

Mays Hill Reserve

(Incorporating Mays Hill Cemetery) Draft Plan of Management - 2004

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Revision of 1997 document

Prepared for: Holroyd City Council

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

A review of the 1997 Mays Hill Reserve Plan of Management was commissioned by Holroyd City Council in 2003 and undertaken by Landscape Architectural consultants Environmental Partnership. The plan of management review was aimed at updating the previous plan prepared by EDAW (1997). Key objectives were:

- meeting the requirements of the Crown Lands Act 1989 and the Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998; and
- incorporating relevant recommendations from an updated Conservation Plan for Mays Hill Cemetery prepared by Siobhán Lavelle in 2003.

This document is the product of that review process providing a consolidated and updated planning tool for the open space for ongoing implementation by Council.

It is noted that the images incorporated in the text of the document are from the 1997 original Plan of Management Document with current (April 2003) images provided in the Appendix.

Mays Hill Reserve, bounded by the Great Western Highway, Steele, Napier and Franklin Streets, Mays Hill as shown in Figure 1. The land is owned by Holroyd City Council, the Crown, and Church Groups as shown in Figure 2. Holroyd City Council acts as sole trustee for those lots previously designated as burial grounds and for the Crown Land in accordance with the provisions of the Crown Lands Act, 1989.

The overall reserve which covers an area of 2.7 ha includes:

- the Mays Hill Cemetery which is centrally located on the eastern side of the reserve;
- an open space area to the north which was initially set aside as a Congregational Cemetery but never used, and another area to the west; and
- tennis and netball courts along the southern boundary fronting onto Napier Street.

The cemetery is divided into two sections:

- the Presbyterian section which was dedicated in 1839; and
- the Baptist section dedicated in 1849.

The area excluding the granted cemetery sections was dedicated as Mays Hill Recreation Reserve in 1884.

In 1990, in recognition of the importance of the cemetery as part of Holroyd's environmental heritage, Council commissioned a conservation plan for the Mays Hill Cemetery. The *Mays Hill Cemetery* (*Western Road Cemetery*) *Conservation Plan* was written by the heritage consultants Godden Mackay and was published in November 1990. The 1990 Conservation Plan set the initial priorities for the conservation and management of the cemetery, and provided a basis for the information presented in the 1997 POM, specifically in relation to Mays Hill Cemetery.

In 2002 Holroyd Council commissioned Historical Archaeologist and Heritage Consultant Siobhán Lavelle to produce the *Mays Hill Cemetery Conservation Plan*, to update the 1990 Conservation Plan. The main objectives of the 2003 Conservation Plan were to provide an updated conservation analysis, revised conservation policies, objectives and priorities to provide direction and guidance for the future conservation and management of Mays Hill Cemetery. Management of Mays Hill Reserve should have regard for both the 2003 Conservation Plan and this updated 2003 Plan of Management.

Holroyd City Council has effectively managed the majority of Mays Hill Reserve since the late1800s. However the cemetery was controlled by both the trustees of the Presbyterian Church, and trustees of the Baptist Church up until the late 1970's. In line with recommendations made in the 1990 Conservation Plan, Holroyd City Council assumed the role of sole trustee of the cemetery in 1993 together with responsibility for regular maintenance of the site. A community based group called 'Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery' was established in 1995 and now acts as an advisory group, assisting with management of the site.



Figure 1: Location Plan

Mays Hill Cemetery is afforded statutory protection and formal recognition through identification as an heritage item in an appropriate schedule of a gazetted local environmental planning instrument (Holroyd LEP 1991). The cemetery is also recognised as a heritage item though its inclusion in the Register of the National Estate (Federal Government) and in the National Trust Register (nongovernment listing). (Lavelle 2003)

The main objective of this Plan of Management (POM) is to guide the future management and development of Mays Hill Reserve, which incorporates Mays Hill Cemetery, taking account of community expectations and the resources available to Council.

1.2 Study area at a glance

The table following summarises existing features and management of the study area.

ltem	Description		
Site Name:	Mays Hill Reserve (incorporating Mays Hill Cemetery)		
Address:	Great Western Highway, Mays Hill		
Ownership:	Council and Crown land: Cemetery and park area to the north, south and west		
Care, control, management:	Holroyd City Council is the trustee of Crown Land and assisted by Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery Group and the Mays Hill Tennis Courts Local Committee		
Area:	2.7 hectares		
Zoning:	Cemetery: 5(a) Special Uses, Park: 6(a) Open Space		
Conditions of park:	Park: The park and associated structures are in a good condition and well maintained.		
	Cemetery: Furniture from many of the grave sites in the cemetery has been vandalised, however many of these have been repaired. Subsidence occurs around many of the graves. Landscape elements are maintained in an overall good condition.		
Maintenance:	Park: responsibility of Holroyd City Council and the Tennis Courts Committee. The tennis courts are routinely maintained by the Tennis Courts Committee. The reserve including the amenities block, netball court, tennis club building is maintained by Holroyd City Council.		
	Cemetery: responsibility of Holroyd City Council in consultation with the Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery. The Cemetery is generally maintained by a contractor engaged and supervised by Holroyd City Council.		
Assets:	Pedestrian bridge over small ornamental pond, three flagpoles, Fort Maquarie Canon (1871), tennis courts (2 No. with synthetic surface and chainmesh fence), netball court (asphalt surface), car parking, cemetery monuments and headstones, cemetery fence (1.5m high timber picket), park boundary fence (weldmesh), table settings (5 No.), park seats (1 No.), rubbish bins (2 No.), and pedestrian pathways.		
Condition of	Amenities block / storeroom: 1980s construction, well maintained.		
buildings:	Amenities block/ changing facilities / tool shed: 1980s construction, well maintained.		
	Lynch gate: 1980s construction, well maintained.		
Existing uses:	Cemetery visitation, passive recreation in park and cemetery surrounds, tennis and volleyball on courts provided.		
Leases / licenses / bookings:	Tennis Courts: bookings taken through Mays Hill Tennis Courts Local Committee.		
Caveats / easements:	N/A		



Figure 2: Ownership and Management

1.3 Scope of this Plan of Management

Mays Hill Reserve is an important item of environmental heritage for the people of Holroyd. The history and significance of Mays Hill Cemetery is recorded in the 'pioneer' graves of those who originally settled in the district.

This POM aims to incorporate the needs of the wider community into the future design and development of the reserve. Objectives of this POM are based on the initiatives expressed in various documents including;

- 2001-2005 Management Plan prepared by Holroyd City Council
- Mays Hill Cemetery Conservation Plan prepared by Siobhán Lavelle in 2003.
- Holroyd City Council's "State of the Environment Report".

Other documents referred to in preparing this POM include the Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust Policy Manual (UPRCT), and the Holroyd Council Policies, Codes and Delegated Authority Manual.

Discussions with Council staff also provided valuable information that was taken into account in preparing this POM.

The specific objectives of the POM are to:

- ensure that Mays Hill Reserve is conserved generally for passive recreational purposes
- ensure that Mays Hill Cemetery within the reserve is managed as a protected heritage item with aesthetic, historic, scientific, social and interpretive values
- ensure the reserve is a safe environment available/accessible for use by all sections of the community
- achieve a consistent and responsible approach to the management and maintenance of the reserve's resources
- provide adequate, equitable and appropriate services for the community and to ensure they are managed efficiently
- manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environmental values of the reserve, to ensure that it is sustainable for future generations while being visually attractive and pollution free
- provide a review of recommendations made in the 2003 Mays Hill Conservation Plan

1.4 Community Consultation

The Draft updated 2003 Plan of Management will be placed on public display to provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment. Comments received will be considered by Council and the final POM amended where appropriate.

2. CONTEXT

2.1 Regional Significance

Covering an area of approximately 2.7 ha, Mays Hill Reserve is located on the corner of Steele Street and the Great Western Highway (Figure 1). The reserve incorporates the Mays Hill Cemetery together with open space and forms an important component of the recreational facilities managed by Holroyd City Council.



The reserve occupies an elevated position on the ridgeline on the southern side of the Great Western Highway at Mays Hill. Located on the fringe of the early

Grave monuments in Mays Hill Cemetery

centre of settlement at Parramatta, the reserve, in particular the cemetery, is now a well known landmark.

Mays Hill Cemetery has regional significance as it was one of the seven cemeteries granted for the greater Parramatta area. It is particularly important as it documents the arrival and growth of minority community groups in what, at the time of its establishment, was a fringe area of the settlement.

The tennis and netball courts in the southern area of the reserve provide an important component of Holroyd's active open space network. They are used primarily by local residents. Recreation demand for the reserve is discussed in more detail in section 2.5 of this POM.

2.2 Cultural and Historical Significance

Mays Hill Reserve is an important cultural resource for the residents of Mays Hill and Parramatta. Of primary cultural and historical significance is the Mays Hill Cemetery originally known as the Western Road Cemetery. It is the only cemetery in the Holroyd City Council area.

The *Mays Hill Cemetery Conservation Plan (2003)* assessed the cultural significance of the cemetery using criteria set down by the National Trust. The plan's summary statement of cultural significance found that:

- The Mays Hill Cemetery is a valuable component of the heritage of NSW and of the City of Holroyd because it provides a direct historical record of the people of the Mays Hill and Parramatta districts over the past 150 years. The cemetery documents many of the area's pioneering families, a number of prominent local identities and particular individuals associated with the establishment of the Presbyterian and Baptist congregations in the area.
- Mays Hill Cemetery contains a wide variety of traditional grave plantings including shrubs, creepers and bulbs and the remnants of an enclosing perimeter plantation formed by large evergreen trees. It is a good example of simple but formal, nineteenth century design and layout.
- Mays Hill Cemetery contains a good range of many nineteenth and twentieth century monument types. The monuments are notable for the austere style and restrained detailing which appears to be a direct reflection of the values and beliefs of the Presbyterian and Baptist denominations for whom the cemetery was established. The monuments are important for their ability to demonstrate the skills and attitudes of past generations.
- The survival of a wide range of grave surrounds and other enclosures is also a significant feature of the cemetery. Mays Hill Cemetery includes some particularly fine examples of timber picket grave surrounds which are relatively rare, good examples of intact ironwork and some elaborate stone kerbs.

Apart from its significance as a historic site the cemetery is a valuable educational resource. In addition the presence of remnant native understorey species gives the site ecological significance.

The recreational function of the remainder of the reserve for the Holroyd community includes the availability of tennis and netball courts, and the opportunity for passive recreation within the curtilage of this visually and culturally evocative landscape.



Original perimeter planting of Brush Box trees outside the cemetery fence

2.3 Physical Site Factors

2.3.1 Management Zones

Mays Hill Reserve may be divided into three broad zones based on landuse and land ownership. These include:

- A. North and North-West Zone incorporating the formal section of the reserve.
- **B.** North-East Zone incorporating the Mays Hill Cemetery which is bounded by Steele Street on the reserve's eastern edge and is rectangular in shape, having approximate dimensions of 130 metres east to west and 65 metres north to south.
- **Southern Zone** fronting onto Napier Street including the netball and tennis courts which are located at the foot of an embankment which physically divides the site.

2.3.2 Climate

The climate of Mays Hill Cemetery is typical of the western suburbs of Sydney. The months of highest rainfall generally occur within the first half of the year and the area can expect an average rainfall of 970mm per year. Temperatures in the Holroyd area range between 4-34 degrees Celsius.

2.3.3 Vegetation

Vegetation within Mays Hill Reserve consists of plantings of native and exotic species including the original symbolic cemetery plantings and remnant native understorey species. The majority of formal planting is located in the northern portion of the reserve in the garden area adjacent to the Great Western Highway. Other significant plantings are located within the cemetery and around the tennis courts.

Planting in the northern portion consists of original cemetery perimeter tree planting together with more recent plantings. The original perimeter planting includes a line of *Lophostemon confertus* (Brush Box) trees and several *Cinnamonum camphora* (Camphor laurel) located just outside the new cemetery fence. Other tree and shrub species present include *Eucalyptus sp., Melaleuca decora* (Paperbark), *Thuja occidentalis* (White Cedar), *Callistemon* sp. (Bottlebrush) and scattered deciduous exotic species.

Three large *Ficus* spp. (Fig) are located in the northern portion providing visually prominent landmarks. One of these Figs is located at the entrance to the reserve, on the corner of the Great Western Highway and Steele Street. The others are located on the north-western side of the reserve. Deep shade created by tree canopies in the northern portion of the reserve may be contributing to grass dieback in some areas.

A section of transitway is being constructed along the reserve's northern property boundary (The Great Western Highway), resulting in the removal of six mature Brush Box trees located along the existing kerb line and several brick garden beds. The trees being removed have been subject to severe lopping in the past due to their location and will be replaced with super advanced trees as part of the proposed works. Additional landscape improvements include construction of a new pathway and several raised brick garden beds (refer 2.3.8 Liverpool to Parramatta transitway).

Vegetation within the cemetery consists of a combination of:

- planting schemes from various eras,
- weed species
- remnant native species.



Feature planting of annuals in the northern area of the reserve to be phased out as wall infrastructure deteriorates and requires removal

Scattered self-seeded native and exotic tree species have been progressively removed due to grave damage by their trunks and root systems.

A variety of small scale flowering plants within the cemetery provide seasonal change throughout the year. Self seeding of some of the larger and more invasive species, particularly Camphor laurels and *Acacia* sp., has led to damage to monuments. An ongoing program of weed eradication conducted by Holroyd City Council has led to the removal of the majority of these plants.

Canna sp. (Canna lilies) create a colourful edge planting along the inside of the cemetery fence on the north side.

A number of shrubs and herbaceous species growing on individual grave sites represent original cemetery plantings. Many of these plants have symbolic associations that reflect 19th century Australian society's attitude to acknowledging death. These include species such as *Convolvulus* sp., Daisies, *Tropaeolum* sp. (Nasturtiums) and *Rosa* sp. (Roses). For a detailed description of cemetery plantings refer to the *Mays Hill Cemetery Conservation Plan*.

Mixed with these 19th century plantings are understorey remnants of the Grey Box Woodland Association that covered the area prior to European settlement. A plant survey carried out by Council in 1995 identified 26 native species within the cemetery. Five of these species have been identified as vulnerable and/or regionally significant and these are *Danthonia caespitosa* (Ringed Wallaby Grass), *Danthonia pilosa var. pilosa* (Smooth-flowered Wallaby Grass), *Elymus scaber var. scaber* (Common Wheatgrass), *Senecio hispidulus* (Hill Fireweed) and *Senecio quadridentatus* (Cotton Fireweed). A mix of native and introduced grass species covers the cemetery. The native *Imperata cylindrica* (Blady Grass) grows thickly within many of the grave plots.

In line with the recommendations of the Mays Hill Cemetery Conservation Plan Council's maintenance policy currently involves grass mowing along the major pathways while allowing it to grow on top of the grave sites. This contributes to the 'textured landscape and visual quality of the cemetery area' (Godden Mackay 1990). This approach is recommended to be generally continued in the 2003 Conservation Plan with the inclusion of several "open areas" adjoining pathways and is identified on a separate plan (L2) in that document. The 2003 plan also verifies the continuation of conservation of native grass remnants and selective replanting from site seed stock.

Non-selective weeding and the uncontrolled use of herbicide and 'whipper snippers' in the past has resulted in the removal of some of the original cemetery plantings and native species. The use of 'whipper snippers' has also caused damage to grave monuments, particularly those constructed from sandstone. These practices have ceased since Council undertook management of the site.

In the southern portion of the reserve vegetation includes scattered mature tree species such as *Cinnamomum camphora* (Camphor laurel). Recent planting includes *Lophostemon confertus* (Brush Box) and *Eucalyptus* sp. along the cemetery fenceline and native tree and shrub planting around the tennis courts and along Steele Street.

Informal planting of *Eucalyptus maculata* (Spotted Gum) has been carried out along the western and southern boundaries of the tennis courts. Leaf litter from these trees and branches overhanging the courts is a maintenance issue.



A mixture of native and exotic grasses together with small-scale symbolic plantings grow within the cemetery grave plots

Shrub planting of *Photinia glabra 'Rubens'* along the eastern end of the Napier Street boundary screens the car park and netball court. Previous extension of this planting will in time further screen the tennis courts from residences on the southern side of the reserve.

2.3.4 Wildlife

Due to the presence of some indigenous vegetation within the cemetery, there may be limited wildlife habitat for smaller mammals and bird species. The site is however surrounded by urban development and physical linkages with other open space areas are limited. Existing trees, particularly native species, can be regarded as providing some habitat to bird species and invertebrates that have adapted to an urban environment.

2.3.5 Landform and Drainage

Mays Hill Reserve extends from the top down to the southern slopes of the main east-west ridge line along which the Great Western Highway runs. The reserve slopes gently to the south from the ridgeline.

The tennis courts have been located on a flat graded area fronting Napier Street. An embankment separates the courts from the surrounding area.

The Conservation Plan identified subsidence problems at Mays Hill Cemetery. By destabilising grave monuments, subsidence has contributed to the number of threatened and damaged items requiring repair.

Seepage along the embankment behind the tennis courts draining from the reserve is collected by a dish drain around the courts and a surface inlet pit. This seepage has at times caused waterlogging of new planting due to a high shale layer.

2.3.6 Buildings and Structures

Buildings within the reserve include an amenities block located at the north-western entrance to the reserve adjacent to Franklin Street. The building is of recent construction and is well maintained. The rear of this building is used as a store by staff maintaining the reserve.

Other structures include a small ornamental pond and bridge, three flagpoles and the Fort Macquarie cannon built in 1871 (relocated from the present site of the Sydney Opera House).



The 1980's brick and timber lych gate and picket fence which encloses the cemetery

Structures associated with the cemetery include a brick and timber shelter or lych gate and a 1.5m high picket fence constructed in the mid – 1980's which encloses the cemetery. The fence and lych gate, which is locked at night, limit but do not prevent access to the cemetery by persons climbing over the fence. Installed during the 1980's the gate and fence are not original cemetery elements and tend to limit visibility into the cemetery and to screen undesirable activity from surveillance. Infra Red security scanners have been installed around the perimeter of the cemetery to turn on the floodlighting system (installed in mid 1990's) and alert security monitoring when activated. This has been successful in discouraging much of the inappropriate access and vandalism problem.

Structures within Mays Hill Cemetery include monuments and headstones. The cemetery contains monuments dating from the 1840's. The monuments have been crafted in either sandstone, granite or marble and represent most of the monument types constructed during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The types of grave surrounds vary significantly and include stone and brick kerbing, cast iron railings and timber picket surrounds. The Mays Hill Cemetery Conservation Plan provides a detailed description of selected monuments within the cemetery.

Many of the headstones have been adversely affected by vandalism, neglect, subsidence and natural processes. Vandalism and graffiti to grave monuments has been the major cause of damage in the past. Holroyd City Council has initiated a number of actions in response to recommendations made in the Conservation Plan which are discussed in Section 3.5.

A bitumen netball court and two tennis courts covered with synthetic grass are located in the southern area of the reserve adjoining Napier Street. The netball court is unfenced while the tennis courts are surrounded by a chain mesh security fence approximately 3-4 metre high.

A small amenities block incorporating changing facilities, a tea room and a tool shed is located on the eastern side of the tennis courts.

Isolated tables and benches are located in the northern and southern portions of the reserve. Rubbish bins are situated in the northern area of the reserve.

2.3.7 Services

Water and electricity are available to the toilet block at the northern end of the reserve and to the Tennis Club building. Water is also available for hose and sprinklers used in the northern portion and to supply the ornamental pond.

Existing lighting within the reserve is located in the northern portion of the reserve provided by a series of pole mounted floodlights.

A security lighting system was installed around the cemetery perimeter in 1996. This system uses utilises quartz halogen floodlights controlled by passive infra red detectors.

2.3.8 Liverpool to Parramatta Transitway

The NSW Government is currently constructing a bus-only transitway between Liverpool and Parramatta aimed at providing commuters with a faster and more efficient public transport service between these areas. Transitway construction is progressing along the Great Western Highway with boundary alterations and service relocations currently being undertaken.

It is considered that the proposed landscape works will provide improved site lines through the reserve for personal security and generally upgrade the frontage of the reserve. Principal components of work along the reserve's northern boundary (Great Western Highway) include:

- The removal of six Brush Box trees as a result of carriageway widening on the highway frontage for the bus lane. These trees are currently located immediately behind the existing kerbline.
- The removal of the existing concrete footpath and brick garden beds.
- The construction of a 1.8 metre wide brick paved path clear of the dripline of existing Camphor Laurel trees which are being retained to the south of the new kerb line.
- The establishment of new bullnosed brick edged garden beds for annual display with planting area 1.8 metres wide adjacent to the southern side of the new path.
- The mulching of the area between the new path and the new kerb under existing trees and proposed new tree planting.
- The restoration of all turf areas as a result of works in this area.

The existing brick garden beds adjacent to the Great Western Highway frontage of Mays Hill Reserve have been significantly damaged by tree roots. It is considered that these structures should be removed to allow for construction of the proposed brick footpath clear of the dripline of existing trees and construction of new garden beds to the other side of the proposed path. This clearance to the existing trees would also assist in improving their condition.

The new garden beds on the southern side of the proposed new path would maintain the season flower plantings which are a traditional feature of the reserve. These garden beds would be elevated 400mm with a bullnosed brick edging and be located in a position which would enjoy improved direct sunlight levels for annual displays. Additionally the proposed internal width of the new garden beds at 1.8 metres will be a superior layout for gardeners undertaking these works.

2.4 Visual Assessment

Mays Hill Reserve is visible from the Great Western Highway, and is a prominent visual element when viewed from the surrounding, mostly lower areas.

Views to the reserve from the Great Western Highway are partly screened by tree and shrub plantings along the northern edge of the reserve. It is envisaged that the proposed works associated with the Liverpool to Parramatta Transitway (refer 2.3.8) will improve the appearance of the reserves frontage along the Great Western Highway, and provide improved visibility into the reserve from the road.

The cemetery is the most visually dominant element within the reserve and is of interest due to the contrast in its form and scale compared to other areas in the reserve. The picket fence enclosure defines the cemetery.



View over the valley to the south showing low-rise residential development. The cemetery fence can be seen on the left of the photo.

Monuments are the major elements within the cemetery. Most are of low scale and simple design, with some taller elements providing visual emphasis as focal points. Many of the monuments are damaged due to defacing, disassembling and breakage.

Cemetery plantings and grasses provide seasonal variety, as well as a textural quality. They also tend to integrate the monuments into the landscape setting. The removal of many of the weeds on and surrounding the grave plots has revealed the need to restore many of the grave monuments.

The tennis and netball courts and car park located in the southern portion of the reserve are not visually intrusive from within or from outside the reserve due to their low elevation. Views along the eastern end of Napier Street are screened with tall shrub planting which has recently been extended to provide future screening of the tennis courts. Views to the courts from surrounding residential areas are partially screened by tree planting.

Long-range views are available from the reserve over the valley to the west and to the ridge to the south. Surrounding residential development at lower elevations to the west, south and east of the reserve is clearly visible but is not visually intrusive.

2.5 Current Recreational Usage

2.5.1 Introduction

Recreational usage of Mays Hill Reserve consists primarily of passive activities, but also includes active uses. This dual use is divided between the cemetery area and the tennis and netball courts to the south. The uses are well defined physically due to the reserve's layout and site topography. As a result differences in priorities between formal active and passive groups using the reserve have led to minimal conflict. However, problems have arisen with unsanctioned use of the reserve, particularly within the cemetery, at night. Security scanners linked to a floodlighting system have been effective in reducing this occurrence.



Tennis courts in the southern area of the reserve. Benches and tables can be seen to the left and right of the courts.

2.5.2 User Demand

Mays Hill Reserve is used for passive recreation by individuals and informal groups. Passive users tend to use the northern area of the reserve and consist of two major groups. Those who primarily visit the reserve for relaxation, visiting the cemetery incidentally; and those who have a direct interest in Mays Hill Cemetery.

Visitors to the formal garden area of the reserve adjacent to the Great Western Highway take advantage of amenities such as benches and tables, shade tree planting, ornamental pond area and amenities block. The formal garden is popular for wedding photos and is used as a stop off for highway travellers. Noise intrusion from the Highway significantly reduces the amenity of this portion of the reserve.

Passive recreation use of Mays Hill Cemetery has gradually increased as the profile of the cemetery has improved and interest from various community groups has grown. The cemetery's significance was for a long time ignored due partly to the fact that the graves it contains do not belong to "men or women of mark" or people of great wealth and status (Godden Mackay, 1990).

Cemetery visitors, many from the Holroyd City Council area, are made up of those with a direct connection to the cemetery through their family history or individuals and informal groups who bring to the reserve a general appreciation for the cemetery's historic, aesthetic and other values.

There have been some formal group visits to the cemetery to date and several special interest tours conducted by the 'Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery'. In addition there are plans to increase community involvement including that of local schools and 'Friends' groups involved with other cemeteries in the Sydney region.

Elsewhere in the reserve, particularly in the southern and western zones, passive recreation use occurs to a lesser degree. However such passive recreation use is being encouraged around the tennis courts with the recent addition, by Council, of extra benches and tables.

Active recreation use within the reserve is confined to the southern portion and is associated with the netball and tennis courts. The tennis courts are used primarily by local individuals or informal groups. Parramatta High School uses the courts during summer for school competitions hosting visiting school groups from the surrounding region. The Mays Hill Tennis Courts Local Committee is responsible for administration of user groups. The role of the Tennis Courts Committee is discussed further in Section 2.8 Management and Section 2.9 Maintenance.

The netball court is located to the east of the tennis courts and is used occasionally by individuals and informal groups from the local area.

Vandalism and damage to grave monuments resulting from unsanctioned use of the cemetery has been an ongoing problem. This activity has required a concentration of Council's resources in the areas of security and maintenance. These issues are discussed in greater detail in section 2.6.3.

2.6 Planning Considerations

2.6.1 Adjoining Land Use

Residential development is the primary adjoining land use. To the west, south and east of the reserve along Franklin, Napier and Steele Streets is low-rise residential development. To the north along the edge of the Great Western Highway medium and highdensity residential development which overlooks the reserve is the major land use.

Some small-scale commercial development is located on the northern edges of the reserve, on the corner of Franklin Street and the Great Western Highway and on the northern side of the Highway.



High-density residential development along the Great Western Highway overlooking the cemetery.

The Great Western Highway adjoins the northern boundary of the reserve. This six lane highway carries high traffic volumes, especially during peak hour periods. This traffic produces noise levels which are intrusive to the reserve. Tree and shrub planting along the northern boundary reduces to some extent the negative impacts of the Highway from within the reserve.

There are relatively few complaints about the condition of the reserve from residents in this area. There have however been ongoing security concerns expressed by residents in relation to activities occurring within the Mays Hill Cemetery, particularly at night.

A fence around the tennis courts minimises vandalism to this facility.

2.6.2 Zoning and Planning Controls

The Mays Hill Reserve is zoned 6(a) Open Space while the Mays Hill Cemetery is zoned 5(a) Special Uses. Holroyd City Council's objectives for areas zoned 6(a) Open Space are to:

- identify land which is currently used or is intended for the purposes of open space or public recreation
- allocate sufficient open space to serve the present and future recreational needs of residents and visitors
- enable development associated with, ancillary to or supportive of public recreational use

Within the areas zoned 6(a) Open Space the following activities can be undertaken without development consent:

- landscaping
- gardening
- bushfire hazard reduction

The following activities are not permitted without development consent:

- construction of advertising structures
- buildings for the purposes of landscaping

- caravan parks
- child care centres and children's playgrounds
- drill grounds
- forestry
- public baths
- public reserves
- racecourses
- recreation areas and facilities
- showgrounds, sportsgrounds and tourist facilities
- utility installations
- uses or buildings associated with those purposes which are under the care, control and management of the council.

Activities other than those listed are prohibited in areas zoned 6(a) Open Space. Except that Council may construct roads, stormwater drainage, recreation areas, public amenities, parking areas and cycleways in this zoning without obtaining its own consent.

Holroyd City Council's objective for the zone 5(a) Special Uses is to:

• designate lands which are now developed or are intended to be developed for uses which provide a service or facility, usually of a public nature, the protection of which is considered to be in the public interest.

Within these areas no works can be undertaken without development consent. The following activities are not permitted without development consent:

- 8
- drainage
- recreation areas
- roads
- the particular purpose indicated by scarlet lettering on the map or any purpose ordinarily incidental to the designated purpose
- utility installations (other than gas holders or generating works).

Purposes other than those listed are prohibited in areas zoned 5(a) Special Uses.

2.6.3 Access and Circulation

Vehicular access to Mays Hill Reserve is limited. In the northern area it is confined to an entry point for service vehicles off Steele Street. A parking area is located adjacent to this access point. A single rail treated pine barrier prevents access into the northern area of the reserve by other vehicles. Similar parking exists in Franklin Street.

In the southern portion of the reserve a gateway leading to the tennis courts provides vehicle access to a car park located between the tennis and netball courts. At present cars entering through the gate are



Vehicular and pedestrian entrance off Franklin Street

able to park informally on the grassed area in front of the tennis club building. This poses a conflict of use of this area between cars and pedestrians and has implications for maintenance of grassed areas.

Pedestrian access into the reserve at the northern end is relatively unrestricted. A significant entry point for pedestrians is located adjacent to the carpark off Franklin Street.

Integrated formal access for disabled persons is currently not provided at the reserve. A ramp is required from the carparking area in Steele Street. The pathways leading from Steele and Franklin Streets are of limited width, and ramps are needed where they meet the amenities building. However a kerb ramp exists at the Franklin Street carpark.

Toilet stalls for disabled persons are not provided in either of the amenity blocks. A pathway of suitable grade is required from the tennis court carpark to the nearby amenity block. Reserved carparking stalls for disabled persons are also not currently available. The need for additional picnic facilities which may be accessed by disabled persons should be investigated.

Pedestrian access along the eastern Steele Street boundary is limited in width by the northern end of the cemetery fence enclosure. A low weldmesh fence is along the remaining Steele Street boundary. This weldmesh fence extends across the southern boundary and continues along the western boundary until it meets the previously mentioned single rail fence in the northern area of the reserve.

The 1.5m high timber picket fence which encloses the cemetery is intended to limit and control access. There is a entrance/gate into the cemetery on the northern side. Major entry to the cemetery is via the lych gate. These gates are locked at night and the current penalty of \$500 is noted on a warning sign for those who gain entry to the cemetery out of hours.

The fenced enclosure and warning sign have limited access to the cemetery and reduced to some extent the incidence of intentional and unintentional damage to grave monuments. However the fence and locked gates with the new security system have substantially reduced access at night when the cemetery has been subject to high degrees of vandalism.

Pedestrian circulation within the reserve is concentrated at the northern end. However formal paths leading to the lych gate and ornamental pond area do not cater adequately for existing pedestrian circulation.

Damage to grassed areas indicates a pattern of pedestrian lines and areas of concentrated use. A major pedestrian desire line runs along the outside of the cemetery fence east of an existing path which terminates at the lych gate.

Circulation within the cemetery is governed by a number of paths which survive from the early cemetery design and layout which provided a series of major axial paths across the site east to west and north to south. All surviving paths are grassed and there is no indication of any previous surface materials such as gravel (Refer Mays Hill Cemetery Conservation Plan).

Circulation in the southern portion of the reserve is unrestricted except for the tennis courts. Public use of the tennis courts is obtained by appointment only and is restricted otherwise by a chain mesh fence with locked gates.

Management issues associated with access and circulation are discussed in section 3.3.

2.7 Statutory Requirements

2.7.1 Local Government Act

The Local Government Act provides the legislative framework for a council's day to day operation. The Act emphasises a council's responsibility to actively manage land and to involve the community in developing a strategy for management. Of particular relevance is the requirement for all council property classified as Community lands to be categorised in accordance with the guidelines for the categorisation of community land (cl.6B-6JA). For lands categorised as Park, specific planning and management strategies are to be provided. Strategies must reinforce and reflect the core objectives for community land (s. 36E-N).

2.7.2 Categorisation

The following table provides a summary of the guidelines for categorisation and core objectives for community land categories which are setout in the Local Government (Community Land Amendment) Act 1998. The guidelines have been applied in the confirmation of categorisation as applicable to the Mays Hill Reserve. The core objectives must guide management of the land in accordance with it's inherent values

Category	Guidelines for Categorisation	Core Objectives for Community Land Categories
Park	• The land is used or proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, for use mainly for passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that do not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment on the land by others	 Encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities; Provide for passive recreational activities and pastimes and for the casual playing of games; Improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.



Figure 3: Categorisation

2.7.3 Crown Lands Act 1989

Holroyd City Council has been vested with trusteeship of the Crown land within the reserve, which was dedicated as public reserve in the 1880's. Council is required to manage the reserve in accordance with the Crown Lands Act, 1989. Succeeding with Plans of Management - A guide to the Local Government Act and Crown Lands Act, (Manidis Roberts 1996) identifies that a plan of management may be prepared for Crown land dedicated or reserved for public purposes.

Dedication of crown land is for public purposes only and its revocation requires each of the NSW Houses of Parliament to be notified with either House able to disallow the revocation by resolution. Reservation of land is more general. Crown land may be reserved from sale, lease or license for future public requirements or other public purpose. Reserves are created and revoked by notice in the NSW Government Gazette, following a previous public notice of intention to revoke. Both dedicated and reserved land may have further land added. A land assessment is generally required before Crown land can be dedicated or reserved.

The Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources reserve management philosophy directly relates to the principles of Crown land management which are listed in section 11 of the Crown Lands Act 1989. These principles affect all aspects of Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources activities and, specifically, the major elements of land assessment, reservation / dedication of land and preparing plans of management. The table below indicates how this plan of management satisfies the principles of Crown land management.

Principle of Crown land management	How this plan of management is consistent with the principles
a. Environmental protection principles be observed in relation to the management and administration of Crown land.	Preservation and improvement of the sites natural features are recommended.
b. The natural resources of Crown land (including water, soil, flora, fauna and scenic quality) be conserved wherever possible.	The flora, fauna and scenic quality of the reserve are to be protected and enhanced. Improvements of cemetery subsidence are proposed to improve the water and soil assets.
c. Public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown land be encouraged.	Continued use of the reserve for cemetery visitation, passive recreation (in cemetery and park surrounds) and active recreation (tennis and netball) are recommended.
d. Where appropriate, multiple use of Crown land be encouraged.	The reserve is publicly accessible at all times for passive and active recreation
e. Were appropriate, Crown land should be used and managed in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained in perpetuity.	Existing uses of the land are sustainable.
f. Crown land be occupied, used, sold, leased, licensed or otherwise dealt with in the best interests of the State consistent with the above principles.	This plan of management contains strategies that ensure that the land is used in the best interests of the state.

Additional requirements under the Act relating to plans of management are:

- The draft plan of management is to be provided to the Minister for Land and Water Conservation for comment.
- The draft plan of management shall be placed on public display for not less than 28 days to allow for submissions to be made on the plan of management.

2.8 Management

Management is the responsibility of Holroyd City Council with the assistance of the Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery Group and the Mays Hill Tennis Courts Local Committee. Management of the Mays Hill Cemetery was altered in the mid – 1990's in response to recommendations made in the Conservation Plan.

2.8.1 Holroyd City Council

Holroyd City Council has the primary management responsibility for Mays Hill Reserve. Council is responsible for coordinating the various interest groups as well as for the allocation of resources for the effective development of the Mays Hill Reserve. Council is also responsible for liaison with relevant authorities, and for coordination of the various maintenance activities. Management responsibilities are discussed further in Section 4.2.

2.8.2 The Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery

The rehabilitation and restoration of Mays Hill Cemetery is undertaken by Council in liaison with the Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery group which is made up of individuals from the local community and elsewhere who are interested in the project. This group acts as an advisory group to Council. The group works in conjunction with Holroyd City Council to ensure the effective restoration of the cemetery while representing the views of the broader community.

The Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery group was established to assist Council in the implementation of the Cemetery Conservation Plan and may also make recommendations to Council regarding the use of the reserve and future ground improvements.

The Friends of May Hill Cemetery Committee's role includes making recommendations on repair and restoration of monuments as well as canvassing community involvement in the care and conservation of the cemetery. The 'Friends' group looks to increase community involvement by ongoing implementation of the recommendations made in the Mays Hill Cemetery Conservation Plans (1990, 2003) including:

- public launch of a book on Mays Hill Cemetery (note The Parramatta Cemeteries MAYS HILL document produced by Parramatta and District Historical Society (1996)
- distribution of an updated brochure including a questionnaire to obtain public feedback
- correspondence with local schools and businesses to increase interest and to canvas possible sponsorship
- guided tours for visitor groups (based on special purpose scripts)
- interpretative material (note: the 2003 Conservation Plan provides an interpretation strategy outlining potential themes, content, and key messages)
- possible future involvement of community groups in maintenance of the cemetery following education on appropriate weeding methods
- preparation of education kits for schools

2.8.3 Mays Hill Tennis Court Committee

Use of the tennis courts by individuals and local school sports groups is overseen by the Tennis Courts Local Committee. The Tennis Court Committee consists of Councillors, residents and user group representatives.

2.9 Maintenance

2.9.1 Introduction

Maintenance of Mays Hill Reserve is the responsibility of Holroyd City Council and the Tennis Courts Committee. Maintenance in the cemetery is undertaken by Holroyd City Council in consultation with the Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery. The division of maintenance responsibility is as follows:

- Mays Hill Cemetery is generally maintained by a contractor engaged and supervised by Holroyd City Council.
- The tennis courts are routinely maintained by the Tennis Courts Committee
- The remainder of the reserve including the amenities block, netball court, tennis club building is maintained by Holroyd City Council.

2.9.2 Description of Activities

The maintenance responsibilities of various organisations involved in the reserve are summarised by the following:

Council's maintenance of the reserve includes:

- general maintenance and grass cutting is carried out on a fortnightly basis for two days each week
- garden bed maintenance and planting is carried out 3 days a week, for approximately 3 hours per day and all day when annuals are being planted
- the amenities block is cleaned daily on Monday to Friday and bins are emptied by the Street and Gutter Crew

Council's contractor maintenance of the cemetery includes:

- mowing of pathways and nominated adjoining areas between grave plots
- selective weed removal and spraying
- native grass management and seed collection

The Tennis Court Committee's maintenance of the tennis courts includes:

- minor maintenance
- general upkeep of tennis court surface and area around tennis club building
- informing Council of any maintenance and repair requirements

Maintenance issues associated with Mays Hill Cemetery were covered in detail in the Mays Hill Cemetery Conservation Plan and are discussed further in section 3.4.

2.9.3 Staffing

Council maintenance of Mays Hill Reserve is carried out by Council maintenance crews. The Landscape Crew consists of three Council employees. There is also a Street and Gutter Crew. Activities carried out by Council staff are listed in section 2.8.2.

Maintenance of the cemetery is currently carried out by contractors employed by Council. In the past government funded working schemes and voluntary work from community interest and service groups have contributed to maintenance of the cemetery.

Maintenance of the tennis courts is carried out using labour organised through the Tennis Court Committee.

2.10 Community Involvement

Community involvement in management of the cemetery is considered essential for the long-term success of this initiative. However Holroyd City Council recognises that any maintenance routine, which involves the community, needs to be carefully developed to ensure the protection of grave monuments, original cemetery planting and remnant native vegetation.

2.11 Funding

The majority of funding for general maintenance and improvement works at Mays Hill Reserve comes from rate revenue and section 94 funds. Maintenance of the tennis courts is generally funded by the Tennis Courts Committee from income made by hiring out the courts. Current and potential sources of funding for management and maintenance of the cemetery also include:

- the Heritage Council's 'Heritage Assistance Program'
- funding grants though the Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources
- previous insurance settlement for damage to memorials

2.12 Asset Register

Council's Asset Management Database (TAMS) includes the property details and a list of the facilities at the reserve. This register contains information on the various facilities condition, value and maintenance responsibility.

3. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

3.1 Introduction

The primary objective of this Plan of Management (POM) is to provide a framework for the future management of Mays Hill Reserve. Management of the reserve will be in line with Council's vision for the Holroyd Local Government Area as well as its objectives for land zoned 5(a) Special Uses and 6(a) Open Space, principles for Crown land management, and other objectives listed in this report.

This POM provides a basis for the ongoing care and development of Mays Hill Reserve in response to demand and funding availability. Funding will be a major factor determining the timing of implementation of actions identified in this POM.

3.2 Management Objectives

Council's management objectives for Mays Hill Reserve will remain in line with those adopted for all areas zoned 5(a) Special Uses and 6(a) Open Space as stated in section 2.6.2. In addition to those mentioned in section 1.2, Council's management objectives for Mays Hill Reserve include the following:

- provision of a safe and healthy environment that meets reasonable community expectations
- ongoing maintenance and replacement of existing Council assets
- maintenance of a visually attractive and pollution free environment
- management, development and conservation of man-made and natural resources
- provision of community services which are accessible to all sections of the community
- operation of the reserve in a manner that has minimal impact on adjoining landusers

As an important item of European significance identified in the Holroyd City Council area, Mays Hill Cemetery is listed in Council's Heritage Inventory Study, which was completed in 1992.

Specific management objectives for the cemetery are outlined in the Mays Hill Cemetery Conservation Plan 2003, which when adopted, is to be the focal management document in relation to the management of the cemetery portion of the reserve.

3.3 Access and Circulation

This Plan of Management aims to address the need for convenient and safe access and circulation throughout the reserve.

Vehicular and pedestrian conflict is a minor issue around the tennis court area. As discussed in section 2.6.3 there is no clear definition for vehicles entering the area from the gateway on Napier Street. The western boundary of the driveway needs to be clearly defined to prevent cars parking in front of the tennis courts and encourage use of the adjacent car park.

Access for disabled persons needs to be improved through the provision of disabled parking bays as well as suitably designed ramps and pathways. In order to provide adequate access to toilet facilities, the existing amenity blocks would need to be significantly altered. The feasibility of carrying out such alterations should be investigated. The design of access for disabled persons should be in keeping with the heritage theme of the reserve and associated buildings.

Pedestrian access from the parking bays adjoining Steele Street should be upgraded. Installation of a pathway leading from the gateway adjacent to the carpark and linking with the existing paved paths will improve access. The existing main pathways (including the path from Franklin St) should be widened.

Pedestrian circulation in the northern formal garden area is defined by a series of pathways. As discussed in section 2.6.3 some of the major pedestrian desire lines do not follow the existing paths resulting in wear and tear on grassed areas. Extension and possible widening of the present path system is recommended particularly along the cemetery fence east of the lych gate.

3.4 **Provision of Facilities**

Facilities provided at Mays Hill Reserve have been developed in accordance with Council's objectives to suit the needs of a large range of user groups. A number of issues still need to be addressed including:

- ongoing repair of threatened grave monuments (only where sufficient resources are available to carry out works in accordance with 2003 Conservation Management Plan)
- ongoing repair of damaged grave monuments (only where sufficient resources are available to carry out works in accordance with 2003 Conservation Management Plan)
- reconstruction of significant timber and concrete monuments and surrounds (only where sufficient resources are available to carry out works in accordance with 2003 Conservation Management Plan)
- replacement of existing masonry and timber fence with masonry and steel fence as outlined in 2003 Conservation Management Plan
- provision of interpretive elements (within reserve area) related to key interpretation themes fence as outlined in 2003 Conservation Management Plan
- educational material such as brochures on the cemetery's maintenance strategy
- educational material for schools
- interpretative material including cemetery signage
- subsidence within the cemetery
- effective maintenance of worn grassed areas in northern area of reserve
- phased removal of ornamental pond features immediately when infrastructure fails / is of poor visual quality due to non-sustainable upkeep of these elements
- provision of recycling bins to separate garbage at its source

The retention in situ and conservation of monuments and grave furniture within Mays Hill Cemetery is a key recommendation of the Mays Hill Conservation Plan. The plan prioritised repair of grave monuments by recommending the urgent repair of threatened monuments over repair of monuments already damaged.

Within the cemetery there are a number of threatened and damaged monuments as a result of vandalism, aging, subsidence and unintentional damage eg. 'whipper snipper' damage to masonry, unsupervised weeding. Removal of vegetation also has in some cases exposed the headstones and increased the risk of damage.

The previous Conservation Plans (1990 / 2003) noted that approximately 33-35% of monuments were damaged. It also noted that once monuments have lost their structural integrity deterioration usually increases and 'in many cases the longer a damaged monument remains in disrepair the more difficult the repair becomes' (Godden Mackay, 1990).

In general terms the 2003 plan identifies that restoration works which should be implemented as soon as possible where adequate resources enable works to be planned and undertaken in accordance with the plan, relevant Australian standards and heritage controls and by qualified specialists.

The Conservation Plans recommend not only repair of threatened and damaged monuments but also reconstruction of significant timber and concrete monuments. According to the Plan 'all new work or fabric should be compatible with the existing fabric and qualities of the site, and should enhance or recover significant attributes.'

Educational material outlining preferred methods of maintenance will reduce the incidence of unintentional damage to monuments. In addition this material should include information on the original planting in the cemetery as well as remnant indigenous vegetation present on grave sites.

The provision of interpretive material such as brochure and signage will heighten the community's appreciation of the heritage and landscape values of the cemetery. Education kits for use by schools are also recommended.

The 1990 Conservation Plan identified a subsidence problem at Mays Hill Cemetery which is destabilising grave monuments and contributing to the number of threatened and damaged items requiring repair. Holroyd City Council has progressively addressed this issue by reviewing watering regimes in the garden areas.

Grassed areas which are worn due to concentration of pedestrian activity or shade from tree canopy are an important visual and maintenance issue in the northern portion of the reserve. It is recommended that Council consider a range of solutions in areas of heavy pedestrian traffic including;

- extending the path system to incorporate desire lines in conjunction with potential interpretation of former cemetery site fabric,
- mulched beds under large shade trees,
- paving under benches and tables,
- relocating bins to paved areas where appropriate,
- periodically fencing off heavily worn areas
- extra maintenance/irrigation of grass.

The ornamental pond and fountain located to the north of the cemetery are 1980 additions to the park infrastructure and potentially impact on interpretation of previous site use. These facilities require regular maintenance and cleaning to ensure that they maintain their aesthetic and functional appeal. It is recommended that these features be maintained in the short term, and phased out in the long term when the cost of their upkeep becomes unsustainable.

As part of Holroyd City Council's commitment to recycling, special bins are recommended for both aluminium cans and glass bottles in the northern garden area and at the tennis courts.

3.5 Health and Safety Issues

There are relatively few health and safety issues identified at Mays Hill Reserve. Concern from local residents has primarily focussed on issues of security and vandalism. Following are the two main health and safety issues identified at Mays Hill Reserve:

- vandalism and graffiti, particularly within the cemetery at night
- lack of security within all areas of the reserve at night due to activity in cemetery

Vandalism and graffiti, primarily within the cemetery, has posed a major problem for many years and has led to considerable damage to grave monuments. Past attempts to limit access (see section 2.6.3) have not succeeded in preventing intentional damage to headstones.

Holroyd City Council recognises the need to adopt measures to prevent the occurrence of vandalism and graffiti. Council has investigated recommendations made in the Conservation Plan (1990) aimed at improving security.

In 1996 Council installed a night lighting system which is activated by infra-red and movement detectors which are linked to overhead floodlights and Councils security service. This system has led to a decrease in the incidence of graffiti and vandalism.

The Mays Hill Cemetery Conservation Plan suggested the possible removal of the lych gate for security reasons. Removal of the lych gate and timber picket fence may be considered in the long term due to conflict with heritage fabric.

Other strategies being undertaken by Council to prevent or decrease the incidence of vandalism and graffiti at Mays Hill Reserve include:

- encouragement of community participation in management and maintenance
- liaison with local police
- retention of uninterrupted views into the reserve from surrounding streets by minimising structures and planting that may block views
- Council staff to respond to information given by the public
- implementation of a community education and awareness campaign

Encouraging the involvement of the community in reporting the presence of suspicious activity within the reserve and also reporting damage to grave monuments, is a valuable resource. This strategy should be further developed by Council in collaboration with the Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery and the police. Signs or brochures in the reserve which provide a contact number for reporting the occurrence of vandalism may also be considered.

In the event of vandalism or graffiti resulting in damage the following methods are recommended:

- damage to monuments to be reported to Council's Engineering Services Department
- any repair work to damaged headstones to be undertaken in line with recommendations made in the Mays Hill Cemetery Conservation Plan and under the direction of Council's consultant archaeologist
- it should be noted that removal of graffiti from headstones should be undertaken in line with recommendations made in the Mays Hill Cemetery Conservation Plan and be undertaken with caution since the removal of paint may cause considerable damage to stonework.

3.6 Landscape Improvements

3.6.1 Introduction

New planting in and around the cemetery, particularly of major landscape elements, should extend the existing landscape setting and design. New planting should exclude self seeding and invasive species such as Camphor laurels and *Acacia* sp likely to cause maintenance problems within the cemetery.

The 1990 Conservation Plan recommended that the original evergreen perimeter planting surrounding the cemetery be reinstated and reinforced using a non-invasive species such as *Lophostemon confertus* (Brush Box). Formal avenue planting of this species could replace the original perimeter planting of Camphor laurels which provided a strong planting framework. (Godden Mackay 1990).

The 1990 Conservation Plan also recommended the reconstruction of missing landscape elements from the cemetery, however the 2003 Conservation Plan suggests that the "introduction of new fabric into the Mays Hill Cemetery should be minimised".

Key recommendations of the 2003 Conservation Plan related to landscape management are listed

3.6.2 The Cemetery

Pathways existing grass areas:

- Grass pathways and significant adjoining areas (as outlined on map L2 in 2003 Conservation Plan be maintained in accordance with standard grass maintenance
- All native grass areas to be conserved and transplanted / planted from seed where appropriate
- Powerline trimming shall not be used in the cemetery

Existing grassed areas

- 2 'Blady Grass" and other native grass cover to be conserved as dominant ground cover
- 3 The protection and regeneration of species known to be regionally significant and/or vulnerable is of high priority. These species are to be managed in accordance with the Threatened species Conservation Act, 1995.

Trees

- 4 All mature trees shall be retained
- 5 Trees or large shrubs should not be allowed to establish on monuments

Weeds

• Weed management in accordance with 2003 Conservation Plan and related map L6

Traditional grave plantings

- 6 Grave plantings including naturalised offspring of original plants should comprise a variety of ornamental annuals, bulbs, perennials, climbers, groundcovers and shrubs both native and exotic
- 7 Gravesite plantings may be maintained in a state of controlled overgrowth provided that this does not cause structural damage
- 8 Current species diversity to be maintained subject to further research those species known to have been formerly present may be reinstated

Roses

• Ongoing monitoring of existing roses as outlined in 2003 Conservation Plan to continue

New elements

- In general new elements should not be introduced to the cemetery
- Some existing newer elements (perimeter fence) may be progressively replaced with more appropriate structures

3.6.3 Adjoining reserve areas

Planting to adjoining reserve areas is not subject to the same extent of limitation / control as within the cemetery but never the less should respect and compliment its relationship to the cemetery.

In the southern area of the reserve it is recommended that the existing planting framework be supplemented using tree species that are already present in the reserve. Any additional shrub planting around the tennis courts should continue the native theme already commenced on the western side of the courts. Suggested native species include those already used as well as those listed as growing within the cemetery, including native grasses. Further extension of shrub screening along Napier Street should make use of existing species such as Photinia glabra 'Rubens'.

Planting to stabilise the embankment behind the tennis courts should also be considered. This planting should be small in scale and compatible with the existing open grassed character of the area. Planting of native grasses are suggested.

3.6.4 Recommended Species

(A) North/North-West Zone (Formal Garden Area)

Trees

Eucalyptus spp, Lophostemon confertus

(B) Cemetery Planting

Refer 2003 Conservation Plan

(C) Southern Zone

Trees

Eucalyptus maculata

Shrubs and Grasses

Bursaria spinosa, Callistemon spp, Grevillea spp, Raphiolepis indica, Senecio spp, Themeda australis.

3.7 Planning Issues

3.7.1 Introduction

The Mays Hill Reserve POM has been influenced by various planning issues which relate not only to the reserve itself but also to the surrounding areas. These include:

- adjoining landuse
- heritage listings
- major road developments

The character of the surrounding urban areas is expected to continue to change over time. It is therefore important to ensure that these changes do not adversely affect the function and amenity of Mays Hill Reserve.

Whilst most of the planning issues identified in the following sections are under the direct control of Holroyd City Council, some involve other organisations, such as the RTA, the Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources, the National Trust, and the various service authorities. Council will need to communicate with these organisations when any of their proposed works impact on the reserve.

3.7.2 Adjoining Land Use

In accordance with existing legislative requirements, owners of land adjoining the reserve will need to be consulted before any major park improvements works are undertaken. Also, through Council liaison with adjoining land users, several land management issues can be addressed. These include:

- reduction in the incidence of vandalism within the cemetery
- ongoing maintenance of the cemetery
- weed growth

3.7.3 Heritage Listings

Mays Hill Cemetery is heritage listed with the following authorities:

- National Estate (Federal Government)
- National Trust Register (non government)
- Holroyd LEP 1991

Planning and management of the cemetery must therefore be in accordance with the requirements of these listings and with relevant policies ie the Burra Charter of Australia (ICOMOS) and the Cemeteries Policy of the National Trust of Australia (NSW).

3.7.4 Major Road Developments

The RTA controls the Great Western Highway which runs along the northern boundary of the reserve. As mentioned earlier in the report, The Liverpool to Parramatta Transitway (a bus-only transitway between Liverpool and Parramatta) along the Great Western Highway boundary, but is expected to have minimal affect on visual or recreational amentity.

3.7.5 Interpretation

The 2003 Conservation Plan incorporates an interpretive strategy developed in accordance with the guidelines of the Burra Charter ICOMOS aimed encapsulating the significance of the cemetery for the people of Holroyd and the wider Parramatta and District region.

Recommendations include:

- on-site interpretive and directional signage;
- publications such as maps and booklets;
- outdoor interpretive displays (related to cemetery burials) in adjoining park areas;
- interpretive planting displays;
- web site; and
- teachers resources.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Introduction

While the existing management structure of Mays Hill Reserve has been effective in the care and control of this important recreation and historic resource, future management decisions will need to be addressed in the context of this POM. Implementation of the Mays Hill Reserve POM will be an ongoing process that will proceed in response to community expectations, user requirements, availability of funding and other circumstances as they arise.

4.2 Management Structure

The management and development of Mays Hill Reserve will require the cooperation of major interest and user groups. It is therefore essential to have a clear definition of management responsibilities as well as the involvement of a range of people with the necessary management skills and experience. These groups and their respective responsibilities are summarised below.

a. Holroyd City Council

- ultimate responsibility for development and management of Mays Hill Reserve (including Mays Hill Cemetery) in consultation with the Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources (as land owner) and the Holroyd City community.
- budget allocation for development and maintenance of Mays Hill Reserve including Mays Hill Cemetery
- allocation of resources (financial, human and physical) for effective development of the Mays Hill Reserve including Mays Hill Cemetery
- assessment of applications for development of any commercial recreation facilities
- liaison with authorities that have responsibilities relevant to the development and management of infrastructure and services associated with the Mays Hill Reserve eg: RTA, Police and Sydney Water
- maintenance of Mays Hill Reserve, landscape works and recreation facilities
- nomination of Council officers who are responsible for the implementation of the Mays Hill Cemetery Conservation Plan
- liaison with the National Trust and Australian Heritage Commission to ensure appropriate management of Mays Hill Cemetery
- liaison with Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery group and the Tennis Courts Committee

b. Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery group

- seeking opinions, expectations and needs of community in relation to Mays Hill Cemetery
- providing advice to Council on the requirements of the community as well as those of relevant authorities and organisations
- coordinating with Council on interpretation of the heritage value of the cemetery though appropriate initiatives including signage, publications and education kits for schools
- coordinating uses of the cemetery by special user groups, including arranging special tours
- reporting to Council on management of the cemetery

- advising Council on a prioritised program of headstone restoration
- identifying sources of funding to supplement the annual budget allocation by Council
- monitoring and reporting on maintenance requirements
- liaising with community interest groups associated with other cemeteries eg the Gore Hill Cemetery Trust, and advising Council of recommendations on maintenance and management which may be applied at Mays Hill Cemetery
- reporting vandalism and misuse of the cemetery to Council and recommending actions to prevent these.

c. Mays Hill Tennis Courts Local Committee

- seeking opinions, expectations and needs of community in relation to the tennis courts
- providing advice to Council on the requirements of the community as well as those of relevant authorities and organisations
- reporting to Council on development and management of the tennis courts
- providing funding to supplement the annual budget allocation by Council to upgrade facilities
- monitoring and reporting on maintenance requirements
- coordinating uses of the tennis courts by special user groups, including bookings and fee collection
- reporting vandalism and misuse of the tennis courts to Council and recommending actions to prevent these.

It is proposed that these groups will work together in implementing the development and ongoing maintenance of Mays Hill Reserve. The relationship between these groups is illustrated in the following diagram.

d. The Community

- reporting maintenance requirements and vandalism to Holroyd City Council, the Police or to Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery group and the Tennis Courts Committee where applicable
- presentation of requests and proposals to Council and/or Committees where applicable for development or upgrading of facilities in Mays Hill Reserve and Mays Hill Cemetery.



4.3 Funding

The timing for implementation of this POM will be directly dependent on the availability of funding. Such funding is required to cover capital expenditure as well as recurrent costs for repairs and maintenance.

In allocating funds to Mays Hill Reserve including the Mays Hill Cemetery, Holroyd City Council needs to consider such expenditure within the context of its overall annual budget limits and priorities.

Management of Mays Hill Cemetery should reflect its heritage value. The Mays Hill Cemetery Conservation Plan recommended that funding for repair and landscape reinstatement in the cemetery should be the joint responsibility of the Crown, the relatives of the deceased and the local community.

Current and potential sources of funding for management and maintenance of the cemetery include the Heritage Council and the Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources.

Section 94 contributions provide a source of potential funds for capital improvements within Mays Hill Reserve. These funds are generated by the contributions of developers involved in new development. They are intended to increase the capacity of public facilities to cater for the expected population increase resulting from the new urban development. This source of funds directly depends on the rate of development and hence may fluctuate significantly.

Maintenance of the tennis courts is funded by the Tennis Courts Committee from income derived from hiring the courts. Local Committees are encouraged to set fees that will provide income for improvements in addition to meeting service charges such as water and electricity costs and minor maintenance costs. Accrued funds are then available for the future reconstruction of some facilities and further improvements to the tennis complex. The Tennis Courts Local Committee annual budgets should include provision of funds for such improvements.

A full schedule of all fees being charged by the committee must be submitted to Council annually for confirmation. These fees will be checked against Council's minimum fees to ensure compliance.

Funding the recurrent cost of repairs and maintenance for the reserve is provided through Council's annual budget. Council's annual budget allocation for parks is aimed at achieving a satisfactory level of maintenance in all parks.

4.4 Priorities

In order to provide a framework within which to implement this POM, a prioritised schedule of actions has been prepared. Prioritisation of works will assist Council to allocate the financial, human and physical resources required for implementation of the POM. Recommendations made in the 1997 Plan of Management and 2003 Conservation Plan have been incorporated into the schedule.

The following criteria should be used in the annual review to determine the priority of proposed activities within the reserve.

H- High Priority

- safety issues in situations where there is a high probability of injury occurring
- work needed to ensure the essential function of the reserve is not compromised
- work needed to ensure the protection of the heritage value of Mays Hill Cemetery including conservation and protection of grave monuments
- work needed to eliminate and/or reduce severe environmental problems : (erosion, water pollution,) in line with the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act and Soil Conservation Act.

M- Moderate Priority

- ongoing preventative and remedial maintenance of existing assets in the Mays Hill Reserve
- work needed to ameliorate adverse environmental conditions: (shade planting, screen planting, noise intrusion, pedestrian circulation and access)
- work aimed at protecting and conserving the original planting in the cemetery
- work aimed at protecting and conserving remnant indigenous vegetation in Mays Hill Cemetery
- works aimed at reducing ongoing maintenance costs

L- Low Priority

- works aimed at improving the aesthetic quality of the reserve
- works aimed at enhancing habitat values in areas associated with the reserve.

The above criteria may require modification over time in response to special circumstances as well as changing community attitudes and expectations.

Implementation Schedule

The following Schedule lists each proposed management action, giving it a priority rating in accordance with the criteria above. Each activity is also listed against a performance indicator and its current status is noted.

The status ratings are as follows:

O- Ongoing - this denotes activities which are carried out on an ongoing basis as required and as funds permit.

P-Proposed - these activities have been proposed by the Plan of Management, but work on these activities has not commenced

Co-Commenced - this refers to proposed activities for which work has already begun

Cp-Complete- this refers to activities which have been completed (their performance indicators have been fulfilled). Some recommendations of the 1990 Mays Hill Cemetery Conservation Plan and 1997 POM have been completed but have been listed to provide a consolidated schedule.

ACTIVITY	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY	PERFORMANCE	STATUS
			INDICATOR	
Landscape Works				
Develop more appropriate planting	Н	HCC/FMHC	Improved planting	Р
scheme for cemetery*			scheme for cemetery	
Collection, propagation, and	М	HCC/FMHC	Improved cemetery	О
transplanting of existing cemetery plant			plantings	
species*				
Conserve original traditional cemetery	Н	HCC/FMHC	Original species	О
planting within graves			conserved	
Conserve remnant indigenous species	Н	HCC/FMHC	Original species	О
within cemetery			conserved	
Reinforce traditional cemetery plantings	М	HCC/FMHC	New planting of	Co
within graves			traditional species	
Regenerate remnant indigenous species	М	HCC/FMHC	New planting of	Со
within cemetery			remnant species	
Conserve and reinforce original major	М	HCC	Cohesive evergreen	0
cemetery planting eg perimeter planting			planting	
Reinforce landscape tree planting	L	HCC	Missing landscape	Р
elements to perimter of reserve and for			elements	
shade planting				
Carry out planting along tennis court	L	HCC	Native grasses and	Р
embankment			shrubs planted	
Access and Circulation				
Improve access for disabled persons	М	HCC	Increased	Р
			accessibility	
Define boundary of driveway adjacent to	L	HCC	Vehicular access	Р
tennis courts			controlled	
Extend and widen existing path system	L	HCC	Path system	Р
in northern section of the reserve			upgraded	
Site Facilities				
More sympathetic treatment of cemetery	М	HCC/FMHC	Sympathetic	0
ironwork and timber*			treatment of	
			monuments	
Repair of threatened monuments	М	HCC/FMHC	Threatened	Со
1			monuments	
			repaired	
Repair of damaged monuments	М	HCC/FMHC	Monuments repaired	Со
Reconstruction of significant timber and	L	HCC/FMHC	Monuments	P
concrete monuments	_		reconstructed	-
Upgrade of worn grassed areas in	L	HCC	Grass die-back	Р
northern area possibly including	_		reduced	-
mulched areas				
Install recycling bins around amenities	L	HCC	Separation on-site of	Р
block and tennis courts	2		recyclables	

ACTIVITY	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY	PERFORMANCE	STATUS
			INDICATOR	
Interpretation and Education			C' ' 11 1	D
Erect interpretive information sign*	H	HCC/FMHC	Sign installed	P
Implement interpretive strategy and	М	HCC/FMHC	Recommended	Р
recommendations*			works carried out	
Obtain specialist advice on cemetery	М	HCC/FMHC	Specialist report	Р
surrounds*				
Prepare cemetery education kits for	М	HCC/FMHC	Public appreciation	Р
schools*			of cemetery	
Arrange tours of cemetery	М	HCC/FMHC	Public appreciation	О
			of cemetery	
Provide interpretative material for	М	HCC/FMHC	Signs erected;	Р
cemetery including signage and			brochures provided	
brochures			on site available	
Prepare educational material on cemetery	М	HCC/FMHC	High level of public	Со
maintenance techniques and protected			awareness of issues	
plantings eg brochures			etc.	
Health and Safety				
Install locked gates	Н	HCC	Access controlled	Ср
Provide security lighting around	Н	HCC	Reduction in	Ср
cemetery			vandalism and	-
-			graffiti in cemetery	
Control of cemetery access enforcement	Н	HCC	Reduction in	О
measures - patrols/signage			vandalism and	
			graffiti in cemetery	
Encourage public reporting of vandalism	М	HCC/FMHC	Reduction in	Р
with signs and brochures with contact		·	vandalism and	
numbers			graffiti in cemetery	
Stabilise soil subsidence	М	HCC	Grave monuments	0
			stabilised	-
Monitor the need to remove lych gate	L	HCC	Monitoring carried	0
	2		out	C
Monitor drainage at base of tennis court	L	HCC/TCC	Reduction in	0
embankment and upgrade if necessary	L	nee/ nee	drainage flow below	0
embankment and upgrade in necessary			embankment	
Managamant				
Management	тт			
Review and adopt 2003 Conservation	Н	HCC/CL/FMHC	Adoption of plan	Р
Plan*	тт		S	
Liaison with FMHC and others as	Н	HCC/FMHC	Successful	0
necessary (including one off projects).			completion of	
Support of FMHC (administrative and			projects	
financial)*			.	
Commence monitoring of roses*	Н	HCC	Improvement in	О
			overall rose	
			condition	

ACTIVITY	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	STATUS
Management (continued)				
Monitor condition of site*	Н	HCC/FMHC/TCC	Raised community awareness	0
Transfer trusteeship of cemetery to HCC	Н	HCC/CL	Transfer of trusteeship	Ср
Establish a cemetery advisory group	Н	HCC	Advisory group established	Ср
Prepare new by-laws for cemetery	Н	HCC	Protection of cemetery	Р
Apply for funding for cemetery	Н	HCC/FMHC	Ongoing funding	0
Liaison with Police/Neighbourhood Watch	Н	HCC/FMHC	Reduction in vandalism and graffiti in cemetery	Ο
Attract sponsorship for publication of a cemetery history and record	L	HCC/FMHC	Book publication	Ср
Contact families of the deceased in cemetery	L	HCC/FMHC	Public involvement/ funding donations	О
Maintenance				
Continuing regular maintenance of cemetery by contractor*	Н	HCC	Cemetery maintained	О
Implement minor changes to site management practices as per 2003 Conservation Plan*	Н	HCC	Improvement in maintenance standards	Ο
Continued staged cemetery repairs in accordance with 2003 Conservation Plan*	Н	HCC/FMHC	Improved cemetery condition	0
Continued regular maintenance and monitoring of Security Lighting System	Н	НСС	Lighting system maintained	О
Remove invasive weeds from cemetery	Н	HCC/FMHC	Weed removal	0
Maintain ornamental pond and fountain (until such time as they are removed – when infrastructure requires replacement)	М	HCC	Pond and fountain adequately maintained until removal	0
Maintain turf in northern area of reserve	М	HCC	Turf adequately maintained	0
Maintain amenities building	М	HCC/TCC	Building adequately maintained	О
Carry out preventative and remedial maintenance	М	HCC/TCC	Reserve adequately maintained	О
Reduce maintenance costs	М	HCC/TCC	Maintenance costs reduced	0

Abbreviations

- HCC -Holroyd City Council
- FMHC Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery
- TCC Tennis Courts Committee
- CL Crown Lands Department
- * indicates action as recommended in the 2003 Conservation Management Plan

The preceding schedule should be reviewed annually for the purpose of scheduling works for inclusion in Council's annual works programme, as well as for monitoring of performance indicators.

4.5 Staffing

The current level of staffing at Mays Hill Reserve is adequate to maintain an acceptable quality of recreational experience. If however, maintenance regimes are altered or new facilities added then additional staff may be required to maintain this current standard.

Development of new facilities as well as extensive works in the cemetery could be carried out by contractors engaged by Council where identified as being appropriate.

4.6 Commercial Development Opportunities

Holroyd City Council has no current plans for development of commercial facilities within Mays Hill Reserve. Such development would be constrained by the limited amount of undeveloped land available as well as the heritage value of the cemetery.

The Council is not currently considering any applications submitted by private or community organisations to develop commercial facilities within the reserve.

4.7 Easements, Leases and Licences

Licences and leases are used to formalise the use of land by groups such as sporting or recreation clubs and organisations or individuals providing facilities or services for public use. The Ministers consent is required for easements, leases or licences over Crown Land.

4.8 Plan of Management Review

As noted in section 4.4, priority works will be considered by Council each year for budgeting and setting of implementation targets as well as for consideration of the works as needed or determined.

In addition to these annual assessments, a review of this POM will be carried out when necessary to update the plan to reflect any changing circumstances and community needs.

5. APPENDIXA2003 SITE IMAGES

Cemetery



























Southern Park







