, plan no. M.41, n.d.[first extant edition 1974, see part of plan reproduced in this report]

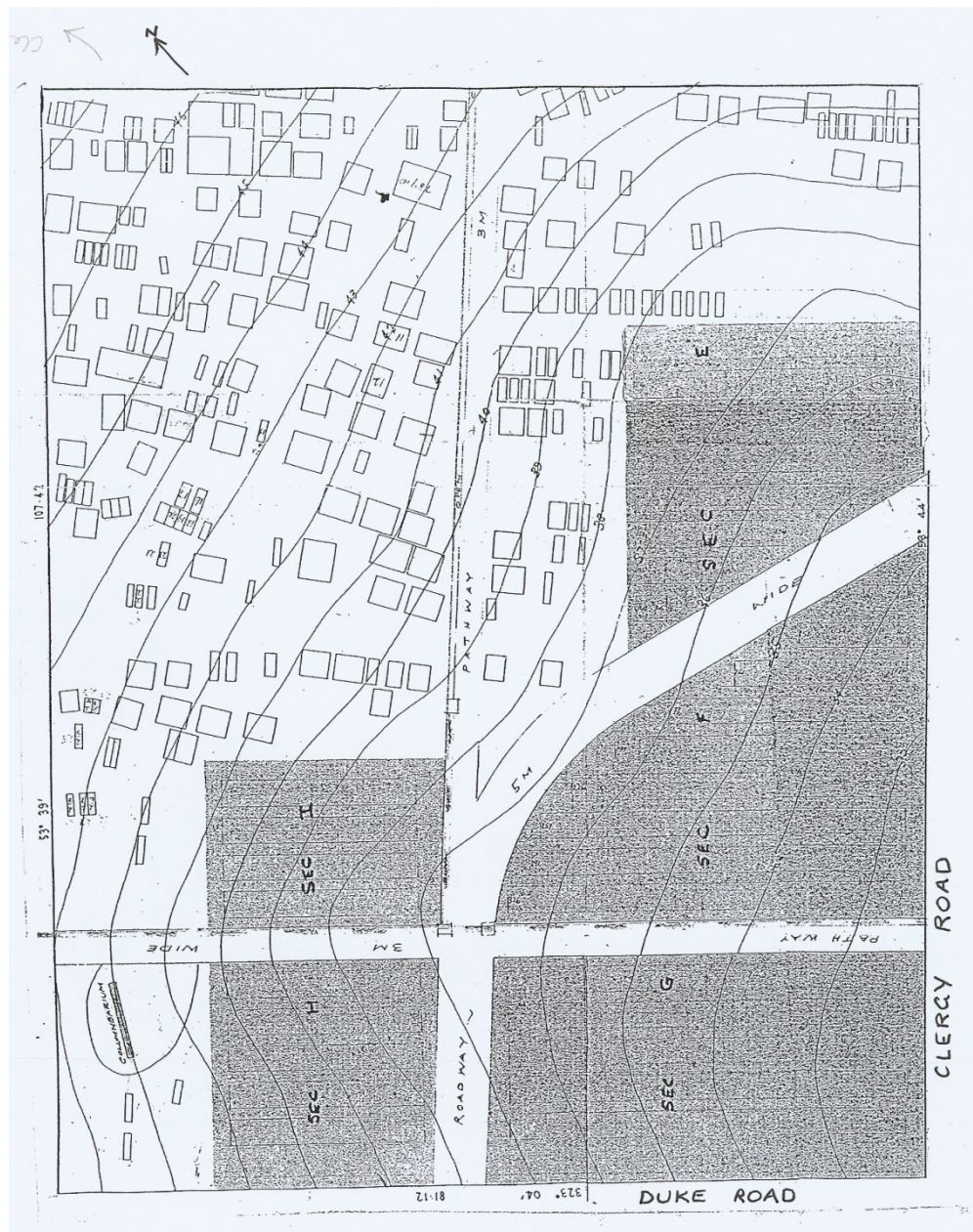


Figure 11

Part of 'Shire of Colo, Wilberforce Cemetery, Plan of Proposed Layout and Improvements', File no. 82.2, Council plan no. M.41, held by Hawkesbury City Council.

J.Barkley Jack, extracted and enhanced version of the 1st extant plan of Wilberforce Cemetery, 1974.

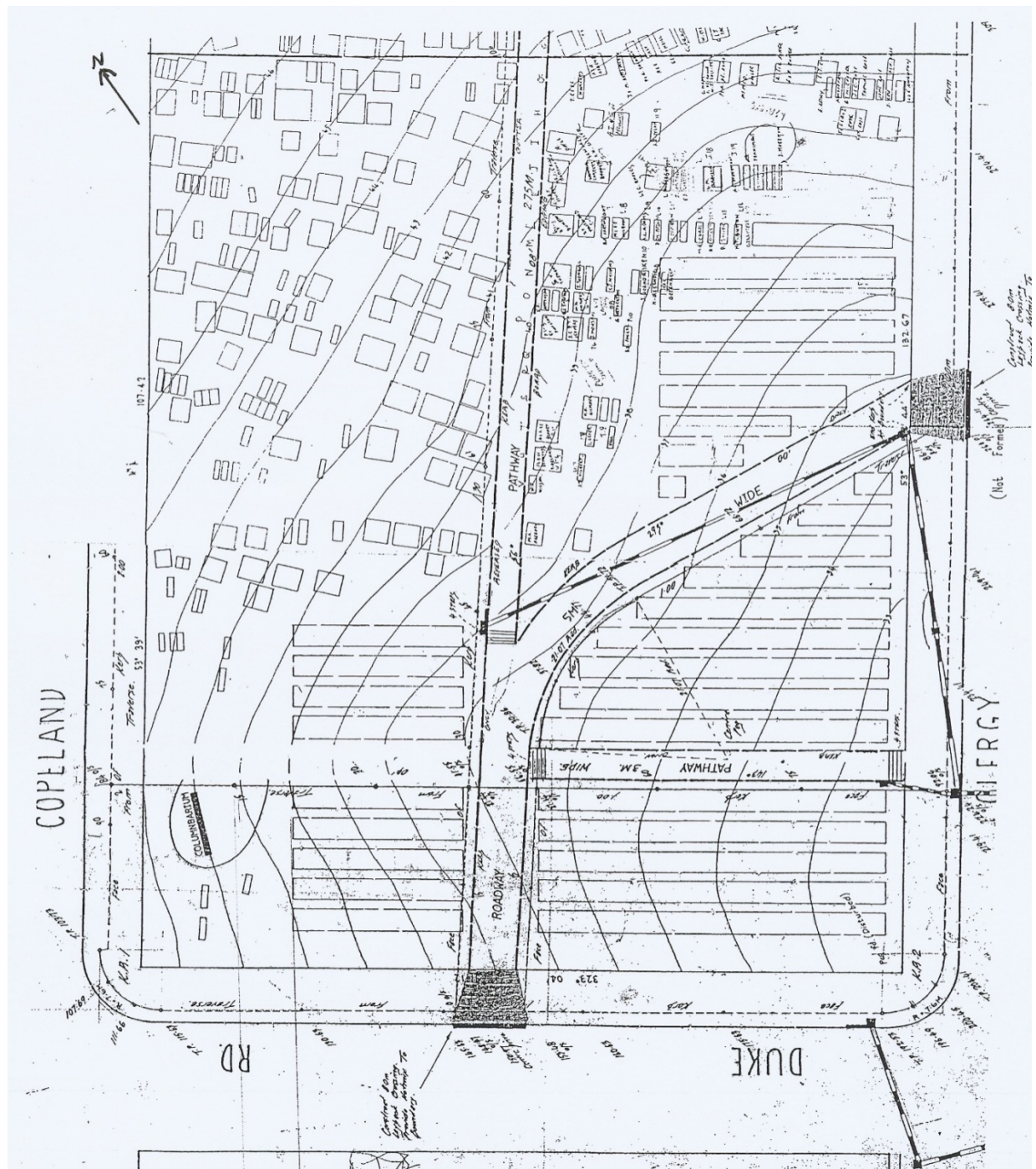


Figure 12
Part of 'Shire of Colo Wilberforce Cemetery, Plan of Proposed Layout and Improvements', File no. 82.2, Council plan no. M.41, held by Hawkesbury City Council.
J. Barkley Jack, extracted and enhanced version of the 2nd extant plan of Wilberforce Cemetery, c.1976.

A resolution at the Colo Shire Council meeting of 26 April 1977 had called for a further report about 'access ... and construction of the columbarium at the Old Sackville Road (western) entrance, out of the allocation of \$1,500 provided in the 1977 Estimates', the Works Committee being opposed to its mooted erection to the north. This report, apparently with the northern site for a columbarium, was adopted along with the provision of an extra \$450, works to be

undertaken in 1978. By May 1977 approval was given for a roadway from Clergy Road to the “site of the new graveyards”.²⁰⁵

While the future was debated, burials continued. They are shown on the second extant plan of the cemetery, dating from c.1976. This plan partly utilised the 1974 plan (and thus continued to show the graveyard’s potential burial rows and proposed detailed layout), but had also marked the then current rows being provided by Council for traditional headstones, as rows J, L, N [LR11, 13, 14].²⁰⁶ Early in April 1977 in a memo, with a plan attached, Council Surveyor Mr Owen Earle had noted:

“As requested several rows of graves have been pegged and reference posts placed. In view of the generally confused state of the cemetery, the newly marked rows have been given fresh row numbers. It is recommended that

1. a new register be commenced
2. that a similar register be made available for the used sections of the cemetery.”²⁰⁷

Owen Earle’s 1977 plan is not available, but it was probably the basis for the third extant version. The most likely scenario is that the new plots and rows Owen Earle referred to in the memo are those continued south- easterly from the existing rows J and N, renamed JJ (11 plots) and MM (23 plots). The grave digger at this time was Mr Bob Lane who took over from Oliver Turnbull’s successor, Mr Deemeign of Riverstone, in 1961. Council found it necessary to increase the width of the individual graves in row MM on the request of the gravedigger (involving re-pegging and elimination of four plots). One marker, that of row JJ remains extant from this period.²⁰⁸

The amalgamation of Colo Shire and Windsor Municipal Councils at the beginning of 1981 transferred control of Wilberforce Cemetery to the new Council of Hawkesbury Shire, and many Colo Shire employees were absorbed into the new Council’s workforce, including Owen Earle. He and others familiar with the cemetery concept plans continued to be involved with organising the graveyard at Wilberforce. By 1982 under the new management, an additional row was considered necessary, to be marked out as OO (23 plots). All these new rows, along with a short row of only 7 plots, designated row SS, are shown on the third extant version of the cemetery plan. This final edition, like the others not dated, must have been drawn around or after 1982 since it shows row OO. The c.1982 plan also indicates changed drainage lines but retains an entry near the proposed columbarium off Copeland Road. This columbarium had in fact been built by 1979 at the northern end by Colo Shire Council, although the plan remained unchanged and unadopted by both Councils.²⁰⁹ By 1982 Hawkesbury Shire Council was reportedly compiling comprehensive records of all burials, to be entered onto a computer register.²¹⁰

²⁰⁵ *Ibid.*; Hawkesbury Library Wilberforce Cemetery Files, Colo Shire Council Works Committee, Meeting 12.4.1977, 10.5.1977, Ordinary Meetings, 26.4.1977, 24.5.1977, note 5.9.1977 re site discussions with Clr. Smith, Encl. 106, file 82.2, memorandum Colo Dep. Shire Clerk to Colo Shire Engineer, 28.4.1977

²⁰⁶ Hawkesbury City Council Records, Plan, ‘Shire of Colo Wilberforce Cemetery, Proposed Layout and improvements’, file no. 82.2, plan no. M.41, n.d. [second extant edition c.1976 see part of plan reproduced in this report]

²⁰⁷ Hawkesbury City Council Records, Cemetery folder held in Sean Perry’s Office, memorandum by Colo Shire Surveyor Owen Earle, 4.4.1977

²⁰⁸ Hawkesbury Library Cemetery File/ Hawkesbury City Council Records, Plan, ‘Shire of Colo Wilberforce Cemetery, Proposed Layout and improvements’, file no. 82.2, plan no. M.41, n.d. [third extant edition 1982, see part of plan reproduced in this report]; Information from Jill Vincent, 24.5.2007; Information Cathy McHardy, 2.5.2007; site visit, May 2007

²⁰⁹ Hawkesbury Library Cemetery File/Hawkesbury City Council Records, Plan, ‘Shire of Colo Wilberforce Cemetery, Proposed Layout and improvements’, file no. 82.2, plan no. M.41, n.d. [third extant edition 1982 drawn by Hawkesbury Shire Council staff, see part of plan reproduced in this report], note to the Colo Shire Engineer 3.9.1979, Colo Shire Surveyor O Earle to Colo Shire Engineer, 9.11.1979; Hawkesbury City Council Records, Microfilm C41/8[4/9], Hawkesbury Shire Health

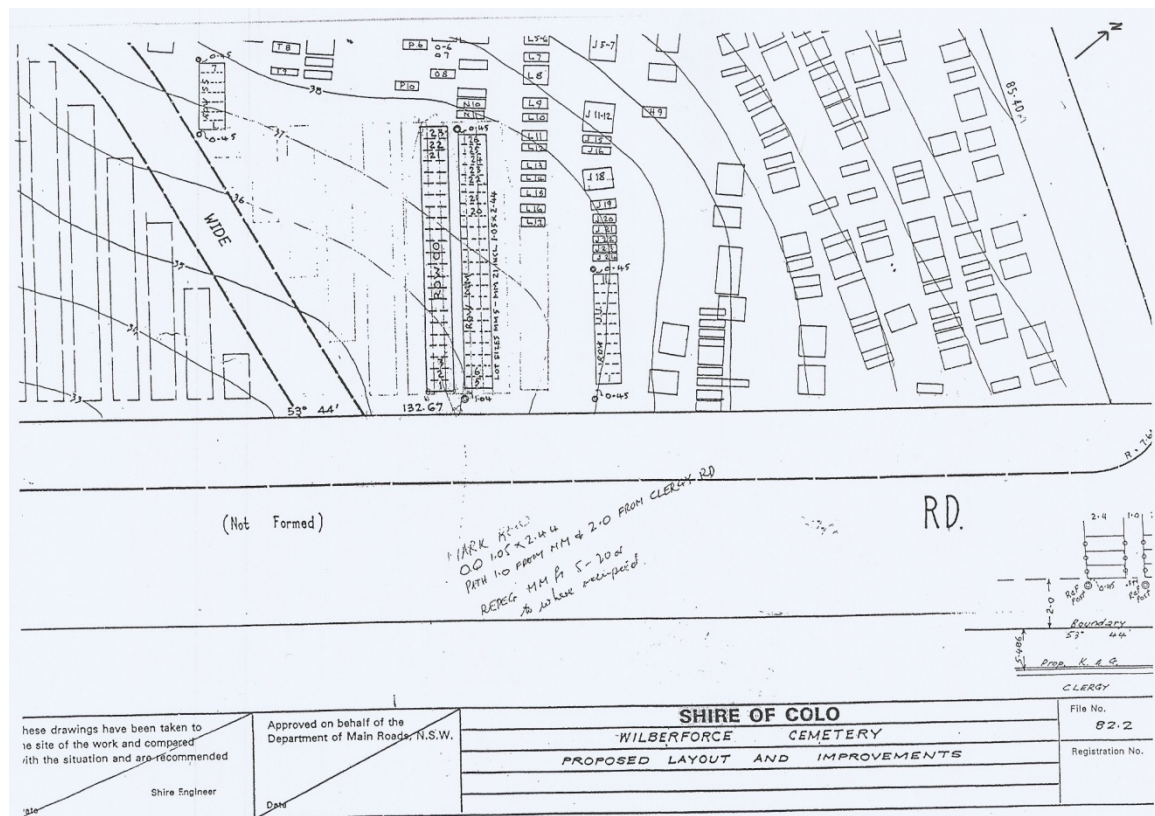


Figure 13

Part of 'Shire of Colo, Wilberforce Cemetery, Plan of Proposed Layout and Improvements', File no. 82.2, plan no. M.41, held by Hawkesbury City Council.

J. Barkley Jack, extracted and enhanced version of the 3rd extant plan of Wilberforce Cemetery, 1982.

After the transfer of responsibility in 1966, a new Register had been begun by Colo Shire Council in November 1967, to record the use of the new plots, the first entry being for Miriam Butsworth. Because of Council amalgamations, and Hawkesbury Shire Council having achieved City status from July 1989, this Register is now held and kept by Hawkesbury City Council. Subsequent burials in the newly marked section continued to reveal that much of the ground was unsatisfactory for interments and calls to open further areas at Wilberforce Cemetery were rejected by Hawkesbury Shire Council at its November 1986 meeting because of a:

“fall of 15 metres from north to south and 10 metres from north-west to south-east with a depression running in this direction ... The area currently being used and that which is available for future use is very low lying and problems with ground and surface water are being encountered ... The topographical features of the site and the ground and surface problems generally render the remainder of the site unsuitable for use as a cemetery.”²¹¹

Consequently the undertaker Mr R Chandler was advised of Hawkesbury Shire Council's decision to issue no further Rights of Burial except for columbarium walls, so not all new rows were filled. There appear to be vacancies in Rows JJ to MM and Row OO, whilst Row SS was not sold. The

Surveyor to O Earle, 29.4.1982, Hawkesbury Shire Health and Building Surveyor to Hawkesbury Shire Clerk re grave row MM, 22.11.1982

²¹⁰ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 5.8.1982, from Cathy McHardy, 1.5.2007

²¹¹ Hawkesbury City Council Records, Cemetery Folder held in Sean Perry's Office, Register of Burials 23.11.1967-1986 (red cover), letter Hawkesbury Shire General Manager McCully to Chandler, Funeral Directors, 19.11.1986; Barkley and Nichols, p.160

plans for the roadway and extensive new plot provisions in the different versions of plan M.41 were never adopted by Colo Shire Council, Hawkesbury Shire Council or Hawkesbury City Council and so have not to date gone ahead.²¹²

Hawkesbury City Council continues to receive letters about the importance of Wilberforce Cemetery and its future needs.²¹³ The high heritage value of the Cemetery was established early when the North Western Sector Study (1983-4) by Howard Tanner, listed the Cemetery as being of State Significance. Currently there is lodged a nomination for the Cemetery to be listed as part of the Wilberforce Historical and Cultural Precinct on the National Heritage List. The Cemetery is listed on Hawkesbury City Council's Local Environmental Plan as "an important historic cemetery", but the new detailed historical material provided by this Study, shows that a re-assessment to State Significance, and a possible listing on the State Heritage Register, would be desirable. The Hawkesbury City Council Heritage Advisory Committee likewise rates Wilberforce Cemetery of high heritage integrity. As well, over the years watching briefs have been ongoing by community groups like the National Trust of Australia (NSW). Wilberforce Cemetery is included in its Register as "an important historical cemetery ... outstanding for its ... interesting detailed inscriptions ...". They recommended that along with its other important values, the "belt of gum trees surrounding three sides of site must be retained".²¹⁴ In keeping with such high levels of significance, in 2007 Hawkesbury City Council has undertaken this Conservation Management Plan.

3.3.1 Wilberforce Cemetery: Later 20th Century Chronology

For references see text.

1966	Local Government (Care of Cemeteries) Amendment Act, 1966.
27.2.1968	Wilberforce Cemetery was cared for by Trustees until [this date] when control of the site was handed over to Colo Shire Council ... An amount of \$448.57 was passed over to the Council by the Trustees, John Dean, Keith Tuckerman, Charles Cobcroft. Plans begun for significant numbers of additional burial plots in the eastern, southern and western sectors.
1969-1977	Colo Shire Council deferred 1968 plans for additional burial areas and columbarium. Extension plans were re-designed in 1974 to develop a lawn cemetery capable of receiving 707 interments. Current burials continued with traditional headstones. In April 1977 Council received a report from Council Surveyor Owen Earle with the latest plan attached: 'As requested several rows of graves have been pegged and reference posts placed. In view of the generally confused state of the cemetery the newly marked rows have been given fresh row numbers. It is recommended that:

²¹² Hawkesbury City Council Records, Cemetery folder held in Sean Perry's Office, Register of Burials 23.11.1967-1986(red cover); Hawkesbury City Library, Wilberforce Cemetery File, Colo Shire Surveyor Owen Earle to Colo Shire Engineer, 9.11.1979, Hawkesbury Shire Council General Manager McCully to Chandler, Funeral Directors, 19.11.1986

²¹³ 'Wilberforce Cemetery Conservation Plan 2007, Copies of Correspondence and photographs received by the Friends of Wilberforce Cemetery', filed in a folder compiled by Jill Vincent, copies held by Hawkesbury City Council, Hubert Architects and Jan Barkley Jack for Ian Jack Heritage Consulting

²¹⁴ Hawkesbury City Council, Local Environmental Plan (LEP), 1989 (1999), p. 76; Philip Pleffer, Strategic Planner, Hawkesbury City Planning, supply of Hawkesbury LEP Inventory Sheets for Wilberforce Cemetery; Wilberforce Historical and Cultural Precinct, Macquarie Road, Wilberforce, NSW, Australia, Australian Heritage Data Base, [Hwww.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl)H; Hawkesbury City Council Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes, 11.7.2002; Cemetery Conservation Area, St. John's General Cemetery (previously St John's Anglican Cemetery), National Trust of Australia (NSW) Inventory Sheet, 2.3.1981, supplied by Dr George Gibbons, National Trust of Australia (NSW) Cemeteries Advisor

	(i) a new register be commenced (ii) that a similar register be made ... for the used sections of the cemetery'
c.1979	Columbariums built
February, March 1980	The Deputy Director of the National Trust of NSW informed all Councils of a survey of historic burial grounds in Sydney area. Wilberforce was included. General Manager McSullea acknowledged receipt of the deputy Director of National Trust's letter – advised that Colo 'Council had details only of the cemeteries under its care, control and management' – at that time St Albans, Wilberforce x 2, Bilpin, West Portland Road, Sackville Reach. National Trust gave Wilberforce Cemetery a 'Classified' heritage value.
1.1.1981	Responsibility for the Wilberforce Cemetery passed to Hawkesbury Shire Council after amalgamation of Colo Shire and Windsor Municipal Councils. Burials continued in the eastern section but the concept design for future expansion was still not adopted.
11.11.1986	Hawkesbury Shire Council considered the future use of the Cemetery and resolved that no further Rights of Burial be issued in respect of the Wilberforce Ground except for use of the columbarium walls. Hawkesbury Shire Council 'considered ... the area currently being used and that available for future use is very low-lying and problems with ground and surface water are being encountered ... generally render the remainder of the site unsuitable for use as a cemetery'. No archaeological survey or further drainage investigations were undertaken.
1.7.1989	Hawkesbury Shire Council attained reclassification to Hawkesbury City Council and retained care of Wilberforce Cemetery
1991, 2002-3	Cemetery transcribed (1991) c.390 monuments representing approximately 750 burials recorded, plus those unmarked; updated (2002-3) to c.460 monuments and approximately 1320 interments/memorials recorded by the McHardy study.
2003-2004	Jill Vincent led the Wilberforce community to hold discussions with Hawkesbury City Council and to attend public meetings to fight growing vandalism in the cemetery. Friends of the Wilberforce Cemetery formed.
2004-2005	Hawkesbury City Council installed floodlights and a 2.1metre high fence around the 1811 and 1906 components of the Wilberforce Cemetery, locking and re-opening the ground daily. The Wesleyan section of the General Cemetery at Wilberforce remains uncleared and unfenced with no evidence of any earlier graves.
2007	Heritage listings current- National Heritage List: nominated; N-W Sector Study: State Significance; Hawkesbury City Council LEP: Local Significance. Conservation Management Plan undertaken (identified State values for LEP and possible entry on State Heritage Register).

4 PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

4.1 General

Wilberforce Cemetery is located on the northern side of the township of Wilberforce bounded by Copeland road and Old Sackville Road to the northwest, Duke Road to the southwest and Clergy Road to the southeast. To the northeast is residential subdivision.

The cemetery is in two sections. The main section is the former St John's Church of England Cemetery to the southwest and is trapezoid shaped block. A smaller section to the northeast was designated on early plans as a Wesleyan Cemetery and later shown as a General Cemetery. The two sections are separated by an unnamed roadway connecting St John's Church and Hall to Old Sackville Road.

The site slopes from the northern corner to the southwest (corner of Duke Road and Clergy Road).



Figure 14

2003 aerial photograph of Wilberforce Cemetery.

The main, former St John's Church of England, area of the cemetery is clearly evident from the layout of graves and grassed area. The former Wesleyan Cemetery is the treed area to the northeast of the main (former St John's Church of England) section of the cemetery.

Source: Hawkesbury City Council

4.2 Layout and Landscaping

4.2.1 Former St John's Church of England Cemetery

The former St John's Church of England Cemetery began as a large rectangular plot divided into four sections by a northeast-southwest path and a northwest-southeast path. The alignment of these paths remains clear, although the paths are now grassed over. The northwest-southeast path does not continue southeast beyond its junction with the northeast-southwest path. The northeast-southwest path also does not extend far southwest of the northwest-southeast path. These can be seen in the aerial photograph at Figure 14. The cemetery has some terracing along the edge of the northeast-southwest path to accommodate the slope across the site.



Figure 15

The former St John's Church of England section of Wilberforce Cemetery viewed from the western corner. The preferred selection of land on the higher ground for burials can be seen by the more intense use of the northwest side.



Figure 16

The northeast-southwest path through the cemetery. Many graves on the northwest side of this path are destabilised by the erosion of the path over time.



Figure 17

The northwest-southeast path through the cemetery.

The graves are laid out in approximate rows running northwest-southeast. The alignment of the rows has been modified by the c.1911 addition of a wedge shaped section of land on the northeast side of the area and by the practicalities of aligning graves with the contours of the slope. Apart from the newer area of graves at the southwestern end of the eastern sector, the rows are irregular. This is probably as much to do with gravediggers coping with the slope of the land as much as the apparently haphazard allocation of gravesites in the nineteenth century. A thorough analysis of the layout of the marked graves is included in section 2.2 of this report.

The sequence of the burials at the cemetery is analysed in the Historical Summary and diagrams illustrating the sequence of burials in the early nineteenth century are at Figures 2 and 3. The earliest burials are scattered around the cemetery although there is a definite preference to using the higher ground on the northwestern and northeastern sides. The addition of land c.1911 was followed by burials at the high land in that area. Even by the mid twentieth century, burials appear to be concentrated on the higher land on the northeastern and northwestern sides. New rows from the mid to late twentieth century are differentiated from the nineteenth and early twentieth century burials by the more ordered layout of the rows.



Figure 18

The graves at the northeastern end of the northern sector. A wedge shaped piece of land was added to this sector in 1911. Rows close to this boundary align with the new boundary. Rows behind that include earlier graves are aligned with the original boundary.



Figure 19

The eastern sector of the cemetery. Nineteenth century monuments including those of members of the King and Rutter families contrast with the twentieth century slab and desk style monuments.

Photo: Jan Barkley Jack 2007



Figure 20

Graves at the southwestern end of the southern sector, mainly from the twentieth century, which are arranged in ordered northwest-southeast rows.

There is no formal planting within the former St John's Church of England Cemetery. It has been left simply grassed with trees in the Clergy Road and Copeland Road reserves providing some separation between the cemetery and the surrounding town.

4.2.2 Former Wesleyan Cemetery

The former Wesleyan Cemetery shows no evidence of paths or rows for burials. A gravel path runs from the western corner to the eastern corner providing rear access to residential allotments bordering the land. It is otherwise lightly treed.



Figure 21

The Wesleyan Cemetery from the western corner.



Figure 22
The former Wesleyan Cemetery from the western corner.

4.3 Fencing

An aluminium spear picket fence marks the boundary of the former St John's Church of England Cemetery. Gates are located on the northeast and southeast sides, aligning with the main axial paths.



Figure 23
Boundary fence of the former St John's Church of England Cemetery

4.4 Monuments

Wilberforce Cemetery contains a range of monument styles from the early nineteenth century to the late twentieth century. The majority of early monuments are upright slabs or stellae. Sandstone is the most common material for the stellae followed by white marble. Most monuments from the inter-war period onwards are slab and desk style, often built of granite.

The cemetery is notable for the survival of a number of fine altar style slabs, although the condition of these vary. A rare table style slab monument also survives.



Figure 24

Overview of the northwestern side of the cemetery from near the columbarium walls. Most of the monuments on this side of the cemetery are sandstone and marble monuments from the nineteenth century.

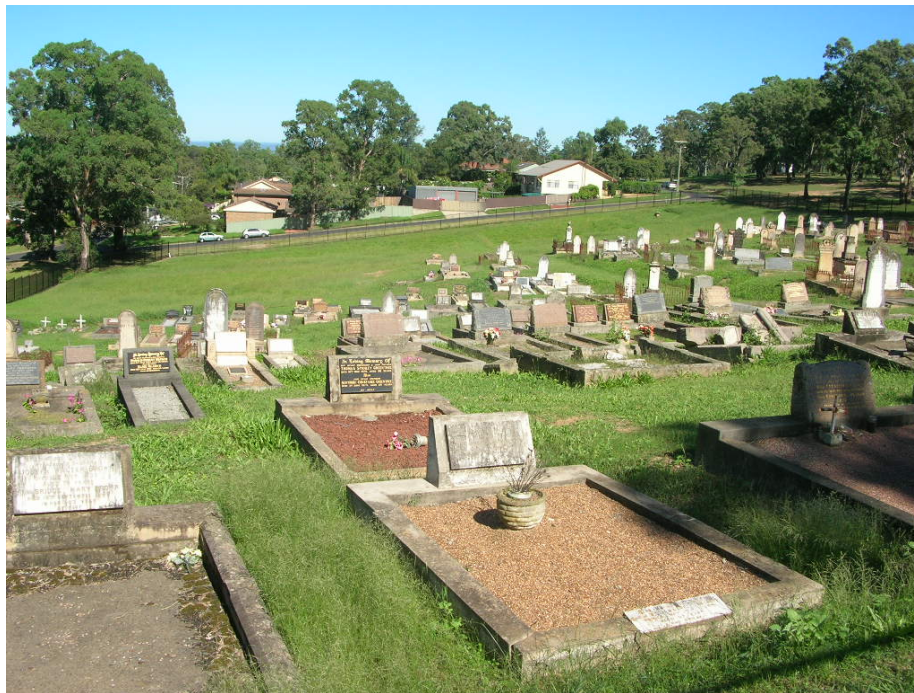


Figure 25

Overview of the southeastern side of Wilberforce Cemetery. While there is an area of nineteenth century stellae monuments, this side of the cemetery is dominated by slab and desk style monuments of the twentieth century.



Figure 26

The Gothic style altar style slab monument for Robert Smith (d. 1858), Albert Matthias Smith (d. 1866), Margaret Smith (d. 1867), Isabella Margret (d. 1878), Robert Smith (d. 1888), Laura Smith (d. 1888), Margaret Smith (d. 1892), Henry James Smith (d. 1898).



Figure 27

The altar style slab monument for Joshua Joseph Vickery (d. 1852), Mary Ann Vickery, Ellen Bowd (d. 1884), Thomas Bowd (d. 1906), Willam Bowd, John Dawson.



Figure 28

The 1830s altar style slab for members of the Dunstan family. The monument retains its original iron picket fence. A modern brass plaque on one side has reproduced the wording of the original inscription.



Figure 29

The stellae monument for James Cook (d. 1857) and William Cook (d. 1858). Monuments with carving of this quality are common in the cemetery.



Figure 30

Monument for Frederick Nicholls, Jane Nicholls and Elizabeth Ann Nicholls. This monument is the work of the famous monumental mason, George Robertson of Windsor.



Figure 31

The surviving table style slab monument for Emily Robinson (d. 1849), Eliza Robinson (d. 1894) and Emily Louisa Robinson (d. 1928). This is a rare example of this style of monument.



Figure 32

A grouping of stellae monuments for members of the Rose family. These monuments retain both the headstones and footstones. This grouping of monuments, along with others for the Rose family located nearby, is typical of the family groupings within the cemetery.

Photo: Jan Barkley Jack 2007



Figure 33

The headstone and footstone of Mary Gardner (d. 1856). This memorial is near the western corner of the cemetery. This and two other burials known to be nearby are separated from most of the known burials in the cemetery.



Figure 34
The simple wooden cross for Albert Wilfred Jones (d. 1937)



Figure 35
A simple cross used to mark the grave of Mary Rose O'Hare (d. 1973).

4.4.1 Condition

Many of the monuments are in reasonable condition considering their age and problems in more recent years with vandalism. This is a reflection of the care and respect they have received from the local community. Some monuments have weathered so that their original inscriptions are no longer clear or have been lost. A number of these have had plaques fixed with the words of the original inscription repeated. Others have been re-engraved or have had the lettering blacked to make it clearer.

The monuments in the worst condition are generally the table style slab monuments. Subsidence due to erosion on the steep site and/or inadequate footings for the original monument has contributed to this.



Figure 36

An altar style slab monument that has collapsed. The elements of the monument have been stacked together so that restoration might be possible.



Figure 37

An altar style slab monument showing the problems of erosion on the downhill side of the monument. The brick footings for the base of this monument would originally have been below ground level.



Figure 38

A monument to members of the Farlow family. Severe salt damage is causing the loss of the inscription on the face of this altar.



Figure 39

The monument for Margaret Chaseling (d. 1815) and Thomas Chaseling (d. 1847). This was a prominent pedestal monument with a draped urn within a picket fence enclosure. Subsidence under the monument has contributed to the collapse of the pedestal.



Figure 40

The stellae monument for Ann Wall (d. 1869) and Thomas Wall (d. 1870). A brass plaque has been added to “replace” the inscription that presumably had weathered.



Figure 41

Stellae that have collapsed such as this monument for Daniel Phillips (d. 1833) risk accelerated weathering of the inscription.

4.5 Columbaria

A pair of brick columbarium walls was built at the eastern entrance to the cemetery in the 1970s. They are simple cream brick walls with brick capping. The side of one wall has a plaque commemorating members of the First Fleet who lived in the area and were buried in the cemetery.



Figure 42

The northern columbarium wall



Figure 43
The southern columbarium wall



Figure 44
The plaque commemorating first fleeters buried in Wilberforce Cemetery

5 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

5.1 General

The following criteria for assessing significance are taken from the Heritage Office guidelines *Assessing Heritage Significance*, 2001 edition.

5.2 Criterion (a)

An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);

Wilberforce Cemetery contains rich and rare evidence of Australia's earliest ex-convict pioneer society building a community. Over 70 people who arrived in New South Wales in the 18th century are buried there and a large number of their original gravemarkers survive. Family burials continue over seven generations, representing families that settled on nearby farms before 1806, some at the very beginning of Hawkesbury settlement in 1794.

Wilberforce Cemetery of national significance under this criterion.

5.3 Criterion (b)

An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);

The cemetery was founded by Governor Macquarie as part of his implementation of instructions about town planning outside Sydney in 1810.

Wilberforce Cemetery has an unusually high number of burials of eighteenth century arrivals in the colony of New South Wales including seven members of the first fleet, fifteen members of the second fleet and twelve members of the third fleet. These people, whether convict, free settler or military were integral to the development of European settlement in Australia.

Wilberforce Cemetery is thus an unparalleled documentation of a particularly early district's ex-convict pioneer endurance, spirit and development, emphasised by their descendants' regular pilgrimages and reunions.

Wilberforce Cemetery of national significance under this criterion.

5.4 Criterion (c)

An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area);

When laying out the towns of the Hawkesbury district, Governor Macquarie placed great importance on the location and layout the burial ground, church and school group. Wilberforce is the only Macquarie town where the burial ground, school house and church remain as a group.

Wilberforce Cemetery contains a remarkable collection of monuments from the early nineteenth century to the present day. Many styles of monuments survive including a fine collection of altar style slab monuments and a rare example of a table style slab monument. The work of one of the finest local masons, George Robertson of Windsor, is well represented in the cemetery.

Wilberforce Cemetery of state significance under this criterion.

5.5 Criterion (d)

An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;

The cemetery has been a focal point for the local community from the 1810s until the present day and in more recent times members of the pioneer families show their attachment to the burial ground by annual reunions, attracting people from far afield.

Wilberforce Cemetery of local significance under this criterion.

5.6 Criterion (e)

An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);

The monuments in Wilberforce Cemetery provide extensive information about pioneers of the district. A study of the layout of the cemetery also provides information about the continuum of families in the district and the inter-relationships of members of the community.

Wilberforce Cemetery of local significance under this criterion.

5.7 Criterion (f)

An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);

Wilberforce is the only extant example in the state of Governor Macquarie's planning of a square, schoolhouse/church and cemetery as central features of the townships he created in 1810.

The surviving table style slab monument for members of the Robinson family at Wilberforce Cemetery is a rare example of its type.

The range of surviving altar style slab monuments at Wilberforce Cemetery including Georgian and Victorian style monuments is unusual.

Wilberforce Cemetery of state significance under this criterion.

5.8 Criterion (g)

An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's

- cultural or natural places; or
 - cultural or natural environments.
- (or a class of the local area's**
- cultural or natural places; or
 - cultural or natural environments.)

Wilberforce Cemetery contains a remarkable collection of monuments from the early nineteenth century to the present day. The monuments include high quality examples of most types of monuments.

Wilberforce Cemetery of local significance under this criterion.

5.9 Summary Statement of Significance

Wilberforce Cemetery contains rich and rare evidence of Australia's earliest ex-convict pioneer society building a community. Wilberforce Cemetery has an unusually high number of burials of eighteenth century arrivals in the colony of New South Wales including seven members of the first fleet, fifteen members of the second fleet and twelve members of the third fleet. Over 70 people who arrived in New South Wales in the 18th century are buried there and a large number of their original gravemarkers survive. Family burials continue over seven generations, representing families that settled on nearby farms before 1806, some at the very beginning of

Hawkesbury settlement in 1794. These people, whether convict, free settler or military were integral to the development of European settlement in Australia. Wilberforce Cemetery is thus an unparalleled documentation of a particularly early district's ex-convict pioneer endurance, spirit and development, emphasised by their descendants' regular pilgrimages and reunions.

When laying out the towns of the Hawkesbury district as part of his implementation of instructions about town planning outside Sydney in 1810, Governor Macquarie placed great importance on the location and layout the burial ground, church and school group. Wilberforce is the only Macquarie town where the burial ground, school house, church and square remain as a group and are central features of the town.

Wilberforce Cemetery contains a remarkable collection of monuments from the early nineteenth century to the present day. Many styles of monuments survive including a fine collection of altar style slab monuments and a rare example of a table style slab monument. The work of one of the finest local masons, George Robertson of Windsor, is well represented in the cemetery.

The cemetery has been a focal point for the local community from the 1810s until the present day and in more recent times members of the pioneer families show their attachment to the burial ground by annual reunions, attracting people from far afield.

6 CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

6.1 The Burra Charter

In August 1979 Australia ICOMOS (the Australian National Committee of ICOMOS) adopted the Burra Charter to provide guidance for the conservation and management of places of cultural significance (cultural heritage places). This charter was revised in 1981, 1988 and most recently in 1999. It is reproduced in this report as Appendix 2.

6.2 Significance

Wilberforce Cemetery has been identified as having cultural significance at a state level. Because of its high cultural significance, it should be conserved. The most appropriate conservation procedure for cemeteries is usually preservation. Where monuments have fallen, restoration might be appropriate. Occasionally, reconstruction or adaptation might be appropriate. Continued use might also be appropriate.

6.3 Legal and Public Health Issues

6.3.1 Ownership and Responsibility

Wilberforce Cemetery is in Public Ownership as Crown Land. Because it has been dedicated for use as a cemetery, there is a responsibility of the vested responsible authority, in this case the Hawkesbury City Council, to manage and care for the land as a cemetery.

6.3.2 Zoning

The former St John's Church of England section of Wilberforce Cemetery is zoned Special Uses (a).

The objectives of this zone (as stated in Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 1989 (amended)) are to:

- (a) recognise existing public and private land uses and to enable their continued operation, growth and expansion to accommodate associated, ancillary or otherwise related uses,
- (b) set aside certain land (being land that the Council or another public authority proposes to acquire) for a variety of purposes, as indicated on the map, for which development is to be carried out by the Council or other public authority, and
- (c) restrict development on land which will be required for future community facilities.

This is consistent with its use as a cemetery but would restrict other uses of the place.

The former Wesleyan section of Wilberforce Cemetery is zoned Open Space (Existing Recreation). The objectives of this zone (as stated in Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 1989 (amended)) are to:

The objectives of this zone are to:

- (a) identify existing publicly owned land that is used or is capable of being used for active or passive recreational purposes,
- (b) encourage the development of public open space in a manner which maximises the satisfaction of the community's diverse recreational needs,
- (c) enable development associated with, ancillary to or supportive of public recreational use, and
- (d) encourage the development of open spaces as major urban landscape elements.

This is not consistent with its use as a cemetery.

6.3.3 Exhumations

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

6.3.4 Public Health Act 1991 and NSW Public Health (Disposal of Bodies) Regulation 2002

The NSW Public Health Act 1991 and the NSW Public Health (Disposal of Bodies) Regulation 2002 provide controls relating to burials and exhumations. These include:

- A body must be placed in a sealed coffin prior to burial.
- Unless otherwise approved by the Director General, the top surface of a coffin must be a minimum of 900mm below the natural ground level.
- A body must not be exhumed without permission from the Directory General or a Coroner.

6.3.5 The Heritage Act

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

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

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

6.3.6 The Australian Heritage Commission

The Australian Heritage Commission (AHC) is a statutory body of the Commonwealth Government administered within the Australian and World Heritage Group of Environment Australia. One of the responsibilities of the AHC is to maintain the National Heritage List. The township of Wilberforce, which includes Wilberforce Cemetery has been nominated for the National Heritage List.

The implications of a place being listed on the National Heritage List are described by the Australian Heritage Commission as follows:

It is the national heritage values of a place that will be recorded in the National Heritage list and it is these values, and not necessarily the entire place itself, that will be protected through listing. These values will be protected under new amendments to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

This means that a person cannot take an action that has, will have or is likely to have, a significant impact on the national heritage values of a listed place without the approval of the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Water Resources. It is a criminal offence not to comply with this legislation.

If the place is on state or private land, it can be protected by the Commonwealth where it has the appropriate Constitutional power to do so. In the case of Indigenous heritage places in the National Heritage List, the Commonwealth has the power to protect them irrespective of land tenure. In other cases, places may be protected under state legislation (through a bilateral agreement) or by private owners under a conservation agreement with the Commonwealth. Management plans are required for all places listed.

Wilberforce Cemetery is listed on the Register of the National Estate. The Register of the National Estate is the only nation-wide heritage list for Australia that encompasses natural, Indigenous and historic places. The Register is compiled by the Australian Heritage Commission. Listing in the Register of the National Estate does not legally affect management of a place unless it is a property owned by the Commonwealth.

6.4 Condition

Damage to monuments at Wilberforce Cemetery was of sufficient concern that a fence has been erected around the perimeter of the site. This appears to have greatly reduced vandalism at the place. There are still a number of monuments that are in need of repair. However, the condition of individual monuments has generally not been addressed in this report as these are normally considered to be the responsibility of the descendants of the interred.

6.5 Maintenance Needs and Costs

6.5.1 General

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

6.5.2 Monuments

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

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

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

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

The maintenance of monuments where descendants of the interred are known to survive is usually considered the responsibility of the descendants. While this does place a burden on descendants, burial costs do not provide sufficient income for continued care of monuments. Other monuments eventually become the responsibility of Council.

6.5.3 Landscaping

Wilberforce Cemetery is characterised by very simple landscaping. The dominant feature of the original layout is the cross shaped paths through the former St John's Church of England section. Erosion of the foundations around many monuments is the greatest concern relating to the landscaping.

The presence of native trees around the perimeters provides some screening and enclosure to the site.

6.5.4 Maintenance Costs

Because Wilberforce Cemetery has been closed to burials, apart from existing burial rights, there is negligible income from burial fees to contribute to the maintenance of the cemetery. In any case, burial fees barely cover the cost of grave digging. The costs of maintaining the cemetery need to be provided from external sources.

6.6 Community Values and Desires

Wilberforce Cemetery is highly valued by the local community. Because successive generations of families in the area are buried in the cemetery, it continues to have special importance to the local community. Evidence of the esteem the community holds for the place is in the successful campaign to have a fence constructed around the cemetery.

The Friends of Wilberforce Cemetery is a local community group that continues to lobby Hawkesbury City Council regarding issues of concern in relation to the cemetery.

A community meeting held to discuss the Conservation Management Plan for the cemetery also made it evident that Wilberforce Cemetery is of great significance to the local community. 26 people attended the meeting and 39 apologies were tabled at the meeting and included people from interstate and overseas. Questionnaires distributed to the meeting provided additional opportunity for community input. The Friends of Wilberforce Cemetery also forwarded copies of letters from a number of people who wished to provide additional comment on the future of the cemetery.

From the community input received, the following general comments could be made:

People who take an active interest in the cemetery extend well beyond Wilberforce. While many descendants of people buried in the cemetery live in Wilberforce, many are living outside the Hawkesbury, interstate and overseas. All expressed a strong attachment to the town and to the cemetery.

Visits to the cemetery range from monthly to annual.

All respondents visit the cemetery primarily to visit the graves/memorials of relatives and friends. Some actively check the condition of the cemetery and note any issues of concern.

All respondents would like Wilberforce Cemetery to be re-opened for burials. Most expressed an interest in burials being restricted to relatives of existing burials and/or to members of the local community.

Interest was expressed in establishing a lawn cemetery on the lower area of the cemetery. A memorial garden was also suggested.

Attention to drainage is a concern and it is noted that drainage has been given as the reason for closing the cemetery in the past.

Access is a concern for many people. Problems included the gates being locked during the day prohibiting access, the paths being difficult for funeral and other vehicles, problems of access for people with limited mobility.

Suggestions included kerb and guttering the "Church Road" lining Old Sackville Road with Clergy Road and providing a new road to the southwest corner entrance.

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

6.7 Location & Neighbourhood

The location of Wilberforce Cemetery is an integral part of Macquarie's plan for the town. It is strongly associated with St John's Church of England and with Wilberforce Park.

The late twentieth and early twenty-first century development around the cemetery provides some surveillance of the place.

6.8 Access

Wilberforce Cemetery is easily accessed by car with parking available on the road connecting Old Sackville Road with Clergy Lane.

The pedestrian gates from this road is opened each day by a member of the local community. The vehicular gates are opened only when there is a burial or when maintenance vehicles need access.

The steep slope of the site makes access difficult for people with limited mobility. Many of these would need assistance when visiting gravesites downhill from the entry gate.

7 CONSERVATION POLICIES

7.1 General

These policies are general policies for Wilberforce Cemetery. Specific policies are given in italics. Supplementary notes are given in normal type.

7.2 Burra Charter

Policy 1

Wilberforce Cemetery is a place of national significance and should be conserved in accordance with the Burra Charter.

7.3 Ownership

Policy 2

Ownership of Wilberforce Cemetery should remain with the public.

Wilberforce Cemetery was dedicated for the specific purpose of being used as a public burial ground for the people of Wilberforce. It contains the resting place of at least 70 of Australia's eighteenth century European settlers and the ancestors of many local residents. It is a valuable resource to community both in its role as a burial place and for its association with the European pioneers and successive generations of the local community. The cemetery should remain in public ownership.

7.4 Management

Policy 3

The management of the cemeteries as a public resource should remain with Hawkesbury City Council.

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

7.5 Uses

Policy 4

Continue the use of the place as a cemetery.

Policy 5

Allow new burials at the place for descendants of existing burials and for members of the local Wilberforce community.

The cemeteries are on Crown Land that was reserved to provide space for burial. Opening the cemetery for new burials is still very important to a large sector of the community and is consistent with the tradition of burying successive generations of local families within the cemetery.

7.6 Unmarked Graves

7.6.1 Investigation of Unmarked Gravesites

Policy 6

Prior to creating any new gravesites, conduct a ground penetrating radar investigation of the former St John's Church of England section of the cemetery to establish where unmarked gravesites might be located.

It is clear that there are many unmarked graves in the former St John's Church of England section of Wilberforce Cemetery. This includes the northeast area where most graves are still marked as well as the southwest part where only three graves are known to exist. Because there is not a strict pattern to the sequence of burials, these graves could be located anywhere in the cemetery. Ground penetrating radar investigation has proven very useful in locating areas of previous disturbance such as unmarked graves without the need for excavation. This investigation is essential prior to allowing new grave sites.

Policy 7

Undertake ground penetrating radar investigation of the former Wesleyan section of Wilberforce Cemetery to establish whether unmarked gravesites are located therein.

No records have been found in the course of this study to establish whether any burials took place in the former Wesleyan portion of Wilberforce Cemetery. It would be respectful of any possible burials to investigate the area before any further development of the portion took place.

7.6.2 Identification of Unmarked Gravesites

Policy 8

Unmarked gravesites located as a result of ground penetrating radar or other investigation should be located on Council's plan of the cemetery and should be identified by a grave marker.

To ensure that the information about unmarked graves is not lost, these should be marked on Council's plan of the cemetery with an annotation to indicate that the gravesite is an unmarked grave.

Permanent grave markers should also be placed on the physical site of the unmarked grave to ensure that the grave can be acknowledged by present and future generations.

7.7 Layout

7.7.1 General

Policy 9

Generally maintain the historic layout of paths within the former St John's Church of England section of the cemetery.

The cross paths of the cemetery are an important part of the historic layout of the cemetery and have a religious symbolism. They should be retained and, where currently grassed over, formalised in conjunction with opening new areas for burials.

Policy 10

New burials in the cemetery should continue the layout of rows of graves in northwest-southeast rows aligning with the existing rows.

7.7.2 New Burial Areas

Policy 11

Develop a plan for use of the southwest sector of the former St John's Church of England section of the cemetery as a minimum maintenance cemetery.

The southwest sector of the former St John's Church of England section of the cemetery has little evidence of previous burials. Assuming no unmarked burials are located in this area and drainage issues are resolved, it is suited to development as a minimum maintenance area.

Policy 12

Develop a plan to utilise the former Wesleyan section of the cemetery as a memorial garden.

Although there is no known record of burials in the former Wesleyan section of Wilberforce Cemetery, there is a belief that some burials might be there. Historical aerial photographs show the area as being treed since at least 1947. Following ground penetrating radar investigation to determine whether burials do exist in this area, a plan could be developed to establish a memorial garden in the former Wesleyan section. Establishing a memorial garden in the former Wesleyan area would provide a place to establish gardens without changing the overall simple landscaping of the former St John's Church of England area.

7.8 Drainage

Policy 13

Investigate cause of poor drainage on southwestern side. Provide surface and sub-surface drainage that addresses cause of drainage problems without disturbing existing graves.

Policy 14

New surface drains should be limited to brick drains at the edge of the main paths.

Resolving drainage issues is essential to extending burial space into the southern sector of the cemetery. This must be done without disturbing existing burials. New surface drains should be designed to be sympathetic to the character of the cemetery.

7.9 Re-use of Graves

Policy 15

Allow the reuse of graves where provision has been made for re-use at the time of the first burial.

Policy 16

Gain permission from living descendants of all burials in a gravesite prior to the reuse of graves.

Many graves in Wilberforce have been used for multiple burials. In some cases, permission is given at the time of a burial for the grave to be re-used. Only in these instances or when living descendants of the burials in that grave give permission, should the site of a known burial be re-used. Re-use of a grave without permission is very likely to cause offence to surviving relatives of the first burial and should not be allowed.

Under the NSW Public Health (Disposal of Bodies) Regulation 2002, there are limitations to the minimum depth of burials that could restrict continued re-use of graves.

Policy 17

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

The monument is at the minimum an important historical record of the original burial and in many cases has social and aesthetic importance as well as sentimental value to the relatives of the original burial. The original monument can be dismantled sufficiently to allow the additional burial, but should always be reassembled in its original configuration.

Policy 18

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

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

Policy 19

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

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

7.10 New Elements

7.10.1 General

Policy 20

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

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

7.10.2 New Burials

Policy 21

Following the investigation of unmarked gravesites, allow new burials in the former St John's Church of England section of Wilberforce Cemetery.

7.10.3 Minimum Maintenance Section

Policy 22

Allow the establishment of a minimum maintenance sections in the southern sector of the former St John's Church of England section of Wilberforce Cemetery.

Interest has been expressed in the local community of establishing a minimum maintenance (lawn) area within the cemetery. This would allow continued burials while maximizing the use of the space in the cemetery and reducing long term maintenance costs (by making mowing easier and providing a standardized monument). This could be located in the southern sector corner where there are presently no monuments. Should ground penetrating radar study locate earlier burials in this area, the minimum maintenance section should, if possible, be planned around the earlier burial.

7.10.4 New monuments

Policy 23

New monuments in existing rows within the former St John's Church of England section of Wilberforce Cemetery should be compatible with the existing character of the row and of immediately adjacent rows.

While the former St John's Church of England Section of Wilberforce Cemetery contains a variety of monuments, there is often a consistency within rows and small areas. New monuments within these areas should respect the existing character of the monuments around them.

New monuments also need to be constructed in accordance with AS 4204-1994 "Headstones and Cemetery Monuments".

7.11 Columbaria

Policy 24

Allow the construction of new columbaria. New columbaria are to be sensitively located and designed so that they are not intrusive into the character of the cemetery.

Columbaria reflect changes in burial practices in the twentieth century and allow monuments for those who have been cremated to be located within an area which commemorates the lives of our forbears. The existing columbaria have limited space and have niches that are too small for the common columbaria boxes. New columbaria walls could be established elsewhere in the cemetery. Appropriate locations might include either side of the northeast-southwest path at the southwestern end of the cemetery or either side of the northwest-southeast path at the southeastern side of the cemetery.

7.12 Memorial Gardens and Walks

Policy 25

Allow the establishment of a memorial garden in the former Wesleyan section of Wilberforce Cemetery.

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

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

The former Wesleyan section of Wilberforce Cemetery provides an opportunity to establish a memorial garden without changing the character of the former St John's Section of the cemetery.

7.13 Signs and Markers

7.13.1 Row Markers

Policy 26

Provide new row markers at the end of each row of burials. Ensure row markers are legible and easily read with a permanent inscription. Row markers should be of simple design such as a low timber post with the row number carved into the timber.

Policy 27

Provide a map at the entry to the cemetery to assist with interpretation of the row numbers.

Wilberforce Cemetery lacks row markers, making it difficult to locate individual gravesites. Durable row markers should be provided within the burial area to assist visitors in locating graves. Timber markers with carved lettering or metal markers with engraved lettering will overcome problems of weathering paint. These markers should be properly maintained.

7.13.2 Grave Markers

Policy 28

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

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

Additionally, information about relationships may be added if desired. Standardised grave markers should be designed to ensure the information about the deceased is not easily removed or lost.

Until a monument is erected for a new burial, it is common practice to provide a standardized grave marker. In a few cases, this might never be replaced by a more permanent monument. A standardized grave marker should provide basic details about the deceased. As these are sometimes the only marker to remain on a gravesite, it is vital for future researchers that this basic information as well as the name and date of death of the deceased is included on the marker in a way that cannot be lost.

A standardized grave marker should not be based on a religious symbol.

Policy 29

Standardised grave markers for unmarked graves should be left blank unless information is found that confirms the identity of the person/s buried in the grave.

7.14 Planting

7.14.1 Trees

Policy 30

Generally maintain and reinforce the perimeter plantings of native trees on the northwest and northeastern sides of the cemetery.

There is no evidence that tree planting within Wilberforce Cemetery was ever a feature of the place. Native trees around the northwestern and northeastern sides (including those in the former Wesleyan section) of the cemetery have provided some visual enclosure. The southeastern and southwestern sides of the cemetery have had a less intensive planting, allowing views over the township and the farmlands to the south (Refer Figure 6).

7.14.2 Grave Plantings

Policy 31

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

Do not allow plantings of invasive weed species on graves.

Wilberforce Cemetery is unusual in having few grave plantings added by relatives of the deceased. This does not mean that grave plantings should not be allowed. New grave plantings should be controlled to ensure they do not destabilise monuments and to ensure that weed species are not introduced to the cemetery.

7.14.3 Grasses

Policy 32

Maintain grassed areas around monuments and in the former St John's Church of England section of the cemetery.

Policy 33

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

The former St John's Church of England Section of Wilberforce Cemetery is characterized by the continuum of grassed areas around the grave sites and continuing over the western area of the cemetery. Maintenance might be reduced by restricting regular mowing to the main paths and by encouraging native grasses that do not tend to grow as thickly or as high.

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

7.14.4 Memorial Garden

Policy 34

Develop a landscape plan for a memorial garden in the former Wesleyan section of Wilberforce Cemetery that incorporates a selection of ground covers, shrubs and trees.

The former Wesleyan section of Wilberforce Cemetery is less formal. A landscape plan for this area could incorporate other ground covers, shrubs and trees. The selection of plants should allow for the retention of some of the existing trees, and a selected range of shrubs and groundcovers for use on individual memorials.

7.14.5 Weeds

Policy 35

Monitor the presence of weed species and, where necessary, remove weed species using appropriate careful methods.

Because of the limited use of grave planting, Wilberforce Cemetery does not appear to be adversely affected by weed species. If they are observed in the future, they should be removed appropriately.

This might need to be by manual methods to ensure additional damage to monuments is avoided.

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

7.15 Maintenance and Repair

7.15.1 General Monument Conservation and Repair Guidelines

Policy 36

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

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

Policy 37

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

Policy 38

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

Policy 39

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

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

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

7.15.2 Conservation of Surrounds

Policy 40

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

Policy 41

Allow reconstruction of surrounds where there is sufficient evidence to guide reconstruction.

The surrounds of monuments contribute to the character of the gravesite and overall character of the cemetery. For most iron surrounds, appropriate cleaning and surface preparation followed by a periodic application of fish oil or other preservative would be sufficient to retard deterioration.

More detailed guidelines for their conservation are given in the “Tabulated Guide to the Conservation of Monuments” in National Trust of Australia (NSW) *Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation* 2002 which is included in this report as Appendix 4.

7.15.3 Repairs

Policy 42

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

Policy 43

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

- *wherever possible original fabric should be retained and preserved, thereby maintaining the integrity and authenticity of the original monument;*
- *Monuments should be retained in-situ and conserved.*
- *Displaced fabric should be reinstated to its original location, where this is known, thereby restoring both original fabric and form;*
- *Careful regard should be paid to the landscape and setting of the site, and the physical and visual relationships of individual elements within the cemetery;*
- *The information content of monuments should be retained;*
- *Reconstruction, using new fabric, should be limited to works which are essential, in order to allow preservation and restoration of existing fabric.*
- *Wherever practicable, existing damaged fabric should be retained and incorporated in repair work.*
- *The temptation to replace fabric with “new” works should be resisted, as it is inevitable that an old cemetery will show evidence of its age in the form of some wear and tear. Even if it is damaged, the*

original fabric has greater integrity and authenticity than any replacement fabric, and could always be replaced at a later date - the reverse process is impossible once the original material has been discarded.

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

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

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

The re-inscription of monuments, in order to conserve and present their genealogical and historic information, is not generally necessary. As a general rule inscriptions should not be re-cut, as inscription weathering is part of the natural history of the stone. In cases where the family of the deceased wishes the monument to be re-inscribed and repair of the inscription can be easily achieved, re-inscription may be considered. The re-blackening or re-gilding of headstones to keep them easily legible is also a traditional and appropriate maintenance procedure.

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

7.15.4 Responsibility for Maintenance and Repair

Policy 44

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

Where no surviving descendants can be established, the repair of monuments should be the responsibility of the Hawkesbury City Council

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

Policy 45

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

- *Stormwater drains kept clean (two monthly except in autumn where this should be done monthly)*
- *Weeds removed (six monthly)*
- *Lawns mown (weekly to three weekly, as necessary)*

- *Rubbish removed (weekly)*
- *Roads and paths maintained (monitored by maintenance staff and repaired as necessary)*
- *Fences maintained (monitored by maintenance staff and repaired as necessary)*

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

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

7.16 Movement of Monuments

Policy 46

Do not allow movement of monuments from their original site.

Policy 47

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

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

7.17 Fencing

Policy 48

Maintain the existing metal picket fence and gates around the former St John's Church of England section of the cemetery.

Policy 49

Allow an additional pedestrian gate on the southeastern side of the cemetery, adjacent to the existing vehicular gate.

The metal picket fence and gates around the former St John's Church of England section of the cemetery have proved successful in reducing vandalism to the graves and have widespread community support. An additional pedestrian gate on the southeastern side might provide alternative access for pedestrians within the town.

7.18 Resources & Funding

Policy 50

Funding for the conservation of the cemeteries should remain the responsibility of the Hawkesbury City Council.

Policy 51

State and Federal funding could be sought to contribute to the conservation of the burial ground area. Funding for selected maintenance projects and for archival projects such as the updating of cemetery transcripts could be applied for.

The funding for public cemeteries is normally derived from burial fees. With limited burials in Wilberforce Cemetery this will not be sufficient for regular maintenance of the cemetery. This does not negate the responsibility of the Hawkesbury City Council to provide adequate funds for cemetery maintenance.

Options to increase funding include:

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

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

N.S.W. Heritage Office

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

Funding is available for:

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

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

Commonwealth National Heritage Investment Initiative

The National Heritage Investment Initiative (NHII) is an Australian Government, \$10.5 million grants program that provides assistance to restore and conserve Australia's most important historic heritage places.

To be eligible for funding, a place must be entered on either the Australian Government's National Heritage List, or on a state or territory government statutory heritage register, at the time at which an application for funding is submitted.

Because Wilberforce Cemetery is of national significance, it might qualify for projects under this scheme.

Royal Australian Historical Society

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

7.19 Interpretation

Policy 52

Support the revision and continued publication of Sacred to the Memory: A Study of Wilberforce Cemetery by N. McHardy. Circulate copies of new and revised editions of the publication to local libraries and historical societies.

Policy 53

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

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

Continuing research and publication about the cemeteries should be encouraged, particularly as additional information might be found which would further assist the development of conservation policy and interpretation. As noted in policy 7.10, some funding assistance might be sought to assist with this ongoing work.

Many graves of early pioneers and residents are presently unmarked and the location of many graves is unknown. Where the location of a grave is known but is presently unmarked, a simple grave marker would help visitors identify the location of such unmarked graves.

7.20 Statutory Protection

Policy 54

Retain the zoning of the former St John's Church of England section of Wilberforce Cemetery as Special Uses (a) under the Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 1989 (Amended).

Amend the zoning of the former Wesleyan section of Wilberforce Cemetery to Special Uses (a) under the Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 1989 (Amended).

The zoning of the former Wesleyan section of Wilberforce Cemetery should be changed to Special Uses if it is to be re-opened for burials or to be used as a memorial garden.

Policy 55

Amend the listing of Wilberforce Cemetery as a heritage item on the Heritage Schedule of Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 1989 (Amended) to include both the former St John's Church of England area of the cemetery and the former Wesleyan area of the cemetery.

The listing of Wilberforce Cemetery on the Heritage Schedule of Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 1989 should reflect the whole of the cemetery, not just the former St John's Church of England area.

Policy 56

Nominate the place for listing on the State Heritage Register and the National Heritage List

Wilberforce Cemetery is of national significance. Listing on the State Heritage Register and on the National Heritage List will reflect that significance and could provide additional opportunities to apply for funding assistance.

7.21 Access

7.21.1 General

Policy 57

Retain public access to Wilberforce Cemetery via pedestrian gates and/or pathways.

Policy 58

Allow upgrading of the existing northwest-southeast and northeast-southwest paths with a stabilised gravel surface. Edges of the paths should be finished with simple three brick drains and/or kerbs.

Early aerial photographs of Wilberforce Cemetery indicate the cross paths of the cemetery were once finished with gravel. If the cemetery is re-opened for burials and the paths were used regularly for vehicular traffic during funerals, a stabilised gravel surface would provide a

reasonable finish for vehicles that is consistent with the historic character of the cemetery. Brick drains at the edge would help with controlling run-off.

7.21.2 Pedestrian Access

Policy 59

Ensure pedestrian gates to the former St John's Church of England area of Wilberforce Cemetery are open between sunrise and sunset.

Wilberforce Cemetery is a place of national significance and is regularly visited by members of the local and wider community. It provides substantial historical information about the pioneers of the area. Access should be available to all members of the community at reasonable times.

7.21.3 Vehicular Access

Policy 60

Allow access to vehicles via the northeast-southwest and northwest-southeast paths during funerals.

It is acknowledged that access for people with limited mobility is not ideal in Wilberforce Cemetery. However, it is also noted that vehicles in cemeteries are often a cause of some damage to monuments. Leaving vehicular gates open is also likely to increase the incidence of vandalism within the cemetery. For this reason, there should be limitations on vehicular access within the cemetery. Adequate parking for most occasions exists adjacent to the roadway connecting Old Sackville Road with Clergy Lane.

Policy 61

Close the gravel track through the former Wesleyan section of the cemetery to prevent vehicular access to adjacent residential property.

The current use of the former Wesleyan section of the cemetery for vehicular access to adjacent residential properties is inappropriate for a cemetery, whether burials are located there or not. Closing the track to vehicles is the first step to making this section of the cemetery available for uses such as burials or as a memorial garden.

7.22 Vandalism

Policy 62

Maintain the existing fencing and gates and any future gates as set out in Policies 48 and 49. Ensure the pedestrian gates to the cemetery are opened at sunrise and closed at sunset each day to allow visitors access to the cemetery.

Policy 63

Maintain the existing lighting of the cemetery.

Policy 64

Include night patrols of the cemetery by Council rangers and/or police on a regular basis.

Vandalism has caused extensive damage to monuments in the cemetery in the past. The existing fence and floodlighting of the cemetery has alleviated this problem. Night patrols by rangers or police is also a deterrent.

7.23 Adoption and Review of Conservation Policy.

7.23.1 Adoption of Conservation Policy

Policy 65

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

7.23.2 Review of Conservation Policy

Policy 66

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

Policy 67

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

7.23.3 Distribution of Conservation Management Plan

Policy 68

This conservation management plan should be distributed to the following:

- *Hawkesbury City Council*
- *Hawkesbury Library Local Studies Collection*
- *The Friends of Wilberforce Cemetery*
- *National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.)*
- *Any persons involved in the future management or maintenance of Wilberforce Cemetery*

8 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

8.1 Former St John's Church of England Area

8.1.1 Ground Penetrating Radar Investigation

Undertake a ground penetrating radar investigation of the former St John's Church of England area of the cemetery to determine where unmarked burials are located.

8.1.2 Grave Markers

Provide simple standardised grave markers to indicate unmarked burials located by ground penetrating radar investigation in 8.1.1. Markers might include a "headstone" and "footstone" to indicate the extent of the area used for the burial.

8.1.3 Drainage

Investigate water table levels in the southern part of the cemetery with a view to investigating hydrography of the soil and necessary works to resolve drainage problems in the southern sector.

Undertake necessary works to rectify sub-soil drainage without disturbing unmarked burials (if any) identified by ground penetrating radar investigation in 8.1

8.1.4 Paths

Provide brick drains to edges of main northeast-southwest and northwest-southeast paths linked to drainage system.

If necessary for funeral vehicles, provide consolidated gravel finish on appropriate base to northwest-southeast and northeast-southwest paths.

8.1.5 New Cemetery Plan

Prepare a plan of the cemetery to provide the following:

1. New grave sites within existing burial areas, ensuring unmarked gravesites.
2. Continuation of rows laid out in 1970s
3. New minimum maintenance section, preferably in the southern sector, assuming no unmarked graves are found in this area.
4. New columbaria at western end of cemetery
5. New pedestrian gate at southwestern or southeastern side of cemetery

8.2 Former Wesleyan Area

8.2.1 Zoning

Amend zoning of the former Wesleyan area of Wilberforce Cemetery to Special Uses (a).

8.2.2 Access

Formalise Clergy Road on the southeastern boundary of this area to provide vehicular access to properties in Church Road and Old Sackville Road who currently reach their garages via the track through the former Wesleyan area of the cemetery.

8.2.3 Ground Penetrating Radar Investigation

Undertake a ground penetrating radar investigation of the former Wesleyan area of the cemetery to determine where unmarked burials are located.

8.2.4 Grave Markers

Provide simple standardised grave markers to indicate unmarked burials located by ground penetrating radar investigation in 8.2.3. Markers might include a "headstone" and "footstone" to indicate the extent of the area used for the burial.

8.2.5 New Memorial Garden Plan

Develop a plan for a memorial garden in the former Wesleyan area of Wilberforce cemetery. The plan should be developed with consultation with the local community and should include:

1. Location of previous burials (if any) located by ground penetrating radar investigation.
2. Pedestrian paths through the area
3. Areas for placement of memorials
4. Appropriate plant lists for sections within the area
5. Retention of mature trees at the edges of the area to screen adjacent residential development.

9 MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

9.1 Management

Management of Wilberforce Cemetery should remain with Hawkesbury City Council. Management decisions should be made in consultation with the Friends of Wilberforce Cemetery and the Hawkesbury Branch of the National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.)

9.2 Statutory Approvals

The zoning of the former Wesleyan area of Wilberforce Cemetery needs to be changed to allow use of the area as a memorial garden.

9.2.1 Hawkesbury City Council

Hawkesbury City Council is the consent authority for development at Wilberforce Cemetery. Development consent is not required to create new graves. The consent of Hawkesbury City Council is required to erect a new monument. This policy ensures that new monuments are in character with other monuments in the vicinity.

9.2.2 Heritage Office

Listing of Wilberforce Cemetery on the State Heritage Register will require some additional controls on development of the cemetery. Development such as new columbaria, minimum maintenance section and a memorial garden would require approval of the Heritage Office under Section 60 of the Heritage Act.

The Heritage Act allows a number of standard exemptions to Section 57(1) of the Act for cemeteries and burial grounds. These include:

- (a) the creation of a new grave;
 - (b) the erection of monuments or grave markers in a place of consistent character, including materials, size and form, which will not be in conflict with the character of the place; or
 - (c) an excavation or disturbance of land for the purpose of carrying out conservation or repair of monuments or grave markers;
- provided that there will be no disturbance to human remains, to relics in the form of grave goods, associated landscape features or to a place of Aboriginal heritage significance.

It should be noted that to gain this exemption,

A person proposing to carry out development in the manner described in paragraph 1(b) or (c) must write to the Director-General and describe the development proposed. If the Director-General is satisfied that the proposed development meets the criteria set out in paragraph 1, the Director-General shall notify the applicant.

9.2.3 Other

Bodies may only be exhumed from the cemetery if the exhumation has been ordered by the coroner or if permission has been granted by the Director General of Health.

9.3 Maintenance

Maintenance of monuments is the responsibility of the relatives of the deceased. Only under exceptional circumstances such as where there is a risk to public safety will Council interfere with maintenance of a grave monument.

Council should continue with maintenance of the grounds of the cemetery. Maintenance should include:

Daily locking of pedestrian gates at sunset and unlocking at sunrise.

Locking of vehicular gates immediately after exit of vehicles for burials and/or funeral services or other maintenance.

Mowing of grassed areas every 1-3 weeks (depending on season and weather). Mowers should not be allowed within one metre of monuments.

Monitoring and removal of weeds around headstones with non-mechanical means.

Regular checking and repair of perimeter fencing

9.4 Exemptions

Exemptions under the Heritage Act already exist for cemeteries and are noted in 9.2.2 above.