

# Conservation Plan Addington Cemetery

For Christchurch City Council



*The dedication of a Dominion Monument in Addington Cemetery to the memory of the late Thos E Taylor MP on 19 June 1913. Canterbury Museum Ref 1923.53.352.*



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## 1 INTRODUCTION

When Addington Cemetery in Christchurch was established by the Presbyterian Church in 1858, it was in effect the city's first public cemetery. Its plots were taken up over a relatively short period of time. By 1980 it was made a 'closed cemetery', meaning that no further burials were permitted, with the exception of certain people who own existing family plots.

In 1947 the Christchurch City Council assumed management of the cemetery. Over the years, the Council has come to formally recognise the heritage values of Addington Cemetery and it is listed in the heritage schedule of the Christchurch City Plan. The Council recognises that a Conservation Plan is the accepted best practice in determining the heritage values of a place in order to formulate policies for its long-term conservation while maintaining or enhancing the heritage values determined.

Accordingly, Christchurch City Council has requested that a compact and practical Conservation Plan is prepared for Addington Cemetery that includes specific recommendations for repair and maintenance that their Greenspace Unit can cost and implement.

The preparation of this Conservation Plan incorporates relevant, yet refined, aspects of J S Kerr's *The Conservation Plan a Guide to the Preparation of Conservation Plans for Places of European Cultural Significance* (National Trust of Australia, 1990). The general procedures outlined in this guide have been adopted for use in this Conservation Plan, but adapted to ensure they meet requirements for New Zealand and, more specifically, for cemeteries. The basic process for this Conservation Plan is based on Kerr's *The Conservation Plan*, as follows:

1. Investigate significance
2. Assess significance
3. Develop conservation policy
4. Prepare implementation guidance and recommendations.

The ICOMOS New Zealand Charter for Places of Cultural Heritage Value defines the underlying principles for conservation.

The Conservation Plan does not comprise a structural or health and safety assessment.

## 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Conservation Plan is to provide the Christchurch City Council with adequate strategies, guidelines and actions that will allow the appropriate conservation and future use of the Addington Cemetery.

This Conservation Plan provides descriptions, assessments, policies and general remedial work recommendations to assist in the conservation of Addington Cemetery. The Plan is not a grave by grave assessment, although comments on the graves of a number of notable people is included to complement information already collated and on the Christchurch City Libraries' website <http://library.christchurch.org.nz/Guides/Cemeteries/> . It is anticipated that this Conservation Plan will provide a template to be used for future Conservation Plans for other historic cemeteries in Christchurch.

## 1.2 Executive Summary

This plan outlines the significance of Addington Cemetery as a whole and identifies the principles, policies and general types of processes required to care for the place to safeguard its cultural heritage value.

The cemetery as a whole, including its layout and setting, burials and relatively small size plots, man-made memorials and early planted vegetation, has high heritage value in Christchurch. This is because it grew out of a social political need, being established essentially as a public cemetery to allow for the burials of virtually anyone regardless of their religious beliefs, and within a set piece of land, in part as a money-making venture for the Presbyterian Church.

The key conservation recommendations in this plan are that:

- All the graves and memorials are to be regarded as important cultural objects. Therefore all conservation work to them will be undertaken to ensure minimum (ideally reversible) intervention with their historic elements, but enough to ensure their long term retention.
- Any work is carried out according to accepted best practice guidelines for historic cemeteries, with the ICOMOS New Zealand Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Heritage Value providing underlying principles.
- The key conservation interventions, as defined by the ICOMOS Charter, include 'maintenance' and 'repair'. To a lesser extent, 'restoration' and partial 'reconstruction' is appropriate for some graves. 'Adaptation' is inappropriate.

- The original cemetery design and layout should be preserved.
- Effective management of vegetation should be a key focus in the conservation of the cemetery. Identified historic trees should be preserved yet managed to ensure minimum damage to graves. Further planting on graves is not recommended.
- The place is an archaeological site and therefore any proposed works (other than actual burials), such as a walkway at the rear or redeveloped front entranceway, may require an archaeological authority from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.
- Future development or enhancement proposals should take into account the heritage values of the cemetery and conform to best practice conservation principles as outlined in this plan.
- The current level of interpretation is adequate.
- Where graves are in a particularly poor condition such that general guidelines do not suffice, the Christchurch City Council should engage expert conservation advice to guide repair work.

### **1.3 Management, Ownership and Legal Status**

The original owner of the cemetery was a Presbyterian Church group. The ownership appears to have transferred to Christchurch City Council in 1947 and it is managed along the lines of a reserve. However, it is not a reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. Grounds maintenance is carried out under the Council's Parks Contract. This is administered and monitored by the Council's Greenspace Unit Contract Managers.

While the Council is responsible for the management of the cemetery, and has it listed in the Christchurch City Plan as a Group 2 Heritage item, the individual monuments erected in the cemetery are actually owned by the families of the person buried within the grave.

### **1.4 Legal Description**

The legal description for the current grounds of Addington Cemetery is Part R6 66 Lot 1 DP 11161.

## 1.5 Preparation of this Conservation Plan

This Plan was commissioned by the Greenspace Unit of the Christchurch City Council. It was prepared by Robyn Burgess (Principal Heritage Consultant, Opus), David McKenzie (Principal Landscape Architect, Opus), and Jenny May (Director, Heritage Management Services) who carried out several site visits. It was peer reviewed by Ian Bowman (Independent Conservation Architect), who also visited the site and provided specific conservation advice.

'Best practice' cemetery conservation guidelines prepared by the New Zealand Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust (NZHCCT) and more detailed guidance notes in the Australian publication *Conserving Our Cemeteries* (ed Celestina Sagazio, National Trust of Australia, 2003) and the joint publication by English Heritage and English Nature, 'Paradise Preserved', 2002, form the basis of conservation advice for Addington Cemetery in this Conservation Plan.

## 2 UNDERSTANDING THE PLACE

### 2.1 Historical Research

#### 2.1.1 Overview

The very nature of a cemetery associates it with cultural and significant spiritual human activity in the most fundamental sense. The Addington Cemetery is a small cemetery situated in the heart of a residential area and established in 1858 by the Presbyterian Church of St Andrew's in reaction to the 'exclusiveness' of the Anglican Barbadoes Street cemetery which was at that date the only Cemetery in the City. The Barbadoes Street cemetery was divided into Anglican on the eastern side and dissenters on the western side of Barbadoes Street.

Although it was originally known as the Scotch Cemetery, the Church of St Andrew's established Addington as a public cemetery open to all denominations.

A considerable number of notable early pioneer families are buried in the cemetery such as the Deans family of Riccarton. Other notables such as suffragist Kate Sheppard, politician Tommy Taylor, artist John Gibb and architect Samuel Farr are buried here.



*Horse drawn hearse, c.1900, in Christchurch - possibly Addington area. Alexander Turnbull Library*

### 2.1.2 Addington Cemetery - the purchase of the land

In 1847 John Robert Godley, together with Edward Gibbon Wakefield, was instrumental in the establishment of the Canterbury Association whose plan was to "... found a colony in New Zealand upon high social and ecclesiastical principles, to carry out the religious and refined element, to transport from England a section of the people, to plant the Church of England in New Zealand and make the colony look just like home."

Thus from the outset, the Canterbury Colony with its chief city Christchurch was founded on the principles of the Anglican Church. There was to be an Anglican Cathedral at the physical heart of the City. The three main Squares of the City were to be named after the martyred Anglican Bishops, Cranmer, Latimer and Ridley (later Cathedral Square). All other religious groups simply fell under the category of 'dissenters'. However as noted in *A Sketch of the Early History of St Andrew's Church Christchurch, N.Z. 1856-1906*, this was a curious statement given that "...there could be no dissenters where no state religion existed." The issue of those other than Anglicans being classified as "dissenters" became somewhat a grievance as many did not wish to have their dead classified as 'dissenters'.<sup>1</sup>

While Anglican Churches such as Holy Trinity Avonside and St Peter's, Upper Riccarton established churchyard cemeteries, the Barbadoes Street Cemetery was set aside as the initial 'public' cemetery. The Barbadoes Street Cemetery, is the city's oldest cemetery and was established in 1851. The cemetery, divided by Barbadoes Street, separates the Anglican (Church of England) section, on the eastern side, from the Roman Catholic and Dissenters section on the west. However while there was provision for Roman Catholics, Anglicans and 'dissenters' there was no special provision for a burial ground for the Presbyterians. It was this issue (and the fact that once the cemetery had been consecrated by Bishop Harper<sup>2</sup> burials could not be performed by any other than a minister of the Anglican Church) that led to the Presbyterians seeking to establish a cemetery of their own.

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<sup>1</sup>Jane Deans, *A Sketch of the Early History of St Andrew's Church Christchurch, N.Z. 1856-1906*, Christchurch Press, 1906 p.14

<sup>2</sup>Jane Deans who was instrumental in the establishment of the Addington Cemetery asked that the Deans' family plot, which was in the eastern Anglican section, be reserved from the formal consecration - John Deans had been buried there in 1854. Jane was apparently informed that if she was not happy with the current situation she could have the body disinterred and buried elsewhere. The decision was made to leave John in his plot and Jane was later buried there with him in 1911 - the service taken by the Anglican church. Later generations are buried at Addington.

In 1858 the congregation of St Andrews Presbyterian Church<sup>3</sup> made the decision to purchase land for their own cemetery. Five acres was purchased in Selwyn Street, Addington from J R Buchanan, being part of a Rural Section 66. This block, originally 50 acres, had been purchased from the Canterbury Association by Mrs Ann Margaret Buchanan of St Leonard's-on-Sea, in Sussex, England. In 1855 she transferred the land to her son John Buchanan who came to New Zealand in 1855 aged 16.<sup>4</sup> John died on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1925 and is buried in Block O, plot 772c of the Addington Cemetery.

The 5 acre block that comprised the area of the cemetery was divided into plots 9 feet by 3 feet.



*Image: Aerial View of Addington Cemetery: Christchurch City Council Heritage Archives*

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<sup>3</sup> St. Andrew's Church, now in the grounds of Rangi Ruru School in Merivale, was originally diagonally opposite Hagley Park and Christchurch Hospital on the corner of Oxford and Riccarton Avenues.

<sup>4</sup> New Zealand Federation of University Women, Canterbury Branch *Sydenham the Model Borough*, Christchurch, 1977, p.1

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The cemetery was vested in five trustees – Rev. C. Fraser, Messers Lockhart, Bray, Wilson and Anderson. However it was stipulated that the area was “...open to all persons of any religious community and to the performances of any religious service at the burial, not contrary to public decency and good order.”<sup>5</sup> Then known as the Scotch Cemetery, effectively this act then made the Addington Cemetery the City’s first public cemetery.

**CHRISTCHURCH PUBLIC CEMETERY.**  
**F**IVE ACRES of LAND, near to the English Church Reserve on Selwyn-street, Lincoln Road, have been set apart for use as a PUBLIC BURIAL GROUND, and are now available for interments.  
Allotments, in accordance with a plan of the cemetery, now in the hands of the minister of St. Andrew's church, can be secured at the rate of 5s. per square yard from this date up to the 31st of December, 1859, after which the price will be increased.  
The ground is, and will continue to be, open to persons of any religious community, and to the performance of any religious service at the burial, not contrary to public decency and good order.  
Persons holding ground in perpetuity shall pay not more than 10s. for each interment at a depth of 5 feet. When ground is not secured in perpetuity, each interment shall be charged not more than 20s. for a depth of 5 feet.  
A fee of 5s. shall be charged for the erection of memorials of any kind; the same to be submitted to the approval of the Minister of St. Andrew's Church.  
The ground has been marked off in compartments of 9ft. by 3ft. One or more compartments may be obtained on application to the Rev. CHARLES FRAZER, Oxford-terrace West, or to the sexton, Mr. TAYLOR, Lower Lincoln-road.  
The ground is vested in the names of the undersigned as trustees, in accordance with the foregoing conditions.  
(Signed) G. D. LOCKHART,  
W. B. BRAY,  
W. WILSON,  
J. ANDERSON,  
C. FRASER.  
Christchurch, December 6, 1858.

*Lyttelton Times* 6 December 1858

One of the prime movers for the acquisition of the land and establishment of the cemetery was Jane Deans, wife of John Deans.<sup>6</sup> Sadly (and ironically), the first burial at Addington Cemetery in November 1858, shortly after the purchase of the land, was Jane Deans’ brother George McIlraith aged 20 who died as the result of a riding accident at the Deans’

<sup>5</sup> *Lyttelton Times* December 1858 and Graham Miller, *Centennial History of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Christchurch New Zealand 1856-1956*, Christchurch, p.28.

<sup>6</sup> The Deans brothers William and John had arrived in Canterbury in 1843 and successfully established a farm on the plains naming the area Riccarton and renaming the Otakaro River the Avon after their home town in Scotland. Sadly both John and William died prematurely and Jane remained in Canterbury until her death in 1911. With her son John, they continued to establish the farm, leaving the legacy of the bush, house and garden that remain today

property at Homebush. Jane Deans recalled in her book, *Letters to my Grandchildren*, "That sad event weighed heavily on my spirits, dreading its effect on our aged father and mother, and it was nearly a year before I heard how they had sustained the shock."<sup>7</sup> George McIlraith who had been born in Ballantrae, Ayrshire, Scotland in 1838 was buried in Block O, plot 52 on Monday 22 November 1858.

Though burials continued up until 1980, within 30 years of the purchase of the land the plots had all been sold and by 1888 the Addington Cemetery was declared to be full.<sup>8</sup> Burials and interments of ashes still take place about one a year.



*Addington Cemetery: south east section*

### **2.1.3 History of the Name of the Cemetery**

The name of the cemetery has changed over time though at what dates these changes occurred has been difficult to ascertain. It was variously known as the Scotch Cemetery, St Andrew's Cemetery and Addington Cemetery.

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<sup>7</sup> Jane Deans *Letters to my Grandchildren*, p.44

<sup>8</sup> J P Morrison, *The Evolution of a City*, Christchurch 1948, p.117

The naming of the suburb of Addington has been given two areas of provenance. One theory is that it was named for the country seat of Dr Sumner (1780-1862), who was Archbishop of Canterbury in 1848 and therefore nominal head of the Canterbury Association when it was founded in that year.<sup>9</sup> Or, it was named after Addington near London, where the Reverend George Poulson came from.<sup>10</sup> As owner of the area that became the suburb of Addington this is more likely to be the reason.

The area comprising the bulk of the suburb of Addington had been Rural Section 72 – an area of 150 acres bounded by Moorhouse Avenue, Selwyn and Jerold Streets and Lincoln Road and adjacent to Rural Section 66, five acres of which was purchased for the cemetery. RS 72 had originally been purchased by the Reverend George Poulson of Addington, a village south of London. In 1853 he sold it to Henry Sewell and in 1856 the firm of Harman and Stevens advertised that they were now subdivided into quarter acre sections in “...the new suburb of Addington.”<sup>11</sup> When the southern railway began in 1865 the suburb of Addington began to develop. Given the dates of the development of Addington it is unlikely that the name Addington was firmly linked to the suburb at the date of the land purchase for the cemetery.

As noted, the Cemetery was from the onset referred to as the Scotch Cemetery. This name clearly linked it to the Presbyterian Church that was at the time often referred to as the Scotch Church. In both the text and the supplementary notes to the Jubilee History of St Andrew’s Church of 1906 by Jane Deans, the cemetery is referred to as the Addington Cemetery. However in the centenary publication of the Presbyterian Church in Christchurch, (Miller) 1956, it is referred to as the St Andrew’s Church Cemetery.

In the Accounts of the Deacons Court of St Andrews in 1864 it is referred to as the Christchurch Public Cemetery.

Correspondence in the *Lyttelton Times* between 1882 and 1884 refers to the area as the Scotch Cemetery. It must be noted that the correspondence is generated entirely by members of the Church. In the headline to a small article in the *Lyttelton Times* of 28 October 1889 deploring recent vandalism of the cemetery, it is referred to as the Addington Cemetery.

By 1947 when discussion begins in earnest for the cemetery to come under the control of the Christchurch City Council, the cemetery is referred to as the Addington Cemetery. From this date the name Addington Cemetery seems to have become the ‘official’ name and this would bring it into line with other cemeteries at the time, such as Sydenham, Linwood, Woolston and Bromley, being named for the area.

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<sup>9</sup> A W Reed (Ed.), *The Reed Dictionary of New Zealand Place Names 2002*, Auckland, 2002, p.3

<sup>10</sup> Archive of Place and Street names in Christchurch, Christchurch Library.

<sup>11</sup> New Zealand Federation of University Women, Canterbury Branch, *Sydenham the Model Borough* Christchurch, 1977, p.7



Entrance to Addington Cemetery - Selwyn Street

### 2.1.4 Ownership

As discussed above, the five acres that comprises the cemetery was purchased in Selwyn Street, Addington from J R Buchanan, being part of a Rural Section 66. This block, originally 50 acres, had been purchased from the Canterbury Association by Mrs Ann Margaret Buchanan of St Leonard's-on-Sea, in Sussex, England. Part of RS 66 was later sold to William Wilson. It is not clear whether the land for the cemetery was purchased from Buchanan or Wilson. The *Lyttelton Times* of 12 December 1882 notes in an article "The Scotch Cemetery: Meeting of Owners of Sections" that "The first matter in connection with the affairs of the Cemetery was to be found in the deed of the conveyance, by which the land used as a burial ground was conveyed by William Wilson (who was also listed as a trustee) to the Rev. Charles Fraser, Messrs T S Duncan, R Wilkin, G D Lockhart, W B Bray, John Anderson and W Wilson, who were mentioned therein as trustees named and appointed by the members of the Free Church of Scotland residing in Christchurch."<sup>12</sup>

In December 1858 an advertisement in the *Lyttelton Times* announcing the establishment of the cemetery (reprinted above in this document on p8) states the land was vested in five trustees – Rev. Charles Fraser, the first minister of St Andrews, G D Lockhart, W B Bray, William 'Cabbage' Wilson, the first Mayor of Christchurch in 1868, and John Anderson who was the founder of St Andrew's Church, Mayor of Christchurch in 1869 and founder of Andersons' foundry. By 1861 the trustees were as noted above with the inclusion of Messrs Wilkin and Duncan. However the Deed of Trust of this date (4 September 1861), did not state that the purposes of the land was as a cemetery and the Deed, now 21 years old had yet to be signed by all Trustees.<sup>13</sup> The matter of the legality of the Trust and

<sup>12</sup> *Lyttelton Times* 12 December 1882, p.5

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid* p.5

general management of the cemetery was still being disputed within the Church two years later.

The issue of current ownership is still to be clearly resolved. Though the Council took over the cemetery management from 1947 – 50, it was earlier in the ownership of the Presbyterian Church Property Trustees. The Department of Conservation Records<sup>14</sup> do not show Addington Cemetery as being reserve or land held subject to the Reserves Act 1977. Terraviva shows the land (2.0234 ha) being held in fee simple by The Presbyterian Church Property Trustees under Certificate of Title 380/104. However the correspondence attached in Appendix 3 and the extract from the Local Legislation Act 1949, Section 37 would suggest that the vesting of the Cemetery in the Council was effected.

Copies of titles are attached in Appendix 3.

### 2.1.5 Early Administration of the Cemetery

Graham Miller in the centennial history notes that:

*The congregation having appointed trustees in the same deed provided for management to be in the hands of the Deacon's Court, and for the funds<sup>15</sup> expected to accrue after keeping the grounds in proper order, to apply for four purposes and "none other". The purposes briefly were the purchase of building sites for religious or educational purposes of the Presbyterian Church, the relief of well ascertained distress occurring among the members of St Andrew's Church, the erection of new schools and churches on any new sites and "to establish bursaries in the Academy or College<sup>16</sup> connected with said St Andrew's Church."<sup>17</sup>*

In general the layout and planting of the cemetery was undertaken very quickly. The minutes of the Committees 1854-1864 notes in the accounts of the Deacon's Court of St Andrew's Church for the year ending 31 March 1864 notes the outlay of funds for gorse plants for a hedge, 4/6d and trees and shrubs at 1 pound 19/8d.

In 1865 it is noted in the records for that year that "Mr Blanchard, laying out new grounds; Mr Wilson. 100 trees; ½ cost of fence and ditch; Work on new grounds, walks and hedges. The statement of disbursements on account of Scotch Cemetery from 1 July 1875 – 4 May 1878 note:

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<sup>14</sup> PC, Ian Hill DOC, Christchurch – Ian also noted the need to search the title and any previous titles to research the land history. The title may indicate that the land is held in trust for somebody (e.g. residents of Christchurch) or something (e.g. as a reserve) or both. In this case as the land is not subject to the reserves it is unlikely that the latter would apply.

<sup>15</sup> Funds were expected to come from the sale of plots and the burial charges set at 10shillings for ground held in perpetuity, 20shillings for ground not held in perpetuity and 5shillings for the erection of memorials.

<sup>16</sup> The College, Christchurch West High School became Hagley Community High School.

<sup>17</sup> Minute Book Deacon's Court 1889-194 St Andrews Presbyterian Church Archives, Christchurch City Libraries, item #8

1875:

HP Blanchard surveyor

Austin and Kirk drainpipes

1876:

Duncan and Son seeds and plants

Cartage of trees

1877:

2 *Macrocarpas* 1s,6d, 2 *Darwinias*, 3s

W Fraser 4 bushels oats at 3s9d

1878: Austin and Kirk pipes.<sup>18</sup>

Historical records reveal little of exactly where the early trees and other vegetation were planted. Many of the early trees may have been on the periphery of the cemetery and subsequently removed when burials were made at the extreme boundaries. Records have been closely examined and no evidence has been located that there was a formal planting programme nor that the ground layout was part of any competitive tender. Rather, the planting in and near graves may well have been left largely to the discretion of those who paid for the plots.

The good intentions of the Church to ensure prudent and careful administration of the cemetery appear to have come unstuck and by the early 1880s was a highly contested matter that appeared to be splitting the members of the church.

*The Lyttelton Times* devotes much space in reports and letters to the Editor over the issue in the early 1880s – it is a complex argument and quite difficult to follow but appears to be between the Deacons Court and Cemetery Trustees and related to a suggested mishandling of the funds and the fact that the deed had never stated clearly that the purpose of the land was for a cemetery and that it was not signed.<sup>19</sup> Finally in April 1884 the Editor of the *Lyttelton Times* stated at the end of yet more correspondence on the matter: “This correspondence to which we have given a very great deal of room, on account of the apparent haziness surrounding a most important subject, must now cease.”<sup>20</sup>

The archival records of the Deacons Court Correspondence Book notes on the matter:

19 March 1884

Letter to the Trustees of the Scotch Cemetery from the Deacons Court informing them that there is now a properly constituted Deacons Court of St Andrews Church and requesting

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<sup>18</sup> ARCHIVE 108: St Andrews Presbyterian Church Archives Christchurch City Libraries. Box 1 Item #8 1854 – 6? Minutes of the Committees and Correspondence.

<sup>19</sup> *Lyttelton Times* 12 December 1882, p.5

<sup>20</sup> *Lyttelton Times* 29 May 1884, p.6

that they hand over to said court the future management of the cemetery together with all monies they may have in hand.

8 January 1885 p17-18

Letter to the Trustees of the Scotch Cemetery from the Deacons Court written 10 months after the formation of the Deacons Court and “the Scotch Cemetery Trustees have still failed to hand over management and funds to the Deacons Court...notwithstanding repeated applications for a settlement...unless they make good this promise to hand over the management and funds of the cemetery without further delay, the solicitors of the Court will be instructed to institute legal proceedings....”<sup>21</sup>

Legal action was taken following this entry. And it is noted in the minutes for October 1885 that the Cemetery Trustees had stopped communicating with the Deacons Court over the matter. The matter seems to have been resolved by 1886.

The Minute Book of the Deacon’s Court of June 1889 notes the “dilapidated state” of the fence and suggests a new iron fence. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 1889 it was resolved to proceed with the erection of a new fence on the southern boundary. This must have been achieved as the 4 November 1889 report states that the woodwork on the new cemetery fence “was suffering from want of paint”<sup>22</sup>

The Council Report of 1947 to the Reserves Committee which considers whether the Council should take control of the Addington Cemetery notes that the fences are post and corrugated iron, but in poor condition and a new fence would be required.<sup>23</sup>

In a letter dated September 1947 from the Director of Parks to the Assoc Town Clerk refers to a two metre high corrugated iron fence existing along the entire street frontage stating that it is in sound condition and painted green. There is some resistance to remove the fence implicit in the letter as it would expose the back of headstones hard on the street edge and thus create “...an unpleasant view.” It was suggested the matter be held over until Councillors had made a site visit in the October.<sup>24</sup>

A further Council report some 40 years later in 1990 to the Parks and Recreation Committee on the maintenance standards of the metropolitan cemeteries under Council Control, notes the removal of the high corrugated iron fence on the road frontage in 1989 and the replacement of this with the current low concrete wall and post and chain fence.<sup>25</sup> It is likely that the fence so oft referred to was the one noted above and may have been

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<sup>21</sup> Box1 Item #2 Deacons Court Correspondence Book. Carbon copies of outward letter. March 1884 – May 1888.

<sup>22</sup> Minute Book Deacon’s Court 1889-194 St Andrews Presbyterian Church Archives, Christchurch City Libraries, item #4

<sup>23</sup> Report from the Reserves office of the Christchurch City Council to the Chairman and members of the Council’s Reserves Committee, 21 March 1947, National Archives p.3

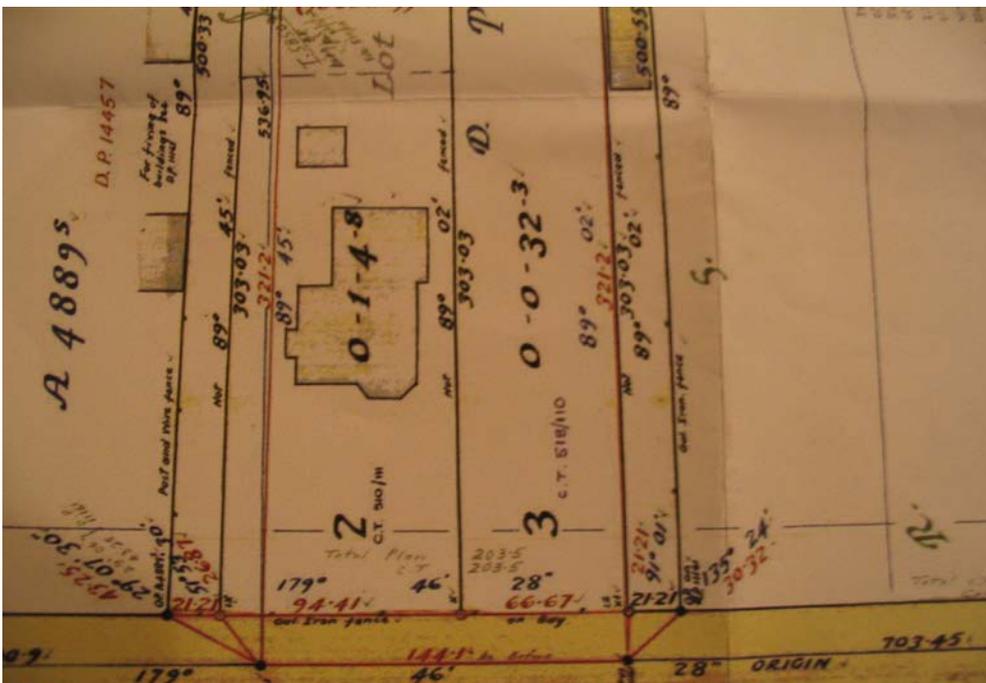
<sup>24</sup> Archives New Zealand, ref. CH 377 Cemeteries General Correspondence 1978-1987

<sup>25</sup> Archives New Zealand, ref. CH 667 Cemeteries 1987-1990

part of, or similar to, the neighbouring fence which is the frontage of the Victorian Villa on Part RS 66 lot 1 DP 11161 and also painted green. The existence of this fence on the villa frontage is noted on the DP.



Fence fronting Selwyn Street at property neighbouring Addington Cemetery (property on Part RS 66 lot 1 DP 11161)



Deposit Plan for Part RS 66 Lot 1 DP11161 – CCC Heritage Archives

Research to date has uncovered little evidence about the position of Sexton. There is a reference in Jane Dean's jubilee history to Mr James Taylor being appointed as the Sexton in 1874 and it appears that he was still in service in 1906.<sup>26</sup>

An article in the Lyttelton Times of 12 December 1883 makes reference to the Sexton being responsible for collecting the money for the plots and paid it to the Rev. Charles Fraser.

Reference is made in the Lyttelton Times of 1884 to a burial of a child where the plot was not ready and the Sexton's shed being opened for the supply of tools to dig the ground.

In 1923 a building permit for an office on site at Addington Cemetery was granted to J Robertson - the permit is dated 18 June 1923.<sup>27</sup>

A report to Council of 1947 noted the presence of a shed and Sexton's office (in good condition) and there being one small privy for both sexes - "Such a condition of affairs would not be tolerated if the Council took over control."<sup>28</sup>



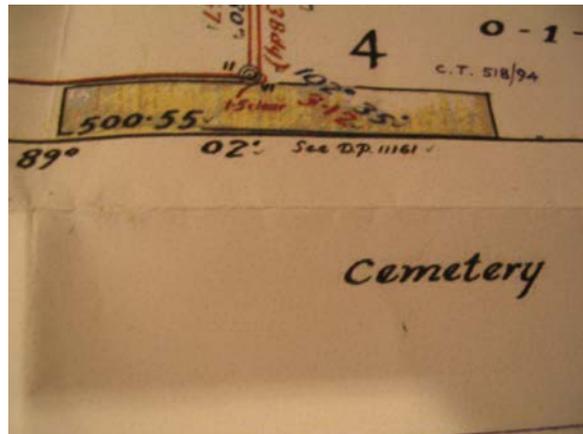
*Likely foundations of the Sextons office and tool shed as noted in the Building Permit of 1923 and 1947 Reserves Committee report.*

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<sup>26</sup> Jane Deans, *A Sketch of the Early History of St Andrew's Church Christchurch, N.Z. 1856-1906*, Christchurch Press, 1906

<sup>27</sup> National Archives CCC Holdings CH 817 Building Permit Register

<sup>28</sup> Report from the Reserves office of the Christchurch City Council to the Chairman and members of the Council's Reserves Committee, 21 March 1947, p.3



*The foundations of the shed are set in an indented piece of land at the north/west end of the cemetery. This appears to be a separate title – Part RS 66 DP 11161 as noted above on the Plan of Subdivision of 1946-7 (full plan attached in Appendix 3).*

The general condition of the cemetery from the 1880s seems to have been various and the management, or lack of it, a constant problem to the Deacon's Court. Lack of the anticipated income due to lack of plot sales and an apparent decline in burials as the cemetery by this date is relatively full. Rev. Charles Fraser also notes the problem of 'clandestine' burials, particularly of infant children with this becoming a matter reported to the police. In part this could be attributed to socio economic factors of the area at this time. Certainly by the time the Council consider taking over administration of the cemetery in 1947 it is reported to be very overgrown and vandalised. The Council even suggest that if it took control then all headstones should be removed and it simply become an historic park – one Councillor stating it would make an excellent park for children as open space in the city became less available.

The following notes from Archives New Zealand, CH380: Abattoir & Reserves Committee Minute Books refer to the resolutions to transfer the cemetery to the Council.

#### **20 January 1947 p1910**

Clause 7:

"At a meeting of the Deacon's Court last night....to transfer the securities as listed together with the bank balance of approximately £300 making a total of something over £4000. These funds have been built up over a number of years...."

**21 March 1947**

A letter to the Chairman and Members of the Reserves Committee Christchurch City Council from the Reserves office of the Council outlines the matters for the Council to consider. The report is attached in full in Appendix 3.

**24 March 1947**

“Resolved to recommend to Council to take over the Addington Cemetery provided the present owners are prepared to assist in the passage of a Bill for removal of headstones”

“...letter received from the Chairman, Finance Committee, St. Andrew’s Church: ‘our cemetery is not at all in the same position as the Barbadoes Street cemetery. A great number of stones have been erected in the last 2/3 years....there is no doubt that in the distant future many of the cemeteries will be cleaned up for playing areas for children, but we are not in a position to even discuss that matter with you....we would like you to reconsider the position quite apart from the Barbadoes Street cemetery which we understand is more or less in a derelict condition and without funds to keep it in order....it would take a considerable time for the funds [of Addington Cemetery] to be used up in keeping the present graves in order....”<sup>29</sup>

**26 May 1947 p1942**

Clause 3:“Resolved that a conference be held between representatives of the committee and the owners of the two cemeteries concerned (Addington and Barbadoes Street) to discuss further the question of future control of these cemeteries.”

**22 September 1947**

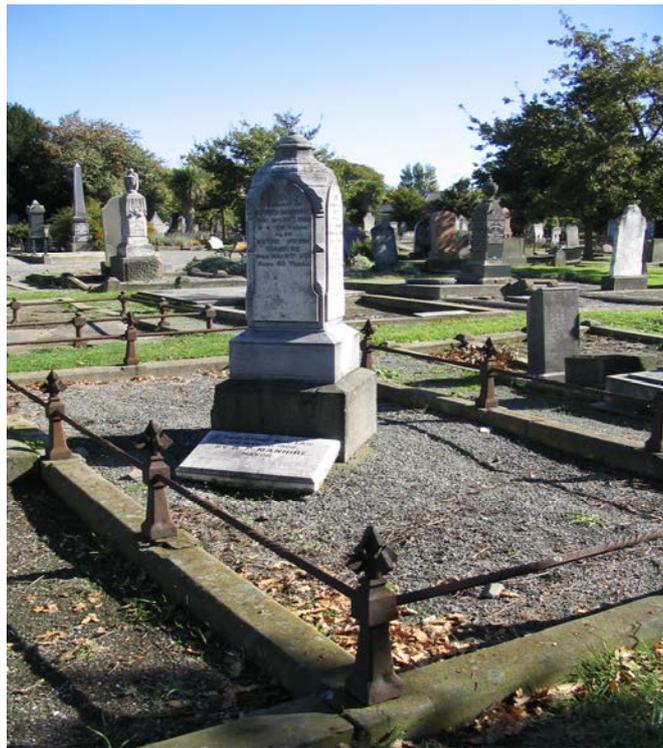
Clause 5: Barbadoes St and Addington Cemeteries

“Resolved to recommend the Council to agree to the proposals; subject to an undertaking that both the Church Property Trustees and St Andrews Church authorities will support legislation for the removal of headstones.....”

Clearly this was not resolved and both the Barbadoes Street and Addington cemeteries remain intact today.

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<sup>29</sup> National Archives CCC Holdings CH 380 CCC Minute Books



*Addington Cemetery April 2005*

### **2.1.6 Notable Graves**

The Christchurch City Library Cemeteries database holds extensive files about those interred in the Addington Cemetery. The files are available both on-line and in hard copy and on microfiche. The holdings include the burial registers from 1918 on microfiche. The hard copy is held by the Greenspace Unit, Christchurch City Council. The earlier registers are held in National Archives.

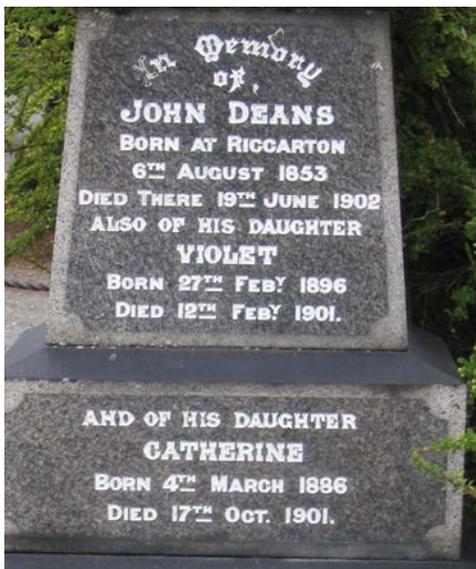
Information from these files has been used in the compilation of the information of select notable graves in this section. It is not intended to reproduce this information in its entirety below and further information on notable graves can be found on:

<http://library.christchurch.org.nz/Guides/Cemeteries/Addington/>

Graves can be notable for a variety of reasons (including design and materials), but it appears that the notable graves listed in the Christchurch City Libraries website files are largely notable due to their social-historical significance.

Centre Circle A

DEANS



*Deans Family Memorial*

John Deans II was born Riccarton 6 August 1853 and died there 19 June 1902. His wife, Catherine Edith Deans 81, died aged 81 at Riccarton on 2 September 1937.

John DEANS II, was the only son of Jane and John Deans I.

John was educated at Charles Frasers Boys Academy and had a legal training. He continued to manage the farms at Riccarton and Homebush was responsible for ensuring that, at Riccarton, there should survive the vegetation which was native to Christchurch. At Homebush he had coal mines and a pottery business. He was on the Christchurch Drainage Board and Riccarton Road Board. However, he was primarily a farmer. He was

both a sheep and cattle farmer, paying high prices to get pure-bred Shorthorn cattle into the country. His interest in farming was demonstrated by his activities with the Canterbury Agricultural and Pastoral Association, the Canterbury Frozen Meat Company and the New Zealand Flock Book Council.

An only child, John was interested in the preservation of the Deans family. In 1879 he married Catherine Edith Park; the couple had 12 children in 16 years. John died in 1902.

Robert George Deans, son of Edith and John Deans II, was born on 19 February 1884. He attended Christchurch Boys High School where he was head boy, senior monitor, and captain of the First XV and of cadets. He spent his working life on the family farm at Riccarton. He was an All Black in the 1905 tour of Great Britain and scored 16 tries on tour, including the famous try at Cardiff Arms Park which was disallowed by the referee who was not on hand to see clearly what had happened. The fact that the try was disallowed meant that the team came home without making a clean sweep of all their games. The Welsh had the better of the match. Robert died of appendicitis on 30 September 1908.



*Malcolm-Shepherd Headstone*

**ROW F No. 422a**

**MALCOLM / SHEPPARD**

Jemima Malcolm (1822-1881) and her daughter, Katherine Wilson Lovell-Smith (1848-1934) formerly Kate Sheppard.

Kate Sheppard was born Katherine Wilson Malcolm at Liverpool in 1848. She came to Canterbury with her siblings and widowed mother on the *Matoaka* in 1869. A member of the Congregational Church, she married Walter Allen Sheppard, grocer and general merchant on 21 July 1871. A son, Douglas, was born in 1880.

In 1887 Kate became national superintendent of the Franchise and Legislation Department of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Three petitions for votes-for-women were presented to Parliament by conservative politician Sir John Hall. Nine thousand women signed the first petition, 19,000 the second and 32,000 the third. On 19 September 1893 the Electoral Act was passed with a clause to the effect that the word person encompassed women. Kate Sheppard worked to get women on the electoral roll. Sixty-five percent of eligible women voted in the 1893 election.

Kate Lovell-Smith died in 1934 and was buried at Addington with her mother, sister and brother-in-law, Maria and George Beath.



*McIlraith Grave*

**ROW E No. 862**

**McILRAITH**

The gravestone records George McIlraith, 20, who died at Homebush on 26 November 1858; Elizabeth McIlraith, 41, who died at Riccarton on 17 March 1890; James McIlraith, 69, who died on 24 February 1903; and Jane Deans McIlraith, daughter of Hugh and Grace McIlraith, 4 1/2 who died on 27 September 1876.

George, Elizabeth and James, children of James McIlraith Esquire, J. P., had been born at Auchenflower, Ballantrae, Scotland. They were the half-brothers and half-sister of Jane Deans and had come to Canterbury after the death of John Dean in 1854 to help their sibling in the management of the property of John Dean II who was an infant when his father died.

**ROW O No. 1939**



**THOMAS EDWARD (TOMMY) TAYLOR**

T. E. Taylor was born in Lincolnshire and emigrated to Canterbury with his parents on the *Cardigan Castle*. A staunch prohibitionist, Taylor was an MP who served three terms in Parliament and built one of the first houses on Cashmere – Whareora. A few months before his death, Taylor became Mayor of Christchurch. At his funeral, on a cold July day, between 40,000 and 50,000 people turned out to line the route to the cemetery. The inscription on the headstone reads:

*Sacred to the memory of Thomas Edward Taylor, only son of Edward and Anne, born 16 June 1863, died 27 July 1911. Statesman, orator, reformer, Prohibition leader. Member of Parliament 9 years, Mayor of Christchurch, 1911.*

*I have fought the good fight. Oh fallen at length that tower of strength which stood four square to all the winds that blew.*



*"The dedication of a Dominion Monument in Addington cemetery to the memory of the late Thos E Taylor MP on June 19th." Bishop collection Weekly Press 19<sup>th</sup> June 1913, p 37 CM1923.53.352*

Many of the graves in the Addington cemetery simply record the social history of the lives of 'ordinary' people in the area.



Headstone of Alfred Muddle

Alfred Muddle died in March 1883 aged 39. He was an employee of New Zealand railways and this headstone was erected as a mark of esteem by his fellow employees at NZR. Addington had grown as a suburb due to the building of the southern rail line from 1865. The NZR provided the main employment for more than a century in Addington where the main railway workshops were situated.



The above two headstones record the sobering fact of one of the more harsh realities of colonial life – the premature death of children. Three of James and Mary

Brown's children died in infancy and the premature death of their son James who died in his early teens is recorded on the left hand headstone. The right hand headstone notes the death of six of David Scott and Lilly Lintin's children in infancy.

## ROW I

Mary Ann Farr, 86, died on 22 September 1912  
Samuel Charles Farr, 91, died on 14 July 1918

Samuel Charles FARR was born at Baldock, Hertfordshire. His father was a builder and he learned the occupation of architect in the parental yard rather than through having spent the requisite number of years studying in an architect's office.

Farr and his fiancée, Mary Ann Pavitt, were on the *Monarch* when it crossed the Tasman in a heavy gale, the rudder - and a second rudder - being lost. The ship limped into Akaroa Harbour on 2 April 1850. They and others decided to stay - thus becoming pre-Adamite settlers, people who were here prior to the arrival of the First Four Ships in December 1850.

While in Akaroa, Farr rebuilt the crushed cogwheels in Canterbury's first flourmill in the Grehan Valley, built sawmills in partnership with his Pavitt in-laws at Robinsons Bay, Barrys Bay, Duvauchelle and the Head of the Bay, designed the first small Anglican church in Akaroa.

Farr practised as an architect in Christchurch. He was architect of the original privately-owned Town Hall and designed the Presbyterian churches at Papanui, Lyttelton, Kaiapoi and Leeston and the normal School in Cranmer Square. Farr also designed a number of private dwellings.

ROW P No. 291

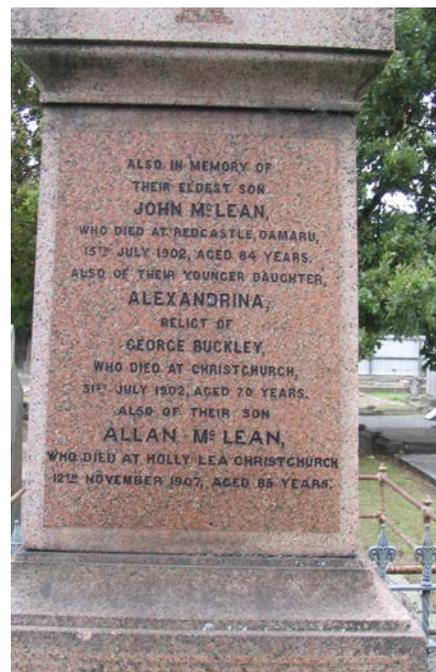
McLEAN



Allan McLean was born about 1822. He was one of the children of Mary McLEAN and Alexander McLean, a farmer-fisherman who lived on and drowned off Laghmor, a town on the Inner Hebridean Island of Coll.

In 1840 the widow brought her family to Australia where the brothers, John, Allan and Robertson prospered as carriers, merchants and gold-buyers. In 1852 they took up a run near Christchurch. Robertson returned to Scotland. John and Allan had runs in Canterbury and Otago. Laghmor was near Ashburton. In 1866 the McLeans acquired Waikakahi near Waimate.

Allan McLean reluctantly left his land and never returned. He purchased a five acre property with frontages on Manchester and Colombo Streets, Christchurch, and had R. W. ENGLAND draw up plans for a 23,000 square feet three-storey kauri-built Jacobean-style house. It was considered the largest wooden residence in New Zealand. This was 'Holly Lea', holly being the McLean's plant badge. He died at Holly Lea on 12 November 1907.



**SIDE ROW E No. 1280**

Marion Menzies, 62, wife of John Gibb, died on 27 May 1891. John Gibb, 78, died on 10 September 1909.

John Gibb (1831-1909) emigrated to New Zealand in 1876 with his wife and four sons. They travelled on the 'Merope' and arrived in Canterbury in September 1876.

Gibb had studied art at Greenock, on the Clyde, and had been a regular exhibitor with the Glasgow Institute of Fine Arts, the Royal Scottish Academy and the West of Scotland Fine Arts Institute at Greenock. After his arrival in Canterbury, Gibb established himself as a professional artist and teacher. His work *Shades of Evening*, shown in the Canterbury Society of Arts' first exhibition of 1881, was the first purchase by the Society for its permanent collection. Gibb was among New Zealand's most prolific nineteenth-century artists and exhibited both nationally and internationally.



*Gibb's house and studio at 229 Worcester Street still stands and is a listed heritage building.*

**Block O plot number 1692C DAVID BOWIE**



Over his lifetime David Broom Bowie served St Andrew's church as an Elder, member of the financial Committee, the Sabbath School Committee and as a Deacon, He was buried at Addington on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1914 aged 77. Also buried in this plot are his wife Emma who died in her 90<sup>th</sup> year in July 1932, daughter Agnes who died aged 8 years in 1888 and grand-daughter Agnes Isabel Hobbs who died in infancy in 1899.

*David Bowie headstone*

## War Graves

Addington Cemetery contains a large number of graves of those who were associated with the military. There are four Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war at this cemetery.<sup>30</sup> Further information on those four war graves can be found on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) website (<http://www.cwgc.org/cwgcinternet/cemetery>).

The following information is from the Ministry for Culture and Heritage website [www.mch.govt.nz](http://www.mch.govt.nz) :

New Zealand is a member of the [Commonwealth War Graves Commission](http://www.cwgc.org). The Commission is responsible for commemorating members of the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth who died during the World Wars of [1914-18](#) and [1939-45](#) and for the care of their graves throughout the world.

New Zealand is one of six Commonwealth or former Commonwealth countries which participate in the work of the Commission, the others being the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, South Africa and India.

The New Zealand High Commissioner in London is customarily appointed by the New Zealand Government to be its representative on the Commission and he/she either attends, or is represented at, quarterly Commission meetings. New Zealand is also represented on the Commission's Committees, including the Finance Committee and on a number of the Commission's international committees.

The cost of the Commission's work throughout the world is met by the participating countries in proportion to the number of their war graves in the Commission's care, the New Zealand contribution being 2.14%.



*Soldier's headstone. Inscription says: 4/400 Serjeant S. Forsyth VC. N.Z Engineers  
24th August 1918 Age 25*

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<sup>30</sup> Commonwealth War Graves Commission website <http://www.cwgc.org/>

### The War Dead of New Zealand

The total number of New Zealand war dead of the two world wars commemorated throughout the world by the Commission is:

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| 1914-1918 War | 18,042 |
| 1939-1945 War | 11,925 |
| Total         | 29,967 |

The countries in which the largest number of New Zealand war dead are commemorated are France (7,778), Belgium (4,711) and Gallipoli (2,358) mainly from the 1914-1918 War, and Egypt (2,924), Greece (1,148), Italy (2,157) and New Caledonia (515) from the 1939-1945 War.

### War Graves in New Zealand

New Zealand casualties of the two World Wars commemorated in New Zealand number 3,478 in a total of 433 sites throughout the country. This figure includes 570 casualties of both World Wars with no known grave who are commemorated on the Auckland Memorial in Devonport and on provincial memorials in Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin and Wellington.



*Photo of 'true' war grave headstones at Taita Cemetery, Lower Hutt*

The war graves and memorials in New Zealand are cared for by, and at the expense of, the New Zealand Government through the Heritage Operations unit. Most of the casualties buried in New Zealand died while on garrison or training duties or in hospitals.

Heritage Operations also cares for Commonwealth graves and memorials to the missing in New Caledonia, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu and the Society Islands.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.mch.govt.nz/heritage/cwgc.html>

### 2.1.7 The Public Nature of the Cemetery

The most important issue to the Presbyterian Church when it established Addington Cemetery was that it was "...open to all persons of any religious community and to the performances of any religious service at the burial...."

The grave of Thomas Milner is testament to this. Milner was a Salvation Army Bandsman who died aged 33 in 1888.



*Thomas Milner's headstone*

Modern plaques record the graves of Sir George Booth, founder of the Methodist Free Pioneering, who died in 1888 and the Rev. Thomas Hodgson. This plaque contains a photograph of the rev Hodgson who died in 1895. The plaque notes that this was "...recorded by the Rev. James Caughey as the 41st defender on the constitution to the Shield of Faith."<sup>32</sup>



*Booth and Hodgson plaques*

<sup>32</sup> Both plaques contain the symbol of an anchor and further research is required to establish the history.

An unusual stone situated to the rear of the Addington Cemetery is that of Yum Gee who died on April 10<sup>th</sup> 1888. The inscription is in Chinese and a translation may reveal more about Yum Gee's life.



One can speculate that he may have come for the South Island gold diggings - a common reason in the latter half of the 19th Century. The 1874 census shows that 6.06% of the population of Westland and 4.19% of the population of Otago were Chinese and no Chinese were recorded elsewhere in New Zealand.<sup>33</sup> In the early settlement of New Zealand, particularly in Canterbury, immigration was based on a selective process and many races such as Chinese and Indian were subjected to "...racial differences [that] far outweighed any capacity to work".<sup>34</sup> Most were single men as they were discouraged from immigrating with wives and families.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>33</sup> Michael King *The Penguin History of New Zealand*, 2003, p.208

<sup>34</sup> W H Oliver (ed), *The Oxford History of New Zealand*, 1987, p.114

<sup>35</sup> Michael King *The Penguin History of New Zealand*, 2003, pp 365-369



A photographic image of the deceased, as noted above in regard to the Hodgson memorial plaque, is a common memorial of recent times. However occasionally, on early graves, a likeness of the deceased person would be carved in the headstone – this is not a particularly common phenomenon and the survey to date would suggest that this is the only one in the Addington Cemetery. It is an ancient funerary practice to record images of the deceased in a variety of ways including death masks. Carved likenesses are often found on Roman stele.

This headstone was erected to the memory of the Rev. Samuel MacFarlane, a minister with the U F Methodist Church. The Rev. MacFarlane died in 1898 aged 70 years and the inscription reads: “Erected by his friends to record their sense of his constant devotion to the duties of his office an immense value of his services to the U F Churches.”

His wife Eva, who died on 29 September 1954, is also interred in the same plot.

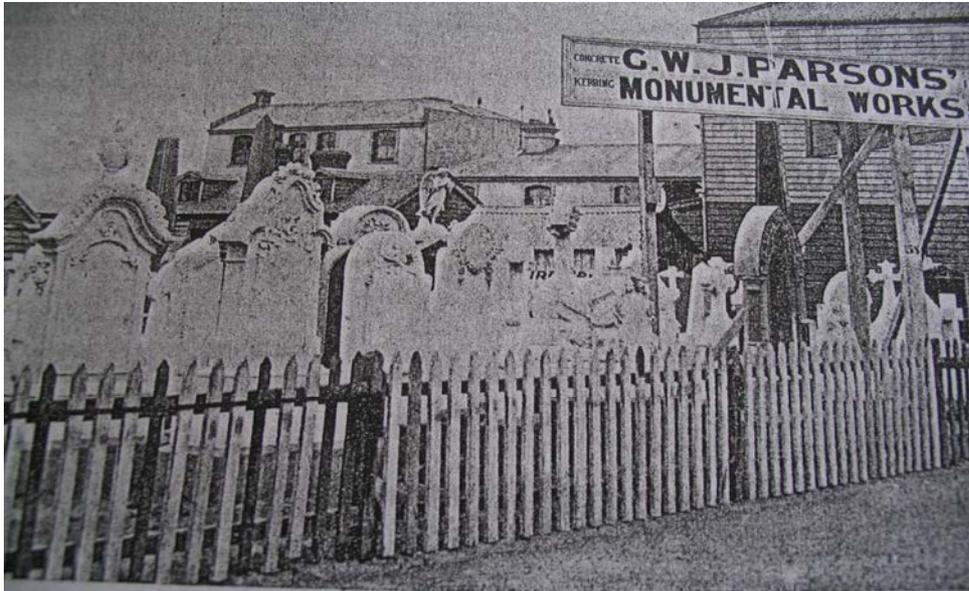


Many graves record in word and symbol enough information to glean a small picture of the lives of those who may not have been well known or well recorded in archives while the incident itself may have been well documented.

While the wording on the head stone of William Higgins Henry and his wife Eusebia Margaret Henry (nee Maxwell), provides a little information about them, the iconography speaks volumes of the manner in which they died. The symbolism entrenched in the iconography of the carved detail tells us that their deaths were connected with the sea – the anchor and cross suggesting either death or burial at sea, the dove a symbol of peace but here depicted in an act familiar from the stories of Noah when the dove returned with a fresh olive leaf in its beak. The lily – a flower associated with death.

William was 32 and Margaret 29 when they drowned in the wreck in the SS Penguin, 12<sup>th</sup> February 1909. The headstone tells us that they were “Lovely and pleasant in their lives” and philosophically notes that “in their death they were not divided.”

### 2.1.8 Monumental Stonemasons



*Industries of New Zealand, 1898, p.67*

There were a number of stonemasons working in Christchurch through the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and their work is represented among the monumental masonry at Addington Cemetery. C W J Parsons, Mansfields, Stocks and James Tait appear to be the principal firms of stonemasons used for the memorials in the cemetery. There are some memorials by Silvester and some of the later works were undertaken by the firm of Trethewey. The majority of the headstones are carved from marble or fashioned in highly polished granite.

#### **G W J Parsons**

G W J Parsons was established in 1877 by George Parsons who worked as a monumental and general mason with his son. He initially established premises in Sydenham and by 1898 was considered to be the leading monumental mason in the City. Parsons imported marble and granite for his work from Italy and Scotland and also made iron railings for burial ground enclosures. Some of the ironwork remains *in situ* at Addington. In 1894 Parsons took over Stocks business and moved to Stocks Manchester Street premises. The 1901 Trades advertisement in Wisers Directory shows him at 56-60 Manchester Street. Parsons had undertaken his apprenticeship with Stocks. As was the case with a number of monumental masons, Parsons did not limit himself solely to this work and also did decorative carving for churches and buildings and manufactured marble tops for washstands and restaurant tables.



*Headstone by G W J Parsons*

G W J Parsons was established in 1877 by George Parsons who worked as a monumental and general mason with his son. He initially established premises in Sydenham and by 1898 was considered to be the leading monumental mason in the City. Parsons imported marble and granite for his work from Italy and Scotland and also made iron railings for burial ground enclosures. Some of his ironwork still remains in situ at Addington.



*Iron railings and headstone by G W J Parsons*

As was the case with a number of monumental masons, Parsons did not limit himself solely to this work and also did decorative carving for churches and buildings and manufactured marble tops for washstands and restaurant tables.



Headstone by Stocks. Parsons took over Stocks business in 1894.

### John Bolton Mansfield

The firm of Mansfield's was established in 1863 by Joseph Bolton Mansfield. J.B. Mansfield is listed as a monumental mason in Wise's Street Directory in 1887 at 16 Manchester Street. In 1890, Mansfield's 'monumental yards' are described as being 'in Manchester Street near the railway station and Buckley's Road, near the public cemetery.' By 1921 the business is listed as 'Mansfield & Sons, 38-40 Manchester Streets' in Wise's. Mansfield died at sea on S.S.Omrah and was buried at sea 27.11.1908. His widow Caroline died at Linwood 13.04.1912 aged 64. (*McDonald Biographies*)



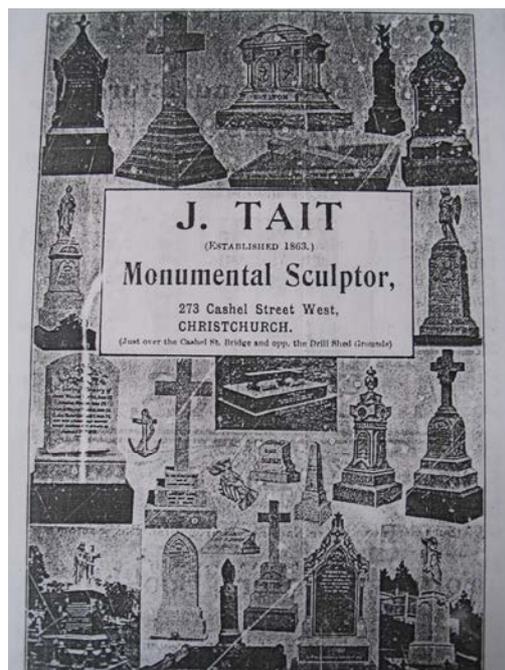
Trades advertisement 1898-99- (Christchurch Central Library)

## Taits

James Tait (1833 – 98) was a Scotsman who came to New Zealand in the 1860s and established a business as a builder, contractor and monumental mason in Christchurch. Tait's advertisements for business as a monumental sculptor state that the business was established in 1863. Tait worked on several prominent Christchurch buildings including the Museum, part of the Cathedral, NZ Loan & Mercantile Building (Hereford St) and Fisher's Building. Tait was the second mayor of Sumner, a City Councillor and a leading member of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. He died at Sumner in 1898 aged 65. (*McDonald Biographies and Cyclopaedia of New Zealand.*)

Tait owned a large section of land on the corner of Cashel and Montreal Streets – 275, 273 (later renumbered 52 ) Cashel Street, from which he ran his business. Tait's premises are advertised in 1882 in the Southern Provinces Almanac at 'Cashel Street West'.

John Anderson Tait took over management of his father's business in 1895 working with his son John Edward Tait. The business continues today in the Tait family and operates from Sydenham.



Trade Advertisements 1905 (Canterbury Central Library)

In 1905 J B Tait had a full page advertisement which clearly showed the wide variety of monumental masonry the firm had available. The advertisement also noted that the firm supplied "Kerbings, iron railings, and every Cemetery requisite. A large stock always on hand to select from – designs submitted and estimates tendered on application".

## Trethewey

The simple granite monument pictured below is from the firm of W Trethewey – a long standing monumental mason firm. The founder, William Trethewey (1892-1956) was born in Christchurch. He studied under the noted wood carver Frederick Gurnsey at the Canterbury College School of Art. While Trethewey undertook a number of noted sculptural commissions, particularly following WWI, "...throughout his working life his bread and butter was provided by touching up marble angels imported from Italy and carving headstones for the people of Canterbury."<sup>36</sup>



*Headstone by Trethewey*



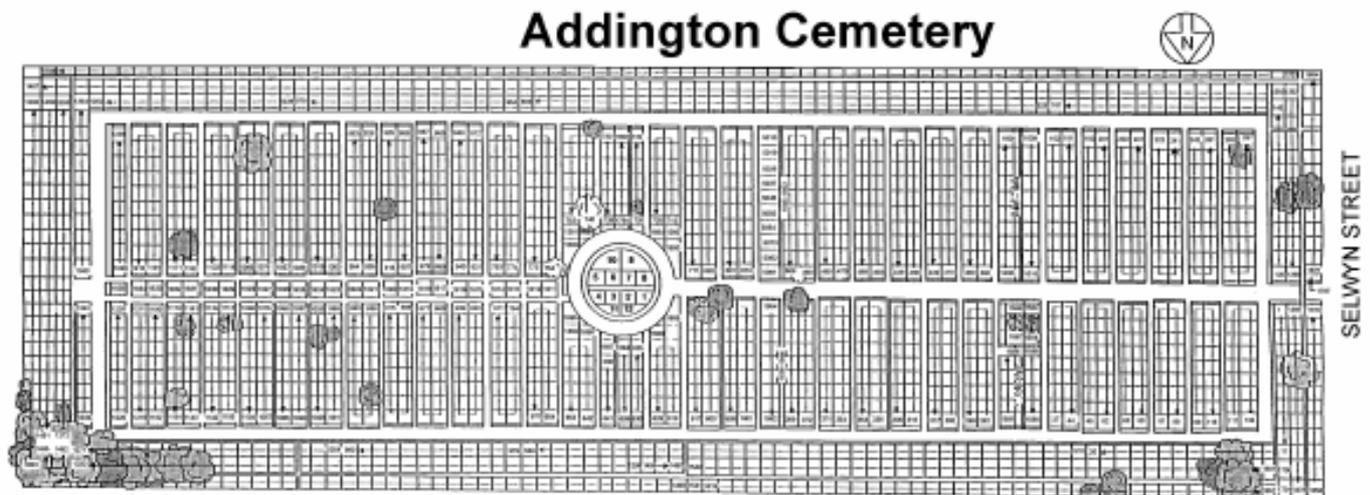
*Angels: Addington Cemetery*

<sup>36</sup> Jock Philips, Trethewey entry, DNZB, Vol. 4, 1921-1940, C. Orange (Ed), 1998, pp.538-539

## 2.2 Physical Description

Addington Cemetery is located at 410 Selwyn Street, Christchurch. Physical features of the cemetery include graves, monuments, open spaces, fences, seats, walls, entrance gates, a central path and circular carriage turning area, purposely planted (and some wilding) trees, shrubs and flowers, and grassy areas. There are no mausoleums or columbaria sited in the cemetery. There are presently no buildings, but concrete foundations sited by the fence on the northern side of the cemetery indicate the site of the Sexton's shed.

Current interpretation panels sited within the cemetery near the entrance assist the visitor in gaining an understanding of the key historical values of the site as well as some notable burials.



### 2.2.1 Layout

The layout of Addington cemetery is fairly typical of the use of space in the Victorian and Edwardian periods, using a grid pattern. Many parks and gardens of this period were also laid out in a similar way. The concept of a garden cemetery, as distinct from a church graveyard, was late 18<sup>th</sup> century French in origin but it achieved a peculiarly English interpretation in England and America in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>37</sup> Addington Cemetery

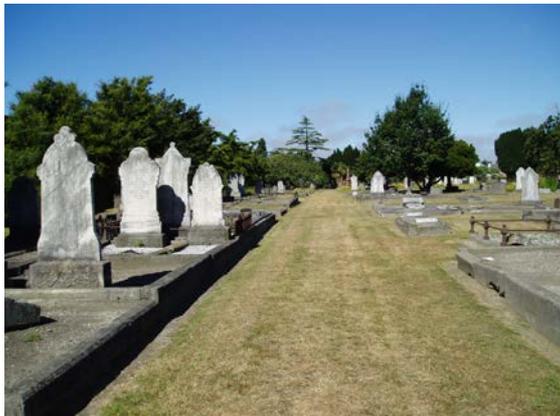
<sup>37</sup> Curl, 2002: 4

continues the English tradition, and is notably similar to John Claudius Loudon's<sup>38</sup> design for Cambridge Cemetery (England) of the 1840s which was established on flat ground on a rectangular site with an orderly rectilinear arrangement of paths and plots, tree plantings, and with a turning space for hearses.<sup>39</sup>

Addington Cemetery is a rectangular block with a grid pattern of rows and plots. The plots and paths are closely laid out not only because of the defined rectangular site but because of the Presbyterian Church group's specific requirement of making money from selling individual burial plots at the cemetery.<sup>40</sup>

The graves are laid out in formally planned rows, head-to-head. The layout of some of the larger, more formal, graves has been planned so that they can be seen as part of a vista. Burials occur right up to the legal boundaries on the north and south sides and near to the edge of the so-called Baxter's Drain at the east end of the cemetery. Baxter's Drain itself is not part of the cemetery, but mention is made of it with respect to future work at the cemetery (refer to sections 5 and 6).<sup>41</sup>

Paths and open spaces have been kept to a minimum. The only significant open space is the main access path (4.5 m wide) which terminates at the main internal feature of the cemetery, being the turning circle/roundabout. The grassed northern and southern pathways between the feet of the graves (approximately 3.5 m wide) are an obvious but lesser feature. Narrow grass pathways exist between grave groups.



*Mown aisles, north side of cemetery*



*Entrance to cemetery from Selwyn Street*

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<sup>38</sup> It is likely that the layout of Addington Cemetery was either directly or indirectly influenced by Loudon's 1830s publications on cemetery layout and plantings since these had a large and long lasting influence in the western world. Curl: 244-275

<sup>39</sup> Curl: 255.

<sup>40</sup> In England there was a precedent of private companies and shareholders running cemeteries for commercial speculation (although many were not very successful).

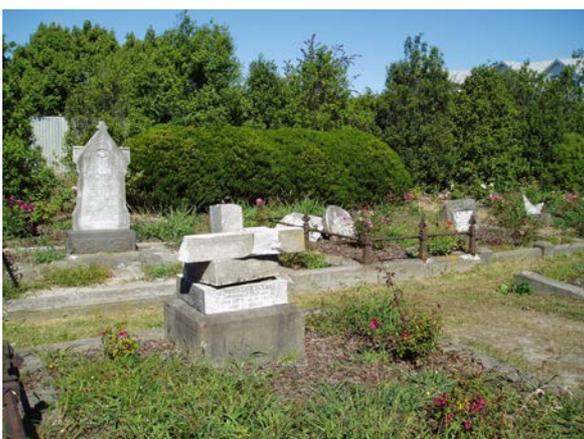
<sup>41</sup> Researching the history of Baxter's Drain is beyond the scope of this conservation plan.

## 2.2.2 Setting/Landscape Character

The landscape character is a formal historic cemetery within some of the oldest subdivided parts of Christchurch on the edge of a suburban/light industrial commercial area. Addington Cemetery is a compact cemetery only 2.05 hectares (5 acres)<sup>42</sup> in area. It has little street presence and passing motorists could easily miss its location. The entrance has a replica iron gateway and a low concrete block wall with the words 'Addington Cemetery' attached. The narrow frontage and entrance runs parallel to the street and does not allow for a 'grand entrance' approach so common to many cemeteries (for example, Sydenham Cemetery in Christchurch and, to a lesser extent, Te Henui Cemetery in New Plymouth). Abutting land uses comprise housing and light industrial areas. At the east end of the cemetery is a steeply sided drain known as 'Baxter's Drain'.

The cemetery is situated on flat land, typical of the surrounding area and the Christchurch plains, and all vegetation appears to be planted or self-sown from planted trees, shrubs and flowers (and weeds). The grassy areas include mown grass aisles and general grassy areas, some being where obvious burials are (eg slightly raised mound and/or by a headstone) and other parts where there may be burials. There is a noticeable difference between the front half and back half of the cemetery, essentially because of deliberate maintenance and plantings in the front half and less attention at the rear. Although graves have been vandalised throughout the cemetery, there is a greater concentration of vandalised graves at the rear half of the cemetery which is not in the public view.

In the past (including the recent past), a number of planting endeavours have been carried out. A list of plants and associated recommendations is included as Appendix 4.



*East end of cemetery.  
Baxter's Drain is within the green  
shrub/tree area behind the graves.*



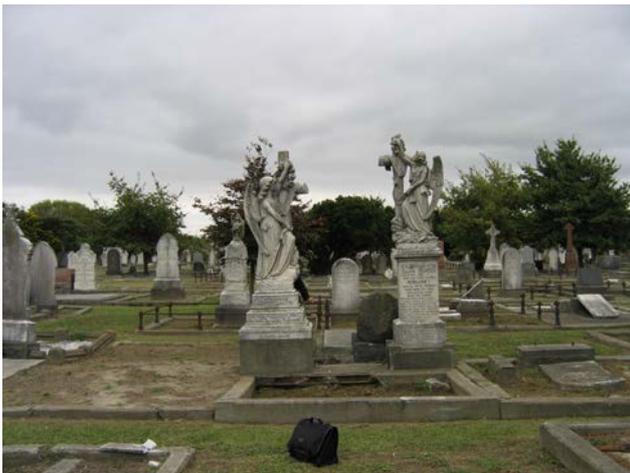
*General setting/landscape character  
including mature Yews at centre.*

<sup>42</sup> <http://library.christchurch.org.nz/Guides/Cemeteries/>

### 2.2.3 Graves and Memorials

Not all monumental masons and historians agree on exact terminology for graves and memorials. For the purposes of this Conservation Plan, grave elements include monuments (headstone, footstone, grave cover such as slab, vault etc), surrounds (wrought and cast iron surrounds, fencing, stone kerbing, edging tiles), grave furniture (vases, shells, artificial flowers, tiling, pebbles, other memorabilia) and grave plantings.

Addington Cemetery contains a range of grave and memorial types. They tend to be fairly simple, although there are a number of formal monuments. There is only a small number of elaborate sculptural monuments that could be seen as being art works in their own right, probably the most notable being the pair of carved stone angels at the graves of Alison May Thompson and Margaret Terry.



*Composite Angel and Cross monuments*

The most common form of grave in the cemetery consists of a plain rectangular flat concrete slab on the ground, with an upright (stele) headstone of stone. Variations on this include graves with a low concrete wall around the perimeter, railings of wrought or cast iron, and grave plantings (some historic but most relatively recent). A relatively small number of graves have grave furniture such as tiling, vases and shells.

Most of the upright slabs/stelae are relatively plain and are broadly rectangular in shape, with a variety of shaped tops. A number of headstones are more ornate, such as those with a base supporting a shaft and cross, obelisk, urn. Relatively common motifs at Addington Cemetery include the Cross (especially the Celtic Cross) and clasped hands in the action of a handshake signifying parting. There are a few headstones which have

images particular to the person buried there (eg the headstone with a ship's anchor, dove, lily, cross and scroll for William and Eusebia Henry who both died in the wreck of the SS Penguin in 1909).

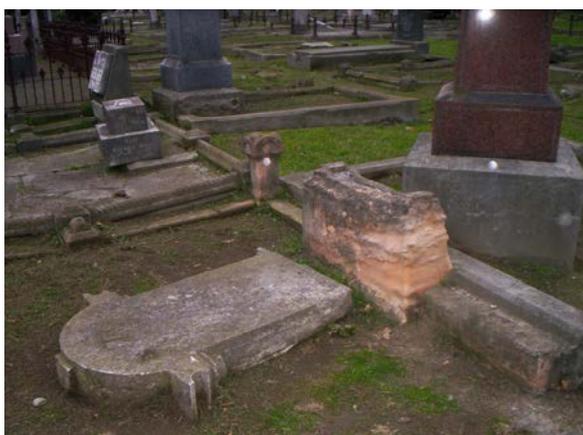


*William and Eusebia Henry grave*



*Grave bed of Bills family*

Materials for headstones and memorials include granite, marble, sandstone, limestone, slate, and basalt. Lettering on headstones includes carving into the stone and lead let into incisions in the stone. There are no timber headstones or footstones, although there could well have been some earlier that simply have not survived. Railings are of cast and wrought iron in a range of styles, many incorporating fleur-de-lys patterning which was common in Victorian designs. The only timber surround appears to be a low post and rail surround of pine around a grave at the north-east end of the cemetery that appears to have been erected in recent decades. A small number of graves have modern metal plaques either repeating information that was on the headstone or adding specific additional information, such as commemoration by grandchildren.



*Volcanic stone base*



*Slate headstone with a concrete skin*



*Polished granite monument, with iron surrounds with Fleur-de-Lys detailing.*



*Re-concreted slab, 'desk' at centre top, reset headstone laid flat.*

There are a small number of 'green' spaces in the cemetery which are not pathways but are likely to be unmarked graves, particularly at the rear and sides of the cemetery. It is possible that some or all of those that are unmarked graves originally had headstones but that these have since been removed or possibly disintegrated. However, it is possible that they were always unmarked graves, for example those of children, 'paupers' or those who have committed suicide.

There do not appear to be any memorials that are not specifically graves, although there are a few features that do not relate to specific burials, such as the cast iron railings in the carriage turning area.



*Pine surround*



*Fallen headstone of with unpolished granite rear (cf front would be highly polished)*

### **2.2.4 Physical Condition**

Overall, Addington Cemetery is in reasonable condition for its age. The condition of many of the graves is good to fair though some are in poor condition. The condition of the majority of the headstones is good at the present time, but a number are losing their lettering and more will do so in the future. This is largely due to the ravages of time and weather. Some of the more monumental grave markers and headstones are on a lean. It appears that the structural integrity of a few larger grave markers is dubious. Some graves have been damaged through breakage, mostly vandalism, and some through damage by encroaching vegetation or other biological growth such as mosses or lichen. The general condition of vegetation – both planted and self-sown - in the cemetery is very good, the soil conditions being ideal for growth. However, the growth of some of the trees is compromising the condition of a number of graves. The two panels on the interpretation board are in a fair condition.

Recommendations on appropriate implementation is outlined in 3.9 and examples of condition issues and suggested solutions are attached as Appendices 1 and 2 but detailed only sufficiently to enable policy decisions to be made.

## **3 SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT**

### **3.1 Significance Assessment**

#### **3.1.1 Basis of Assessment of Values**

There is a range of possible criteria to assess heritage values, once sufficient information is gathered about a place. These include those in the Historic Places Act 1993 and criteria used by various local authorities. Assessing significance to Maori must be carried out by tangata whenua themselves. The basis of assessment of significance for this Conservation Plan is the Significance categories used by the Christchurch City Council for Heritage Listing Criteria (updated draft version 4, April 2005)<sup>43</sup>.

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<sup>43</sup> As provided to Opus by the Heritage Unit of the Council for significance assessment.

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### 3.1.2 Christchurch City Council Heritage Listing Criteria

#### Historical and Social Significance

Addington Cemetery, established in December 1858, is the third oldest European cemetery in Christchurch, after Barbadoes Street Cemetery (1851) and Woolston Cemetery (1852).<sup>44</sup> The cemetery is a historical record of the many members of the local Christchurch community. The memorials contained within it help to document Christchurch's growth, and they assist in documenting the life of a range of 'European' New Zealanders.

The layout of the cemetery is comparable to Sydenham Cemetery in Christchurch. These two cemeteries appear more structured than many other Victorian Cemeteries which tend to include a more spacious, rambling appearance. Part of the significance of Addington Cemetery is its closely spaced grid layout, with its tightly packed and relatively small plots (at Addington they are mostly 9 feet by 3 feet, whereas at other cemeteries in Christchurch the plots tend to be slightly larger at 9 feet by 4 feet), and narrow paths: this reflects the requirements of the church group who established the cemetery to create the maximum amount of saleable land for burials within a restricted space. There is no obvious segregation of burials according to religion at Addington Cemetery, compared to some other cemeteries such as Waimari Cemetery in Christchurch where there are separate sections for Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian burials and at Linwood Cemetery in Christchurch where there is a section for Jewish burials within the wider cemetery.

Although established by the Presbyterian Church, Addington Cemetery was the first truly public cemetery to be established in Christchurch as made clear by the original newspaper advertisement for the cemetery in the Lyttelton Times in December 1858. It is a resting place of not only some notable New Zealanders of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, but of ordinary citizens of Christchurch. Included in the notable early pioneer families buried in the cemetery are the Deans family of Riccarton, suffragist Kate Sheppard, politician Tommy Taylor, artist John Gibb and architect Samuel Farr.

#### Cultural / Spiritual Significance

Addington Cemetery encompasses religious, spiritual, traditional, cultural as well as education associations and is valued by the immediate and wider community for all of

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<sup>44</sup> There are urupa (Maori burial grounds) in the wider Christchurch area that pre-date the colonial cemeteries.

these reasons. It has considerable significance as the formally designated resting place for many of the community's dead. All the burials and memorials in Addington Cemetery possess value as tributes to the past lives of those buried in the cemetery, and are a key visual component on the cemetery landscape at Addington Cemetery. The cemetery reflects a range of belief systems – predominantly Christian - associated with the life-death cycle. As well as being symbolic as a place of respect for the dead and for contemplation, the cemetery provides a tranquil place away from the bustle of the 'outside world'.

A number of the graves are rich in symbolism and meaning. The motif of holding hands is repeated often, a gesture of bidding farewell 'till we meet again', although it could also be interpreted as joining hands forever in the afterlife (as the same motif is used in Antiquity for couples as a symbol of marriage). Other symbolic examples at the cemetery include the broken column signifying mortality and a draped urn signifying death. A number of the old plantings also have symbolism. The historic Yew trees at Addington Cemetery follow the English tradition linking with the more traditional burial sites of ancient churchyards and symbolise eternal life.

The cemetery provides physical evidence of past (as well as many perpetuating) attitudes to death. As most of the monuments and many of the plantings have not been updated or replaced, the cemetery provides a largely unaltered physical specimen of cultural preferences.

The cemetery is held in reasonably high public esteem by the community. It has commemorative importance to a number of families or descendents of those buried there as well as to social and historical groups commemorating certain individuals (eg the Kate Sheppard grave has special meaning for a number of people celebrating the emancipation of women). The particular social group most obviously commemorated in the cemetery is Pakeha (European New Zealanders) of Christian affiliation.

Addington Cemetery, in recent years at least, has had a reasonably high profile in Christchurch. It has had media coverage (with respect to enhancement programmes, vandalism and the graves of particular individuals such as All Black Robert Deans), interest by Councillors, as well as neighbourhood and community support.

### **Aesthetics, Architecture and Arts Significance**

The layout of Addington Cemetery, like many Victorian cemeteries, was designed to create sites for the dead and to evoke meaning. It is a relatively low key landmark in the suburb of Addington. Its trees and smaller plants combine with the headstones, paths and grassy areas to provide significance in the variety in form, scale, design, colour, texture and

material of the landscape. The trees and flowers especially (with associated bird life) bring with them smells and sounds in contrast to much of the surrounding area. The cemetery evokes a strong physical sense of age and history, in the patina of the monuments, their leaning, broken and slumping elements and the mature trees. It also provides an important space in Addington, although it is distinct from a typical open 'green' space, and is in strong contrast to the built surroundings.

A number of the graves have a degree of artistic and technical merit and have been influenced by cemetery trends of the time. Further research is required to determine if there is any highly original and influential style of memorial at the cemetery. There are no indications of this from inspections and research carried out to date for this Conservation Plan.

Addington forms one of a number of historic cemeteries in Christchurch. Its design is comparable to the Sydenham Cemetery in Christchurch.

### **Technology and Craftsmanship Significance**

Many of the graves display the skills of craftspeople. This includes cast and wrought-iron work and other types of craftsmanship as fine examples of craft processes that reflect social attitudes to death and fashion in funerary ornamentation, especially in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The grave memorials represent the technical accomplishment of the various Christchurch stonemasons, including CWJ Parsons, Mansfields, Stocks and James Tait. The majority of the headstones are carved from marble or fashioned in highly polished granite.

As a number of the masonry techniques are no longer widely practised, in a sense the Addington Cemetery is like a local museum of monumental masonry. Generally, however, the materials and methods used in the cemetery are representative rather than notable, rare or unique.



*Headstone showing toolmarks on side and back, and iron railing with the common fleur-de-lys motifs*

### **Context/ Environment/Landmark/Group Significance**

Addington Cemetery is not just a memorial to and resting place of the dead, but is a thought-provoking place perceived by a number of people as improving the quality of environment for the community. It is a pocket of formal open space with a suburb that is quite intensely developed. It provides a quiet green space for contemplation as well as a habitat for plants and animals (especially birds).

Addington as a suburb has a good selection of industrial, residential, retail, commercial, religious heritage places. Addington Cemetery is the only cemetery in the Addington area. It is one of six listed historic cemeteries in Christchurch.

### **Archaeological Significance**

The site is a closed cemetery. Its original layout is essentially unaltered and as such is considered to be of archaeological significance. While it has high potential to yield physical human remains, deliberate archaeological disinterment is neither expected nor encouraged at this site.

The place could provide historical information through archaeological techniques such as stratigraphic soil excavation and materials analysis. The graves and pathways (and potentially the foundations of the Sexton's shed) have archaeological significance. Baxter's

Drain at the rear of the site has the potential to provide information on 19<sup>th</sup> century water channels and drains in the city. Analysis of materials used and design of the gravestones and monuments has the potential to provide information on the source of available raw materials, and on local crafts.

### **Scientific Significance**

Potentially the cemetery could allow scientific study that could contribute to our understanding of how materials react in certain conditions, as well as interactions and reactions of plants and biological growths. Potentially, study could aid understanding of structural stability, subsidence, and decomposition in cemeteries. Study of bones has the potential to elucidate our understanding of diseases, nutrition and lifestyles of the past, although such study is not considered appropriate in this sacred burial place.

Future use of ground penetrating radar could identify the burial sites of unmarked graves, and may help in the understanding of past burial locations.

### **3.2 Significant Features**

As a group, the graves and memorials comprise a relatively limited range of styles and there is very little ostentation, compared to some monuments in other cemeteries of a similar age (compare, for example, the Peacock mausoleum at Linwood Cemetery in Christchurch). The relatively simple headstones are not untypical of the types of memorials and headstones found in English Country churchyards of earlier centuries. The range of materials used in the graves and memorials (including the railings) is largely typical of other cemeteries in Christchurch of this period. The occasional use of volcanic stone is significant as a regional indicator of place, but for the most part the stone used at the cemetery is imported and is typical of that found in other cemeteries in New Zealand (eg Karori Cemetery, Waikumete Cemetery) and in many other countries (comparable, for example, with many 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century cemeteries in Australia as well as northern hemisphere countries such as England).

The mixed vegetation provides the overall setting with a degree of informality and sense of the passage of time with the combination of man-made/burial features and natural features. Plans of the cemetery show there is a degree of formality but on the ground the variety in size, scale and colours lends the place to a less structured form.

The formal layout of Addington Cemetery is significant in itself. It defines it as a cemetery of a particular age, with its rectangular boundary and burial pattern being a response to

economy, and in particular the requirement by its original owners for it to be a money-making venture. Specific tree planting, notably the large Yew trees, are significant (eg at the John Anderson grave). The heritage roses are a relatively recent addition to the cemetery. Aesthetically they are pleasing and provide colour and seasonal change but historically they have no significance and unless carefully managed will become intrusive. The same can be said for some of the other lower level type plantings (hebes, agapanthus, etc). The line of semi-mature oak trees and lines of other deciduous trees (eg beech) have aesthetic value and as plant types are appropriate for a Victorian cemetery. However, they are relatively recent plantings and their location is not significant. In fact, their location is already proving to be intrusive because of wilding seedlings, root growth and shading. Other wilding trees on the site, such as Sycamore, are intrusive.

The degree of significance of each feature or element is assessed in accordance with the following scale:

**Exceptional Significance** – those features/elements which make an essential contribution to the overall significance of Addington Cemetery.

**Considerable Significance** – those features/elements which comprise original fabric and are considered to make a particular contribution to the overall significance of Addington Cemetery, but they may be in poor condition or undergone a degree of modification.

**Some Significance** – those features/elements that have been extensively modified, in poor condition or are later additions.

**Neutral/Intrusive** – those features/elements that are of limited significance, distract from the overall significance or may be obscuring fabric of greater value.

| <b>Feature</b>                        | <b>Degree of Significance<br/>in the Context of Addington Cemetery Overall</b> |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Layout (paths, plots, turning circle) | Exceptional  |
| Burials                               | Exceptional to Considerable (intrinsic cultural/spiritual)                     |
| Monuments & Surrounds                 | Exceptional to Considerable  |
| ‘Notable’ Graves <sup>45</sup>        | Exceptional  |
| Seating                               | Neutral  |
| Original Plantings                    | Exceptional/Considerable   |

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<sup>45</sup> Notable graves are those identified at Addington Cemetery on <http://library.christchurch.org.nz/Guides/Cemeteries/> and those of particular people outlined in this Conservation Plan. As this plan is not a grave-by-grave assessment, further research is likely to show that

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Recent Plantings      | Neutral/Intrusive                                       |
| Wilding Plants        | Neutral/Intrusive                                       |
| Entrance Gates        | Some  |
| Boundary Fences       | Some/Neutral  |
| Interpretation Panels | Neutral (current position partly in grave is Intrusive) |

### 3.3 Statement of Significance

The cemetery as a whole, including its tight layout and setting, burials and relatively small size plots, man-made memorials and early planted vegetation, has high heritage value in Christchurch because it was established essentially as a public cemetery to allow for the burials of virtually anyone regardless of their religious beliefs, in part as a money-making venture for the Presbyterian Church. The styles and materials of the graves and memorials are representative of other 19<sup>th</sup> century cemeteries and therefore it has local significance. In a more general sense, it is significant as the final resting place of some individuals of regional, national and to a certain extent international acclaim as well as of many local Christchurch families.

## 4 FRAMEWORK FOR CONSERVATION POLICIES

### 4.1 Conservation Principles

#### **ICOMOS New Zealand Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Heritage Value**

The New Zealand ICOMOS [International Council on Monuments and Sites] Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Heritage Value is the New Zealand guide for the conservation of places of cultural value in New Zealand, both as a frame of reference for owners, territorial authorities, trades people etc and the general community. It is also a statement of professional practice for members of ICOMOS, of which the key authors of this Conservation Plan, Robyn Burgess and Jenny May (and peer reviewer and conservation advisor, Ian Bowman), are members.

This charter, which is attached as Appendix 7, discusses general principles before identifying conservation process. The general principles are that conservation should:

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there are other graves of noteworthy people and therefore the list of Notable Graves is likely to require updating in the future.

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- Make use of all relevant conservation values, knowledge, disciplines, arts and crafts;
- Show the greatest respect for, and involve the least possible loss of, material of cultural heritage value;
- Involve the least degree of intervention consistent with long term care and the principles of [the ICOMOS] charter;
- Take into account the needs, abilities and resources of the particular communities;
- Be fully documented and recorded.

The charter should be used to guide any future Conservation Planning including maintenance, stabilisation, repair, restoration, reconstruction, or interpretation at Addington Cemetery.

#### **Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand (HCCTNZ)**

HCCTNZ outlines the principles specific to cemetery conservation as follows:

- Do as much as necessary, but as little as possible
- Understand and respect the existing fabric
- Traditional techniques are preferred, but
- Proven modern techniques are acceptable
- Repairs will be identifiable on close inspection
- New work should be readily identifiable
- Inexperienced trades-people should not work in cemeteries.

This Conservation Plan expands on the HCCTNZ principles by providing some examples of what is meant by the above and how the principles can translate into actions that the Council can cost and implement.

Further information and guidance notes from HCCTNZ are attached as Appendix 6 and are also available on [www.cemeteries.org.nz](http://www.cemeteries.org.nz) .

#### **4.2 Regulatory Requirements**

Legislation that is relevant to the management of Addington Cemetery includes:

##### **Burial and Cremation Act 1964**

This Act controls the establishment, use and closure of cemeteries and burial grounds and the process for disinterment. The use of Addington Cemetery for burial purposes is governed by this legislation.

The Act is administered by the Ministry of Health but it allows councils to make bylaws for the management of cemeteries. It also enables councils to expend resources on clearing, cleaning, repairing and tidying of any closed, disused or derelict cemetery, and includes the removal and disposal of tablets, monuments, etc but does not include the removal of remains. Where there is a health and safety risk, the Council is able to take whatever measures are required to address the risk.

### **Historic Places Act 1993**

The Historic Places Act is administered by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. The purpose of the Act is to:

*“promote the identification, protection, preservation, and conservation of the historical and cultural heritage of New Zealand”*

The Trust’s key area of regulation under the Historic Places Act relates to archaeological sites.

The Act’s definition of an archaeological site

*“ means any place in New Zealand that –*

*a) Either –*

*i) Was associated with human activity that occurred before 1900; or*

*ii) Is the site of the wreck of any vessel where that wreck occurred before 1900; and*

*b) Is or may be able through investigation by archaeological methods to provide evidence relating to the history of New Zealand”*

Any person wishing to undertake work that may damage, modify or destroy an archaeological site must first obtain an authority from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust for that work. As the Addington Cemetery contains paths, fences and graves that predate 1900, it is an archaeological site as defined by the Historic Places Act 1993 and is subject to the provisions of that Act.

### **Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)**

Recent amendments to the RMA in 2003 included enhancing the provisions of the Resource Management Act for historic heritage. The amendments strengthen the recognition of historic heritage by including it as a “Matter of National Importance” – including “outstanding landscapes”, “the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga” and “the protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development”.

Under the Resource Management Act 1991, Christchurch City Council has a schedule of heritage items in its City Plan that includes Addington Cemetery. It is one of six cemeteries listed as protected heritage items in Appendix 1, Part 10, Volume 3 of the City Plan. It is described as a Group 2 Heritage Item, defined as being of “national or regional importance, the protection of which is seen as very important where this can be reasonably achieved”.

This means that if demolition, alteration or removal of heritage fabric is proposed for Addington Cemetery, and/or the erection of building(s) is proposed on the site, then application will need to be made for resource consents as follows:

Demolition: Non-complying  
Alteration or Removal: Discretionary  
Additional Buildings: Discretionary.

### **Local Government Act 2002**

The Local Government Act requires all councils to prepare an assessment of their community cemeteries by June 2005. While the requirements of the Act relate to health aspects such as water quality, a Conservation Plan addressing the heritage values of a cemetery is useful to feed into any overall management plan or assessment of a cemetery.

## **3.8 Council Requirements**

In the Council’s role of managing Addington Cemetery, it is vital that it maintains good relationships with relevant interest groups including Addington Neighbourhood Association, Addington Bush Society, the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of NZ (HCCTNZ) and, where possible, relatives of those buried in the cemetery. The Council will need to manage community expectations that the cemetery will be ‘enhanced’<sup>46</sup>.

The Council is required to ensure that the cemetery meets health and safety requirements and that any potential dangers are eliminated, minimised or isolated.

In the near future, the Council intends to develop a public walkway beside the rear (eastern) boundary of the cemetery, at Baxter’s Drain. One of the advantages of this would be to ‘open up’ to discourage vandalism, as the site will be more exposed to view.

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<sup>46</sup> Press 16.7.04.

Finally, the cemetery has, on average, one new burial per year. It therefore needs to manage the erection of new monuments on existing plots in a manner that meets the requirements of the families concerned and of the existing heritage fabric.

## 5 CONSERVATION POLICY

### Introduction

The following conservation policy statements have been developed to guide Christchurch City Council on anticipated as well as unforeseen future work at Addington Cemetery, in terms of both practical requirements and the retention of essential heritage values.

The statements below include general conservation policies followed by specific policies for implementation (which are based on the principles set out in the ICOMOS New Zealand Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Heritage Value). The policy statements are written in italics, with supporting commentary below each statement.

### General Policies

#### General Policy 1

##### Standards

*The conservation and management of Addington Cemetery should conform to internationally recognised standards of practice and knowledge for cemetery conservation.*

There is a good range of publications and website information outlining current internationally recognised 'best practice' conservation and management of historic cemeteries. In New Zealand, the Historic Cemetery Conservation Trust of New Zealand has a website (<http://www.cemeteries.org.nz>) which provides specific guidance as well as having links to other national and international websites, including the National Trust of Australia website ([www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au/cemsplanning.html](http://www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au/cemsplanning.html)) and English Heritage ([www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)). Such standards have been referred to in the preparation of this Conservation Plan.

#### General Policy 2

##### ICOMOS

*Work carried out on the graves should be in accordance with the 'ICOMOS New Zealand Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Heritage Value'.*

This charter has been formally adopted by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, the Department of Conservation and a number of territorial authorities, including the Christchurch City Council.

The charter identifies eight conservation processes being:

1. **Non-intervention** (not carrying out any work)
2. **Maintenance** (the protective care of an historic place)
3. **Stabilisation** (the arrest of the processes of decay)
4. **Repair** (the making good of decayed or damaged material)
5. **Restoration** (returning a place as nearly as possible to a known earlier stage by reassembly, reinstatement and/or the removal of extraneous additions)
6. **Reconstruction** (the introduction of new material to replace that which has been lost and can only be carried out where sufficient evidence is available and the need is essential)
7. **Adaptation** (modifying the place to suit it to a compatible new use involving the least possible loss of cultural heritage value)
8. **Interpretation** (making the heritage values of the structure accessible)

One or a combination of the above processes may be appropriate to effect the optimum level of conservation. For cemeteries generally (and including Addington Cemetery), the most appropriate conservation procedure, other than Maintenance, is nearly always Stabilisation. For some individual items, Repair and/or Restoration may be appropriate. More rarely, partial Reconstruction may be appropriate for individual heritage features in particular circumstances. Interpretation, which could be seen to complement actual conservation processes, may also be appropriate for cemeteries.

### **General Policy 3**

#### **New Works**

*Any work carried out at Addington Cemetery should not diminish heritage values.*

Conservation treatment, including non-intervention, as well as any other works carried out at the cemetery should take account of the burials, graves and historic tree plantings.

Where remedial work is required, aim to repair rather than replace historic material. Original materials should be respected. In carrying out repairs, materials matching the original should be generally used where they are available. New landscaping and plantings should only occur if this does not diminish heritage values.

Any new work, for example that associated with new burials, or the interment of ashes, should be clearly identified as being new work, yet not detract from existing heritage features.

Where monuments have been shattered or are damaged beyond repair, they should be retained within the Cemetery and, if possible carefully set in concrete. Where they are becoming severely degraded, a plaque in front of or on the grave to indicate who was buried there and when is appropriate. Where resources are limited, priority should be given to placing plaques on graves that are significant.

Where the original locations of parts cannot be found, individual monuments/parts should be placed in a section of the cemetery solely containing such monuments. These should be fixed in the new position but in such a way that such fixing is reversible, if subsequent discovery means they can be reinstated in their original location.

#### **General Policy 4**

##### **Required Skills**

*People with the appropriate skill levels should be involved in various aspects of works at the Cemetery*

Specialist conservators are required to evaluate and analyse individual monuments and specify repairs (notably, stone conservators for most of the memorials, and metal conservators for the railings). Masons and metalworkers will be needed to carry out repair of broken headstones, provide temporary support to dislodged elements and repoint failed joints. A qualified arboriculturalist should provide advice on and guide tree removals and major pruning of historic vegetation. Christchurch City Council staff, contractors and volunteers can carry out the bulk of the cyclical work, including the production and regular updating of condition assessment reports, inventory, grass cutting, control of vegetation, and basic cleaning (following accepted best practice, and after appropriate training).

The New Zealand Standard for Headstones and Cemetery Monuments is NZS 4242: 1995 and its amendments.

## **General Policy 5**

### **Consultation**

*Where possible and practical, efforts should be made to consult with the relevant family of those buried at Addington Cemetery prior to major repair or restoration work being undertaken.*

While the ownership of individual graves appears to remain with the family of the person(s) interred, the Council is responsible for the land and the management of the cemetery. Accordingly, out of respect, if practical and possible, effort to contact descendents should be made, for example, through public notices in the newspaper, to notify families of the intent to carry out major repair/restoration. However, it is recognised that in many cases the descendents of those buried cannot easily be traced. This should not prevent maintenance and repair being carried out.

Families (or other interest groups) may express interest in contributing to the conservation of particular graves and this is to be encouraged, with close guidance from the Council that appropriate conservation measures are followed.

## **General Policy 6**

### **Use**

*Addington Cemetery retains its present use as a 'closed' cemetery.*

Maintaining the historic and existing use of the cemetery is the best means of retaining heritage values. This means that no new burials are permitted in the cemetery, with the exception of certain people who own existing family plots. Christchurch City Council is doing this.

## **General Policy 7**

### **Cultural Objects**

*All graves and memorials are to be regarded as important cultural objects and all conservation work to them, and to the cemetery as a whole, will be undertaken to ensure the minimum intervention, yet as much as is needed to ensure their future retention.*

In general, the combination of layout, burials, notable graves and other monuments and surrounds, and original planting range from exceptional to considerable significance in that they make a critical contribution to the overall significance of Addington Cemetery, as outlined as Significant Features in section 3.2 of this plan. The retention of these items is very important.

The boundary fences and replica entrance gate are of some significance to the cemetery and there is merit in their retention. Baxter's Drain appears to have some significance, albeit outside the cemetery boundary.

The modern heritage style seating is of neutral significance.

In order to retain the heritage values of the cemetery as a whole, it is recommended that the Council follows the policies outlined in Section 5 and carries out implementation recommendations in accordance with the examples provided in Appendices 1 and 2. Fabric or features that are of exceptional to considerable significance should be retained and conserved. Fabric or features that are of some significance should be retained where practical and possible. Fabric or features that are neutral or intrusive may be removed if appropriate or preferred.

### **General Policy 8**

#### **Plantings**

*The setting of Addington Cemetery is retained, intrusive vegetation is removed or appropriately managed, and only appropriate suitable new plantings are made that respect the heritage values of the cemetery.*

All features and elements that have been identified as adding to the historic values and cultural significance of the cemetery, including layout, paths, plants, views and settings should remain on the site and should be conserved.

No new plantings should take place without a development plan being prepared first, identifying a list of suitable species and places for planting. Further planting on graves is not recommended.

Recent plantings are predominantly of neutral significance but should be carefully maintained to prevent them from becoming intrusive. Some recent plantings, such as the rows of Oaks, are considered intrusive and should be removed. Wilding plants in the cemetery are generally intrusive, although some are neutral such as the Californian poppies.

### **General Policy 9**

#### **Archaeological Features**

*Subsurface archaeological features should not be disturbed, except for the standard process of interment, or where it is appropriate for the purpose of recovering structural information or exposing original features.*

Except for the standard process of burials, the Historic Places Trust should be consulted to determine if an Authority to Modify, Destroy or Damage an Archaeological Site is

required for any subsurface archaeological work eg for planting, work around the foundations of the Sexton's shed, Baxter's Drain or the cemetery entrance.

### **General Policy 10**

#### **Disaster**

*The risk of damage posed by natural disaster and vandalism be analysed and, where possible, action will be taken to eliminate, isolate or minimise the damage that might be caused by such events.*

If a disaster plan does not already exist, it is recommended that one be prepared for the cemetery. This plan should make provision for the management of repairs and structural support or enclosure in the event of a natural disaster, vandalism or other threat. Repair strategies should encompass appropriate ways to remove graffiti.

### **General Policy 11**

#### **Records**

*Records of Addington Cemetery should be kept in an appropriate archive(s).*

All conservation works should be documented for future reference. This includes monument repairs, cleaning and repositioning. Ensure 'before' and 'after' photographs are taken.

If possible, keep cemetery records in two locations so that in the event of major loss and destruction there are written and photographic records to work from.

### **General Policy 12**

#### **Review**

*This plan should be reviewed on a regular basis by an appropriately qualified heritage expert.*

It is recommended that such a review take place five years from the adoption of this Conservation Plan.

## **Intervention Policies**

Following from the general policies above, below are specific intervention policies based on the ICOMOS New Zealand's charter with respect to processes for conservation:

### **Intervention Policy 1**

#### **Non-Intervention**

*Overall, intervention is required at the cemetery, although many of the individual graves do not require intervention at this point in time.*

Non-intervention is an appropriate course of action for many of the individual graves at the current time – those in very good condition and those where intervention may remedy one problem but create another (as could be the case with cleaning or potentially the removal of some biological growth). Generally, however, intervention is required on a number of graves and on vegetation (as outlined as Maintenance, Stabilisation, Repair, and Restoration below).

### **Intervention Policy 2**

#### **Maintenance**

*A maintenance plan is prepared for the cemetery that puts into practice accepted heritage conservation principles combined with horticultural/aboricultural principles in order to maintain the heritage values of the cemetery .*

Regular maintenance of the grounds and graves is one of the most effective conservation processes for the cemetery. A planned programme of systematic maintenance for the grounds (including fences, gates, foundations of Sexton's shed, layout) and monuments should be prepared and adopted. A maintenance plan should be monitored regularly and should be reviewed at least 5 yearly.

Currently there is a programme of mowing to keep the graves tidy. This is encouraged, so long as great care is taken to avoid cutting the grass too close to the ground and/or damaging the historic fabric of graves. Maintenance associated with heritage fabric involves a greater level of care than for non-heritage fabric.

Historic trees and shrubs are to be retained, where possible and practical, and it is recognised that there may be some undermining of graves as a result. Generally, however, historic vegetation should be managed to prevent further damage (eg advice should be sought on cutting back limbs where they are damaging graves). Other trees and shrubs are to be regularly cut back, or removed where damaging or threatening graves.

### **Intervention Policy 3**

#### **Stabilisation**

*Stabilisation of individual heritage items is undertaken to arrest the process of decay*

Stabilisation would include such work as infilling of collapsed graves, applying fisholene to certain iron railings, propping up collapsed fences.

### **Intervention Policy 4**

#### **Repair**

*Required repairs/remedial work is carried out as soon as possible, in accordance with the priority rating range from Immediate to Desirable.*

Where possible and practical, techniques used for repair should be founded in traditional technologies. Where modern technologies are employed, every effort should be made for them to be concealed.

Repair should be carried out *in situ* where possible and practical. Monuments/features should only be removed as an extreme measure if required to undertake conservation work or protect from serious harm to people and/or heritage values. Location and parts of removed fragments or structures should be carefully recorded to enable return to the original site as soon as circumstances allow.

### **Intervention Policy 5**

#### **Restoration**

*Restoration of elements of some headstones, memorials, monuments, vaults/slabs and railings are carried out, where such restoration is carried out on the basis of accurate evidence and where it will enhance heritage values and otherwise prevent deterioration.*

In the case of some items, notably headstones and iron railings, restoration (reassembly or reinstatement of original fabric) enhances heritage values and makes the grave appear tidier and is less vulnerable to vandalism.

Monuments should not be moved from their original location, unless there is evidence to show that they have already been moved and ought to be reinstated in their original location.

## **Intervention Policy 6**

### **Reconstruction**

*Reconstruction of grave elements is only carried out where there is sufficient evidence to show that the new material exactly replaces that which has been lost.*

For the most part, reconstruction is not required at Addington Cemetery. An example where partial reconstruction may be desirable is the replacement of missing elements on iron railings around grave sites. In this case, there is sufficient evidence on which to pattern new material to reconstruct certain elements.

Original fabric should only be removed when there is no practical appropriate alternative, and only that which is absolutely necessary should be replaced. Any original materials removed should be recorded, catalogued and safely stored.

Original parts of grave sites should only be replaced with new material where:

- the original fabric is structurally unsound and/or is a hazard
- the fabric is causing deterioration of other original materials

## **Intervention Policy 7**

### **Adaptation**

*Adaptation is not an appropriate conservation intervention, since the graves have a principal use not suited to adaptation.*

## **Intervention Policy 8**

### **Interpretation**

*Upgraded interpretation of Addington Cemetery is designed to maximise the quality of visitor understanding, enjoyment and support, while at the same time not detracting from the heritage values of the site itself.*

General interpretation is currently provided on panels near the entrance to the cemetery. This is appropriate.

Where it has been identified that an individual grave is beyond repair and that any further intervention would compromise the significance of the grave, or where there is an unmarked grave of a known named burial, then consideration could be given to placing a suitable plaque recording its details (carefully placed so as not to compromise the integrity). Council's consent is required for inserting a plaque. The Heritage and Design Unit of the Christchurch City Council is able to provide guidance on the type of plaque to

be used. This method of using plaques should be done with caution, however, to avoid the cemetery being like a museum.

It would be appropriate for the Council to produce a brochure to give to families on appropriate grave management, including plantings and signage.

### 5.1 Implementation Strategies and Recommendations

The following implementation strategies and recommendations for Addington Cemetery are a combination of best practice solutions guided by the National Trust of Australia, Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand, and direct experience from Christchurch City Council cemetery staff. The table on pages 66-68 complements guidance provided in Appendix 1 (Implementation Examples) and Appendix 2 (Tabulated Guide to the Conservation of Monuments).

| Strategies  | Actions  | Timeframe  | Who to Undertake   |
|---|--|--|--|
| Prevent future damage to graves by careful management of vegetation | Cut back or remove oaks and other non-historic trees damaging or threatening monuments and surrounds, cut back historic vegetation where required, carefully maintain all other vegetation and generally avoid future planting on graves. (refer to Appendix 4 for details of vegetation)  | Removal of damaging trees within one year.<br><br>General vegetation management on-going.  | Tree removal under the guidance of an arboriculturalist.<br><br>General management by Council staff.   |
| Avoid future damage to graves and people                            | Gain structural assessment of monuments of dubious structural integrity and remedy (refer to Appendix 1 for implementation examples), prepare and implement disaster plan, carry out intervention in accordance with conservation policies above.<br>Monitor the monuments and surrounds regularly, as they are more likely to need attention as they get older. | Structural remedy within one year (may need to isolate fault to avoid damage in interim).<br><br>Disaster Plan within two years.<br><br>Intervention as required, refer to Appendices 1 and 2. | Stone Conservators or Masons for structural correction.<br><br>Council staff for Disaster Plan and Monitoring.<br><br>Stone and Metal Conservators, Stone Masons, Council Staff and Volunteers, dependent on level of intervention (refer to Appendices 1 and 2) |
| Where possible and practical, consult with families of those        | Advertise through public notices when intending to carry out major conservation work on  | As required.   | Council staff.   |

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|---|---|--|---|
| buried  | individual monuments.<br>Consider signage at entrance to cemetery guiding families on appropriate and inappropriate refurbishment of and planting on existing graves.   |  |   |
| Undertake grave-by-grave and tree-by-tree inventory | Record individual graves, inscriptions on monuments, and ideally the condition of each grave.   | Ideally to be completed within five years, but will be dependent on resources available. | Council staff and volunteers could undertake recording of individual graves. Detailed condition assessments of monuments and surrounds should ideally be undertaken by stone and metal conservators. Detailed condition assessments of trees to be carried out by Council arborist. |
| Carefully manage grave plantings                    | Generally further planting on and around graves is not recommended. However, if additional planting is deemed desirable by relatives of those buried, interest groups or the Council, only suitable small scale ornamental plants should be planted within plots.<br>Unsuitable or 'out of scale' plants within plots should be selectively removed or pruned.<br><br>The most effective long term solution is to prepare a development plan listing appropriate species and places for planting. Ideally, no new plantings should take place without a development plan being prepared first, identifying a list of suitable species and places for planting. Further planting on graves is not recommended. | As required.   | Council staff, volunteers manage existing plantings.<br><br>Development plan to be prepared with input from landscape architect with historic cemetery experience and Council staff (including arborist and heritage unit).   |

|   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| Ensure archaeological requirements are met                            | Consult with Historic Places Trust Archaeologist to determine if an Authority to Damage, Modify or Destroy an Archaeological Site is required in any enhancement works eg any development works associated with the proposed walkway at the Baxter's Drain end of the cemetery.                        | As required.  | Council staff to consult.                        |
| Record existing cemetery and any interventions (trees and monuments). | A photographic record using black and white photographs on archival quality paper is best practice. Files and photographs associated with the Cemetery should ultimately be lodged with Archives New Zealand. Ideally information is kept in two locations – Council offices and Archives New Zealand. | As required, lodge records with Archives New Zealand after approximately 10 years in Council. | Council staff.                                   |
| Ensure appropriate cyclical maintenance                               | Prepare and implement general maintenance plan.  | One year.   | Council staff with specialist input if required. |

### 5.1.1 Recommendations for Future Work

- Once this plan is approved, any management proposals that are not within the intention of this plan, or that conflict with its policies, will require a change to the plan before they can be sanctioned.
- A future project for the cemetery should involve recording the text of individual headstones, should they deteriorate in future so that their text is not lost.
- In future planned work for Selwyn Street, Greenspace Unit liaise with the City Streets Unit with respect to making the cemetery more obvious and give consideration to creating kerb extensions in front of the footpath at the Selwyn Street entrance to the cemetery, rather than creating large signs or plantings/features within the cemetery.
- Consideration should be given to using an expert in ground penetrating radar to locate the position of unmarked graves.

- Enhancement proposals involving heritage rose plantings be amended to create a 'heritage rose garden' east of the proposed Baxter's Drain walkway, outside of the cemetery grounds, rather than have additional rose (and other) plantings on graves.
- Take practical steps to reduce vandalism, including maintaining cooperative working relationships with the police and neighbourhood groups.
- Where original locations of parts cannot be found, individual monuments/parts are to be placed in a section of the cemetery solely containing such monuments. A possible suitable area is the indented area by the foundations of the old Sexton's cottage, where there is a grassy patch where there are no obvious burials.
- Ideally, an inventory of the condition of each individual grave/memorial should be prepared. A maintenance plan for each grave/memorial could then be prepared and followed. A complete inventory of each memorial should contain:
  - Memorial type;
  - Face of inscription;
  - No. of people commemorated;
  - Compilation date;
  - Shape/dimension/orientation;
  - Decoration;
  - Memorial number;
  - Material/s;
  - Mason;
  - Compiler;
  - Inscription;
  - Condition of memorial and inscription;
  - Photo;
  - Plan of location.

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## **7 Appendices**