

9 April

Good Morning Mayor Innes, I take this opportunity to thank yourself, Directors Sharpe and Arthur for the onsite meeting on Friday 22nd March with some representative of our group Save Albert Ryan Park. I acknowledge receipt of an email from Council dated 26th March 2019 with confirmation of the resealing of an area of the car park and replacement of a picnic table.

In discussion with of our group and the community members there is a view that if the benches at the 2 current picnic tables were moved out approximately 35cm this would enable far easier access to the tables thus the current tables could remain. There is still a requirement for at least one additional picnic table and there was a view that this table could be located on the grassed area at the south end of the park.

Further to an email I have received on Friday 5th April 2019 in relation to the steps leading from the Peak in High Street to Albert Ryan Park. I was told at one point in time that I would be invited to attend an onsite meeting of this area. The email has stated this inspection has occurred and that the replacement stairs will proceed. Saturday 6th representative of our group went back to this area, I spoke to one man who had been living at the Peak for 8 months he told me he had never seen anyone access the stairs he was in a top floor unit very close to the entrance of the staircase leading to ARP, he also stated that he did not think that anyone in units at "Peak" used these stairs another resident I spoke to also made the same comment neither resident were aware that the grassy land area was once a site for the Anglican Church Cemetery.

I have accessed further information from a report that was published in the Canberra Times on Monday 14th January 1985 "Old Batemans Bay Cemetery Leveled" . The first person buried on this land was in 1874 and the last was Lucy Bettini who was buried beside her husband in 1927. It is believed that the site contained 65 graves and 14 marked with headstones. With rezoning of the land the Anglican Church sold the site which abruptly stopped the Clyde River and the Batemans Bay Historical Society fight to have the site declared a pioneer cemetery by the National Trust was lost.

Despite a "sit in by locals" the headstones were removed and those that could be stored were to be relocated at the newly built Anglican Church. There were graves that were described on the "fringe" were marked by a wooden cross one being an old Chinese man and his wife. Mr Clive Owen stated he had helped bury his father in 1910, he stated that "The place where people are buried is a Hallowed Ground" to make holy, to treat as sacred. Copy of art. from the Canberra times attached.

Councillors despite the fact that there has been approval for this staircase at a cost of \$62,000 of rate payers money there are other options and in discussion with a staff person he has agreed that the 2 other areas that the majority of the community are using will still be used. There is a 3rd option and that is, there is an area of land from High Street to Short Streets that if a footpath was build it could be accessed which leads to the Water Gardens as in time there will be a requirement for this area to be made Wheel Chair friendly. Why not use that \$62,000 to contribute to this footpath from High Street to Short Street which would be the first step for a Wheel Chair friendly access and scrap this provision for new stairs which will see work carried out crossing this "Hallowed Ground" and just accessing this site with the work equipment that will be required if this proceeds could result in remains that were buried on the edge of the cliff site being disturbed which could include Aboriginal remains and as most of you would be aware there is an "Aboriginal Lands Claim in the entire Eurobodalla shire. Trish Hellier- for and n behalf of Save Albert Ryan Park.

9 April

been publicly identified. The federal secretary, Mr John McAuliffe, said the executive was gravely disturbed by the com-

meeting of the Association of Professional Engineers yesterday, the executive director, Mr Vines, said the APE was "disgusted" that the commission had not even commented on the major element of

ated. The log of claims included better overtime and shift penalties, a union picnic day, fully paid union training leave, special allowances and a shorter working week.

most tourists are located," he said.

SYDNEY: Australian tourists returning from New Caledonia report that the Club Mediterranee tourist resort has banned its

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Old Batemans Bay cemetery levelled

From LOUISE EVANS, in Batemans Bay

The Anglican Church in Batemans Bay had not cared about the destruction of an old graveyard and its significant part in the town's history, the secretary of the Clyde River and Batemans Bay Historical Society, Mrs Sue Hapgood, said yesterday.

She had a number of relatives, including three cousins, who were buried in the old cemetery. Her cousins' plots were now under some timber on an apartment-development site.

The development means the historical society's fight to have the site declared a pioneer cemetery by the National Trust has been lost.

According to the society's research, the first person was buried there in 1874; the last, Mrs Hapgood's great-great-grandmother, Lucy Bettini, who was buried beside her husband, in 1927.

The society believes that the site contained about 65 graves, 14 marked with headstones.

The society's efforts to preserve the cemetery were abruptly halted when the church included it in a block of land which was sold for apartment development after it had been rezoned several years ago.

The graveyard was levelled, despite a sit-in by local residents.

The headstones were removed by the church for cleaning and storing until they could be relocated in a memorial graveyard at a new church still to be built.

However, the surrounding unmarked graves located on the fringes of the marked plots, including those of her cousins who were buried as babies, were now lost. She used to be able to identify them by mounds and trees.

Other fringe graves which were once marked by wooden crosses, such as those of an old Chinese man and his wife, were also lost.

Mrs Hapgood said that the destruction of the graveyard represented a significant

loss to the town's history and she blamed the Church.

One of the reasons given by the Church for selling the site had been that no-one cared about it, but it was the church which did not care.

She and her husband and a number of neighbours often weeded the plots and mowed the grass, partly for their own safety as the old graveyard backed on to her back yard.

Mr Clive Owen, 81, of Windang, helped to bury his father in the old graveyard in 1910.

He said yesterday that he was disgusted that the Anglican Church would sell the site to make a profit.

He had been at the site the previous Sunday, but could no longer identify his father's grave as the headstone and the surrounding concrete had been taken away.

"The place where people are buried is hallowed ground and I am shocked and disgusted that the Church should remove the gravestones and sell the site to make a profit" Mr Owen said.

Mrs Hapgood said the society held no grievance against the developer, Mr John Rawson, who has roped off the old marked-grave area so that people and vehicles would not trespass on it during construction.

Mr Rawson said yesterday that the marked-graveyard area would be landscaped to blend in with the development and a memorial sundial would be laid on the edge of the area.

The fact that a small area of the site had once been a graveyard was no longer an issue as far as the Church and the relevant authorities were concerned, he said.

An agreement with the shire council ensured that the original area where headstones had been removed would not be built on, Mr Rawson said.



Picture: PE

Mrs Sue Hapgood near the area where she says the bodies her baby cousins were buried in unmarked graves in a form Batemans Bay cemetery now being developed for housin

Mon 14 Jan 1985 - The Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 - 1995)

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- w Picture: PETER RAE

Mrs Sue Hapgood near the area where she says the bodies of her baby cousins were buried in unmarked graves in a former Batemans Bay cemetery now being developed for housing.