



WAVERLEY CEMETERY MASTER PLAN

For Waverley Council

21 June 2018

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For Waverley Council

2 May 2018

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1.1 Introduction

Waverley Cemetery is a iconic landscape set in an enclosing shallow valley, perched on the cliffs above the Tasman Sea. The distinctive Cemetery is characterised by the open and exposed landscape of vertical monuments facing the open ocean.

Waverley Cemetery faces the same challenges as many cemeteries around the country of an increased population of diverse cultures and changing trends in ceremonial and burial practices. The Cemetery does have several unique challenges such as the Heritage significance of the site and monuments, the coastal landscape setting, sloping topography. Waverley Council wants to address these challenges creatively and sensitively.

Group GSA and City Plan Services have been engaged to explore the opportunities that will enhance the overall experience and quality of service as well as allowing the cemetery to continue to operate as an active cemetery. The Master Plan will set the vision and framework for how the Cemetery is to be developed to meet the present and future needs of the surrounding communities.

1.1.2 Vision

The unpinning philosophy of the Waverley Cemetery Master Plan is to encourage and the strengthen the sense of the place, and to enrich the heritage significance of the site.

The cemetery will continue to function as an operating entity, offering burial, interment and memorialisation. The ongoing function of the site is important to maintaining its heritage significance and meaning.

The cemetery will be an inviting place for people to visit and learn about the history and significance of the site, and have opportunity to pass through the cemetery as well as to find places to pause and reflect.

1.1.3 Key Objectives

The Master Plan focusses on the unique qualities and opportunities that the Cemetery has to offer. The plan builds upon the vision and values outlined by Council and other stakeholders, utilising many of the existing elements to improve the long-term beauty and amenity of the Cemetery. The plan also seeks to ensure that the outcomes are fully integrated with the existing and future operations and that it complements the community values with the surrounding Bronte neighbourhood.

The key objectives of the Master Plan, include:

- Identify relevant landscape, heritage and operational opportunities and constraints
- Optimise the use of the land available within the site, through the

enhancement of existing amenities, improvements to circulation and added points of interest.

- Protect and respect environmental and cultural values through sensitive and sustainable outcomes and approaches.
- Provide strategic formwork for the enhancement and development; that is realistic, achievable and within reasonable resources available to the Council and community.

1.1.4 Project Methodology

The following methodology has been adopted to prepare the Master Plan:

- Site visits and analysis of existing features and facilities.
- Previous consultation with the community and local user groups.
- Review and update of the Conservation Management Plan. (CMP) by City Plan Services.
- Development of a Master Plan Concept and ideas of enhancements to current operational works.
- Following review and feedback from Council and stakeholder input, the finalisation of the Master Plan.







2.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND

2.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1.1 Background

Waverley Cemetery is an important living landmark for local people and for the wider Sydney region and beyond. It is located in the suburb of Bronte on Sydney's coastline. The Cemetery's location is unique overlooking scenic sandstone cliffs out to the Pacific Ocean whilst still sitting within an urban setting.

The first purchase of land to start the Cemetery took place in 1875, design and styling of the landscape took place including important drainage, roads and fencing drawing on popular 'Gadren-Esque' movement. The first part of the cemetery was officially finished and opened on the 1st of August 1877, with the first interment taking place on the afternoon of the 4th August 1877. Since then more than 83,000 interments have taken place in 50,000 gravesites and memorials. The operation of the cemetery has resulted in a collection of significant and high quality memorials and monuments which are the resting place of many influential and significant men and women who helped develop and shape Sydney NSW and Australia on the international stage. The Cemetery after more than 130 years of operating remains 100% self-funded business. It has never been funded by the public or council ratepayers, with the individual sites being maintained for a fee.

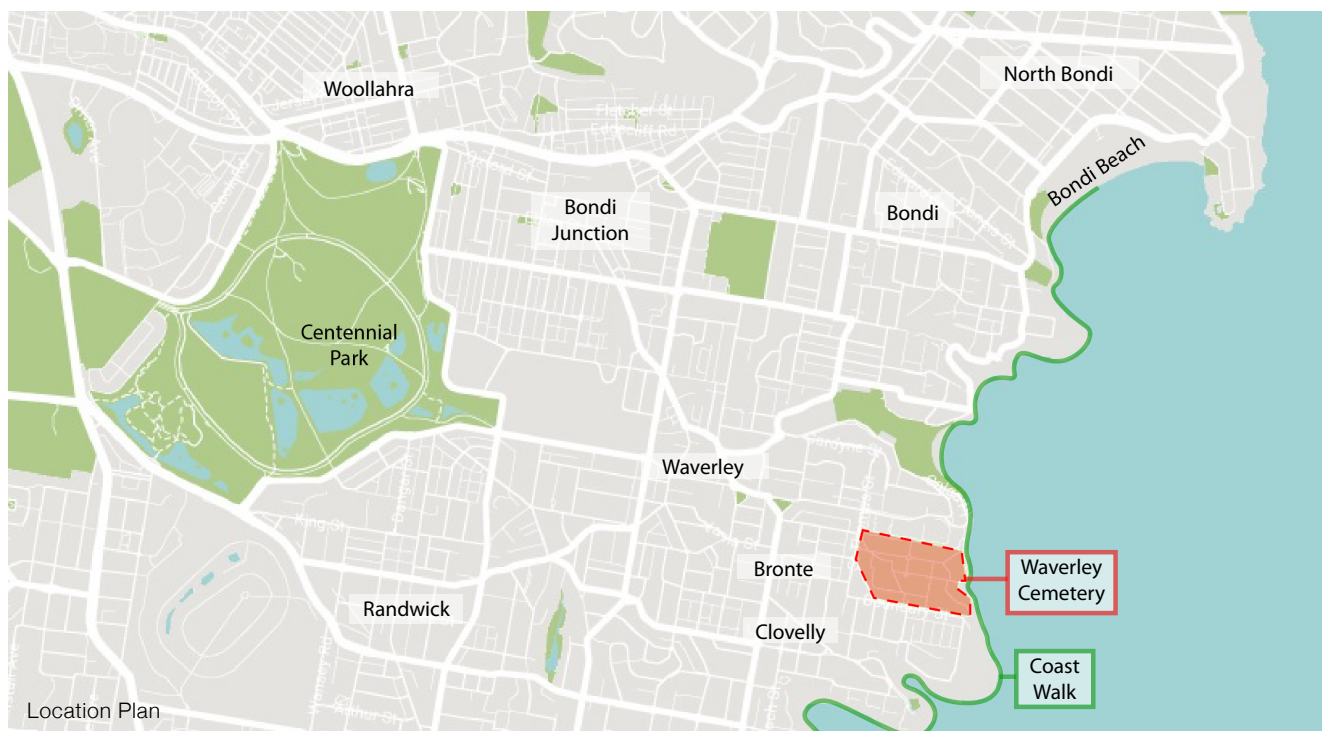
Waverley Cemetery faces the same challenges as many cemeteries around the country of an increased population of diverse cultures and changing trends in ceremonial and burial practices.

2.1.2 Site Context

Waverley Cemetery is bordered by Boundary, Saint Thomas and Trafalgar Street and the Tasman Sea to the east in the suburb of Bronte. The main access to the Cemetery is located on Sir Thomas Road with secondary pedestrian access along Boundary Street and the Bondi to Bronte Coastal Walk. The site sits approximately 8km from the Sydney CBD.

2.1.3 Character of the Cemetery

Waverley Cemetery shares numerous features that are typical of cemeteries opened in the Victorian period, especially the nature and appearance of its monuments. A comparative analysis was conducted by heritage consultants (City Plan) to determine the significance and representativeness in both a state and national context. It has shown that Waverley Cemetery is not the only operational urban historic cemetery in NSW. It is amongst the oldest cemetery in the state, all dating to the late nineteenth century, but is not the eldest established burial ground still in operation. However, it is one of the few cemeteries that have a coastal setting. It is one of the largest, if not the largest, coastal cemetery in Australia. Like many other historic cemeteries, its main aesthetic characteristic, beyond its coastal setting, is the splendor of the white carrara marble monuments that dominate its landscape.









3.0 SITE APPRECIATION

3.1 SITE CONDITIONS

3.1.1 Land Use

TYPE OF USE	DESCRIPTION
Primary Use	– Burials in ground or entombment.
	– Interment of ashes in existing coffin interment allotments or in specifically created memorial gardens.
	– Visitation of graves and memorials or the cemetery to pay respects or for reflection.
	– Inquires concerning funerals, burials, ash interments, purchase of pre-need and at-need sales.
Other Key Uses	– Passive recreation in the cemetery grounds.
	– Informal walkway connection by local community members.
	– Research by genealogists, historians and individuals, historians and individuals.
	– Educational purposes.
	– Filming and photography, by permission of Waverley Council.
	– Cultural tours.
Coastal Walk	– Passive recreation.
Existing Facilities	– Existing site offices and administration building.
	– Former care takers residence.
	– Maintenance sheds and buildings.
	– Reflection shelters.



3.1.2 Interment and Memorialisation

There are a range of interment and memorialisation options and typologies throughout the cemetery. The cemetery is the resting place for approximately 90,000 people within graves, tombs or interred ashes.

In-ground Burial

The grave sites and monuments dominate the landscape of the cemetery.

Entombment Burial

There are a number of above grounds vaults and mausolea within Waverley Cemetery. These are typically located in groups including the north-western corner near the entrance, along the main retaining wall at the south east corner of the site, as well as other discrete parts of the cemetery.

Ash Interment and Niche Walls

Waverley Cemetery has adapted to the increased demand for memorial sites through providing a range of places for cremated remains.

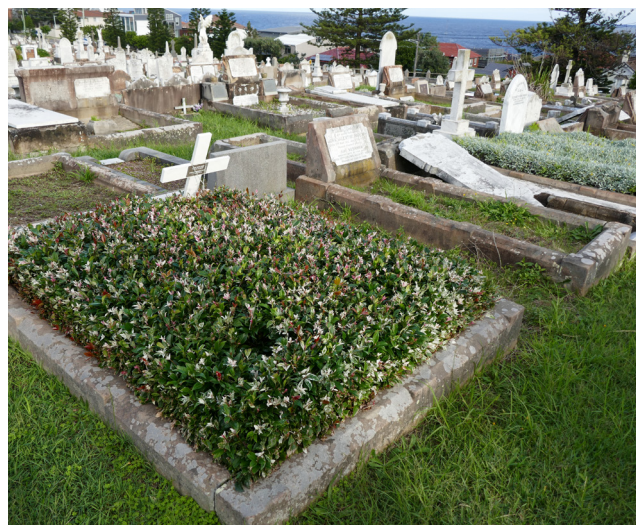
Ashes may be placed within existing graves, with inscriptions added to the existing monuments in the same style as the original monument. This allows descendants of those buried in the cemetery to have their ashes placed in the vicinity of their forebears.

Places for scattering ashes with associated memorial plaques have been integrated into the gardens located in the cemetery such as the central roundel on Lawson Road.

A series of niche walls have been developed along the Trafalgar Street boundary.

Memorialisation

Apart from burial and ashes interment, the cemetery has developed opportunities for memorialisation through places for small plaques to be installed. These plaques are integrated to walls and built elements in the cemetery. They create places for people to visit and remember.



3.1.3 Landform

The landform of the Cemetery is a gently sloping, shallow valley perched on cliffs above the Tasman Sea. The valley is defined by ridge roads along the North and Western boundaries of the site (Trafalgar and St Thomas Streets). The entry to the Cemetery is from the corner of these streets, which is the highest part of the site, and the entry road (Davie Ave) through the Cemetery affords views across the valley and out to sea, looking south and east.

Within the Cemetery, the landform contains a variety of steep slopes, sandstone ledges and outcrops, small cliffs and gullies. The landform within the site has informed the layout of the cemetery along with the road and path layout.

A secondary highpoint within the Cemetery is the location of some key monuments and mausoleum burials.

The lower slopes towards the cliff edge has largely been created by filling.

3.1.4 Views

The views within the site and across the Cemetery graves and memorials to the sea beyond is a key characteristic of the site. The valley landform creates a semi-enclosed setting for the Cemetery. The homogeneity of the vertical, predominantly marble monuments and memorials with the strong geometry of the grave plots and grassed planted areas creates a distinctive cemetery 'townscape'.

Views within the cemetery look out to the ocean. From easterly sections of the cemetery, there are views along the rocky coastal edge and along the coastline.

The formal road layout, particularly east west running roads of Hargrave and Lawson Street are aligned along the valley floor. These create dramatic vista lines through the cemetery landscape focussing on the open ocean beyond.

3.1.5 Vegetation and Plantings

The vegetation within the cemetery comprises of surviving indigenous coastal heath vegetation, remnant cultural plantings, and self seeded/ colonising plantings which are intermixed within the cemetery landscape. The variety of planting creating seasonal colour and differences is an important landscape character for the cemetery.

The framework of graves, memorials and associated planting, is all framed within an organised structure of mown grass.

Coastal Heath

The areas of native low coastal vegetation are located in pockets generally associated with sandstone outcrop edges and periphery of the site.

Cultural Plantings

Planting includes exotic and native Australian plants.

The strongest tree planting is the Norfolk Island Pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*) on the northern and southern street frontage of the Cemetery (Trafalgar Street and Boundary Street).

Individual trees, predominantly Canary Island Palms, punctuate the valley of the cemetery. These have largely self seeded amongst the grave plots.

A number of garden beds are located through the cemetery. These are often located at geographic features and edges, or alongside roads. These are now often used as ash scattering and interment areas.

The roundabout **NAME** contains the most defined and formal garden space.

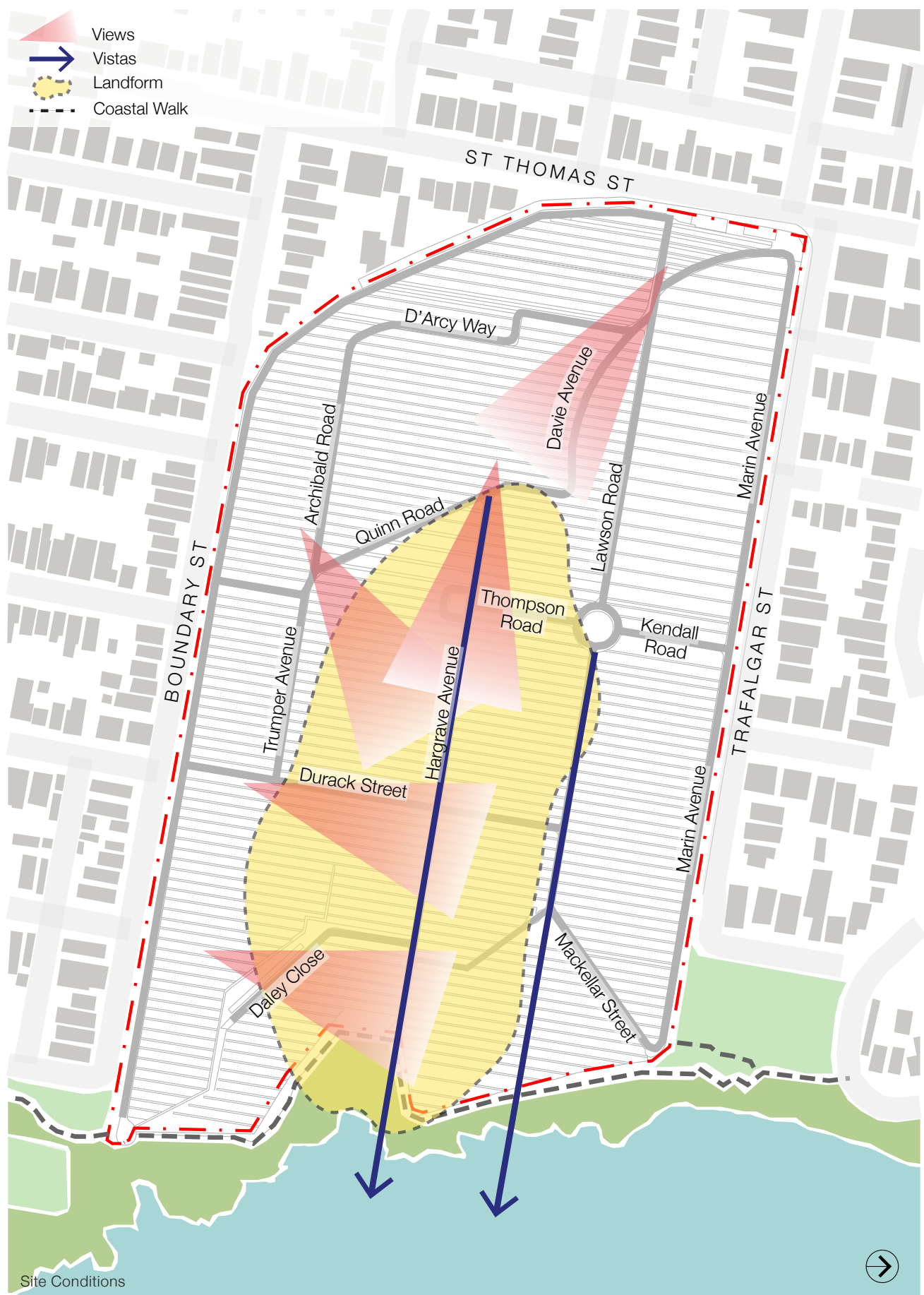
Colonising Plants and Grave Planting

It is a key characteristic of the cemetery is the variety of self seeded plants of both native and exotic plant species. Many of these would be considered weeds, but the wild and almost 'rampant' character of the self seeded and colonising plants contribute to the romantic character of the cemetery.

Within the cemetery, there are many grave areas with planting associated with them. Some of the planting is well maintained, whilst other areas, the planting is more 'wild and overflowing'. These sites again contribute to the garden character of the cemetery.

3.1.6 Internal Roads

The roads layout are key to understanding the layout of the cemetery as they reflect the stages of development, and respond to topography and landform. The current roads are a remnant of the original road layout. Some of the former roads have been removed and adapted into grave sites.



3.2 SITE CONDITIONS

3.2.1 Heritage Significance

The grounds of the cemetery are recognised for their significance to the people of NSW on the NSW State Heritage Register under the NSW Heritage Register 1977, as well as an item of local landscape significance under Schedule 5 of the Waverley LEP. 2012.

As part of this Master Plan process, a concurrent Conservation Management Plan has been prepared by City Plan Services. The aim of the CMP is to identify the cultural significance of the place by investing its history.

As Waverley Cemetery is listed as a State Heritage item, any proposal for change or development must undergo a rigorous assessment to determine its compliance with the CMP. Works may then be required to be submitted to relevant authorities for approval.

Key to the basis of cultural significance include:

- the importance of the place as a historically significant cemetery that demonstrates the norms around death and burial in the Victorian period.
- the layered evidence provided by the site's physical fabric for the evolution of social attitudes toward death throughout the 150 years of its use.
- The importance of many of the interred remains of the people to the history of NSW and Australia.
- The aesthetic contribution of both the uncommon cliff top setting with uninhibited views of the Pacific Ocean and the enclosed townscape character of the cemetery itself; and
- The aesthetic contribution of the dominant white marble monuments.



3.2.2 Site Integrity

Overall, the Cemetery is in a reasonable condition for its age. This may be attributed to its operation as a self-sustaining facility that is funded entirely by the sale of grave plots and interments, which has allowed sufficient funds to be allocated to maintenance of the Cemetery over its lifetime. Some grave plots are in a more degraded condition than others as maintenance of individual plots is the responsibility of the family of the deceased.

Many grave monuments and headstones have sustained damage either through the ravages of time, the elements, or vandalism. Some headstones are leaning or have fallen while some taller and larger monuments have been fractured with their constituent pieces lying in disrepair. The micro-climate of the Cemetery, enabled by the proximity to the open ocean, has led to a unique series of conservation issues. Stone monuments are threatened by wind erosion, metalwork has been attacked by corrosive salts deposited by sea breezes, and algae and lichens threaten the integrity of the stone.

As part of the Cemetery was established on landfill, subsidence of the ground is affecting large numbers of graves and monuments. Many older graves and the heavy stone slabs placed over them have succumbed to sinking, which has led to fracture of the stone.

Towards the coast, a number of roads have subsided into a sink-hole, leading to its destruction and later repair. Some original sandstone retaining walls are threatened by erosion of the foundational soil, threatening the loss of graves and monuments. In addition, the original sandstone retaining walls are not intact in their entirety, with spaces between intact sections filled with concrete reinforced by pylons.

Landslip and erosion of the coast has been continuing for several years, but the recent destructive storm of June 2016 led to a loss of approximately 77,000sqm of the landfill embankment or gully in the centre of the coastal perimeter of the Cemetery. Although there was no loss of graves or monuments, it was the loss of the coastal walk which has subsequently been redirected through the Cemetery site for safety reasons.

In recent times, newer materials have been introduced into the Cemetery in the form of modern headstones and inscriptions that have started to take away from the prominence of the Victorian character of the Cemetery. An ad-hoc approach has also begun to take shape within the central garden space with ash interments.



3.3 OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Operations

As with most cemeteries within Sydney and over Australia burial space is at a crisis point, as capacities are reached in many of the city's large public cemeteries. Prolonging the life of these cemeteries in both an operational and functional sense has become subject of interest.

Waverley Cemetery faces the same reality as the once open and separated spacious landscapes have been enmeshed within the urban fabric. Finding creative ways and solutions to allow the cemetery to continue to run is vital for the longevity of keeping Waverley Cemetery operating under its current conditions.

The outlined objectives and recommendations need to be endorsed by Waverley Council and its members as well as being made available to the public to help engage and promote the changes that are necessary.

RECOMMENDATIONS - SHORT TERM

Additional space needs to be found for burial and for interment of ash.

- Finalise all record keeping and ground truthing of existing burial plots into a digital format
- Finding unused space in the cemetery itself - e.g. under existing pathways, in grave sites that have been purchased but not used, remediation and/or conversion of previously unused areas (e.g. steep slopes, high water table), using single graves for multiple interments, usually from the same family.
- Conversion of other memorial areas, e.g. gardens or seating areas in the cemetery to burial sites or ash interment walls.
- Purchase of surrounding vacant lands for conversion into cemetery space

RECOMMENDATIONS - LONG TERM

There needs to be a shift towards more efficient use of space in cemeteries through changing burial and management practices

- Allowing for the reuse of grave sites over time e.g. renewable tenure in graves or mausoleums, green burial + gradual rotation of cemetery landscapes.
- Encouraging uptake of cremation and interment of ashes in the cemetery landscape.
- The associated rise in informal burial, where ashes are scattered in a place of personal significance

Maintenance

The Cemetery is currently operated by Waverley Council and is a self running Cemetery. There is a full time Cemetery manager who operates and manages the ground staff, the ground staff maintain the site from mowing, plant maintenance and upkeep as well as excavating new burials all by hand due to the steep nature of the site.

As with most open lawn cemeteries there is an extensive management and maintenance regime required to sustain tidy, weed free lawns and memorial plantings. In particular the steep nature of the site creates its challenges for mowing and maintaining tidy and neat lawn paths and connections.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increase in maintenance staff both full time and part time with the increase in operational requirements
- High maintenance regime
- Upgrades to drainage infrastructure
- Employing full time stone mason for rectification works to existing headstones and memorial

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4.0 CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

4.1 DESIGN STRATEGIES

4.1.1 Site Principles

The design strategies embodied in this master plan are aimed at enhancing the amenity for people visiting the site as well as increasing the opportunity and diversity of burial and memorialisation in the cemetery.

Enhancing the Cemetery Experience

Waverley cemetery is visited by people coming to the site to see and understand the heritage rich landscape, and to experience the drama of the coastal landscape. Many people are also just passing through the cemetery as part of the Coastal Walk, or a scenic deviation from the walk.

Importantly, the cemetery is also visited by people coming to the burial grounds of the deceased.

As part of the master plan, designs are proposed for the development of enhanced amenity for the different visitors with areas for seating, pausing and reflection. These areas include landscape treatments of planting and discreet seating opportunities.

Diversity for Burial and Memorialisation

To cater for the changing needs and preferences of the community as well as to ensure the ongoing viability in operation of the cemetery, there are a series of burial and memorialisation opportunities put forward in this master plan. These are focussed on new areas for ash interment, niche walls and scatter gardens.

Vision for the Cemetery

The Vision for the cemetery is defined as :

The unpinning philosophy of the Waverley Cemetery Master Plan is to encourage and the strengthen the sense of the place, and to enrich the heritage significance of the site.

The cemetery will continue to function as an operating entity, offering burial, interment and memorialisation. The ongoing function of the site is important to maintaining its heritage significance and meaning.

The cemetery will be an inviting place for people to visit and learn about the history and significance of the site, and have opportunity to pass through the cemetery as well as to find places to pause and reflect.

The design principles embodied in the master plan are based in the implementation of the vision.

Design Principles

The key principles underpinning the development of the Master Plan are summarised as per below.

Maintain the Strong Presence of the Landscape and Landform

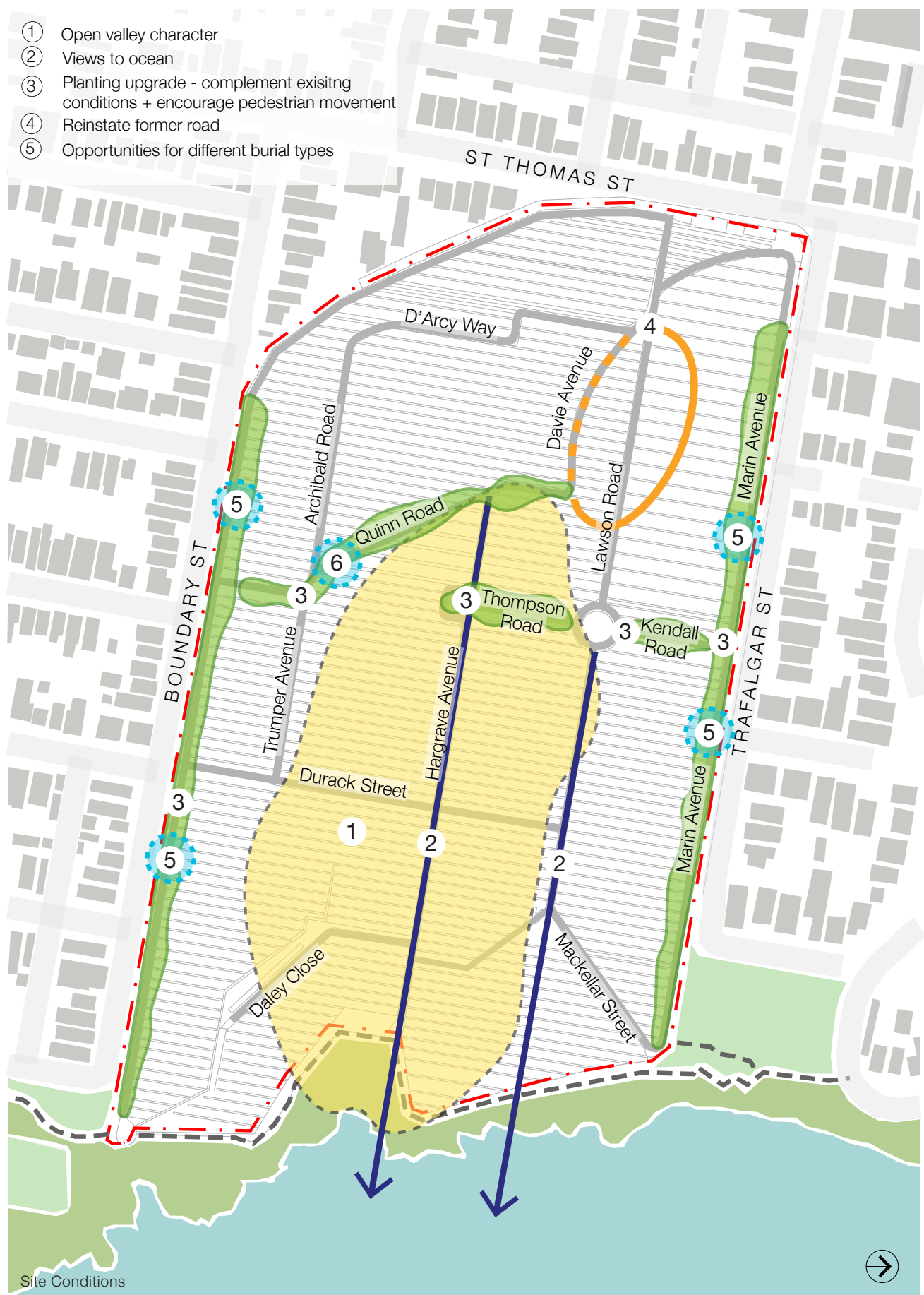
1. Retain the open valley character of the cemetery.
2. Maintain views across the valley, as well as through and across the valley to the ocean.

Reinstate elements of the Gardenesque character and layout of the cemetery

3. Utilise planting to enhance and frame the built elements of the cemetery.
4. Develop landscape and planting settings for people to utilise and inhabit.
5. Reinstate the presence of former road.

Diversify and Expand Burial Opportunities

6. Create additional opportunities for different types of burials and memorialisation to increase the desirability and longevity of the site



4.1.2 Site Development

The following section outlines the major improvements that are suggested for the Waverley Cemetery. Although several of these elements are interrelated they have been itemised and separated for clarity and illustration purposes only.

The main site development and improvement opportunities of the proposed Master Plan are summarised as:

1. Rationalise the vehicular and pedestrian network to improve safety, circulation and general amenity
2. Utilise the roads in the cemetery to create pedestrian friendly spaces and places to pause and reflect.
3. Utilise landscaping to enhance, frame and soften the Cemetery and reinforce the character and views to and from the site, increasing its desirability
4. Create additional opportunities for different types of burials and memorialisation to increase the desirability and longevity of the site
5. Rejuvenate and re-purpose existing structures and built elements within the Cemetery
6. Building efficiencies through a targeted works program focused on improved resources and support



Site Vision Plan

4.2 TRANSFORMING INTERNAL ROADS

4.2.3 Circulation and Access

Existing Conditions

Roads within the Cemetery are bitumen surfaced and their conditions varies. Most roads have early sandstone kerbing and guttering, although many consist of concrete kerb and gutter which are generally of a more recent date. In some cases, this concrete kerbing and gutter indicates the former locations of roads which have since been closed off to allow for additional grave plots.

Paths are mostly concrete construction and are very limited throughout the site. Many follow the lines of retaining walls, forming linear elements within the larger composition of the place. Other paths are located on the sites of former roads which have been reverted to turf paths. The conditions of the paths are generally poor as they have cracked as a result of settlement behind retaining walls and sub-surface movements generally.

Opportunities

- One way roads to alleviate vehicular traffic
- Reclaiming of existing roadways to create shared roadways and dedicated pedestrian zones (while maintaining maintenance and operational service to all areas of the Cemetery)
- Reduction of hardscape
- Reclaiming existing roadways for potential new burial sites and niche walls
- New pedestrian entries and gateways
- Reinstating sandstone kerb and gutter
- Enhance and improve the existing drainage conditions

Considerations

- Modifying current Cemetery operations
- Visual interruptions to the legibility of the cemetery layout
- Topography of site restricts DDA compliant access to all areas
- Existing roads and paths are in varying conditions
- Unknown state of existing infrastructure below ground
- Potential of unidentified graves in proposed area of revitalisation





Circulation + Access Plan

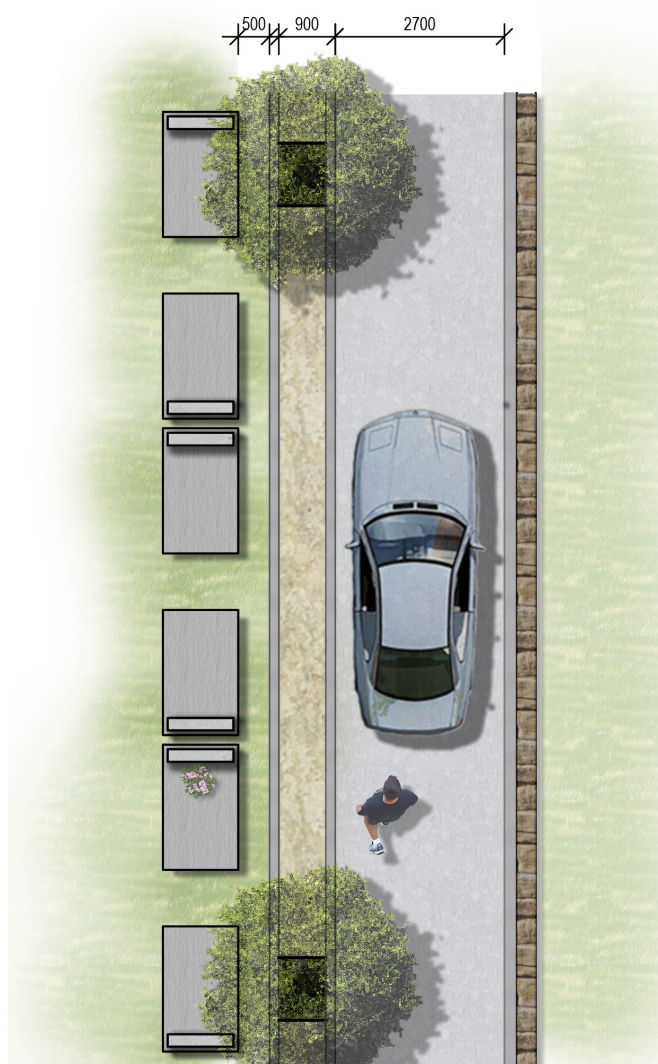
4.2.4 Roads for Defined Pedestrian and Access Vehicular Circulation

Aim

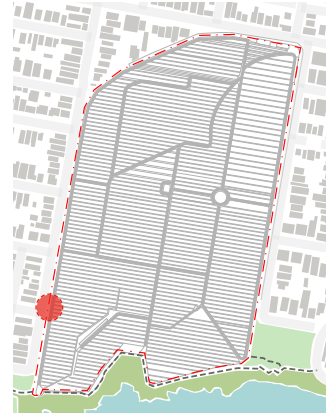
Develop parts of the internal road system with space that provides enhanced amenity for people, with defined places to walk, pause and sit.

Design Proposal

- Establish a green verge along the edge of the road, reducing the width of asphalt pavement.
- Provide planting opportunities in the green verge.
- Utilise the verge garden areas for scatter gardens or ash interments.
- Establish tree planting for shade and definition along special streets such as Boundary Street and Davie Avenue.
- Utilise low level planting in other roads (Hargrave Avenue) to ensure clear view lines across and through the cemetery.
- Protect the existing sandstone kerbing within the green verge.
- Ensure road widths are preserved for vehicle access.



Typical Plan: Pedestrian and Maintenance Access



Proposed green verge with road access maintained

4.2.5 Roads with Shared Vehicular and Pedestrian Circulation

Aim

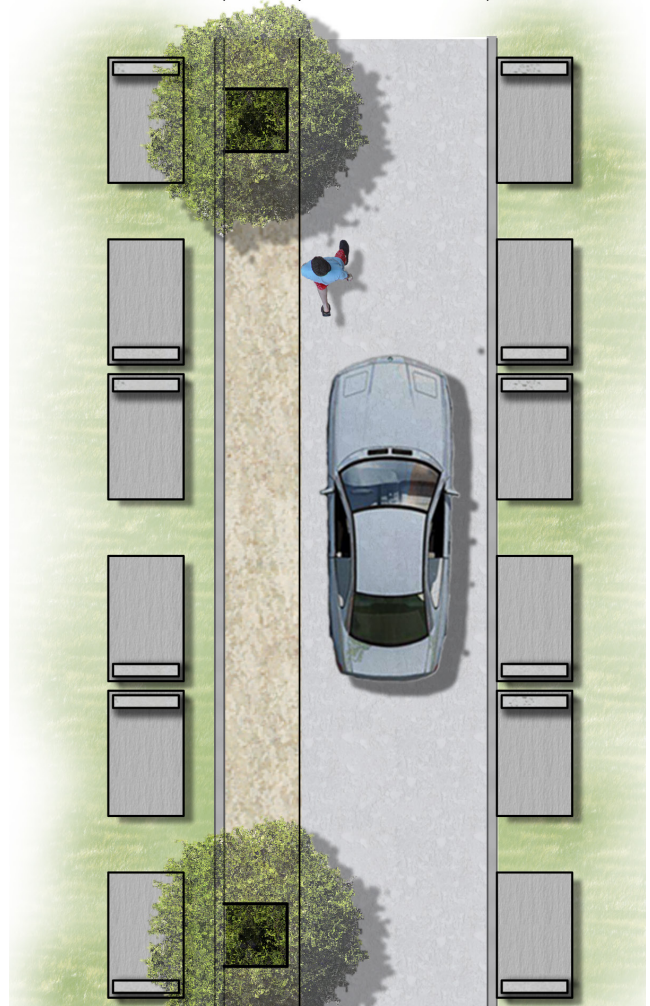
Develop parts of the internal road system with space that provides enhanced amenity for people, whilst maintaining space for vehicle movement and also allows spaces for vehicles to park within the road.

Design Proposal

- Define a space along the edge of the road reducing the visual width of asphalt pavement.
- Provide planting opportunities in the edge space.
- Utilise the small planted garden areas as small scatter gardens.
- Establish tree planting for shade and definition along special streets such as Thompson Road and Kendall Road.
- Utilise low level planting in other roads such as Hargrave Avenue and Lawson Road to ensure clear view lines across and through the cemetery.
- Protect the existing sandstone kerbing within the road edge verge.
- Ensure road widths are preserved for vehicle access.
- Allow space for informal parking within the road.



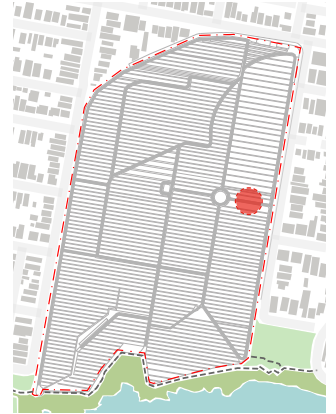
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Typical Plan: Vehicular and Shared Circulation Road



Existing site conditions Kendall Road



Proposed shared road with street tree planting

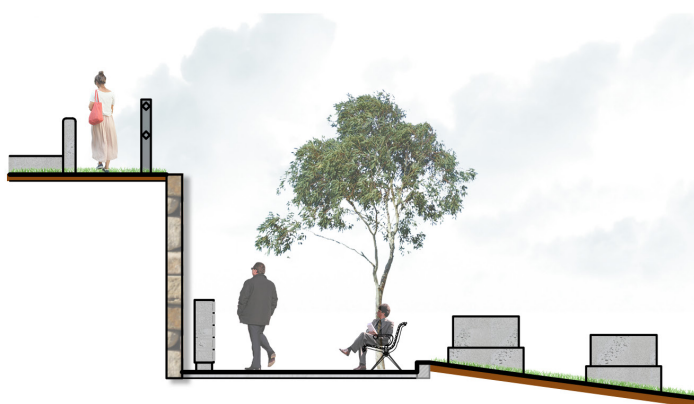
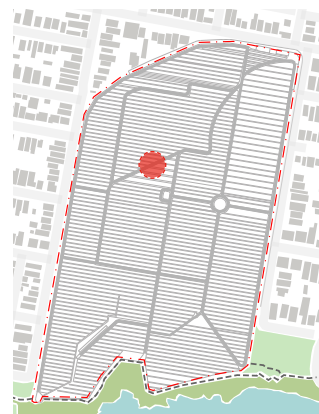
4.2.6 Green Link

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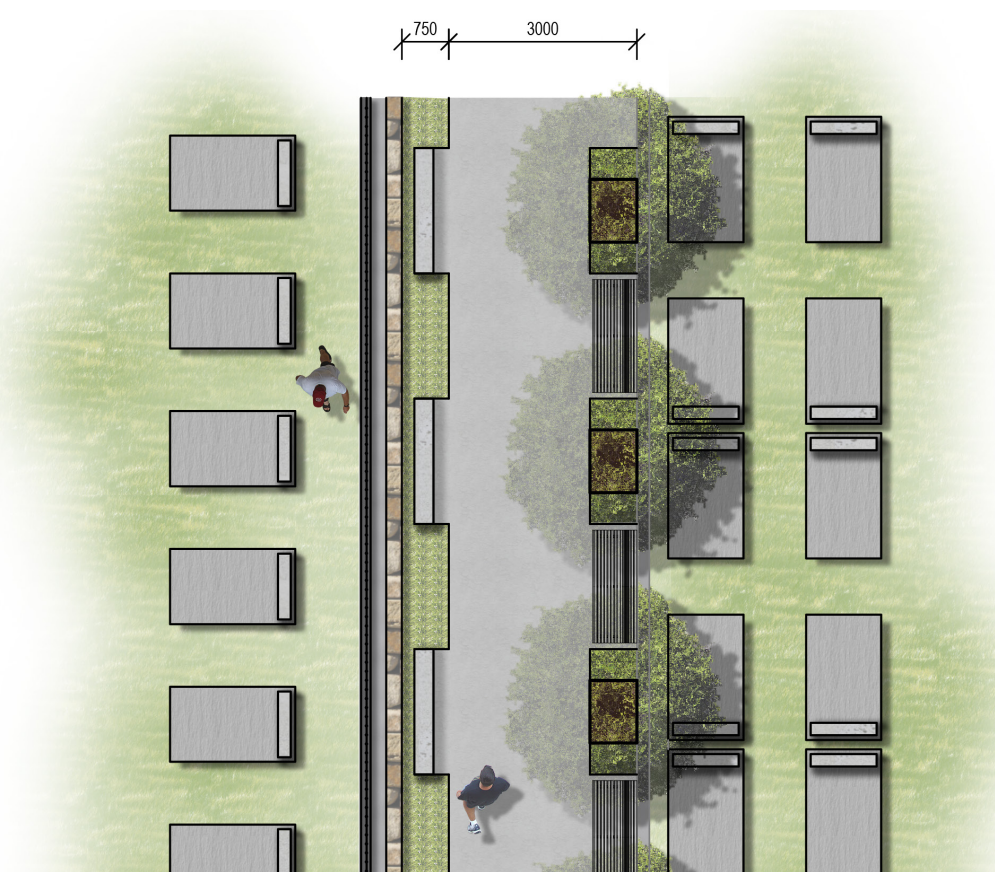
Quinn Street is located at the base of a large sandstone wall. The discreet situation opportunity is to create a green link space that provides enhanced amenity for people, with defined places to walk, pause and sit.

Design Proposal

- Establish a green verge along the edge of the road.
- Provide planting and seating in the green verge.
- Utilise the verge garden areas for scatter gardens or ash interments.
- Potential for niche walls along the wall edge, separated from the existing sandstone wall.
- Establish tree planting for shade and definition.
- Protect the existing sandstone kerbing within the green verge.
- Ensure road widths are preserved for vehicle access.



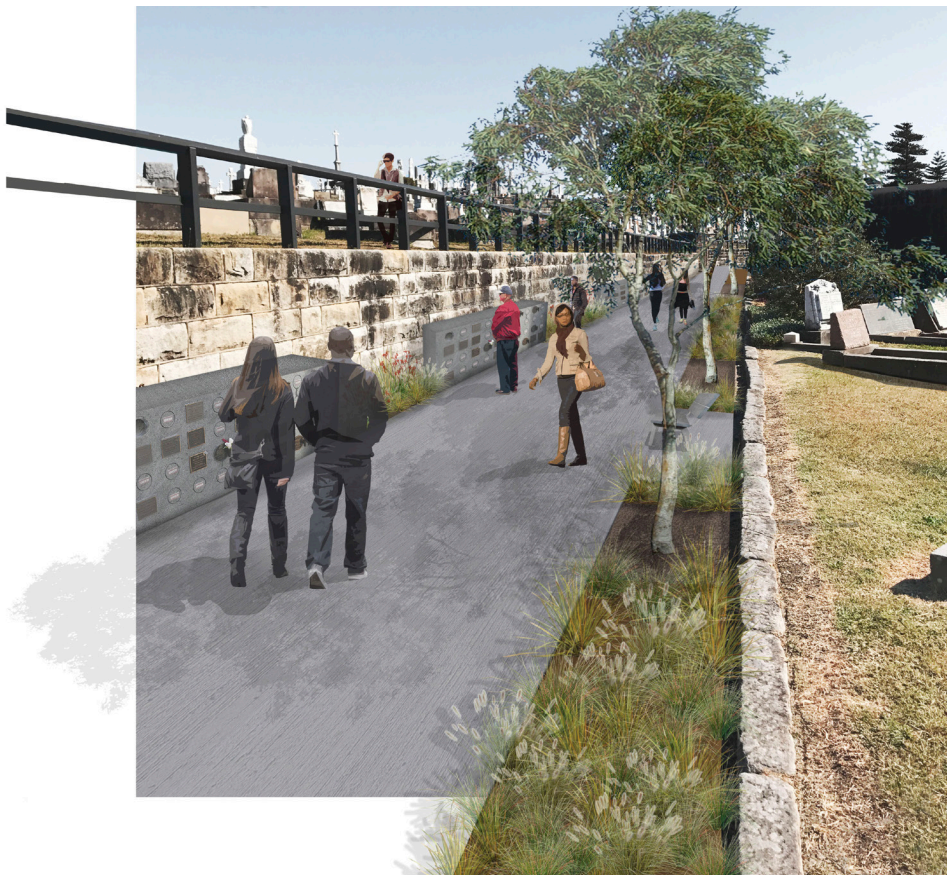
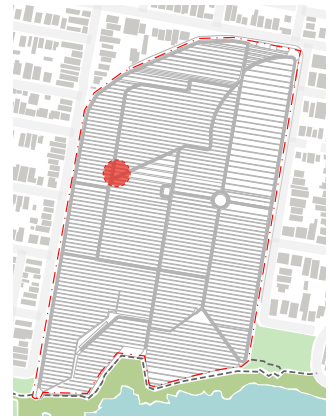
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Plan: Green Link



Existing conditions along Quinn Road



Proposed memorial walk with niche walls and rest points

4.2.7 Ash Interment and Scatter Gardens

Existing Conditions

The Cemetery is predominately occupied by in-ground burials and sections for masulouems, as all cemeteries within Sydney and around Australia usable space is becoming more and more scarce. A trend towards cremation has become apparent in recent times which offers opportunities within cemetery grounds to provide niche walls and scatter gardens as an option for mourning and remembrance.

Within Waverley Cemetery, small informal scatter gardens are randomly located throughout the site, but over time have been left unattended and lack vibrance and an aesthetic quality. Two niche walls have been installed along the Trafalgar Street boundary which sit within the Cemetery successfully while not dominating or changing the Cemetery boundary.



Opportunities

- Sensitively integrate new low niche walls.
- Create consistent palette for new walls and plaques throughout the cemetery.
- Plinths with plaques within gardens for remembrance
- Develop gardens within the cemetery which can be used for scattering of ashes.

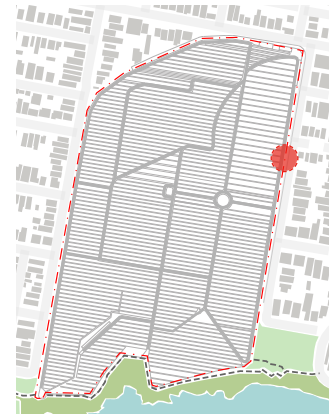
Considerations

- Impact of cemetery boundaries.
- Sensitivity of visual location.
- Impact on established trees with significant root systems.
- Cumulative impact of proliferation of plaques and niches without visual 'breathing room'.
- Additional maintenance required.





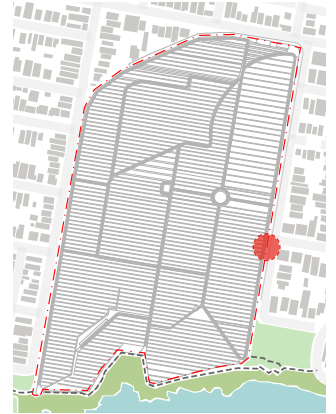
Niche Walls and Scatter Gardens Plan



Proposed niche walls with decomposed granite surrounds



Existing Trafalgar Street boundary with steeper grades



Proposed niche walls within massed planting



Existing corner pockets within cemetery



Memorial plaques within scatter gardens

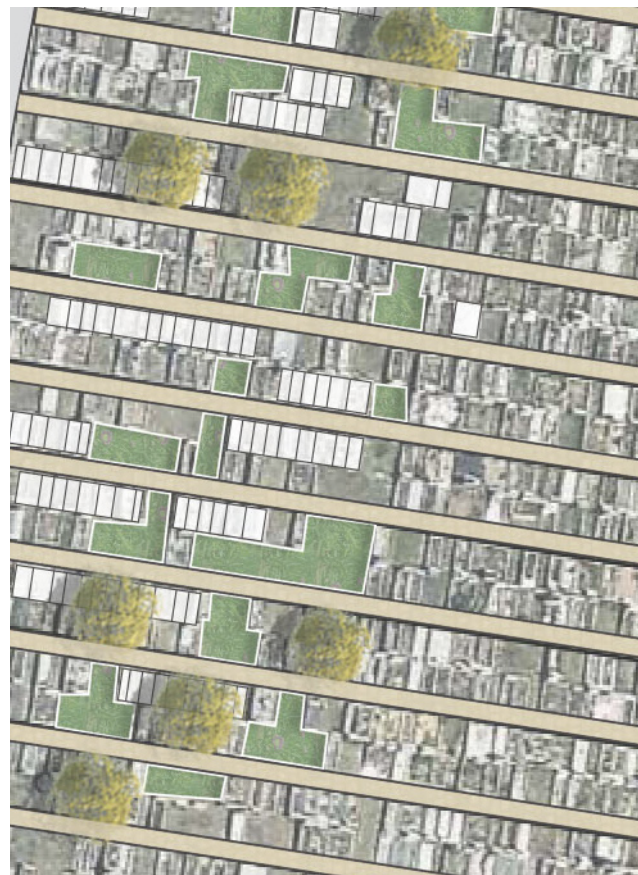
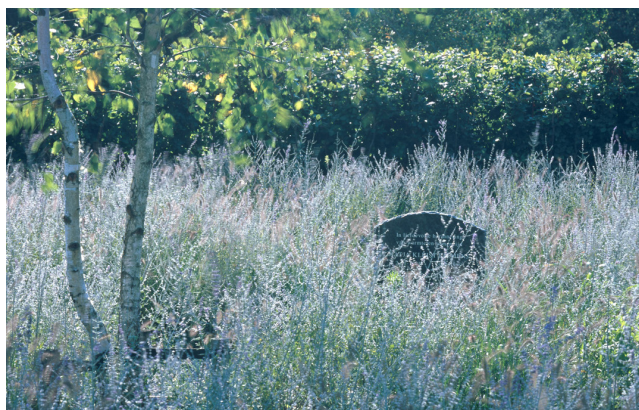
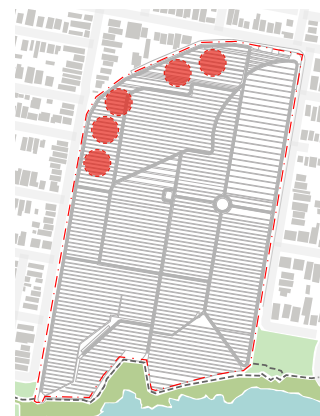
4.2.8 New Gardens

Aim

Create small garden areas within the grave area which can be used for ash interments or scatter gardens. The gardens are intended to be interspersed amongst the graves so as not to disrupt from the dominant grave and monument landscape character.

Design Proposal

- Reclaiming unused graves sites when available in groups of 4 or more.
- Utilise these grouped sites to create a new form of gardens within the cemetery which allow ash interments and or scatter gardens.
- Tree planting to occur within the small gardens to create a layer of gardenesque planting opportunities in the site.
- Locate the small gardens within the upper levels and western rear of the cemetery to not disrupt the valley floor of grave sites and monuments.



4.2.9 Cemetery Planting

Existing Conditions

The Cemetery's vegetation is comprised of either remnant surviving indigenous flora or exotic plants which have been introduced by design or accident. Some exotic plants have been introduced to gardens and grave plots and have self seeded to adjacent areas.

Coastal Heath is a dominant vegetation structure which survives in a depauperate state, clinging to the exposed sandstone habitats along the coastal edge of the cemetery lands and parts of Calga Reserve.

Smaller garden beds are located between grave plots and the road alignment, they contain a mixture of shrub species and ornamental plantings that have been planted by families of the deceased. Some plants have been left to over run the grave plots which offer a unique look and feel, whilst others have damaged some of the built fabric.

Grassing is the dominant planting element throughout the Cemetery and provides a contrasting setting for the hard edged grave plots. The grassing acts as both pathway and field for the integration of grave plots and monuments.

Rows of Norfolk Island Pines planting are represented along the boundaries which reinforce the coastal setting which occurs up and down the Sydney Coast line.

Opportunities

- Upgrade and rejuvenation of corner plantings.
- Potential for small scale scatter gardens with low niche walls for plaques / ash interments.
- Introduce resting areas and seats (potential for memorial plaques).

Considerations

- Increase in maintenance.
- Unmarked grave sites and or access to underground chambers in what seems to be vacant plots.
- Structural integrity of subsoil for new walls and structures.





Planting Palette

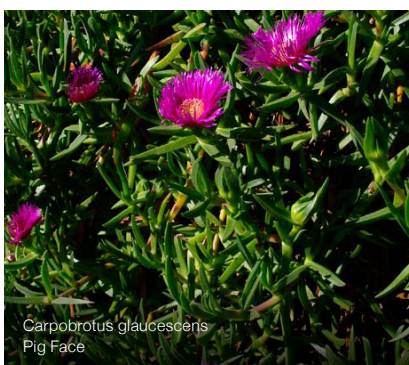
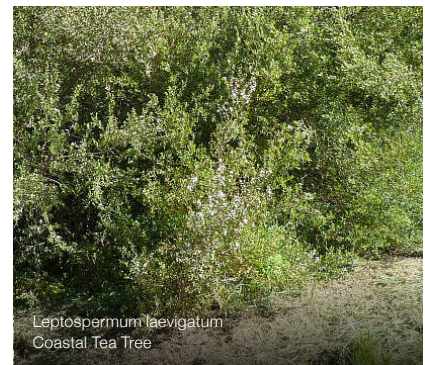
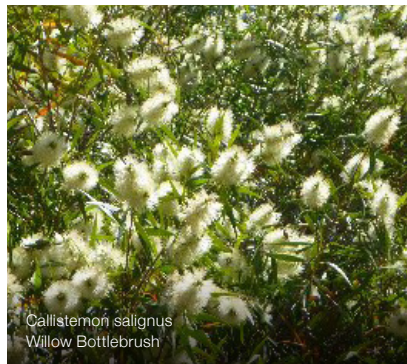
A proposed mix of hardy coastal plantings are proposed for the Cemetery and its surroundings.

Future tree planting should be chosen specifically to suit the space and function immediately surrounding the tree. The planting shall:

- Provide screening and softening to the landscape
- Provide shade, in particular, to seating areas
- Contribute to the open space appeal and provide a range of sensory and seasonal variation
- Be positioned so there is no disruption to any existing or proposed burial plots
- Minimal maintenance required
- Located to have minimal impact on existing underground services or overall Cemetery operations

Any new trees and plant species selected will need to be able to tolerate strong varying coastal conditions. Strong winds, summer heat, extended dry conditions and high salt spray. The trees and plants selected should be capable of surviving an average dry period in reasonable condition without irrigation or reliance on regular maintenance.

The below images provide a list of the proposed plants that are to be used for the Waverley Cemetery and to guide future planting selections.







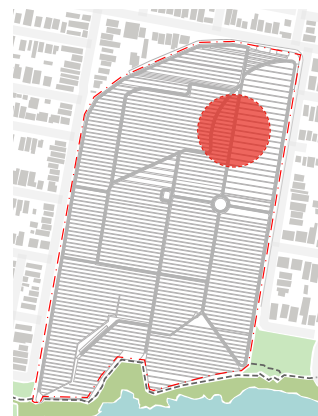
4.2.10 Reference to Former Road Layout

Aim

The layout of the former curved road is still evident in the cemetery. The remaining curved section of Davie Avenue is a remnant of the larger elliptical road layout. On the northern side of Lawson Road it is defined through the absence of monuments. The layout is an important form in the cemetery and shows evidence of the changing layout of the cemetery throughout its history. The design proposal is to make the former road layout clearer through a subtle ground planting treatment.

Design Proposal

- Meadow planting installed along the alignment of the former curved road in the north western area of the cemetery.
- The planting will be seasonal which reveals the road layout more strongly at times of the year when the selected plant is in flower.



4.2.11 Memorial Walk

Existing Conditions

The proposed area of the 'Memorial Walk' is currently situated at the base of the largest level change within the Cemetery. Part of the wall is large old sandstone block-work, and part of the wall is new concrete walling which was built to stabilise the terrace.

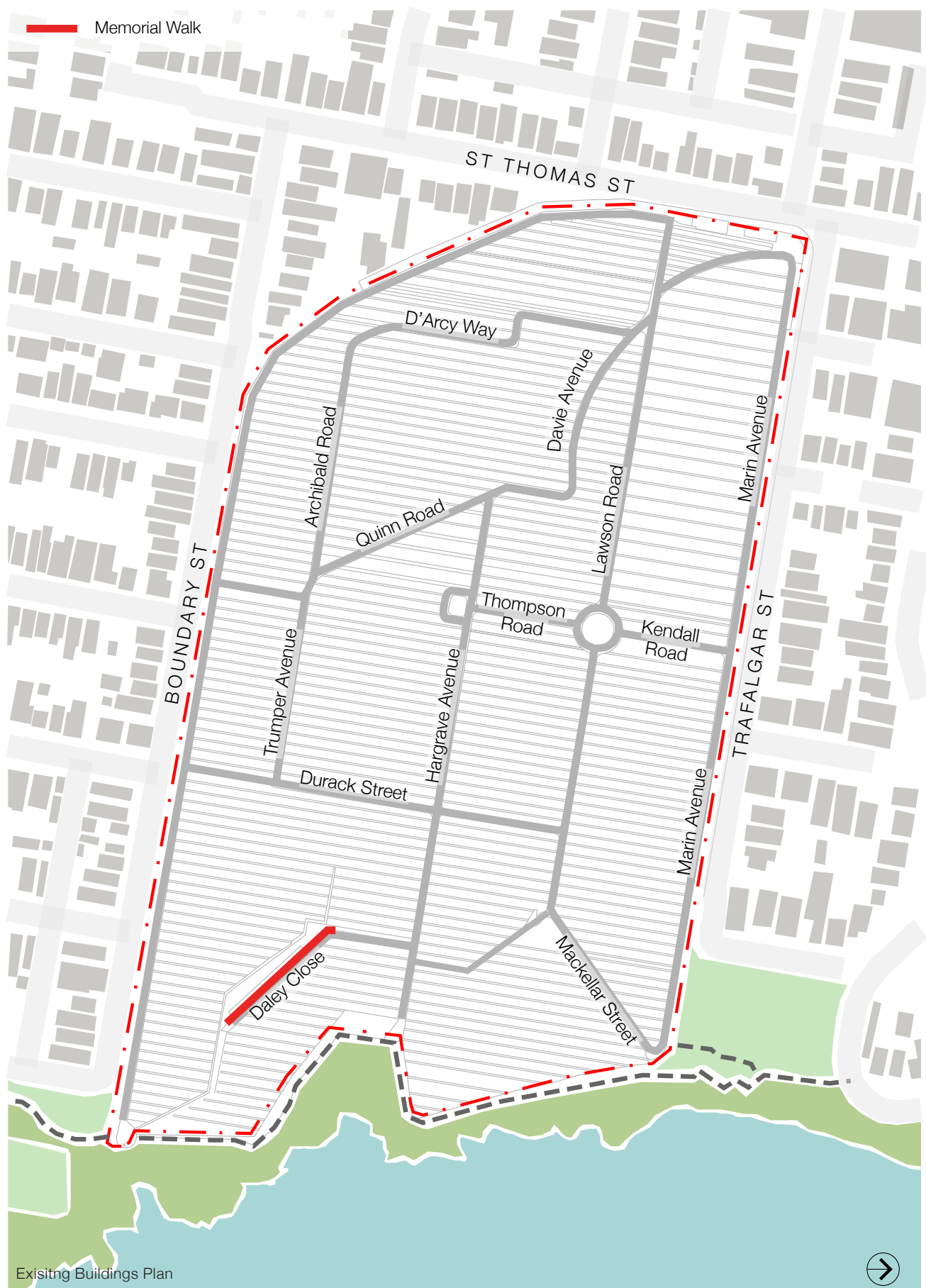
Opportunities

- Creation of remembrance wall above existing vaults and crypts.
- Develop a unique place for memorial and naming plaques.
- Utilisation of vertical space within Cemetery as well as incorporating existing site elements into memorial and Cemetery infrastructure.
- Reinforce and enhance plantings to terraces behind vaults and mausoleums.
- Captures picturesque views towards Bondi.

Considerations

- Structural integrity of the area with the recent wall collapse
- Required room and space for structure
- Cost implications
- Families of the adjacent vaults and crypts







Memorial Walk Visualisation

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4.2.12 Buildings

Waverley Cemetery includes a number of small buildings located across the site. They are mostly sandstone block construction. They range from small 'grotto' type shelters to larger buildings. The largest and most significant is the Cemetery Office located near the main entry.

The small shelter buildings are important built form elements and contribute to the character of the cemetery. They are useful as incidental seating and rest spots in the cemetery.

Building Adaption

There is potential for the buildings to be adapted as small gathering spaces pending their size and condition. The smaller shelters are generally too small to be useful venues for groups of people and are more suited to be used as informal seating areas.

The Cemetery Office and associated residence has the greatest potential to be adapted as a venue suitable for small gatherings such as wakes or remembrance services.



4.2.13 The Cemetery Office

The cemetery office is located immediately south of the small car park at the entrance to the cemetery, on its St Thomas Street perimeter. It is a single-storey building of rusticated rock face sandstone constructed in a Gothic-derived style. The building features steep pitched gabled roofs, as well as smaller, decorative pyramidal roofs. The northern part of the office building consists of a waiting room open on the east and north, with timber bench running along its two closed sides. The building has been fitted out internally for administrative purposes and also contains the Cemetery's physical archives.



The Cemetery Residence

The Cemetery residence is located directly south of the Cemetery office along St Thomas Street. Like the office, the building is one of the rusticated rock face sandstone constructed in a Gothic-derived style. It is of a two storey domestic design, with mirrored features of the Cemetery Office adjacent. On the buildings north side, a small room with its own steeply pitched roof is attached.

Viewing Shelters

Currently four mourning shelters sit withing Waverley Cemetery, these to date have become unwelcoming areas of the site due to the dark and moldy interiors. The potential for upgrades whilst maintaining the heritage fabric and feel of these shelters could create areas of mourning or small gatherings after a funeral / burial has occurred. Opening the structures to allow more natural light and enhanced ventilation could transform these spaces and create new opportunities for the cemetery.





Existing Buildings Plan









5.0 OVERALL MASTER PLAN

5.1 MASTER PLAN

5.1.1 Master Plan Key Items

Places for People

1. Develop Shared Streets
2. Green Link
3. Pedestrian only Path

Interment and Memorialisation

4. Memorial Walk
5. Scatter Gardens / Ash Interment Places
6. Niche Walls

Planting and Landscape Enhancement

7. Meadow Planting reference to the former road layout
8. Development of Small Gardens
9. Garden Enhancement
10. Perimeter Tree Planting and Garden Enhancement



5.1.2 Actions to Achieve the Plan

To achieve the best results from the Master Plan process and the proposed outcomes the following steps need to be taken to ensure a successful implementation.

- Council to endorse the Master Plan and agree to the priorities outlined for implementation
- Set and agree to annual budget to implement the Landscape Master Plan
- Engage with the local community and user groups to gain support and potential to capitalise on their resources
- Set up parameters for the staging of works, which allows the continual operation and minimises disturbances
- Report annually back to Council and the community on what has been achieved in the previous year and what is planned for the forthcoming year
- Review the Master Plan after 5 years and determine any changes or modifications needed

5.1.3 The Staging Plan

A staged approach needs to be taken to achieve the aims and objectives outlined in the Waverley Cemetery Master Plan. This staged approach takes into account the realistic staff resources and budget of the Council and will allow the work to be prioritised as needed.

The following is a suggested staging plan. It is to be driven by construction logic rather than interment demand. It is also based on the assumption that approximately 50 burial interments a year.

STAGE 1

- Conduct a feature and level survey of the site
- Conduct thorough investigations prior to finalising internal road upgrades for presence of graves
- Develop a comprehensive drainage strategy
- Contact Friends Groups and organise regular activities (planting, weeding, documenting grave sites)
- Finalise and implement suite of materials, plaques, plant selection and ash interment
- Alert local residents and cemetery users of upgrades and changes to road network

STAGE 2

- The planting of new trees to line road as indicated
- New niche walls to eastern boundary - installation of two walls to test the market
- Upgrades to pocket landscape treatments and allocate areas for future scatter gardens
- Amendments to road network - one way and road closures only

STAGE 3

- Undertake construction of green link and installation of niche walls at nominated locations
- New site furniture and rest points along green link
- Meadow planting to reference heritage internal loop road

STAGE 4

- Upgrades to link roads along Kendall Road, Thompson Road and Boundary Street (internal road). To include pedestrian upgrades, tree planting and the potential for further scatter gardens

STAGE 5

- Construction of Memorial Boardwalk
- Enhancements and upgrades to existing mourning shelters throughout the cemetery.

FUTURE WORKS

- Reclaiming unused graves sites when available in groups of 4 or more.







6.0 CONCLUSION

6.1.4 Conclusion

The Master Plan for Waverley Cemetery is a document to help stimulate development for a long term outcome. The meaning of the Cemetery is contingent upon the ongoing uses and operations of burial and interment.

The Cemetery is long established however, has seen monumental changes throughout its lifespan. This proposal aims to achieve a desirable, functional and usable landscape that creates many different opportunities to allow the cemetery to continue to operate at a self sufficient level.

The main focus of the Plan and Report is to try and achieve an appropriate balance between community views, site restrictions and opportunities. The document has attempted to provide:

- A sympathetic response to the constraints, opportunities and significance of the Cemetery
- Response to the existing burial layouts
- A documented way forward that responds to the CMP produced by City Plan

At its core is the proposal of a attractive, connected and enhanced Waverley Cemetery that ties into its surrounds and its unique landscape setting.

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