POW Project 1995
Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum Cemetery
Archaeological Investigation
INTERPRETATION GUIDELINES

Report prepared for South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service
June 1996
POW PROJECT 95

RANDWICK DESTITUTE CHILDREN'S ASYLUM CEMETERY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

Interpretation Guidelines

Prepared for
South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service

June 1996
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

The redevelopment of the Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick, is being undertaken by the South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service. The total project includes construction of new intensive care facilities and an infectious diseases ward. The site nominated for the new facilities extends across the location of the cemetery of the former Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum.

During 1995 and 1996 Austral Archaeology and Godden Mackay were commissioned by the South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service (SESAHS) to undertake archaeological excavation, management and short term curation of the cemetery. The project was carried out in accordance with a detailed study brief, research design and methodology and was subject to permits issued by the Heritage Council of New South Wales, the New South Wales Department of Health and the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service.

In addition to the archaeological excavation and subsequent analysis, it is intended that the remains of the children recovered as part of the project will be re-buried on site in an appropriate commemorative area.

This document has been prepared following the conclusion of work on site, but prior to completion of post-excavation analysis and reporting. It has been prepared to provide input and guidelines to the design team for the Barker Special Care Centre (the infectious diseases facility).

1.2 THE PLACE

The subject site is currently part of the Prince of Wales hospital complex, located near the corner of Barker and Avoca Streets, Randwick. The area of particular concern is the Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum Cemetery. The cemetery extends across a large part of the proposed Barker Special Care Centre. These features are shown in Figure 1.1.
1.3 THE PEOPLE

1.3.1 Asylum Children

An asylum for destitute children was operated by the Society for the Relief of Destitute Children on the current Prince of Wales Hospital site between 1856 and 1915. During this period approximately 6,000 children attended the institution. Of these, approximately 220 died while in the Asylum’s care. While a number of the children who died at the Asylum were buried elsewhere, available records suggest that approximately 170 were buried within the Asylum cemetery.

The archaeological excavation established that, since its closure in 1915, the cemetery site has been subject to a series of phases of physical disturbance. Detailed and methodical archaeological excavation resulted in the recovery of remains from at least 65 individuals. It is presumed that remains of other individuals were formerly present, but were removed during the clearing that took place on site in 1915 (to make way for ‘temporary’ Army hospital huts), or during subsequent activities.

Available evidence indicates that the graves of the children were not physically marked on site.

Various information about the children is available from Asylum records, death certificates and other historical sources.

1.3.2 Their Relatives

There has been considerable public interest in the cemetery since the potential conflict between construction of new hospital facilities and conservation of the site became apparent. Media coverage and invitations to consult the SESAHS and the project team resulted in the identification of a number of relatives of Asylum inmates and a small number of relatives of children who died at the Asylum and are believed to have been buried in the cemetery.

Relatives of the Asylum children and other stakeholders have been consulted and kept informed at all stages of the project via a Newsletter, invitations to visit the site and a freecall access number.

1.3.3 Interest Groups

The site and the project are also of considerable interest to a range of other interest groups. These include local historical and genealogical societies and archaeologists, amongst others.
1.3.4 Aboriginal Land Council

From the earliest stages of the project, the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council has been involved and consulted. An Aboriginal sites officer has been present on site throughout the excavation. Appropriate ceremonies have been held, in accordance with the wishes of the local Aboriginal community.

(A study of historical records indicates that one or more of the deceased children may have been Aboriginal.)

1.3.5 The Hospital

There is considerable interest in the project from the Hospital - Capital Works Unit of SESAHS, medical teams, chaplains and the proposed users of the new facilities.

1.4 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

On site archaeological excavation works were completed on March 15th 1996.

Post-exavention recording, analysis and reporting will continue throughout 1996 and into the early part of 1997. The project aims have been:

- Identification, investigation and recording of all archaeological deposits and features associated with Aboriginal use of the site.

- Identification, investigation and recording of all archaeological deposits and features associated with the use of the site during the period after European settlement, focusing on:

  - the identification, recording and recovery of all in situ burials, dispersed skeletal material and grave contents associated with the use of the site as a cemetery by the Randwick Destitute Children’s Asylum, and

  - investigation of all archaeological deposits associated with post-Asylum use of the site, particularly those deposits related to the period when the site was used as an Army hospital.

Appendix A provides a copy of the summary report submitted to SESAHS certifying completion of work on site. This summary report contains an overview of the archaeological excavation results.
1.5 THE INTERPRETATION GUIDELINES

These guidelines had been prepared at the request of the project Management Committee. They reflect the results of historical research, the project’s research design, outcomes of work on site, consultation with stakeholders and discussions with SESAHS and the project architects.

The guidelines had been prepared and are presented as input to the design of the commemorative area. They are not intended to provide a detailed scheme, but rather a set of principles to be applied.
Figure 1.1 Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum Cemetery. Proposed Barker Special Care Centre.
2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 APPROACH

Preparation of these guidelines has broadly followed the conservation planning and decision making approach outlined in the conservation policy guidelines of the Burra Charter of Australia ICOMOS. In summary, this approach requires the significance of a place to be assessed and understood and other issues and constraints to be identified, prior to determination of appropriate policies.

In the case of the current site and issue, the significance of the site has been determined and assessed prior to commencement of work on site. This evaluation has been reconsidered. In addition to identifying and addressing key issues to do with the current capital works project of the place, an extensive program of consultation with key stakeholders has been undertaken, so that the views of those to whom the place is most important can be taken into account.

The guidelines themselves represent a rational synthesis/consensus of identified views and issues. They do not (and cannot) accommodate all wishes expressed by different parties.

2.2 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE

The "statement of significance" prepared prior to commencement of the archaeological investigation has been reviewed in the light of results on site, discussion with stakeholders and subsequent contextual research.

Particular consideration has been given to the question of amendments of the statement to reflect the fact that the children's remains are no longer buried at the site. However, in view of the clear commitment from SESAHS to rebury the children's remains within the cemetery, and the statutory compulsion to do so created by the conditions attached to the excavation permit for the site, the revised assessment below is worded on the assumption that the remains and site will soon be reunited.
The summary statement of significance reads:

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

The Cemetery site is a place that has been utilised by Aboriginal people for at least 8,000 years and is held in esteem by the local Aboriginal community.

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 1.

The Cemetery itself, unlike most burial grounds in Australia, was 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 developments and changes regarding child welfare and the late nineteenth century practice 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 graves 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.
2.3 CONSULTATION

The project and the preparation of these guidelines has included extensive consultation with all known stakeholders. Techniques used to consult include meetings, site visits, a project Newsletter, media releases, a freecall information line and oversight by a Management Committee with representatives drawn from key organisations.

Groups and organisations formally consulted as part of the process include:

- Relatives of the deceased;
- Relatives of Asylum inmates;
- Randwick and District Historical Society;
- Cape Banks Family History Society;
- Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists;
- La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council;
- Australian Heritage Commission;
- Heritage Council of New South Wales;
- New South Wales Department of Urban Affairs and Planning;
- New South Wales Department of Health;
- New South Wales Institute of Forensic Medicine;
- New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service;
- South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service;
- Prince of Wales Hospital Management;
- Prince of Wales Hospital staff (including Chaplains).

2.4 QUESTIONNAIRE

In order to ensure that adequate opportunity was provided for any interested persons to participate in the design of the proposed commemorative area, a questionnaire was circulated with two issues in the project Newsletter. A copy of
the questionnaire is provided as Appendix B. Nineteen completed questionnaires plus three letters in response were received. A summary of the response is provided at Appendix C. The letters received, together with attachments, are included as Appendix D.
3.0 ISSUES AND CONSTRAINTS

The following sections endeavour to summarise succinctly the key issues and constraints that effect future interpretation of the site.

3.1 OBLIGATIONS WHICH ARISE FROM THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE

- The Randwick Destitute Children’s Asylum Cemetery should be conserved.

- Conservation decisions should follow the process outlined in the Burra Charter of Australia ICOMOS. (Note: this is already accommodated in the conservation policy for the site).

- The Cemetery should continue its role as the primary memorial to the children who died and were buried at the Asylum.

- The historical association of the site should be maintained with:
  - The children from the Asylum;
  - The relatives of the deceased;
  - The Aboriginal use of the site;
  - Randwick Destitute Children’s Asylum;
  - The Military Hospital;
  - Prince of Wales Hospital.

- The landscape of the place should continue to be a major visual characteristic - the lack of monuments has been an important aspect of the Cemetery’s social and historic values.

- The association of the Cemetery area with the main Asylum buildings (elsewhere on the Prince of Wales Hospital site) should be maintained and interpreted.

- Given that the site has been disturbed, the research potential of its archaeological resources should be fully realised through a structured program of archaeological investigation and analysis. The resulting information should be made available to the wider community.

- Respect for the dead.
3.2 STATUTORY CONTEXT

The site has been excavated in accordance with a permit issued by the Heritage Council of New South Wales pursuant to Section 140 of the New South Wales Heritage Act. There are a series of conditions which attach to the permit. These include:

(x) The Excavation Permit is also issued subject to the conditions made on the Heritage Council's endorsement of the Conservation Policy, namely: the interpretation and commemoration plans are submitted to the Heritage Council; that appropriate interpretation specialists are involved with the redesign of the Barker Centre from the earliest stages; the SESAHS is to prepare a conservation plan for the precinct as a whole.

• The excavation/removal of Aboriginal features at the site has been undertaken in accordance with three permits issued by the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 90 of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act. Those permits also contain an extensive series of conditions, which primarily relate to work procedures on site and reporting requirements.

• The excavation has also been completed in accordance with a permit issued under Section 38 of the New South Wales Public Health Regulations. No specific conditions attach to this permit.

• The Conservation Policy for the site is a binding document by virtue of its reference in the above-mentioned Heritage Council Excavation permit conditions. An extract from the Conservation Policy is included in this report as Appendix E.

• Any proposed treatment of the site must enable associated building or landscaping works to comply with other relevant statues as appropriate (eg. the Building Code of Australia).

3.3 HOSPITAL REQUIREMENTS

The cemetery extends across the proposed site of new infectious diseases facilities. Current plans for these facilities indicates the provision of a Commemorative area at the northern end of the Barker Special Care Centre, immediately south of a major vehicular entrance and public car park. General requirements of the hospital include:
- Use of a major part of the cemetery area for construction of the Barker Special Care Centre;
- Use by patients of the proposed Commemorative area for tranquil reflection/convalescence;
- Privacy;
- Sunlight;
- An effective public/private interface;
- A reasonable cost.

The hospital's specific requirements for the landscape area to the north of the Barker Special Care Centre are:

- **A level landscaped area** (the "Inpatient Area") immediately adjacent to the north facade of the building, which can be used as outdoor space by those persons occupying the building's inpatient rooms. The area should extend along the full length of the north facade if possible, and should be at virtually the same level as the floor of the inpatient rooms to allow wheeled access.

- **A second landscaped area** (the "Memorial Area") which would be located in part or all of the zone between the Inpatient Area and the Emergency Roadway running east-west along the southern facade of the major redevelopment. The Memorial Area could be set at a level above the Emergency Road and below the Inpatient Area - thus assisting to reduce the costs of civil works for the project.

- **The landscaping for the Inpatient Area** should provide privacy screening from the main entry road to the east and from the car park and forecourt levels of the main redevelopment area to the north. This latter requirement should be tempered with the possibly conflicting need to maintain direct sun onto the Inpatient Area particularly in winter.

- **The landscaping for the Inpatient Area** should provide privacy screening from the Memorial Area. However it would not be inappropriate for the Inpatient Area to benefit from views over the Memorial Area landscaping (without being intrusive).
• There should not be public access from the Memorial Area to the Inpatient Area. However, it would be reasonable and appropriate to allow access for inpatients to utilise the Memorial Area for quiet enjoyment on the same basis as the general public.

• It would be reasonable to note that the Memorial Area may need to be somewhat rectangular in plan form, running east-west. The eastern zone would overlap part of the original Cemetery area and could be a space in which the remains are reinterred, whilst the western area could be an access or "lead in" landscaped area, with some seating, some historic information presented appropriately, and space(s) for quiet enjoyment/reflection.

3.4 STAKEHOLDER VIEWS

The consultation/questionnaire process has elucidated a series of stakeholder views. While opposing views have been expressed in relation to almost every issue considered, the process has identified some general consensus. It is useful to divide the views expressed into general requirements and specific ideas.

3.4.1 General Requirements

• On-site commemoration of the Asylum children.

• Names of the buried children to be provided.

• The history of the Asylum should be included on site (either at the Cemetery area or at the Asylum buildings).

• The re-burial area should be physically marked.

• The Commemorative area should be integrated with associated adjacent landscape areas and the new facilities.

• General public/community access should be available.

• Native species should be used in landscaping work, (although this need not exclude use of exotic species).

• Some material from the site (e.g. plants/soil/rocks) should be used in the landscaping of the commemorative area.
3.4.2 Specific Ideas

- The names of all 6,000 Asylum inmates might be presented.
- Statues of children.
- Bronze memorial plaques.
- A sculpture or monument (stone seems to be preferred).
- A children's garden (either contemporary or historic).
- Particular species should be used (refer to Appendix C).

3.5 THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- The Cemetery area has been excavated to sterile deposits.
- The site will be used as a building/construction site for the next twelve months.
- The commemorative area will be adjacent to a major vehicular entrance.
- There is a significant grade between the proposed commemorative area and the car park to the north.
- The site is consequently potentially affected by noise and vehicle emissions.
- The proposed landscape area is approximately 800 square metres.
- Of this, approximately 375 square metres lies across part of the original cemetery area.
- The minimum area required for burying 65 sets of children's remains is approximately 40 square metres.

3.6 AVAILABLE RESOURCES

- No specific budget for the commemorative area has been nominated.
- A number of Ficus hillii plants, propagated from a tree that formerly stood on site, are available.
- A mature Phoenix palm from adjacent to the cemetery is available for possible use on site.
- Approximately 100 cubic metres of white sand from the site has been stockpiled.
- The remains of the 65 individuals have been maintained separately.
- There are also other human remains, separate from the individual sets.
4.0 APPROACH

4.1 SYNTHESIS

This section of the report endeavours to draw together the key issues that effect the site. Specific guidelines are provided in the ensuing sections.

Notwithstanding the decision to remove the physical evidence of the cemetery to construct a hospital facility, the site retains an imposing sense of place. The unmarked presence of the children's remains and the extensive community interest in the site and the project are powerful concepts.

The challenge for those responsible for the commemorative area is to design it in a way that maintains the 'place' and its vivid associations. This can be achieved through return of the children's remains and provision of a new landscape area that responds to the needs and wants of those to whom the place is important.

The approach therefore must be holistic and must address and synthesise a series of key factors.

4.2 KEY FACTORS TO BE ADDRESSED

- The role of the place as a burial ground for human remains.
- The need to commemorate
  - the deceased;
  - the Asylum children;
  - the Asylum.
- The use of the place by Aboriginal people for at least 8,000 years.
- The use of adjacent (new) hospital buildings, including the need for patient garden area.
- The new environment, including form, scale and location of buildings and roads.
- Information, including deceased children's names, to be on site.
- Accessible to all.
- Use of some physical material from the site.

These factors are addressed in the ensuing design principles.
5.0 GUIDELINES

5.1 GENERAL

- The Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum Cemetery will be retained as an identifiable 'place'.
- The Cemetery will be modified to become a commemorative area, created within the boundaries of the original Cemetery.
- The commemorative area will include re-buried remains of the Asylum children.
- The commemorative area will have a special identity from other open spaces within the Prince of Wales Hospital, but should be related to other landscape areas through design, materials and plantings.

5.2 MESSAGES

- The place is a burial ground.
- The burial ground was part of the Asylum.
- The place has also been used by Aboriginal people.
- There are other aspects of the history of the place.
- Although modified the place has been treated respectfully.

5.3 INFORMATION

5.3.1 On Site

- A short history/historical overview.
- The names of the deceased/buried children.
- The physical relationship between the cemetery and Asylum buildings.
- Physical indication of the re-burial area.
- Indication of Aboriginal (prehistoric) use.
5.3.2 At the Asylum Buildings

- More extensive historical information.
- The names of all known Asylum inmates.

5.3.3 Off-Site/Other Locations

- A brochure about the Asylum and Cemetery.
- A temporary exhibition about the Cemetery project.

5.4 DESIGN PARAMETERS

5.4.1 Concepts

- The commemorative area should be presented as a place for children.
- The idea of providing a children’s garden is recommended as consistent with the significance of the place, future uses and stakeholder wishes. The Asylum is known to have had such a garden.
- One or more strong visual icons should be included. A child’s statue or simple piece of sculpture would be appropriate.
- There should be no formal monument - information devices should be subservient to the commemorative area landscape.

5.4.2 Form and Scale

- The commemorative area should be confined within the original Cemetery and should extend fully between eastern and western Cemetery boundaries.
- The boundary between the commemorative area and the remaining patient garden area should be physically and/or visually defined.
- The overall structure should be rectilinear, reflecting the original Cemetery layout and subsequent format of hospital huts.
- The commemorative area should be visually screened from the road and car park to the north.
- Design elements should be of a modest, human scale.
5.4.3 Materials

- The white sand retained from the site (c.100 cubic metres) should be used in the re-burial area. (It may be used as a visible element.)

- Paving elements or other masonry features should be selected for visual appeal and sensitivity.

- Interpretive devices (eg. signs or plaques) should be of a visually non-intrusive material and finish.

5.4.4 Plantings

- Plantings should include locally indigenous species.

- Plantings could include one or more of the Ficus hillii propagated from the specimen which was formerly part of the site, and the Phoenix palm which was also formerly adjacent to the site.

- Exotic species may be used - particularly if the children's garden concept is pursued.

- Exotic species already present on the Prince of Wales Hospital site should be selected in preference to new species.

5.5 ACCESS

- Access to the commemorative area should always be available to any person.

- The design of the commemorative area should encourage access to and use by Barker Special Care Centre patients, for passive recreation purposes.

5.6 MEDIA

- On site interpretation should use low key media such as plaques, discreetly placed signs and an evocative statue or sculpture.
5.7 RELATIONSHIP WITH HOSPITAL

The design of the commemorative area and the presentation and interpretation of the history and significance of the place should be addressed as part of the overall interpretation of the Asylum/Prince of Wales Hospital. This approach should be reflected in both messages presented and the palette of devices and materials used to present them.
6.0 DESIGN PROCESS

6.1 GENERAL

1. This report and the design guidelines above should form the basis of a brief for the design of the commemorative area.

2. On site interpretation (including preparation of text and selection of icons or images) should be prepared in conjunction with the commemorative area design.

6.2 STAKEHOLDER LIAISON

3. The design guidelines should be provided to stakeholders via the project Newsletter. (It should be explained in the Newsletter that the guidelines represent a synthesis of views, since it would be impossible to accede to all requests and suggestions.)

4. Stakeholders should be provided with an opportunity to comment upon designs for the commemorative area and on site interpretation before they are finalised.

6.3 AUTHORITY CONSULTATION

5. This report and the guidelines should be reviewed and approved by the Management Committee prior to issue as part of the design brief.

6. Heritage Council endorsement of the commemorative area design and the proposed interpretation must be sought in accordance with the conditions of the excavation permit for the site.

6.4 REINTERMENT

7. Reinterment should be included as a critical activity in the commemorative area construction and should be undertaken in a manner which is respectful and provides for involvement of interested stakeholders.

8. Provision should be made for Aboriginal involvement and ceremonies as part of the reinterment process.
7.0 APPENDICES

Appendix A  POW Project 95, Interim Report, May 1996
Appendix B  Commemorative Area Ideas Questionnaire
Appendix C  Summary of Questionnaire Responses
Appendix D  Letters Received About Proposed Commemorative Area
POW PROJECT 95

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS
RANDWICK DESTITUTE CHILDREN'S ASYLUM
CEMETERY

INTERIM REPORT

Prepared for
South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service
Heritage Council of NSW
NSW Department of Health

May 1996
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

In 1993 the NSW Government announced a major re-development at Prince of Wales Hospital in order to consolidate clinical services at the Randwick Campus. During the planning of this development the South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service (SESAHS); then the Eastern Sydney Area Health Service (ESAHS), undertook extensive research, including archaeological testing of the site, in order to determine the location of a cemetery believed to exist within the development area. The Cemetery was part of the Randwick Destitute Children’s Asylum, which formerly stood on the site. This work recovered information regarding the Cemetery and individuals interred therein; however the archaeological programme failed to identify the location of the Cemetery precisely.

Juvenile human bones were identified in the development area after demolition of existing buildings on the site. This discovery established the location of the Cemetery - within an area of the development that was pivotal to the completion a new Ambulatory Clinic and the Barker Centre for Infectious Diseases. In response, the SESAHS commissioned the preparation of a Statement of Significance and a Conservation Policy for the Cemetery in order to define the cultural significance of the place and to propose a strategy for its protection. The SESAHS also examined options for re-location and re-design of the buildings in order to avoid damage to the Cemetery. This process was undertaken in consultation with heritage agencies, relatives of the Asylum children and other relevant stakeholders.

The assessment concluded that the Cemetery was an item of outstanding cultural significance in terms of its association with the Asylum and the role of this institution in the history of NSW, its inherent social values relative to the community, and its research potential for archaeologists and forensic anthropologists. Archaeological excavation of the site (in order to realise the site’s scientific potential), and limited re-design of the Barker Centre to include an area for the reinterment of excavated burials were determined to be the appropriate courses of action.

As a result, the SESAHS subsequently invited a number of Consultants to submit Tender Offers for the archaeological excavation, management and short-term curation of the Randwick Destitute Children’s Asylum Cemetery Site. The contract to undertake this work was awarded to a joint venture between Austral Archaeology and Godden Mackay Heritage Consultants on the basis of a submission dated 4th August, 1995.
Figure 1.1 General Location plan showing the Randwick Destitute Asylum Cemetery site and the Prince of Wales Hospital.
The brief divides the work involved with the Project into four stages, comprising a series of sub-tasks as follows:

1.0 Preliminary Work

- Formulation of Research Design.
- Obtain all necessary Permits.
- Submission of detailed work schedule and methodology.
- Establishment of site infrastructure.

2.0 On-Site Work

- Archaeological excavation of the site in accordance with conditions described in the Excavation Permit issued by the Heritage Branch of NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning.
- Treatment and Storage of Human Remains and cultural artefacts in accordance with the conditions of the Contract.
- Weekly liaison with the Prince of Wales Project Management Committee regarding the progress of the excavation, management of media and stakeholder interests, reinterment of the human remains and recommendations for future interpretation of the place.
- Completion of detailed history of the site.

3.0 Post-Excavation Work

- Preparation of a report indicating successful completion of the fieldwork component of the project for endorsement by the Project's Management Committee.
- Preparation of an interim report describing the results of the fieldwork, the status of the Project with regard to its Objectives.
- Post-excavation cataloguing and analysis of human skeletal and cultural materials recovered.
- Preparation of detailed reports on the site and its contents by specialists in history, archaeology, osteology, geomorphology and soil science.
4.0 Synthesis of specialists’ reports and preparation of Final Report on the Project.

Completion of Stage 1 was achieved by Wednesday 30th August, 1995; the date of the Excavation Permit issue.

Stage 2 - excavation of the Cemetery site commenced on 30th August, 1995 and was completed by 9th February, 1996.

Clearance of the entire development area (incorporating the Cemetery site) was achieved by 13th March, 1996, after completion of a systematic sampling program of deposits in areas immediately adjacent to the Cemetery.

The site was vacated by the archaeological team on Friday 15th March, 1996.

This report is the Interim Report required as part of Stage 3 of the project.

1.2 THE SITE

Location

The Cemetery site is located at the southern part of the Prince of Wales Hospital in Randwick as shown in Figure 1.1. Figures 3.1 and 3.2 provide pictorial overviews of the site during work in progress.

Physical Setting

The site is located on the crest and western flank of a single large fixed dune with a north-west/south-east trend. This location was once part of an extensive dune field within the Botany Lowlands which formed as a result of deposition of Holocene and Pleistocene aeolian sands. Soil profiles revealed during the archaeological investigations are consistent with those usually described as the Tuggerah soil landscape. These typically display a grey brown topsoil [A1 horizon], bleached, white, loose sand [A2 horizon], black, sandy, organic pan and brown, sandy iron pan commonly known as "Waterloo" or "Coffee" rock - [B horizon] and massive yellow sand [C horizon, deep subsoil].
Historical Setting

Archaeological investigations at the site and historical research undertaken during the course of the fieldwork indicates an occupation/land use sequence comprising five generalised phases:

1. Sporadic Aboriginal occupation during the period between circa 8,000BP (Before Present) and European settlement of Australia in 1788.

2. Possible itinerant use of the site in the period between European settlement and establishment of the Asylum (1788-1858).

3. Use of the site as a Cemetery for the interment of deceased inmates of the Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum (1863-c1891).

4. Use of the site following establishment of No. 4 Australian General Hospital (c1915-95).

5. Use of the site following the creation of the Prince of Wales Hospital.

Summarised description and preliminary interpretation of the results of historic research and archaeological investigation of cultural features identified at the site are presented in Sections 3.0 and 4.3 of this report. Detailed description of all aspects of research and fieldwork conducted during the project will be presented in the Final Report.

1.3 RATIONALE

The Prince of Wales Project and the excavation of the Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum Cemetery is essentially a salvage project conducted in response to re-development of the site. Given the significance of the place and its value as a potential scientific research resource, it was considered that by undertaking archaeological excavation of deposits at the Cemetery, within a firmly established research framework, the considerable historical, archaeological and osteological potential of the site could be realised with a minimal loss of information. The archaeological investigation of the site, and reinterment of the remains of the children, is part of a process of rehabilitation of both disturbed remains and in situ burials.
1.4 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Project may be summarised as follows:

- Identification, investigation and recording of all archaeological deposits and features associated with Aboriginal use of the site.

- Identification, investigation and recording of all archaeological deposits and features associated with use of the site during the period after European settlement, focussing on:

- The identification, recording and recovery of all *in situ* burials, dispersed skeletal material and grave contents associated with use of the site as a Cemetery by the Randwick Destitute Children’s Asylum; and

- Investigation of all archaeological deposits associated with post-Asylum use of the site, particularly those deposits related to the period when the site was used as an Army Hospital.
2.0 RESEARCH

The Project Team's approach to the Prince of Wales site and project emphasises integration of documentary and physical evidence. The research programme conducted during the project was designed to achieve maximum recovery of both historic and prehistoric cultural information and physical evidence in an attempt to realise the potential of the site. This work was conducted by a multi-disciplinary team, with an ongoing interplay between documentary research, expert specialist advice and archaeological excavation outcomes being an integral feature of the programme.

The following sections briefly discuss research undertaken during the project. All research and related investigation that took place on, or in relation to, the site was carried out in accordance with the conservation policy prepared by the SESAHS following extensive consultation with interested parties.

2.1 EXISTING INFORMATION

Prior to commencement of the project the SESAHS commissioned Anne Bickford and Associates to conduct a programme of historical research on the Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum and the Cemetery. In December 1993 this was followed by an extensive test excavation of the deposits in the spaces between buildings on the site in an attempt to confirm the location of the Cemetery by identifying graves.

The documentary research yielded various information regarding the history of the Asylum. The major tangible results with regard to the Cemetery were:

- An 1891 Water Board Plan showing the location of Cemetery in relation to other Asylum buildings; and
- Plans showing the location and design of hospital buildings established when the Army began using the site circa 1915.

Despite the recovery of a single human cranial fragment, the test excavation programme failed to locate the Cemetery. A survey of the site using Ground Penetrating Radar was then conducted by the Geo-Physics Department at the University of New England. This also proved to be inconclusive, although a number of anomalies considered as potential grave sites were identified.
The location of the Cemetery was tentatively confirmed following identification and recovery of human bone and three graves in the vicinity of former Hut R following demolition of the hospital buildings and removal of 30-50 cm of asbestos-contaminated sand in June, 1994.

At commencement of the project, available information regarding the Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum and Cemetery may be summarised as follows:

- Various information regarding the history of the Asylum.
- Evidence for interment of at least 163 individuals buried in the Cemetery based on death certificates and Asylum records.
- Tentative identification of the location of the Cemetery.
- Limited data regarding the extent of site disturbance that had occurred in the interim between the last interment and 1995.

2.2 RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Detailed discussion of the context, aims and methods employed during the research programme is made in the Research Design prepared for the archaeological investigation. The principal aspects of the programme are summarised below.

- Definition of the chronological order and nature of site formation processes in order to understand the site and its contents.
- Identification and assessment of the location and extent of intact and disturbed deposits within the Cemetery.
- Review of all known primary resources relating to the Destitute Children's Asylum to provide an understanding of the social context of the Asylum and Cemetery.
- Review of the Asylum Register and the Benevolent Society records to obtain death certificates for all individuals interred in the Cemetery in order to determine which individuals may be present, their causes of death, relevant genealogical information, and to identify (among other things);
  * any distinct ethnic and/or religious and/or racial groups which may have led to identifiable groupings or burial practices;
  * any groupings based on diseases; and
• evidence relating to use patterns within the site or specific events observed during the investigation.

• Review of literature on Victorian mortuary practices with reference to grave layout, grave contents, etc.

• Review of research literature on nineteenth century epidemics and epidemiology.

• Detailed research on the history of the military hospital, with particular reference to its construction.

• Assessment of modifications to the military hospital between its establishment and demolition of the hospital buildings.

In addition, issues or subjects on which specialist advice has been obtained to date, or are in progress include:

• Nineteenth century institutional diets, health and morbidity;

• Reinterment protocols for displaced cemeteries;

• Identification of recovered coffin fabric and their origins;

• Identification of macrobiotic remains;

• Palynology;

• Parasitology;

• Soil science; and

• Chemical analysis of substances found in association with graves and Aboriginal archaeological features.

The preliminary results of the research programme are discussed in Section 4.3 of this report.
Figure 2.1 Randwick Destitute Children’s Asylum Cemetery Excavation: Plan showing the site, excavation grid, cemetery boundary.
The offer of services and weekly reports submitted to the Client include detailed descriptions of methodologies employed during the course of the fieldwork, and discussion of results. The methodology used was outlined in the project Research Design, relevant parts of which are reproduced as Section 9.0 of this report. The following section provides a summary description of the course of the work on-site and results of this phase of the project.

Archaeological investigation of the Cemetery site was conducted in two phases (Figure 2.1):

1. Investigation and clearance of the northern end of the site [Area 1] was required by Friday 29th September, 1995 to allow commencement of the Ambulatory Clinic construction activities.

2. Investigation and clearance of the remainder of the Cemetery site [Area 2] was required as expeditiously as possible.

At the conclusion of excavation within the Cemetery, areas surrounding the surveyed boundary of the site were also investigated to ensure that total clearance of the proposed Barker Centre development area had been achieved.

The excavation methodology employed during the work was prepared and implemented after detailed analysis of the site stratigraphy, and took into consideration the practical requirements of the Client, the nature of potential archaeological deposits at the site, and the research design questions. Analysis of the extent of site disturbance conducted after clearance of Area 1 indicated that modification of nineteenth century deposits at the site was considerably greater than anticipated at the commencement of work. It was estimated that, within the predicted boundary of the total Cemetery, less than 20% of deposits pre-dating 1915 survived in an undisturbed form, with 15-20% having been removed entirely. The remaining 55-65% of deposits appeared to have undergone at least some degree of modification since 1915. This assessment was proved to be accurate during the investigations in Area 2. As a result, a combination of manual and supervised mechanical excavation was adopted, and the duration of the field season was protracted due to the necessity for careful investigation of disturbed deposits and complete recovery of extensive quantities of redeposited skeletal material.
The primary results of the excavation programme included the identification of the site of the Cemetery and its boundaries and confirmation of the survival of 65 *in situ* burials. These burials were successfully recovered in accordance with the conditions outlined in the project contract. The site formation and modification processes are now well understood and will be discussed in detail in the final report. The excavation programme also revealed physical evidence associated with the Aboriginal occupation of the site over a considerable period of time.

### 3.1 THE NORTHERN AREA [AREA 1]

**Process**

Figure 3.1 provides a pictorial overview of Area 1.

Investigation and recording of deposits revealed within Area 1 commenced on Wednesday 30th August and was completed on Friday 29th September, 1995.

Excavation was initially conducted by machine in order to remove thick, recently deposited fill covering the predicted cemetery area. This unit overlays units of mixed grey and white sand which were investigated by sampling and sieving. No skeletal material, grave goods or grave furniture were recovered during this process. The deposit was then removed by machine.

All deposits stratigraphically below this unit and above Waterloo rock, eg white sand and relict patches of 1915 fill, were manually excavated and sieved. Excavation in Area 1 ceased when either undisturbed Waterloo rock was reached, or where cultural deposits had been removed to bedrock.

**Results**

No evidence was recovered for use of this part of the site in the period before 1915, eg no evidence of pre-European use of the site, no *in situ* burials, no scatters of human skeletal material, grave goods or grave furniture and no evidence of fence posts or other structures were found.

The earliest evidence of cultural activity in this part of the site was associated with the Army Hospital (c1915). This phase was represented by a mixed brown sand produced during cutting and filling of the dune surface, when terraces were established for the Army buildings.

Evidence for post-World War One use of the site was represented by footings associated with an ablution block at the rear of former Hut N, a single concrete footing related to the south wall of the same Hut, and a very small rubbish pit (0.50 m diameter) in the area between Huts N and L.

The absence of material associated with the Cemetery, and the near-complete absence of features relating to the Army hospital in the northern area of the site, resulted from extensive disturbance to the site at various stages in the period between 1915-94. Five phases of site disturbance were identified. These are
discussed in detail in the March 1996 Summary Report prepared for the Client at the completion of excavation within this part of the site. The most extensive phase of site disturbance occurred during an undocumented sand extraction programme in late 1994. This completely removed deposits within approximately 10% of the cemetery area. It is not clear whether skeletal material associated with the Cemetery was removed during this operation.

3.2 THE SOUTHERN AREA [AREA 2]

Figure 3.2 shows the section of the site within Area 2.

This portion of the site involved the most extensive phase of the investigations conducted during work on-site. Excavation commenced on 30th August, 1995 and was completed by 9th February, 1996 - a field season of 17 weeks duration, in which all archaeological deposits and features within a site area of approximately 2,180m$^2$ were investigated. A preliminary estimate of the volume of matrix excavated during this phase of work is in the order of 1600m$^3$.

**Process**

Excavation commenced at the northern end of the area and concluded at the southern boundary of the cemetery. Site clearance was achieved by excavation of deposits within 5 m x 5 m grid squares established for the purpose of recording. Investigation within these squares followed basic principles of stratigraphic excavation with all deposits removed and recorded in reverse order of deposition.

The major focus of the work in this part of the site involved identification and recovery of *in situ* graves and disturbed scatters of human skeletal material.

Scatters were recovered in two ways: during the course of manual excavation within grid squares; or during sieving of excavated deposits.

Recovery of *in situ* burials involved the following processes: Initial identification of mixed deposits associated with grave filling (Figure 3.5), followed by careful removal and sieving of fills until the top of the coffins were identified (Figure 3.6). The organically stained soil representing the original coffin lids was then removed and the skeletons partly exposed. The surrounding grave fill and white sand matrix were then removed, allowing what had been the sides of the coffins to be exposed with the whole resting on a pedestal of sand. String was then inserted beneath the base of the coffins in order to locate roots securing the coffins and skeletons to the substrate. A plywood board was then inserted along the string track and roots were cut using secateurs or a pruning saw to permit lifting and removal of the burials for further cleaning and preliminary analysis in the on-site laboratory (Figure 3.7). Recording and sample gathering was conducted during each stage of the removal process. This method proved to be efficient and safe, in that the skeletons were removed without damage and sufficient time for recording was provided.
Deposits associated with Aboriginal use of the site were investigated when they were identified during the excavation process. This work was conducted manually, with all deposits excavated in 10 cm spits within 1 m x 1 m squares. Excavation in all areas continued to the level of the surface of the B horizon.

Results

Site Stratigraphy revealed during the excavation in Area 2 was generally as follows:

The surface unit in all areas consisted of a thin veneer of demolition materials and redeposited wind and waterborne sands. This material had been deposited on the surface of a mixed, sandy fill deposited during levelling of the dune surface in preparation for the construction of the Army huts in c1915. This overlay the original soil profile at the site which comprised a grey-brown topsoil (A1 horizon), bleached, white loose sand (A2 horizon), black, sandy, organic pan and brown, sandy iron pan known as "Waterloo rock" or "Coffee rock" (B horizon), and massive beds of yellow sand (C horizon, deep subsoil).

Cultural Material

For the purpose of this summary cultural material associated with use of the site during the historic period may be assigned to three distinct phases:

1. Use of the site before the establishment of the Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum (Pre-Asylum Phase);

2. Use of the site for the Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum Cemetery (Asylum Phase); and

3. Use of the site by No. 4 Army General Hospital and later, Prince of Wales Hospital (Post-Asylum Phase).

3.3 THE PRE-ASYLUM PHASE

Aboriginal use of the Site

A deflated Aboriginal hearth dated to approximately 8,000 years BP was revealed during excavation in Area 2 (Figure 3.10). A radio-carbon date on charcoal adhering to one of the hearth stones and a Thermoluminescence date from the hearth stone are consistent. Analysis of fats recovered from the hearth stone have shown the hearth was used to cook a fresh water protein meal (such as eel, fish or shellfish). The absence of all other food remains, such as shell, fish or bone is explained by the age and acidity of the deposit. The absence of stone implements associated with the hearth indicates, as predicted, a sporadic occupation of the dune margins where exploitation of the local resources are likely to have been effected by an undurable wood or shellfish kit.
A highly dispersed scatter and fragmented series of sandstone manuports within the aeolian deposit throughout Area 2 suggests that another three or four hearths may have been present here. Scattered flaked stone artefacts were also recovered within the aeolian white sand deposit in Area 2.

No evidence of interaction between Aboriginal and European people was recovered during the excavation.

Non-cultural material associated with land use during this period is limited to pollen samples and other evidence concerning the vegetation cover present during the period immediately preceding establishment of the Asylum.

3.4 THE ASYLUM PHASE

A total of sixty-five children's burials were recovered during the course of excavation in Area 2. These were located exclusively on the western side of the surveyed Cemetery area. Matching of skeletal ages with death certificates from the Asylum records permitted tentative identification of a number of individuals and identification of the location of discrete Roman Catholic and Church of England sections of the Cemetery.

Apart from the burials, limited evidence was recovered regarding structures and cultural activity within the Cemetery during the nineteenth century. Nine post hole features, interpreted as remnants of a timber post and rail fence line on the surveyed Cemetery boundary, were identified within Area 2. Macrobiotic samples recovered from a topsoil which was sealed in 1915 may provide evidence regarding vegetation clearance and intentional cultivation of various ornamental species at the Cemetery. This topsoil also contained a limited assemblage of European cultural artefacts, which may provide an insight into activities conducted in the Cemetery during the period when the Asylum was operating.

3.5 THE POST-ASYLUM PHASE

Numerous cultural deposits and features associated with all phases of post-Asylum use of the site were identified throughout Area 2. These include:

- Evidence associated with cutting and filling of the sloping Cemetery ground surface during establishment of level terraces for the Hospital buildings;

- Remnants of services and footings associated with the buildings, including numerous sub-phases of repairs and modifications; and
• Deposits including extensive artefact assemblages, indicating the range of daily activities conducted at the Army Hospital.

Sampling of post-Asylum deposits on the western side of the site after completion of the investigation within the Cemetery proper indicated a complete absence of disturbed human skeletal material in this part of the development area. It appears that human skeletal material associated with 106 individuals interred in the Cemetery and not recovered during the present archaeological project were removed from the Cemetery area prior to 1995.

Aboriginal cultural material recovered during the excavation of trenches in the southern part of the site (Area 2) principally consisted of isolated sandstone and ironstone nodules. Preliminary interpretation of these finds indicate that they are probably redeposited elements associated with a hearth or a small number of hearths constructed on the dune surface during the pre-European period.
Figure 3.1 The site looking SSE across Area 1, which is in the process of excavation. Note unexcavated areas of white aeolian sand with orange "coffee rock" beneath. Grey deposit to right is recent fill.

Figure 3.2 The site looking SSE across Area 2, following bulk excavation of Area 1. At this point (February 1996), excavation of Area 2 is nearing completion.
Figure 3.3 Excavation within Area 1 showing remnant white aeolian sand over "coffee rock". This figure and the figure below illustrate the combination of mechanical and hand excavation techniques used.

Figure 3.4 Excavation in progress. Note use of soil conveyors and mechanical sieve.
Figure 3.5 Excavation within Area 2. Removal of mixed deposits above revealed the location of individual graves.

Figure 3.6 Careful excavation of grave fills was undertaken until the tops of each coffin were identified.
Excavation around each burial, leaving the remains of a "pedestal" of sand, allowed undercutting and use of a flexible board to remove intact graves to the laboratory for detailed excavation, cleaning and analysis. Human remains have been obscured in accordance with the provisions of the Conservation Policy.

Relatively few grave goods were identified. An exception was this set of rosary beads.
Figure 3.9 A general view of the on-site laboratory. Burial remains are obscured from view as was the practice during the course of the project.

Figure 3.10 Excavation of the dunes also revealed evidence of Aboriginal use of the place. This hearth was dated to approximately 8,000 years BP.
4.0 RESEARCH DESIGN

The following section discusses the results obtained during the course of the project to date, in relation to research issues and specific questions presented in the Research Design. It is not intended to provide outcomes or detailed responses at this stage, but rather an indication of what can and will be addressed as the post-excavation work proceeds.

4.1 INITIAL RESEARCH DESIGN

A preliminary Research Design for the Prince of Wales Project was submitted with the offer of services in July, 1995. This document represented a preliminary evaluation of the site’s potential as a research resource, and was prepared in order to initiate archaeological investigation at the site quickly.

The proposed research framework took into consideration the highly specialised nature of the site, particularly its potential osteological resource. It recognised that the scope for research on the Cemetery extended beyond the sphere of most archaeological projects undertaken in Australia. As a result, the preliminary Research Design was intended to be refined following documentary enquiry and consultation with potential users of information gathered during the archaeological programme.

4.2 AMENDED RESEARCH DESIGN

An amended draft Research Design was submitted in September, 1995. This document was prepared for the South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service, the NSW Heritage Council and the NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning in partial fulfilment of the conditions of the Excavation Permit issued by the project pursuant to the NSW Heritage Act. This draft was further revised after review by the Heritage Branch of the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning.

The final Research Design for the Randwick Destitute Children’s Asylum Cemetery archaeological excavation includes a detailed outline of the research component for the work at the site. It discusses the aims of research on the site and its contents, and the reasons for the investigation.

No significant changes were made to the aims, scope and methodology proposed in the original preliminary Research Design submitted in July 1995. However, the final Research Design does incorporate a number of significant structural modifications to the research framework which were made in an attempt to
integrate various lines of investigation proposed by specialists associated with the excavation team.

4.3 PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Sections 8.0 and 9.0 of the Research Design outline the Research Design Questions and the Excavation and post-excavation methodology. For ease of reference these parts of the Research Design are reproduced as Section 9.0 of this report. The research questions are divided into a series of specialist areas, each of which is addressed in the following sections. Preliminary responses to specific questions proposed in the Research Design are made where possible; however, these are limited by information to hand at this early stage of the post-excavation phase of the project.

4.3.1 Osteology

The proposed work to be undertaken during the post-excavation phase of the project is outlined in Section 9.0 of this report. This work is currently under way at the Shellshear Museum, University of Sydney. The Museum has engaged a part-time assistant to work on the project. No results are available at present.

Initial preparatory work involves:

- X-rays of the tooth rows in order to refine estimates of the individual’s age;
- Recording of tooth size data;
- Taking of measurements that may allow diagnosis of sex and age;
- Organisation of comparative databases, from various studies in the literature, for evaluating sex and age in juveniles; and
- Development of computerised routines that will allow the measurements to be related to the comparative databases.

Other possible work includes sexing of the skeletal remains using DNA technology (subject to the agreement of the project Management Committee to the necessary invasive analysis).
4.3.2 Social History

Burial methods, grave goods and grave furniture as evidence for distinctions between burials during outbreaks of particular illnesses and individual deaths.

There were no mass burials observed and no indication that children who died during the epidemics were treated in any manner that was different to individual deaths. No differences have yet been observed in grave furniture through gender or religious affiliation. This issue will be further addressed as part of the analysis of cultural material recovered.

Environmental factors influencing mortality or child health.

Examination of this question may be pursued following a comprehensive analysis of the skeletal material in the laboratory.

The influence of the institution in regard to burial methods and distinctions made according to the deceased's religious affiliations, gender or ethnicity.

All intact burials were found to have been placed in coffins and no case of multiple burial within a single grave was observed. This suggests that at least some of the rights expected of a general burial were extended to members of the Institution. Like most other cemeteries in Australia the Asylum Cemetery was divided along sectarian lines. A broad strip separated Protestants in the north from Roman Catholics in the south. The exceptional case was the pre-term burial placed in the vacant area between the two religious groups.

Burial practices in the Asylum compared to the public in general.

The complete absence of grave markers distinguishes the Asylum burials from those of the general population. A preliminary analysis of the grave goods suggests that at least some of the children were prepared for burial and not simply placed in boxes. There is evidence of clothing and shrouds, and some children were provided with rosaries. A palynological analysis of examples of the grave fill will also be undertaken to determine if flowers were buried with the dead.

The location of the Cemetery and the position of the burials within it in regard to earlier beliefs regarding health.

Examination of this question will rely on further examination of the documentary evidence and comparison with other institutional sites. The archaeological evidence when viewed in the light of the death registers indicates that the burial sequence commenced along the
western boundary of the site, moving to the east as each row was filled. Such a sequence placed the burials on the down-slope side of the Cemetery in a position such that the graves could not be seen from the main Asylum complex. It is not clear at this stage if such a location was chosen to spare the living inmates any contact with the dead or through reasons of health or sensibilities.

The orientation of the burials and the position of the bodies therein as indicators of religious/cultural activities now no longer observed.

In general the bodies were placed east-west with the head in the west, that is, facing east. A number were however placed facing the west. The traditional European burial pattern was such that bodies were placed with the head in the west so as to face Jerusalem. This traditional pattern seems to have been observed without understanding why such an orientation was required. The few facing west may have been placed thus by someone who had both an understanding of the "correct" ritual position as well as geography. The mixed orientation of bodies may also relate to religious changes taking place in Australia in the second half of the nineteenth century. The relationship between the west-facing burials, the prelates officiating at these interments and their position in regard to religious developments are being pursued through documentary sources.

The physical form of the Cemetery and its place within the Asylum.

Post-and-rail fencing appears to have been employed in the Cemetery boundary fences. At some stage during the latter part of the site's use as a Cemetery the area immediately adjacent to the western fence line was used as a dumping ground and an area for burning timber. Analysis of the artefacts associated with these deposits may indicate if these activities occurred during the life of the Cemetery or in the period following the final interment.

Maintenance of the Cemetery and its plantings.

A preliminary examination of the site and the soil types present suggest that the survival of pollen is unlikely to supply information regarding the plantings around the Cemetery. At least one sample from the Asylum topsoil will be analysed to test this opinion before more extensive testing is undertaken.
4.3.3 Prehistory

The evidence for prehistoric use of the site by Aboriginal people was more extensive than predicted in the project research design. Information has been obtained relating to the age/date of use and the type of food resource concerned. The data will be used to develop and/or test Aboriginal occupation/land use models.

More detailed analysis of the results of excavation of deposits containing evidence relating to Aboriginal use of the site is currently under way. Completion of a detailed report on this aspect of the work on-site will be included with the final report on the Cemetery excavation. This will include a detailed response to questions proposed in the Research Design.

4.3.4 Techniques

The degree of skeletal degradation as a product of factors such as the deceased's age, depth of burial, changing pH and variations in exposure to percolating groundwater due to the presence of buildings above some burials and not others.

Variations in the degree of survival of skeletal material were observed in the field and during the period of preliminary examination in the laboratory. An attempt will be made to quantify the various degrees of skeletal degradation. This will then be viewed in the light of factors such as depth of burial, position of later buildings over the burial area and soil condition. Preliminary soil analysis indicates significant variations in pH across the site. The pH of all burial fills is to be tested and variations can then be compared with the degree of skeletal degradation. As part of this analysis cation content will be tested. This will determine if the pH has been deliberately altered through the addition of substances such as quicklime - a substance commonly used in the nineteenth century as an antiseptic and as a means of breaking-down buried bodies as quickly as possible. The presence of Calcium ions above the general background level for this particular soil type will indicate such an activity.

Taphonomic factors in relationship to current forensic investigative methods - the problem of 'time elapsed since death'.

The site formation processes and the taphonomic problems associated with the observed burials are now well understood. A number of processes are capable of quantification, allowing comparison with the state of preservation of the skeletal remains. Any patterns emerging from such a comparison have the potential to provide information relating to the problem of time elapsed since death.
The creation of a series of models using age/sex indicators to reconstruct burial sequences in order to identify individual children.

A preliminary sequence of burials was developed and tested in the field during the excavation programme. The results to date suggest that it will be possible to identify/confirm a number of the children's remains recovered. This is particularly true for the Roman Catholic section of the Cemetery.

Recovery and recording techniques.

A number of techniques for burial recovery were developed in the field to both expedite the removal of the remains and to ensure that no information was lost during this process. The success of this strategy and the particular techniques employed will be the subject of discussion, with the possible production of a technical paper outlining the successes and shortcomings of the techniques employed.

4.4 CONCLUSION

The post-excavation analysis is at an early stage. However, it is clear that the osteological, archaeological and prehistoric information provided by the project is substantial and will allow most of the research questions to be addressed.
5.0 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The "statement of significance" prepared prior to commencement of the archaeological investigation has been reviewed in the light of results on site, discussion with stakeholders and subsequent contextual research.

Particular consideration has been given to the question of amendments of the statement to reflect the fact that the children's remains are no longer buried at the site. However, in view of the clear commitment from SESAHS to rebury the children's remains within the Cemetery, and the statutory compulsion to do so created by the conditions attached to the excavation permit for the site, the revised assessment below is worded on the assumption that the remains and site will soon be reunited.

The summary statement of significance reads:

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

The Cemetery site is a place that has been utilised by Aboriginal people for at least 8,000 years and is held in esteem by the local Aboriginal community.

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 One.

The Cemetery itself, unlike most burial grounds in Australia, was 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 practice 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 graves 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.
6.0 CONSERVATION POLICY

6.1 PREAMBLE

This project is being undertaken in accordance with a detailed conservation policy prepared for the site in June 1995 by Kate Sullivan and Associates and adopted by the Heritage Council of NSW.

Given the completion of work on site, the policy has been reviewed and the following comments are offered:

- All work to date has complied with the implementation policy requirements;
- The project outcomes to date do not suggest any need for amendment to the policy; and
- Completion of the post-excavation phase; re-burial of remains on site; and provision of on-site interpretation are essential to fulfil the policy requirements.

The "Implementation Policies" component of the Conservation Policy is included below.

6.2 IMPLEMENTATION POLICIES

6.2.1 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 1 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; and  
  • any specific events which might be evident in the site.

• Examination of the death certificates to provide information about cause of death and genealogical information about individuals.

• Review of historic material to provide an understanding of the social context of the Asylum and the Cemetery.

• Other research as may be necessary to maximise understanding of the site and its contents. Other detailed research will also be undertaken concurrently with excavation.

6.2.2 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 and 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.
6.2.3 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 6.2.11 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, [eg restore the bone from which the sample is taken]; and
  * 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 re-interred.
6.2.4 Conservation and Housing

Conservation and housing of Human remains and associated grave goods while awaiting re-interment 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.

- Individual remains will be boxed individually and any associated grave goods will be included.

- Any reasonable wishes of the La Perouse Land Council or descendants of relatives regarding storage will be adhered to, providing such request neither interferes with the stability of the remains nor operates to the exclusion of other descendants' interests. Specifically it has been suggested that some soil be placed with the bones in the boxes during storage to maintain the link with the earth and the resting place. This is in accordance with the significance of the site. Further it has been requested that a ceremony [smoking ceremony] be conducted in the storage area before storage, again once all the remains are in place and again at the time of reinterment. Other religious groups should be invited to be involved at these times.

- Treatment and housing of historic materials which are neither grave goods nor human remains must promote their stability both during excavation and in the long term. These remains will receive treatment to stabilise them should this be necessary and appropriate. Advice from specialists in this field will be sought. The materials will be stored in a secure and stable environment with appropriate labelling and packaging.

- The long term housing of materials which are neither grave goods nor human remains will be decided in consultation with the Heritage Branch of the Department of Planning and Urban Affairs. These decisions will be taken in the light of the Interpretation Plan which will be a sub-component of the Prince of Wales Precinct Conservation Plan.
6.2.5 Involvement of Special Interest Groups

Special interest groups are identified as Descendents 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.

- 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.

6.2.6 Media Management and Photographs

- Management of all Media exposure will be coordinated 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.
6.2.7 Development

- The 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.

6.2.8 Reinterment of Human Remains

- Housing and packaging of remains while awaiting reinterment. See Item 6.2.4 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 6.2.9 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.

6.2.9 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 interpretation 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 6.2.5 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 set out details of reinterment ceremonies, and post-reinterment site interpretation. This plan will include the commemoration of the dead children, and the use of the site during World War One. 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.

6.2.10 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.
6.2.11 Site Management During Excavation

The site will be under the control of a Management Committee which will consist of the following members:

- The 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 Eastern Sydney Area Health Service Heritage Adviser.
- The Archaeologist who holds the contract to excavate the site.

This Committee will receive regular reports from the Archaeologist.

6.2.12 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 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 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 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 outline above.
6.2.13 Compliance with Acts

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

At the request of the Management Committee for the project the project team has prepared a set of Interpretative Guidelines. These are intended to provide a rational brief for both on-site and other interpretation/presentation of the history and significance of the site.

The interpretation guidelines are included below.

7.1 GENERAL

- The Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum Cemetery will be retained as an identifiable 'place'.

- The Cemetery will be modified to become a commemorative area, created within the boundaries of the original cemetery.

- The commemorative area will include re-buried remains of the Asylum children.

- The commemorative area will have a special identity from other open spaces within the Prince of Wales Hospital, but should be related to other landscape areas through design, materials and plantings.

7.2 MESSAGES

- The place is a burial ground.

- The burial ground was part of the Asylum.

- The place has also been used by Aboriginal people.

- There are other aspects of the history of the place.

- Although modified the place has been treated respectfully.
7.3 INFORMATION

7.3.1 On Site

- A short history/historical overview.
- The names of the buried/deceased children.
- The physical relationship between Cemetery and Asylum buildings.
- Physical indication of the re-burial area.
- Indication of Aboriginal (prehistoric) use.

7.3.2 At the Asylum Buildings

- More extensive historical information;
- The names of all known Asylum inmates.

7.3.3 Off-Site/Other Locations

- A brochure about the Asylum and Cemetery.
- A temporary exhibition about the Cemetery project.

7.4 DESIGN PARAMETERS

7.4.1 Concepts

- The commemorative area should be presented as a place for children.
- The idea of providing a children's garden is recommended as consistent with the significance of the place, future uses and stakeholder wishes. It is also a use known to have occurred historically at the site.
- One or more strong visual icons should be included. A child's statute or simple piece of sculpture would be appropriate.
- There should be no formal monument - information devices should be subservient to the commemorative area landscape.
7.4.2 Form and Scale

- The commemorative area should be confined within the original Cemetery and should extend fully between eastern and western Cemetery boundaries.
- The boundary between the commemorative area and the remaining patient garden area should be physically and/or visually defined.
- The overall structure should be rectilinear, reflecting the original Cemetery layout and subsequent format of hospital huts.
- The commemorative area should be visually screened from the road and car park to the north.
- Design elements should be of a modest, human scale.

7.4.3 Materials

- The white sand retained from the site (c.100 cubic metres) should be used in the re-burial area. (It may be used as a visible element.)
- Paving elements or other masonry features should be selected for visual appeal and sensitivity.
- Interpretive devices (eg. signs or plaques) should be of a visually non intrusive material and finish.

7.4.4 Plantings

- Plantings should include locally indigenous species.
- Plantings should include one or more of the Ficus hillii propagated from the specimen which was formerly part of the site, and the Phoenix palm which was also formerly adjacent to the site.
- Exotic species may be used - particularly if the children's garden concept is pursued.
- Exotic species already present on the Prince of Wales Hospital site should be selected in preference to new species.
7.5 ACCESS

- Access to the commemorative area should always be available to any person.
- The design of the commemorative area should encourage access to and use by Barker Special Care Centre patients, for passive recreation purposes.

7.6 MEDIA

- On site interpretation should use low key media such as plaques, discreetly placed signs and an evocative statue or monument.

7.7 RELATIONSHIP WITH HOSPITAL

- The design of the commemorative area and the presentation and interpretation of the history and significance of the place should be addressed as part of the overall interpretation of the Asylum/Prince of Wales Hospital. This approach should be reflected in both messages presented and the palette of devices and materials used to present them.
8.1 CONCLUSIONS

- On-site excavation of the Randwick Destitute Children’s Asylum Cemetery has been completed.

- The excavation has yielded the remains of at least sixty-five of the buried children. The whereabouts of the remains of other buried children is not known.

- Evidence of all known phases of the site occupation - pre-Asylum/ Asylum/ Hospital - has been recovered.

- The site has been occupied/ used by Aboriginal people since at least c8000 BP.

- The material recovered from the site represents an outstanding resource which will contribute information about all of the major themes and questions identified in the project research design.

- Consultation and liaison has been successfully undertaken with relevant government agencies, relatives of the Asylum children and other stakeholders throughout all stages of the project.

- Interpretation Guidelines for the site have been prepared.

- All statutory requirements and the provisions of the Conservation Policy for the site have been met.

8.2 FUTURE WORK

The following stages of the project are now in progress:

- synthesis of historical research and archaeological evidence;

- osteological analysis and reporting;

- physical conservation of remains and artefacts;

- cataloguing and analysis of historical artefacts;

- processing of site records;
stratigraphic analysis and reporting;
preparation of report on prehistory; and
reporting.

8.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the project Management Committee and the South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service:

1. Receive and note this report.
2. Endorse the ongoing application of the Conservation Policy.
3. Consider and endorse the revised statement of significance and the interpretation guidelines for the site.
4. Proceed with detailed planning for the reinterment of the children's remains and associated interpretation.
9.0 RESEARCH DESIGN EXTRACT

9.1 PREAMBLE

The following text is reproduced from Sections 8.0 and 9.0 of the project Research Design.

9.2 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.

9.2.1 Osteology

- 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, a disadvantage, 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.

9.2.2 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 was 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.

9.2.3 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;
9.2.4 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 pre-historic 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.

9.2.5 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.
9.3 METHODOLOGY

9.3.1 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, conversely, 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.)

9.3.2 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 One;
- The site between 1918 and 1945;
- The Destitute Children’s Asylum; (review of all known primary resources);
- Death certificates; and
- 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;
- Reinternment protocols for displaced cemeteries;
- Identification of coffin wood species;
- Identification of macrobiotic remains;
- Palynology;
- Parasitology;
- Soil science; and
- Chemical analysis of substances found in association with graves.

9.3.3 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 six phases of site disturbance within the last eighty 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 and 1939.
5. Excavation of the top 30-50 cm of sand during the removal of asbestos from the site c1994.
6. Excavation of a 1-2m deep trench across the site for bedding of a gas pipe c1994 (unmonitored).

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 forty-two 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 discrete archaeological contexts: in situ burials; and dispersed scatters of human skeletal material; eg. 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 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, and 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 LIAISON 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;
- Freecall consultation telephone enquiry line;
- Organised site inspections for stakeholder groups;
- Structural media briefings;
- Consultation about future management and interpretation, via a questionnaire;
- Strict adherence to limitations on visual access to human remains; and
- Extensive team briefing on site protocols.

In general (with a few exceptions only) the feedback from interested persons and stakeholders has been very positive.
Appendix B  Commemorative Area Ideas Questionnaire
The archaeological excavation of the Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum Cemetery has revealed the presence of more than 40 burials. We believe that some additional burials are likely to be found as the project draws to a conclusion.

While the detailed analysis of the results of the work on site is underway, the South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service is proceeding with the design and construction of a new Infectious Diseases Ward.

The grounds of the Ward will incorporate a "commemorative area" at its northern end. The remains of the children will be individually reburied here, once the site is ready. While an area has been set aside, no decisions have been made about the detailed design and presentation of the commemorative area.

In accordance with the Conservation Policy, the project team is inviting those with a special interest in this important place to indicate how they would like the commemorative area treated.

It would be appreciated if you could take some time to fill out the attached questionnaire. If you would like to discuss the design and presentation of the commemorative area directly, you are welcome to contact Richard Mackay on (02) 319 4811.

The Significance of the Cemetery
To assist in your considerations of these matters, the "Statement of Significance" which has been prepared during consultation with interest parties is reproduced below:

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 practice 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.
1. What is your connection with the cemetery site?
   - Relative of deceased
   - Relative of Asylum client
   - Historical Interest
   - Professional Interest
   - Other

2. It is proposed that there be information about the Destitute Children's Asylum provided for public interest. Should this be:
   - On the site of the commemorative area?
   - At the Asylum buildings in Avoca Street?
   - Somewhere else (specify)

3. What information should be presented?
   - On-site:
   - At the Asylum building:
   - Somewhere else:

4. How should information be presented; (pamphlet/sign/illustrations/other ways)?
   - On site:
   - At the Asylum building:
   - Somewhere else:

5. What sort of monument or memorial is appropriate?
   - A stone monument
   - A simple brass plaque
   - A sign
   - A sculpture
   - Other

6. Do you believe that the area used to re-bury the children should be physically marked on the ground?
   - Yes
   - No

7. The commemorative area will be next to a patient rest area/garden. Should the two be physically separated or integrated as a quiet space for contemplation?
   - Physically separate
   - Integrated

8. Who should have access to the commemorative area?
   - Anybody
   - Hospital patients
   - Relatives of the children
   - Other

9. Do you think trees and plants are a good idea? What sort of trees and plants should be presented?
   - 19th Century European
   - Native
   - Other comments:

10. Do you believe that any other features such as soil from the site, rocks or water should be included?

11. Have you any other suggestions or comments?

12. Would you like to be contacted to discuss this further? If so, please indicate your name, address and contact details below.

RETURN TO GODDEN MACKAY PTY LTD, 78 GEORGE ST, REDFERN 2016 PH: (02) 319 4811
Appendix C  Summary of Questionnaire Responses
SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

Twenty questionnaires were completed and three letters in response were received.

1. What is your connection with the cemetery site?
   1x Relative of deceased
   8x Relative of Asylum client
   3x Both of the above
   3x Historical interest
   3x Professional interest: Physical anthropologist, surveyor, police forensic
   2x Other (Chaplain's dept POWH)

2. It is proposed that there be information about the Destitute Children's Asylum provided for public interest. Should this be:
   14x On the site of the commemorative area?
   4x At the Asylum buildings in Avoca Street?
   4x Somewhere else: archives, State library; Shellshear museum; hospital shop/s; RDHS publication by F Doyle & J Stoney

3. What information should be presented?
   (a) On site:
      • Names of children x10
      • History of the site/asylum x6
      • Info about the children x2
         Please include Mrs Daphne Sheppard's great aunt Mary Harkness who was omitted in lists by SESAHs (see below)
      • Statues of children - in historical dress x2 (1 boy, 1 girl, 1 Aboriginal child)
      • Dates/discovery/excavation of the asylum x2
      • Dates of the children's death
      • Photographs
      • The less said the better
      • Examples of info for signage:
         "An Asylum for destitute children was conducted by the Society for the Relief of Destitute Children on the current hospital site from 1856 until 1915."
         "This garden includes part of an area set aside as a cemetery for the Asylum."
         "This children's garden, in tradition of those tended by the children of the Asylum in the period 1890-1915 (?), commemorates the 170 or so children who dies and were buried on site 1863-1891."
         "The remains of the children were reinterred beneath the garden to make way for the Barker Centre in 1996."
   (b) At the Asylum building:
      • Summary history of Asylum on plaque x3
      • More detailed history x2
      • List of children buried x2
      • Methodology and artifacts from dig
      • Names of 6,000 inmates
- Information regarding the Farm, bakery, bootmaking, tailoring, needlework, straw hats, carpentry done by children

(c) Somewhere else:
- Detailed history of site, findings of excavation
- Published material
- Photos/postcards
- Shellshear museum - brief history & excavation overview including methods etc

4. How should information be presented; (pamphlet/sign/illustrations/other ways)?
(a) On site:
- Permanent memorial
- Sign/illustration board x4
- Plaque x7
- Pamphlet x3
- Statues x2 (see above) in memorial garden possibly with farm animals
- Stone Monument
- Illustrations
- Memorial & inscription
- Book with names of all inmates and relevant info on each

(b) At the Asylum building:
- On bronze plaque x3
- Pamphlets x3
- Historic photographs x2
- Display board in foyer of main building x2
- 6 or so short movies in a theatrette, 20-30 min
- Museum - in room that was still in tact a couple of years ago?

(c) Somewhere else:
- New children’s hospital Westmead
- Powerhouse Museum

5. What sort or monument or memorial is appropriate?
- A stone monument x6
- A sculpture x5
- A simple brass plaque x12
- A sign
- Other: Children’s Memorial Garden similar to new one at Westmead
  Whatever it is - not modernistic - keep character of original buildings
  Natural rock with brass plate inserted
  Fountain - including sculptures of children
  Commemorative drinking fountain
6. Do you believe that the area used to re-bury the children should be physically marked on the ground?

14x Yes
4x No

7. The commemorative area will be next to a patient rest area/garden. Should the two be physically separated or integrated as a quiet space for contemplation?

7x Physically separate
12x Integrated
1x Definitely not integrated

8. Who should have access to the commemorative area?

16x Anybody
1x Relatives of the children
2x Hospital patients
0x Other

9. Do you think trees and plants are a good idea? What sort of trees and plants should be presented?

2x 19th Century European
12x Native
3x Both

Other comments:
- Shade trees carpeted by native violets
- Plants from the area - banksia etc
- Flowers - low care azaleas etc
- Vine covered arches (wisteria x2)
- Perfumed flowers x2
- Some annuals
- Rosemary bushes
- Local native trees
- Possibly some of the smaller plants from UK
- Model on late Victorian/Edwardian children's garden
- Lilacs
- Roses x2 in honour of respondent's grandmother - an inmate there - who loved roses
- Leave it to the landscape expert
- Colour flowers

10. Do you believe that any other features such as soil from the site, rocks or water should be included?

4x Yes
3x Rocks - incorporated into landscape.
   Make into stone monument. Incorporate in fountain. Make small waterfall.
2x Soil from the area should be replaced with the remains. Running water.
2x Artifacts from dig.
4x No

Others: Not unless they complement the cemetery.
Area currently aeolian sand - keep it as close to present situation as possible. Wouldn’t this contravene Aboriginal requirements?

11. Have you any other suggestions or comments?

- Site should achieve sense of peace, tranquillity x4
- Keep respondents informed of any developments x2
- Some inspections/memorial opening be on Saturday so working people can attend
- Commemorative area should be as simple as possible
- Small amphitheatre for use on a regular basis & special occasions (if Infectious Diseases block were abandoned). Suggestions on ‘mystical themes’, layout, decoration of garden attached
- Letting long term patients do weeding/watering if they like
- Memorial in respect for the dead, not the living ie park/activity area is inappropriate
  All children should be recognised in some way
- “You have been doing a great job in a very sensitive area. Well done!”
- “I really appreciate these newsletters/updates which I am following with great interest. Thank You!”
- Include herb garden in representation of the vegetable gardens tended by the children
- History of the RCA & the land should be commissioned - from its beginning to 1996

Mary Harkness - died 6 Oct 1876, age 10½ years, Protestant. Buried in Asylum grounds. (I wonder if other children were omitted?) Number 2684 in Admittance & Departure Book Vol 1-3, Kingswood Archives.
Appendix D  Letters Received About Proposed Commemorative Area
3 January 1996

Mr R Mackay
Godden Mackay Pty Ltd
78 George Street
REDFERN 2016

Dear Richard,

Randwick Destitute Children’s Asylum Cemetery
Commemorative Area - Ideas

This is a personal response, and does not represent the opinion of the Randwick & District Historical Society.

I have not filled in the survey which accompanied the last newsletter because most of the questions posed depend on various factors which have not been made available, such as the actual dimensions and positioning of the site, the means of access to the site, available funding, psychological needs of infectious diseases patients, etc. It is also possible that an entirely inappropriate commemorative scheme (in my opinion) could be developed and still be consistent with the answers I provide in the abstract form provided.

I will therefore simply provide a suggestion as to how the problem of the commemorative area might be approached, according to my current understanding, with a particular view to the issue of linking the proposed site with themes relating to the Asylum.

The following are part of my current understanding of the site, and have probably affected my thinking on the matter:

- The site will be a fairly small rectangular site bounded by the Barker Centre to the south and the emergency road way to the north.
- Some form of barrier will need to be erected between the commemorative area and the emergency road.
- The principal clientele for the infectious diseases ward will, for the time being, be people living with HIV/AIDS.
- The site is adjacent to the main vehicular access point to the hospital. I presume it is not expected that many pedestrians will use this route for access to the hospital given the current siting of public transport facilities, etc.
Given the lack of any visible historical association between the original cemetery site and the remaining Asylum buildings, and the complete isolation of the proposed commemorative area from the remaining buildings, one of the chief aims must be to establish some sort of link in as sensitive and appropriate a way as possible.

The way which I suggest of achieving this is to landscape the commemorative area as a late Victorian/Edwardian children's garden. There are strong historical reasons for this. It is recorded that the children of the Asylum, at least in the later period of the Asylum's history, were encouraged to tend gardens. This was noted in an article in *The Australian Star* of 19 June 1908, p1:

> We follow them through the little girls' play-shed - where many toy teasles, dolls, books, & c, give evidence of the fun enjoyed there - down the yard (which takes a sharp turn to the left), and are surprised to see, laid out with infinite taste and skill, numerous wee gardens, or "beddums" (as the very tiny ones term them), gay with pink bouvardias and deep crimson geraniums, whose beautiful blossoms were coaxed into such rich life by the loving little hands of the small gardeners, and the sun enriching these small human blossoms. Up through the big paddocks, past the vegetable gardens of the boys, we "potted" a fine group of them at work on a wood heap.

The article also includes a picture of some of the girls standing in a garden, with a fence behind, and captioned "Each child has her own little garden plot which she cultivates according to her fancy."

This is the only direct evidence of the gardening activities of the children which I have available at present. The idea of encouraging children to garden was, however, very strongly entrenched in the Department of Education syllabuses from about 1890 and there is a wealth of literature available on the layout, content, and educational philosophy behind, such gardens. I attach two extracts to illustrate this point, although there will be many other sources, including the *Education Gazette*, and various inspectors reports, etc. The first extract is from *Sydney and the Bush: A Pictorial History of Education in New South Wales* (NSW Department of Education, 1980), p 149. The second is from R J King, *Randwick and its School: A Social History 1883-1983* (Randwick School Centenary Committee, 1983), pp 69-70. I think these show potential for an effective design which could also incorporate stones and other materials from the original site.

As a school was operational at the site from 1877 (under the Council of Education, the predecessor to the Department of Public Instruction - now the Department of School Education), it is likely that inspectors' reports from the period 1890 - 1915 will include reports on the gardening activities of the children. It is possible that some activities were engaged in before this date, but the trend emerged clearly in the wake of the inauguration of Arbor Day at Ryde Public School in 1890.

I think the barrier to the emergency road could be designed to
accommodate a series of plaques giving the names and years of the children who we know were buried on the original site. Perhaps the plaques could be laid out in such a way as to mirror the positions children on the ground.

As to the presentation of information about the site, the less said the better. People generally do not take in great quantities of information about historic sites. The story of the Asylum is unfamiliar to most visitors to the site and is unlikely to become more so with great amounts of detail, which will only require further explanation. Some form of signage should ideally state something along the following lines:

- An Asylum for destitute children was conducted by the Society for the Relief of Destitute Children on the current hospital site from 1856 until 1915.

- This garden includes part of an area set aside as a cemetery for the Asylum.

- This children's garden, in the tradition of those tended by the children of the Asylum in the period 1890 - 1915 (?), commemorates the 170 or so children who died and were buried on site 1863-1891.

- The remains of the children were reinterred beneath the garden to make way for the Barker Centre in 1996.

It seems that large numbers of pedestrians are not likely to be in the vicinity of the commemorative area, so I think that, while access should not be positively encouraged, it should not be physically or actively denied (subject of course to security, contemplative needs, etc of those in the Barker Centre).

I think the above is the most effective means I can imagine of landscaping the area in a way which links the site with children of the Asylum, albeit from a later era (the last burial being in 1891). It is clear from the description in *The Australian Star* that the gardens were somewhere in the area behind the remaining buildings, and were therefore nearer to the area of the original cemetery than the Asylum buildings. It will also be a benefit to the people in the Barker Centre. I understand it was a source of pleasure to those at the former facility at Prince Henry Hospital to be able to tend to small gardens on that site.

I would be happy to discuss this matter further. I can be contacted at the above address or (02) 314 1891.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Waugh
Gardening in schools was given great impetus by the New Education, and might easily have been labelled a fad or craze had it not been so widespread and long-lasting. For the first 30 or 40 years of this century gardening held second place only to the 3Rs. Gardening became the outward expression of nature study as well as a reaction to the bookishness of lessons last century. It allowed pupils to be active and to experience real things in an open-air context. It provided teachers with an opportunity to correlate other subjects such as science, agriculture, geography and even handwork and mathematics. The fact that the majority of government schools were in rural areas made gardening an easily implemented programme; yet even in the city schools a patch was set aside for gardening on a limited scale, as shown in the photograph of Parramatta North Public School. Many gardens were set out in precise geometrical patterns, the Murrumburrah garden being only a modest example. Quite often pupils had their own individual section to look after and experimental plots were common. In some schools pupils knew better than farmers the yield of particular crops, and which varieties were less prone to disease.
The School Garden

In city schools such as Randwick the school garden was integral to teaching and Arbor Day was a major event. At Randwick - 'A Map of Australia was moulded onto the sandy gritty playground.' The notion was that a child never forgets what he does himself, and the expectations were indeed high. In regard to School Gardens, Inspector Henderson wrote in 1906

'I shall now try to demonstrate that a garden is the most powerful auxiliary any teacher can have to develop an education on the lines prescribed by our Director. The syllabus is the gospel of reality. Correlation, mental activity and utility are its leading features. Now instruct a boy to plant some seeds. He is at once face to face with a real task. His interest and sympathy are readily enlisted because he fully understands the utility of his work. The questions in his mind are 'How' and 'Why'. The whole of his brain powers are brought into activity.'

The New Education was also interested in the physical welfare of pupils. Long desks were gradually replaced by dual desks, and brighter rooms with larger windows were considered desirable. In early 1911 tenders had been called for alterations to the original
building at Randwick School. These alterations included the lowering of the windows by 3 feet (approximately 1 metre) in the central portion of the school. In asking for these alterations the headmaster noted that 'Classrooms C and D... are very dark and gloomy. They are overhung by verandahs east and west and the light is admitted by narrow windows high up on the wall. Moreover the lower portion of the walls is painted dark'.

'Conservation Week is with us again and it seems no time since we last celebrated this week with an Arbor Day Tree Planting ceremony. This year we again had our tree planting ceremony and replaced all the trees lost during the construction of 'Arbor Drive', as well as adding a few more.'

Randwick School 'News' July 1968

"The Arbor Day activities and the many new trees in the playground testify to the practical and personal interest."

Inspector's Report 1967
Godden Mackay Pty Ltd
78 George Street
REDFERN 2016

Dear Sir/Madam:

Regarding the commemorative area destined for the remains of the children of the Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum, may I thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Would it be appropriate to have the re-burials in a garden/rest area adjacent to the infectious disease (AIDS ?) ward? Yes.

Believing that the relatives of the children or other persons will be few and far between after the initial opening of whatever way you choose, may I suggest there be a scented garden with a plaque stating that the area is dedicated to all of the children who died between 1856-1916 at the RDCA, for there are many in other cemeteries in unmarked graves.

The garden could be a quiet sheltered area where patients of the infectious disease ward and their visitors find beauty, rest, peace and privacy.

There are many small statues of children available today which could be incorporated in the garden settings, for after all, don't we all have a touch of nostalgia within us and usually like to remember our childhood years. Not a modern-day sculpture please! but some in keeping with the era of the deaths.

Information presentation?

As there are already photographs of everyday activities in the Asylum building why not a small pamphlet explaining these and incorporate the finding of the burial site and the changes made to the area for the facilitating of the present requirements.

As we cannot change the past so we cannot change the fact that the remains of some children have been accidently removed at various times. If it were possible to positively identify ANY of the remains, why do so? Why not let all of the children "Rest in Peace", rather then to name perhaps one or two. It would serve no purpose and the deaths have been recorded in the Registers of the RDCA at the AONSW and are accessible in various other records.

I have long been interested in the lives/deaths of the inmates of the RDCA since publishing the deaths/burial records of the Institute on behalf of our local Cape Banks Family History Society Inc. and look forward to the work being accomplished on the site.

Thanking you once again

Yours faithfully

Beverley Smith

Librarian/Cape Banks Family History Society Inc.
Author of Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum, Death and Burials 1856-1916.
Mr R. MACKAY
Godden Mackay Pty.Ltd
78 George Street
REDFERN NSW 2016

Dear Richard,

I enclose my answers to your questionnaire & hope they may be of some use. As you can see, I am still hopeful of 2/3rds of the Cemetery site being available for the Memorial Gardens.

A letter to the New Children's Hospital, Westmead requesting information on the person or Company who designed their Children's Garden has brought no response to date. I have not seen these Gardens - only drawings in the Building Booklet.

I enclose a design for the Memorial Gardens & while not detailed gives an indication of my thoughts on the project.

Some thoughts on the magic & mystery in gardens is described in the article "Fairies at the bottom of the garden."

I have also enclosed photocopies of drawings showing Sugar Gliders Christmas Bells & May Gibbs The Gumnut Babies. May Gibbs, of course, is well known for her Gum Blossom Babies, Flannel Flower, Wattle & Boronia Babies - all identified with the Australian Bush. Photos of these designs are easily obtainable for incorporation.

In conclusion a quote from Francis Bacon (Essaye XLVI,1625),

"God Almighty first planted a Garden. And indeed, it is the Purest of Humane pleasures. It is the Greatest Refreshment to the Spirits of Man; without which Buildings and Pallaces are but Grosse Handy-works..."

With kind regards.

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs) D.E. Kendall.

Enc.6
Part of D.E. Kendall's submission for the memorial garden at Randwick

GARDENS
WITH NOOKS & SEATING
FOR QUIET AREAS

PATHS

SMALL WATERFALL

GARDENS
STATUES OF
3 CHILDREN
A GIRL & BOY IN DRESS OF
ASYLUM - AN ABORIGINAL KIDDRIE CLOTHED
AS DECIDED BY THE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

GARDENS
WITH NOOKS & SEATING
FOR QUIET AREAS
There are **fairies** at the bottom of the garden...

In ages past, the ideas of magic and enchantments, and of fairies, elves and gnomes who were mysteriously associated with the subtle creative forces of the earth, were never far removed from the domestic garden. According to these tales, when we pour our love into the heart of the garden, we may begin to see the fairies. Peep at them from the corners of your eyes, as if they were shy woodland creatures which you might frighten away with a direct glance. Look deep into the lovely forms of the flowers and the trees you care for, and you will see the essence of their spirits.

To open your heart to the fairies, take the advice of our ancestors and nurture these feelings of wonder, reverence and love for every detail of your garden — for the airs which blow about it; the musical rain which falls gently upon it; the moon and the stars which silently look down on it; the sun which is the source of its being, and for the clouds and the changing skies which provide it with a canopy.

Walk often in your garden, for walking is a magical act. Walk barefoot when the season permits. And as you walk, bestow blessings and joyful reverence from your own heart upon all that you see — upon each plant, mighty and small, and upon the garden as a whole.

If you can leave a little corner of your garden to grow wild, this will please the fairies, and many little animals will visit by day and by night. Some of these may partake of your seeds and flowers, yet this is only Nature's wise plan, for moles improve the soil and birds assist pollination.

If infesting insects mar your flowers, infuse horsetail and stinging nettle, and use it as a spray, for this gentle cleanser works in harmony with Nature. Each insect and animal plays its part in the great scheme, and its soul has mystery. Even the humble crawling beasts bear secrets within them to which we should pay reverence.

**Garden magic**

Bees are little winged servants of God who hum anthems of praise. This they do with special fervour upon Christmas Eve, humming the 100th Psalm at midnight to honour the birth of Christ.

Spiders are friends of the garden. It is said that during the biblical flight into Egypt, the Holy Family took shelter in a cave. A spider worked industriously until it had woven a web so thick across the entrance that a dove came and laid an egg in its silver strands. When Herod's men reached the cave, they passed it by, thinking that no one could be within.
Part of D.E. Kendall's submission for the memorial garden at Randwick
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