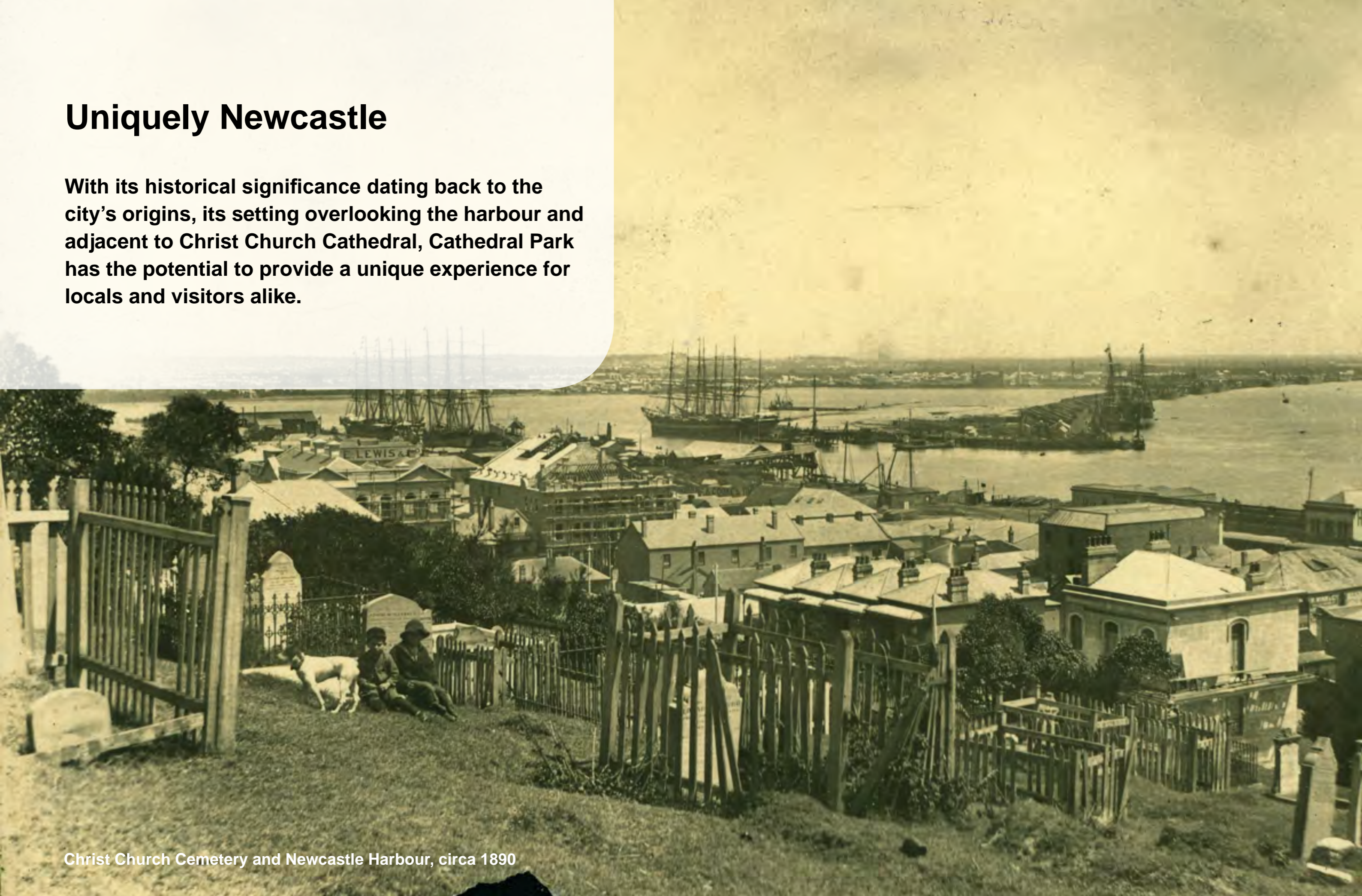




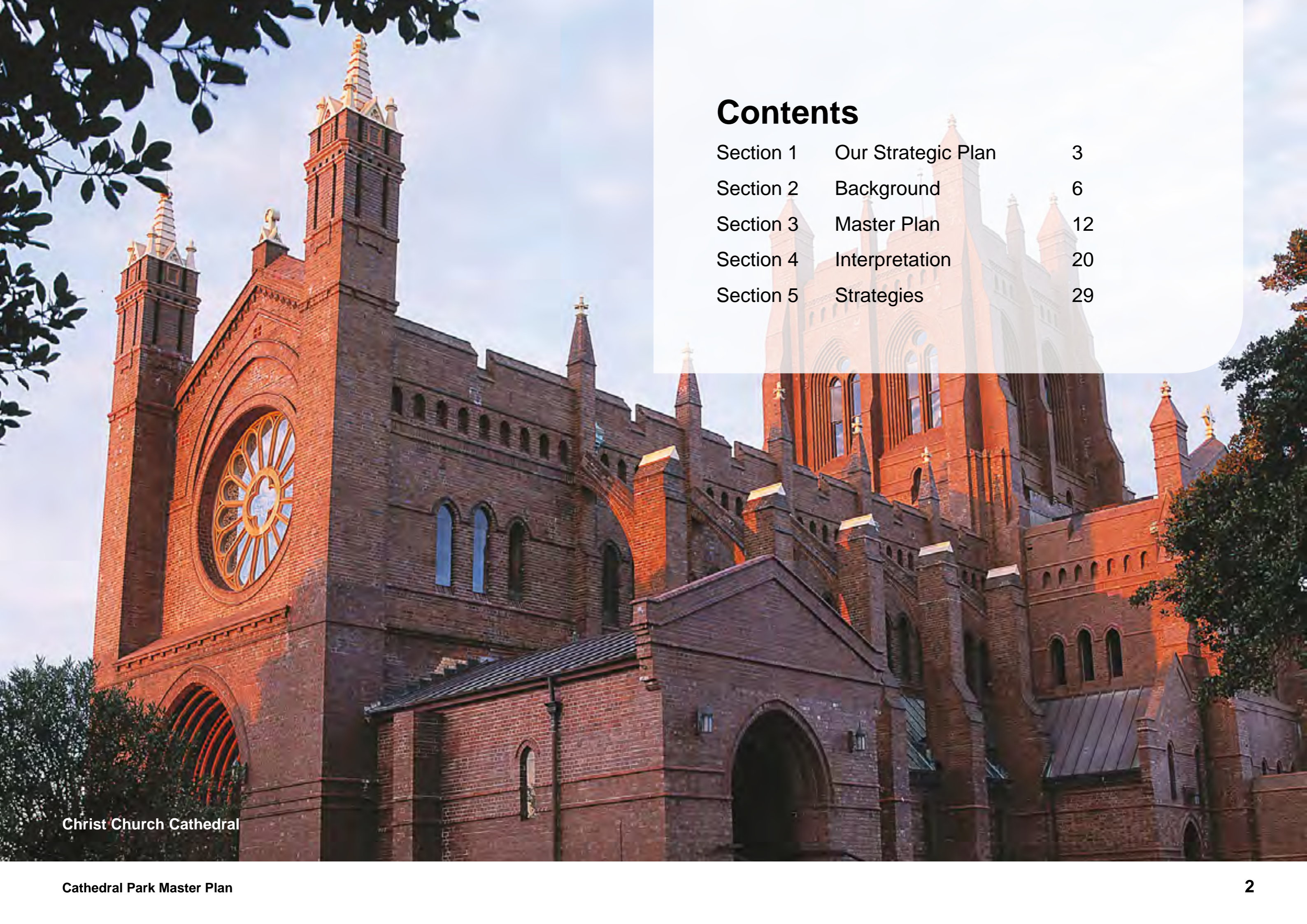
Cathedral Park Master Plan

Uniquely Newcastle

With its historical significance dating back to the city's origins, its setting overlooking the harbour and adjacent to Christ Church Cathedral, Cathedral Park has the potential to provide a unique experience for locals and visitors alike.



Christ Church Cemetery and Newcastle Harbour, circa 1890



Christ Church Cathedral

Contents

Section 1	Our Strategic Plan	3
Section 2	Background	6
Section 3	Master Plan	12
Section 4	Interpretation	20
Section 5	Strategies	29

//

Few, if any forces in human affairs are as powerful as shared vision.

Peter Senge

//

Section 1

Our Strategic Plan

Newcastle 2030 is a shared community vision developed as a guide to inform policies and actions throughout the city for the next twenty years. To guide us forward, we will focus on seven strategic directions that emerged from the shared planning process. These are the qualities we would like for our city as we move towards 2030. The Cathedral Park Master Plan will contribute to providing Vibrant and Activated Public Places for our community.





Christ Church Cathedral, circa 2010

In 2030 Newcastle will be a Smart, Liveable and Sustainable city. We will celebrate our unique city and protect our natural assets. We will build resilience in the face of future challenges and encourage innovation and creativity. As an inclusive community, we will embrace new residents and foster a culture of care. We will be a leading lifestyle city with vibrant public places, connected transport networks and a distinctive built environment. And as we make our way toward 2030, we will achieve all this within a framework of open and collaborative leadership.

Our Strategic Directions for Newcastle	Our Objectives
<p>Connected City Transport networks and services will be well connected and convenient. Walking, cycling and public transport will be viable options for the majority of our trips.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective and integrated public transport • Linked networks of cycle and pedestrian paths • A transport network that encourages energy and resource efficiency
<p>Protected and Enhanced Environment Our unique environment will be understood, maintained and protected.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater efficiency in the use of resources • Our unique natural environment is maintained, enhanced and connected • Environment and climate change risks and impacts are understood and managed
<p>Vibrant and Activated Public Places A city of great public places and neighbourhoods promoting people's health, happiness and wellbeing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public places that provide for diverse activity and strengthen our social connections • Culture, heritage and place are valued, shared and celebrated • Safe and activated places that are used by people day and night
<p>Caring and Inclusive Community A thriving community where diversity is embraced, everyone is valued and has the opportunity to contribute and belong.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A welcoming community that cares and looks after each other • Active and healthy communities with physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing • A creative, culturally rich and vibrant community
<p>Liveable and Distinctive Built Environment An attractive city that is built around people and reflects our sense of identity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A built environment that maintains and enhances our sense of identity • Mixed-use urban villages supported by integrated transport networks • Greater diversity of quality housing for current and future community needs • Best practice energy and water efficient buildings and infrastructure
<p>Smart and Innovative City A leader in smart innovations with a healthy, diverse and resilient economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A vibrant diverse and resilient green economy built on educational excellence and research • A culture that supports and encourages innovation and creativity at all levels • A thriving city that attracts people to live, work, invest and visit
<p>Open and Collaborative Leadership A strong local democracy with an actively engaged community and effective partnerships.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated, sustainable long-term planning for Newcastle and the Region • Considered decision-making based on collaborative, transparent and accountable leadership • Active citizen engagement in local planning and decision-making processes and a shared responsibility for achieving our goals • The City of Newcastle: a local government organisation of excellence

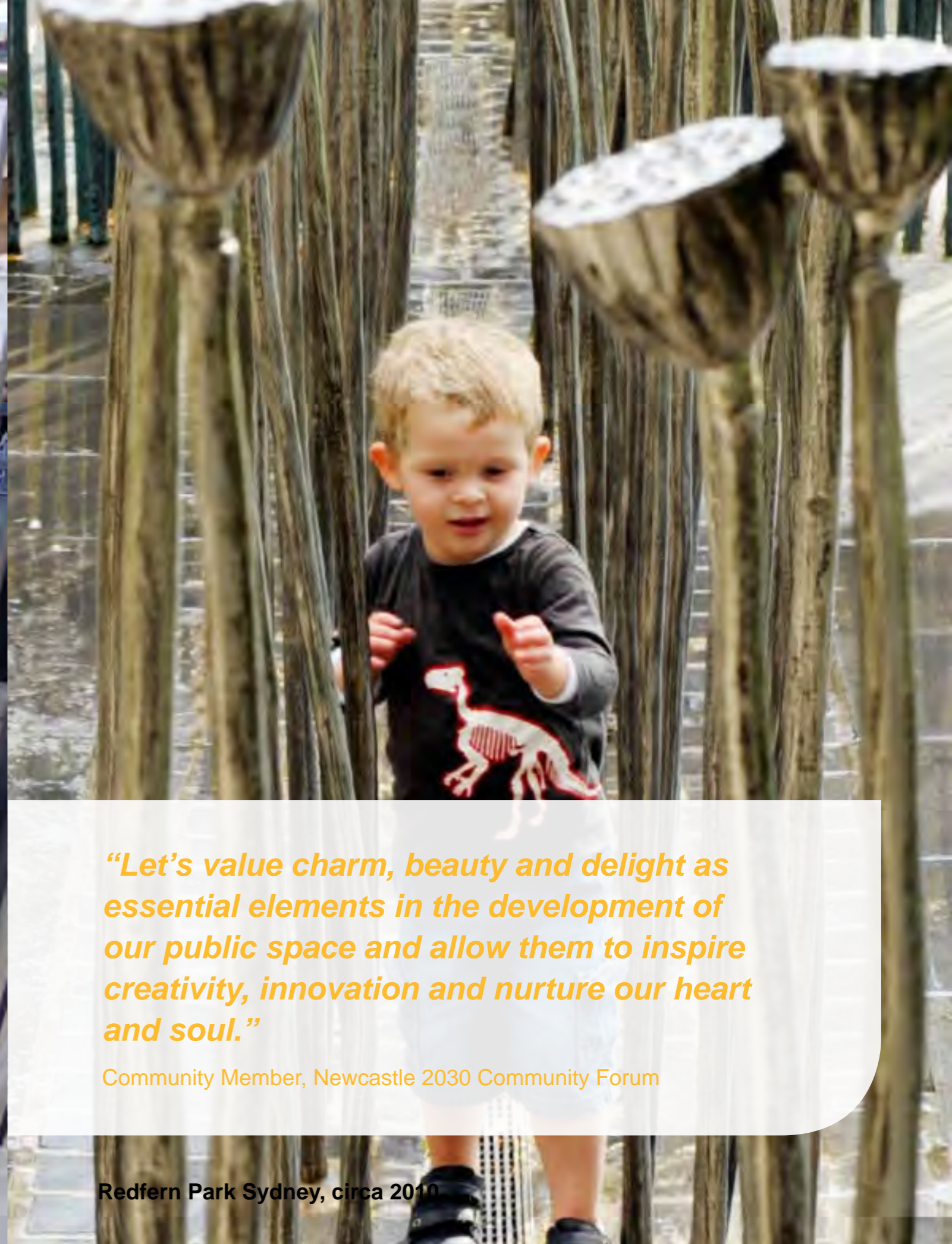


Vibrant and Activated Public Places

In 2030 we will be a city of great public places and neighbourhoods promoting people's health, happiness and wellbeing.



Paddington Reservoir Gardens Sydney, circa 2010



“Let’s value charm, beauty and delight as essential elements in the development of our public space and allow them to inspire creativity, innovation and nurture our heart and soul.”

Community Member, Newcastle 2030 Community Forum

Redfern Park Sydney, circa 2010

Section 2

Background

Cathedral Park is Newcastle's oldest European cemetery and the resting place of 3300 of the city's early inhabitants. The park occupies a spectacular position adjacent the Christ Church Cathedral which attracts upwards of 80,000 visitors each year. This visitation and the stories waiting to be told present the opportunity to provide a showpiece for the city.

“

That's all a man can hope for during his lifetime - to set an example - and when he is dead, to be an inspiration for history.

William McKinley

”

Christ Church Cemetery and Newcastle Harbour, circa 1880



Hannell Monument and Newcastle Harbour, circa 1960

Introduction

Why Cathedral Park?

This Master Plan has been developed by the City of Newcastle to guide the revitalisation of Cathedral Park. Cathedral Park is Newcastle's oldest European cemetery and the resting place of 3300 of the city's early inhabitants. The park occupies a spectacular position adjacent the Christ Church Cathedral which attracts upwards of 80,000 visitors each year. This visitation and the stories waiting to be told present the opportunity to provide a showpiece for the city.

Cathedral Park comprises two parcels of land, the Christ Church Cemetery and the adjoining site of the former cottage 'Mulimbah'. Cathedral Park is community land owned by the City of Newcastle and zoned open space recreation. It is covered by an adopted Plan of Management and this Master Plan is a recommendation of that plan. The Christ Church Cathedral, Moveable Collections, Cemetery and Park are State Heritage Listed.

The cemetery was converted to a rest park in the 1970s and 84 headstone monuments were removed from their burial locations to the eastern side of the site. Unfortunately the park is now in poor condition and does not meet community expectations. Consequently it is little used, difficult to maintain and reflects poorly on the city.

The Cathedral Park Master Plan seeks to –

- stabilise the surviving headstone monuments commensurate with their state heritage significance and recreate the original cemetery layout where possible; and
- create a beautiful, contemporary and engaging public space which integrates parkland and heritage interpretation uses.



Cathedral Park

Context Plan

Cathedral Park is conveniently located in Newcastle's city centre. It is a short walk from the city's diverse cultural and natural attractions. This Master Plan takes advantage of this stunning setting, overlooking the city and harbour, to create another unique Newcastle destination for locals and visitors alike.



The park will attract more visitors to Newcastle

City Centre Revitalisation

Why Cathedral Park?

Cathedral Park is located in the city centre. This Master Plan is compatible with the objectives of the Hunter Street Revitalisation Strategic Framework. In particular the framework identifies that the city's heritage has a high value and is key to the revitalisation of the city centre. The project has the potential to stimulate the local economy in the following ways -

Create a unique destination attraction for the city

Globally there is growing interest in cemeteries as tourism product especially among the grey nomad demographic. The park will specifically add to the tourism product marketable to the lucrative cruise ship market.

Provide for new uses such as weddings and functions

The park has the potential to provide income for Council as a function venue for events such as weddings. This type of park facility with water views is in high demand as demonstrated by the popularity of nearby King Edward Park.

Improve the perception of our city for the 80,000 Cathedral visitors

The park receives high visitation due to its proximity to the Cathedral. However at present the presentation of the park reflects poorly on our city. Revitalising the park will improve the perception of our city for these visitors and therefore improve the profile of Newcastle.



Cathedral Park and Christ Church Cathedral, circa 1965

Our History

From cemetery to rest park

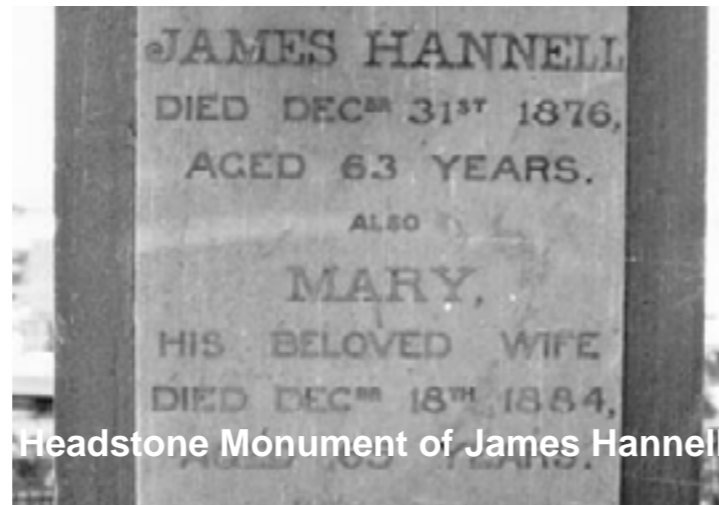
From the first burial in 1804 to the last in 1884 over 3300 burials are recorded in the Christ Church Cemetery and more may be unrecorded. Many notable settlers are buried here and through them the cemetery tells the story of the early days of Newcastle.

In 1966 the land was given to Council for conversion to a rest park. At this time the location of only 258 graves was known and only 84 headstone monuments had legible inscriptions. Unfortunately these monuments were removed from their grave locations and relocated within the park. Many more headstones were removed from the site. Such changes would not be contemplated today and would be illegal under the NSW Heritage Act. Contemporary heritage best practice recommends that the remaining monuments be returned to their original locations and that no further degradation of the headstones be permitted.

PERIOD	ACTIVITY
1804	First documented burial on site, seaman Archibald Scott.
1817	Original Christ Church built on the current cathedral site with a church yard allocated for burials of all denominations.
1840s & 50s	Presbyterian, Catholic and Methodist commence elsewhere.
1859-1869	King Street lowered and a stone retaining wall constructed.
1884	Burials cease at Christ Church Cemetery.
1884-1979	Christ Church Cathedral under construction.
1900-1950	Graveyard neglected and falls into disrepair.
1961-1966	Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle, Cemetery Act 1966, giving the land to Council for conversion to a rest park.
1966 - 1971	Location of 258 graves surveyed. 84 headstones relocated. Construction work for the new rest park.
2011	The Christ Church Cathedral, Moveable Collections, Cemetery and Park are State Heritage Listed.



James Hannell



Headstone Monument of James Hannell

Notable Burials

What stories can we tell?

James Hannell (1813 - 1876)

Active in the incorporation of Newcastle and the city's mayor, served multiple terms in public office. Actively involved in the Hospital, Church, Mechanics School of Arts, and Jockey Club. Buried beside his wife Mary.

Mary Martin (1774-1826)

Mary and her husband, an inn keeper, were chosen by Governor Macquarie for their 'reliable character' to settle Wallis Plains (now Maitland). Mary's headstone is one of the oldest remaining in the park.

Major Archibald Clunes Innes (1800-1857)

Commandant of Port Macquarie until selling his commission. Lost his fortune, then appointed Magistrate at Newcastle. His headstone is in Port Macquarie but his burial remains in Cathedral Park.

John Bingle (1796 - 1882)

One of Newcastle's first magistrates, entrepreneurs and philanthropists. First message sent by telegraph on the line from Sydney to Newcastle from his office. Buried beside his wife Mary.

James Kemp (1791 - 1876)

A carpenter for the AA Company and licensee of local inns. Served in public office including as Mayor. Built the cottage 'Mulimbah'. Buried beside his wife Mary.

Samuel Holt(1819 - 1875)

English Army Sergeant and respected Police Chief Constable for 18 years. Served in public office. Received full military funeral.



John Bingle



Headstone Monument of John Bingle



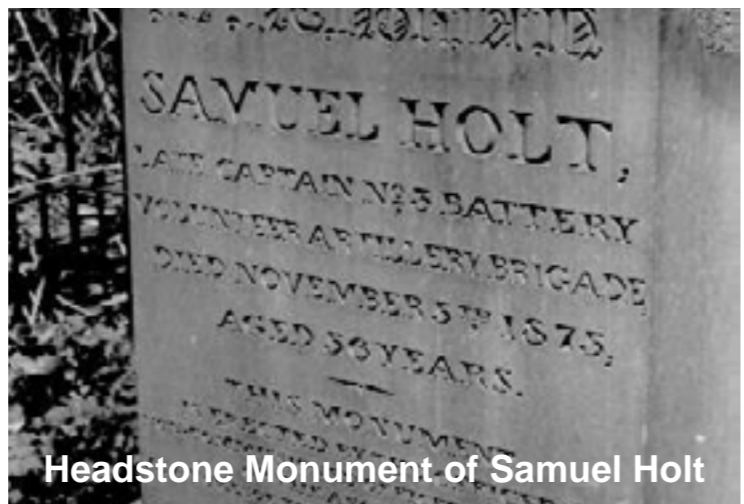
James Kemp



Mulimbah Cottage



Samuel Holt



Headstone Monument of Samuel Holt

Section 3

Master Plan

The Cathedral Park Master Plan seeks to –

- stabilise the surviving monuments commensurate with their identified state heritage significance and recreate the original cemetery layout where possible; and
- create a beautiful, contemporary and engaging public space which integrates parkland and heritage cemetery uses.

“

The conservation of cemeteries is essential for the survival of Australia’s local history, regional history and national history.

National Trust of Australia (NSW)

”



Paddington Reservoir Gardens Sydney



Paddington Reservoir Gardens Sydney



Paddington Reservoir Gardens Sydney



Ballast Point Park Sydney



Ballast Point Park Sydney



Ballast Point Park Sydney



The High Line New York



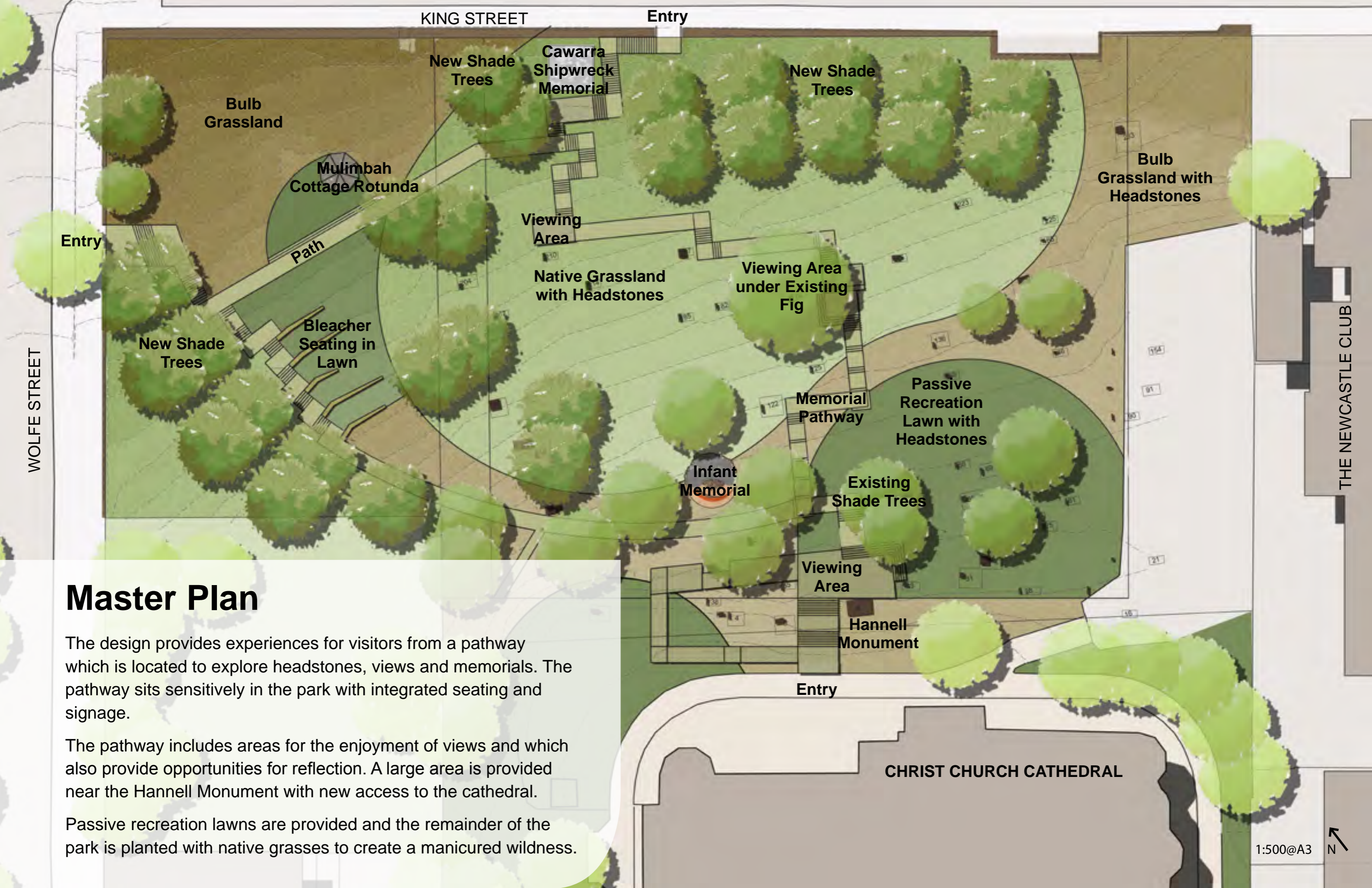
The High Line New York

Benchmarking

The popularity of contemporary heritage interpretation.

The Cathedral Park Master Plan aspires to the following exemplary contemporary heritage places as benchmarks. As a showpiece for the city it aims for design excellence, high quality workmanship and associated recognition.

- Paddington Reservoir Gardens in Sydney is highly popular with visitors and has been praised for achieving a unique blend of historic ruin and contemporary urban design. Notable is the exemplary detailing integrating old and new. It was awarded the 2009 Australian Award for Urban Design.
- Ballast Point Park in Sydney brings together landscape, heritage and experience. A series of spaces invite people to interact with the past industrial use and from this create their own experiences and memories. The design is acclaimed for its authenticity and richness.
- The High Line in New York attracts scores of visitors to experience the integration of old and new. The urban park demonstrates the economic benefits of high quality contemporary heritage interpretation. It has generated \$2 billion in private investment and 12,000 new jobs in the area.



Master Plan

The design provides experiences for visitors from a pathway which is located to explore headstones, views and memorials. The pathway sits sensitively in the park with integrated seating and signage.

The pathway includes areas for the enjoyment of views and which also provide opportunities for reflection. A large area is provided near the Hannell Monument with new access to the cathedral.

Passive recreation lawns are provided and the remainder of the park is planted with native grasses to create a manicured wildness.



Design Objectives

ECONOMIC GROWTH

- Create a unique destination attraction for the city.
- Provide for new uses such as weddings and tour groups.
- Improve the perception of Newcastle for the 80,000 Cathedral visitors.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

- Provide a sequence of experiences which tell Newcastle's stories.
- Encourage engagement with the park by visitors, particularly children.
- Maximise useability of the park whilst minimising site works.

SYMPATHETIC NEW WORKS

- Minimise clutter and integrate built form sympathetically in the park.
- Minimise site disturbance, particularly excavation.
- Integrate old and new through refined detailing.

Artist Impression



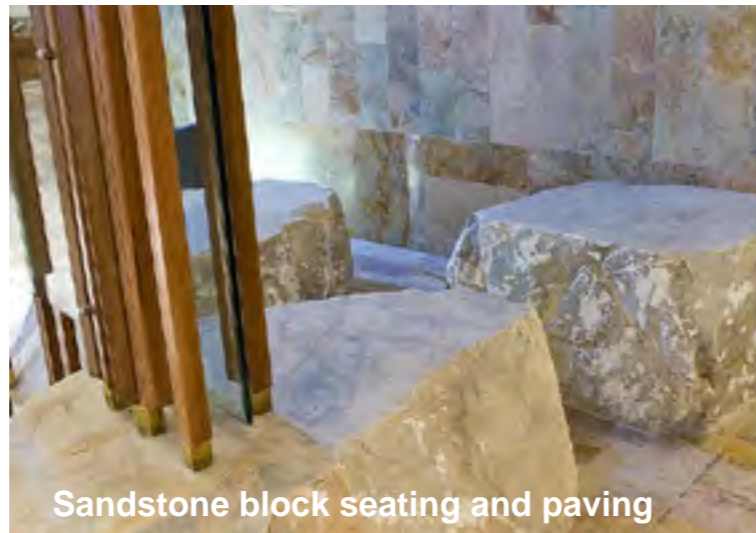
Christ Church Cathedral bricks



Brick paving to reference cathedral



Cathedral Park sandstone retaining wall



Sandstone block seating and paving



Cathedral Park headstone monument



Deco and concrete paving



Open cemetery character



Bleacher seating integrated in lawn

Materials Palette

Sensitive selection of materials is essential.

The materials palette is guided by the following design principles -

- Reuse existing materials on site by sensitive integration and refined detailing with new materials.
- Reflect the existing contextual materials palette including the headstone monuments and the Cathedral.
- Reclaim second hand materials.

The following materials have been selected to achieve the project objectives and design principles. Any additional materials must be carefully selected with reference to this Master Plan and integrated with refined detailing to sit sensitively in the landscape.

- Brick paving will be used to relate to the Christ Church Cathedral. Investigate sourcing from Council stockpile, second-hand, seconds and historical collections.
- Sandstone seating blocks and paving will be used to relate to monuments and retaining wall. Investigate sourcing from Council stockpile and reclaimed site stone.
- Deco and concrete pavement will be used to reflect tones and textures of headstones, blend comfortably into the natural landscape and minimise costs.
- Concrete bleacher seating will be used to sit sensitively in the landscape, integrated with the pathway and retain the open sloping landscape character of the site.



Araucaria cunninghamii



Cupaniopsis anacardioides



Magnolia 'Little Gem'



Trachelospermum jasminoides



Daisies



Themeda spp.



Dianella spp.



Bulbs including daffodils and jonquils

Planting Palette

An evocative planting palette to create a sense of place.

The planting palette is guided by the following design principles -

- Evoke the cemetery heritage of the park.
- Minimise maintenance across the park.
- Provide shade whilst also improving visual permeability.

The following species have been selected to achieve the project objectives and design principles. Any additional species must be carefully selected to coordinate with these and sit sensitively in the landscape.

- Open canopied, clear trunked Araucaria cunninghamii will be used to improve visual permeability.
- Existing Cupaniopsis anacardioides will be retained where possible to provide shade.
- Magnolia 'Little Gem' will be used to screen carpark and maintain views.
- Daisies will be used to evoke the beauty and innocence of childhood in the infant memorial.
- Native grasses including Themeda will be used to minimise maintenance.
- Native sedges including Dianella will be used to minimise maintenance.
- Bulbs will be included in the native grassland to evoke the park's cemetery heritage.

Section 4

Interpretation

The park will tell a sequence of Newcastle stories in accessible and engaging ways. It will be similar to an open air museum with broad appeal for all ages including children. Storytelling is embedded in all aspects of the design across the park as a whole, offering an experiential journey for visitors.

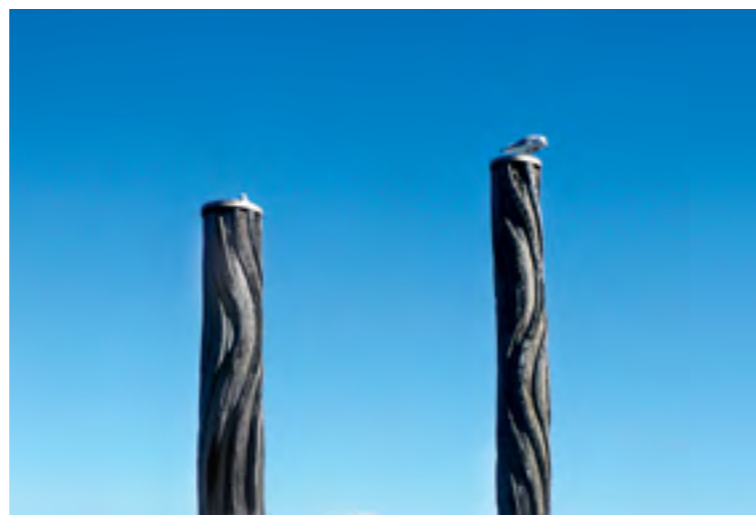
Stories include the reinstated headstones, Cawarra Shipwreck, Infants, Mulimbah Cottage and the 3300 Christ Church Cemetery burials.

“

The challenge of history is to recover the past and introduce it to the present.

David Thelan

”



Acknowledgement of Country

The story before the Christ Church Cemetery.

“The City of Newcastle acknowledges that we are meeting on the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationship with the land, and that they are the proud survivors of more than two hundred years of dispossession.

Council reiterates its commitment to address disadvantages and attain justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this community.”

Cathedral Park has cultural significance to Aboriginal people as an important landscape element within Muloobinba. Several Aboriginal infants and adults are buried in the cemetery and entered on the burial registers, including the 1860 burial of an Aboriginal man named Jacky Jacky.

Interpretation in Cathedral Park will tell the indigenous stories of the area, as well as offer insights into the experience of Aboriginal people during the 19th century. Recent understandings about Aboriginal life and the continuing relationship with country will be also explored in a variety of ways.



Headstone Monuments

The reinstatement of Headstone Monuments.

“As an expression of people’s culture and identity, cemeteries comprise a fascinating resource which allow the community to delve back into their past. The monuments and graves represent the last public memorials of many people, both famous and unknown, who were intimately involved with the growth of the local area in which they are buried. In this way the headstones themselves, through the names, occupations, dates and epitaphs, provide a largely unique social, literary and economic record of the district.” National Trust of Australia (NSW).

The following monuments are currently still in a suitable condition to be stabilised and reinstated to their grave locations -

3 Paty	48 Bolton	116 Booth	204 Russell
4 Price	52 Lewis	117 Hadow	207 Barry
5 Gore	65 Whyte	117a Mereweather	210 Barber
8 Hannell	68 Hynds	122 Richardson	214 Dart
16 Duff	69 Rees	125 King	217 Kemp
21 Mason	75 Winchester	136 Wilson	223 Cowan
28 Brooks	76 McGill	138 Langham	224 McKensey
29 Smith	77 Wood	143 Lewis	225 Nettle
31 Spragg	81 Martin	146 Sayer	233 Holt
33 Williams	90 Davidson	154 Landeryou	235 Simmons
35 Aggar	91 Rinker	166 Brown	240 Low
38 Lambourne	104 Greaves	167 Cook	252 Fountain
41 Bingle	109 Hookway	175 Livermore	
45 Tighe	111 Child	198 Brown	



Christ Church Cemetery



Christ Church Burial Register

Burials Memorial

The story of all 3300 burials in Christ Church Cemetery.

The Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle, Cemetery Act, 1966 calls for a memorial indicating the sacred nature of the site to be incorporated in the park. Of the 3300 burials in Christ Church Cemetery only 54 headstones are able to be conserved and returned to their grave locations. With so few remaining headstones the objective of this burials memorial is to commemorate all Christ Church Cemetery burials. It is proposed that the memorial is integrated within the new pathway and that it features the names of all recorded burials.



Christ Church Cemetery



Christ Church Cemetery

Brick paving is to be used for the new pathway to connect the park materially to the Christ Church Cathedral. The burials memorial will be integrated within the pathway in the form of names etched in bricks. Each name recorded in the burial register is to be included. This is in keeping with memorials associated with the Cathedral.

In this way the pathway becomes an interpretive experience for visitors. In keeping with the design principles it minimises clutter by integrating interpretive signage within the pathway. Any additional interpretive signage is to be incorporated into balustrading and concrete paving.

Measures to designate the location of known burials where no headstone survives will also be explored. This may take the form of an unobtrusive metal disk at each known burial.



Etching Reflects Headstone Monuments



Unobtrusive Markers to Known Burials



Brick Pathway



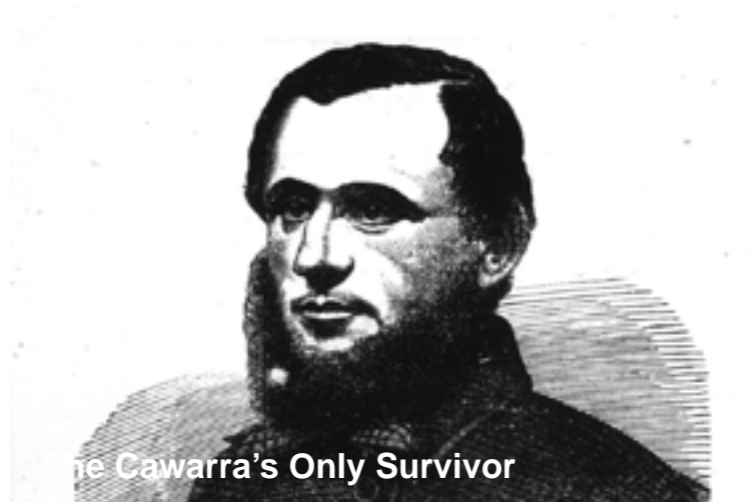
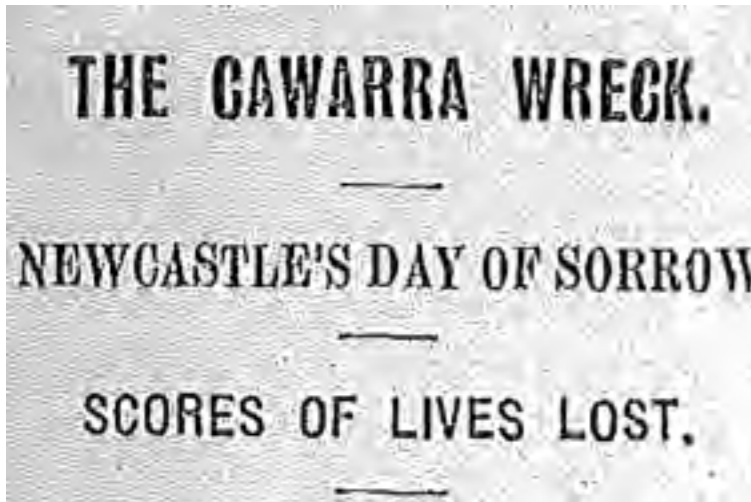
Etched Burial Register Names



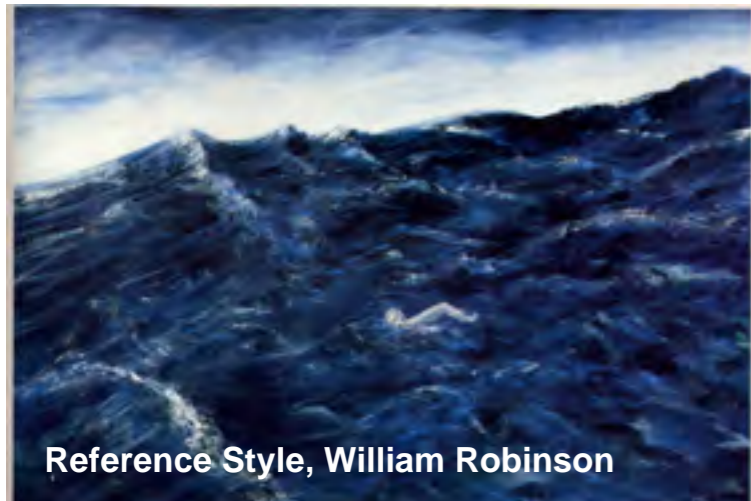
The Cawarra



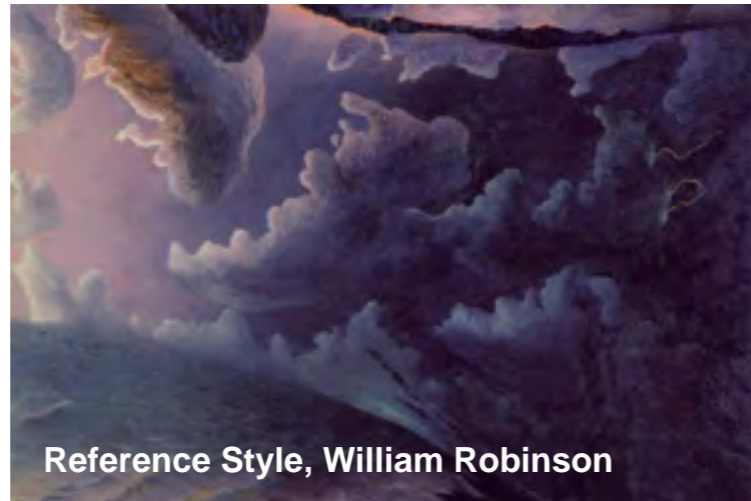
Onlookers and the Cawarra



The Cawarra's Only Survivor



Reference Style, William Robinson



Reference Style, William Robinson



Proposed Paving Treatment



Proposed Paving Treatment

Cawarra Shipwreck Memorial

The story of one of Newcastle's notable shipwrecks.

The Cawarra shipwreck of 12 July 1866 is a notable day in the history of Newcastle on which 60 lives were lost. 31 victims are buried in a mass grave near the King Street entrance, one of the largest and most significant mass graves in Australia. So tragic was the event that business was almost entirely suspended for the funeral. There is only one headstone monument associated with the shipwreck and no interpretation of the mass grave.

A memorial is proposed to tell the story of the ship's fate at the location of the mass grave. It will draw people into the park from King Street. A viewing area will provide views over the memorial and to Newcastle Harbour. The memorial consists of a paving treatment which provides a visual telling of the events.

'...in the teeth of a storm...'

'...wind blowing "pretty stiff" from the east...'

'...blowing a gale, accompanied by thick rain-squalls and rising seas...'

'...the jib was set, but was immediately blown to shreds...'

'...the steamer was driven on to the Oyster Bank...'

'...seas overwhelmed the ship...'

'...hurled to their death...'

'...she had broken in two, her timbers were scattered about the water...'

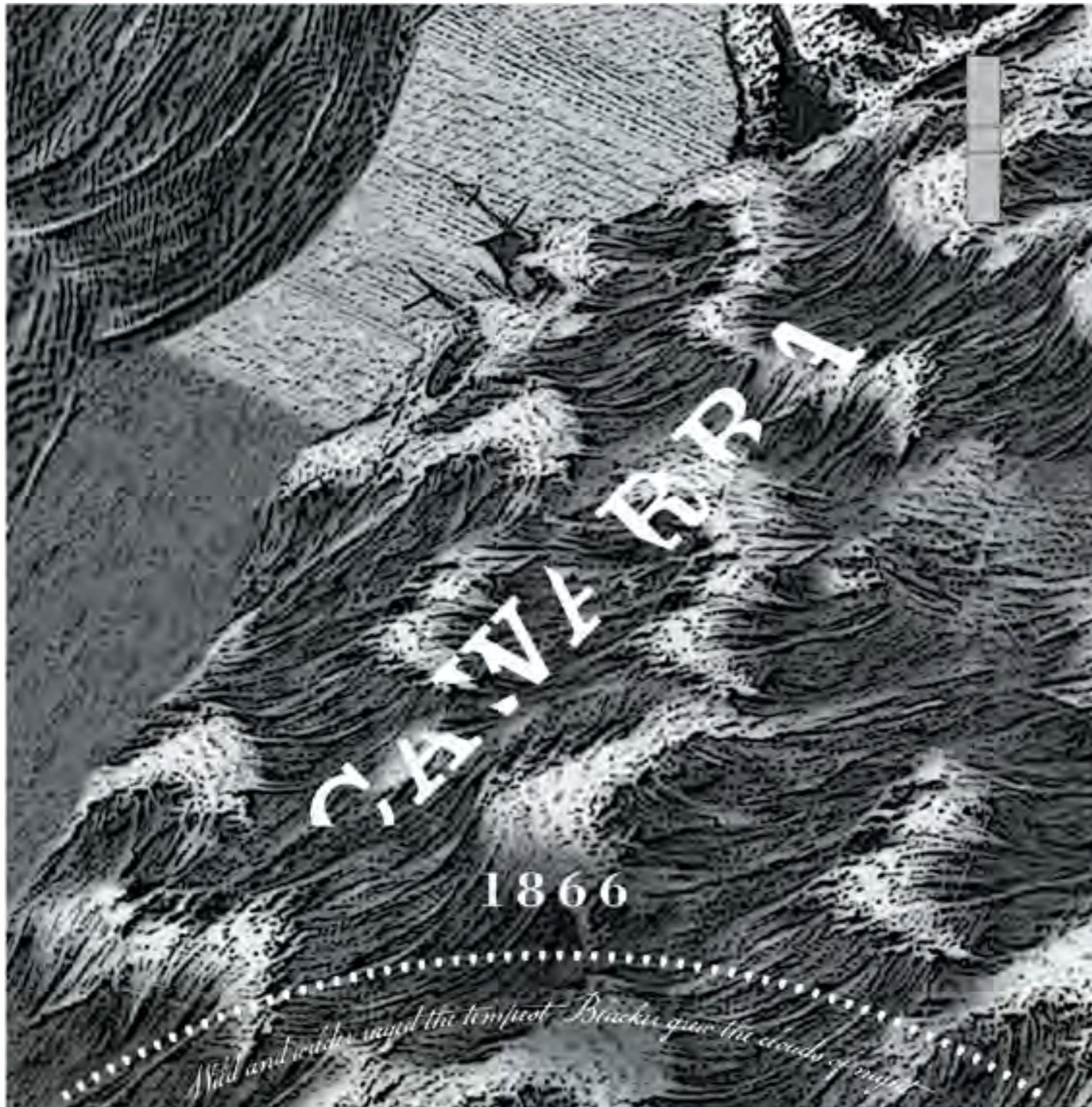
'...in the form of a semi-circle...'

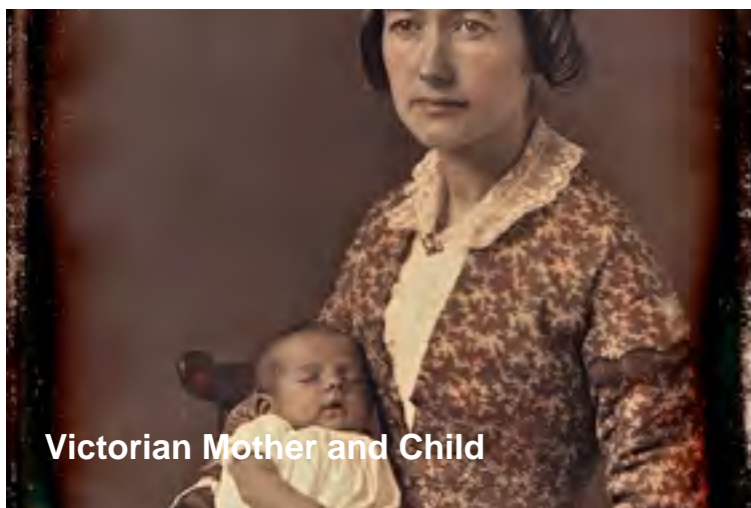
Cawarra Shipwreck Memorial

The story of one of Newcastle's notable shipwrecks.

The curved horizon line is visually accentuated to dramatically increase the sense of the ship's vulnerability as it 'falls' down into the ocean. Sixty marks representing the lives lost are set in an arc in the watery depths of the ocean, reflecting the funeral where the coffins were laid out in an arc beside the church.

Typography is secondary to illustration, representing simply the vessel's name, the year and lines from a poem of the time. The latter allows the introduction of handwriting and poetry to personalise the event. The ship's name is broken by the heavy seas to emphasise the effort the ship made to keep above water. The illustration style is sympathetic to the single colour style of the mid 1800s, frequently seen in newspapers and books of the time.

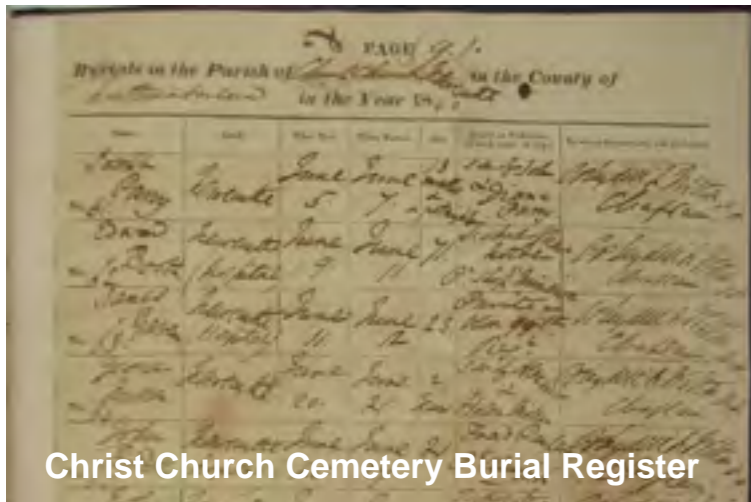




Victorian Mother and Child



Reference Imagery



Christ Church Cemetery Burial Register



Victorian Children at Play



Daisies



Illegible Headstones as Paving



Engaging Play



Engaging Play

Infant Memorial

The story of many small lives lost.

Of all burials in Christ Church Cemetery 38% were children under 3 years of age. This high infant mortality rate reflects a period of poor diet and housing, as well as local hygiene issues.

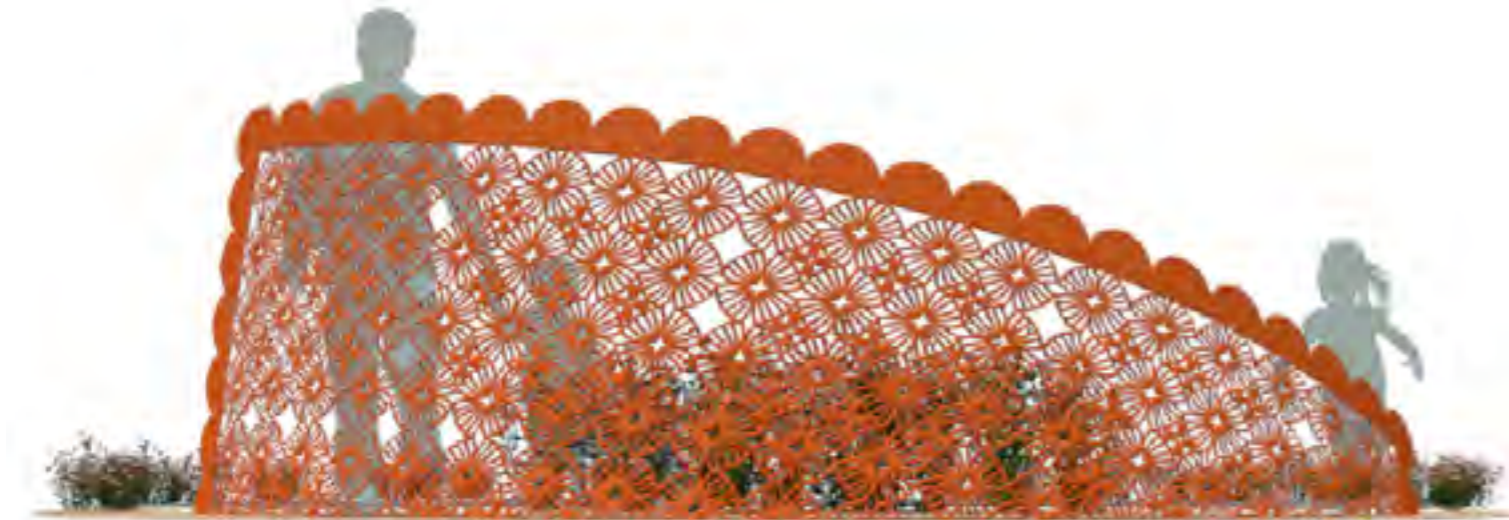
A memorial is proposed to tell the story of these small lives lost. The objective is to provide a space where visitors, particularly children, can engage with the memorial through discovery and play. The memorial will evoke rituals of nurturing and mourning and childhood experiences of the Victorian period.

The memorial consists of a screen around a circular space which is paved in remnant headstones and blue stone. Daisies are planted around the space and blend into the park -

- the laser cut screen reflects a crocheted blanket made for a new baby by women of the period;
- the paving represents the 'wagga' quilts which were made from scraps of fabric by resourceful mothers; and
- the daisies evoke the beauty and innocence of childhood.

The screen is in the form of a crocheted blanket reflecting nurturing and infant care. Knitted or crocheted blankets were, and are, a common object prepared for the arrival of a new baby and a familiar comfort to infants. This crafted object becomes a symbol of the passing of a young child. The screen leans in towards the centre of the circle providing a comforting sense of protection and care.

The use of an abstracted and enlarged crochet detail casts shadows across the landscape. Bordering the northern edge, the ever changing play of light created by the shadows provides a dynamic experience throughout the day and year.



Artist Impression



Crochet Blanket



Daisies

Infant Memorial

The story of many small lives lost.

The landscape surrounding the screen becomes a space for children and adults to explore. References relating to Victorian childhood and mourning rituals are used throughout the design to create layers of interpretation. Nursery rhymes of the period will be engraved in the pavers as well as floral motifs and other symbols. A selection of nursery rhymes such as Baa Baa Black Sheep and Little Bo Peep are not only symbolic of purity and innocence but reference some of the heritage photos showing sheep grazing in the Christ Church Cemetery. Remnant headstones too eroded to identify will be incorporated with the pavers. These stones establish a strong connection to the cemetery and add another layer of narrative relating to the ephemerality of life and memory.

Children will be able to engage with the memorial through the following -

- drawing with chalk on the pavers;
- doing 'grave rubbings' with the remnant stone and engraved symbols; and
- making daisy chains with flowers surrounding the space.

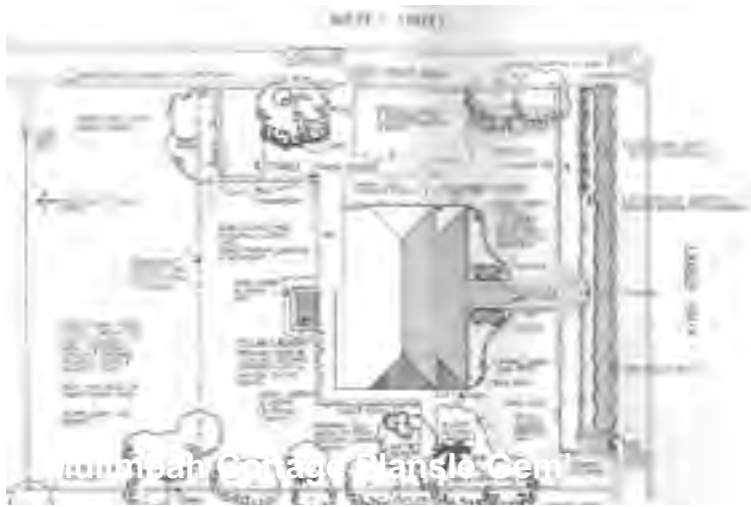
The Infant Memorial will be located on the upper slope of Cathedral Park visible and accessible from the main viewing area and path. There are few headstones to be reinstated in this location which provides the memorial with an autonomous space. Its location in the park will draw people in, encouraging discovery and interaction. It offers beautiful views of the harbour and ocean and its proximity to the main pathway allows children to explore independently and safely while parents look on.



Mulimbah Cottage



Mulimbah Cottage



Mulimbah Cottage Plans & Section



Mulimbah Cottage



Productive Figs



Distinctive Sense of Outlook



Distinctive Sense of Outlook



Furniture Reminiscent of the Age

Mulimbah Cottage Rotunda

The story of early Novocastrians.

The smaller portion of Cathedral Park, in the north-western corner, is the site of the former cottage 'Mulimbah' built by Simon Kemp in the 1840's. Built in the Colonial Georgian style the family home and garden provided a lush, verdant oasis in the middle of a smoggy and industrial city. Whilst the cottage is no longer in place its story can tell us of a way of life from a bygone era.

Kemp came from England in 1827 to work for the Australian Agricultural Company and made significant contributions to the early development of Newcastle. After his death, his daughter and her husband, a Parnell, continued to live in the house. The only other family to live at Mulimbah was the Croft family, and by 1947 it had fallen vacant. The Anglican Diocese purchased it in 1953 and the house was demolished in about 1954. The land was transferred to Newcastle City Council in 1987 as part of an exchange of properties.

A rotunda is proposed for the Mulimbah Cottage site to tell the story of early Novocastrians and their way of life. This small structure will -

- provide a sheltered location for viewing the harbour and an experience similar to a residential verandah;
- include furniture reminiscent of the age;
- incorporate interpretative signage relating stories from the time; and
- reuse salvaged materials from the era in the form of cast iron poles.

Section 5

Strategies

Cathedral Park has unique constraints in relation to heritage, archaeology and topography. A detailed understanding of this is necessary for implementation of the Master Plan prior to works being undertaken. A synopsis of the strategies for addressing these constraints is provided here. These strategies are to apply to all works in Cathedral Park.



The High Line New York

“

Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul.

John Muir

”

Conservation Policy

The Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter is used to ensure the survival and integrity of heritage places. Council has incorporated these principles into the Cathedral Park Master Plan as follows -

- retaining the cultural significance of Cathedral Park;
- taking a cautious approach by changing as much as necessary - but as little as possible; and
- respecting the existing fabric, use, associations and meanings of the park and its elements.

In addition the following applies to all works -

Retain all historic monuments

All remaining grave monuments, regardless of condition, are to be retained in the park.

Reinstate monuments

All monuments with legible inscriptions should be reinstated to their grave locations in a manner appropriate to their age and condition.

Repair monuments

All monuments that are broken or damaged should be repaired, under the guidance of a specialist conservator.

Conserve archaeological features

No excavations should be carried out on this site, for any purpose, without the advice of a specialist archaeologist.

Maintain historic landscape features

Develop a monitoring and maintenance schedule specifically for the park's sandstone retaining walls to ensure their longevity.

Retain and enhance visual links

Identify and remove trees of lower retention value which detract from the view corridor of the city and harbour.

Remove self seeding species

Identify and remove self seeding species that cause maintenance problems.

Use

The current use of the place as a public park, as prescribed in the Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle, Cemetery Act 1966 is appropriate to its heritage significance. There should be no change in use of the site.

Interpretation

Investigate, prepare and implement a plan for interpreting the site, considering all aspects of its history, significance, use and landscape. Develop and install consistent, well designed, and visually unobtrusive interpretive media which does not obscure or reduce the cultural significance of the place.

Management

Conduct all future management and decision making processes with reference to the park's heritage significance.

Develop and implement a set of clearly defined protocols or guidelines for the maintenance of the area immediately surrounding the gravestones. Monitor the conditions of the heritage items to ensure their condition is not affected by maintenance or management issues.

Obtain specialist conservation advice when planning to undertake major work on the site involving changes to items with heritage significance.

Archaeological Strategy

There is a high possibility of archaeological material being present in the study area.

1. The Archaeological Assessment is to inform all works.
2. Headstone monuments can be removed for the purpose of conservation and repair and reinstated in their original locations under the terms of a Standard Exemption issued by the NSW Heritage Council. Prior to any excavation locations to be investigated by a qualified archaeologist. The proposed methodology for this work will have to be specified in the Exemption Application. This report should form the basis of the Exemption Application submission to the Heritage Branch, Office of Environment and Heritage.
3. A permit will be required under Section 60 of the Heritage Act 1979 to authorise construction of pathways and other landscape works. This work will need to be preceded by archaeological investigation of proposed footing locations and any other areas of impact. A research design and proposed methodology for this work will have to be prepared to accompany the S60 Permit Application. This report should be updated and submitted to the Heritage Branch (together with the research design and methodology) as supporting documentation for the S60 Permit Application.
4. Prior and adequate provision will need to be made in the construction schedule for the archaeological program to ensure that the archaeologists have adequate time to complete their work.
5. Contractors are to undergo a Heritage Induction to inform them of areas of archaeological sensitivity, archaeologists works, and processes to be followed.



Monument Stabilisation Strategy

When applied to the stabilisation of headstone monuments the Burra Charter principles are to be applied as follows -

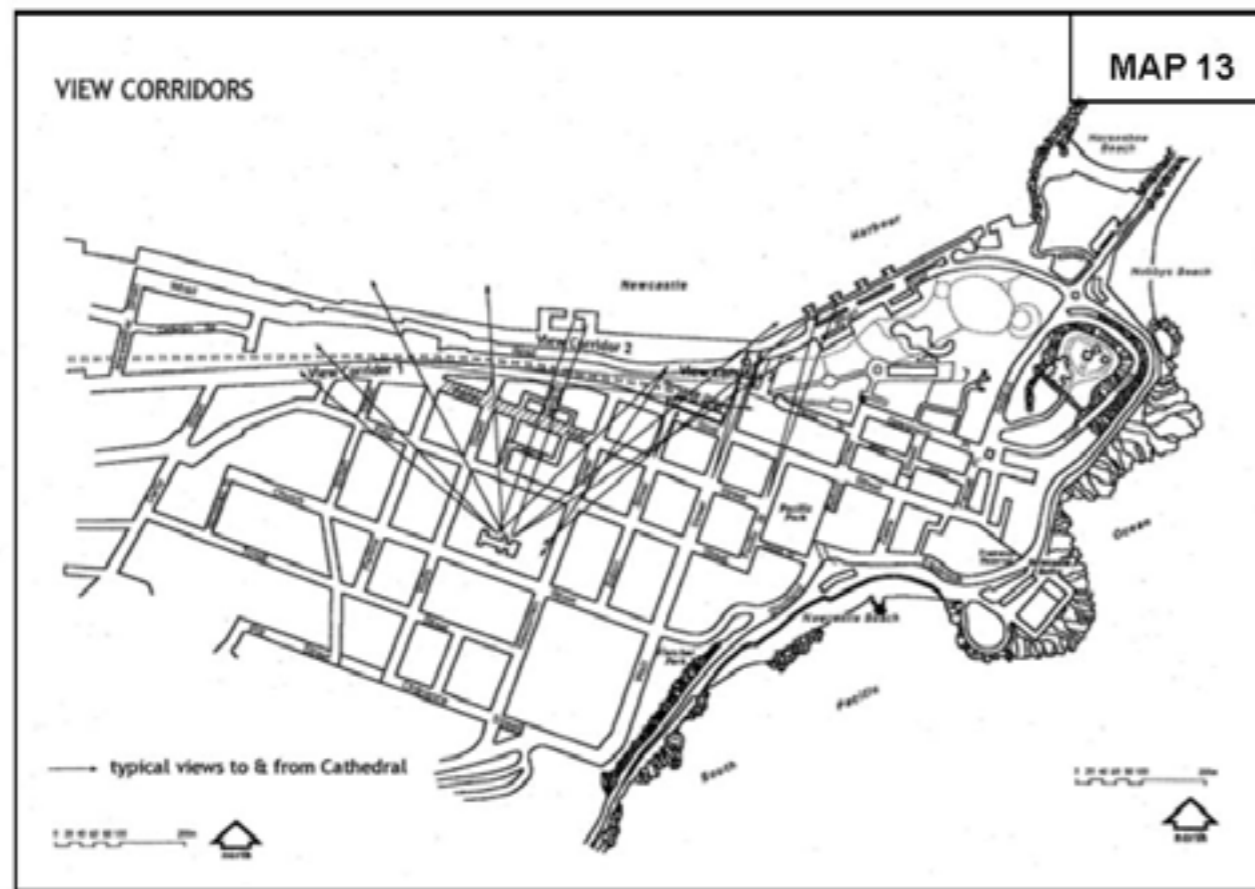
- reinstate monuments to their grave locations;
- extend the life of the monuments without compromising heritage significance;
- respect the natural process of aging and the character of the monuments;
- avoid the introduction of new materials or unsympathetic interventions;
- avoid reconstruction and new work; and
- use traditional materials and expert heritage knowledge.

These principles are supported by the National Trust of Australia (NSW), who recommend that all conservation work at a cemetery site should involve minimal interference to existing fabric. The National Trust also suggests that any major works at a cemetery site are supported by a clear set of management policies and where possible, a Master Plan, that incorporates the key Burra Charter principles of the conservation of all the cultural significance of a place.



View Corridors

The Newcastle DCP Element 6.2 which covers City East - identifies that the view corridor from the Cathedral to the foreshore, and vice versa, from the foreshore and Hunter Street Mall to the Cathedral, is of the highest importance to the City and should be retained and enhanced in any public or private development.



The following Tree Succession Plan is in accordance with the DCP.



Cathedral Park and Christ Church Cathedral, circa 1975

Tree Succession Plan

New tree planting and selective tree removal is proposed to achieve the project objectives as follows -

Conserve the surviving monuments commensurate with their state heritage significance and recreate the original cemetery layout where possible.

Selective tree removal is necessary to reinstate headstone monuments to their burial locations. Removal of trees planted following conversion to parkland is consistent with the Burra Charter recommendation to remove accretions or unsympathetic changes that detract from heritage significance.

Create a beautiful, contemporary and engaging public space which integrates parkland and heritage cemetery uses.

The closely planted layout and shrubby form of trees in Cathedral Park is not compatible with its future role as a high profile parkland and showpiece for the city. Many of the trees obscure visibility within the park causing safety concerns for users. Succession planting is proposed to enable new trees consistent with parkland use to be planted and less compatible trees to be subsequently removed.

Trees to be Retained

Existing trees in good health, with good structure and compatible with the project objectives are to be retained and incorporated into the design as a feature of the park.

New Trees

New trees are proposed to match the existing canopy cover in the park. Planting of a proportion of new trees is to occur prior to tree removal commencing.

New trees will be planted in a more structured manner than the current layout to improve useability and visibility. Tree specimens will be clear trunked and appropriately spaced to maintain visual permeability. Locations to be confirmed subject to site investigations.

Headstone Reinstatement

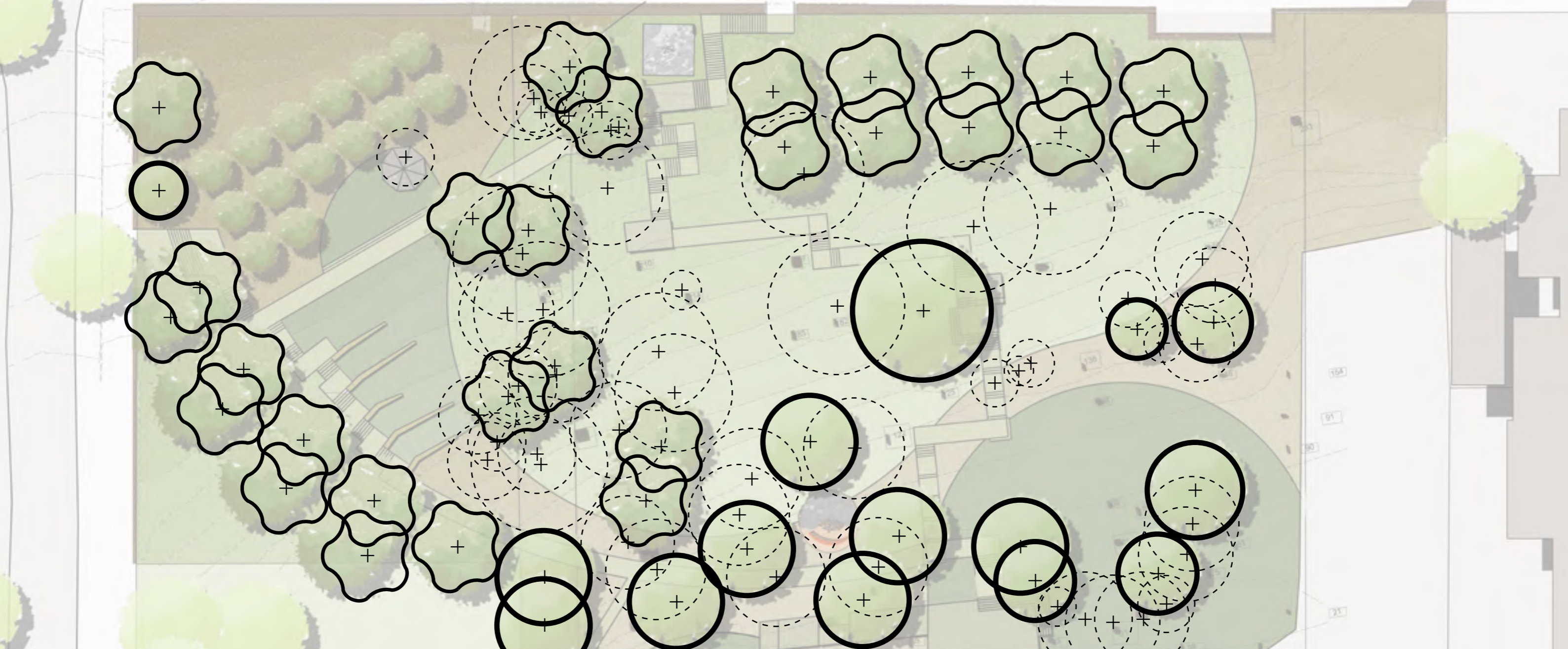
Trees require removal where they conflict with the locations of headstone monuments. As the trees were planted after the relocation of headstones from their grave locations, the headstones have precedence and require reinstatement to their rightful location. This applies as follows -

1. The headstone is located within proximity of the tree trunk and an in ground footing is necessary. This requires excavating for a footing in the same location as the trunk which is not compatible with retaining the tree.
2. The headstone is located within the drip zone and an above ground footing is necessary. This requires placing fill over the root zone which is not compatible with retaining the tree.

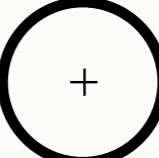
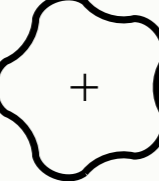

Trees Identified for Removal

Trees are identified for removal where they are of lower retention value and also currently obscure visibility for users in the park. The retainability rating is a product of the trees sustainability period and significance in the landscape.

The removal of these trees will improve visibility in the park in accordance with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles. These trees are to be removed after succession planting has occurred. Tree removal will be staged. The impacts will be assessed following each stage and the plan reviewed accordingly.



Tree Succession Plan

- Tree to be Retained 
- New Trees 
- Trees to be Removed 

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Change Register

Issue	Date	Amendment	Pages Amended
A	7 May 2012	Public Exhibition	N/A
B	3 July 2012	Adopted Plan	Pages 14, 17 & 21