Eurobodalla Historic Cemeteries Conservation Management Study

Volume 1

'A cemetery is generally considered to be of cultural significance if it has historic, social, artistic, religious, genealogical, creative/ technological, landscape, botanical or representative significance. Some cemeteries are significant to the nation at large, some to a religious or ethnic group or a region and some a single family. Conservation of cemeteries means retaining this significance.'
(National Trust)

Prepared by Pip Giovanelli
For Eurobodalla Shire Council
March 2021

Executive Summary

The report confirms that the cemeteries and lone burials that are currently listed in the local heritage schedule continue to meet the threshold for listing and should remain heritage items.

In addition, Narooma General Cemetery, Wallaga Lake Aboriginal Cemetery and the isolated grave at Mountain View of Henry Jefferson Bate and his daughter would reach the threshold for heritage listing. The historic cemetery at the back of Holy Trinity Church Tilba Tilba is also significant and although the church itself is listed, no mention is made of the graveyard. This should be rectified in the citation.

The report contains an inventory of 50 cemeteries, lone burials and memorials. It includes comments on their significance and condition, and makes recommendations on their management.

The condition of publically accessible cemeteries, some of which are managed by Eurobodalla Shire Council, is mixed, with headstones broken or unstable and vegetation degrading the monuments and making access difficult. This reflects badly on the managers and the shire and is considered to be a lost opportunity for promotion and tourism.

Conservation of the monuments and enhancement of the cemeteries is encouraged and examples of how this can be achieved are included. However the commitment by National Parks and Wildlife Service, church property trusts and Council appears to be lacking in certain areas.

Benefits arising from the conservation of monuments and cemeteries include enhanced appreciation by the local and wider community, enhanced social cohesion in local communities, and an opportunity to develop a cemetery-based tourism product. Some cemeteries could be converted to rest parks and integrated into open space planning.

It is suggested that a whole-of-shire approach is taken and that Council adopts a leading role in this regard. Such an approach would include bringing stakeholders together to develop strategies, encouraging restoration of monuments and developing interpretation for specific cemeteries.

The report makes recommendations on ways in which the general cemeteries could be improved in areas such as identification signage, internal roads and paths, shelters fences and landscaping.

Contents

1   INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background to this study

There are 35 cemeteries and lone burial sites listed as locally significant in the Shire's Local Environment Plan (2012) Heritage Schedule and there is an increasing interest in burials amongst members of the community and descendants from further afield. Community groups have banded together to restore certain cemeteries with the support of Council, other members continue the task of recording and documentation, descendants have restored their forbears monuments and Council's Heritage Advisor has conducted well-attended tours of specific historic cemeteries across the shire.

Council staff are in the process of preparing plans of management and GIS maps for the operational cemeteries it manages and the NSW Department of Planning is aiming to have a comprehensive State-wide database of all cemeteries.

As part of this process, Council have been successful in obtaining funding from the Office of Environment and Heritage to prepare this report.

Purpose of the study
The purpose of this study is to investigate the heritage significance of the historic cemeteries in the Eurobodalla Shire area and to contribute to their future planning and management.

Location
The study extends across the full area of the Shire and includes Montague Island and Broulee Island.

Methodology
Heritage consultant Pip Giovanelli was engaged to prepare and complete the study. The three historical societies and relevant members of the community were contacted and invited to participate by providing information, access to resources and assistance in identifying burials in their area.

The heritage survey by EJE Consultants in 1997 formed the basis of the inventory list, and this was extended where new information came to light. Most sites were inspected, their condition updated and recommendations made for their future management.

The draft report and inventories were made available for stakeholder comment prior to completion of the final document.

Limitations
The number of sites and the distances involved did not allow for each site to be inspected within the available resources. Similarly the potential for research and comment on the cemeteries and the individual burials is almost limitless and well beyond the scope of this project. It is to be hoped that over time each identified site will receive the degree of attention that was focussed on the Wagonga Cemetery Plan of Management in 2014. Access to some sites on private land was denied by owners.

Authorship and Acknowledgements
This report has been written and compiled by Pip Giovanelli, Heritage and Conservation consultant. Particular thanks (in order of latitude) go to Ray Mooney and Ewan Morrison and the Clyde River and

Structure of this report
The study comprises this report (Volume 1) and a 3-part Inventory (Inventory Parts A, B and C).

2   OVERVIEW

2.1   Historical Context
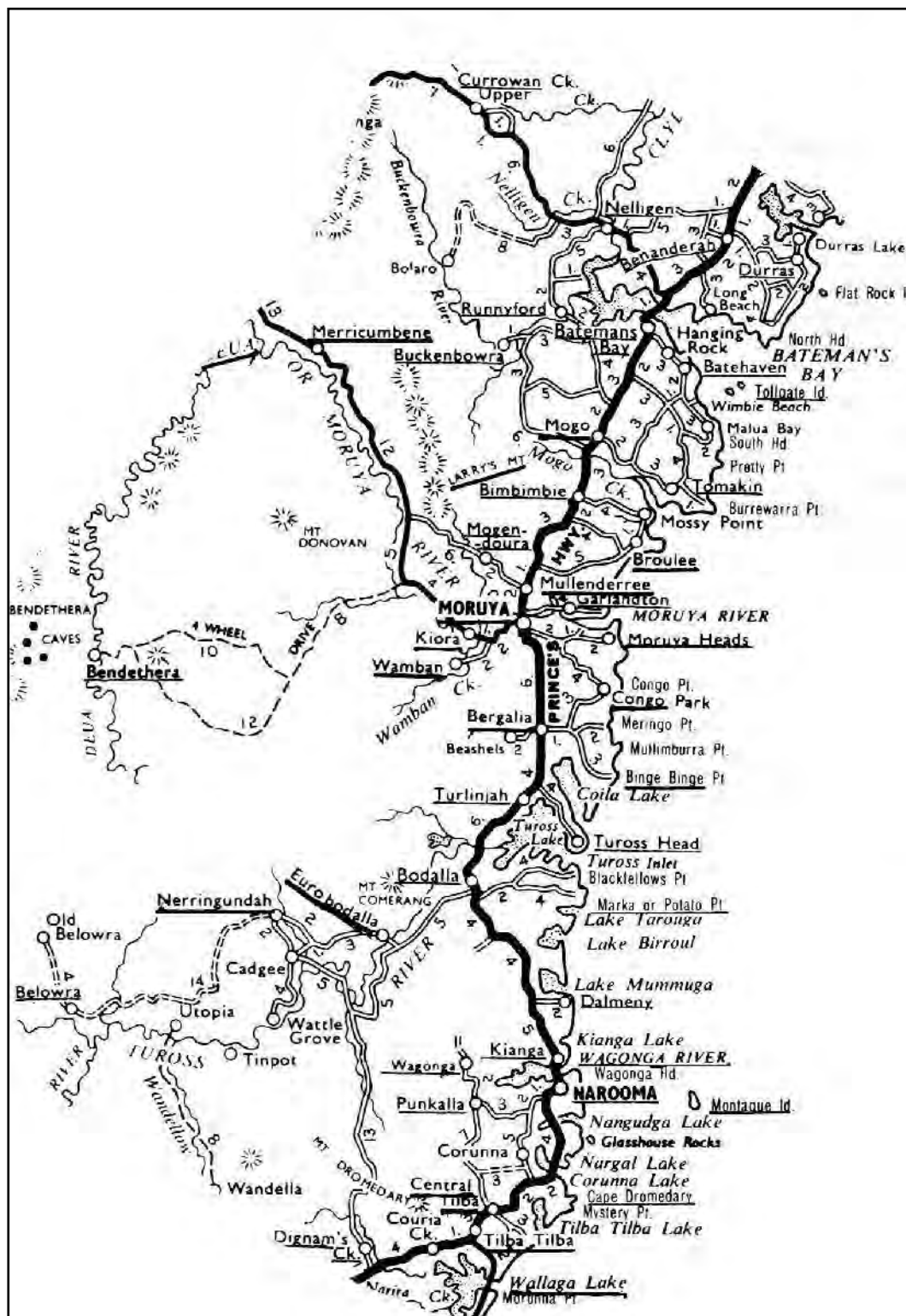
Eurobodalla Shire Area. Source: *Eurobodalla Almanac* Noel Warry, Moruya &District's Historical Society

Aboriginal communities were well established on the south coast for thousands of years before European arrival. However some of the early contacts between Europeans and Indigenous communities were not always harmonious. In May 1808 three of five members of a watering party from the small coaster *Fly* were killed at Batemans Bay when they went ashore and a similar fate befell another shore party in 1821, when one man was killed and another severely injured. Needless to say their story gave Batemans Bay a bad name.[1]

In contrast, Methodist missionary John Harper spent a fortnight in Batemans Bay in 1826 where he met 146 Aboriginals whom he described as 'mild and clean'.[2]

Between 1861 and 1923 twelve Aboriginal reserves were gazetted within the Eurobodalla Shire including 330 acres at Wallaga Lake in 1891. Throughout the reserve era, Aboriginal people continued to use and occupy traditional places and lands beyond the reserve system. Movement between reserves across the broader region took place on a seasonal basis as guided by both cultural commitments and working for white employers. With the exception of a large portion of the original Wallaga Lake Reserve, all the reserves were revoked between 1886 and 1969 and reverted to vacant Crown land.[3]

Landform and soil fertility shaped the settlement pattern for many of the early Europeans. For much of the 19th century road transport to and through the Eurobodalla Shire area was difficult. A road up the steep escarpment to the west was not built until the late 1850s and those to north and south were challenged by numerous creek and river crossings. As a consequence much of the early transport was by sea.

One of the first Europeans to settle was Francis Flanagan in 1829 who took up 1280 acres on the fertile Mullenderree river flats on the north side of the Moruya River (on either side of what is now the Pacific Highway). A few years later in 1834 John Hawdon acquired 2560 acres and established a base at Kiora for his extensive holdings. The historic cemetery at Kiora is listed on the Eurobodalla heritage schedule as an item of local significance.

The big farms of Hawdon and Flanagan attracted further settlement and although the Moruya River was at the limits of legal settlement at that time, squatters quickly moved south. Due to difficulties crossing the Moruya River bar most boats chose to use the bay formed by Broulee Island as a harbour. This was the only port between Wollongong and Twofold Bay in 1841.

The first village surveyed in the Eurobodalla area was on Broulee Island and included a small cemetery toward the south east point. The headstone of Mrs Abraham Malabar still survives to mark the site. With the creation of the County of Dampier south of the Moruya River in 1848, Broulee was abandoned and the new settlement of Moruya established at "the only locality for a town convenient to Navigation"[4]. It was formally gazetted in 1851, the same year that gold was discovered in Araluen.

As a result of the gold discoveries shipping movements to both Broulee and Moruya increased dramatically, however the road to Araluen was suitable for packhorse only. Under pressure from influential landholders in Braidwood, a new road was constructed from Braidwood to Nelligen, with ships from the Illawarra Steam Navigation Company calling there from 1859. A punt commenced river crossings in 1875 and the service continued until construction of a bridge at Nelligen in 1964. Nelligen grew to be an active port and at one stage had three churches, each with its own burial ground. Its

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[1] Gibbney p15
[2] Op cit p19
[3] Donaldson and Feary 2012: Invisible Places p5
[4] Gibbney p49

population peaked at about 500 in 1890. Devastating bush fires destroyed much of the town in 1939 and by 1985 its population had reduced to 177.[5]

Gold was mined in various parts of the shire including at Mt Dromedary (Gulaga) in 1853, Mogo in 1858 and Dwyers Creek to the south west of Moruya. The find at Gulph Creek 1861 led to rapid development of Nerrigundah which was to become the scene of a dramatic and fateful hold-up by bushrangers Tom and John Clarke (and others) in 1866. Police Constable Miles O'Grady was shot and killed as was his assailant William Fletcher. O'Grady was initially buried in Nerrigundah and later moved to the cemetery at Dwyers Creek Road, Moruya. Fletcher remains buried in the Nerrigundah area.

The Nerrigunda find led to the development of the small village of Wagonga at the back of the inlet that bears the same name. The deep water allowed supply boats that could cross the Narooma bar to gain closer access to the inland goldfield. Although the village of Wagonga no longer exists its cemetery with surviving headstones has been listed in the local heritage schedule.

In 1856 Thomas Sutcliffe Mort acquired what was to become the Bodalla Estate, a dairy enterprise that would operate in various guises for over a century. It led to the development of the town of Bodalla, the Church of England cemetery on the Eurobodalla Road (in which Mort himself is buried) and the Bodalla General Cemetery in Laidley Street.

The dairy industry grew in other parts of the shire as well, especially along fertile river flats and on the volcanic soils surrounding Gulaga Mountain.

The villages of Tilba Tilba and Central Tilba developed around the 1890s to support the dairy and cheese industry in the southern part of the shire and have strong associations with the Bate family, many of whose members are buried in the district.

In addition to fertile pastoral land, the region grows durable timber that has been harvested since European settlement by sleeper cutters and timber millers, particularly in the latter part of the 19th and early 20th centuries and many buildings constructed from that time are still standing. The timbers also supported boat building industries as well as income from export.

The first bridge over the Moruya River was opened in 1876 and the one at Trunketabella in 1879. Wagonga Inlet was bridged in 1931 and Batemans Bay not until 1952. Cargo shipping finally ceased in 1954[6].

Batemans Bay was slow to develop and in 1910 the *Country Trades Register* listed only eleven businesses: three were concerned with timber getting and processing, there was a shipwright, a blacksmith, two hotels and several shops. Unlike Moruya, the 'Bay' was not surrounded by fertile agricultural land and in 1947 the population was still less than one thousand. However its suitability for tourism and retirement, and the growth of Canberra, has underpinned development such that it is now recognised as a regional centre on the south coast.

With the passing of the gold rush Nerrigundah contracted to a small hamlet. The Catholic Church ceased providing service and was sold to private owners. The historic cemeteries became overgrown and were abandoned when the general cemetery was established. Nelligen was by-passed with construction of the bridge and has become a residential and tourist village. In the latter part of the 20th century Mogo has revitalised as a service town for traffic on the Princes Highway and for its growing local community. Narooma likewise has grown as the major service centre for the southern part of the shire.

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[5] Turner 29
[6] Turner, JW. *Eurobodalla Shire History* p35

During the 20th century much coastal land that had been cleared for grazing was subsequently subdivide for residential purposes such as at Tuross and Dalmeny. A lot of dairy country was given over to cattle grazing and in many parts of the shire former agricultural and pastoral land, as well some undeveloped country, has been subdivided for rural residential occupation. The timber industry has largely ceased with only one mill still operating south of Bodalla. Fishing has contracted whereas oyster farming has continued to thrive with leases taking advantage of the relatively unpolluted waters found in the coastal estuaries.

The location and type of lone graves and cemeteries is closely associated with the settlement patterns and development that has occurred across the shire, both before and after European arrival. An understanding of these patterns provides another way of appreciating the history of the Eurobodalla Shire.

2.1   Burials within the shire

Within the shire there are pre-contact Aboriginal burials, post contact Aboriginal burials, early European settler burials and the ongoing broad spectrum of burials from the shire's diverse multicultural society.

Many are isolated and from the surface give no indication of their location. This is the case with most pre and early post-contact Aboriginal burials and many early European settler burials. The historic record and more recent research makes reference to isolated burials in the Eurobodalla Shire area, but often without specific location details[7]. There is, therefore, the potential for inadvertent disturbance of the unknown burial sites as a result of construction and other ground disturbance. The unknown burial plots of drowned sailors, gold miners, Aboriginal people, rural workers, mothers and babies etc are acknowledged in varying degrees in the Inventory of this report.

In 1856 the requirement to register deaths was introduced and many burials from that time are recorded in Court of Petty Sessions (CPS) documents. Unfortunately the registration did not always take place and the record is not entirely reliable. At Wallaga Lake cemetery for example, registration was often not completed. As a consequence much information was lost when the records that were held on site were lost in a fire[8]. A further complication arises with cemetery names used in the CPS register. A burial registered as having taken place at Tilba could have been at the Holy Trinity Church graveyard, or at the general cemetery at Haxstead Road, or at a lone or private burial site elsewhere within the locality.

While burial on private land was common, especially in rural areas away from towns and villages, many burials were in plots closely associated with a local church. With the passage of time however, numerous small churches have become redundant or succumbed to fire or decay and are no longer standing (Corunna Methodist Church and Wagonga Wesleyan Church are typical examples). The surviving headstones may be all that remains of the former social and spiritual hub of a local community. In some instances such as the former Batemans Bay Church of England cemetery, the land has been sold and the headstones relocated to another site. The fate of the skeletal remains in these circumstances is not always clear.

In other situations the cemetery has been demolished and the headstones razed to the ground to remove what might be seen as impediments to future development. This seems to have transpired at 'Sunpatch' via Tomakin and the graves behind the Roman Catholic Church at Nerrigundah.

Most burials now take place in public cemeteries that are managed by local councils, as is the case in Eurobodalla Shire where there are public cemeteries at **Nelligen**, Batemans Bay, **Mogo**, **Moruya**, Bodalla, **Nerrigundah**, **Narooma** and **Tilba**. The cemeteries identified above in **bold** have been entered in the Eurobodalla Shire LEP 2012 heritage schedule as items of local heritage significance.

Not only do cemeteries have significance for descendants, but they convey powerful information about past lives in a way that is very accessible to the lay person. The isolated burials of babies in remote areas, the death of young women of child bearing age, Chinese burials near gold mining areas, and the large numbers of people who died from drowning all convey a sense of the challenges faced by earlier generations.

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[7] *Invisible Places, Historical Aboriginal Reserves in the Eurobodalla Shire,* NSW, pp10,12, 23 & 24. The booklet is an abridged version of a larger report byDonaldson and Feary, 2012.

[8] Feary and Donaldson *Caring for the ancestors: Wallaga Lake Aboriginal Cemetery, NSW. Stage one: Preliminary investigations. FINAL REPORT 2012, p23*

Some cemeteries include multiple family members interred over several generations, demonstrating the tight communities that developed during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Having insight into the stories of the people buried in a cemetery can reveal so much more than a name and a date of death and it is not uncommon for people to reminisce widely about the past when discussing the life of someone who has passed away. It is recorded that when Constable Brennan was reflecting on Mrs Malabar's grave on Broulee Island he also told the remarkable story of ex-convict Broulee Molly and the friendship she eventually found with her Aboriginal community.[9]

Burial sites in the Eurobodalla Shire are diverse in their location and type, and range from isolated commemorative stones to dense suburban cemeteries containing over a thousand graves. Some have little or no evidence above ground and others display a rich diversity of monuments that reflect the style and tastes of the time in which they were erected.

This report supports the on-going care and restoration of the shire's cemeteries and promotes the celebration and reflection of the remarkable stories behind each and every burial.

2.3 Cemetery Regulations in NSW

In isolated areas in the 19th century there was usually no government provision for burials. During the early phase of settlement, especially beyond defined boundaries or districts, lone graves and family cemeteries were the typical way of managing the deceased. As local religious communities developed, churchyards and denominational burial grounds were established. Only when an area was officially identified as a village or township and properly surveyed would the government dedicate a general cemetery for the community. This tended to take place from the mid-19th century onwards.

In 1856 the requirement to register deaths was introduced and many burials from that time are recorded in Court of Petty Sessions (CPS) documents. Today a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death has to be issued before a body can be buried.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries many general cemeteries throughout New South Wales were dedicated as reserves for cemetery purposes. These areas of land were set aside in rural and urban centres and were usually divided into distinct denominational sections. A number of these areas, though dedicated, were never actually used for burials. Trustees appointed for each of the denominational Sections were sometimes local citizens and sometimes distant church administrators, and the degree of cooperation was highly variable. Landscaping could be integrated or quite disparate, but generally was related in at least a general way to the original surveyor's plan.

In General Cemeteries, records of burials were initially maintained by appointed trustees. Responsibility for general cemetery records today lies with the local Council, or with trustees in the case of those cemeteries still administered by separate trusts.

Since 1966-67, responsibility for the care, control and management of most general cemeteries in New South Wales vests in local councils. Some councils appoint separate groups as trustees to manage crematoria or particular denominational sections of the cemetery.

Public access is freely available to all dedicated general cemeteries. Where these are located on land enclosed by freehold title, right of way is normally allocated.

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[9] Journal of the Moruya & District Historical Society Inc, June 2015

Churchyard cemeteries are usually administered by the relevant diocese, parish council or equivalents. In many instances an active interest in the maintenance of the cemetery is shown by local parishioners. Cemetery records are normally kept by either the local or regional church office. Access to these cemeteries is usually available but is at the discretion of the church authorities.

Changing social practice has seen changes in the manner in which cemeteries are managed. Denominational zones are no longer relevant in the general cemeteries, and in areas where land is scarce the right to a perpetual burial may not be available.

In NSW the interment industry is coordinated by Cemeteries & Crematoria NSW (CCNSW), a statutory agency supporting and regulating the interment industry, assessing interment needs and developing planning strategies for cemetery space. CCNSW also provides information to the public and was created in 2014 under the Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2013[10].

In 2017 legislation was passed allowing for 25 year rentals of burial plots. At the conclusion of 25 years the plot could be re rented for 99 years. If not re-rented, the headstone would be removed and the bones stored in an ossuary. The 25 year rental option is not mandatory but may become so over time.[11]

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[10] https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/cemeteries-crematoria
[11] https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/169716/A-new-interment-rights-system-in-NSW-fact-sheet.pdf

3   BURIALS AND CEMETERIES IN EUROBODALLA SHIRE

Over the years a range of cemetery types have been used in the Eurobodalla Shire area as identified below.

3.1   Types of Burials

Family cemeteries
Many rural properties throughout New South Wales include "family" cemeteries. These are often called "private" cemeteries, but should not be confused with cemeteries run as private commercial enterprises. Family cemeteries are usually small and often located on un-consecrated freehold land. Many of them contain the graves of early European settlers and their descendants, sometimes not only of the landholder settler but also of neighbouring families.

Lone graves
As with family graves, many lone graves are located on freehold land and the owner is generally under no obligation to maintain records or provide public access. However, the graves are still subject to heritage and health regulations. Because of the large amount of National Park, Forestry and reserve land throughout Eurobodalla Shire, many lone graves are likely to be located on Crown land.

Niche walls (Columbaria)
In NSW the first cremation was in 1926, and now over half of all deaths are followed by cremation and many public cemeteries include columbaria in which ashes can be interred. A more recent practice has seen ashes enclosed in a canister that is then buried beneath a family plot. It is also not uncommon for ashes to be scattered in a place of individual choosing. As a consequence of the above the take-up of niches in some columbaria has been slower than initially anticipated. In the Eurobodalla Shire there are columbaria (niche walls) in Nelligen, Batemans Bay, Moruya and Narooma general cemeteries, however the option is not presently available in Mogo, Bodalla, Nerrigunda or Tilba.

Church Cemeteries
Many early churches had cemeteries associated with them although in most instances only a few of the memorials have survived. The only cemetery with a religious connection still operating in the shire is the Bodalla Church of England Cemetery (Mort's cemetery) established by the Bodalla Estate and still managed by trustees.

General Cemeteries
These are the most common places for burials today and in the Eurobodalla Shire are managed by Eurobodalla Shire Council.

Converted cemeteries
Closed cemeteries can become part of a park or reserve and so develop into a place of sanctuary within an urban environment .This can be seen to some extent in the former Catholic and Presbyterian cemeteries in Bent Street Batemans Bay where the Presbyterian burial ground is informally managed by Council. The Catholic Cemetery remains the property of the Roman Catholic Church but is unfenced and publicly accessible.

In other cases the cemetery has been razed, or the headstones relocated and the land redeveloped - usually for residential or other use. This was the fate of the former Church of England Cemetery in High Street, Batemans Bay and the burial ground at Melville Point near Tomakin.

Mausoleums
There is only one vault in the shire, and that is the Young Family vault in the lower Tilba area. It is on private land and not publicly accessible.

Lawn cemeteries
These are a feature of modern cemeteries and can be seen at Batemans Bay general cemetery, but as they are not considered to be heritage features they are not addressed in this study.

Unidentified graves
Occasionally there is modification to the ground surface that clearly suggests a grave, but there is no other supporting documentation to indicate its origin. An example is the unidentified grave by the Deua River that is noted in the Inventory. There are also believed to have been Chinese burials around Nerrigundah, but their study was beyond the scope of this report.

The historic and oral record notes references to the burials of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people for which surface evidence is no longer apparent. These are important not only to descendants, but to current landholders who may have a valid reason to disturb the ground and find themselves inadvertently disturbing a grave[12].

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[12] The report *Invisible Places* notes several instances where there is evidence of Aboriginal burials in or near former Aboriginal reserves.
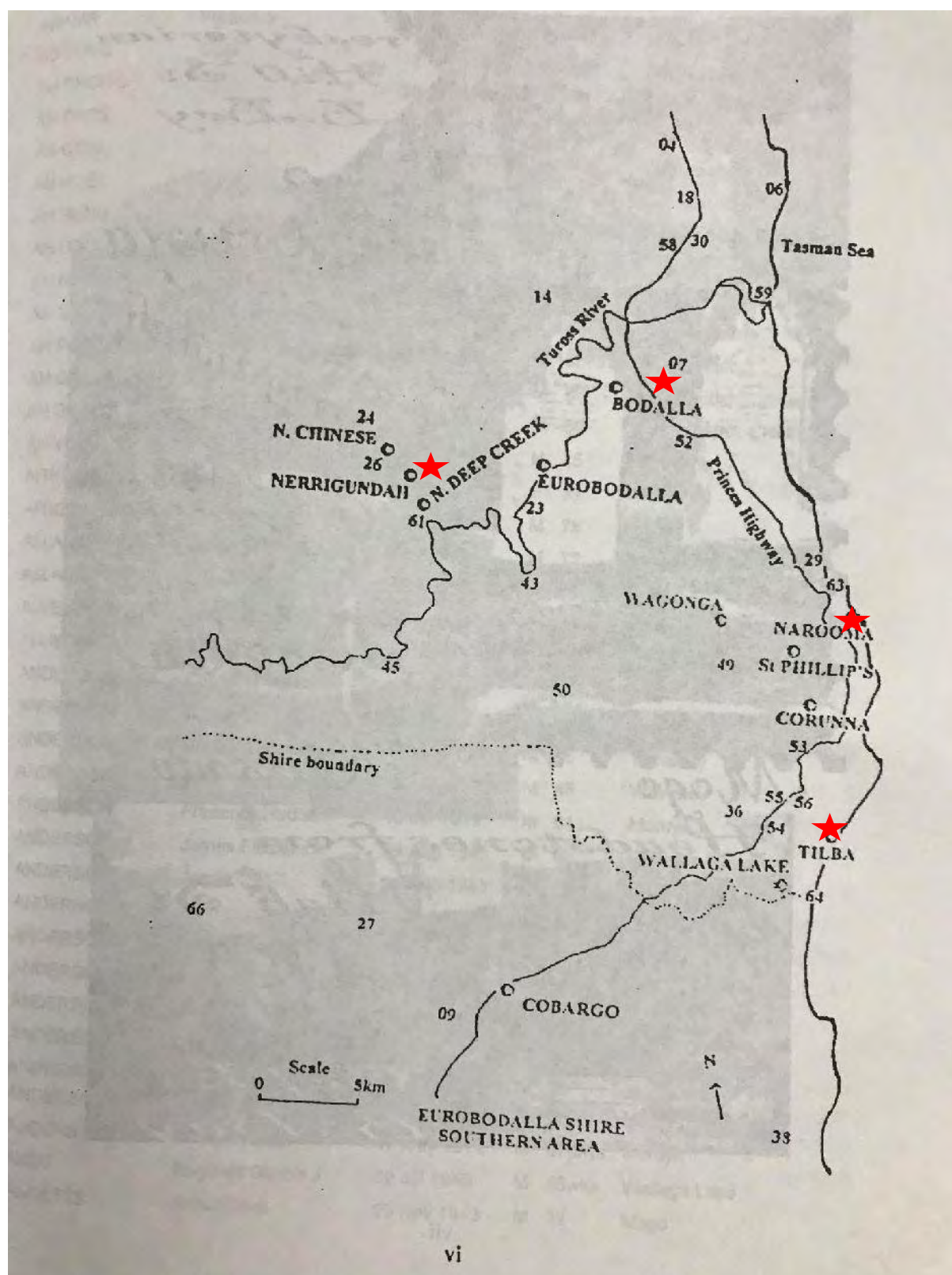
3.2　　Lone Burial Sites in Eurobodalla Shire

Many burials in the 19th century were not in cemeteries, but at "lone" burial sites on private properties. These include the occasional family vault or burial plot and some localities appear to have had several lone burials, particularly Currowan, suggesting the absence of a local cemetery.

The following list was prepared by the Clyde River and Batemans Bay Historical Society and the Moruya and Districts Society MDHS some time ago and is include here to provide a more comprehensive understanding or the range of sites. Only some of these have been addressed in the current study. Precise locations do not appear to be known to current members of the historical societies. Note that some of the burials are outside the Eurobodalla Shire. Lone burial sites are numbered on the following maps as per the list below.

01 Araluen	35 Moruya River
02 Becca Diggings	36 Mt Dromaderry, Crown Land
03 Benandra	37 Mullenderee
04 Bergalia	38 Murrah Station
05 Bimbimbie	39 Nelligen, East
06 Bingi	40 Nelligen, Marks Gully
07 Bodalla, Borang	41 Nelligen Police Paddock
08 Bolaro	42 Nelligen, Shallow Crossing
09 Bredbatoura Station	43 Nerrigundah, priv. Reedy Creek
10 Brooman in private ground	44 Nerrigundah, Snow Hill
11 Broulee	45 Nerrigundah, Tin Pot
12 Broulee Island	46 Nerrigundah, Tuross River~ Nerrigundah, Upper Town
13 Buckenboura; and Buckenboura Est. Mr F Corks	see Fern Flat
14 Bumbo	47 Newstead
15 Burra Central Tilba see Tilba Central	48 Oldman Bed
16 Clyde River, Private	49 Punkally; Punkella; and Punkella, priv. A. J. Brothers
17 Cockwey; Cockwey Creek	50 Reedy Creek
18 Coila; Coila, Crown Land; and Coila, E. Grays Farm	51 SaltwaterCreek
19 Condoin	52 Stoney Creek
20 Cullendulla	53 Tilba Tilba, Fernbrook
21 Currowan; Currowan Creek; and Currowan Creek, private	54 Tilba Tilba, Mt Valley Farm
22 Durras; Durras Dale; and Durras Lake	55 Tilba, Central
23 Eurobodalla, "Euroma"; and Eurobodalla, private	56 Tilba, Central priv "Henkley"
24 Fern Flat (Nerrigundah)	57 Tobacco Flat, Priv. reserve
25 Garland Town	58 Turlinjah
26 Graveyard Gully	59 Tuross Heads
27 Illawambra	60 Tuross River
28 Jembiacumbene	61 Tuross River near Cadgee
29 Kianga private	62 Tuross River, private; Upper Gulf see Fern Flat Upper
30 Kyla	Gulph Township see Fern Flat
31 Kynemallow Creek	63 Wagonga Beach; and Wagonga Heads
32 Merricumbene	64 Wallaga Lake
33 Montague Island	65 Yarragee; Yaragee
34 Moruya Heads, Pedro Point	66 Yourie
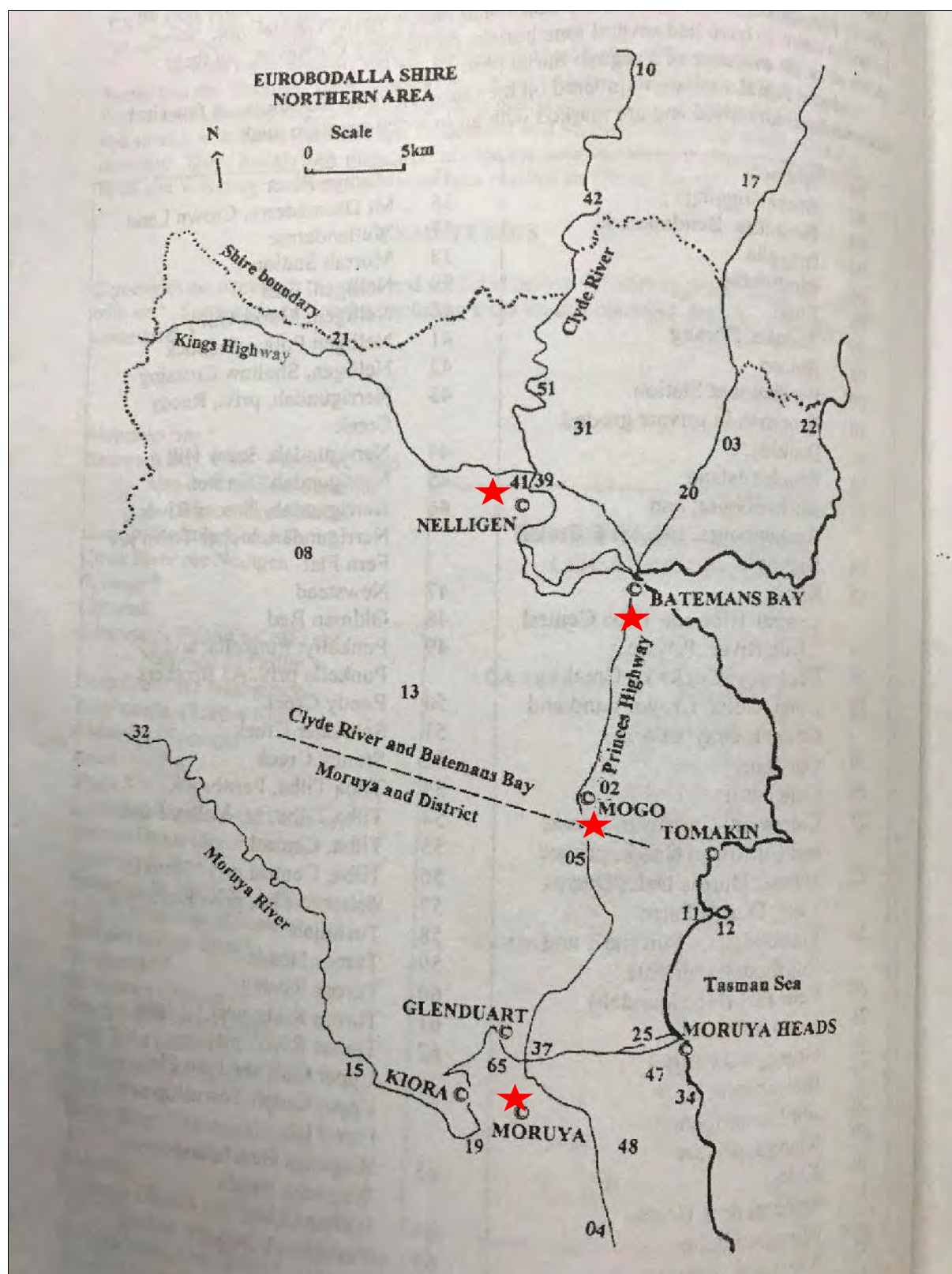
Map of lone burial sites in Eurobodalla Shire. North part of shire shown. Precise locations have not been provided and may no longer be known. Source Moruya and Districts Historical Society Cemeteries file. Red stars have been added by to indicate current locations of general cemeteries.

Map of lone burial sites in Eurobodalla Shire. Southern part of shire shown. Precise locations have not been provided and may no longer be known. Source Moruya and Districts Historical Society Cemeteries file. Red stars have been added to indicate current locations of general cemeteries.

3.3   Heritage Listed Cemeteries and Lone Burial Sites

There are 35 cemeteries and burial sites listed in the Eurobodalla LEP 2012 heritage schedule as below. All of these are of local heritage significance only. The general cemeteries are shown in bold.

Item name	Address	Suburb
Albert Read's Grave	85 Haxstead Road	Central Tilba
Bodalla Church of England Cemetery	Eurobodalla Road	Bodalla
Bottin Family Graves	1071 Reedy Creek Road	Dignams Creek
Coman Family Graves	126 Wamban Road	Kiora
Corunna Cemetery and Church Site	769 Old Highway	Corunna
Glenduart Cemetery	Maclean Place	Moruya
Grave of James Richard George	Wamban Road	Deua
Graves of Charles Harpur and Son	Eurobodalla Road	Eurobodalla
Graves On Narooma Golf Course	3 Ballingalla Street	Narooma
John Young Family Vault	Bermagui Road	Akolele
Kiora Cemetery	478 Araluen Road	Kiora
Lucks Cemetery	1 Cutharich Place	Moruya
Maria Thompson's Grave	Point Parade	Congo
Mogo Cemetery	Princes Highway	Mogo
Moruya Cemetery	Spencer Street	Moruya
Mrs Abraham Maleber's Grave	Nature Reserve	Broulee Island
Narooma Cemetery	Cemetery Road	Narooma
Nelligen Church of England Cemetery (Former)	28 Braidwood Street	Nelligen
Nelligen General Cemetery	Runnyford Road	Nelligen
Nerrigundah Cemetery	823 Nerrigundah Mountain Road	Nerrigundah
Old Cemetery	Kiora Street Crown Reserve	Moruya
Old Church of England Cemetery	2 Church Street	Mogo
Original Nerrigundah Cemetery	Byrnes Street	Nerrigundah
Port Philip Neddie's Grave	Wattlegrove Road	Tinpot
Presbyterian Cemetery	2A Beach Road	Batemans Bay
Rankin Babies Grave	Deua River	Bendethra
Roman Catholic Cemetery	1 Bent Street	Batemans Bay
Southam Graves	9069 Princes Highway	Tilba Tilba
St Phillips Cemetery	Wagonga Scenic Drive	Narooma
Sutherland's Babies' Grave	3070 Belowra Road	Belowra
Tilba District Cemetery	Haxstead Road	Central Tilba
Toragy Point Cemetery	Elizabeth Street	Moruya
W E Secombe Grave	Haxstead Road	Central Tilba
Wagonga Cemetery	Wagonga Scenic Drive	Narooma
William Fletcher Grave	Belowra Road	Nerrigundah

3.4   Inventory Listing

The Inventory for this study drew on the existing 35 heritage listed places above and extended this as new information came to light. Where there was little information, some sites were combined into a single entry such as the Isolated Aboriginal Burials and the Miscellaneous category. To gain a better understanding of the type and number of cemeteries and burials included in the Inventory they have been grouped below. An *italicised* name indicates there is no specific Inventory sheet for the place*.*

There are over 50 Inventory entries and collectively they provide a very good understanding of the range and type of burials that have occurred within the Shire since European settlement. Aboriginal burials that predate European settlement are acknowledged and considered to be an important part of the shire's history however their study is beyond the scope of this report.

Recommendation
- It is recommended that pre-contact and lone Aboriginal burials be the subject of further study.

General cemeteries - public cemeteries managed by Council,

    Batemans Bay General - established mid-1920s

1. Bodalla General Cemetery
2. Mogo General Cemetery
3. Moruya General Cemetery (Long Swamp)
4. Narooma General Cemetery
5. Nelligen General Cemetery
6. Nerrigundah General Cemetery (Mountain Rd)
7. Tilba District Cemetery (Haxstead Rd)

Church cemeteries - typically associated with a particular church and now mostly closed,

8. Bodalla Church of England Cemetery
9. Corunna Cemetery and Church Site (Wesleyan/ Methodist), Old Highway Corunna
10. Moruya Long Swamp cemetery - often referred to as a former Roman Catholic Cemetery
11. Old Church of England Cemetery Mogo
12. [Original] Nerrigundah Cemetery, Byrnes St, and former Graveyard Creek, Nerrigundah
13. Presbyterian Cemetery (former) Batemans Bay ;
14. Roman Catholic Cemetery (former) Batemans Bay
15. Tilba Tilba C of E
16. Wagonga Cemetery – former Uniting Church cemetery

Historic locality cemeteries - small cemeteries that operated for a while and are now closed,

17. Grave of Charles Harpur, Wife and Son, Eurobodalla
18. Glenduart Cemetery, Maclean Place Moruya
19. Kiora Old Cemetery, Kiora St Crown Reserve (off Araluen Rd) Kiora
20. Mrs Abraham Maleber's Grave, Broulee Island
21. Toragy Point Cemetery, Moruya Heads

Destroyed cemeteries - where the headstone have been removed, the land surface modified and possibly repurposed

 22. Batemans Bay C of E

 23. Nelligen C of E Cemetery (former)

 24. St Phillip's Cemetery (former), Wagonga Scenic Drive, Narooma

  Nelligen - former Presbyterian

  Nerrigundah Chinese (site not identified)

  Nerrigundah Roman Catholic

Private cemeteries - on privately owned land and managed by a family or group,

 25. Backhouse Private Cemetery, Currowan

 26. Lucks Cemetery, Cutharich Place, Moruya

 27. Southam Graves, Tilba Tilba

 28. Wallaga Lake, Aboriginal Cemetery.

Lone burials - with grave markers

 29. Albert Read's Grave, Haxstead Rd, Central Tilba

 30. Bottin Family Graves, Dignams Ck

 31. Coman Family Graves, Wamban Rd Moruya

 32. Grave of James Richard George, Wamban Rd, Deua

 33. Graves on Narooma Golf Course, Narooma

 34. Henry Jefferson Bate isolated burial at Mtn View Farm

 35. John Young Family Vault-Tilba Tilba [Akolele]

 36. Lester Blanchard lone grave plot, Alpine

 37. Maria Thompson's Grave, Congo

 38. Montague Island burials

 39. Port Philip Neddie's Grave, Tinpot

 40. Rankin Babies Grave, Bendethera

 41. Sutherland's Babies' Grave Belowra,

 42. Unidentified Grave, Bakers Flat Deua River

 43. W E Secombe Grave, Haxstead Rd Central Tilba

 44. William Fletcher's 'Dummy' Grave, Nerrigundah

  Benjamin Nixon Lone grave - Private

  Thomas Lovell - Private

Lone burials - for which there is no evidence at ground level

 45. Aboriginal Isolated Burials

 46. Belowra Tramps burial plot

 47. Tuross Head mystery graves

Memorials - commemorating a deceased person or persons

 48. Horace Nathaniel Ramsay Memorial

 49. Melville Point Memorial, Tomakin

 50. Miscellaneous - cemeteries and lone burials

4   CEMETERY MANAGEMENT ISSUES

During the course of the study a large number of issues have become apparent. These are flagged below in the following section and include recommendations for further action.

Location signage – street-sign
Signs directing the public to the cemeteries needs to be clear and intact. For example the fingerboard sign identifying the turn-off to the Nerrigundah General Cemetery was missing at the time of this study and there was no direction for outsiders wanting to find the historic Old Nerrigundah cemetery or the alleged burial place of bushranger William Fletcher.

If cemetery tourism is to be highlighted, a map showing the location of publically accessible cemeteries coupled with an understanding of their significance could be prepared, much like the map of heritage sites across the shire. Directional signage should be checked from time to time to ensure the cemeteries are easy for the visitor to find.

Recommendation
- A heritage map (print or digital) should be prepared identifying the location and significance of all publically accessible cemeteries.

Cemetery identification sign
Batemans Bay general cemetery has a fairly large sign at the entrance while some other general cemeteries in the shire have no naming sign at all. Several have warning and penalty signs with nothing else of a positive nature.

At Moruya there is no sign that marks the Long Swamp Cemetery' or distinguishes it from the more recent General Cemetery, and the same is the case at Narooma, Mogo and Nelligen.

Batemans Bay name sign works well.

Tilba Public cemetery has a pragmatic sign using routed letters on a stained timber backing board.

The only indicative signage at Bodalla Public Cemetery relates to penalties.

Recommendation

- Each of the public cemeteries, whether closed or operational, heritage listed or otherwise, should include a name sign that is easy to read and sensitively located. Ideally it should be no higher than the handrail and be in a style and character appropriate to the locality. If vandalism is likely, it may be appropriate for the sign to be set higher and possibly behind the perimeter fence.

Primary interpretation

On arrival at most cemeteries there is no interpretation of the place's history, significance and or layout. It is not clear if there has been denominational segregation and whether that still dominates, and no explanation of the reason behind peripheral burials.

The exceptions to this are the Tilba District Cemetery that has a very good interpretation panel just inside the cemetery fence, and Corunna Cemetery that has excellent interpretation panels within the interpretation structure on site.
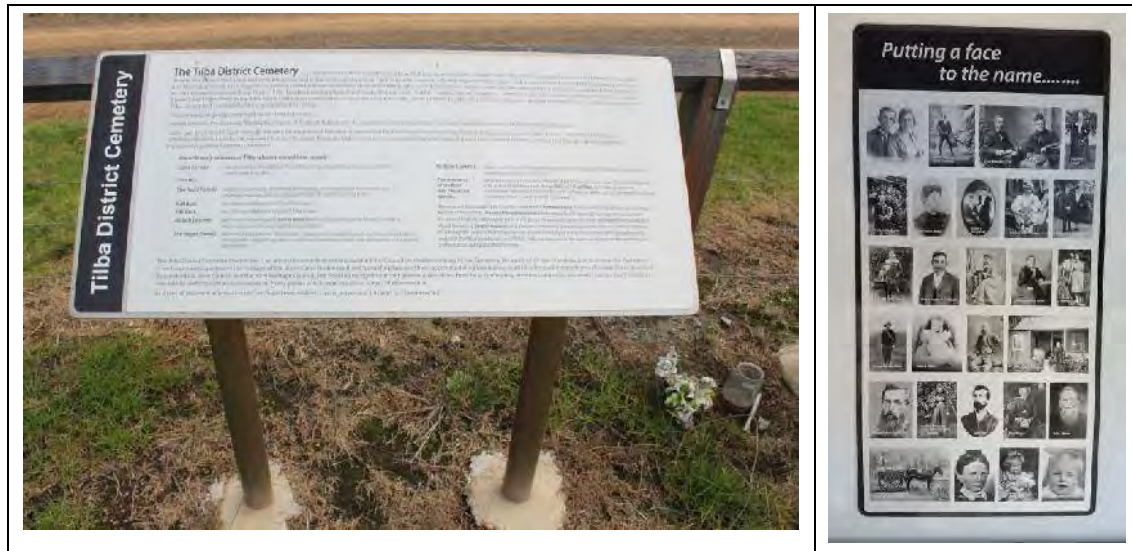
Interpretation panel at Tilba and one of four interpretation panels at Corunna.

By way of example, Bombala Cemetery has simple and effective orientation signage with a panel that can be easily replaced if damaged or out of date.
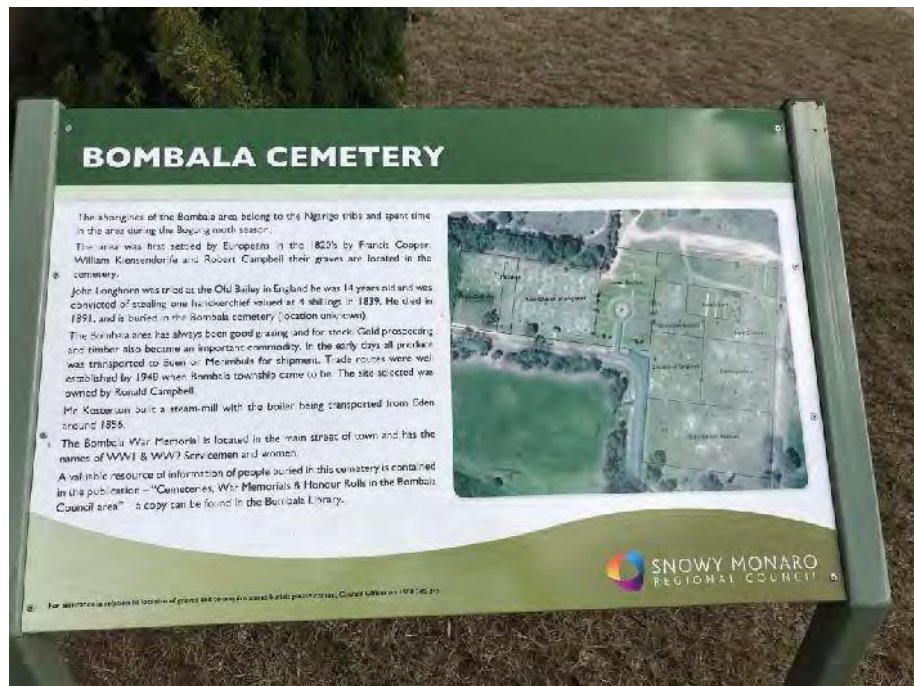
Bombala cemetery has a simple and effective interpretation panel in addition to directional signage.

Simple directional sign. Bombala Cemetery

Recommendation:
An interpretational panel should be located just inside the entry gate to explain to the visitor the cemetery's layout and what in particular is significant about this burial ground. It may make reference to distinctive burials and indicate their location on the layout plan. It is important that interpretation, and indeed all signage, use language that is sensitive to all cultural groups.

Significant burials- secondary interpretation
It may be appropriate to include secondary interpretation within the cemetery that shows the location of a significant grave such as Constable O'Grady's and explains the story behind his death. This could be located close to the significant grave or at a distance, say in the internal laneway, at the end of the row in which the burial is located.

Featuring one or two graves helps the visitor to engage with a cemetery and particular aspects of the person's, and by extension, the district's history. An example near the ACT is that of the Colverwell graves that explain the tragic death of two young children. See below.

Possible option for specific monument interpretation that would restrict signage from within the burial area
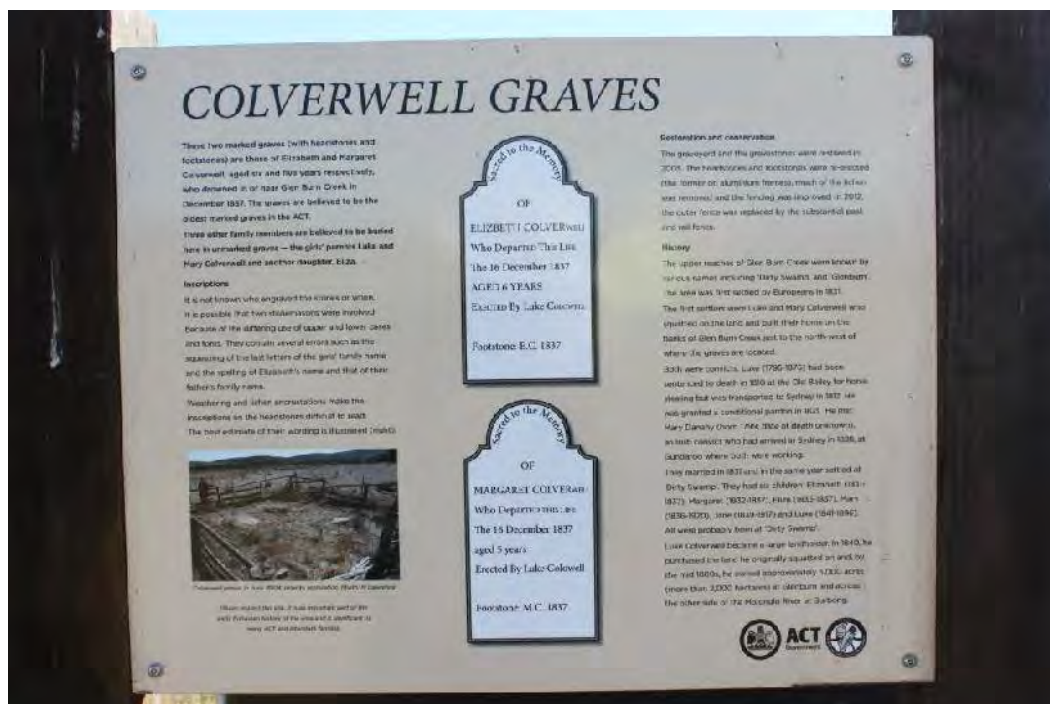
Colverwell Graves interp. panel explains the circumstances surrounding the death of two children.

Cemetery groundcover

While most cemeteries have a groundcover of mown grass, some such as the old cemetery at Nerrigundah are overgrown with mostly native ground covers and low shrubs such as *Lomandra*. Glenduart and Wagonga cemeteries are similar. Controlling groundcover and removing dead wood is beneficial not only for grave maintenance but also for visitors. It makes it easier to find the graves and reduces threats from snakes and ticks.

A cleared site lowers the impact from bushfire and reduces potential damage from falling vegetation. This does not imply complete clearing of bush cemeteries, but merely sensitive removal of timber that has fallen onto or near the monument, and possibly mowing a border around each monument. Specific Guidelines for each bush cemetery should be prepared by a suitably qualified person.

Old Nerrigundah cemetery is heavily overgrown and difficult to move from grave to grave.

Glenduart cemetery - headstones are becoming immersed in the undergrowth

Recommendation

- A ground cover management plan should be prepared by a suitably qualified person for each bush cemetery. The plan should address removal of dead and fallen branches in proximity of monuments, control of young trees in proximity of monuments if they are likely to become a problem when mature, and safe movement between and around monuments.

Trees

Trees in cemeteries need to be sensitively managed if they are to provide desirable shade and screening, but not destroy grave monuments. Most neglected cemeteries will end up with unwanted tress growing through and destroying monuments. Once established they can be difficult and

expensive to remove if damage is not to occur to the host and surrounding monuments. During the course of this study problematic trees or vegetation were noted at the Batemans Bay Roman Catholic, Moruya Long Swamp, Glenduart, Charles Harpur, Nerrigundah General, Old Nerrigundah, Wagonga and Tilba Holy Trinity cemeteries.

At Mogo general cemetery, a row of trees along the edge of the internal road had been cut down. There were no graves in the vicinity and the centre of the cemetery is now rather bare. This doesn't seem to have been aimed at achieving a long-term landscape solution, but rather a short term response to a perceived problem.

Wagonga cemetery where a Casuarina tree dislodged the monument.

Tress in cemeteries can provide valuable shade for visitors but can be highly problematic when roots uplift monuments or branches fall and cause damage or even injury. Some trees are very good specimens and their removal would be unfortunate. Trees should not be removed unless they pose a genuine or likely problem. When laying out new, or modifying existing sections of the cemetery, careful thought needs to be given to the location and species of shade trees and shrubs.

Mature gum tree surviving in the old Moruya Cemetery

Recommendation
- Establish a cemetery vegetation plan that identifies a suitable location for larger trees, areas for smaller shrubs, and areas from which feral or unwanted trees will be removed. The plan can be extended to include internal roads, pathways and even the location for shelters.

Perimeter fencing

In the bush cemeteries such as Nelligen and Nerrigundah, the perimeter fence is comprised of timber posts, steel pickets and strand wire. In general they have deteriorated to the point where they serve no purpose other than to define the boundaries of the reserve. There is little need to upgrade the fences as native fauna – particularly wombats will push through or go under most rural fences.

Cattle, sheep and possibly horses can physically damage monuments and disfigure the cemetery. Where there is a risk of stock entering the cemetery, perimeter fencing should be robust, with good gates installed where public and vehicle access is needed.

Cemeteries and lone burials on private land benefit from fencing that clearly defines the burial site. An attractive fence can further enhance visual quality.

Where there are particular problems such as wombats and rabbits, individual solutions may be the answer. The strategy at Nelligen is to provide individual cages where burials are at risk of damage.

Nelligen

Exclusion cage in use at Nelligen General cemetery
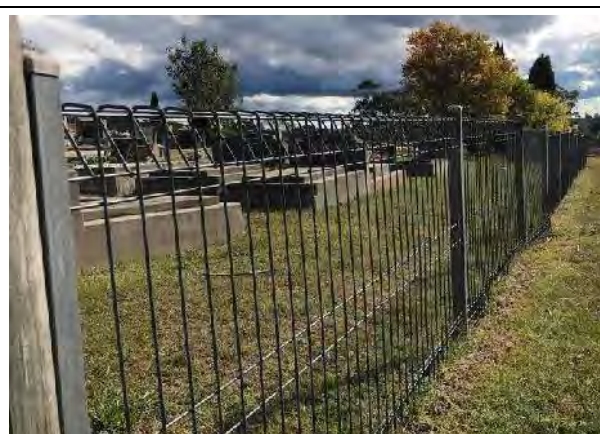
The common weldmesh fence, such as this in Bombala, is very durable but not a preferred aesthetic solution for an historic cemetery. The same profile is now available in powder-coated black and is visually less prominent

Steel pipe rail fence with mesh finished in black powder-coat. A robust fence that has low visual impact may be appropriate in certain circumstances

No headstones survive in the former Church of England cemetery in Mogo, however
the perimeter of the area has been sensitively defined with a timber picket fence.

Preferred options for visually prominent fences include timber pickets and certain metal pickets.
Powder coated round steel pipe-and-rail with mesh tends to 'disappear' in the landscape and hence
provides minimal visual barrier while providing a high degree of security against animals. Colorbond
cladding should be avoided as it is out of character with historic cemetery fabric.

Historic photos can be a useful guide and this seems to have been the case with the historic cemetery
in Moruya that installed a split timber post and rail fence around the outer edge

The spit timber fence sits comfortably in the semi-rural setting of the Moruya cemetery.

The painted post and rail fence at Narooma is an attractive and utilitarian style that clearly
defines this section of the cemetery. A similar fence at Tilba district cemetery is being
attacked by termites, which highlights the need to use durable timbers such as Australian
hardwoods. Ironbark is an appropriate choice for historic cemeteries.

Elsewhere in the Narooma Cemetery the use of unpainted copper-treated logs does little to enhance the character of this section.

Batemans Bay general cemetery is located in a semi-industrial area and there is little definition between it and its commercial surroundings. A fence in combination with appropriate screening could help to define its commemorative character.

Perimeter fencing is useful where it defines the limit of graves, defines the area to be managed, controls stock and native fauna and helps to define an area that has commemorative or contemplative ambience. If done properly it indicates to descendants and visitors that the local community respects their history and welcomes visitation to the cemetery.

Recommendation
- The style of fencing around and within a cemetery should be in keeping with its setting, and be both attractive and durable. Thought should be given to the entry fence and gates and ideally these should be designed as part of the overall landscape plan.

Vehicle access
The public cemeteries have differing vehicle arrangements, no doubt due to the circumstances surrounding their location and setting.

Vehicles can weaken the contemplative ambience of a place, require a higher standard of internal roads, pose a safety hazard for other visitors, create a potential for accidental damage to monuments and possibly elevate the risk of car-based vandalism.

Each cemetery will require an individual solution to on-site vehicle management. Narooma general cemetery has an internal road that doglegs through the graves and is potentially problematic. Similarly, Moruya general cemetery has multiple vehicle access points that are permanently open. At Nelligen general cemetery, a runaway vehicle in the Church of England section would create havoc as there is no barrier on the steeply inclined turning-area.

Recommendation
- As a general rule vehicles should be kept away from burial areas, while making allowances for people with a disability.
- Access planning needs to consider the differing needs and controls on private, disabled, commercial and service vehicles and the needs of pedestrians.

Moruya Cemetery. There are no gates on the driveway that passes very close to several graves. There is a poor turning space at the far end and hence further risk of damaging headstones when turning or reversing out of the lane.

Pathways - ground hardening
Some of the cemeteries provide an opportunity to improve internal circulation and increase legibility or 'wayfinding'.

Ideally there will be an initial point of arrival at the cemetery that has some key signage and clearly indicates the way, whether by car or foot, to the individual's area of interest. The hierarchy of the path (eg primary, secondary etc) can be indicated by the width of path and type of surface, in addition to the occasional directional sign. The layout of the cemetery and the way to move through it should be evident from the primary point of arrival.

Moruya cemetery has a confusing array of semi-formed vehicle and foot paths as shown
by the dashed blue lines above.

Recommendation

- Cemetery planning should include a circulation hierarchy that is sympathetic to the character of the existing cemetery layout while allowing for the needs of vehicles and pedestrians.

New structures

There are not many built structures in the cemeteries of Eurobodalla Shire. Narooma has a substantial covered gathering space and Batemans Bay a covered columbarium. A covered interpretation 'kiosk' has recently been built at Corunna cemetery. Structures such as these can provide a focus within the cemetery and provide multiple roles such as weather protection, orientation, interpretation and utilitarian functions such as a rubbish collection point and taps for drinking water and vases.

Structures need to be of some architectural merit and in other shires have been provided by donation or as a means of commemoration. In Bombala for example two attractive commemorative structures have been financed by members of the community.

Narooma shelter pavilion was erected by the Lions group with assistance from community volunteers and organisations in 2010. The shelter is sited between the various denominations and the carpark. It provides a successful focus to the cemetery and has an appropriate style and appearance.

Corunna Cemetery interpretation shelter draws its inspiration and orientation from the former church that occupied the same site.

The Batemans Bay columbarium needs maintenance

| Commemorative structure at Bombala erected 1933 | Lych gate erected in memory of Yvonne Robson by John Peadon, Bombala 1950 |

Recommendation

- Design and construct elegant shelters in each of the general cemeteries

Seating

Few of the cemeteries provide seating. This is unfortunate as many visitors are elderly and need to be able to rest. Seats also allow for lengthier periods of reflection. Batemans Bay general cemetery provides attractive timber bench seats that could be used as a model across the shire. Seats such as this could be donated by community members.

Timber bench seats at Batemans Bay are a good model that could be applied across the shire

Bench seat at Narooma Cemetery – a hard edged solution

Moruya cemetery – bench seat tucked onto hedge planting - a soft edged solution

Bespoke seating provided at Tilba District Cemetery

Recommendation

- Provide seating to each of the public cemeteries.

Beautification
It should be a goal to make the cemeteries throughout the shire attractive places to be. Ground surfaces and landscaping should be cared for and paths, fences and signage well-maintained and opportunities sought to improve their appearance.

Recommendation
- Ensure that cemeteries are aesthetically pleasing.

Columbaria
Columbaria are available at Nelligen, Batemans Bay, Moruya and Narooma general cemeteries. For the most part the niche walls use fairly standard bricks although the layout of the niche walls varies between each cemetery.

In Nelligen the niche wall is basic but decorative shrubs have been planted around the edge

At Batemans Bay the niche wall has been integrated with a roofed structure.

Moruya's columbarium is a combination of curved walls

At Narooma three banks of walls face an axial pathway. Attractive capping stones have been selected for the more recent walls on the right hand side, however hard concrete paving is not an attractive solution.

The design of the Bombala columbarium pays careful attention to colour and placement of brickwork. Surfaces are hardened where necessary and use softer scoria as mulch around garden beds

Recommendation

- Maintain all columbaria and ensure that the design of the structure, landscape and setting is sensitive and aesthetic.

5   SIGNIFICANCE

All graves and cemeteries have some degree of heritage significance. As noted before, the Eurobodalla Shire LEP 2012 heritage schedule contains 35 cemeteries and lone burial sites in its list. It is recommended that all of those remain in the heritage schedule.

Collectively the burials tell an important part of the dramatic story of human occupation of the shire area during the 19th and into the 20th century, a time when there was a radical change from a stable indigenous society and land-use pattern through to the current social and cultural landscape.

One of the many ways in which this often tumultuous story can be told is through the lives of the key players, whose stories can be evoked in the immediate presence of their graves and headstones.

For many people the emotional attachment is to the grave itself and in particular to the remains, whether this is the burial site or the cremated ashes. Relocating the headstone from the grave to a new location does not sever their attachment to the burial site.

Notwithstanding the above, memorials can be significant for their design, their craftsmanship and their style, in addition to their inscription and commemoration. A relocated headstone can be significant, although its heritage value is diminished when moved from its grave.

Bodalla Cemetery

There are historic graves in the Bodalla general cemetery that date to the late 19th and early 20th centuries that would likely meet the threshold for local heritage listing. The headstones of some of these older graves are in poor condition and need restoration. Also included in this cemetery are well known names of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal locals and in common with some other general cemeteries has a strong connection to the locality.

Recommendation
- That the significance of the 19th and early 20th century graves at Bodalla general cemetery be recognised either through local heritage listing or inclusion on an interpretation panel, and conservation of the monuments be encouraged.

Tilba Tilba Holy Trinity Church Cemetery

The small graveyard at the back of the Holy Trinity Church in Tilba Tilba is significant historically and aesthetically and is a surprisingly rare example of a graveyard in close proximity to its church. This arrangement was more common in the 19th and early 20th century and once existed at churches in Nelligen, Batemans Bay, Nerrigundah, Wagonga and Corunna. The church is on the local heritage schedule but no mention is made of the cemetery

Recommendation
- The citation for the Holy Trinity Church Tilba be amended to recognise the local significance of the cemetery.

Mountain View isolated Bate grave

The grave of Henry Jefferson Bate and his daughter Matilda Eleanor Bate are located at Mountain View farm in Tilba Tilba. The extended Bate family have a long and very significant relationship with the Tilba Tilba and Central Tilba area, with Henry Jefferson Bate settling in Tilba Tilba in 1869.

Recommendation

- That the grave of Henry Jefferson Bate and his daughter Matilda Eleanor Bate be entered in the Eurobodalla LEP heritage schedule.

Wallaga Lake Aboriginal Cemetery

Wallaga Lake Aboriginal cemetery is one of the oldest and largest of its type in NSW and is still in operation. It was part of the original Wallaga Lake Aboriginal Reserve and may have been used as early as 1887. Intensive study circa 2010 and subsequently was conducted to determine the names and locations of all burials[13]. The cemetery has high levels of historic, social and aesthetic value and easily meets the threshold for listing in the local LEP Heritage Schedule. It is possible that the cemetery also meets the criteria and threshold for listing at the State level.

Recommendation

- That discussions be held with the Merrimans Local Aboriginal Land Council regarding listing of the Wallaga Lake Aboriginal Cemetery on the Eurobodalla Heritage Schedule.

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[13] Feary and Donaldson, *Caring for the ancestors: Wallaga Lake Aboriginal Cemetery, NSW. Stage one: Preliminary investigations.* 2012

6   GOALS

The goal for heritage management of the graves and cemeteries in the Eurobodalla Shire is to maintain or enhance their heritage value for present and future generations. These values can be set down and discussed individually using standard heritage criteria:

Historic
They are strongly associated with key past events and lifeways of indigenous and non-indigenous people.

Scientific or technical
They demonstrate the range of materials used in constructing the monuments and the skills of the craftsmen and women of their time.

Aesthetic
Certain of the headstones and monuments have a high degree of aesthetic value. They use interesting materials, have good proportions, include attractive carvings, and demonstrate the rich patina of age.

Social
It is common for people to have strong attachments to the burial place of their forebears as evidenced by repeated visits to graves, and a level of care and maintenance that they are able to do within the limit of their resources.

Rarity
Some headstones are rare in their choice of material, design and composition. Some become rare as one of the last surviving headstones in a cemetery. Similarly, some cemeteries have become rare as an example of a type of cemetery that was once common.

Good example of type
The style and type of headstones has changed over time from gothic and classical, through sculptural to the common slab and plinth of the 20th century followed by more recent organic and nature based memorials.

Ability to inform
All of the above can help us to understand the people of the time, their thoughts, aspirations, lifestyles and challenges.

The goal of cemetery conservation in Eurobodalla Shire is to ensure that the values highlighted above are not diminished and that the graves and cemeteries continue to underpin each generation's understanding of their past. This could be stated as two key actions for cemetery managers:

1   **Conserve**,

2   **Interpret**

7   STAKEHOLDERS

7.1   Who are the cemetery stakeholders?

Private landholders	The greatest number of individual or lone burials are on private land, however these graves usually contain only one or two souls.
Eurobodalla Shire Council,	Most burials are within the public or general cemeteries managed by Council.
Community committee	In some instances Council is assisted by a local committee as in the case of Tilba District cemetery.
Church Property Trust	There are many small church cemeteries and in most instances the land still belongs to the Church Property Trust. However day to day management may devolve to the local parish.
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service can become cemetery managers when land is vested in their care and there are several cemeteries and lone burial sites on land that they manage.
Historical societies	They have been very active in recording inscriptions over the years and continue to do so. They have also played an important role in identify problems and issues in cemetery management.
Community groups	Occasionally a particular community group will take an interest in a specific cemetery or burial site for which they have attachment or affinity.
Individuals	Some individuals work quietly and effectively in recording, conserving and promoting graves and cemeteries.

7.2   What Does Council Manage?

Council's Cemeteries Policy[14] notes that:*Council is the Crown Reserve Trust Manager of eight operational cemeteries located at:*

Runnyford Road, Nelligen

Princes Highway, Batemans Bay

Princes Highway, Mogo,

Dwyers Creek Road, Moruya

Laidley Street, Bodalla

Glasshouse Rocks Road, Narooma

Nerrigundah Mountain Road, Nerrigundah and Haxstead Road, Central Tilba.

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[14] https://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/inside-council/council/council-policies/policies/Cemeteries-Management-Policy.pdf

Council also maintains three non-operational cemeteries located at:

> *MacLean Place, Moruya* [Glenduart]
>
> *Corner Dwyers Creek Road and Bergalia Street, [*Long Swamp or Old Catholic]
>
> *Point Parade, Congo.*[Maria Thompson]

Council has recently commenced preparing Plans of Management for the cemeteries it looks after.

Recommendation: The plan/s of management should address heritage issues and take on board the recommendations in this report. In addition to the internment role, the Plan of Management should promote the conservation, enhancement and interpretation of the cemetery for current and future users.

7.3   What sites are managed by others?

There are some cemeteries that appear to be part of the public realm that would benefit from a more prescribed approach than they currently receive. These include:

- Toragy Point cemetery (NPWS)
- Batemans Bay Presbyterian cemetery (former – now managed by Council))
- Batemans Bay Roman Catholic cemetery (church)
- Old Nerrigundah cemetery (Crown)
- William Fletcher Grave, Nerrigundah

Recommendation:

- Council to consult with owners/ stakeholders of publicly accessible cemeteries to ensure the sites are well presented and contribute to both the local community's and the visitor's experience.

For further details on operational status and manager of cemeteries see
https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/lands/what-we-do/crown-land/cemeteries-crematoria/locations/find-a-cemetery

The register site above appears to have incorrect or misleading information regarding cemetery owners and managers (Council is shown as the default manager for most cemeteries in the shire). This should be checked and corrected.

Recommendation:

- Update the above DPI website to clarify the cemeteries that Council manages and encourage other local managers to do the same

8   STATUTORY ISSUES

8.1   Clarification of rights and obligations

A detailed discussion is beyond the scope of this project although some of these issues are discussed in greater detail later at Section 11. Some of the statutory issues that could impact on cemetery and grave management include:

- Who has the 'right' to modify, conserve or repair a monument?

- Steps to be taken to identify the holder of the 'right',

- Can Council take action if the monument is broken or poses a risk to public health and safety?

- In what circumstances is approval required before a burial can be disturbed?

- Is approval required before monuments are relocated from private or church land?

- What are the implication for owners and managers of land on which a locally heritage listed grave or cemetery is located?

8.2   Safe and potentially unsafe monuments

Council has recently completed an assessment of the cemeteries under their management to identify unsafe and potentially unsafe monuments.

At this stage, it is unclear "where to go from here"[15]. At the time of writing this report Council had not developed a strategy to address the issues identified in the report. An inappropriate strategy by Wingham Council resulted in 59 headstones being laid down without consultation and causing damage to the headstone and its surround. Council was accused of vandalism.

A number of sympathetic conservation strategies are illustrated later in this report.

Recommendation
- Council to prepare (or have prepared) a document that explains in plain English the obligations, constraints and rights of owners and managers of land on which a burial is located.
- Council to develop a conservation strategy for problematic memorials that ensures their survival in situ.

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[15] Eurobodalla Shire Council staff member personal comment.

9   TOWARDS A SHIRE-WIDE CO-ORDINATED OUTCOME

9.1   A role for Council

Because Council manages more publically accessible heritage cemeteries than other groups, it is the most appropriate body to take a leadership role in a 'whole of shire' approach to cemetery conservation and interpretation.

The benefits to Council will be a co-ordinated and high quality approach to both conservation and development of the cemeteries and an improved opportunity to attract works funding that is consistent with the management plan.

It is anticipated that the interest in 'Cemetery Tourism' will continue to grow and that the work done to enhance heritage, functional and aesthetic values of the cemeteries will yield on-going economic benefits.

There is an excellent opportunity to engage with the community in a positive way that will enhance community cohesion. Of particular benefit will be those historic cemeteries that are not under Council management such as the church burial grounds. This will build on some of the excellent outcomes achieved in recent years at Wagonga and Corunna cemeteries.

Failing to conserve the cemeteries is not a satisfactory option as in time it is likely that every headstone and vertical monument will collapse, break and decay more rapidly. In varying degrees this process has already commenced.

As a key stakeholder it is suggested that Council should:

- support in principle the maintenance, repair and conservation of historic graves and cemeteries.

- promote cemeteries as a tourism opportunity,

- prepare an appropriate management documentation for each historic cemetery under its management. The management documents should include a landscape plan that addresses vehicle access, circulation pathways, shade planting, invasive tree and shrub management, shelter structures and the like,

- design a site specific name sign for each cemetery under its management,

- develop site specific interpretation boards for each cemetery under its management.

- work with all stakeholders (NPWS, church groups, community groups and private individuals) to achieve high quality conservation outcomes for the significant cemeteries and burial sites across the shire.

- Seek to establish community based carer groups for relevant historic cemeteries.

Recommendation
- Council should take on the role as Key Stakeholder and co-ordinate a 'whole-of-shire' approach to the conservation and interpretation of cemeteries and monuments.

9.2   Carer and community groups

There are excellent opportunities to involve carer and community groups in the management and development of cemeteries.

Lions and Rotary have shown interest in erecting signage (Moruya general cemetery) and constructing shelters (Narooma general cemetery). At Corunna Methodist cemetery and Tilba general cemetery the local community group raised funds and oversaw the construction of an interpretation shelter and the cleaning and restoration of monuments. Committees can have input into the development of Plans of Management and conservation programs. Glenduart, Wagonga, old Nerrigundah and other cemeteries each provide opportunities for community landscaping and to work with Council to ensure that the highly significant historic cemeteries are not over-run by vegetation.

9.3   Cemetery parks

With the increasing densification of towns and villages it is becoming apparent that some cemeteries can be adapted to become cemetery parks. The Roman Catholic and Presbyterian cemeteries are ideally suited to creating a linked park overlooking Batemans Bay, with connecting pathways from the residential area to key parts of the city. Glenduart cemetery occupies a superb position on the banks of the Moruya River and if cleaned up and interpreted would make an engaging point of interest on the north bank river reserve.

Recommendation
- Work with owners of Batemans Bay Presbyterian Cemetery and the Roman Catholic Cemetery in Bent Street to find a way in which the sites can be incorporated into the fabric of an urban 'rest' park.

9.4   Electronic database

Printed records of the deaths and burials have been prepared by both Clyde River and Batemans Bay Historical Society (CRBBHS) and Moruya and Districts Historical Society (MDHS) from transcriptions and Court of Petty Sessions (CPS) records. The compilations represent an enormous amount of labour. Much of this material has been transcribed to a Microsoft Database by the MDHS. There are over 9,000 entries although much of the information is basic and does not include photos.

At the present time the CRBBHS are recording information on all burials, including photographs on a separate electronic database that will enable them to thematically link to related items in their collection.

Eurobodalla Shire Council operates a Geographic Information System (GIS) based database covering each burial in the General Cemeteries that they manage. This enables printed maps of the cemetery showing the location of a specific grave. They do this regularly and are obliged to do so by legislation however the database is not currently publicly accessible. Few areas have been ground-truthed, so the current GIS is not as accurate as it could be if the location of all burials were recorded using a Geographic Positioning System (GPS).

One community member (Peter Robson) is currently transcribing each headstone in Narooma General Cemetery and uploading the data to the Australian Cemeteries Index on-line database. A separate online database (Lorraine's Cemetery Records) includes searchable information on the burials in the Tilba area.

With historic cemeteries the reference to the cemetery in the CPS record is often ambiguous. If there is no surviving headstone it can sometimes be difficult to state with confidence whether a burial is in a private cemetery, a church cemetery or the general cemetery.

Recommendation

- In its stakeholder role, Council should convene a meeting to be attended by each group that manages or contributes to an electronic database. The purpose is to avoid duplication and establish if data can be collected in a manner that enables it to be shared not only throughout the shire but across the Web.

10   STYLE OF MONUMENTS

10.1   Style overview

Across NSW the relative popularity of the Classical and Gothic styles waxed and waned throughout the 19th century, and the expression of the styles also changed over the same period. In cases of monuments pre-dating Civil Registration in 1856 (when the registration of death became compulsory), this record may be the only surviving documentation of early European settlers.

By 1860, with the expansion and specialisation of the monumental masonry trade and the wider availability of pattern books, expressions of both the Classical and Gothic styles became more conventionalised and were often combined together. The heyday for funerary sculpture was the late 19th century, however sculpture continued to be regularly commissioned up until the 1920s. During this period, large monuments were all about height and visibility. The most common motifs depicted in sculpture were urns, angels and allegorical figures.

A distinct shift in monumental styles can be noticed in the early 20th century. There was a movement away from sculptures and tall, ostentatious monuments. Instead, lower headstones and the slab and desk became more popular. This trend continued through the 20th century, often tending to suggest a bed to signify the departed "at rest".

These trends can be seen in the monuments of the Eurobodalla Shire although as a general rule monuments were simpler, those from the 19th century were typically a stone stele with incised inscription, a border and often a steel or timber fence. Elevated structures and sculptures such as an obelisk or tall cross were the exception rather than the rule but nevertheless can be seen at Tilba District and Narooma General. TS Mort, who desired no ostentation, specified a simple and understated slab.

Cast iron headpieces were also used and can be found on the graves of Charles Harpur and his son as well as in the old cemetery at Nerrigundah. Cast in several styles by the Etna foundry, the inscription was painted onto the surface. Unfortunately paint is not as durable as a carved inscription in stone and the detail on such markers has mostly been lost. Timber crosses and, in some instances carved timber slabs, have in the main been lost to fire, termites and decay.

From the latter part of the 20th century there has been a shift from the more formal 'slab and desk' to a more personalised marker. In some instances this takes a natural form – for example a carefully selected natural stone with plantings of native shrubs. In other instances the monument is handmade and colourful, creating a bright contrast to the more traditional sombre dark-stone slab and tablet.

One of Council's policy aims set out in the Cemeteries Management Policy July 2017 states:
> ..*monuments are [to be] constructed in keeping with other monuments in the cemetery (this is of particular importance in cemeteries of cultural and heritage significance, as listed in the Eurobodalla Local Environmental Plan 2012)[16].*

Five of the eight general cemeteries are listed in the Heritage Schedule and are open and active with a lot of capacity for additional burials. Part of the character of cemeteries is the diversity of monument styles and the manner in which they reflect their period of construction. It is hard to envisage a memorial that would be acceptable on safety and other grounds but not be acceptable on heritage grounds. Rather than restrict modern monuments from heritage cemeteries all together, it may be

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[16] https://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/inside-council/council/council-policies/policies/Cemeteries-Management-Policy.pdf

more appropriate for them to be located a respectful distance away if there is likely to be a significant visual impact. At Tilba District cemetery for example modern grave markers are located several rows away from the more historic and classical monuments.

10.2   Terminology

Terminology used throughout this report is drawn from the National Trust *Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation* 2009

11   CONSERVATION OF MONUMENTS

11.1   Burial and beneficial rights

National Trust guidelines indicate that the only person/s who have the right to authorise modification of a grave or monument will be the executor of the deceased, or someone who inherits that right through the will or intestacy. This right can be transferred through subsequent generations. As a consequence determining the legal or beneficial ownership of a burial right to an old grave may be a difficult task for descendants or others wishing to undertake conservation.

If interested descendants can establish that they have a share in the burial right and that steps have been taken to advise other beneficial owners, the controlling authority will often allow work to proceed.

There are mechanisms in the Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2013 that allow work to be done to monuments if certain steps are taken.

11.2   Heritage controls

Restoration
For those cemeteries that have been heritage listed in the Eurobodalla Shire Local Environment Plan 2012, work including restoration of a monument will require approval from council. Basic maintenance such as cleaning is exempt. More intense work such as pressure washing, re-leading, repairs to broken headstones, reinstatement of fencing, removal of trees etc should be discussed with Council staff to ensure it is consistent with sound conservation practice.

Relics
Relics are controlled under the NSW Heritage Act 1977. Amendments to the *Heritage Act* made in 2009 have changed the definition of an archaeological *'relic'* under the Act. A relic is now an archaeological deposit, resource or feature that has *heritage significance* at a local or State level. The definition is no longer based on age.

It is an offence for a person to disturb any land knowing, or having reasonable cause to suspect that such disturbance is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed unless such work is carried in accordance with and appropriate permit. A range of exemptions may apply in certain circumstances such as on-going use of a State listed cemetery. It is possible that unapproved destruction of an historic burial site could be in contravention to the NSW Heritage Act 1977.

11.3   Conservation works

The National Trust booklet *Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation* provides very useful advice on a range of conservation matters including cleaning, repair and re lettering. The booklet is readily available on-line and should be consulted before work is commenced. Conservation has been undertaken on numerous monuments across this shire and others and a selection of these is documented below to illustrate some of the options and conservation strategies available.

Typical conservation actions will include maintenance, repair and in some instances introduction of new materials. Wherever possible the original material should be retained rather than replaced and new work should always aim to fit with the character of the monument and the larger cemetery.

Common issues include

- Cleaning monuments
    - Granite, Marble, Sandstone, Cement, Timber, Metal
- Sunken slabs and broken borders
- Trees and other vegetation in or adjacent to the grave
- Fences around the monument border (metal and occasionally timber)
- Broken stele
- Leaning stele
- Re-lettering (lead and paint)

Care must be exercised as inappropriate work, however well intentioned, can cause irreparable harm and work should be discussed with Council's Heritage Adviser prior to commencement. Work on a monument in a heritage listed cemetery or on a heritage listed lone burial may require approval from Council and should be discussed with Council staff prior to commencement. (Refer to clauses at 5.10 in Eurobodalla Shire Council LEP 2012 https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/EPI/2012/333/part5/cl5.10)

11.4   Tilba General Cemetery monuments before and after work

The headstone was badly fractured and the pieces were loosely assembled and lying on the slab.

They were cleaned and glued to a cement sheet that had been cut to match the profile of the headstone.

The repaired headstone was left lying on the slab at an angle to the ground to promote water runoff.

Before

The monument was cleaned, and the surrounding handrail treated for rust and repainted.

Before

The monument was cleaned, broken pieces of the slab underpinned with lose aggregate and the rusted steel railings neatly arranged on the border.

The slab was partially removed, underpinned and replaced as it had a significant cavity under it before the work was done.

Before

After

Slab and scroll were cleaned

Before

The monument was cleaned, broken pieces of the slab returned to original position and re-supported on loose material and the border straightened. The border shows a typical example of de-lamination of the outer layers of the porous material such as sandstone and soft cement mortar.

After

11.5   Historic Church of England cemetery Bodalla (TS Mort's cemetery)

The monument was fractured and repaired long ago. The unusual lug at the top (circled) might indicate a carefully inserted reinforcing rod through the stele.

Front face

The stele fractured at a central point and was glued together and fixed to a concrete backing piece and the whole cast back onto the head of the grave. The reverse side has a decorative lip to the edge.

Front and side view

Rear view

Front view

This headstone appears to have been damaged from a central impact point. It has been glued together and reinstated without a backing sheet.

11.6   Corunna Cemetery

Corunna cemetery after cleaning of monuments and erection of interpretation shelter.

11.7   Long Swamp Cemetery Moruya

This highly figured sandstone stele was damaged and repaired several decades ago. Modern adhesives and careful selection of sand and mortar may have allowed a thinner and more discrete joint.

11.8   Moruya General Cemetery

Front 2018

The O'Grady headstone was removed from Nerrigundah along with the constable's mortal remains and relocated to Moruya. The cracked headstone was adhered to a thicker concrete stele.

11.9   Toragy Point

Front face

The thick concrete backing has been shaped to the stele's profile

This cemetery has suffered unfortunate vandalism with many stones broken and still lying on the ground.

Fortunately Joseph Louttit's headstone has been reassembled, backed onto a slab of concrete and reinstated. Note how the backing slab has been shaped to support the stone. An interpretation plaque has been embedded on the back face of the concrete support.

11.10 Wagonga Uniting Church Cemetery

At Wagonga, one side of the border of this grave had collapsed and a new one was cast in situ. A new replica headstone was obtained by descendants and installed. Over time the cement should weather to an even colour.

Alfred Cowdroy's Grave – Wagonga

Prior to restoration the Cowdroy headstone was lying on the ground, covered in leaves and grass. 2014

Figure 24
Alfred's Grave in Wagonga Cemetery after restoration
(photo RMC July 2018)

The epitaph on Alfred Cowdroy's headstone reads:
Sacred to the Memory of
ALFRED COWDROY.
born Manchester England 13.2.1801*
died Wagonga 25.9.1877

The monument following restoration by a descendant, 2018

A robust stainless steel frame supports a stainless steel cross-plate and fixing. 2018

To support both upper and lower portions of the formerly broken headstone the steel plate has been embedded into the side of the stone. This minimises visibility from the front of the grave.

11.11 Bombala General Cemetery

U section steel was cut and welded to create a simple splint for this broken headstone. It appears to have been painted once but rust now shows through. Staining around the joint may have been affected by adhesive or by rust particles migrating from the steel.

11.12 Nimmitabel Pioneer's Cemetery

The steel splint on this headstone has been extended into the ground to provide greater strength.

11.13 Glenburn Homestead site – Colverwell Graves

These headstones had lain in damp ground for many years before being stood up and supported in the hand-made frames. The lug at the shoulder restrains the stone without the need to cut into significant fabric. The metal frame is less reflective than stainless steel and hence less visually intrusive.

This project is part of a larger walking trail that is part of an ACT tourism product.

11.14 Bustard Head lighthouse cemetery, Queensland

This lighthouse cemetery was recently restored so that it was easily accessed by tourists to the area. Works included attractive picket borders and safe pathways. .

The scoria (loose stone) surface around the graves allows water to soak into the ground

This work is part of a Queensland tourism product.

12   SOURCES OF INFORMATION

From the CMHS subjects list

Batemans Bay District Burial Listings

Caring for the Ancestors, Wallaga Lake aboriginal cemetery. NSW. Stage 1:

preliminary investigations

Cemeteries Bodalla Estate, Moruya, Glenduart , South Head, Old Kiora, Methodist Corunna, Mogo

Cemetery Records - Moruya & District

Cemetery Records - Narooma & Tilba Part 1

Cemetery Records - Narooma & Tilba Part 2

Cemetery Records - Nerrigundah, Bodalla, Narooma

Cemetery Transcripts, Bodalla, Baldry, Frogmore, Graham, Iandra, Mogo, Monteagle, Tilba, Wombat. Transcribed by Marilyn and Steve Jones

Deaths in Our Area. Burials, Buried in our area or cremated 1988-1997. Batemans Bay

Moruya Cemetery Plan and Old Catholic Cemetery Plans

Moruya District Cemeteries Index RC Marriages Index 1833-1940

Narooma Nerrigundah and Tilba Cemetery Listings

Nelligen cemeteries and burial Grounds. Notes on Currowan Burials

Small Cemeteries of New South Wales. Volume 1

Toragy Point Cemetery, Moruya Heads. Conservation Management Plan

Computer B:MDHS:B   Survey of graves in Moruya cemetery May 2007, showing particulars of those who died in 1982 or later

Books and booklets

Index to Deaths Eurobodalla Shire 1857 – 1905, Moruya and Districts Historic Society

Narooma, Nerrigundah and Tilba Cemetery, Listings, Clyde River and Batemans Bay Historical Society, 1991

Batemans Bay District – Burial Listing Clyde, River and Batemans Bay Historical Society, 1990

The History of the Port of Nelligen GT Reynolds 1985

The Deua River Track, Peter Smith 2009

Behind Broulee, William A Bayley, 1978

Alfred Cowdroy 'At Wagonga', Rob Cowdroy, 2018

Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation, The National Trust (NSW), 2008

Tomakin, The Undiscovered History, Mark Young

Computer based

Cemetery Records and cemetery transcriptions are available on CD, MDHS

Burial Listings for the Eurobodalla Shire – Microsoft Access electronic database.

On Line sources

Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra	https://familyhistoryact.org.au/
Australian Cemeteries Index	http://www.austcemindex.com
Lorraine's cemetery records	http://www.ozburials.com/

13   SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations made throughout the report are collected below for ease of reference.

3   BURIALS AND CEMETERIES IN EUROBODALLA SHIRE

3.4   Inventory Listing

- It is recommended that pre-contact and lone Aboriginal burials be the subject of further study.

4   CEMETERY MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Location signage – street-sign

- A heritage map (print or digital) should be prepared identifying the location and significance of all publicly accessible cemeteries.

Cemetery identification sign eg *Long swamp Cemetery'*

- Each of the public cemeteries, whether closed or operational, heritage listed or otherwise, should include a name sign that is easy to read and sensitively located. Ideally it should be no higher than the handrail and be in a style and character appropriate to the locality. If vandalism is likely, it may be appropriate for the sign to be set higher and possibly behind the perimeter fence.

Primary interpretation

- An interpretational panel should be located just inside the entry gate to explain to the visitor the cemetery's layout and what in particular is significant about the burial ground. It may make reference to distinctive burials and indicate their location on the layout plan. It is important that interpretation, and indeed all signage, use language that is sensitive to all cultural groups.

Significant burials- secondary interpretation

- Provide additional interpretation for individually significant burials where appropriate.

Cemetery Groundcover

- A ground cover management plan should be prepared by a suitably qualified person for each bush cemetery. The plan should address removal of dead and fallen branches in proximity of monuments, control of young trees in proximity of monuments if they are likely to become a problem when mature, and safe movement between and around monuments. The plan to be prepared by someone with appropriate expertise.

Tree problems

- Establish a cemetery vegetation plan that identifies a suitable location for larger trees, areas for smaller shrubs, and areas from which feral or unwanted trees will be removed. The plan can be extended to include internal roads, pathways and even the location for shelters.

Fencing

- The style of fencing around and within a cemetery should be in keeping with its setting and be both attractive and durable. Thought should be given to the entry fence and gates and ideally these should be designed as part of the overall landscape plan.

Vehicle access

- As a general rule vehicles should be kept away from burial areas, while making allowances for people with a disability and service vehicles.

- Access planning needs to consider the differing needs and controls on private, disabled, commercial and service vehicles and the needs of pedestrians.

Pathways - ground hardening

- Cemetery planning should include a circulation hierarchy that is sympathetic to the character of the existing cemetery layout while allowing for the needs of vehicles and pedestrians.

New structures

- Design and construct elegant shelters in each of the public cemeteries.

Seating

- Provide seating to each of the public cemeteries.

Beautification

- Ensure that cemeteries are aesthetically pleasing.

Columbaria

- Maintain all columbaria and ensure that the design of the structure, landscape and setting is sensitive and aesthetic.

5   SIGNIFICANCE

Bodalla Cemetery

- That the heritage significance of the 19th and early 20th century graves at Bodalla General Cemetery be recognised either through heritage listing or inclusion on an interpretation panel, and conservation of the monuments be encouraged.

Tilba Tilba Holy Trinity Church Cemetery

- The State Heritage Inventory (SHI) citation for the Holy Trinity Church should be amended to recognise the significance of the cemetery.

Mountain View isolated Bate grave

- That the grave of Henry Jefferson Bate and his daughter Matilda Eleanor Bate be entered in the ELEP heritage schedule.

Wallaga Lake Aboriginal Cemetery

- Discussions should be held with the Merrimans Local Aboriginal Land Council regarding listing of the Wallaga Lake Aboriginal Cemetery on the Eurobodalla Heritage Schedule.

7.2   What Does Council Manage?

- The plan/s of management should address Heritage issues and take on board the recommendations in this report. In addition to the internment role, the Plan of Management should promote the conservation, enhancement and interpretation of the cemetery for current and future users.

7.3   What sites are managed by others?

- Council to consult with owners/ stakeholders to ensure the sites are well presented, and contribute to both the local community's and the visitor's experience.

- Update the DPI website to clarify the cemeteries that Council manages and encourage other local managers to do the same

8   STATUTORY ISSUES

- Council to prepare (or have prepared) a document that explains in plain English the obligations, constraints and rights of owners and managers of land on which a burial is located.

9   TOWARDS A SHIRE-WIDE CO-ORDINATED OUTCOME

9.1   A role for Council

- Council should take on the role as Key Stakeholder and co-ordinate a 'whole-of-shire' approach to the conservation and interpretation of cemeteries and monuments.

9.3   Cemetery parks

- Work with owners of Batemans Bay Presbyterian Cemetery and the Roman Catholic Cemetery in Bent Street to find a way in which the sites can be incorporated into the fabric of an urban 'rest' park.

9.4   Electronic database

- In its stakeholder role, Council should convene a meeting to be attended by each group that manages or contributes to an electronic database. The purpose is to avoid duplication and establish if data can be collected in a manner that enables it to be shared not only throughout the shire but across the Web.