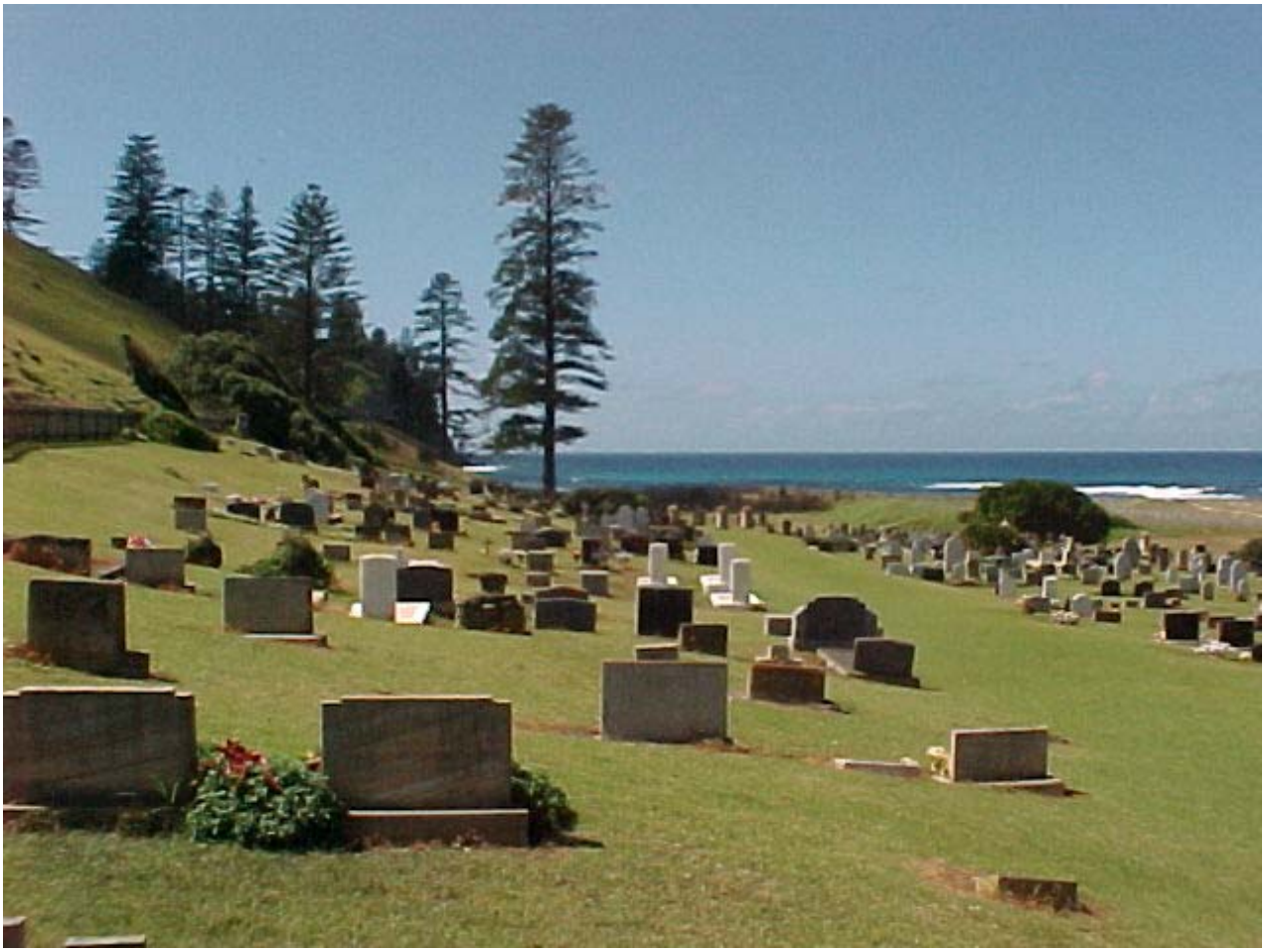
PLAN OF MANAGEMENT
PART B
SECTION THIRTEEN



CEMETERY RESERVE

2003

AS APPROVED BY THE NORFOLK ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ON 21 MAY 2003

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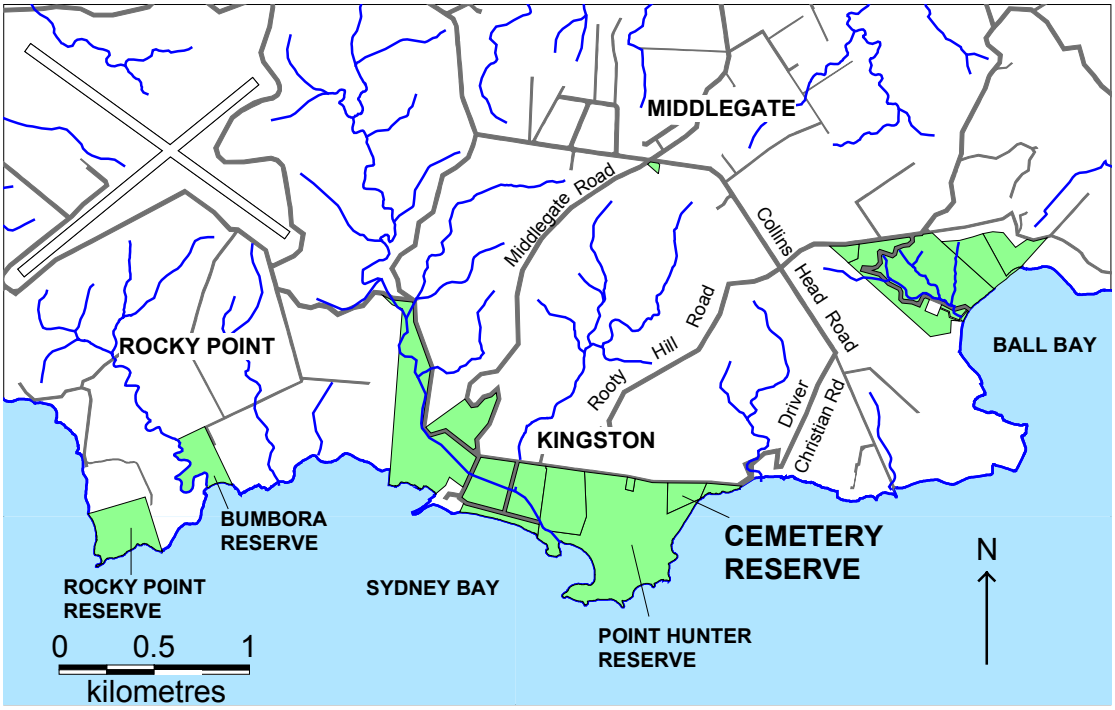
13.1 Introduction

This Part B Plan of Management applies to Cemetery Reserve.

Cemetery Reserve is located within the Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area on the southern coast of Norfolk Island and has an area of 2.18 hectares (Map 1). The reserve contains graves that date from the First Settlement (1788 – 1814) and has been used as the island's cemetery continuously since the beginning of the Second Settlement in 1825.



Map 1: Location of Cemetery Reserve

Cemetery Reserve was proclaimed a public reserve under the *Commons and Public Reserves Act 1936* for burial purposes on 4 February 1937.

13.1.1 Previous Plans

This is the first plan of management for Cemetery Reserve.

13.1.2 Register of the National Estate

Cemetery Reserve was listed on the Register of the National Estate on 21 October 1980.

13.1.3 Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (KAVHA)

The Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area was established in 1980 when it was entered in the Register of the National Estate. The KAVHA was officially established by agreement between the governments of Norfolk Island and Commonwealth of Australia in 1989[1]. The agreement established a board to coordinate funding and recommend management policies to ensure the conservation and

[1] Memorandum of Understanding between Norfolk Island and Commonwealth governments: 1989, revised 1994.

restoration of the heritage fabric in the Kingston area. The KAVHA Board has played an invaluable role in conserving Kingston as a living monument.

The Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area Conservation Management Plan (CMP), agreed to by the KAVHA Board and the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island in 1988, is the guiding document for heritage preservation, conservation, and management in Cemetery Reserve.

Adoption of any part of the CMP into these Plans of Management shall be in accordance with section 16 of the *Public Reserves Act 1997*, but shall in each case be subject to public consultation in accordance with section 11 of the Act.

The CMP (1988) contains descriptions of the heritage fabric in KAVHA. The *Kingston Cemetery Study and Management Plan 1994*[2] provides detailed descriptions of the fabric of the Cemetery, together with management strategies. The *Kingston Cemetery Study and Management Plan 1994* provides detailed guidance on the conservation and management of the heritage fabric of the Cemetery.

Where there is any inconsistency between the intent of these plans of management and the intent of the approved KHAVA CMP, the intent of the approved KAVHA CMP shall prevail.

13.1.4 IUCN Category

The major portion of this small reserve fits IUCN Category V – Protected Landscape/seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation[3]. The definition of this category is an area of land, with coast and sea as appropriate, where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinctive character with significant aesthetic, ecological and/or cultural value, often with high biological diversity. Safeguarding the integrity of this traditional interaction is vital to the protection, maintenance and evolution of such an area.

13.2 Conservation Significance[4]

Cemetery Reserve is one of Norfolk Island's most important historic sites. The cemetery has been used continuously as a burial ground since 1825 and contains graves, many with headstones or memorials from both the First and Second Settlements. The oldest known grave is dated 1793[5]. The reserve is still used as the community's burial ground today.

The sand dunes in the east and south of Cemetery Reserve contain important palaeontological and archaeological remains.

13.3 Description

13.3.1 Geology and Landform

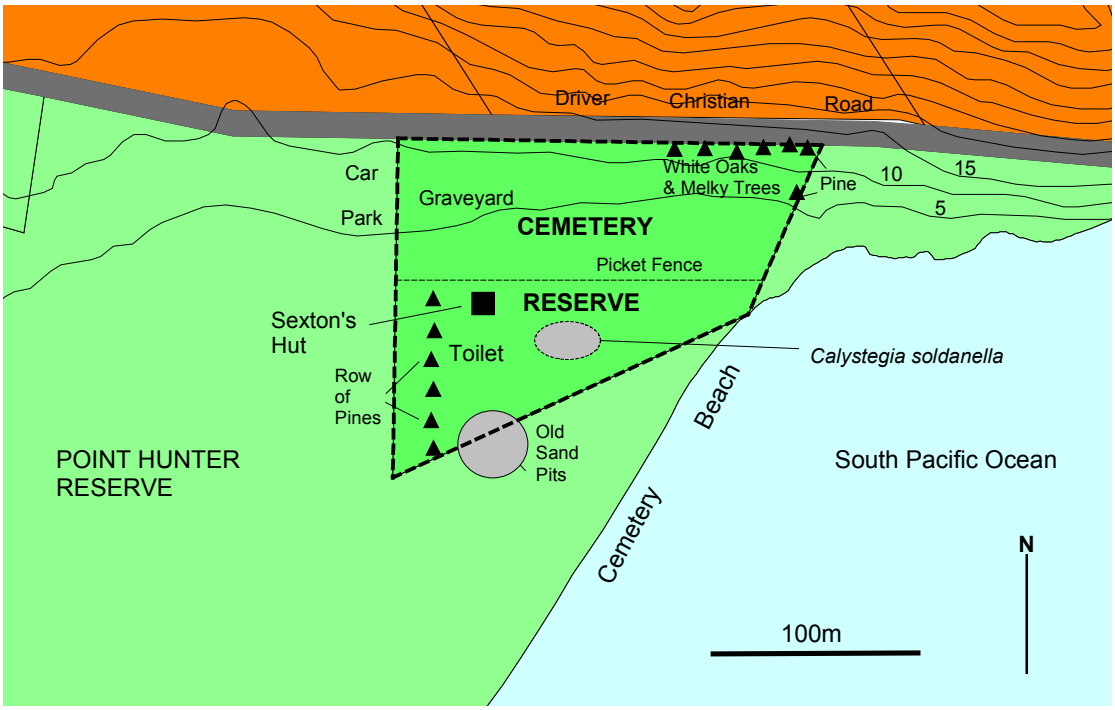
Cemetery Reserve is located at the eastern end of the relatively flat lowland at Kingston that has formed between the coast and the foot of the deeply weathered volcanic plateau of which Norfolk Island is mainly comprised.

The present sea level is similar to the sea level at the time the volcano that became Norfolk Island first emerged above the sea. However, during the 2 million years since the last volcanic activity, sea level

[2] Prepared by Tropman & Tropman Architects for Australian Construction Services.
[3] International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Protected Area categories as modified in IUCN (1994) *Guidelines for Protected Area Management Categories*, IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.
[4] A Statement of Significance may be found in the CMP and the RNE Place Report.
[5] Shane Quintal, Sexton. Personal communication, 28 March 2002.

has fluctuated dramatically[6]. At the height of the last 'ice age', sea level was about 109m lower than present and Norfolk and Phillip islands formed a single island with a landmass about 100 times greater than these islands are today. The large sand dunes that formed between Norfolk and Phillip islands[7] would have become covered with Norfolk Island pines and other native vegetation.

As increasing temperatures melted the ice caps and glaciers the sea level rose and the shoreline moved inland. On the southern side of Norfolk Island, sand dunes covered the now low-lying coastal lands, preventing streams from flowing directly into the sea. By about 6,000 years ago, the coastal dunes had overrun most of the swamps and forest between the foothills and the shore and formed the reefs and beaches at Cemetery and Slaughter Bays. The dunes that form Cemetery and Slaughter Bay beaches overlie a peaty layer containing Norfolk Island Pine logs and other plant remains[8]. The bones of many of the seabirds that nested on those dunes occur in a rich fossil layer that provides an insight into the island's prehistoric fauna[9].



Map 2: Landform and features of Cemetery Reserve

During the past two hundred years, vegetation clearing and limestone quarrying at Cemetery Beach and Emily Bay destabilised the dunes, which again became mobile. To prevent these dunes from smothering the Garrison Farm, Major Anderson had a high earth barrier constructed from about the centre of Cemetery Beach (south of the southern boundary of the reserve) westwards towards Government House in 1836. By the 1870's, sand dunes drifting westwards from Cemetery Beach

[6] There have been four distinct 'ice ages' during the past 1.6 million years. The last of these ended about 10,000 years ago. It appears from recent climate models that the mean annual temperature at Norfolk Island at the height of the last ice age (about 18,000 years ago) would have been similar to today's.

[7] Of which Nepean Island and the rocky outcrops of Point Hunter, the Lime Kiln and Chimney Hill are remnants. The Nepean Island aeolianite has been dated at 21,650 ± 700 years before present (BP): in Rich, P., G van Tets, K. Orth, C. Meredith and P. Davidson. 1983. *Prehistory of the Norfolk Island Biota*. In "A Review of Norfolk Island Birds: Past and Present" R. Schodde *et al*. Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service Special Publication No.8, 1983.

[8] Two of the logs have been dated: 6,870 ± 230 years BP and 4,400 ± 90 years BP: in Rich, P., G van Tets, K. Orth, C. Meredith and P. Davidson. 1983. *Prehistory of the Norfolk Island Biota*. In "A Review of Norfolk Island Birds: Past and Present" R. Schodde *et al*. Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service Special Publication No.8, 1983.

[9] Rich, P., G van Tets, K. Orth, C. Meredith and P. Davidson. 1983. *Prehistory of the Norfolk Island Biota*. In "A Review of Norfolk Island Birds: Past and Present" R. Schodde *et al*. Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service Special Publication No.8, 1983.

were encroaching on the south-eastern corner of the graveyard itself and had covered much of the southern section of the reserve.

The northern third of the reserve is on the lower slopes of the weathered volcanic plateau that rises north of Driver Christian Road to about 105m above sea level. The reserve slopes southwards from about 13m above sea level at its northern boundary to less than 5m above sea level in the south. Red brown volcanic soils cover the northern third of the reserve. These soils are contiguous with the peaty swamp[10] that underlies the sand dunes that cover the southern two thirds of the reserve.

13.3.2 Vegetation

Prior to European settlement, mixed native hardwood forest dominated by Norfolk Island Pine and White Oak, with coastal species such as Melky Tree, Birdcatcher, Coastal Coprosma and Norfolk Island Hibiscus is likely to have covered the lower hillsides and may have extended some way onto the sand dunes that abut the foot of the hills. The dunes may have been vegetated with Native Flax and Moo-oo, especially close to the edge of the forest, and by native coastal herbaceous plants such as Mile-a-Minute, Coastal Native Spinach, Pigface and Strand Morning Glory.

A map of Kingston drawn in 1829 by Captain Wakefield[11] shows vegetation (with scrub and trees other than pines) over much of the area that is now Cemetery Reserve and covering most of the centre of the old section of the graveyard. In 1837, Bishop Ullathorne described the cemetery as being "closed in on three sides by close, thick melancholy groves of the tear dropping machineel[12], while the fourth is open to the restless sea."[13] An 1845 illustration shows a stand of medium-sized trees and scrub with no pines in the vicinity of the old cemetery. By 1885, this vegetation had all but disappeared, with only a few medium-sized trees (probably White Oaks) near the location of the present Sexton's hut.

A photograph taken in 1892 shows that stock grazed outside the graveyard and that sand drifts from Cemetery Beach had reached almost halfway across what is now the southern section of Cemetery Reserve. Three wind-battered medium-sized trees (probably White Oaks) remained near the south-west boundary of the graveyard. The Marram grass that covers the dunes at Cemetery Beach was introduced to stabilise sand dunes 'at Emily Bay' prior to 1902[14]. The native coastal grass *Sporobolus virginicus* covers the dune between the graveyard fence and the beach and native Couch Grass forms most of the grass cover in the eastern end of the graveyard which is subject to periodic inundation and high levels of wind borne salt.

A small Norfolk Island Pine and a small number of wind-pruned mature White Oak and Melky Tree grow along the Driver Christian Road boundary. A copse of low spreading Melky Tree covers an area of about 150m^2 in the old section of the graveyard near the south-western stone corner pillar and a small Melky Tree remains near the Sexton's hut. A 3m tall wind-pruned White Oak near the southern

[10] A distinctive blue-black clay: Orth's 'Kingston Saprophytic Bed': in Rich, P., G van Tets, K. Orth, C. Meredith and P. Davidson. 1983. *Prehistory of the Norfolk Island Biota*. In "A Review of Norfolk Island Birds: Past and Present" R. Schodde *et al*. Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service Special Publication No.8, 1983.

[11] *Plan of the Settlement and Garrison Farm, Norfolk Island.* Captain Wakefield. May 1829. In *Kingston Cemetery Study and Management Plan*. Vol.1. Tropman and Tropman Architects. For Australian Construction Services. 1994.

[12] The "Machineel" to which Bishop Ullathorne referred is today more commonly known as "manchineel" (*Hippomane mancinella* Euphorbiaceae), which is a coastal tree of Central America and the Caribbean. Its milky sap is poisonous and may be a severe irritant to the eyes and skin. Even water dripping from it can cause dermatitis. Manchineel are not present on Norfolk Island and it is likely that the "machineel" trees referred to by Bishop Ullathorne were Melky Tree (*Excoecaria agallocha* Euphorbiaceae) which are native to Norfolk and have a milky sap that can blister the skin and cause blindness.

[13] As quoted in: *Kingston Cemetery Study and Management Plan.* 1994. Prepared by Tropman & Tropman Architects for Australian Construction Services. Volume 1, p 24. See also p28.

[14] Green, P.S. (1994), *Flora of Australia*, Volume 49, Oceanic Islands 1. Ed. A.J.G Wilson, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra.

edge of the graves has Madeira Vine on it, apparently the only infestation of this noxious weed in the reserve.

Twenty-seven Norfolk Island Pine remain of three rows planted along the southern half of the western boundary of the reserve in the 1950's. These trees shelter the Sexton's hut and the public toilet close to the southwestern corner of the reserve. There are also three medium-sized wind-pruned white oak in the southwestern corner of the reserve.

The KAVHA Restoration team has planted a mixture of Norfolk Island Pines, White Oaks, Melky Tree and Pohutakawa to stabilise sand dune and intercept salt-laden winds that damage the headstones and memorials. Many have failed, including most of the Pohutakawa.

A variety of garden exotics have been planted at many of the memorials.

13.3.2.1 Significant Species

The prostrate perennial native herb *Calystegia soldanella* is a widespread species that occurs in northern and southern hemisphere temperate regions, typically in suitable sandy habitat near the sea. There is little suitable habitat for this species on Norfolk Island and the handful that occur in the dunes in the reserve are the only known specimens growing on Norfolk Island today.

13.3.2.2 Weeds

The reserve is free of woody weeds, except for small patches of Lantana in the southern part of the reserve, near the area in which the *Calystegia soldanella* occurs.

A Madeira Vine is growing on a wind-pruned White Oak within the graveyard.

13.3.3 Fauna

The fossil deposits underlying the reserve provide some understanding of the fauna that was present on Norfolk Island prior to European settlement. Most of the fossils recovered from these deposits are of seabirds, with a small number of landbirds, an unidentified bat, a gecko and the Polynesian Rat. A very large booby found at the eastern edge of Cemetery Reserve in 1974 was a new species[15], and other fossils recovered from this layer may also be new species.

As in other open grassland habitats on the island, the Sacred Kingfisher[16] commonly occurs in the reserve: perched on the graveyard fence. Other birds that visit the reserve include the White-faced Heron, Crimson Rosella, Common Starling and House Sparrow.

13.3.4 Cultural Heritage

No evidence of early Polynesian use of the reserve has been found. However, Polynesian people would have at least visited the area, which is close to the Polynesian settlement at Emily Bay. Fossil evidence indicates that a variety of seabirds bred in at least part of the area that is now Cemetery Reserve and it is likely that the Polynesians would have harvested eggs and perhaps chicks and adult birds. It is also likely that Green Turtles laid eggs at Cemetery Beach and would have been another food for the Polynesians.

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[15] van Tets, G.F., C.W. Meredith, P.J. Fullagar, and P.M. Davidson. 1988. *Osteological Differences Between Sula and Morus, and a Description of an Extinct New Species of Sula from Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands, Tasman Sea.* Notornis 35: 35-57.

[16] Locally called 'Nufka', 'Norffka' or 'Norfolker', apparently derived from Norfolker since this bird was so unlike any that occurred on Pitcairn Island.

The land that is now Cemetery Reserve was not leased or granted during the First Settlement. However, the northern boundary of the reserve appears to coincide with the southeastern boundary of Lot 70 (60 acres) granted to a former marine, Thomas Williams[17].

A small rectangle adjoining the track that is now Driver Christian Road is shown on the 1840 'Arrowsmith' map[18] and marked "Burial Ground". This rectangle no doubt was intended to represent the extent of the cemetery at that time[19]. The stone corner and gateway pillars that mark the extent of the earlier cemetery were apparently constructed around 1840[20]. The valley immediately to the west of Driver Christian Road as it runs up the hill towards Collins Head Road is shown as "Bury[g] Ground Gully"[21]. All of the land along the southern side of Quality Row, to the east of Government House is marked as "Paddocks" and a track is shown from the "Limestone Quarry" at the western end of Emily Bay to a "Dripstone Quarry" about half way along Cemetery Beach.

The earlier cemetery is still shown on the 1860 map[22], marked "Grave Yard", with the rest of what is now Cemetery Reserve part of "Government Reserve" that incorporated all the present public reserves at Kingston. The 1887 map of Norfolk Island shows the "Cemetery" with slightly altered boundaries, the adjacent road named "Cemetery Road[23]" and the area of the "Government Reserve" that is now golf course[24] as "Swampy". It appears that by 1904 the boundaries of the cemetery had been extended to the current boundaries of Cemetery Reserve[25].

Stock were excluded from the graveyard itself during the First and Second Settlements. However, it was not until the 1970's that stock were excluded from the southern section of the reserve and dune stabilisation commenced.

Work to maintain the cemetery and conserve headstones and memorials has been carried out periodically, with the most recent conservation work being carried out during 2000 and 2001.

[17] *Settlers Lots on Norfolk Island 1791 – 1804*.
[18] *Plan of Norfolk Island Shewing the General Nature of the Ground.* 1840. Often referred to as the "Arrowsmith" map. However, John Arrowsmith was the lithographer who copied the map prepared or drawn by Major Barney, Royal Engineers Corp. The map accompanied a letter dated 20 February 1840 from Major Barney to the Colonial Secretary and was printed by James and Luke J. Hansard on an order of the House of Commons dated 15 June 1841.
[19] The stone corner and gateway pillars were apparently constructed around 1840: *Kingston Cemetery Study and Management Plan*. 1994. Prepared by Tropman & Tropman Architects for Australian Construction Services. Volume 1, p iv.
[20] *Kingston Cemetery Study and Management Plan.* 1994. Prepared by Tropman & Tropman Architects for Australian Construction Services. Volume 1.
[21] Possibly the location of a separate (Roman Catholic?) cemetery: *Kingston Cemetery Study and Management Plan.* 1994. Prepared by Tropman & Tropman Architects for Australian Construction Services. Volume 1, p7.
[22] *Norfolk Island Diagram of Allotments*. Surveyed and drawn by 2nd Corporal Thomas Kennedy, (Royal Engineers), Sapper George Jamieson (Survey Assistant). Lithographed and printed at the Topographical Department, War Office, under the direction of Major A.C. Cooke (Royal Engineers). 1860.
[23] Now Driver Christian Road.
[24] Point Hunter Reserve.
[25] *Map of Norfolk Island Shewing Grants and Subdivisions* 1904. Signed by Murphy, Government Surveyor, 8 February 1904.

13.4 Issues

13.4.1 Public Use

Cemetery Reserve is the Island's burial ground. Memorials to many of those who have lived on Norfolk since 1788, including the descendants of the Bounty mutineers who came to Norfolk from Pitcairn's Isle in 1856. It is therefore one of the Island's most sacred places.

The cemetery is also visited by many of the Island's tourists, individually or on a commercial tour.

People walking to Cemetery Beach often do so through the dunes in the southern section of the reserve. A lot of people also walk around the coast between the cemetery car park and Point Hunter, often with their dogs.

During the past 30 years, sand has been mined from parts of the southern section of Cemetery Reserve (see section 13.4.8).

13.4.2 Access and Facilities

The graveyard can be accessed on foot from the main cemetery car park and the Sexton's Hut. An informal foot track leads from the eastern end of the cemetery to Cemetery Beach and to Driver Christian Road. Another informal foot track leads from the southwestern corner of the reserve to Cemetery Beach.

Vehicular access to the reserve is via Quality Row and Driver Christian Road. A short sealed driveway provides all weather access to the gates of the cemetery. The vehicle access from Quality Row/Driver Christian Road and main cemetery car park are in Point Hunter Reserve.

An area between the southern fence of the cemetery and the southern boundary of the reserve is kept mown as a car park that is opened for use during funeral services.

An unsealed vehicle track leads from the main cemetery car park along the western boundary of the reserve to the sand pits and Cemetery Beach. Access to this track is through a timber gate, which is kept closed to exclude stock. The gate used to be locked to prevent private vehicle access, however the gate has not been locked since the early 1990's and an increasing number of vehicles have been using this track to access the beach and to fish along the rocks. This has led to increasing wear on grassed areas and the Cemetery Beach dunes in Point Hunter Reserve.

The public toilet and water tank in the southwestern corner of the reserve are adequate and in good condition. A new hut has been built to accommodate the Sexton and maintenance equipment. A telephone has been installed at the hut.

13.4.3 Heritage Conservation

The graveyard is exposed to salt-laden winds, which cause significant deterioration of the headstones and memorials. The headstones and memorials are also subject to erosion from sand blasting, especially during stormy weather. Conservation work to repair and restore a number of headstones and memorials was first undertaken during the 1960's, at which time about 70 headstones were straightened or reset.[26] Further restoration work was carried out between 1970 and 1972, when a

[26] Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area Management Plan. 1981. AGPS, Canberra.

number of stones were uncovered. During 2000 and 2001, Gordon Brown, a specialist stone mason, carried out restoration work on a number of headstones and memorials that were becoming illegible.[27]

In 1998, a large Norfolk Island Pine in the southern section of the reserve fell northwards, damaging a number of headstones in the old section of the graveyard. There is some concern that medium to large trees in or close to the graveyard may be a threat to conserving the headstones and memorials.

13.4.4 Habitat Rehabilitation and Development

The original native habitats within the reserve have been significantly altered. Cemetery Reserve is exposed to strong salt-laden southerly and southeasterly winds that sand blast the headstones and memorials. These winds also make it difficult to grow trees and shrubs that would provide the graveyard with some protection. Two parallel timber picket fences have been erected along the dune between the graveyard and Cemetery Beach to assist with the establishment of the vegetation hedges that were planted to address the urgent conservation issue of the deterioration of headstones and memorials. A number of Norfolk Island pines, White Oaks, Melky Tree, Coastal Coprosma, Native Flax and introduced Pohutakawa have been planted in front, between and behind these fences, with varying success.

It appears that White Oak, Melky Tree, Native Flax and perhaps Moo-oo are the most appropriate species to plant in this environment. Although a number of the pines have survived, the wind burns their foliage and growing tip severely once they reach the height of the fence. Should the pines grow to become large they may themselves become a danger to the fabric of the graveyard.

Establishing a forest on the dunes in the southern section of the reserve would be difficult and may not be compatible with protecting the underlying archaeological and fossil layers. A forest would not provide appropriate habitat for *Calystegia* and other native coastal sand dune species.

A forest along the Cemetery Beach dunes would not be compatible with maintaining the open views across the graveyard and dunes to the sea.

13.4.5 Breeding Seabird Habitat

The sand dunes in the reserve are suitable breeding habitat for some species of seabirds. However Ghostbirds and other seabirds do not breed in this area at present, perhaps as a result of disturbance from sand mining.

13.4.6 Pest Species

13.4.6.1 Weeds

Marram Grass, although not native to Norfolk Island, is not considered to be a weed because it stabilises the dunes and does not compete with other coastal native species, such as Mile-a-Minute and Native Bean.

There are a couple of wind-pruned patches of Lantana in the southern section of the reserve. These may provide shelter for *Calystegia* and other plants, but will slowly expand and smother these native species if not controlled.

A Madeira Vine is growing on a 3m tall wind-pruned White Oak in the graveyard. This introduced South American vine grows aggressively and can smother and kill the plants that it grows over.

[27] Rice, J. 2000. Conservation Services Coordinator Report to the KAVHA Management Board October 2000. Unpublished report, p3.

13.4.7 Erosion

There is no erosion in Cemetery Reserve. The timber picket fences and associated plantings along the top of the dune between the graveyard and Cemetery Beach will reduce sand drift and may help prevent erosion of the dune by heavy seas.

13.4.8 Sand Mining

Sand is an important resource for the building and construction industry. There is a limited amount of sand on Norfolk Island and there are few locations where it could be mined without significantly damaging the environment. The sand on Norfolk Island is comprised of rounded grains of calcarenite, coral and shells. As it is mainly calcium carbonate it is not as chemically stable as the sands derived from granite (mainly quartz sand) and other continental rocks that are most suitable for use by the construction industry. Crushed basalt dust is a suitable substitute for most uses of calcarenite sand on Norfolk Island. In recent years, up to $100m^3$ of calcarenite sand has been removed from the sand pits in Cemetery Reserve or Point Hunter Reserve annually.

The sand pit in Point Hunter Reserve has been closed and a new pit has been opened in Cemetery Reserve, just south of the graveyard fence. The pit has been established after archaeological investigations to ensure that underlying fossil and archaeological layers will not be disturbed. As the upper layers of recently deposited sand are removed, the pit will be backfilled with stabilised soil. This will provide firmer ground in which future graves may be dug.

A low timber barrier has been erected on the western side of the pit to control vehicular access to the pit, but this barrier is not adequate.

13.5 Management Objectives

Vision: To conserve and promote the cultural and natural heritage values of the reserve and ensure continued use of the reserve as the Island's burial ground.

13.5.1 Cultural Heritage Management

Aim: To provide for future interments and conserve the cultural heritage fabric of the Cemetery and archaeological remains.

Objectives:

- Provide sufficient space for future interments.
- Replace sand with clay soil more suitable for future interments.
- Maintain and protect the graveyard and where appropriate restore existing graves, headstones and memorials.
- Protect archaeological deposits and remains.
- Preserve the essential landscape elements of Cemetery Reserve.

13.5.2 Natural Heritage Management

Aim: To conserve native habitat and species diversity in the reserve to the extent compatible with use of the reserve as a cemetery.

Objectives:

- Manage existing vegetation to protect the cultural heritage fabric of the cemetery.
- Establish coastal native vegetation, consistent with conserving *Calystegia* and other native coastal strand species, protecting the cultural heritage fabric of the cemetery and maintaining the essential landscape elements of the reserve.
- Protect fossil deposits and remains.

13.5.3 Pest Species Management

Aim: To reduce the impacts of pest species in the reserve.

Objectives:

- Control introduced weeds in the reserve.

13.5.4 Recreation Management

Aim: To provide for appropriate recreational and commercial use.

Objectives:

- Manage impacts associated with public use of the reserve.

13.5.5 Education and Interpretation

Aim: To promote knowledge and understanding of Norfolk Island's cultural and natural history and issues related to conserving and managing Cemetery Reserve.

Objectives:

- Define and develop interpretation/education resource material specific to the reserve.
- Encourage appropriate scientific and educational activities in the reserve.

13.6 Management Strategies and Actions

13.6.1 Cultural Heritage Management

The reserve's major cultural attributes are:

- continuing use as a cemetery;
- graveyard headstones and memorials;
- archaeological deposits and remains; and
- open landscape setting with sea and coastal views.

The graveyard will be maintained and managed to provide for future interments in conformity with established practice.

Sand will be removed in order to provide for future interments.

The headstones and memorials will be restored and conserved in accordance with appropriate conservation techniques, under the supervision of the KAVHA Conservation Services Coordinator and the KAVHA Project Manager. A map of burial sites in the cemetery will be developed as resources become available.

Native vegetation, in particular White Oak, Melky tree, Native Flax and Moo-oo will be established on the dune between the graveyard and Cemetery Beach. The Norfolk Island pines that have been planted on the dunes in the southern section of the reserve will be monitored and will be replaced by more appropriate coastal species if necessary to protect native strand vegetation, the underlying fossil and archaeological layers and the views across the graveyard to the sea.

Native trees that are likely to be a danger to the heritage fabric of the graveyard may be removed if there are no appropriate alternative arboricultural techniques that could be employed to sufficiently reduce that danger.

Species that are likely to present a danger to the heritage fabric of the reserve, such as Norfolk Island Pine, will not be planted in or near the graveyard.

13.6.1.1 New Structures

No new buildings or other permanent structures are permitted in the reserve. However, temporary structures may be permitted provided the erection and use of such structures is not likely to significantly detract from the heritage values of the reserve or permanently harm the heritage values of the site or the reserve as a whole.

The temporary erection of marquees and tents may be permitted by the Conservator of Public Reserves, provided to do so is in the public interest and that the enjoyment and use of the reserve by the public is not interfered with.

13.6.2 Natural Heritage Management

The reserve's major natural heritage attributes are:

- copses of Melky Tree and White Oak along the northern boundary of the reserve;
- copse of Melky Tree within the graveyard;
- grove of Norfolk Island pines and White Oaks at the southwestern corner of the reserve;

- sand dune vegetation, especially *Calystegia*;
- fossil deposits and remains; and
- open landscape setting with sea and coastal views.

Important native vegetation, including individual trees or copses, will be retained and conserved, unless removal or other management is necessary to protect the heritage fabric of the graveyard.

Mowing of the overflow car parking area south of the graveyard will be restricted to the existing area and will not be extended into the adjacent dune vegetation or along the informal foot tracks to Cemetery Beach.

The sand pit will be restricted to the mown area of the overflow car park south of the graveyard and will not be extended into adjacent dune vegetation without a detailed vegetation survey and an assessment by the Conservator of Public Reserves that important dune vegetation will not be adversely affected.

Only native species will be planted on the dune between the graveyard and Cemetery Beach and in the southern section of the reserve. The Pohutakawa that have been planted in these areas will be replaced when native plants have developed sufficiently.

13.6.2.1 Habitat Rehabilitation

It is appropriate to establish and maintain native dune and coastal strand vegetation in the southern section of the reserve. This will be achieved through progressive hand removal of the few patches of Lantana and other aggressive introduced weeds. Weeding and planting will be planned and implemented to minimise damage to dune vegetation from trampling and machinery.

13.6.3 Pest Species Management

13.6.3.1 Weed Control

The graveyard section of the reserve is maintained using normal landscape maintenance techniques. Outside the graveyard, maintenance will intrude minimally on the natural environment. The long-term weed control strategy in the reserve will be based on:

- basal bark and cut stump herbicide application;
- removing young weeds by hand;
- mulching or weed matting in some areas;
- appropriate use of herbicides and minimum disturbance control techniques; and
- mowing and other horticultural/landscape techniques.

13.6.3.2 Fungus Control

The incidence and effect of *Phellinus noxius* in the reserve will be monitored. Disturbance and damage to tree butts and roots will be minimised.

13.6.4 Recreation Management

'Recreation' encompasses visiting the graveyard, public access to Cemetery Beach and commercial walking tours.

13.6.4.1 Picnic and BBQ Facilities

Picnic and barbecue facilities will not be provided in Cemetery Reserve.

13.6.4.2 Public Toilets

A public toilet is provided in the grove of pines near the Sexton's hut in the south-west of the reserve. This is in good condition and adequate for current use.

13.6.4.3 Walking Tracks

Presently there is no need for formal walking tracks outside the graveyard. The need to protect dunes from erosion on walking paths will be monitored by the Conservator of Public Reserves and appropriate measures taken as necessary.

13.6.4.4 Vehicles

The arrangements in Cemetery Reserve for parking vehicles during funerals are appropriate and adequate. Unrestricted vehicle access to Cemetery Beach in Point Hunter Reserve and to the sand pit is resulting in damage to the dunes and inadequate control over sand removal.

The gate on the vehicle track adjacent to the southwestern corner of the graveyard will be secured to prevent unauthorised vehicular access.

13.6.5 Education and Interpretation

The reserve is an important part of the Island's cultural heritage and is an important historical resource. The underlying prehistoric swamp and fossil layer, colonising dune vegetation and beach dynamics provide rich material for interpreting natural processes and the Island's pre-history.

13.6.5.1 Interpretation Strategy

An Interpretation Strategy and interpretive material for Cemetery Reserve will be developed as resources become available. The principal interpretation and education themes in the reserve will be:

- cultural heritage;
- natural habitats;
- significant species;
- conservation, land management and the environment; and
- impacts of human activity and sustainable resource use.

Community involvement in the development and delivery of the Interpretation Strategy is encouraged.

13.6.5.2 Signs

Interpretive signs will be designed and erected in appropriate locations and in accordance with the interpretation strategy. Location and appropriate warning signs will be erected at the entrance to the reserve.

13.6.5.3 School Visits

School visits that are designed to provide an understanding of Norfolk's natural and cultural heritage and aimed to encourage students to participate in heritage and environmental protection, research and rehabilitation will be encouraged.

13.6.5.4 Walking Tours

Walking tours are the only appropriate commercial activity in the reserve.

13.6.5.5 Community Involvement

Community involvement in the development and implementation of management programs in Cemetery Reserve will be encouraged in association with the Norfolk Island Museum, Historic Society and the KAVHA Management Board and Restoration Team.

13.6.6 Forestry

Forestry is not an appropriate activity in the reserve.

13.7 Research and Monitoring

A strategy for conducting research and for monitoring the effectiveness of management programs in the reserve will be developed in conjunction with the KAVHA Management Board.

13.8 Controlled Activities

This Section shall be read in conjunction with Section 11 of the Plan of Management (Part A) and the *Public Reserves Act 1997*.

Section 11 of the Plan of Management (Part A):

- approves specific controlled activities, with respect to all public reserves;
- provides general guidelines in respect of granting approvals and permits for controlled activities, with respect to all public reserves;
- specifies activities[28] in accordance with section 47(2) of the *Public Reserves Act 1997* that shall not be undertaken in any public reserve without a permit; and
- provides general guidelines in respect of granting permits for activities specified in accordance with section 47(2) of the Act.

This section of the Plan of Management (Part B) specifies controlled activities in accordance with Section 47 of the *Public Reserves Act 1997* in relation to the use of Cemetery Reserve.

13.8.1 Camping

Camping shall not be permitted in Cemetery Reserve

13.8.2 Commercial Activities

No person shall provide picnic breakfasts, lunches, dinners, 'fish fries' or the like in the reserve on a commercial basis.

Commercial activities shall not be permitted in the reserve unless the Conservator of Public Reserves is satisfied that such activities are in the interests of the conservation and management of the reserve, or essential to the interpretive and education aims of this plan.

"Commercial" has the same meaning as "commercial activity" in section 46 of the *Public Reserves Act 1997*.

13.8.3 Vehicles

Private and commercial vehicles other than plant and equipment may be driven and temporarily parked on the cemetery parking area delineated by the fence along the western boundary of the cemetery and the fence along the eastern side of the golf course in Point Hunter Reserve.

Private vehicles may be driven and temporarily parked on the cemetery overflow parking area on the southern side of the graveyard, east of the Sexton's hut during funerals.

Commercial vehicles, including plant and equipment are permitted to be driven on the access track in Cemetery Reserve to the sand pit(s) within Cemetery Reserve or Point Hunter Reserve as may be defined and in use from time to time.

[28] The activities specified are additional to the Controlled Activities prescribed in Part V of the *Public Reserves Act 1997*.