Randwick Destructive Children's Asylum Cemetery
Archaeological Investigation

Research Design

Prepared for
South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service
NSW Heritage Council
Department of Urban Affairs and Planning

Austral Archaeology
Godden Mackay Pty Ltd

December, 1995
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>PREAMBLE</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>HISTORICAL SUMMARY</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>CONSERVATION POLICY</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>THE THEORETICAL BASIS FOR RESEARCH DESIGN</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>POTENTIAL PHYSICAL RESOURCE</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>RESEARCH DESIGN QUESTIONS</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>EXCAVATION AND POST-EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>SOURCES</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.0  PREAMBLE

The following text outlines the aims of the research component of the Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum Cemetery archaeological excavation. An attempt has been made to state the reasons for undertaking the proposed investigation, and the form that investigation shall take. The assessment has been made with regard to research and archaeological excavations undertaken prior to the present commission with additional information derived from further documentary research and the preliminary results of the first stage of excavation undertaken as part of the present project.

There are no significant changes in the aims, scope and methodology proposed by the original Research Design, submitted in July 1995 and first revised in September 1995. The present document aims to integrate lines of investigation proposed by specialists attached to the excavation team.

Relevant data already provided by existing reports is not repeated here. This information is referenced and may be found in the Project Tender and Contract documents.

The Research Design represents joint input from the Project Team and Management Committee. It includes specific contributions from Mary Dallas, Denise Donlon, Peter Douglas, David Ingray, Beverley Johnson and Richard Wright. It was prepared by Graham Wilson and Richard Mackay.
The following Research Design is an evaluation of the site's Aboriginal, archaeological and osteological potential made available by the proposed redevelopment of the former Cemetery. It has been prepared after a preliminary period of archaeological investigation and is the successor to the Research Design provided as part of the response to the Tender. The initial Research Design was created so as to initiate a comprehensive archaeological investigation of the site, and to provide a basis for determining the methodology to be employed in order to successfully complete this task. The present document stands as a refinement of the original research objectives made in the light of both preliminary archaeological results and additional research work conducted by the prehistorian and the historian attached to the team. The highly specialised nature of the site and the particular osteological resource it contains suggest that its research potential, and therefore the questions that might be asked of that resource, extend beyond the scope of most archaeological projects currently undertaken in Australia.

The Research Design attempts to anticipate the type of questions that might be asked of the potential physical resource as well as those that are likely to arise from an examination of relevant documentation. The Research Design integrates quite disparate areas of research in order to create a comprehensive interpretation of the physical evidence likely to be recovered as part of the present archaeological programme.

The archaeological investigation of the Cemetery has not been prompted solely by the desire to undertake research into skeletal remains, nor to further our understanding of the operation of the Destitute Children's Asylum. The project is not research driven. It is essentially a salvage project within a development context. However, by removing deposits from the predicated Cemetery area using archaeological techniques, within a firm research framework, the considerable archaeological and osteological potential of the site can be realised with a minimal loss of information.

The archaeological investigation of the site has to be considered as part of the process of amelioration and rehabilitation of both dispersed remains and in situ burials. The cemetery site has been subjected to a series of episodes of disturbance ranging from levelling and filling during the First World War to the more recent clearance of a considerable part of the site in order to remove asbestos contamination. Each of these episodes has contributed to a physically
demonstrable dislocation of skeletal material and the partial exposure of *in situ* burials. The task of their initial removal and the desire to maintain skeletal material, grave goods and grave furniture in association with the individual to whom they once belonged, can only be successfully accomplished using controlled, archaeological methods. In attempting to respond to the questions raised by the Research Design the project will also assist in the process of interpreting the site for the final reinterment of the skeletal material recovered.

In removing the deposits care will be taken to insure that prehistoric material or sites, skeletal remains, grave goods and grave furniture are recovered, conserved, maintained and temporarily stored. This will necessitate an analysis of all material recovered during the proposed phase of investigation and the investigations that have been undertaken in the recent past in order to provide a comprehensive assessment of both the prehistoric and historic phases of the site's development.

Such analysis provides an opportunity to realise, through the least invasive techniques, the site's unparalleled research potential. This potential and the lines of inquiry that might be pursued are discussed in Section 5.0, below. The project also has the ability to provide information regarding the operation of the Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum as a complex; the Aboriginal use and occupation of the site in a pre-European landscape rarely available for study; and, the establishment and construction of No. 4 Australian General Hospital which formed an important and hitherto neglected aspect of the site's history.
The following is a brief outline of the history of the place and a summary of the potential of the site as indicated by documentary evidence. To a significant degree this defines the parameters within which the Research Design questions have been framed. Documentary research and input from other specialist fields conducted in parallel with the excavation programme will invariably result in changes to the known history of the place and may contribute further questions not anticipated by the present Research Design.

3.0 HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The Cemetery is located on the crest and western flank of a single large fixed dune with a north-west/south-east trend. This formed part of the extensive dunefield within the Botany Lowlands resulting from the deposition of Holocene and Pleistocene aeolian sands. The soil profile as it exists at the present time consists of a grey brown topsoil (A1 horizon), bleached, white, loose sand (A2 horizon), black sandy, organic pan and brown, sandy, iron pan ("Waterloo" or "coffee" rock - B horizon) and massive yellow sand (B horizon, deep sub-soil). This system is usually described as the Tuggerah soil landscape and has been interpreted by soil scientists as resulting from the action of water percolating through the original sand mass bleaching the upper sections and precipitating organic matter and iron sesquioxides at the top of the water table creating Waterloo or coffee rock.

An alternative view suggests that the sharp break between the A2 horizon (white sand) and the top of the B horizon (Waterloo/coffee rock) represents a disconformity. This hypothesis contends that the surface of the Waterloo rock represents an erosion surface exposed for a period before being covered again during the Holocene by a second phase of aeolian sand deposition. The Cemetery site presents an opportunity to test both points of view.
The grey sandy loam that developed on the surface of the dune as it became fixed by vegetation eventually formed the ground surface during the operational life of the Asylum. The vegetation cover during the period of earliest European occupation of the site cannot be determined with any accuracy from documentary records.

3.2 PRE-EUROPEAN HISTORY

The excavations completed on site to date (December 1995) have revealed a highly deflated hearth, a scatter of sandstone manuports and one flaked artefact indicating a sporadic Aboriginal occupation during the period prior to European settlement. Initial dating of charcoal associated with these features yields a date of 7820 +/- 50BP. There is no evidence of any post-contact use of the site by Aboriginal people, prior to the establishment of the Asylum.

Investigation of the use of the site before the formal European occupation of the site is a component of the present project. The primary documentary focus is research associated with early contact observations. An understanding of Aboriginal ownership may assist in determining the nature of early Aboriginal-European contact and the manner in which the site was physically modified, as well as prehistoric land patterns and population movement throughout the dune system.

3.3 EARLY EUROPEAN OCCUPATION

Little is known of the precise nature of the earliest European occupation of the site prior to its use as an Asylum. A documentary research programme conducted in parallel with the investigation will seek to determine when the Cemetery site was removed from Aboriginal hands. Research will also attempt to determine the type of activities conducted on the site during the pre-Asylum period of alienation since the possibility exists that physical evidence of such activities may survive in the archaeological record.

3.4 RANDWICK DESTITUTE CHILDREN'S ASYLUM

The Destitute Children's Asylum has its origins in the growth of philanthropism and the development of a society in which abandoned children, or those at risk were unable to be cared for by the community in which they lived. Attitudes towards children as individuals and as valued members of society were changing - they were beginning to be seen not as small adults, but as individuals with special requirements and deeds. Sydney in the 1850s was a society in flux - a bourgeoisie had emerged with notions of philanthropy. The discovery of gold also created social dislocation with the movement of some family members to the goldfields...
abandoning others as they left. In 1852 it was resolved to establish an Asylum for abandoned and destitute children at Ormond house, Paddington under the auspices of the Benevolent Society. This was to be a temporary location until a grant of land could be secured from the Government.

This was achieved with 24 hectares being granted at Randwick. The buildings were designed by Edmund Blacket and were first occupied in March 1858. The Asylum admitted both boys and girls irrespective of religion. Formal education within the institution was sublimated by the need for vocational training since many of the children were apprenticed to Subscribers who paid for their board and lodging while indentured.

During the latter part of the nineteenth century a number of different systems were put in place in order to move children through the Asylum. By the 1870s institutions such as the Asylum were viewed as a temporary measure and as a point of transit rather than as a place of confinement and isolation. The State-controlled Board-out System was created in the 1880s and sought to find foster homes for the Asylum children. The children who attracted a Government subsidy were placed with foster parents while those that had been privately admitted remained behind. This resulted in a gradual decrease in the number of permanent residents and an overabundance of land and buildings. It was clear by the end of the first decade of the present century that the Asylum had outlived its original function - a system of State welfare with its own facilities had replaced private philanthropy.

It is not yet clear when the Cemetery was formally created. The first burial took place in 1863 resulting in an area being fenced as a burial ground. During its 63 years of operation 216 children died while members of the institution. Most of those who died in the Asylum itself, rather than in hospitals elsewhere, were buried in the Asylum Cemetery.

3.5 No 4 AUSTRALIAN GENERAL HOSPITAL

Following the outbreak of the First World War the Board of the Asylum hoped to stave-off closure by offering some of the empty buildings to the Commonwealth for temporary accommodation of wounded soldiers returning from the war. By June 1915 the Commonwealth, in response to growing casualties, had turned this offer into a demand for the whole institution with the remaining children being placed in Farm homes or boarded-out with private persons.

The Asylum buildings with the addition of a number of smaller buildings was constituted as No.4 Australian General Hospital. By March 1918 nine additional wards had been completed making 720 beds available. Four of these wards or "huts" occupied the site of the Cemetery. Their construction required the removal
of sections of the dune on which the Cemetery stood. By July 1918 a further twenty-one wards were constructed making it Australia's largest military hospital. The history of the use of the site by the Army following the end of the First World War is presently the subject of research in order to determine if any major changes to the site and to the buildings took place. During the 1920s and 1930s some of the huts were removed to other Army bases. These were later replaced by huts having a similar configuration.

3.6 PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL

The history of the site following the creation of the Prince of Wales Hospital is the subject of research. The aim is to determine the nature of any physical changes made to the Cemetery during the period after the site was transferred to civil use.

3.6 NOTES

1 Chapman & Murphy (1989): 94
2 ibid.: 95-96
3 Roy (1983): 83
4 Doyle & Storey (1991): 5
5 ibid.: 9
6 ibid.: 21
7 Ramsland (1986): 86
8 Doyle & Storey (1991): 29
9 ibid.: 30
10 Macintosh (1919): 46
11 ibid.
The following Statement of Significance has been prepared to encapsulate the key values of the site:

The Randwick Destitute Children’s Asylum Cemetery is an item of outstanding cultural significance.

The Cemetery site is significant as part of the Prince of Wales Hospital Precinct and has strong continuing historical association with the hospital and with military use of the place during World War I.

The Cemetery itself, unlike most burial grounds in Australia, is marked not by monuments or even a developed landscape, but rather by the emotive association of its tragic history and sub-surface physical evidence provided by the remains of the children buried there. The Cemetery consequently has a special sense of place and is respected by relatives of the deceased, local historians, Aboriginal people, others associated with the Asylum and the later Prince of Wales Hospital and the general community.

The Cemetery has strong historic links with major development and changes regarding child welfare and the late nineteenth century practise of philanthropy. The Cemetery and the Asylum itself, typify attitudes towards welfare in general and destitute children in particular during this period. The operations of the Asylum and the experiences of the children who lived there span a crucial period encompassing moves from the establishment of such institutions by concerned citizens or governments to greater emphasis on wider community care and fostering.

The largest and one of only four known Children’s Cemeteries in Australia that are associated exclusively with a welfare institution, the site is a rare research resource. The potential scientific data provided by the remains of this known population of deceased children, from a well documented background, provides a rare, if not unique, physical resource for forensic and other anthropological studies and analysis. As well as this purely scientific research, the individual graves may also provide primary evidence about the lives, (and death), of the children that is separate from official reports and accounts - a unique chance for these children to reveal their own story.
5.0 CONSERVATION POLICY

All investigation, research, recording analysis and other related activities that are taking place on or about the site are being carried out in accordance with a detailed conservation policy. This policy has been prepared by the South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service following detailed research and extensive consultation with interested parties. The implementation provisions of the policy are as follows:

5.1 ESSENTIAL BACKGROUND RESEARCH BEFORE EXCAVATION IS UNDERTAKEN

- Any background research needed for re-establishing the location of the Victorian ground surface and re-establishing datum for vertical and horizontal control.

- Review of literature regarding Australian Victorian mortuary practices (of various social classes) sufficient to allow predictions for layout, grave contents etc.

- Research into the use of the site during World War I sufficient to understand site formation processes and to predict site content from this period.

- Review of primary sources including the Destitute Children's Asylum Register and the Minutes of the Benevolent Society (Benevolent Asylum House Committee Minutes) to enable predictions about (among other things);
  * which individuals may be present;
  * distinct ethnic and/or religious and/or racial groups (eg. Church of England, Catholic, Aboriginal, Jewish or Chinese) which may have led to particular groupings or burial practices;
  * any groupings based on disease;
  * evidence which might arise in relation to use patterns of the Asylum site;
  * any specific events which might be evident in the site.
5.2 EXCAVATION

- Archaeological research questions for which data should be sought should be outlined in any excavation proposals. These should include but not be limited to questions about cause of death, direction of burials, mortuary practices, existence of any fences, existence of separate sections within the cemetery, the relationship of the cemetery to the rest of the site through time, use of the site during the occupation of the military subsequently.

- Osteological and forensic research questions for which data should be sought during excavation and temporary storage should be outlined in any excavation proposal and should include, but not be limited to, identification of trauma (in situ observations) disposition, evidence of disease, diet and lifestyle, race, age and sex etc.

- If either pre- or post-contact Aboriginal skeletal remains or pre-contact Aboriginal cultural remains are discovered, the archaeologist must immediately notify the National parks and Wildlife Service and consult with the Local Aboriginal Land Council. If any identifiable individuals are discovered, the archaeologist will immediately inform the Management Committee who will undertake appropriate consultation with descendants of relatives.

5.3 RECORDING AND/OR DATA COLLECTION DURING AND AFTER EXCAVATION

- All human remains will be treated with the degree of respect that would be afforded a recently deceased and cherished person in our society.

- All personnel working on the site will receive training or instruction as to appropriate decorous behaviour while on site and when handling human bone material.

- Individual skeletal remains will be maintained in separate containers.
• Every endeavour will be made to observe, measure and record material and human remains in situ, prior to removal. This applies to cultural as well as human remains.

• No intrusive research will be conducted on the human bone material without written consent from the Management Committee (see 5.11 below). This Committee will not make a decision without further consultation with the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council and other interest groups including descendants of relatives of those buried. Any such proposals must:
  * demonstrate their usefulness in the short to medium term and their ability to be conducted without delaying the course of excavation and reinterment;
  * set out clearly and in plain English what samples are required to undertake the research;
  * state what will eventually become of any sample taken, how they are to be taken and the effect they will have on the remains;
  * state whether it is possible to replace any samples after analysis, (ie restore the bone from which the sample is taken);
  * whether there are any other non-intrusive means of undertaking the research.

• All data which can be recorded by measurement, observation, X-ray, and photography will be recorded from the human remains.

• As soon as the site is ready to receive the remains for reinterment they will be reinterred.

5.4 CONSERVATION AND HOUSING

Conservation and housing of human remains and associated grave goods while awaiting reinterment will follow these guidelines. (Based upon the assumption that some period of time (up to 12 months) may elapse before the site is ready to receive the material).

• Conservation and housing of all materials throughout the excavation period will be secure and in conditions to ensure stability of the remains and artefacts.

• Such conservation treatment as is required to guarantee the stability of the human remains during excavation and for storage of up to twelve months will be undertaken.
5.5 INVOLVEMENT OF SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Special interest groups identified included descendants of relatives of the deceased; descendants of people who were in the Asylum; the Aboriginal community represented through the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council; the Randwick District Historical Society, the Hospital Chaplains, forensic scientists, archaeologists and others with a professional scientific interest.

- These groups will be informed in writing of the proposed course of action before it is made public and regularly informed of what is happening at the site from the time the conservation policy is approved until interpretation and reinterment is complete. An information phone line may be established if warranted.

- These people should be actively invited to be involved in an appropriate way in the excavation of the site. What should be offered is either a guided tour of the site or a position on the excavation team. To become a volunteer team...
member the interested party would have to meet such criteria as are normally applied to volunteer workers in this situation.

- Guided tours of the site during excavation by these groups will require that any exposed skeletal material will be screened during these visits.

- These groups should be invited to have an input into the interpretation of the cemetery site and the Asylum site and the reinterment ceremony.

- They should receive invitations to the reinterment.

- The La Perouse Local Aboriginal land Council will be invited to have a representative present on site at all times during excavation. This person's time will be paid for when in attendance. This person is welcome to attend Management Committee meetings when these are held and will be given notice of these meetings.

5.6 MEDIA MANAGEMENT AND PHOTOGRAPHS

- Management of all media exposure will be co-ordinated through the Area's Public Relations Unit.

- All media visits to the site will be chaperoned.

- Only general photographic shots of the site will be permitted by the press and any other visitors to the site. Photographs of individual skeletons or skeletal material will not be permitted by visitors or by workers other than by the official photographer who will be designated.

5.7 DEVELOPMENT

- The South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service will provide sufficient space for the reinterment of the remains within the original Cemetery site.

- The Eastern Sydney Area Health Service will provide sufficient space for the reinterment area to be aesthetically sympathetic to its purpose in maintaining a link with the place of the cemetery.

- The landscaping of the area and the finish of the adjacent buildings will be sympathetic to the purpose of the space as a commemorative area and meet obligations arising from site significance.
• Access to the space will not be denied to the public, provided that normal Hospital site access protocols are observed.

5.8 REINTERMENT OF HUMAN REMAINS

• Housing and packaging of remains while awaiting reinterment. See Item 4 above. Individual remains will be boxed individually and any associated grave goods will be included.

• The decoration of packaging of remains at reinterment will be decided in consultation with the descendants and the Land Council and will be part of the Interpretive Plan developed. See Item 9 below.

• The reinterment will take place with suitable ceremony which will be outlined in the Interpretive Plan (see below) and will include, but need not be limited to, the involvement of an Aboriginal component, a Catholic component, a Church of England component and such other Protestant or other religious component as is justified by the historical data or requested by the descendants.

5.9 INTERPRETATION

• No displays on site or at the hospital or in any publications will include any photographs of whole skeletons or bones. (See Use of Data below).

• Interpretation of the site will take place in three ways:
  * the site will be interpreted during excavation;
  * the site will be interpreted after excavation and reinterment;
  * the Asylum at large will be interpreted.

During Excavation
An interpretation plan will be developed (by an interpretations specialist) which will allow the controlled access, under supervision, of special interest groups. It will ensure that the public at large are given enough information to satisfy them without allowing access. It will devise appropriate screening methods, requirements and protocols which will neither make people feel excluded nor allow any visual access which people may find disturbing. It will meet the requirements of the Public Health Unit. It will incorporate the issues raised under Item 5 above.

Reinterment and Subsequent Interpretation
An interpretation and presentation plan will be developed (by an interpretations specialist) in consultation with interest groups and based upon history and archaeological research. The plan will include the commemoration of the dead
children, and the use of the site during World War I. It will be sympathetic to the place of the forgotten cemetery and will link the cemetery to the Asylum history and social context. Some of this interpretation may take place at locations other than the site itself. This interpretive plan will be an integral part of the wider Asylum interpretive plan (see below). It will be consistent with this Conservation Policy.

**Interpretation of the Asylum Site and its History**

An interpretive plan will be developed (by an interpretations specialist) for the whole of the Asylum site and history and in consultation with interest groups and will be based upon historical and archaeological research. This will be part of the Conservation Plan for the Prince of Wales Precinct. The presentation of the Asylum will commemorate the lives of all the children who passed through the institution and will interpret the significance of the Asylum and the Military Hospital and such other values as are identified in the Conservation Plan of the precinct.

**5.10 USE OF DATA AND RECORDS FROM THE SITE**

Ownership of data collected during excavation and background research will be passed from the hospital to the Heritage Branch of the Department of Planning and Urban Affairs to enable the data to be lodged with the State Archives. Conditions as to its use will be determined in consultation with the Heritage Branch but will include restrictions on publications of photographs of whole skeletons without the consent of the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council. Publication of small parts of bones in scientific journals will be permitted where they are necessary illustrations.

**5.11 SITE MANAGEMENT DURING EXCAVATION**

The site is under the control of a Management Committee which consists of representatives of the following organisations:

* the South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service;
* the Prince of Wales Hospital;
* the Heritage Council;
* the Heritage Branch of the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning;
* the Public Health Unit;
* the South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service Heritage Adviser;
* the Archaeologist who holds the contract to excavate the site.

This Committee receives regular reports from the Archaeologist.
5.12 INTEGRATION INTO PRECINCT CONSERVATION PLAN

- A revised Statement of Significance will be prepared as part of the excavation and reporting obligations, and this Interim Conservation Policy and will be revised at that time and in the light of further historical and archaeological work.

- A Plan of Management for the reinterment site and commemorative area will be developed as a specific component of the Conservation Plan discussed below.

- The South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service and the Prince of Wales Hospital will as a matter of urgency, undertake the professional preparation of a comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Prince of Wales Hospital Precinct listed on the register of the National Estate and this conservation policy for the Cemetery part of the major Asylum site will become part of that Plan.

- This Conservation Plan for the Precinct of the Prince of Wales Hospital will include the development of a Statement of Significance for the precinct, and will include the documentation of the history of the Precinct in its social setting, identification of the area's potential archaeological significance, identification of its historic buildings, and make appropriate recommendations about these. The Plan will include interpretive plans as outlined above.

5.13 COMPLIANCE WITH ACTS

The following Acts either apply or have the potential to apply to the site:

The Heritage Act 1977
The Public Health Act 1992
The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
The Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975
6.0 THE THEORETICAL BASIS FOR RESEARCH DESIGN

6.1 MATERIAL CULTURE AS A RESOURCE

Archaeological deposits and features provide important evidence of the history and settlement of NSW. Archaeological sites include structures and stratified deposits of material which, when analysed, may yield information about the history of the colony which is unavailable from any other source. New information can challenge existing ideas of past behaviour. Archaeological investigation can yield much about technologies, economic and social conditions, taste and style, as well as site-specific information, such as data on the buildings themselves or information about their occupants. Features and artefacts extracted and recorded provide primary evidence about the way of life of previous generations. Archaeological sites therefore have high scientific value. This value can be further enhanced where there is a substantial body of supporting documentary evidence that enables further inference to be drawn from archaeological records.

6.2 PROBLEM ORIENTATED RESEARCH

In undertaking archaeological excavation, it is a fundamental principle that the investigation should reveal information which is available from no other resource. Given the substantial costs that are involved in the conduct of archaeological excavation it is clearly incumbent upon the archaeologist to ensure that the funds expended result in the revelation of worthwhile data. Indiscriminate excavation in the absence of any overall theoretical framework is likely to lead to dubious results in which analysis only centres around explanation of already known features; an inductive approach unlikely to result in any advances to current knowledge.

As a means of avoiding this inductive approach, archaeologists have developed a methodology centred around hypotheses testing, in which questions are framed in relation to current research problems and models, and the archaeological resource is used to test them. This "hypothetico-deductive" method is often referred to as the "New Archaeology". The major benefit is that the archaeological research becomes result oriented and older models may be amended.
6.3 WHAT IS A RESEARCH DESIGN?

A research design is a set of research questions developed specifically for a site within a wider research framework; an analytic tool that ensures that when archaeological resources are destroyed by excavation the information content contributes to current and relevant knowledge. In the United States, urban archaeological excavations are undertaken within the context of regional research designs formulated by large archaeological enterprises, often funded by the state. While Temple has advocated the development of such a regional approach within Sydney, there is no general research framework currently available within which the subject project can be undertaken. This section of the report endeavours to establish a proposed framework relevant to the children’s cemetery.

In the Australian urban context, Bairstow has argued that archaeology "has reached the stage where it can formulate and answer research questions which are vital to nineteenth century process of urbanisation and social change". However, the ability to achieve this goal depends on the development of research questions that are able to be answered by archaeological evidence. A fundamental requirement of archaeological research design is that the questions posed must be responsive to the nature of the archaeological evidence that is likely to be encountered. The questions asked of any archaeological resource must be realistic.

6.4 THE NATURE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

The information ultimately revealed by monitoring programs or archaeological excavation depends upon deposits and features themselves, factors affecting their preservation, factors affecting their recovery and the manner in which they are analysed.

Archaeological features fall into a number of categories. Deposits may be unstratified fill, a scatter or discrete accumulation of artefacts relating to a single event or process, such as a burial, or an accumulation occurring over a considerable period of time. Archaeological evidence itself may not necessarily be a deposit. In addition there are structural features, individual finds and "ecofacts" - "changes apparent in the environment as the result of human activity, such as land clearance, introduction of vermin or soil pollution". Questions about what is to be collected during excavation, and indeed how the excavation is to occur will determine which of these elements are recorded. It is therefore essential that the analysis stage of the project is "planned before rather than after fieldwork by explicit presentation of conceptual framework which can guide strategies in the field and in finds interpretation".
6.5 NOTES

5 ibid.: 152.
The types of prehistoric sites that could predictably occur within the Prince of Wales Hospital dune system are open occupation sites (distinguished as open artefact scatters or shell middens) and burials. Known open occupation site locations within the region are largely limited to relatively undeveloped areas on the Botany Bay foreshores and along the coast. Burials, either singly or in groups, can occur anywhere in soft dry sediments such as sand dunes. Within the eastern Sydney area most sites have either been obscured by, or are unlikely to have survived urban development.

At a general level it can be predicted that the location of occupation sites will be related to the availability of freshwater and food resources. The dune system separating the coastal strip and the inland freshwater lakes and swamps is unlikely to have represented an abundant resource zone for the Aboriginal occupants at any time in the past. Water, animal and plant resources would have been concentrated in and around the swamps, lakes, embayments and rocky coast. These would have provided the main focus of Aboriginal occupation. Sandstone exposures in these areas may also have been used for sheltered occupation and/or art production.

The Prince of Wales Hospital site is located on the eastern side of the Centennial Park-East Lakes-Shea's Creek swamp system. The dune itself may have had a swamp component in association with the swales. The Cemetery site itself, however, occupies part of the slope and crest of a single, large dune so the presence of peat deposits associated with any former swamp are unlikely to be encountered. The dunes would have provided areas suitable for short duration camps by people using nearby swamps. Archaeological evidence is likely to be limited to discarded or abandoned durable articles or sporadic or single event camping activities representing stopovers of people moving between more attractive resource zones. More substantial evidence of occupation such as accumulated durable food remains, hearths or tool manufacture or maintenance sites may be associated with localised resource-rich swamps located in the swale to the west of the Prince of Wales Hospital site. The Cemetery site may, however, have been located between three significant occupation and resource zones - a sandstone outcrop to the east (adjacent to Avoca Street), a creek immediately to the north and the swamp to the west.
During the initial archaeological clearance of the northern part of the study area no evidence of Aboriginal material was recovered. Excavation in the southern part of the site has revealed a highly deflated sandstone hearth comprising eighteen broken cobbles with associated charcoal. One piece of flaked stone, several manuports and ochre like material have also been identified. This material will be excavated and recorded pursuant to two permits (i.e. Consents to Destroy with Salvage) issued by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The known presence of pre-European features at the site creates an important opportunity to pursue research questions about land utilisation and occupation. The project prehistorian suggests that the Aboriginal archaeological potential of the aeolian dune layer at the site 'is likely to be limited to discard or abandoned durable material cultural items or sporadic or single event camping activity representing stopovers of people moving between more attractive resource zones. More substantial evidence of occupation such as accumulated durable food remains, hearths or tool manufacture or maintenance may be associated with localised resource - rich swamps which may be discernible as peaty layers within the dune'.

7.2 HISTORIC RESOURCE

An assessment of the documentation associated with the site indicates that it has the potential to contain the remains of up to 173 children who lived, died and were buried within the Asylum grounds. Associated with each burial is the possible survival of coffin furniture, grave markers and grave goods. On a broader scale the site has the potential to contain evidence of a small brick structure located within the Cemetery. The function of this building remains unknown but may have served as a sexton's hut. The Cemetery was fenced, at least during the final years of its use as a burying ground. The survival of fenceposts is therefore highly probable.

The degree of survival of sub-adult skeletal material may vary considerably across the site. Human skeletal remains recovered following clearance of the site in 1994 indicates that skeletal material survived in areas beneath the huts. It is not yet clear if burials located in the intra-hut spaces, and therefore exposed to the elements for a longer period of time, survive with the same degree of intactness. Nor is it clear if burials located in deposits other than the white sand, with consequent different pH levels, have survived to the same degree as those recovered in 1994.

Physical evidence of No. 4 Australian General Hospital may survive in some measure despite the demolition and subsequent clearance of the site for asbestos in 1994. This evidence is likely to take the form of footings, services and refuse pits.
7.3 SITE DISTURBANCE

The preceding Sections outline the potential prehistoric and historic material that may have survived on the Cemetery site. Factors mitigating against the survival of this potential archaeological resource are a number of documented periods of significant disturbance.

The first and most important of the post-Asylum period disturbances was that associated with the construction of wards (usually referred to as "huts") for the Military Hospital. The construction of the wards required the terracing of the dune creating a series of levelled areas that stepped upwards from south to north. The preliminary assessment of the excavated material and the site's general topography indicate that much of the eastern section of the cemetery was stripped down with the resulting mixed sands being pushed westward across the edge of the dune. In some areas it is likely that all deposits with the potential to contain burials were removed.

A further phase of modification took place during the period between 1920 and 1940 at which time a number of huts were removed and subsequently replaced a few years later. The degree of disturbance associated with this phase has not been determined.

The next documented phase of disturbance is that resulting from the 1993-1994 archaeological excavation of the site. Approximately 13% of the total area of the Cemetery was excavated with the trenches being backfilled on completion (see Bickford 1994, Destitute Children's Asylum, Randwick 1852-1916. Excavation of the Site of the Cemetery. February 1994). This was followed in early 1994 by the clearance of 70% of the area of the Cemetery to a depth of 200mm to 400mm as part of a programme of asbestos removal. The excavated material was removed from the site. The strong possibility exists that this material may have contained human skeletal remains.

In late 1994 an undocumented sand extraction programme in the northern section of the Cemetery saw the removal of approximately 10% of the total area of the site. It is not clear if skeletal material was removed during this operation. A second period of disturbance in late 1994 was associated with the installation of a gas line that crosses the central part of the site. Approximately 2% of the area of the Cemetery was disturbed, the excavated material being backfilled over the gas line. It has been reported that no skeletal remains were observed during this unmonitored work.
It is therefore probable that within the predicated boundaries of the Cemetery less than 20% of the pre-1915 cultural deposits survive in an undisturbed form with 15 to 25% having been removed entirely. The remaining 55 to 65% of deposits are likely to have undergone at least some degree of modification since 1915. This may range from slight truncation to complete redeposition. The areas in which the highest degree of survival of pre-1915 deposits is likely to occur are along the western and south-western margins of the site.
8.0 RESEARCH DESIGN QUESTIONS

The Project Team’s approach to the Prince of Wales site and project emphasises integration of documentary and physical evidence. The site has already been subject to a wide-ranging program of research and consultation. Both are continuing. As evidence has become available from physical investigations, new avenues of research have been identified and followed. (For example, early observation of a lack of wear on children’s teeth caused further research to be undertaken into nineteenth-century institutional diets; patterns discerned in the burial layouts led to consideration of cemetery planning, stratigraphic data and analysis have given rise to examination of mid twentieth-century construction records). This process continues and, in future may involve further interplay between facts obtained through forensic and osteological studies and new historical or other scientific research sub-programs.

The research design questions posed below, while focusing on the physical evidence and results, are being addressed in a multidisciplinary manner.

The most significant areas of research for which the physical resource of the Cemetery may provide answers are those associated with nineteenth century attitudes towards children, social welfare and death. The probability of physical remains existing to the extent that relevant questions may be asked of the sample is now established. The sample is likely to provide important information regarding the osteology of the Asylum children. This type of information may have potential relevance to the contemporary sub-adult-population.

Although the potential for the site to provide information regarding the prehistoric occupation of the region was initially considered to be low, it was also recognised that the area to be excavated was relatively large for a metropolitan site. Clearance has been conducted within archaeological parameters. This approach has resulted in the identification, recording and excavation of a deflated hearth and a large number of isolated finds. The site is providing an opportunity for the local Aboriginal community to renew their links with the past.

A final area in which the site has the ability to provide information is that associated with the procedures for recovering human skeletal material and techniques that integrate the physical remains with documentary evidence in order to examine a cemetery population. The refinement of these techniques may have a much broader application than simply that associated with the Prince of Wales Project.
Set out below are the primary areas of research for which the site has the ability, through historical, archaeological and forensic investigation to provide information not generally available through other means of inquiry and unlikely to be readily obtainable in the foreseeable future.

8.1 FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY

- The site has the ability to document diseases that were endemic in the Sydney region and the effect these diseases had on child mortality. The skeletal remains may also show evidence of diseases or syndromes not commonly observed in the present living population but possibly present in populations in the developing world. Diseases of the jaws and teeth such as dental caries, pre-mortem tooth loss, periodontal disease, dental abscess, dental hypoplasia, dental calculus and cysts may throw light on diet of the period and possibly changes in diet following institutionalisation.

- Variations in the diet of individuals within the Asylum may also be indicated by the skeletal material. Questions may be asked regarding changes in diet over time of the Asylum as a whole and differences in the quality of nutrition for females and males. Did any section of the Asylum population either receive an advantage or conversely disadvantaged because of age or sex?

- Similarly the skeletal material may show evidence of other forms of environmental stress. This stress may have been characteristic of the general population or specific to the Asylum such as standards of hygiene, medication and medical care, maltreatment, and water quality.

- If identification of individuals within the Cemetery is achieved, then the site has the ability to provide a skeletal sample with associated documentation. The great advantage of such a sample is that it allows current discriminators related to sex, age and race to be tested on a known population.

- It is difficult to determine the racial affiliation of children from their skeletons. If records identify the racial group of a child this would be of great benefit to forensic studies as well as to physical anthropologists.

- The identification of gender in sub-adults is extremely difficult. Because of difference of maturation of boys and girls, the sex of children's skeletons is sometimes inferred by comparing dental development with post-cranial development in the same individual. A population of children's skeletons in which age and sex are identified would allow for the examination of the sex-discriminating ability of combined dental/skeletal measurements to be tested.
Estimations of the age of children's skeletons are usually considered more accurate than those for adults. Probably the most accurate method used today is that based on dental calcification (Demirjian et al. 1973). This method has not been tested on skeletal samples of children. Assessment of the age of children's skeletons relies heavily on radiographic atlases using Caucasian children (presumably well-nourished). There is some evidence however indicating that children of different socio-economic groups and different races may mature at different rates (Krogman and Iscan 1986, Sinclair 1978). The Cemetery population has the ability to provide information regarding both different races and a neglected socio-economic class that can be compared with the radiographic atlases. This in effect allows an assessment to be made of the accuracy of some aspects of contemporary forensic methodology.

The growth pattern of skeletal populations may help in the understanding of how variations in adults has come about. This may be of particular relevance to investigating growth patterns in Third World children.

It will provide a child population for comparative examination that is presently unavailable to forensic pathology, particularly in the area regarding skeletal degradation of sub-adults.

The influence of congenital conditions on child health and mortality has the potential to assist the contemporary child population.

8.2 SOCIAL HISTORY

Analysis of the burial methods, grave goods and grave furniture may provide evidence for distinctions between burials during outbreaks of particular illnesses and individual deaths. Were both treated in the same manner or were expediencies employed?

Questions regarding environmental factors influencing mortality or child health may also be answered by an examination of this resource. The effect of heavy metals for example has not been generally considered in understanding nineteenth century health and mortality in Australian cities.

Did the fact that deaths occurred within an institution influence burial methods? Were distinctions made according to the deceased's religious affiliations, gender or ethnicity?

Were the changing concepts of death in the nineteenth century reflected in changes to burial procedures in the Asylum or did the effect of institutionalisation override such considerations?
• Does the location of the Cemetery and the position of the burials within it suggest the survival of the concept of mephitic influences in Australia well after it had been pronounced a superstition in industrialised Europe?

• Does the orientation of the burials and the position of the bodies therein indicate religious/cultural activities now no longer observed?

• Was the Cemetery a place from which the living child population of the Asylum excluded? The evidence of fence lines, the type of fencing employed or the survival of toys and playthings in the Cemetery topsoil may indicate whether the area was out-of-bounds or part of the Asylum's recreational area.

• Was the Cemetery well-maintained or unkempt during its period of operation. Palynological analysis may provide evidence of dominant plant groups such as weeds, lawn or decorative plantings. The evidence may indicate the manner in which the site's physical state translated into the Institution's attitude to those buried there.

8.3 PREHISTORY

• By undertaking Optically Stimulated Luminescence Dating of sands above and below the level of the coffee rock horizon it may be possible to determine if the coffee rock/white sand interface represents a disconformity. The raw dates themselves have the ability to allow cultural material recovered from such deposits to be relatively dated. The geomorphology and soil history have a broader scientific application across the whole soil landscape of which the Cemetery forms part.

• The possibility exists to investigate the prehistory of a zone usually regarded as having a low potential to reveal cultural information. As an area located between two zones of higher potential (occupation and food resource) the Cemetery area may provide information regarding usage not usually able to be investigated.

• The excavation and post-excavation phases of the project will enable the low intensity use hypothesis to be tested.

Specific tests to be undertaken may include:

* Carbon 14 dating of charcoal samples.
* Thermoluminescence dating.
* Lipid (i.e. fat) residence analysis from hearth stones.
* Examination of pollen samples associated with the deflated hearth.

8.4 CONTEMPORARY ABORIGINAL INTERESTS

- The site provides a means for the local Aboriginal community to participate in the investigation of both their pre- and post-contact history. In both areas of research, links with the past will be renewed. Attempts will be made to develop techniques enabling Aboriginality to be determined without the use of an invasive methodology on the skeletons.

- Any prehistoric data gathered during the course of the excavation will have the benefit of increasing the local Aboriginal community's appreciation and understanding of their past.

8.5 TECHNIQUES

- Can variations in the degree of skeletal degradation be attributed to factors such as the deceased's age or to other factors such as depth of burial, changing pH or variations in exposure to percolating groundwater due to the presence of buildings above some burials and not others?

- Resolution of these taphonomic problems not only has an archaeological application but may assist current forensic investigative methods. The problem of 'time elapsed since death' is one of the more difficult problems associated with the examination of children's skeletons more than three-years old. The degree of preservation and the identification of the physical factors associated with each burial may assist in establishing more clearly the manner in which sub-adult skeletons decay over time.

- If no grave markers or other forms of individual identification associated with the burials survive it may be possible to create a series of models using age/sex indicators to reconstruct burial sequences. Combining this information with that derived from Death Certificates it may be possible to identify individual children.

- Historical archaeologists have had few opportunities to undertake the excavation of human skeletal remains in Australia. Most are familiar with the traditional techniques employed in other parts of the world, but are these the most appropriate and efficient techniques for excavating skeletal material? The team assembled for the project has the breadth of experience to create and employ innovative techniques that have the potential to be more efficient, to cause less damage to the skeletal material during excavation and to allow a finer degree of recording to take place on-site.
9.0 PROJECT METHODOLOGY

9.1 APPROACH

The archaeological investigation has been designed to achieve maximum recovery of both historic and prehistoric cultural information and physical evidence. This is being achieved through an integrated program of research, excavation, analysis and consultation. Subject only to legitimate requirements for confidentiality and respect that arise from a sensitive project of this type, care is being taken to share available information within the team and with other interested persons and to consult widely.

The Project Team is conscious that compliance with the Conservation Policy for the site requires much more than technical expertise in physical documentation and analysis. Realisation of research potential and answering of the questions posed in Section 8.0 is dependant upon continuing interplay between historical research, expert specialist advice and archaeological excavation outcomes. In addition, the social values of the place require that information about the site and project be provided to stakeholders and, converseley, that mechanisms for ongoing stakeholder input be provided.

The following sections of this report are based upon the original offer of services and actual experience. (The offer of services and regular weekly reports to the client provide very detailed descriptions of methodologies and techniques used for different parts of the site).

9.2 RESEARCH

Prior to commencement of this phase of the project several stages of historical research had been completed, (Bickford 1994:1, 1994:2, 1994:3). Additional site-specific research and investigations continue, in a range of areas including:

- the military hospital construction;
- the military hospital use;
- World War I;
- the site between 1918 and 1945;
- the Destitute Children's Asylum; (review of all known primary resources);
- death certificates;
- Parliamentary and other records held by Commonwealth agencies.
In addition, specialist advice or other contextual research undertaken or in progress includes:

- nineteenth-century institutional diets;
- Victorian mortuary practices;
- Cemetery layout and planning;
- re-internment protocols for displaced cemeteries;
- identification of coffin wood species;
- identification of macrobiotic remains;
- palynology;
- parasitology;
- soil science;
- chemical analysis of substances found in association with graves.

9.2 THE EXCAVATION PROCESS

The excavation methodology has been prepared and implemented in the light of detailed analysis of the site stratigraphy; the practical requirements of the client and the research design questions.

Preliminary historical research suggested a more complex history of site disturbance than indicated in the available documentation.

Apart from the trenches excavated during 1993/94 preliminary excavations, it initially appeared that the site has been subjected to a minimum of 6 phases of site disturbance within the last 80 years. These are as follows:

1. Levelling of the dunes for the construction of the Army Hospital,
2. Removal of some of these buildings to Holsworthy Army Base between 1918-39,
3. Construction of buildings on the site c1939-40,
4. Demolition and removal of the buildings c1994,
5. Excavation of the top 30-50cm of sand during the removal of asbestos from the site c1994,
These processes have undoubtedly resulted in considerable modification to the nineteenth century archaeological deposits at the site. As a result of this level of disturbance and the requirements for site clearance a combination of mechanical and manual excavation was adopted.

In the northern (critical) part of the site initial excavations revealed substantial additional disturbance which apparently occurred in 1994. The disturbed area was initially addressed by a 5% stratified sample of 1m X 1m test pits. Once the site stratigraphically was well understood, an open area approach, using both mechanical and manual excavation techniques was employed. All areas were cleared to sterile layers. No evidence of burials or human remains were encountered.

In the southern part of the site the predicted stratigraphy is generally present, albeit disturbed or removed in some areas. The approach here has involved manual removal of disturbed deposits and fill and careful excavation of white aeolian sand within which both intact graves and Aboriginal artefacts/manuports have been encountered. A large number of disturbed human bone fragments have also been recovered from different units in this area. As at December 1995 remains of 42 individuals had been recovered from intact and disturbed graves.

On site stratigraphic analysis indicates that clearing activities which preceded the construction of the military hospital in 1915 may have pushed deposits containing intact graves from the eastern part of the cemetery across to the western part and possibly beyond the western cemetery boundary. This issue (and the possibility of further Aboriginal relics in the white sand below) will be addressed as the excavation within the cemetery area nears completion.

9.4 RECORDING AND ANALYSIS

9.4.1 Cultural Artefacts

This general class of artefacts refers to non-skeletal cultural material recovered during the excavation. These include artefacts such as grave furniture, grave goods, and other generic classes of artefacts associated with various phases of the sites use, eg. glass, ceramics, metal, non-human faunal material, etc. Artefacts of this class are being recovered from both in situ burials, and from wider stratigraphic contexts. Artefacts of this class have been recovered from all phases of site use, including: prehistoric occupation of the site, European use in the period before the establishment of the cemetery, the cemetery phase, use of the site as an army hospital, and use of the site as a general hospital.

Every identified stratigraphic unit or feature is being individually planned, described and photographed. Following this, the location of artefacts from these contexts are
recorded on standard pro forma site recording sheets. Artefacts are deposited into trays labelled according to context number and transferred to the artefact processing area for cleaning and sorting. Individual significant features are located on plans. Cataloguing of the artefacts will be completed on site during excavation and off-site during the post-excavation analysis phase.

9.4.2 Mapping and Recording of all Cultural Artefacts and Human Remains Revealed

General
The location, depth and orientation of cultural artefacts and human remains found on the site is recorded using one of two methods according to which is considered to be the most appropriate.

Cultural artefacts recovered are recorded according to their horizontal location within a nominal grid laid across the site. This grid relates to a permanent datum established at the commencement of the excavation. Vertical location is recorded with reference to numbered archaeological contexts and cross-referenced to the permanent site datum.

9.4.3 Human Remains.

This general class consists of skeletal material recovered from two discreet archaeological contexts: in situ burials, and dispersed scatters of human skeletal material, ie archaeological contexts consisting of dispersed scatters which have been produced by disturbance to the site.

Recording of in situ burials
Information on skeletal remains is being recorded in two stages; in situ and in storage.

In situ
Photographic recording of the arrangement and orientation of the remnant body components is made in black and white print and colour slide formats. Drawn plan illustrations using a standardised pro forma are made under the direction of the Supervisor of Planning. Taphonomic information such as the effects of animals, plants and erosion is recorded as part of the general process of stratigraphic excavation. The recording of grave goods and grave furniture in in-situ burials is performed by the excavating archaeologist under the direction of the Staff Forensic Anthropologist.

In storage
Skeletal inventories (written and illustrated) will be made at the Shellshear Museum under the supervision of the Skeletal Finds Supervisor. These inventories will include determination of sex, age, dental inventory, enamel defects, dental
measurements, cranial and post-cranial measurements, cranial and post-cranial non-metric traits, pathology and x-rays.

Further detailed analysis of human remains will be performed at the Shellshear Museum under the direction of the teams Forensic Anthropologist and Skeletal Finds Supervisor.

The general aims of the analysis programme will be to provide osteological data which can then be integrated with archaeological and historical information to provide a better understanding of the site, the 'Destitute Asylum' and the children who lived there. This type of work is similar to that conducted by Spitalfields which is a model for the integration of osteological information and social history.

- Data regarding sex and age of individuals, their health, dietary stress and disease will be recorded and entered onto a database.

- Identification of sex will use traditional methods of examination of the pelvis and also Discriminate Function Analyses derived from the Spitalfields Burials. Assessment of age will be based on tooth eruption and fusion of epiphyses. Assessment of nutritional status and stress will be assessed by examination of dental hypoplasia, cribra orbitalia, dental caries and periodontal disease and Harris Lines in long bones.

- Methods to identify the racial group of individuals will include assessment of tooth size and morphometric comparison of crania using the CRANID database.

- Invasive analysis. Further investigation of age will be done by bone histomorpometry. This would involve the measurement of osteon density in a cortical section of the bone. Another type of analysis available is the determination of age using analysis of root and dentine transparency of teeth.

- Investigation of diet will be achieved using trace element analysis. For example the ratio of strontium to calcium can give an indication of the percent of meat consumed in the site. The ratio of barium to strontium can indicate the percentage of marine versus terrestrial components in the diet.

- Behaviour, such as the level of activity, will be investigated using cross-sectional geometry of bone. This can be done using direct measurement and/or CT scans. Weaning ages may be determined by the analysis of strontium/calcium ratios.
Analysis of the human remains will focus on determination of individuals sex, age, factors associated with stress, disease, and dietary deficiency. The analysis will include investigation and determination of traits such as enamel hypoplasia, cribra, arrested growthlines and dental disease.

The general aims of the analysis will be to achieve an integration of information related to human osteology and which can then be integrated with archaeological and historical data. This will be conducted at the Shellshear Museum, University of Sydney, under the direction of the Forensic Anthropologist and Skeletal Finds Supervisor.

9.5 STORAGE AND TREATMENT OF FINDS

Removal of the human remains is done using gloves. This prevents contamination of the remains by the excavator's tissue. If remains are damp they are packaged in labelled paper bags to prevent sweating. Each individual is packaged into a separate cardboard box for the transport of the remains and is then taken to the Shellshear Museum. When not being analysed the human remains will be stored in lockable cabinets in the Shellshear Museum. The Shellshear Museum is not open to the public and only bona fide researchers are allowed access.

A distinction has been made, as far as is possible, separating those items which may be termed, grave goods (items interred with the body and usually of direct personal association with the deceased) and grave coffin furniture (items associated with the receptacle which contains the interred body and of a more generic nature).

Standard post excavation methodology is employed with all cultural material associated with burials. This includes initial inspection of each item to determine the nature of the treatment which may be required during the analysis and storage phase, the storage of material in plastic resealable bags (or other as directed by conservator), and labelling of the bag with sticky label containing the following information, site name and date, burial context number, material type and individual artefact number.

Each bag is placed in a standard archive box labelled with burial context number and artefact number range for reference during the analysis phase.

All other cultural artefacts are treated and stored according to the above procedures. Those items not associated with burials are allocated numbers associating the item with the context in which it was uncovered.

Other finds of archaeological significance include, soil and deposit samples, soil profiles/cores faunal or floral remains associated with the site. Soil and deposit
samples (for pollen analysis, entomological analysis or parasite analysis) have the context/burial context number recorded and are sealed in plastic resealable bags for analysis by relevant specialists. Soil profiles/cores (for geomorphological analysis) are stored intact within suitable containers (wrapped in plastic as required) for analysis by the relevant specialist. Faunal or floral remains are treated according to the standard methodology to be employed for all cultural material and stored.

### 9.6 LIASON AND CONSULTATION

The site of the Randwick Destitute Children’s Asylum Cemetery is a place of great social significance. The consequent obligations for informing and consultation with stakeholders extends well beyond what is normal practice on a large archaeological program. The special requirements of this site are being addressed in a range of ways including:

- the establishment of a broadly-based Management Committee;
- Regular weekly reports to the Management Committee;
- on-site presence of an Aboriginal Sites Officer from La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council;
- issue of a Newsletter to interested persons;
- free-call consultation telephone enquiry line;
- organised site inspections for stakeholder groups;
- structural media briefings;
- consultation about future management and interpretation, via a questionairre;
- strict adherence to limitations on visual access to human remains;
- extensive team briefing on site protocols.

In general (with a few exceptions only) the feedback from interested persons and stakeholders has been very positive.
10.0 SOURCES


Doyle & Storey (1991) Frank Doyle and Joy storey, Destitute Children's Asylum, Randwick 1852-1916. Historical Monograph 5, Randwick and District Historical Society


Macintosh (1919) C.L.S. Macintosh, Re-Building Billjim, *Remnants from Randwick*. Committee for the Patients of the 4th Australian General Hospital


