



SHIRE OF
HARVEY

Cemetery Strategy

2022 - 2027

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Shire of Harvey acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders both past and present.

Introduction

The strategy has been developed to examine current service provisions and management procedures and consider options for the future provision of cemetery services in the Shire of Harvey.

The Shire currently operates four cemeteries each presenting different management challenges.

Taking into consideration the evolution of the cemetery and funeral industry and local government's important role in the provision of services and facilities, the need to establish a long-term direction for the care, control and management of cemeteries is recognised, as well as the ongoing expectations of procedural and operational improvements.

In line with the purpose of the strategy, a number of conclusions have been drawn and subsequent recommendations made to provide a clear and consistent direction for the planning, management and operation of the existing cemeteries in the Shire.

Shire of Harvey

The Shire covers an area of approximately 1,700 square kilometres and is located in the South West Region of Western Australia, about 140 kilometers south of the Perth metropolitan area. The Shire is bounded by the Shire of Waroona in the north, the Shires of Boddington and Collie in the east, the Shire of Dardanup and the City of Bunbury in

the south, and the Indian Ocean in the west.

Prior to European settlement Western Australia's South West was home to 13 socio-dialectal groups who shared traditions and a common language with local variations. These groups, known collectively as Nyungar encompassed a triangle from Jurien Bay in the north to Esperance in the southeast.

European settlement in the Shire dates from the 1840s. Land was used mainly for dairy farming, grazing and orcharding. Growth took place during the late 1800s and early 1900s, spurred by the establishment of townships, the opening of the railway line from Perth, irrigation and growth in the timber industry.

From 1911 the population of the Shire slowly increased rising to about 12,000 in 1991 increasing to over 22,000 in 2011 with most of the new development occurring in Australind and Leschenault. The current population (2021 census) is in excess of 28,000 and growth is expected to continue due to economic growth in the industrial, commercial and service industries.

The Shire of Harvey is largely rural, with growing rural-residential and residential areas in several townships. The largest towns are Australind and Leschenault, with smaller townships at Harvey Binningup, Brunswick Junction, Cookernup and Yarloop.

Rural land is used mainly for dairy farming, beef farming, citrus fruit growing, market gardening and timber production, with some viticulture.



Purpose

The purpose of preparing the Shire of Harvey 'the Shire' Cemetery Strategy 'the Strategy' is to assess the Shire's existing cemeteries and develop a holistic approach in developing a strategic direction to achieve the economic, social, environmental and cultural/historical needs of the Shire both now, and into the future.

Shire of Harvey Cemeteries

The Shire is the main provider of cemetery space and services in the Harvey district and as with most areas, the Shire is the key service provider and an integral stakeholder in the planning, development and operation of cemeteries and their associated services.

Objectives

The following objectives have been identified to guide the development of the Strategy.

1

Identify current status of existing cemeteries in terms of usage and remaining life

2

Review Cemetery Management Guidelines where required

3

Heritage/Family History/Signage

4

Review cemetery based fees and charges

5

Identify Amenity/Expansion/Infrastructure Improvements

Current Status and Remaining Life

There are currently four cemeteries in the Shire as discussed below.

Old Harvey Cemetery

The Old Harvey Cemetery, located at Lot 111 South Western Highway, Harvey is approximately 1.0km from the Harvey town centre and was established in 1916 for the early settlers in and around the Harvey district (Refer Figure 1).

The cemetery is entered through an open gateway with brick piers and an unsealed driveway and is enclosed by green railings. It is set within a semi-bush setting with a few trees and bushes scattered around the cemetery itself and the boundaries surrounded by dense

planting. Two formal rose gardens also form part of the space. The original cemetery had separate Roman Catholic and Church of England sites however for the past 50 years, the cemetery became a resting place for people from outside the district of all religious denominations.

Approximately 1,231 persons are currently interned there and today the site is mainly used for burials with reservations or current 'Grant of Right' holders. While there are currently no new plots available, families who wish to be interned at the site without a re-open or prior reservation would be accommodated with depositing ashes at one of the garden areas.



Figure 1: Aerial of Old Harvey Cemetery

Australind Cemetery

The Australind Cemetery located at Lot 377 Old Coast Road, Australind was established in 1842 and is set within native bushland with a range of gravestones including simple headstones to the more elaborately designed stones. The burial area is located on a hill with extensive limestone capstone limiting the remaining burial capacity to approximately 32 double interments and 12 for single graves only (refer Figure 2).

The cemetery is divided into two sections with a separate pioneer area marked by an archway. The headstone of Anne Bishop Rose, a simple roughly hewn piece of granite and brass plaque is set within its own timber and stone enclosure. Approximately 167 persons are currently buried in both the historical burial area and the new area. The site also contains a niche wall with capacity of 306 compartments (with 261 currently available).

The car park is at the foot of the natural path that leads into the cemetery winding its way through a wooded environment. The gateway is marked by two rendered columns, each of which have

plaques bearing the names of those who are laid to rest within the cemetery. Adjacent to the entry is more recent construction of a niche wall with small brass name plaques. Due to the existence of limestone cap rock limiting the life of the Cemetery, alternative options such as niche rock area/s created as natural memorials could be considered on the site.

The Australind and Districts Historical Society were active in assisting the Shire with maintenance works at the Australind cemetery until 2018. They funded and erected the existing archway to the pioneer section and placed the marble plaques on the arches, constructed the niche wall, arranged the entrance sign and the white fencing at the entrance. They also marked all the known graves in the Pioneer section with numbers and obsolete metal surrounds obtained from the Karrakatta cemetery. A booklet on the Australind Cemetery was prepared by the society

In addition, 'HarveyHistoryOnline' has a list of burials on it's website, which is updated regularly with assistance from Shire Officers.



Figure 2: Aerial of Australind Cemetery

Cookernup Cemetery

The Cookernup Cemetery comprises a bushland cemetery surrounded by dense planting and is located next to Rose Street, Cookernup. The Cemetery, which was established in 1898 for the settlers in and around the Cookernup district (refer Figure 3) has a number of burials options available. The cemetery comprises a variety of grave

stones ranging from the simple headstone to the more elaborately carved headstone.

The original cemetery had separate Catholic and Church of England sites. For the past 50 or so years, however, the cemetery has also become the resting place for people from outside the district and those of all religious denominations.

The remaining burial capacity is for approximately 100 interments mainly in Roman Catholic section.



Figure 3: Aerial of Cookernup Cemetery

In 2021, the Shire converted the existing storage shed on the site to a niche wall comprising 80 double niches (160 interments)

and 40 single niches increasing the interment capacity at this site to 300 (refer Figure 4).



Figure 4: Before and After Cookernup Cemetery Niche Wall

Harvey Lawn Cemetery

The Harvey lawn Cemetery is the newest of the Shire cemeteries established in 1973 and is located along Forestry Road in Uduc. The Cemetery has a number of interment options

available including burial, niche wall and three rose gardens (refer Figure 5). Approximately 736 persons are currently buried on the site. The site also contains a niche wall with capacity of 306 niches (with 194 currently available) and three rose gardens (with 50 available).



Figure 5: Aerial shot of Harvey Lawn Cemetery

Private Burials – Springhill Private Cemetery and other sites

Private cemetery at Springhill Homestead located at 98 Springhill Road in Parkfield, is for the family of Benjamin Piggott. The interment area is in the north-western corner of the remaining estate fenced off and surrounded on the north-west by remnant native vegetation. The graves are laid out in symmetrical rows facing east-west with simple stone carved headstones, and there is a limestone niche wall in the center with engraved

plaques (refer Figures 6, 7 and 8). The Shire does not have any involvement in the interment nor does it have records of this Cemetery. There are currently 35 internments of this site.

Funeral Directors will be requested to provide the Shire with the details of any new burials on the site.

In addition, internments exist at the Leschanult Catholic Church and at the St Nicholas Historical Church in Australind.



Figures 6, 7 and 8: Springhill Private Cemetery

Deaths and Interment Statistics

From 2017 to 2021 the total number of deaths in the Shire of Harvey (data provided by Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages) are shown in the following table.

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average number of Deaths per Annum
126	113	136	153	149	135

The following statistics for interments at Shire cemeteries are at 31 December 2021.

Burials

Cemetery	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average number of Burials per Annum
Old Harvey	2	1	1	2	3	1.8
Australind	3	4	1	4	3	3
Cookernup	0	0	0	0	3	0.6
Harvey Lawn	20	15	20	25	11	18.2
Total	25	20	22	31	20	23.6

Placement of Ashes

Cemetery	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average number of Placement of ashes per Annum
Australind Niche	2	1	3	2	3	2.2
Harvey Lawn (Rose Garden)	7	5	5	2	6	5
Harvey Lawn (Niche)	1	4	2	0	0	1.4
Total	10	10	10	4	9	8.6

Total Internments

All	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average number of Total Internments per Annum
Total Interments	35	30	32	35	29	32.2

Available Interments (December 2021)

Cemetery	Burial	Rose	Niche	Total	2021
Old Harvey*	0	n/a	n/a	0	3
Australind**	44	n/a	259	303	3
Cookernup***	100	n/a	200	300	3
Harvey Lawn****	140	50	194	384	11
Total	284	50	653	987	20

Note:

* No new plots available only used for reservations and/or current Grant of Right holders.

** Approximately 35 double interments and 10 for single graves only.

*** Interments mainly in Roman Catholic section.

**** There is scope for substantial expansion on this site for both burials, rose gardens and Niche.

Life Remaining

Burials

Cemetery	Average Interments	Available	Life remaining
Old Harvey	1.8	0	0
Australind	3	44	15
Cookernup	0.6	100	100
Harvey Lawn	18.2	140	8
Total	284	50	653

Ashes

Cemetery	Average Interments	Available	Life remaining
Old Harvey	n/a	n/a	n/a
Australind	2.2	303	137
Cookernup	n/a	200	?
Harvey Lawn	6.4	384	60
Total	284	50	653

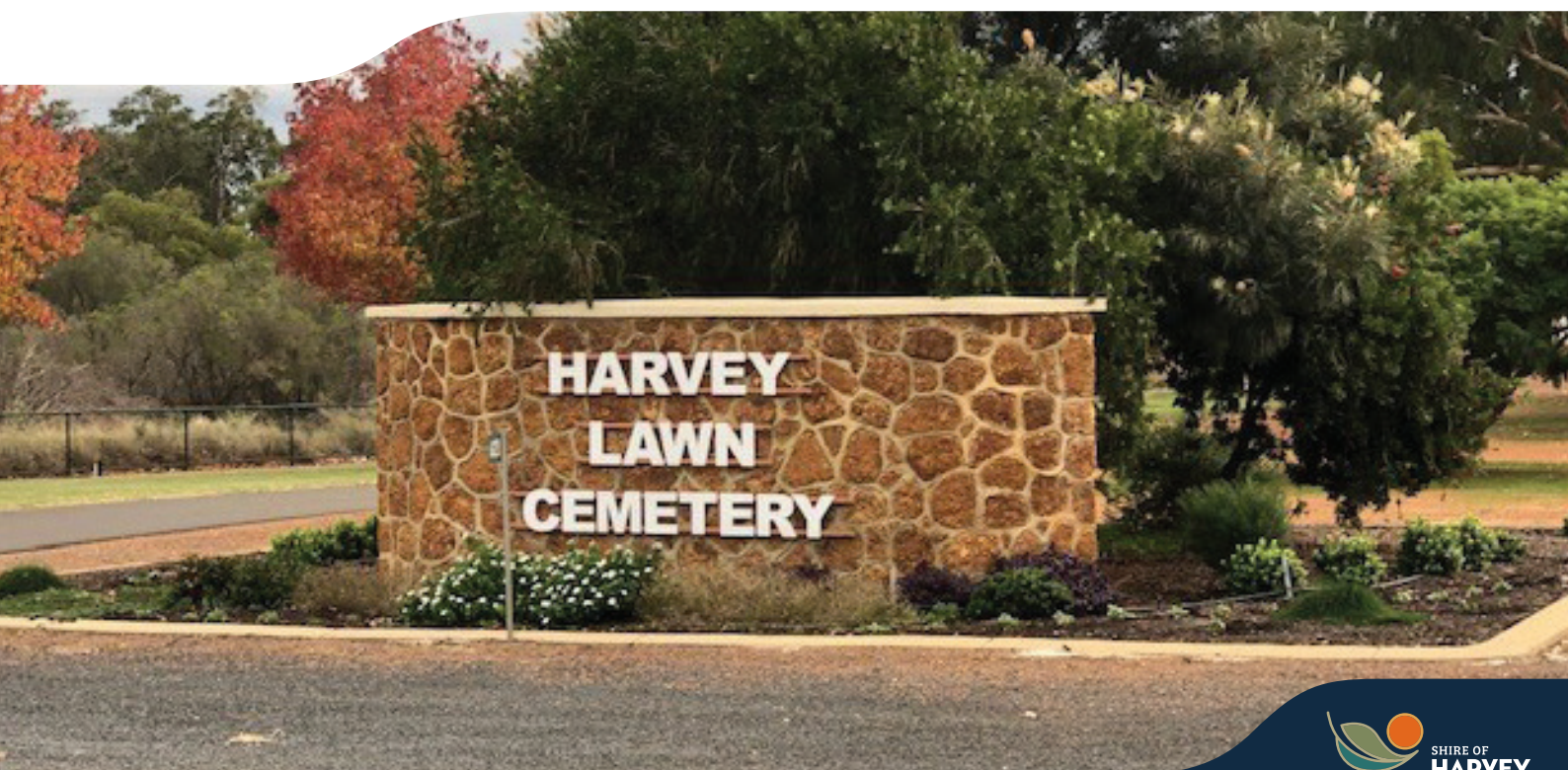
Shire of Harvey Demographics

Age Group	2016	2021	Increase/ Decrease	% increase/ Decrease
0 – 4 years	1,806	1723	-83	-2
5 – 24 years	7,144	7397	253	2
25 – 34 years	3,142	3235	93	1
35 – 49 years	5,465	5632	167	2
50 – 59 years	3,623	3776	153	2
60 – 69 years	3,009	3478	469	7
70 – 84 years	2,063	2919	856	17
Over 85 years	294	400	106	15
Total	26,546	28560	2014	

Comment

Between the 2016 and 2021 census the largest percentage increase in population in the Harvey Region was in the 70 to over 85 years range. Between 2017 and 2021 an average of 135 persons per annum died in the Harvey District. That is 0.5% of the Harvey District population based on the 2021 census. Of the 135 deaths, 32 persons per annum were interned in the Harvey District cemeteries, or an average of 24% of all deaths. It can therefore be assumed, that the other 76% of deaths were interned either outside of the Shire

or through personal ash scattering and holding of urns. As can be seen in Tables 6 and 7, the Harvey Lawn Cemetery (based on current average annual interments) has a remaining burial life of eight years and 60 years for ashes (Niche and rose garden combined). As the Harvey Lawn Cemetery has recorded the highest average annual burial rate (24.6 per annum or 76% of all internments) plans need to be developed for a staged extension of the burial area on land to the east towards Richardson Road.)



Management Guidelines

Burials Within a Cemetery

The Harvey Lawn Cemetery, Australind Cemetery and most recently the Cookernup Cemetery allow for the placement of ashes. Options available include memorial niche walls and rose gardens (Harvey Lawn only). Ashes can also be placed within existing graves in all cemeteries, provided that permission from the Grant Right of Burial holder is given.

As burials are predominantly carried out by a funeral director, who will arrange every aspect of the burial and service for the family, there is no need for the family to contact the Shire. The funeral director would deal directly with the Shire if the burial is to be in one of the Shire cemeteries.

The preferred burial times are Mondays to Friday between 10am to 3pm. Any burial required outside of these times may incur additional fees.

If the burial requires a new grave, the location of the grave will be allocated by the Shire.

The Shire allows two interments per grave with an exception for some graves in the Australind Cemetery where due to the limestone cap stone, depths only allow for one interment.

If the request is for a second burial, the funeral director must sight the Grant of Right of Burial if this is possible and arrange for the removal of any monument prior to burial taking place if there is an existing monument on the grave.

No new reservations will be taken for the Old Harvey Cemetery. If a family has an existing reservation, this is still in place until the time that it is used or other arrangements are made.

If a family has previously reserved a plot and has now decided that they no longer require it, the family will need to write a letter to the Shire stating that they relinquish the site. The original reservation fee is non-refundable.

Monuments

Monuments are not installed by the Shire and a separate application is required to be

completed through a monument mason, with the permission of the holder of the Grant of Right of Burial. Monuments need to be in keeping with the existing monuments at the Cemeteries.

Each memorial shall be placed on proper and substantial foundations to suit each cemetery. If a monument is placed before adequate settling of the area has occurred, it is possible that the monument may be damaged through ground movement during the settling process, which could result in cracks and broken monuments.

As all monumental masons are made aware of this requirement, the Shire accepts no responsibility for settlement of the site affecting the monument. It is recommended that no monument be placed on a grave until one winter season has passed after burial to allow time for the ground to settle. The Shire will accept no responsibility for settlement of the site affecting the monument.

All monuments are made of natural stone, be placed upon a base of natural stone and shall comply with the following specifications:

The overall height of the monument above the original surface of the graves shall not exceed 1.05m

- The height of the base of the monument above the original surface of the grave shall be 150mm
- The width of the base of the monument shall not exceed 1.20m
- The depth of the base of the monument shall not exceed 300mm
- Have foundations placed on a reinforced concrete slab, set level to the natural ground of the following dimensions, length 1.2m, width 0.6m and depth 150mm.

Should a monument exceed the above measurements or encroach on surrounding grave sites or access paths, the Shire reserves the right to rectify this accordingly at the expense of the applicant.

Fees - There is both an administration and licence fee for each monument and this is payable before any monument can be erected.

Plan - Monuments shall be in keeping with those already in the cemetery and a plan should be submitted before a permit is issued.

Plot numbering - All monuments shall be engraved with the plot number (which is provided by the Shire) on the lower right hand corner of the headstone or kerbing.

Plants/shrubs - No plants or shrubs are to be planted on the grave itself or surrounds.

Proposed monuments at the Old Harvey and Australind Cemetery need to be assessed on a case by case basis

Grant Right of Burial in relation to burials

Tenure on private graves is specified in a legal document called the "Grant of Right of Burial". Careful consideration should be given when nominating a person or agreeing to hold the Grant of Right of Burial as the Grantee has the right to all activities within the grave plot area. This includes approval to place cremated remains, for further burials in the nominated grave plot, and/or to erect monumental work upon the grave. In some situations, conflict can arise and responsibility for the outcome lies with the holder of the Grant. Grants are issued for 25 years with the right of renewal. The nominated person on the "Grant of Right of Burial" should make provisions in their will to ensure that a nominated person retains the legal ownership of the grave plot. If the Grantee is unknown, then a Statutory Declaration can be obtained and filled out by the person wishing to become a Grantee. The original Grant of Right of Burial needs to be produced before:

- second burial can take place
- for any placement of ashes within a grave; and
- prior to any monumental works occurring.

As the Grantee can approve or deny any activity within the burial plot which has a

life span of 25 years, it is important that the Grantee (if not the deceased's partner) makes provisions in a legal document i.e. Will, to allow transfer of the grant to another person to ensure their wishes are carried out. After the 25-year period has lapsed, an application for the re-issue of a Grant can be made for a further 25 years if the family desires this to occur.

First Burial - A Grant of Right of Burial is automatically issued for the first burial. This is for a period of 25 years.

Second Burial - When the second burial takes place, the Grant of Right over the plot must be produced with the Grantee's permission as proof of right to use the plot.

Expiry - Upon expiry of 25-year period there is the ability to have Grant of Right of Burial re-issued, the cost being re-purchase of the land at current rate.

Transfer - If a Grantee no longer wants the responsibility an application can be lodged for the transfer of the Grant of Right of Burial. There is a nominal fee for this service.

General Information

Removal of Flowers on Memorials

A person may remove withered or plastic flowers from a grave or memorial and these are to be placed in a receptacle (bin) provided by the Shire for that purpose.

Plants and Trees

No trees or shrubs shall be planted on any grave.

Maintenance

Individual families are expected to maintain their own graves and plots. The Shire will maintain the surrounding environment within the cemetery area with the assistance from volunteers and community members.

Legislative Requirements

The Shire operates cemeteries in Harvey, Uduc, Cookernup and Australind. The Shire of Harvey Cemeteries Local Law 2017 in conjunction with the Cemeteries Act 1986

Liability and Risk

Training

In order to maintain the understanding and recognition of particular qualities of the cemetery which need to be retained is required.

Training in conservation of physical elements and the natural environment, maintenance, volunteer management, recognition of risk and safety issues for both staff and public and other areas which require some background knowledge will need to be made available for all staff who work in a cemetery.

Risk Assessment

As assessment of any risks involved need to be undertaken. This would include but not be limited to volunteer management and activities, general physical safety, fire hazards, vegetation management risks etc. Volunteers in particular need to be made aware of personal safety when working in a cemetery, and will need to follow any risk minimisation procedure.

Procedures, to be developed, would cover the management and use of hazardous and dangerous substances, and suitable emergency procedures. The conditions in a cemetery need to be monitored regularly to prevent any dangerous situations arising, and this will be included in any maintenance and works schedule.

Natural Burials

This is an option that may be considered in the future. Natural Burials are a personal choice for the environmentally conscious. With a natural burial, the body is returned to nature in a biodegradable coffin and materials made from natural fibres to allow remains to return to the earth to decompose naturally.

To further ensure a pure basis for new organic life, the use of preparatory chemicals would be strictly prohibited as would be the placement of artificial tributes or commemorative items. Graves would remain unmarked and no monumental work would be permitted within our natural burial areas.

Although unmarked, each grave would be mapped to ensure the ability to relocate graves for both current and future generations. Bushland unique to each surrounding area would be maintained and cultivated using plants indigenous to the local area. Over time the bushland will become a living and lasting natural commemoration.

In a departure from the granite headstones, flat lying burial plaques and manicured grounds of the conventional cemetery, natural burials would offer the community a unique and sustainable final resting place with minimal disturbance to the natural bushland environment.

This option would need to be further investigated including identifying a possible suitable location.

Heritage/Family History

One of the most effective ways to ensure cemetery conservation is to foster interest and appreciation within the community and to produce a simple pamphlet with basic information such as:

- Date of establishment relative to the town or settlement;
- Important or interesting people interred;
- Materials used in monuments, links with local quarrying, and any historical trends;
- Interesting monuments or inscriptions;
- The development of the cemetery, and when the various denominational areas were established; and

- A plan showing location of pathways, structures, interesting monuments or plantings, areas of earlier graves.

Australind Cemetery

History

The cemetery of about 20 acres was surveyed by the Western Australian Company in 1841 shortly after the settlers arrived and called the hill "Mt Claremont". It was consecrated by the Anglican Bishop, Augustus Short of Adelaide, on the 16 July 1852 when he visited this part of his huge diocese.

All denominations were free to use the cemetery. However, it should be noted that Robert Gaider, an Indian from Belvidere (Belvedere), was buried in un-consecrated ground outside the cemetery in 1896.

Families

The first burial was the Medical Officer, Dr. Anthony Carpenter who died in 1841, from the Western Australian Company who came on the Parkfield with the Chief Commissioner, Marshall Waller Clifton, and the first settlers.

Others buried in the Cemetery include Marshall Waller Clifton and his wife Elinor and a number of their descendants, and various members of the pioneering families including the Allnutt, Colton, Perren, Narroway and Rose families.

Cookernup Cemetery

History

The townsite of Cookernup was gazetted in August 1894 and the town derives its name from a farm established nearby by Joseph Logue in the early 1850's. Also known as 'Kokonup' for many years the name means either 'place of the swamp yam' or 'place of the swamp hen' as two origins have been put forward for the name, either 'koka' the swamp yam or 'cooki' the swamp hen.

The town developed rapidly in the late 1890s with the escalation of timber milling in the area and many services were constructed in the town including a post office, school, railway station and hall. At the turn of the century the township and surrounding area had a population of 300.

This reserve, originally of 9 acres, was created in 1896 for the purpose of a cemetery and in 1898 a cemetery board was formed to manage the place. Many people from surrounding districts were buried at Cookernup as it was one of the few cemeteries in the region. In 2000, the size of the cemetery was reduced to approximately three hectares.

Families

The cemetery is divided into two portions, Roman Catholic and Church of England and a small portion allocated for military purposes however only two returned servicemen were buried there.

Harvey Lawn Cemetery

Not currently on the Local Heritage Survey.

Old Harvey Cemetery

History

A reserve for the Harvey Cemetery was created in 1911 and managed by a board of trustees. The area was amended in 1917 and in 1921 the reserve was vested in the Harvey Road Board. The cemetery continues to be used in addition to the Harvey Lawn Cemetery on Forestry Road which has been established in recent years.

Families

Many of the early settlers of the district have been interred here and the headstones bear the names of many of the district's well known citizens.

Springhill Private Cemetery

History

Springhill Private Cemetery was consecrated on the 2nd September 1882. Those of whom are known to have been buried in Springhill Private Cemetery is as follows (note H.S denotes Headstone):

Families

Elizabeth Kate Clarke D 1873 the first Burial at Springhill Private Cemetery of which a plaque on a brick wall was erected with Historical information of Elizabeth Kate Clarke's burial and the Date of the Consecration of the Cemetery. There are approximately 35 internments in Springhill Cemetery with the last burial of Alice Reading occurring in 2018.

Signage

Information for settlement families may need to be increased, but could form a part of an interpretive signage project. The Heritage Advisory Group considered that the signage should be consistent with the Harvey Region Signage and Infrastructure Style Guide and a few examples of successful cemetery signage was recommended. Attached are Greenbushes and Boulder Cemetery signage examples for content and mapping. Historic cemeteries are included under the strategic tourism banner, and a signage concept will be implemented in line with the Tourism and Signage Strategy. Further discussion is required to determine the content that should be incorporated: mapping format, family names, layouts etc. Examples of cemeteries that have effective signage concepts to review are Greenbushes and Boulder (refer Figure 9). The Cemeteries Strategy should acknowledge the presence of Aboriginal burial grounds within the Shire, if not specifically by site, as an overview and potential discovery protocols. There are particular aboriginal burial sites that there is not have enough information on that may require further investigation

with Harvey Aboriginal Corporation. Family histories of Cookernup and Harvey can be found at Harvey History online, to complete the paragraphs relating to settlement families.

Any original signs, section markers etc. designed and executed to fit the concept and character of an older cemetery should be conserved and retained wherever practicable. Before relocating or replacing them, thought should be given as to how they can be replaced in original style. Even if most must be replaced, at least some should be retained as a reference to original fabric.

Signage and wayfinding systems are of various categories as follows:

- Directional Signage: to orient the visitors within the space.
- Informational Signage
- Temporary Signage: the moveable ones that can be reoriented.
- Miscellaneous Signage: monumental and plaque signage.

The provision of these signs must follow proper protocol and must allow efficiency.

The design of entry signage (similar to the Harvey Lawn Cemetery) are to be considered for each of the four sites in line with the Harvey Region Signage and Infrastructure Style Guide.

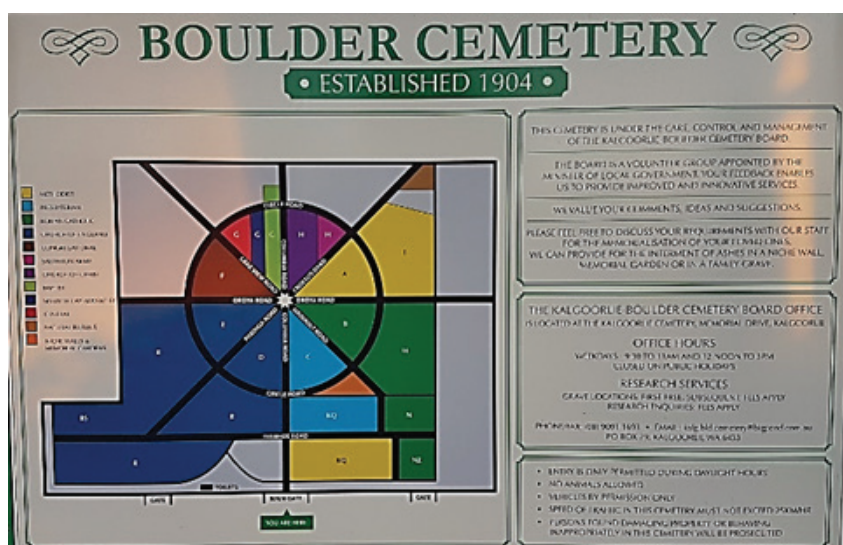


Figure 9: Example signage concept

Mapping and updating the Shire's IntraMaps

GPS mapping of burials was undertaken as a special project several years ago and the data i.e. position, photo of headstone was included as a layer on the Shire's IntraMaps. This exercise has not progressed and one of

the recommendations of the Strategy is to progress this, continually update and make this layer available on the Public IntraMap site. An example of the data on the layer is show below.



Fees and charges

In reviewing cemetery based fees and charges a comparison was undertaken with three adjoining local governments i.e. Bunbury, Waroona and

Dardanup. While there are some variances in the fees charged the Shire of Harvey fees are generally consistent with the other local governments.

Fees and charges	2020-2021	2021-2022
Interment of an adult	\$930	\$1,125
Extra fees	2020-2021	2021-2022
Interment on a Saturday, Sunday or Public Holiday	\$425	\$550
Application Fee for exhumation permit	\$1,060	\$1,500
Placement of ashes	2020-2021	2021-2022
Placement in double niche including bronze plaque first inscription	\$440	\$550
Second inscription	\$315	\$380

Identity Amenity/ Expansion/ Infrastructure Improvements

This section discusses plans for cemetery amenity/expansion/ infrastructure improvements including interment options at specific locations.

Physical Experience

For all of the four Cemeteries, options to enhance the visitor experience will be investigated which may include the provision of improved landscaping with appropriate plant species, shades seating area/s, lighting and other measures to create a sense of serenity i.e. water features or similar (where feasible).

Old Harvey Cemetery



- The Old Harvey Cemetery was established in 1916 for the early settlers in and around the Harvey district.
- Today the site is mainly used for burials with reservations or current Grant of Right holders hence there are currently no new plots available
- Existing sign facing South Western highway. Standard signage for all cemeteries to be developed in line with the Harvey Region Signage and Infrastructure Style Guide.
- Existing fencing to be replaced with a white picket fence.



- Directional signage required on South Western Highway.
- To be developed in accordance with the style guide.



- Existing gravel parking area to be upgraded to a sealed standard to create formal parking bays..



- Information at entry to be installed
- Existing gravel access ways to be upgraded to a sealed standard to improve amenity and access.



- Existing grave sites are generally old and run down. There is no ground cover and the sand is exposed. In accordance with the Cemeteries Act 1986, the Board (the Shire) is responsible for the control of memorials. Where the grant of right of burial has expired, there is no longer the requirement to maintain the monument by the grant holder. It is then vested to the Shire to either remove or maintain the site. For current grants the Shire can pursue the cost of repair to the grant holder.
- The Shire may also choose to maintain monuments or sites which have a historical significance where the grant has expired.



- An example of granite stone aggregate laid around the grave site to contain the sand and improve appearance.
- Measure such as this to improve amenity to be pursued

Proposed Improvements

- Standard entry signage / directional to be developed in line with Harvey Region Signage and Infrastructure Style Guide.
- Standard interpretive signage specific to the site to be developed.
- Existing gravel parking area to be upgraded to a sealed standard to create formal parking bays
- Existing internal gravel access ways to be upgraded to a sealed standard to improve amenity and access.
- Shire to either remove or maintain the site. For current grants the Shire can pursue the cost of repair to the grant holder.
- The Shire to investigate the maintenance of monuments or sites which have a historical significance where the grant has expired. Grant funding to be explored.
- Measures such to improve amenity (covering the existing sand) to be pursued.

Australind Cemetery

The Australind Cemetery was established in 1842 and is located on a hill with extensive limestone capstone limiting the remaining burial capacity.



- Improved directional signage required on Old Coast Road
- To be developed consistent with other cemeteries in accordance with style guide and signage strategy



- Existing signage in car parking area to be updated consistent with the other cemeteries in accordance with style guide and signage strategy



- Existing parking area. Landscaping improvements to be considered. i.e. eco zoning water wise plantings.
- Investigate the installation of appropriate lighting.



- Existing entry from car park. Existing section of asphalt path to be upgraded.



- Existing shared pathway to be upgraded to a 3.0m wide red asphalt standard.
- Seating located at strategic location.



- Existing entry archway.
- Existing shared pathway to be upgraded to a 3.0m wide red asphalt standard.



Ashes

- Existing niche wall. Improved seating and solar lighting recommended.
- Current number of available interment (Dec 2021) 303.
- Based on current average annual interments has a remaining life of 137 years.



Burials

- Newer section of cemetery. Consider covering ground with blue metal or similar on bare sand areas.
- Current number of available interment (Dec 2021) 44.
- Based on current average annual interments has a remaining life of 15 years.



- Undertake regular maintenance around the historical burial sites

Cookernup Cemetery

The Cookernup Cemetery was established in 1898 for the settlers in and around the Cookernup district



- Directional signage to be improved on Salisbury Street.
- To be developed consistent with other cemeteries in accordance with style guide and signage strategy.



- Existing roadway (Cook Street) leading to cemetery site to be sealed.



- Existing roadway (Cook Street) leading to cemetery site to be sealed and parking area to be formalised.



- Standard signage for all cemeteries to be developed.
- Existing internal access to be improved with compacted gravel in keeping with the rural nature of the site.



Ashes

- New Niche wall and associated infrastructure was constructed in 2021.
- Current number of available interment (August 2022) 200.



Burials

- Current number of available interment (Mar 2022) 100.
- Based on current average annual interments has a remaining life of 100 years.
- Perimeter fencing to be installed in keeping with the existing infrastructure. Regular maintenance to be undertaken to grounds.

Harvey Lawn Cemetery

The Harvey lawn Cemetery is the newest of the Shire cemeteries established in 1973.



- Safety improvements to be undertaken on Forestry Road including slip lane and overtaking lane construction



- Existing entry signage to remain and to be used as a guide for other sites



- Existing gravel parking are to be formalised i.e. paved and line marked to create additional parking with water wise storm water control and water wise plantings and landscaping.



- Access ways into lawn areas to be formalised i.e. paved and drained.



Ashes

- Existing niche wall and rose gardens – no changes proposed. Current number of available interment (December 2021) 384.
- Based on current average annual interments has a remaining life of 60 years.
- Existing rose gardens – no changes proposed.



- Existing burial sites in southern lawn area fully allocated – no changes proposed.



Burials

- Existing current burial sites in northern lawn area.
- Current number of available interment (Dec 2021) 140.
- Based on current average annual interments has a remaining life of 8 years.
- Longer term plan to develop area to the north east of the site.

Proposed Cemeteries Advisory Group

The *Cemeteries Act 1986* (the Act) provides for the declaration and management of cemeteries, the establishment, constitution and functions of cemetery boards, the licensing of funeral directors, the regulation of burials, the repeal of the *Cemeteries Act 1897* and for connected purposes.

Board, in accordance with the Act means a cemetery board established under section 7 or deemed to have been established under this Act and in relation to a cemetery means the Board responsible for the care, control and management of that cemetery.

Part II, clause 6 of the Act, *Local governments to perform functions of Board* states: *Where an order is made or is deemed to have been made under section 5 vesting the care, control and management of a cemetery in a local government, the local government shall, subject to this Act and to any necessary modifications, perform and be subject to the duties imposed*

on Boards under this Act and may exercise the powers conferred on Boards under this Act; and references in this Act to a Board or Boards shall be construed accordingly in relation to such a local government as the case may require.

Research has shown that a number of local governments in Western Australia have established a Cemeteries Advisory Group to provide input and advice on the following:

- Issues relating to the management of Shire Cemeteries
- Future Planning / Development
- Protecting Heritage and related infrastructure
- General Cemetery related matters

It is recommended that a group be established and meet a minimum of twice per annum. The group would comprise two Elected Members, relevant Shire Officers and four community representatives, two from Harvey and one from both Australind, and Cookernup. .

Proposed Implementation Plan

Old Harvey Cemetery	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	Future
Improved entry signage/ directional signage	●					
Interpretive signage	●					
Upgrade existing parking area	●					
Upgrade gravel access ways	●					
Old gave sites safety improvements / removals				●		
Blue metal aggregate around old grave sites			●	●		

Australind Cemetery	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	Future
Improved entry signage/ directional signage	●					
Interpretive signage	●					
Parking area						
Landscaping Improvements - Eco zoning		●				
Traffic calming to deter hoon behaviour		●				
Lighting		●				
Access from carpark - upgrade in asphalt			●			
Additional seating assess and niche wall				●		
Solar lighting at niche wall				●		
Blue metal aggregate around old grave sites	●					
Improved ground maintenance						

Cookernup Cemetery	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	Future
New Niche wall constructed (Completed)						
Improved entry signage/directional signage	●					
Interpretive signage	●					
Upgrade - Cook Street				●		
Formalise / Seal parking area				●		
Compacted gravel to internal access way				●		
Grave locations GPS pick up update Intra Maps		●	●			

Harvey Lawn Cemetery	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	Future
Reconfigure entrance Forestry Road					●	
Directional signage	●					
Interpretive signage	●					
Existing Gravel Carpark to be paved/line marked						●
Access ways into lawn area to be paved						
Develop north east burial site			●			●
CCTV to deter vandalism		●				

All Cemeteries	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	Future
Develop Brochures with heritage information	●	●				
Ongoing maintenance	●	●	●	●	●	●
Aboriginal Burial Sites investigation	●	●	●	●	●	
Liability and Risk – Training and develop procedures	●	●				
Interment locations GPS pick up and update IntraMaps		●	●	●		
Establishment of a Cemeteries Advisory Group	●					
Forward Capital Works Plan 2028-2030	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$250,000

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