



# Cultural Heritage Assessment

**Town of Port Hedland Old Port  
Hedland Cemetery, Western  
Australia**

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Prepared by:

**RPS**

PO Box 428  
Hamilton NSW 2303

T: +61 2 4940 4200

F: +61 2 4961 6794

E: [newcastle@rpsgroup.com.au](mailto:newcastle@rpsgroup.com.au)

W: [rpsgroup.com.au](http://rpsgroup.com.au)

Prepared for:

**Town of Port Hedland**

Port Hedland WA 6721

Report No: 108040-1

Version/Date: Final, January 2012

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## Document Status

<i>Version</i>	<i>Purpose of Document</i>	<i>Orig</i>	<i>Review</i>	<i>Review Date</i>	<i>Format Review</i>	<i>Approval</i>	<i>Issue Date</i>
<i>Draft A</i>	<i>Draft for Client Review</i>	<i>CYL</i>	<i>DR</i>	<i>9.6.2011</i>	<i>BJ 14.10.11</i>		
<i>Draft B</i>	<i>revised with client comment</i>	<i>CYL</i>	<i>DR</i>	<i>1.12.2011</i>			
<i>Final</i>	<i>Last RPS revision</i>	<i>ToPH</i>	<i>DR</i>	<i>6.1.2012</i>			<i>18.1.2012</i>
<i>Final B</i>	<i>Client revised report</i>	<i>TOPH</i>	<i>DR</i>	<i>18.1.2012</i>	<i>VD 18.01.12</i>		

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## Executive Summary

RPS has been commissioned by Town of Port Hedland (ToPH) to provide a cultural heritage assessment for the Old Port Hedland Cemetery (OPHC) located on the Pilbara coast of north-west Western Australia. The initiative behind this report was to restore and revitalise the OPHC to a standard that the community at large could be proud of. The ToPH was determined to initiate the restoration of the OPHC which they hoped would lead to community-based and focused initiatives in the future. Although the ToPH was responsible for the overall upkeep of the cemetery grounds, the registration of Aboriginal midden Site 1013 in the cemetery with the Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA) in 1994 (see Section 5.1.1) prevented the ToPH undertaking significant works to revitalise the cemetery grounds. Any form of disturbance as a result of maintenance works posed a possible offence under Section 17 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (AHA).

The outcome of the recent inspection of Site 1013 by RPS archaeologists concluded that the shell fragments within the OPHC were not the remnants of an Aboriginal shell midden complex. Site 1013 was subsequently deregistered with the DIA, thereby enabling the ToPH to explore options to restore the OPHC and to implement a realistic means of achieving long term maintenance strategies which they hoped would be largely community based.

This report has been completed by integrating a variety of research and assessment methods such as a search of relevant legislative bodies, a desktop literature review, oral history interviews and ground penetrating radar (GPR) assessment. The aim of his report is to determine the following:

- 1) Prior works undertaken at the OPHC;
- 2) An analysis of why cemeteries have social and spiritual significance;
- 3) The types of people interred in the OPHC;
- 4) Recent development around the OPHC;
- 5) Public opinion of the OPHC; and
- 6) Confirmation of gravesite positioning.

The purpose of this exercise was to develop a better understanding of what the ToPH would like to see done to upgrade the current condition of the OPHC and to enable future preparation of concept designs of the cemetery landscape. This project relied heavily on community input and feedback regarding the proposed upgrade works to the OPHC within the overall scheme to provide the town with improved amenities and to facilitate community vision.

The following recommendations have been formulated based on the findings in this report and have been divided into two distinct phases. The first stage of phase 2 will enable a scope of works to be developed for the upgrade of the cemetery with assurance that the location of the graves on the site and the people interred is as accurate as possible at this time. The stage 2 phase 2 recommendations will act to ensure the findings of stage one are acted upon, protect as far as possible on ground works from impacting upon burial sites and provides a pathway for future redevelopment, community involvement and management.

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## Phase 2, Stage 1 Recommendations

### **Recommendation 1**

Create two lists of individuals. Those with marked graves and those without. Initiate a programme as outlined in section 7.4 of this report.

### **Recommendation 2**

Initiate a surface survey programme to tie subsurface GPR results to tighter cadastral surface features and boundaries.

### **Recommendation 3**

Two titles currently exist at the cemetery. If the WA Planning Commission (WAPC) allows, ToPH will collapse both titles into a single title covering the current cadastral boundaries of OPHC and ensure it remains as 'reserved for cemetery purposes'.

### **Recommendation 4**

3D Surface Terrestrial survey to be completed to accurately denote surface features and also act as an archival record of the place prior to any future refurbishment occurring that would significantly alter the cemetery appearance.

## Phase 2, Stage 2 Recommendations

### **Recommendation 1**

The cemetery is to be gazetted by council as a public burial space in perpetuity to protect the site from any future development or site encroachment.

### **Recommendation 2**

Irrespective of future refurbishment works at the cemetery, grounds maintenance funding and physical manifestation of grounds maintenance is to be guaranteed by the ToPH in perpetuity. This will ensure that the cemetery never again returns to its unkempt decayed state. Certain responsibilities may be able to be carried out by the community.

### **Recommendation 3**

Perimeter fencing to be replaced or fixed. Hedging may be an option.

### **Recommendation 4**

Determine the responsibility hierarchy for the cemetery so that community feedback, comment and assistance can be appropriately directed and acted upon.

### **Recommendation 5**

The information collected as part of this report is to be made freely available to the broader community either in complete report form or in excerpts from it or via download via the internet.

### **Recommendation 6**

It is recommended that the ToPH organise a means by which agencies such as the ToPH Library, the Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre, the ToPH Historical Society and the Battye State Library (WA State Library) share and disseminate information related to this report. This will ensure that people may approach their preferred organisations to request the information they

need.

#### **Recommendation 7**

A copy of this report be sent to all those who participated in the oral history recording connected with the report.

#### **Recommendation 8**

Future design and refurbishment works are to be conducted in accordance with and are culturally sensitive to the findings of this report.

#### **Recommendation 9**

Any subsurface works are to be cleared against the GPR results prior to any sub surface impact occurring in order to avoid impact to burials.

#### **Recommendation 10**

The name of the cemetery should be formally decided upon. Despite several previous reports noting that 'Pioneers and Pearlys' cemetery was not broadly representative and hence the name 'Old Port Hedland' cemetery should be adopted in place, it appears this may not be the case. During the research conducted as part of this study there was general agreement that it was a 'pioneers' cemetery. It may therefore be more appropriate to name it "Port Hedland Pioneer Cemetery" as it better reflects the collective effort from all at establishing the town irrespective of race, religion or politics.

#### **Recommendation 11**

The cemetery is to be maintained as a public place open to all comers.

#### **Recommendation 12**

Archivally photograph all remaining grave markers and tombstones with high resolution camera. Generate a file identifying each of them and a transcript taken of the inscriptions on each. Records to be kept by the ToPH Library, the Wangka Maya organisation and ToPH Historical Society.

#### **Recommendation 13**

If a memorial plaque is to be erected in and/or around the cemetery premises, information should be written in English, Chinese and Japanese to accommodate for a more multicultural audience and foreign visitors with relatives interred.

#### **Recommendation 14**

Headstones written in Chinese and Japanese characters should be translated in English and archived for future reference.

#### **Recommendation 15**

Engage in a dialogue with identified community representatives during this study to determine the type and scale of refurbishment necessary. This would cover the erection of shade trees, shelters seats, memory walls, provision of water and so on.

#### **Recommendation 16**

The connection between the cemetery and Cemetery Beach Park should be maintained and strengthened as part of any refurbishment plan. Historically beach access was often via the cemetery and any future works should at least be sympathetic to this and reflected in landscape architecture design.

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**Recommendation 17**

The shell midden display signage within the OPHC should be removed as the ACMC has determined that it is not an Aboriginal site.

**Recommendation 18**

It may be necessary to consider a financial assistance programme (eg. Application for funding with Lotteries West) so that those living people whom are able to identify the burial location of relatives or friends via the GPR investigation, but who are perhaps financially unable to do so, are enabled to mark it with a headstone or grave marker.

**Recommendation 19**

ToPH could initiate and provide ongoing support to a cemetery care group (working group) that meets annually to discuss issues surrounding future works, maintenance and/or other relevant items that may come up for consideration such as which organisation(s) or community members would be able to assume the role of guardian for burials without any living relatives to care for and possibly erect a grave marker.

The cemetery care/working group could be established as the decision makers and continue to support information collection and future memorial installations. As a suggestion, the working group for example may consist of Friends of the Cemetery, TOPH, local history collection staff, Wangka Maya and the ToPH Historical Society representatives.

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# 1 Introduction

RPS has been engaged by ToPH to prepare a Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Old Port Hedland Cemetery (OPHC) Revitalisation project. The initiative behind this project was driven by two primary goals:

- 1) To improve the current condition of the OPHC in order to make the premises more inviting and a more respectful resting place for the individuals interred; and
- 2) To identify as many individuals possible within the cemetery and ascertain the total number of bodies interred, even if their identities may be unknown.

In order to achieve this outcome, reasonable and practicable measures are taken to prevent harm to the burial mounds, headstones and associated relics within the cemetery precinct. Based on the outcome of this research project, the aim is to gain an understanding of what the community wanted to see achieved from this project. This report considers relevant archaeological and ethnographic information and previously written reports in addition to statutory requirements.

A crucial element of this report are thorough oral history accounts from representatives of each cultural group (Caucasian/Indigenous/Asian) residing within the ToPH, in addition to individuals that have had an interest in the OPHC revitalisation project. Furthermore, a scientific analysis via ground penetrating radar (GPR) was undertaken in order to ascertain sub-surface anomalies so that proposed works to revitalise the OPHC could be undertaken via informed decision making processes.

## 1.1 The Old Port Hedland Cemetery, Port Hedland-(Study Area)

The OPHC in Port Hedland is in the heart of the town located at the corner of Sutherland Street and Stevens Street (Figure 1-1). The OPHC is within Lot 829-831 and gazetted as Reserve No 27693. The cemetery is bounded by Stevens Street to the west, Sutherland Street to the north, and Brearly Street to the east. The allotments west of the OPHC is a retirement village complex and to the east is the Best Western Motel. The OPHC is within the Port Hedland Local Government Area (LGA) (Figure 1-2)

## 1.2 Legislative Context

The legal framework is only provided as a brief description of the legislative parameters in which cultural heritage assessments need to comply with. The information provided should not be interpreted as legal advice and RPS will not be liable for any actions taken by any person, body or group as a result of this general overview. In the event that an incident occurs that breaches the legislative framework that protects Aboriginal heritage, it is recommended that specific legal advice be obtained from a qualified legal practitioner prior to any action being taken as a result of the summary below.

It is incumbent on any land manager to adhere to legislative requirements that protect both Aboriginal cultural heritage and European cultural heritage in Western Australia. Appendix 1 details the various relevant Legislative Acts in more detail.

### 1.3 Scope of Assessment

The purpose of this Cultural Heritage Assessment was to provide an up to date summary of previous research/development undertakings and to ascertain what the community at large within the ToPH wanted to see done toward the improvement to the cemetery's condition. Part of this analysis involved an examination of what was successfully achieved as well as pitfalls in earlier attempts to improve the condition of the cemetery. This information was used to undertake relevant research via archaeological/historical assessment and scientific analysis (GPR works) (refer to Chapter 6). A significant aspect of this report was based on what the community wanted to see achieved in the OPHC, as the proposed works were aimed at delivering improvements to the amenities in the town and to lift the overall aesthetic appeal of the OPHC to encourage future generations to visit and appreciate this significant landmark. As a result, intensive community consultation with representatives of the different cultural groups that may have immediate family interred in the OPHC or someone that is associated indirectly either through long term residence in the town with recollections of burial services at the OPHC was undertaken (refer to Chapter 5).

### 1.4 Authorship and Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by Cheng Yen Loo and reviewed by Darrell Rigby.

**Table 1-1: Acknowledgements** (Refer to Appendix 3)

Name	Organisation
Allen Lockyer	Current Resident of South Hedland
Arnold Carter	Deputy Mayor & Current Resident of Port Hedland
George Pitt	Department of Indigenous Affairs, Pilbara
Ian Lewis	Former Port Hedland Resident
Julie Hunt	Dalgety House Museum
Mary Attwood	Current Resident of South Hedland
Margaret Derschow	Current Resident of South Hedland
Patricia Mason	Current Resident of South Hedland
Ryan Crawford	Department of Indigenous Affairs
Sue Baker	Frontier Services
Vince and Hazel Lockyer	Current Residents of South Hedland

## 1.5 Terms & Abbreviations

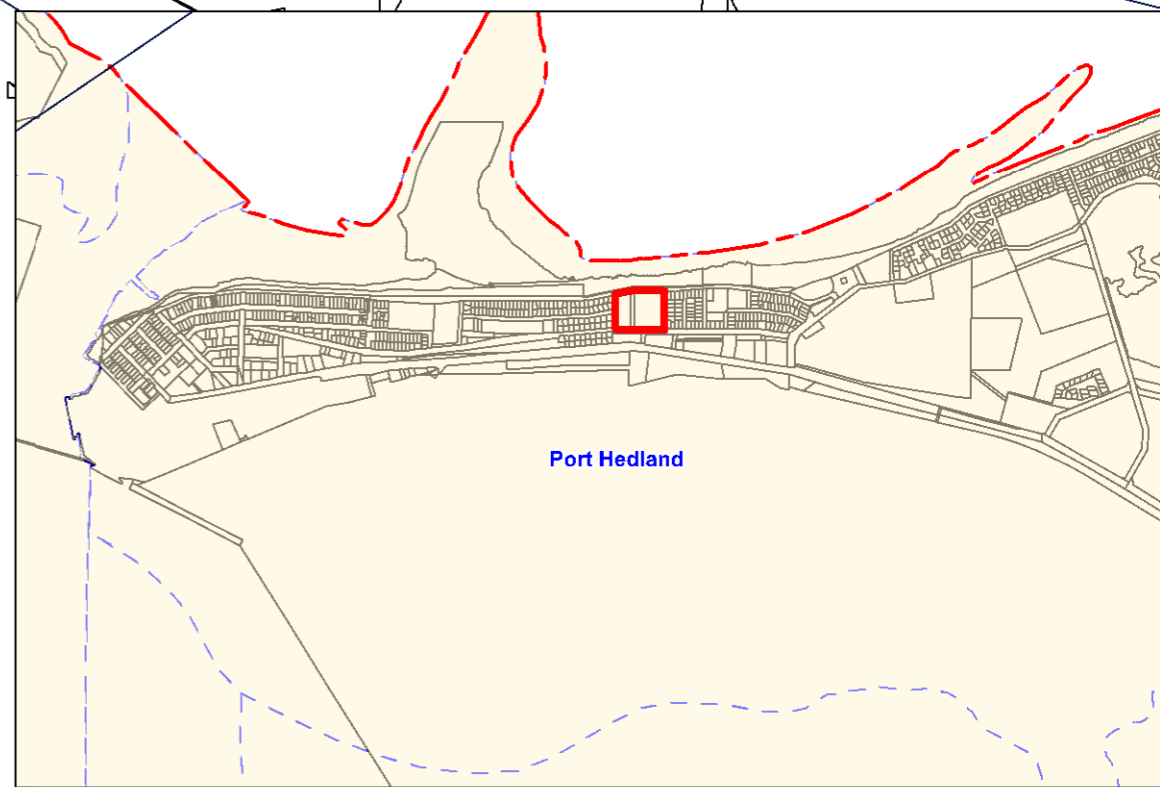
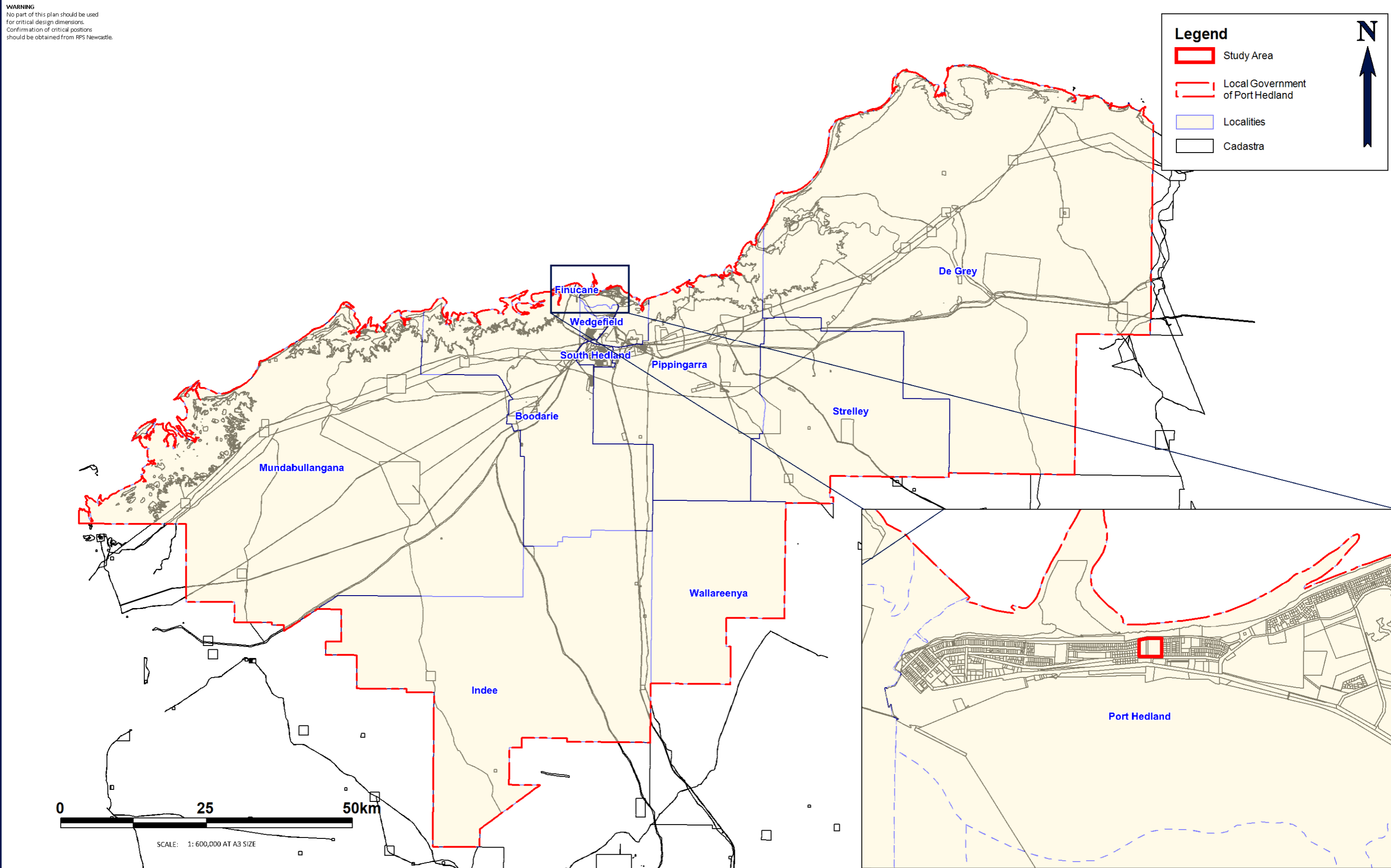
Abbreviation	Meaning
ACMC	Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee
AHA	<i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972</i>
Alpha	Alpha Geoscience Pty. Ltd
DIA	Department of Indigenous Affairs
GPR	Ground Penetrating Radar
HSR	Heritage Survey Reports
HPA	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act
NTA	<i>Native Title Act 1993</i>
PNTS	Pilbara Native Title Service
ToPH	Town of Port Hedland
AHIS	Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System
OPHC	Old Port Hedland Cemetery

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**Legend**

- Study Area
- Local Government of Port Hedland
- Localities
- Cadastra

**N**



TITLE: FIGURE 1-1  
 LOCATION PLAN

LOCATION: PORT HEDLAND

DATUM: N/A  
 PROJECTION: MGA ZONE 50 (GDA 94)

DATE: 08/08/2011  
 PURPOSE: HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

LAYOUT REF: J:\JOBS\WA work\2011 works\108040 Old Port Hedland Cemetery\10- Drafting\Workspace  
 VERSION (PLAN BY): A A3 (NW-CYL)

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RPS AUSTRALIA EAST PTY LTD (ABN 44 140 292 762)  
 241 DENISON STREET BROADMEADOW PO BOX 428 HAMILTON NSW 2303  
 T: 02 4940 4200 F: 02 4961 6794 www.rpsgroup.com.au

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**Legend**  
Study Area



0 40 80m

SCALE: 1:800 AT A3 SIZE

TITLE: FIGURE 1-2 STUDY AREA | LOCATION: PORT HEDLAND | DATUM: N/A | PROJECTION: MGA ZONE 50 (GDA 94) | DATE: 08/08/2011 | PURPOSE: HERITAGE ASSESSMENT | LAYOUT REF: J:\JOBS\WA work\22646-3 St Cecilia's\Drafting\MapInfo Workspaces | VERSION (PLAN BY): A A3 (NW-CYL) | Copyright  
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## 2 Non-Indigenous and Indigenous Cultural Heritage Context

### 2.1 Cultural Significance of the OPHC

Cultural significance is a concept which helps in estimating the value of a place. According to the ICOMOS Burra Charter (1999: 12), cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past present or future generations. The major focus of this project is centred on improving amenities within the town and to create a place where the local community and visitors can appreciate and learn about the rich history of the town and the pioneers that came before them. The OPHC would carry high significance from a historic and social perspective, given that the OPHC is comprised of different sections based on religious and ethnic differences. The cemetery also contains interpretive value about how society may have been structured and segregated in the past. The aesthetic significance of the OPHC carries a level of subjectivity. What is known about the OPHC is that headstones/markers and associated funeral paraphernalia are influenced by current trends and the era in which people were interred. Social class, status and wealth, in addition to religion, also played a significant role in how the deceased were laid to rest and remembered (Ryan 1991: 11).

Below is a list of various statutory bodies that have classified the significance of the OPHC. What is evident from the search results is the OPHC is highly significant on a local level (LGA).

#### 2.1.1 Australian Heritage Database-Significance Assessment

A search for Australian heritage sites was conducted on the Australian Heritage Database, which contains information on more than 20,000 natural, historical and Aboriginal places. The database is based on information that has been registered under the World Heritage Listing, Commonwealth Heritage list, National Heritage List and the Register of the National Estates. A specific search for the OPHC (Lot 829, Reserve No 27693) was undertaken in order to determine if it is recognised with either Commonwealth or State significance. Results indicated that the OPHC is not registered with the Australian Heritage Database.

#### 2.1.2 The Heritage Council of Western Australia

The Heritage Council of WA is the state's advisory body on heritage matters in Western Australia. The council was set up under the *Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990* to facilitate three primary roles:

- Establish and maintain the State Register of Heritage Places;
- To ensure that any development of heritage places is in harmony with cultural values; and
- To promote awareness and knowledge of cultural heritage.



The OPHC is registered with the Heritage Council of Western Australia under place number 056890. The Heritage Council recognises the OPHC is of local significance to the Port Hedland LGA, but not at state level.

### **2.1.3 Port Hedland Local Government Area (LGA)-Significant Assessment**

According to Section 45 of the *Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990*, local government areas are required to produce a list of buildings and places which the local community regard as historically significant. Places entered in the municipal inventory do not have legal protection unless they are also registered in the State Register of Heritage places. The ToPH Municipal Inventory report has divided buildings of local significance into four separate categories.

A search of the Port Hedland Municipal Inventories was undertaken in order to determine if the OPHC (Lot 829, Reserve No 27693) was registered and recognised as buildings of cultural significance to the community. Search results indicated that the OPHC was registered as locally significant and of exceptional cultural heritage significance to the ToPH and the state of Western Australia (Category 1/A). The OPHC was regarded as a place worthy of consideration to be registered under the State Register. The current status of the OPHC is at LGA levels, which means that ultimate approval for development will be determined by the ToPH.

### **2.1.4 Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System & Heritage Survey Reports-Significance Assessment**

A search was undertaken on the Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA) Western Australian Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System (AHIS) (Table 2-1) and the Heritage Survey Report Database (HSR) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2011. According to the DIA, an Indigenous site was a place of importance and significance to Aboriginal people and to the cultural heritage of Western Australia. The search results indicated that the OPHC (Site ID: 1013) was registered as an Aboriginal site since 1994 (Appendix 4). However, recent assessments of the OPHC and shell middens have revealed that the OPHC is not a site under the AHA 1972. In regards to the DIA site description indicating that the OPHC contains shell middens and scatter materials, further assessment of the shell material has revealed that they are not remnants of middens in the cemetery. This matter is discussed in detail under Section 4.2.2 of this report.

The Heritage Survey Report database on the DIA website also indicated that a single survey report was written (Table 2-2).

**Table 2-1: Summary of AHIS Site Results**

Site ID	Site Name	Site Type	Status	Access	Restriction
1013	Pioneer Cemetery	Skeletal material/burial/man-made structure/Midden/Scatter	IA	O	N
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>				

**Table 2-2: Summary of HSR Results**

Survey Report ID	Catalogue No.	Title Report	Author	Old Ref No
28723	HSP P 2011 RPS (TBD)	Old Port Hedland Cemetery: Additional Information for Department of Indigenous Affairs	RPS Group	4517 11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>			

## 3 Literature Review-Old Port Hedland Cemetery

### 3.1.1 O'Brian Planning Consultants (1996) A Heritage Review of the Town of Port Hedland

This report is heavily based on the ToPH Inventory which provides an easy to read overview of living life in the outback, the landmark events of the town and the future vision for Port Hedland. The timeframe covered in this report spans from the early settlement of the township (c1628-1896) till the centenary year for the ToPH (c1996). Significant world events took place during this era which directly and indirectly impacted on the town, such as the outbreak of war, natural disasters, the introduction of new technology and a social revolution. Chapter 4 of the report is of great interest to this project as it focuses on the development of the Town between c1918-1960 and provides insight into how people lived during this period of history. This era coincides with when people were interred in the OPHC.

The town had a slow economic climate mainly focused on pearling, pastoralism, mining and basic support industries between c1918-1960 (O'Brien Planning Consultants 1996:13). The drought of 1935-1942 heavily damaged the pastoral industry which resulted in many people abandoning their leases. Due to the near collapse of the pastoral industry, there was greater pressure and reliance on the production and export of raw materials such as tin, copper, lead, gold and tantalite. However, the world recession during this period devalued the price of these raw materials as demand for these products was low. The economic slump during this period significantly reduced the number of individuals living in Port Hedland, with the population of Port Hedland declining from 400 in 1936 to 146 by 1946 (O'Brien Planning Consultants 1996:19).

The introduction of new and improved technology, such as motor vehicles pioneered by Len Taplin to compete with the existing railway, the use of commercial aeroplanes, radios and shipping improvements led to greater services in the Pilbara outback.

In March 1942, World War 2 reached the Pacific where the Japanese carried out an air raid on Broome. Most women and children were evacuated to remote stations. On the 30<sup>th</sup> July 1942, Port Hedland was bombed causing one casualty. The bombing continued on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 1942 but there was no loss of life (O'Brien Planning Consultants 1996:19).

In 1942 a social revolution took place in Port Hedland where Don McCleod formed the Nomad Group in response to seeing social inequalities between the European way of life and Aboriginal customs. Many Aboriginal station labourers across the Pilbara walked off the job, with the strike lasting from c1946-1953 with varying degrees of participation.

The events that took place during this period shaped the living standard of people living in the town. Although major development and use of technology occurred, the onset of World War 2, the drought of 1935 and the global recession made living in the outback harsh and unforgiving.

### **3.1.2 MacCallum D. (1995) Management of Burial Sites: Pioneer Cemetery Port Hedland**

In 1995, MacCallum of the Department of Aboriginal Sites, now referred to as the Department of Indigenous Affairs, undertook a summary review of past and recent works within the OPHC as a result of proposed restoration works at the cemetery commissioned by the ToPH Council. This report was written to summarise attempts to restore the OPHC to a better state of repair. Outlined in the report were the sites that had been identified within the cemetery - since de-registered - as well as a project implementation strategy, community consultation and the outcomes of the restoration project.

Based on the MacCallum report, it was evident that extensive restoration was triggered by the local community's desire to see the cemetery restored. Descriptions provided at the time of inspection indicated that:

*“there were marked deterioration of the grave markers...where they appear to have sustained damage from being driven over by the grass slasher used in the maintenance of the cemetery grounds” (McCallum 1995:2).*

The restoration project faced a number of challenges. The lack of funding and time constraints made the restoration project more difficult to achieve. In terms of allocation of resources, more funding was made available to restore the Japanese section of the OPHC after receiving sponsorship from the Japanese Consulate and two other companies. Several featured headstones were erected to commemorate the Japanese pioneers that were interred in the OPHC. A pathway that led to the Japanese section was also widened and laid with blue metal to reinforce the concrete kerbed edges.

Broken headstones in the OPHC were partially restored using glue and cement mortar, whilst new concrete borders were built around many of the graves that either had decrepit borders or none at all. Although a number of amendments were made to restore the OPHC, several works remained incomplete such as replanting, reticulation works and placing concrete markers on unmarked graves.

### **3.1.3 Curtin University (2003) Interpretation Plan for Old Port Hedland Cemetery**

In 2005, the Curtin University Research Institute for Cultural Studies was commissioned by the ToPH to produce a summary report of earlier attempts to revitalise the OPHC and to provide recommendations as to how newly proposed restoration works should be approached. The report focused on preserving the current state of the cemetery in a dilapidated condition for the following reasons:

- The pioneers, pearlmen and Indigenous people were interred in a bare environment;
- The poor condition of the OPHC is part of the story, place and its people; and
- Changes made to the cemetery would be a misrepresentation of what life was like in the outback.

Based on this, some of the ideas suggested by the community, such as planting trees and laying lawn over the cemetery grounds, were not endorsed. It was suggested that preserving the existing state of the OPHC in its current condition without restoration works preserved the integrity of the site and could be used to educate visitors. Public amenities such as bench seats were viewed as non-essential within the cemetery because there were a number of public facilities across Sutherland St. Rubbish bins were also not recommended because the cemetery was considered more of a place to maintain as it was.

The viewpoint of this report was focused on the preservation of the cemetery for research and future interpretation.

#### **3.1.4 Wood R. (1995) The Young Soldier from the Goldfields**

This is an autobiography of Roma Wood's (formerly Souey) life in the outback, growing up in Port Hedland, the life she shared with her husband Ted Wood and the experiences they shared raising a family. Roma came from a very multi-cultural background, with a Chinese father from Canton who worked as a merchant and a mother who was of Indonesian and Aboriginal decent. Roma married Ted Wood, a World War 2 digger from the Goldfields, and raised four sons together.

Roma's father and grandfather were interred in the OPHC and, possibly, her brother Charles Souey. Roma's autobiography provided a personal account of life in the North West and the types of hardships and joys experienced living in Port Hedland.

#### **3.1.5 Lockyer B. (2003) Old Port Hedland Cemetery Project**

In 2003, an ethnographic research project about the OPHC came about in response to the community's desire to see the cemetery restored to a better condition. Several interviews and community meetings were arranged where long term residents of Port Hedland with loved ones interred in the cemetery expressed their sentiments about the cemetery and what they would like to see done to its landscape. The author attempted to interview representatives of different cultural groups and there was general consensus that more amenities should be provided for visitors, reticulation was required, vegetation including trees should be added and that the name of the cemetery should be less specific as it does not belong to a single group of people. Other requests included more landscape features such as a water fountain, artwork, memorial monuments and a booklet detailing some of the stories of people interred in the cemetery.

Although this project was intended to be short, the author felt that more community consultation was required. The cemetery had the potential to be used more effectively as an educational tool and that greater funding was required in order to execute the restoration project to the standard the community wanted.

## 4 Cemeteries and their Significance

Cemeteries are places with multiple layers of meaning that perform both a private and public function for the community. They serve as important civic institutions that reflect the taste and morals of the public and as a place where loved ones can mourn and pay their respects to their decedents.

The landscape of a cemetery is important in how it influences people's behaviour as it is an essential place of focus and communication with the deceased. According to Murray's (2003:49) research, the general sentiment among mourners is that neatness and order in the cemetery landscape is strongly associated with decency and good taste. Neatness of the cemetery ground is a public sign of memory and affection, whilst neglected cemeteries are generally regarded as indecent and ultimately injurious to the moral and religious character of the cemetery landscape to the public eye (Murray 2003:51).

### 4.1 Why do people visit Cemeteries?

Extensive studies of cemetery visitation throughout Australia have been undertaken and evidence suggested that for mourners, cemeteries serve as venues of crucial social importance that assist toward grief mitigation via personal bereavement (Bachelor 2007:409). The primary activity that takes place in cemeteries is providing offerings of gifts (eg flowers) for their deceased loved ones. The second most popular activity is maintaining the graves and memorials of their deceased relatives (Bachelor 2007: 409). Maintenance of grave sites represents an act of continual care for the decedent. Maintaining burial plots and offering gifts such as flowers are a symbolic way of keeping a bond to somebody that has passed and to mitigate emotions of loss and remembrance.

In terms of frequency of visitation, data obtained from 3,000 mourners Australia-wide show that 21% of all visits occur within the first year of death, 2.5% five years after death, 2.5% 10 years after death and only 0.7% after 20 years of death. Statistics also show that a larger percentage of females are more likely to visit the burial plots of their decedents and that graves of children and spouses receive the greatest proportion of frequent visits (Bachelor 2007:411). These results are to some extent due to women living longer, on average, than their male counterparts. Gathered from what is known about the OPHC, there are people within the community that still have a direct association with people interred in the cemetery, so the cemetery itself possesses a direct social link to the community.

The three main reasons people visit cemeteries is to fulfil a perceived obligation or duty to their descendants, family and their faith. The second reason is to facilitate gradual rather than abrupt independence from a loved one and the third reason is to seek solace and remedy feelings of guilt and sorrow (Bachelor 2007:408).

People value the opportunities that cemeteries provide for the continuation of cultural traditions. As a result, cultural segregation within a cemetery is particularly important for

mourners of diverse backgrounds if it is in keeping with how they would like their loved ones to be remembered. It is important that cemetery landscapes are kept in a condition that reflects the community's moral taste and values. Not only would a tidy cemetery landscape improve its aesthetic appeal and render the place more conducive to visitation. It also provides a more tranquil and respectable environment for people to reflect and remember their loved ones.

## 4.2 The history of the Old Port Hedland Cemetery-Port Hedland

The OPHC was officially gazetted in 1912 and closed in 1968 when the cemetery was declared full. The cemetery was situated in the outskirts of town, but due to urban sprawl and the encroachment of new buildings, it became part of the central district of town. The OPHC was used as a burial ground for a variety of cultural groups, including people of Aboriginal, Asian and European descent. This is reflective of how multi-cultural the town was and still remains. Although people of Asian (particularly individuals of Chinese descent) and European descent were interred in the cemetery grounds since it was gazetted, people of Aboriginal descent were interred later in the cemetery's history (refer to 4.3.1 of this report). The OPHC was originally coined the Pioneer and Pearlers Cemetery (Plate 1), but according to a previous report (Curtin University 2003), it was suggested that there were community expressions to rename it as the Old Port Hedland Cemetery because the people interred were not all pioneers and pearlers. However, there appears to be consensus from the informants interviewed (see Chapter 6) that the name of the OPHC is appropriate because the people interred were early settlers and pearlers that migrated to Port Hedland either in search for work opportunities and/or to start a better life.

It has been reported that burial practices in the OPHC were not as formal in the North-West as compared to the cities. This was largely attributed to the lack of resources to facilitate for burial ceremonies commonly known today. Mr Keith Arthur, headmaster of Port Hedland Primary School from 1951 till 1953, remembered that the deceased would usually be transported in any vehicles available at the time and that the local Clerk of Works conducted the burial service for those that passed away that were not of the Catholic faith (Port Hedland Library 2011). Once, when Mr Arthur was a school teacher, a man that drove to the school with the body in the back of his truck approached him to conduct the burial service. The simplicity of the burial services was also reflected in Patricia Mason's accounts (see Chapter 6). According to Patricia, the deceased individual was transported in any means possible, either in a family car or truck. If the family of the deceased did not have a vehicle, then the council would supply the vehicle. The age of the mourner also dictated attendance, where children under the age of 12 years were usually prohibited from attending the service.

It has been reported that the original extent of the OPHC was much larger in the past possibly stretching past, although the true extent is unknown. The current layout of the OPHC is divided into several sections structured according to religious belief and ethnic background (Figure 4-1, Figure 4-2). A footpath is a central feature of the cemetery which divides the Roman Catholic from the Protestant section. The footpath is a fairly recent addition to the cemetery layout; constructed in 1994 to mark the centenary of the OPHC

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(ToPH Library 2011). The Aboriginal section is adjacent and to the west of the Catholic section. The Asian section adjoins the Protestant section to the south. At present, the Japanese section of the cemetery is self contained and is perhaps the best kept portion of the entire cemetery. According to Ian Lewis (former resident), the white shale within the Japanese section was donated and laid down in 1988 by the Cooke Point Primary School children. A number of burial plots are sporadically located outside areas designated for burials. These plots belong to people that were unofficially interred.

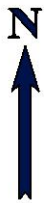
The people interred in the cemetery came from a fairly broad demographic of different backgrounds with different life stories. The individuals interred ranged from babies which died at birth (Richard Hawkes Plot 205, age 0) to the elderly (Josephine Mannion Plot 67, aged 74), and from people that once provided significant services to the town such as Dr O'Donel Dodwell Browne (Plate 2, Plate 3) who served as the district medical doctor and magistrate of Port Hedland (Plot 7, died 1917) to people that once worked as indentured pearl divers (Tayatare Yo Kahata, Plot unknown, died 1914) and station hands (Thomas Archibald Gilmore Plot 33, died 1940). Some individuals died under dramatic circumstances such as Samuel Keith MacKay (Plot 85, died 1924) (Plate 4, Plate 5) who passed away in a plane crash, while other people were migrants from distant lands in search for a better life (Charley Souey, plot unknown, died 1940, from Canton, China). A further insight into some of the people interred in the OPHC is in Section 6 of this report and Appendix 7.



WARNING  
 No part of this plan should be used  
 for critical design dimensions.  
 Confirmation of critical positions  
 should be obtained from the Newcastle

**Legend**

 Study Area



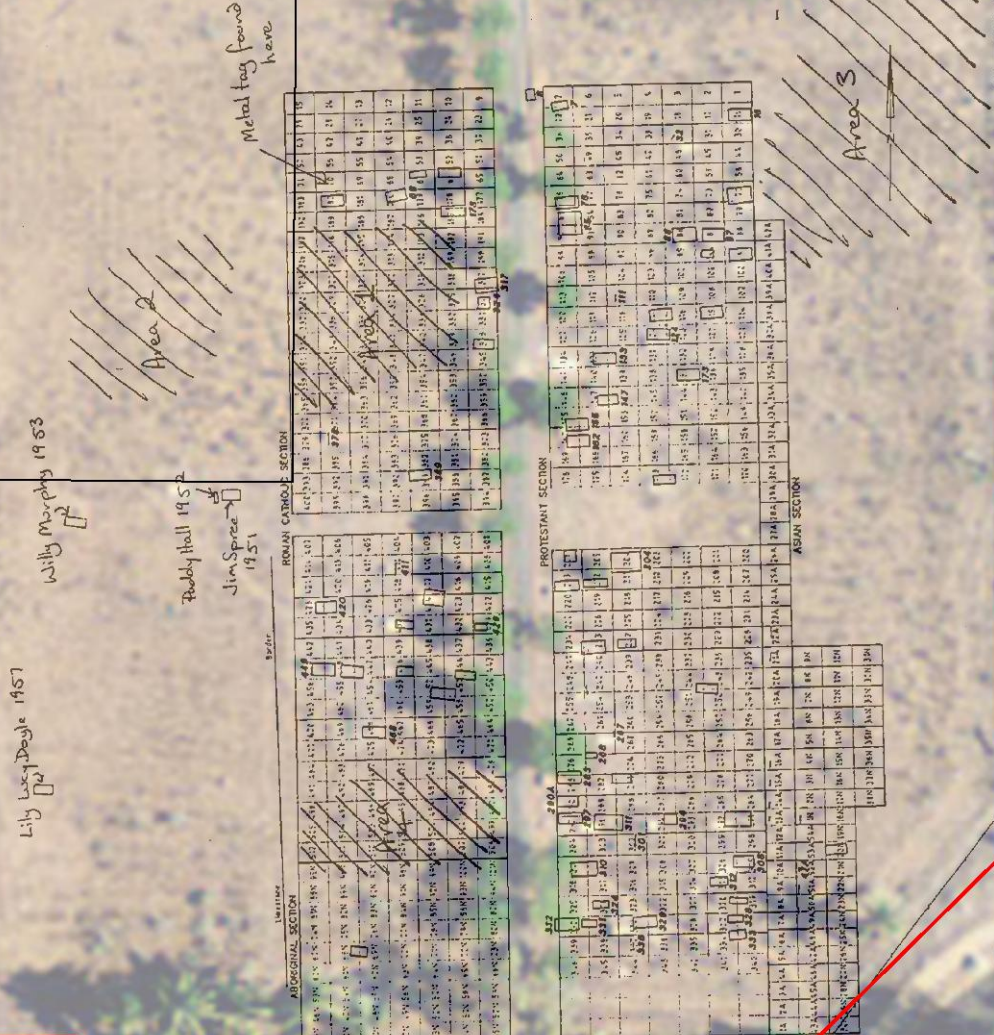
Sutherland Street

Street

Street

Stevens Street

Gatwick Street



SCALE: 1:800 AT A3 SIZE

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TITLE: FIGURE 4 1:  
 BURIAL PLOTS WITHIN  
 OPHC (APPROXIMATION)

LOCATION: PORT HEDLAND

DATUM: N/A  
 PROJECTION: MGA ZONE 50 (GDA 94)

DATE: 09/08/2011  
 PURPOSE: HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

LAYOUT REF: J:\08040 Old Port Hedland Cem  
 \10 - Drafting\Workspace  
 VERSION (PLAN BY) A4 (NW-CYL)

CLIENT:  
 JOB REF: 108040

RPS AUSTRALIA EAST PTY LTD (ABN 44 140 292 762)  
 241 DENISON STREET BROADMEADOW PO BOX 428 HAMILTON NSW 2303  
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Paddy Hall 1952

Jim Spree 1951

Area 2

Metal to

Limestone

Border

ABORIGINAL SECTION

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECTION

39N	46N	53N	60N	67N	74N	81N	88N	95N	512	505	498	491	484	477	470	463	456	449	442	435	428	421	416	407
40N	47N	54N	61N	68N	75N	82N	89N	96N	511	504	497	490	483	476	469	462	455	448	441	434	427	420	413	406
41N	48N	55N	62N	69N	76N	83N	90N	97N	510	503	496	489	482	475	468	461	454	447	440	433	426	419	412	405
42N	49N	56N	63N	70N	77N	84N	91N	98N	509	502	495	488	481	474	467	460	453	446	439	432	425	418	411	404
43N	50N	57N	64N	71N	78N	85N	92N	99N	508	501	494	487	480	473	466	459	452	445	438	431	424	417	410	403
44N	51N	58N	65N	72N	79N	86N	93N	100N	507	500	493	486	479	472	465	458	451	444	437	430	423	416	409	402
45N	52N	59N	66N	73N	80N	87N	94N	101N	506	499	492	485	478	471	464	457	450	443	436	429	422	415	408	401

400	393	386	379	372	365	358	351	344	337	330	323	318	197	190	183	71	57	43	29	15
399	392	385	378	371	364	357	350	343	336	329	322	315	196	189	182	70	56	42	28	14
398	391	384	377	370	363	356	349	342	335	328	321	314	195	188	181	69	55	41	27	13
397	390	383	376	369	362	355	348	341	334	327	320	313	194	187	180	68	54	40	26	12
396	389	382	375	368	361	354	347	340	333	326	319	312	193	186	179	67	53	39	25	11
395	388	381	374	367	360	353	346	339	332	325	318	311	192	185	178	66	52	38	24	10
394	387	380	373	366	359	352	345	338	331	324	317	310	191	184	177	65	51	37	23	9

PROTESTANT SECTION

346	339	332	325	318	311	304	297	290	283	276	269	262	255	248	241	234	227	220	213	206
345	338	331	324	317	310	303	296	289	282	275	268	261	254	247	240	233	226	219	212	205
344	337	330	323	316	309	302	295	288	281	274	267	260	253	246	239	232	225	218	211	204
343	336	329	322	315	308	301	294	287	280	273	266	259	252	245	238	231	224	217	210	203
342	335	328	321	314	307	300	293	286	279	272	265	258	251	244	237	230	223	216	209	202
341	334	327	320	313	306	299	292	285	278	271	264	257	250	243	236	229	222	215	208	201
340	333	326	319	312	305	298	291	284	277	270	263	256	249	242	235	228	221	214	207	200

176	169	162	155	148	141	134	127	120	113	106	99	92	85	78	64	50	36	22	7
175	168	161	154	147	140	133	126	119	112	105	98	91	84	77	63	49	35	21	6
174	167	160	153	146	139	132	125	118	111	104	97	90	83	76	62	48	34	20	5
173	166	159	152	145	138	131	124	117	110	103	96	89	82	75	61	47	33	19	4
172	165	158	151	144	137	130	123	116	109	102	95	88	81	74	60	46	32	18	3
171	164	157	150	143	136	129	122	115	108	101	94	87	80	73	59	45	31	17	2
170	163	156	149	142	135	128	121	114	107	100	93	86	79	72	58	44	30	16	1

ASIAN SECTION

1A	2A	3A	4A	5A	6A	7A	8A	9A	10A	11A	12A	13A	14A	15A	16A	17A	18A	19A	20A	21A	22A	23A	24A	25A	26A	27A	28A	29A	30A	31A	32A	33A	34A	35A	36A	37A	38A	39A	40A	41A	42A
43A	44A	45A	46A	47A	48A	49A	50A	51A	52A	53A	54A	1N	2N	3N	4N	5N	6N	7N	8N	9N																					
30N	29N	28N	27N	26N	25N	24N	23N	22N	21N	20N	19N	18N	17N	16N	15N	14N	13N	12N	11N	10N																					
38N	37N	36N	35N	34N	33N	32N	31N																																		

Area 3

#### **4.2.1 Aboriginal Section**

Aboriginal people were buried at the OPHC later than people of other racial backgrounds. According to the official Town records, 135 Aboriginal people were buried in the OPHC in a timeframe of eight years (c1960-1968). However, records from the Port Hedland Clerk of Courts listed an additional 46 Aboriginal burials in the cemetery dated from c1955. The Aboriginal section in the cemetery is somewhat less contained, with individuals initially interred in the south eastern corner (near the Asian section) and later in the south western corner of the cemetery (Figure 4-2).

During the 1950s, only a few Aboriginal people had been unofficially interred within the fenced graveyard boundary (eg. Jim Spree, died 1951 and Paddy Hall, died 1952). The OPHC was officially open for Aboriginal people in the 1960s. Gaining official access to the OPHC coincided with the acquisition of Lock Hospital premises by the Roman Catholic Church which had formerly been used as a general hospital and burial ground for Aboriginal people (RPS 2011:13-14).

Based on the headstones which still remain as well as burial plots, several were adorned with cockle shells, some in a very patterned and stylistic manner (Plate 6). The presentation of shells on the grave plots may be indicative of the person's connection to Broome as recalled by informant Margaret Derschow. Others were marked with simpler grave markers manufactured of two pieces of metal rods joined into the shape of a cross (Plate 7). The unofficial burials in the cemetery were located outside designated burial plots such as Paddy Hall's grave (died 1952) which had a headstone with a kangaroo etched on it (Plate 8).

#### **4.2.2 People of European Nationalities Interred in the OPHC**

People of European descent interred in the cemetery came to Port Hedland as early pioneers to the region or were descendants of the early pioneers. These European pioneers and their descendants contributed to the growth of the town in their own way and occupied a diverse range of occupational niches. Based on the headstones still present in the cemetery, the stylistic designs reflect differences in social status, income, gender and religion. According to the historical research undertaken, some worked as stockmen in nearby stations, whilst others held distinguished positions in the community as civil servants. James Anderson (Plot 175, died 1949), for example was one of the brothers who was sent up river from De Grey to establish Mulyrie in 1879 (Hardie 1981:31), whilst Frank Murray Thompson (Plot 88, died 1926) was one of the early pioneers to migrate into the Port Hedland region in 1890 (Hardie 1981:102) (Plate 9). Some individuals were involved in facilitating transport routes such as Robert Ellery (Plot 172, died 1959) who was involved in maintaining railway lines in the 1930s and also one of Len Taplin's drivers between c1923-1930. Len Taplin pioneered the use of trucks in the region and was one of the first pilots employed by the Western Australian Airlines which came into commercial operation in 1921. Horse racing was an important social event for the town. The former chairman of the Port Hedland Race Club from 1915 till his death is interred in the cemetery (Joseph Dane Moore Plot 124, died 1929). Moore was also an owner of several horses, many of which were bred on the De Gray Station (Hedland Voices 2006:54).

The European section of the OPHC consisted of a diverse range of people, some of which were buried with elaborate headstones while others had more simplistic ones. What is known is that many of those interred were people that helped make the town into a community.

#### **4.2.3 People of Asian Nationalities Interred in the OPHC**

Individuals of varying Asian nationalities - the most dominant being the Japanese, Chinese and Indonesian - were interred in the OPHC. In the time frame of eight years between c1915-1923 more than 40 individuals were interred in the Asian section, which constituted approximately half of the total population of individuals interred in this section of the cemetery at the time.

Most individuals buried in the Asian section had similar occupations: either in the pearling industry or as gold prospectors, station hands, merchants, cooks or small market producers. Most of the Japanese and Malayan buried in the OPHC came to Port Hedland to work on pearl luggers in the early 1900s. As mentioned in O'Brian Planning Consultants (1996), pearling was a large industry in the town between c1918-1960 and relied heavily on Japanese and Malayan divers. The Malayan divers were comprised of several nationalities including Indonesians, Malaysians, Singaporeans, Timorese and Philipinos (McCarthy 2008:252). Diving was a risky occupation which involved harvesting oysters containing pearls. Other risks were from cyclones and the bends, also known as decompression sickness. Most of the Japanese and Malayan divers congregated in an Asian quarter on the outskirts of Port Hedland.

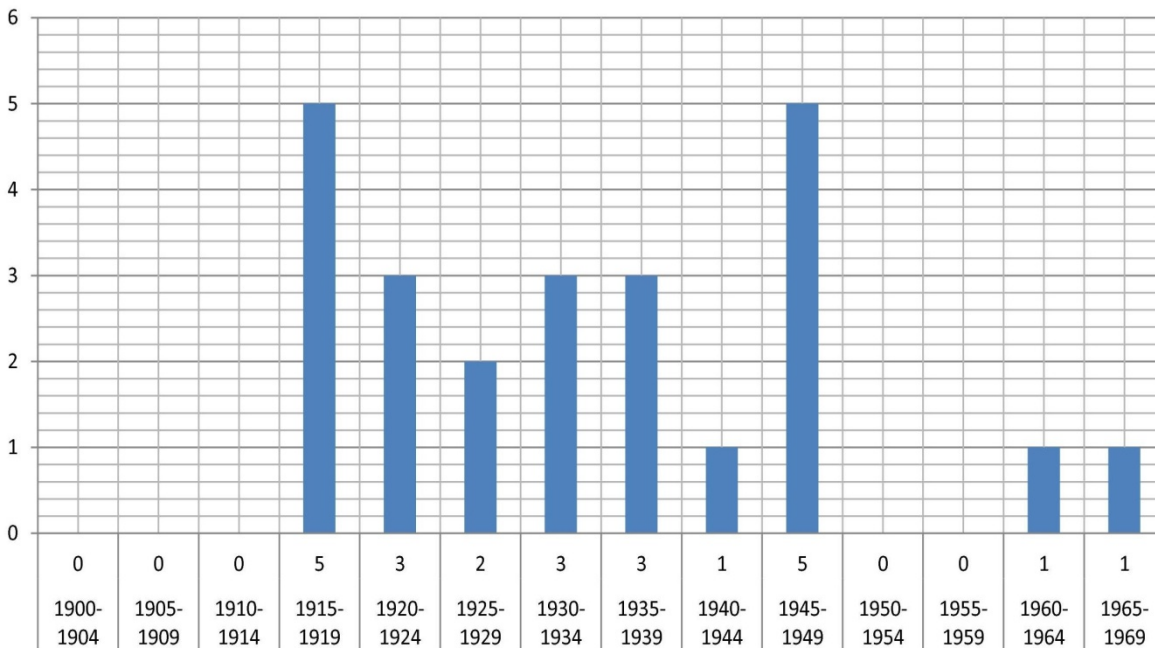
Middii Bin Brahim, interred in plot 400 (Plate 10), was a well known identity in the town and a practicing Muslim that was sent to Port Hedland to work as an indentured pearl worker from Indonesia (ToPH Inventory 2007). According to Brahim's son, Septu Brahim (Hedland Voices 1997:26), his father was a large, strong person that was highly sought after by the pearling masters due to his skill. There were about eight luggers in Port Hedland controlled by a man named "*Banger*". According to Louis Warren (Hedland Voices 1997: 30), Brahim and his family lived in the outskirts of town at a place called One Mile with other non-European families including the Dann, Clarke, Edgar, Pianta and Murphy families. Middii Bin Brahim was married to Elise Veronica Brahim (Plate 11), who was also interred in the OPHC (Plot 172, died 1966). This information was confirmed by Mary Attwood during the oral history interview (see Section 6).

Meanwhile, most of the Chinese pioneers were forced to leave their homeland due to poverty and worked as indentured labour in a vast array of occupations (Ryan 1995:72). Although Chinese indentured labourers could nominate their work preference in general terms, the employer selected the specific duties (Ryan 1995:72). Indentured Chinese workers were mostly appointed to work as cooks, labourers and servants, but some were also required to ride horses, muster cattle, hunt kangaroos, fix fences and mind sheep in the North West (Ryan 1995:73). Due to the harsh, desolate and unfamiliar territory of the North West, some died when they got lost on their way between waterholes, some from falling from horses and others committed suicide due to the trauma of detachment from their homeland (Ryan 1995:73).

Many Chinese indentured labourers arrived without family and kin so there was no one to carry out burial arrangements or attend to the spiritual needs of the deceased in accordance to their customs and traditions (Ryan 1991:9). The foremost wish of the dying in Chinese culture was to have their children, in particular the eldest son, to attend the burial, which was denied them because most migrated alone (Ryan 1991:9). Yet the problem faced by the Chinese immigrants was the difficulty of returning the deceased body back to China due to the lack of kinfolk and clansmen coupled by the isolation from their homeland (Ryan 1991: 14).

The Asian section of the OPHC represents a physical remnant of those pioneering Chinese labourers to the North West (Plate 12, Plate 13, Plate 14). Many of the remaining headstones were engraved with the names of the deceased in Chinese characters but carved in a very European fashion. According to Patricia Mason, some of the Asian burials were marked in a very simplistic manner with stones collected from the beach. This might also be the reason why many headstones no longer exist because the stones have been destroyed and/or pushed out of position over time. Based on the surnames listed in the Register of Burials, at least 24 individuals were Chinese. Many were interred and registered with only their last names listed. Of the 24 known Chinese pioneers interred, the majority died between 1915-1949 peaking in the late 1910's and 1940's (Figure 4-3). Although little is known about the people interred in the OPHC, what is known is that Ah Tie (Plot 296, died 1961) (Plate 15) immigrated to the North West colony, worked as a blacksmith and remained until his death at age 72.

**Figure 4-3: Statistics of Known Chinese Burials in the OPHC (Register of Burials)**



## 5 Current Conditions of the OPHC

Several attempts to restore the cemetery have taken place in the past, where recommendations to provide ongoing maintenance and upkeep were needed (Lockyer 2003). In 2010-2011 RPS archaeologists visited the OPHC over several field trips to examine the current state of the cemetery. Based on field observations, the cemetery appeared worn and overgrown with weeds, grass and leaf litter. Some of the grave plots were difficult to see due to the level of leaf litter coverage.

Based on the inspection of the cemetery, the following issues were identified:

- 1) Some headstones were missing letters due to corrosion (Plate 16);
- 2) Some headstones were damaged and missing parts (Plate 17);
- 3) Grave borders surrounding the burial plots were decrepit or missing sections (Plate 18);
- 4) A number of graves were heavily damaged with only a very remnant outline of the burial plot (Plate 19);
- 5) Pottery, flowers and other gifts left on the graves were broken, damaged and scattered (Plate 20);
- 6) Some headstones had slumped out of place (Plate 21);
- 7) There was an absence of public amenities such as bench seats for visitors (Plate 22);
- 8) The entrance gate and shell midden signage was rusted, heavily sun bleached and unmaintained (Plate 23); and
- 9) The fence line bordering the cemetery was rusty and appeared neglected (Plate 24).

### 5.1.1 Shell Fragments in the OPHC were determined not to be remnants of a Midden

In 1994, a shell midden complex was recorded within the cemetery grounds and submitted for assessment by the DIA (Appendix 4). Based on the 1994 assessment, the shell midden complex and OPHC was subsequently registered as Site 1013, although it was yet to be assessed by the DIA.

It was reported that four shell middens were identified, with the densest concentration in area 1 (Figure 4-1). The shell species reported in the middens were cockle shells (*Anadara granosa*), mudwelks (*Terebralia palustris*), oyster shells (*Saccostrea spp*), chiton (Unidentified spp), mures (*Hexaplex stainforthii?*), large baler (*Melo amphora*) and conch (*Syrinx aruanun*) shells.

In 2011, RPS personnel undertook an inspection of where these shell middens were and a number of conclusions were derived.

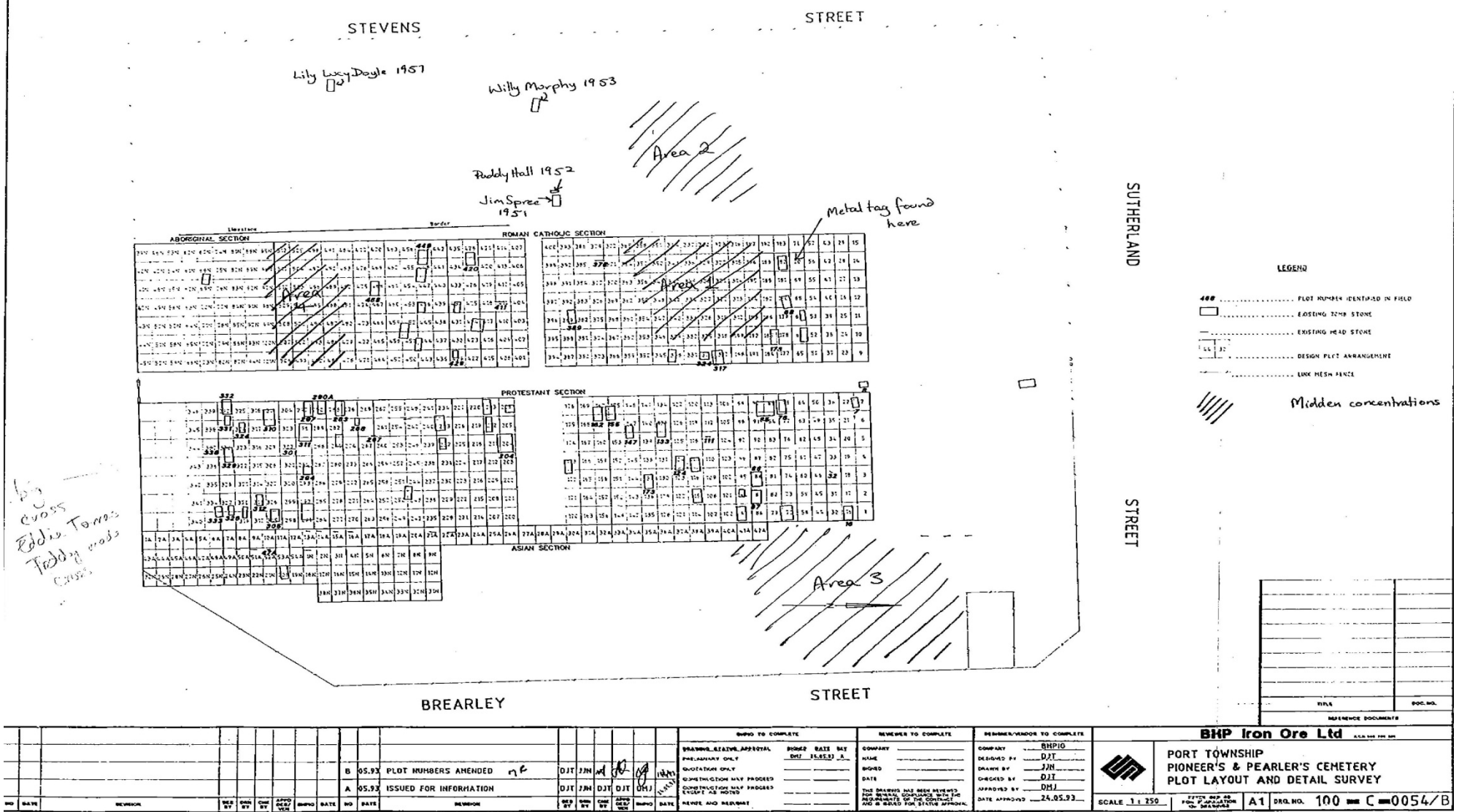
- 1) The areas with shell deposits were highly disturbed and extremely fragmentary (Plate 25, Plate 26);
- 2) It was incongruous that shell middens could be declared at surface level covering burial deposits that had been dug below ground surface for at least the preceding 82 years. (From a stratigraphic viewpoint, it would be illogical to find middens dated to pre-European contact above the burial ground);

- 3) Due to heavy disturbance caused by maintenance procedures in the past, the state of the shell deposits was in such poor condition that it offered no archaeological evidence that would justify it being labelled a midden;
- 4) The coastal surface geology was in close proximity to the cemetery (approximately 105 m from the coastline). There was evidence of erosion, sedimentation, precipitation and cementation influence in the vicinity of the OPHC to cast doubt to the integrity of the cultural middens identified;
- 5) The shell midden had no identifiable boundary or characteristic that would unequivocally give rise to the shells being labelled a midden; and
- 6) Although there were Indigenous people buried within the OPHC, all built items are consistent with European cemetery architecture and consisted of headstones, formed paths, signage and the entrance gate. There are no built items of Indigenous heritage significance recognised under the AHA (1972).

This assessment was subsequently submitted for review by the ACMC with recommendations that OPHC Site 1013 should be de-registered from the Register of Aboriginal Sites under DIA administration. In light of the recent analysis, the ACMC reviewed the information presented and final determination was made to de-register site 1013 as an Indigenous site (Appendix 5).

It should be noted that although the ToPH was responsible for the overall upkeep of the cemetery grounds, the registration of Aboriginal midden Site 1013 in the cemetery with the Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA) in 1994 (see Section 5.1.1) prevented the ToPH undertaking significant works to revitalise the cemetery grounds. Any form of disturbance as a result of maintenance works posed a possible offence under Section 17 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (AHA).

Figure 5-1: View of Burial Plot Floor Plan with Shell Midden Complex





## 6 Community Consultation & Involvement

Oral history interviews were conducted with long term residents and those with relatives interred within the cemetery to determine what the community would like to see achieved from this project and to possibly gain a greater understanding of the types of individuals interred. Since the OPHC is a place of remembrance and reflection, any steps taken to restore the cemetery to a better state of repair and to potentially re-identify burials must be undertaken in accordance with the community's input.

In order to gain public interest and call for interested participants to take part in the oral history interviews, an advertisement was published in the local newspaper (Appendix 6). Two informants, Margaret Derschow and Ian Lewis, were contacted as a result. With the assistance of Sue Baker (Frontier Services) and George Pitt (DIA Port Hedland), four additional informants were identified and subsequently interviewed.

### 6.1 Standardised Oral history questions

All participants in the oral history recording were asked a series of the same questions. This was done so that comparisons could be made between the various participants' answers, so that a more accurate catalogue of views could be gathered. The interviews also varied in that people were invited to add their own thoughts beyond what had been asked of them.

The questions asked are reproduced below;

- (1) Name and address to identify the participant
- (2) How long have you and your family resided in Port Hedland?
- (3) What is your connection to old Port Hedland cemetery (OPHC)?
- (4) Have you attended a funeral service here? When was that?
- (5) Do you have relatives or friends that are buried here?
- (6) Is there grave marked or unmarked?
- (7) If unmarked, do you recall where it was?
- (8) Was there an undertaker or church who conducted the services?
- (9) How were the deceased brought to the cemetery?
- (10) Was the cemetery considered to be on the outskirts of town?
- (11) How do you think OPHC might be re-united or reconnected to the current Port Hedland community?
- (12) Do you see OPHC as a physical connection between past and present?
- (13) What would you like to see done to OPHC as far as tidying it up goes?
- (14) Is it important that OPHC is refurbished?

## 6.2 Oral History interview summaries

RPS undertook interviews with members of the ToPH Community on August 16th, 2011 at the OPHC. The interviews were conducted by RPS Archaeologist Darrell Rigby with assistance from Oliver Kutzner who recorded the interviews on video camera. Full transcripts of these interviews are still pending completion, but, in the interim RPS has provided these summaries of the interviews as recorded on the day.

Those participating were;

- Margaret Derschow
- Arnold Carter
- Allen Lockyer
- Patricia Mason
- Mary Attwood
- Ian Lewis

### **MARGARET DERSCHOW**

Margaret has a very personal connection with the cemetery as her father, grandparents and two uncles are buried there (see Appendix 8). They are:

- Albert Brockman (Father)
- William and Annie Lockyer (Grandparents)
- John Ball (Uncle)
- Aubrey Lockyer (Uncle)

All of Margaret's relations graves are unmarked. Margaret attended her grandparent's funerals but was too young to be allowed to attend her Father's. The Catholic Priest at the time (Circa 1957) was Father O'Sullivan and he assisted with her father's burial. Margaret commented that during the process of cleaning up the cemetery the cast iron numbered grave markers that identified where people had been buried were pulled from the ground.

The cemetery was located on the extreme outskirts of town and surrounded by sand hills which stretched all the way from the old Port Hedland Hospital.

Old Port Hedland cemetery (OPHC) can play a role in connecting the past with the present. Margaret was accompanied on the day she was interviewed by her 15 year old Granddaughter and they regularly visit the cemetery locality together. Margaret hopes that the GPR will assist in locating the places where she remembers her family members being buried so that she can place head stones in memory of them. In particular Margaret hopes that her father's grave can be located so she can fulfil her mother's wish, which was to mark her husband's grave site in a respectful and caring manner. Margaret provided photographs to the research team of her relatives and some friends who are interred at OPHC.

Commenting on the future shape of the refurbishment Margaret suggested that perhaps a planted hedge should surround the whole site, a maintained lawn be put down and a memorial wall of some sort be erected listing all people who were buried at OPHC. She noted that many of the graves will possibly have no living relatives in the district to care or maintain them.

Margaret lives in South Hedland now, but, the original family home was at 53 Kingsmill Street, Port Hedland on a block of land her father purchased for 50 pounds. It was the first house owned and built by an Aboriginal family. Margaret also took the opportunity to walk around the cemetery with the hope of roughly locating her father's grave which her mother always said was near to where Eddy Torres was buried, some of her comments are recorded below.

- Albert Brockman (father) – grave currently unmarked. My parents, Elsie and Albert, lived on Hillside Station (formerly Corunna Downs near Marble Bar), we lived there until about 1950 - 52. Then we moved into Port Hedland to One Mile ridge which is where BHP is now. My father worked for Jack Tsakalos, and Lance Stein as a truck driver. He was a hard worker and he saved his money and he bought a block of land for 50 pounds on Kingsmill Street on the beachfront. He was the first Aboriginal person in Port Hedland to build and own his own house, which was 1955.
- Eddy Torres – they were Broome people, that's probably why they have shells on his grave. We use this grave to locate my dad's grave site as he was buried nearby to Eddy my mum told me.

## **ARNOLD CARTER**

Arnold has been a resident of Port Hedland for almost 50 years having moved there in 1962. At the time Arnold says that the population of Port Hedland was about 1100 with at least 50% of this number Aboriginal people.

Arnold also recalls that the OPHC was located on the very outskirts of town and it was never even considered, let alone conceived that there would ever be construction or housing of any kind occurring out that way. It was completely surrounded by sandhills. It catered for all people with a large group of pearl divers and workers included. The Japanese consulate at various times brought their own stonemasons to Port Hedland to erect and refurbish the Japanese headstones.

There were about 500 people interred at OPHC and there seems to have been no Lot plan detailing what is actually in each area. There were sections that roughly divided various groups, denominations and nationalities, but, there seems to have been no rigorous adherence to this. Arnold says the Japanese and the Koepangers were fairly strict about where they interred their people, and most of the Aboriginal people were located in the south western section, however, it can be said that there was very little planning. The four sections were Aboriginal, Asian, Roman Catholic and Protestant (Anglican). Services were conducted in the appropriate manner for the deceased.

In some ways OPHC was really just an area where it was recognised that you could bury someone because it was on the outskirts of town. Arnold personally has attended eight or nine funeral services at OPHC.

The OPHC became derelict due to a number of factors; the fence collapsed, there was a new cemetery established out at South Hedland (1962) and it generally became a place of disrepair as it was no longer a functioning cemetery. It was never watered and was left to its own natural decay subject to cyclones and seasonal influences.

Arnold believes that for the cemetery to reconnect with the present it needs to recognise and document the history of those interred there, which may not be possible. He thinks that perhaps there is too little remaining of the pearlers and koepangers stories and there is only a small section of the OPHC that holds their physical remains. There are a lot of Aboriginals and a lot of Malays, Afghans and others who deserve recognition, but, he cannot see how we can acknowledge their personal contribution to the TOPH as their stories have been lost.

If the GPR can identify areas that are clear of burials Arnold would like to see those areas of OPHC reopened so that elderly people who have always lived in Port Hedland can be buried close by.

Arnold wants to see a programme initiated that could look into the people who remain today with a connection to those buried in OPHC to try and detail some of their life stories; Who were they? How did they live? How did they get to Port Hedland? How long did they stay? What did they do when they were here?

A wall of acknowledgement could perhaps be erected with a short resume of their lives and contribution. It is very important that OPHC is refurbished. Paths and so on could assist people in working through the cemetery to get a sense of how the town evolved from the efforts of many. Shade shelters could be erected; better acknowledgement of the Japanese section is warranted, but, above all, better identification and location of the Aboriginal people interred here is necessary as at present it is very vague. He thinks there are 155 buried here, but where are they? We don't know. Arnold believes it is too nice a location to be left desolate like it is now.

## **ALLEN LOCKYER**

Allen was born in Port Hedland and presently resides in South Hedland. He has many relatives buried at OPHC; his parents, brother, aunties and uncles, cousins and many friends. His mother was also born in Port Hedland in 1918, his father in 1914. Allen's great grandfather is also buried in the cemetery, as is his grandfather, Keith Mackay. Some of the graves are marked but a great many remain unmarked.

Allen's connection to place is therefore very strong.

Allen has attended many funerals here and tells that his father came out to be buried in the back of an old Vanguard ute. He says that if there was a ute vacant that could accommodate the person to be buried it was generally volunteered to be used for the purpose. Most people did not have cars in days past and so that was the way it was done.

In addition a priest or equivalent was found to administer the proceedings, generally whoever was available. Denomination was not important; more so that someone said a few words and that respect was paid to the departed.

Allen recounts that many years ago a TOPH shire worker went through the cemetery with a tractor slasher which destroyed and moved many of the remaining cast iron pegs which had been used as grave markers. Consequently many of the burial locations are now lost. Allen is very pragmatic and still believes it shouldn't be too hard to identify the grave locations as long as you can positively identify four or five alongside one another. Essentially by measuring the standard grave spacing and general size of each, it should be possible to mark it all out again. If this approach had been carried out, then the GPR work would have been unnecessary.

The Japanese cemetery used to be much larger when Allen was a lad and continued up the hill and to the east probably spilling over into the road corridor between the cemetery and the motel adjacent (Hospitality Inn). The current fence boundary does not reflect the size of the old cemetery.

At that time the grounds were all open and the cemetery was way out of town. As kids Allen and his friends would enter the graveyard from the Anderson Street side (south) and head over to Cemetery Beach to collect Turtle eggs, then returning the same way they would count them on his Grandfather's tombstone. The actual physical landscape is similar still to when he was a boy.

Port Hedland was a close knit town in the old days and everyone tended to know one another pretty well. Allen lists a lot of the old family surnames; the Murphys (two families), the Aitchesons, Elleries, Brahims, Coppins, Trembaths, Jacobies, and Clarks, many of them all went to school together. There was the State School and the Convent School. Aboriginal people were not allowed to go to the State School. Although there are many pearlshells in the cemetery itself, Allen does not recall any of their descendants going to school in his day (1940's-1950's).

Between the town and the cemetery used to be old Locomotive sheds alongside the train line to Marble Bar. The train also went out to Shaw River to get water for the towns folk which occurred once a week.

OPHC is a pioneer cemetery, it belongs to everybody. The cemetery could become an icon that people would want to visit says Allen and perhaps local artists could have input into how it is redeveloped for today. All the people must be onside working together with one common goal, that way OPHC will be able to be refurbished and made more beautiful and appealing. Allen believes it is time now to do something and not talk. It might be that the hedge which is only part way around the cemetery is continued all the way around, shady trees are needed, Wild Almonds for instance because they give a great big canopy, not gum trees. Coconut trees, there are some, but he says there should be more.

The OPHC has many stories, many of them lost. It is important that at least the graves are repegged showing where people are and perhaps others still living can identify that person by the number and fill in part of their story; make a headstone for example. The

younger people have no idea who is buried here. How do they know it is not their relative that is buried here? They don't, but if they did they might have a bit more respect for the place.

It is very important that the OPHC is refurbished in some way. Just last year Allen renewed his father's tombstone. Allen doesn't care whether he is buried in South Hedland cemetery or OPHC.

After the interview Allen walked around the cemetery with Darrell Rigby and commented on those whom he knew whose burial locations were marked:

- The Crameri's owned the local drapery shop in town (William Crameri, died 1947).
- Samuel Watkins, he is my cousin (Samuel John Watkins, died 1947).
- Keith Mackay is my grandfather and died in a plane crash, he was a passenger. There was word that an affair with another woman was taking place and that the plane crash may have been engineered. He has a big grave because he had a lot of money, he owned all the land out to Whim Creek. The biggest property owner in the Pilbara. My grandfather and great grandfather, he was a mongrel. They used to kidnap the Aborigines, the women especially because they could hold their breath longer and put them to work on the pearl luggers. The Mackays, they were into any crooked thing you could find. They say that's why they were kicked out from the Isle of Skye in Scotland. They couldn't return there and moved to Adelaide and from there ended up here.
- Joseph Moore – he used to work at the courthouse.
- Ted Richardson – he started Pippingarra Station.
- Geoffrey Stocker and Myrtle Stocker – they used to own the store, that's where Carpet Court is now. Geffory died 1947, his wife Myrtle in 1983. He committed suicide, I think because the store started to go downhill and he also took to the drink a bit.
- Alby Franck - he was a serviceman.
- Edgar Samuel Lockyer – Allen's Dad. Makes comment about the poor condition of the tombstone even though it had only been there at most for two years.
- Eric Saunders – he's my cousin in law. He died of a bullet. Someone shot him.
- William Aitchison – died 1968. This was a real tragedy. We saw him at lunchtime unloading a ship and he came down to get his lunch and he had his arm hanging out the window of his ute. He was foreman for Sweden United?? He came around a corner and a truck came too close catching him by the arm, killing him. We were there waiting for him to come back as he was going to pick up our lunches. A fella came by and said had we heard the news? Williams dead, just like that, bang, gone.
- Elsie Brahim – that's old Mrs Brahim. They were a funny lot; they had two names. Brahim was the surname and Midi Bin that was his first name, they used both. They married into my family.
- W.S. Jones – Died 1962. What an old gentleman, no one knew where he came from. He came here after the First World War and claimed our family type of thing. He was with us for years and years. Little short fellow, an old digger. He had no one else to go to, no family.

- Ivy Coppin – she is a great grand aunt of mine. Albert her son, got shot between Carnarvon and Geraldton. That was over a woman too.

## **PATRICIA MASON**

Patricia was born in Port Hedland in 1959. Her family is from the Port Hedland area all of them being born in the vicinity of the town. Her mother's father is buried at OPHC (the father died in 1939 approximately). Patricia is one of ten children and most were born down in the old town hospital. Patricia's uncles were the first Aboriginal people to be registered in Port Hedland when in 1939 her grandmother got married and she registered her children at the same time.

Patricia currently resides at South Hedland having moved there in 1969.

Pat's connection to OPHC is also a personal one, with many family members buried there. The majority of the people buried here she says are the old time Port Hedland people. Patricia and her family and friends have been fighting for a long time to get something done for OPHC but there were many obstacles. She has visited many cemeteries up in the Kimberley and thinks something similar might be done at OPHC. It is important because when her generation is dead and gone the grave stones and markers will be the only way that people can know who was here before.

The OPHC houses Asians from WW1&2, most of whom are buried in the Asian section.

Between OPHC and the old school there was nothing, just scrub land, sand dunes and shell grit. The whole area all the way up to Morgunya Hostel (Lock Hospital grounds) used to be a ridge, and the people were buried on the ridges where the tide could not reach. Sutherland Street is a new road; it wasn't there in the old days separating the cemetery from the beach. The motel (Hospitality Inn) is also built on part of the old cemetery grounds, as it was much larger in the past and the boundaries were not really defined. Down towards the All Seasons Hotel is where they used to dump the sewerage, there was nothing really around the OPHC, it was on the outskirts of town.

Patricia recalls that in the 1960's you had to be 11 or 12 years of age to be allowed to attend a funeral. You could mostly attend children's funerals, but if it was an elder person you were actually forbidden to attend. For example Patricia was unable to attend her father's funeral as she was only 9 or 10 years of age. This was not an Aboriginal rule; it was everybody that adhered to it.

As far as coffins went, Patricia recalls they used pine boxes, not coffin shaped boxes; just a simple pine box with a silver plaque or maybe just a name on it. They were brought to the cemetery in a family car or truck, if they could get one. Council would supply sometimes a truck or ute for the people, there was no hearse or anything like that until later on. For a while they also used the local Ambulance. It wasn't until the 1970's that a hearse was used, but by then the OPHC was closed.

The funeral services Patricia recalls attending were basically Baptist or Anglican. The Catholic priest would only attend if it was a Catholic person who had passed away. The majority of Aboriginal people generally followed the Anglican or Protestant way of things.

Patricia does not think Aboriginal people were allowed to identify as being Catholic. However, Father Milden was a priest in town for a long time and also Father Lowe both of whom were attached to the local Catholic school Patricia attended. At school Patricia mixed with people from all sorts of backgrounds; Asian, white, Aboriginal. People were sent to Port Hedland from the Kimberley to go to school, they were all together.

Patricia does recall the OPHC as being a lot bigger in size, especially the Asian section. Apparently, the Asian when someone died used to get the stones from the beach and use those as the grave markers, and there were many of them. Now it appears there are hardly any left. The whole area surrounding the current walled off Asian section was covered and they were Japanese and Chinese she thinks (which they worked out because of the Asian characters on the stones). They couldn't read them but it was thought that must have been their names. There were Koepangs, Malays, and people from Torres Strait also which must have been from the pearling days. People were from all over. It is a public mixed space of mixed origins.

In old Port Hedland there was a mixing of Aboriginal and white people, many were related and part of the same family, the cemetery reflects that. Everybody cared for everybody else.

Patricia's view is that the OPHC should be refurbished. To her the people interred here are still living in people's hearts and minds. Their souls live on. If possible each grave site should be marked perhaps with cement or bricks arranged in a circle pattern as seen done elsewhere up in the Kimberley (Wyndham for example). An information board could also be erected with a whole map of the cemetery on it, with all the names and numbers of the people buried there. It would be possible then walk in and find the person or people you are looking for. It's important because in years to come when Patricia and others have passed on it will make it easier for people to track their relatives. Therefore if it is refurbished, Patricia sees OPHC as a connection between past and present.

Patricia does not know the location of many of the unmarked family grave sites because of the changes and deterioration over the years. She thinks she knows the location of her grandfather's grave, but it seems there is someone else's headstone on it. Her sister also thinks this is the case. If people don't have a headstone they're still awake, still looking at you she says.

It is a pioneer cemetery. Port Hedland is an old North West town and without the people's efforts who are buried at OPHC, Patricia feels that they would not be here today to reap the rewards. No matter who you are you shouldn't just be put in the ground and forgotten she says. How a cemetery is kept shows the level of respect the present population has for the town itself.

Patricia wants the cemetery cleaned, marked out, every grave identified and labelled with a plaque on it to say who it was and the year they died. It needs to be registered properly, archived in the right manner, and get the peoples' histories together and lodge it with the West Australian Museum, so everyone can access it. Even if the information cannot be found about who lies where, there still should be a plaque put there (blank) to at least mark it, because then that might jog someone's memory. That information could be



gathered centrally and then over the years it may be possible to fill in much of the lost information.

Physical refurbishment should include places to sit and relax, some water should be available and shade, but not gum trees because their roots interfere with the graves. If it is grassed it needs to be fully maintained in an ongoing capacity and responsibility for it clearly delineated. Patricia's main criticism is that the OPHC hasn't been maintained and she sees it as a shame. The fence should be replaced perhaps with a picket style fence that reflects the pioneering time. In addition the opening steel arch with the Pioneer cemetery name is all covered over by trees, this should be fixed. The actual name Pioneer Cemetery is fine in Patricia's view as it reflects what it is; or maybe an Aboriginal Kariyarra name that labels the actual land as a place of final rest. The name should be a place of welcome to anybody and convey that it is a place of rest and respect. Done well the cemetery could be a project that brought Port Hedland people back together, it would identify that there were people here that were members of the community that most current residents wouldn't know about.

Patricia really wants to see the information gathered kept somewhere for all to access and that whatever happens there are clauses or acts that ensure the place from here on in will be maintained physically and in a respectful manner. The place should be gazetted in perpetuity as a cemetery and not rezoned sometime in the future for development of any kind. It is a priority that this occurs.

## **MARY ATTWOOD**

Mary says there was another cemetery in Port Hedland that was specifically for Aboriginal people situated between the current OPHC and One Mile camp that held around 300 people. All the graves had a stake in the ground with a metal tag attached. She remembers as a girl walking through it on the way to the beach and seeing the wind blowing the metal tags about leaving them all fluttering in the sunlight. It was bulldozed at some point in the past when Charles Court was behind developing the iron ore industry in Port Hedland. This cemetery has been lost and it still upsets many in the town she says.

As far as OPHC, Mary does not think that there are many Aboriginal people buried there except perhaps for the "stolen generation" people. Mary has many relatives in the OPHC; her brother in law, her Grandfather, many of her father's family and her husband's as well. Plus there are extended families, those from Beagle Bay like the Kelly's, the Dan's and the Murphy's. A lot of people were moved from Beagle Bay to Port Hedland like Brahims, there were about five different families in all.

Mary believes a connection to the present can be made by relocating the grave sites to establish a physical connection, because at the moment you don't know who is buried where. She is concerned that the cemetery may be cleared or levelled to make way for future development and does not want to see this happen. The physical location of the grave sites is very important to her. Perhaps a reference book could be produced about the place which lists everyone's names and that may help to locate families no longer here, but could also be used as a guide to show you around OPHC itself.

There were a lot of funerals but because it was a small community if people knew the deceased they would attend the funeral to support the family and show respect. It's sad that it has been allowed to fall into disrepair. People have long memories. These were people that we lived and worked with, went to school with that are buried at OPHC she says. We all had to work together to get on because that was the only way ahead. That is no longer the case with the fly in fly out people; they don't need us and don't know us.

It is possible that OPHC used to extend beyond its southern boundary as delineated currently by the pipe steel fence down to Anderson Street (or beyond). Certainly Mary remembers it as extending that far, as that side used to be the main entry before the Sutherland street entry was made. None of the houses or other buildings were around then. OPHC ran down to the limestone ridge which was the southern extent of the cemetery, which is where it stopped as clearly it was not possible to bury people in limestone. The limestone ridge runs parallel to Anderson Street.

## **IAN LEWIS**

Ian is a 7<sup>th</sup> Generation Western Australian who was brought up in the timber industry. The opportunities afforded in the mining industry attracted him to Port Hedland in 1985 at the age of 27 when he was hired as a production foreman for BHP. Ian fell in love with the quaint country atmosphere of the town and remained as a resident for the next 15 years. Although Ian was not born and raised in Port Hedland, the involvement he had with the ToPH was extensive. Ian, unlike many of the current miners working in and around town, viewed Port Hedland as his adopted home and a place with a rich culture and history. According to Ian, he felt it was a shame that most of the current migrants to the town only viewed Port Hedland as a workplace rather than home, which to some extent had eroded the sense of community. When Ian first moved to Port Hedland, the town was small and everybody worked together and knew everybody.

Ian's interest in the town encouraged him to join the Historical Society in 1992. He later jointed the Heritage Council, operating out of Dalgety House at that time. Ian's involvement with the Heritage Council and the Historical Society taught him about some of the local history of the town. According to Ian, the 1960s was a period of development and growth for the town, where a population of approximately 50 individuals grew to more than 5000 in a matter of years. There was very little planning or government support for infrastructure during the 1960s, which led to many shortcuts taken with the management of historical relics in the town. Ian recalled that the OPHC was originally in the outskirts of town, but became central as the town grew. The OPHC was much larger in the past. It was apparently very common to unearth human remains during construction works near the cemetery, but Ian was not sure what happened to the remains. Ian also recalled hearing that Aboriginal people were initially buried along the beach front and around the Catholic Church, which is now St Cecilia's Primary School.

Ian felt that the OPHC was a significant landmark not only to the long term residents of the town, but also others that may have relatives and loved ones interred from distant lands. He felt that the cemetery should be revitalised and restored to a state that encouraged greater visitation. There were people from distant countries with a direct link to those interred in the cemetery. He once met a very elderly lady visiting the cemetery to find the

resting place of her teenage lover. The elderly lady told Ian that her lover left her to seek wealth in the North during the 1920s and was killed in a motor cycle accident. Before the accident, they had planned to marry. After living her long life, married with children and grandchildren, she came to lay flowers at his grave.

Ian once met a man from Japan that wanted to visit the Japanese section of the OPHC because he had an uncle buried there. The Japanese man and his wife flew to Port Hedland as a representative for those with family members interred in the North-West. The purpose of the trip was to pay homage and respect to those that never returned home by sprinkling water from Japan on the graves as part of the Japanese tradition for those buried in foreign lands. The news of this voyage to the North-West caused a big stir throughout Japan, where approximately 46 million copies of the news report were produced.

Ian said that the Japanese section of the OPHC was adopted by the Cook Point Primary School in 1988. The school attempted to beautify the Japanese section by laying white shale out to demarcate the extent of the section. Ian said that BHP has attempted to restore the OPHC in the past, by pushing to conduct heritage surveys and to identify burial pots. The purpose of the project was to enable people to come back and remark the graves.

Ian has collected newspaper clippings and various published articles about pioneer cemeteries throughout the North-West. He felt that the rich history and culture in Port Hedland should be told and used to educate the current generation about those who made the town what it is today. His main concern was that the identity and life stories of those interred in the cemetery would be lost if there was nobody to keep them alive. Ian would like to see some type of memorial board and/or book published containing a list of the people interred in the cemetery and a brief background of their life stories so that relatives could trace their ancestors and to educate visitors about the people that once lived in the town.

### **6.3 Outcome of Oral History Documentation**

It is quite clear that there are many remaining Port Hedland residents who retain strong personal links to OPHC who have felt aggrieved by its descent into ruin.

There are a number of common threads running through the oral history interviewee's responses. All want to see the OPHC refurbished, they want it to be kept as a cemetery in perpetuity and to ensure that any work done not only physically identifies the location of each burial, but that through research and collation of multiple memories that the lives of those interred there can be rebuilt and retold to future generations.

All agree that it is a place of mixed origins that truthfully reflects Port Hedland's multi ethnic origins. It belongs to all, not to one separate group.

It is fair to say that many current residents are frightened that because of OPHC disrepair and dilapidated condition, some may see that as an opportunity for total site

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redevelopment and that the cemetery may be cleared to make way for it. All the interviewees' want OPHC to be gazetted as a cemetery in perpetuity that excludes rezoning for any other purpose. In a way OPHC is a sacred site to the old townsfolk, irrespective of their racial, political or religious background.

On the subject of the name of the place, most agree that Pioneer Cemetery is suitable. However, if a name change was thought necessary one suggestion was that the name could be a traditional Aboriginal *Kariyarra* name that welcomed all to the landscape and that identified it as a final place of rest and respect for all.

There is consensus that a 'memory wall' should be erected. This would list the people's names interred at OPHC, maybe provide some history of each and also if possible identify where they are buried.

Equally there is consensus that the hedge should be continued to entirely surround the cemetery. It appears that the gum trees are not particularly liked and an alternate suggestion was wild almond trees because of the wonderful shade canopy it provides. Perhaps coconut trees as well.

The cemetery should provide basic amenities such as shade and water to drink. Park benches should also be provided so visitors may sit and contemplate the space.

In relation to maintenance and upkeep, it is necessary that the responsibility for this is clearly set out and sufficient funding ensured so that it can be effectively carried out into the future as a guarantee. Not a single interviewee wants OPHC to revert to its previous unkempt and uncared for condition as this is seen as stain on the community and reflective of current attitudes towards the past, which is not the case.

Above all many of those spoken to throughout this project think that through this refurbishment programme the historic small north west pioneer community of Port Hedland that once worked, lived, went to school, intermingled and shared joint futures and setbacks together can be reborn. Most would say for the better.

## 7 Purpose of Ground Penetrating Radar works

Based on the current condition of the OPHC, many grave markers or headstones have disappeared and deteriorated to the point that the actual location of interred people and who these individuals were is uncertain. Based on information gathered from the Burial Register, it appears that people were not exactly interred in their designated plots. The purpose of undertaking Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) works is to ascertain the position of all the burial plots if possible.

As such, RPS engaged Alpha Geoscience Pty. Ltd. (Alpha) to undertake a geophysical survey to locate the unmarked burials. The aim of the project was to survey the site using a GPR system and analyse the resulting data to locate all possible unmarked burials at the site.

There is a self contained GPR report from Alpha Geoscience reproduced in Appendix 9.

### 7.1 Methodology of GPR Works

Initially a grid is set up inside which the GPR unit collects data along closely spaced transects. Essentially GPR is a process that transmits electromagnetic pulses into the ground from surface antennas fixed to a mobile unit that is pushed across the ground surface. The device then measures the time elapsed between when the pulses are sent and when they are received back at the surface (called two-way travel time). As the radar pulses are transmitted through various materials on their way to the buried target feature, their speed will change, depending on the physical and chemical makeup of the material through which they are travelling.

As the GPR unit is pushed along, the antennas individual reflections are recorded (usually every 2-10 centimetres) using a variety of collection techniques. The depth to which radar energy can penetrate the ground depends largely upon two factors:

- The radio frequency of antenna being used; and
- The characteristics of the soil being surveyed.

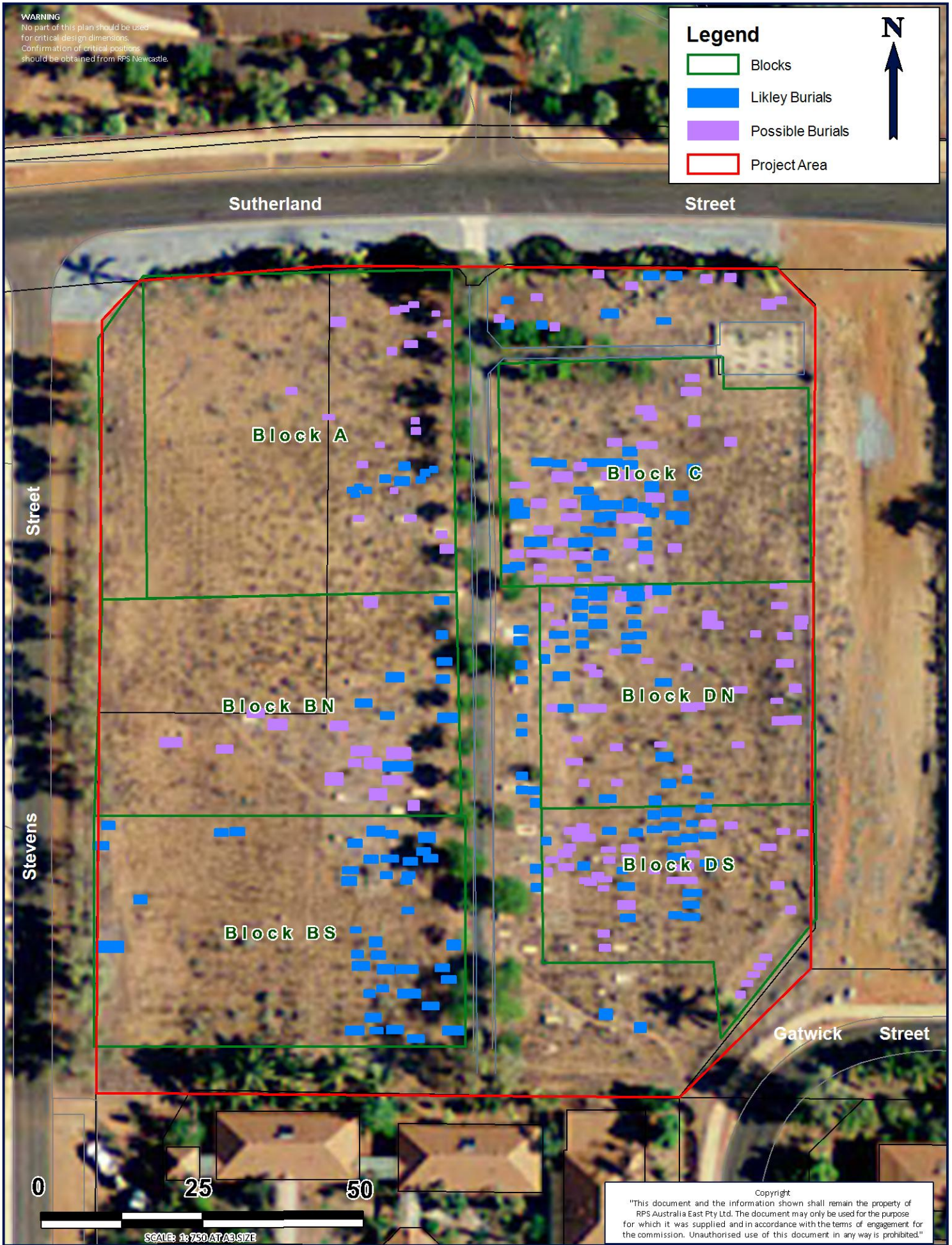
At OPHC the GPR survey was conducted along N-S parallel lines at a tight line spacing that varied between 0.5 m and 1.0 m. This was adjusted in real time depending on the frequency of graves spotted by the unit.

As mentioned above, the makeup of the soil through which the pulses are sent dictates the quality of the results. Fortunately at OPHC the soil is consistent dune sand underlain by limestone bedrock and consequently the soil conditions were perfect for obtaining excellent imaging.

**WARNING**  
 No part of this plan should be used for critical design dimensions. Confirmation of critical positions should be obtained from RPS Newcastle.

**Legend**

- Blocks
- Likley Burials
- Possible Burials
- Project Area



SCALE: 1:750 AT A3 SIZE

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TITLE: FIGURE 7-1:  
 RESULTS OF GPR WORK

LOCATION: PORT HEDLAND

DATUM: N/A  
 PROJECTION: MGA ZONE 50 (GDA 94)

DATE: 14/10/2011  
 PURPOSE: HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

LAYOUT REF: 108040 01.d Port Hedland Gem  
 \10-Drafting\Workspace  
 VERSION (PLAN BY): JA A4 (NW-CYL)

CLIENT:  
 JOB REF: 108040

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## 7.2 Results from the works

The data acquired at Pioneer Cemetery was of a very high quality due to the homogenous, dry and sandy subsurface. Most graves were identifiable in real time on the GPR instrument display while data was being collected.

The results have been tabulated in Table 7-1 and are displayed in Figure 7-1 & Figure 7-2.

**Table 7-1 results of GPR works**

Area	Likely burial	Possible burial	Marked burials
<b>A</b>	10	20	
<b>B</b>	23	42	
<b>C</b>	32	32	
<b>D</b>	51	70	
<b>irregular</b>	21	12	
<b>Total</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>103</b>

The GPR identified a total of 313 burial locations, 137 of which are highly likely to be a burial and 176 which quite possibly contain a burial. A count of the headstones or graves with markings on the surface numbered 103, making the total number of burials inside the OPHC cadastral boundary as 416.

The historical burial register records 522 burials at OPHC between 1912 and 1974.

## 7.3 Interpretation of the GPR results

If we take the historical records at face value and directly compare it against the physical archaeological results from GPR and also from simply counting the surface grave markings, it is clear that there is a discrepancy between the two. There are 106 unaccounted burials that have no surface marker and recorded no subsurface register via GPR investigation.

This is not uncommon in archaeology. Often the archaeological record differs from the historic one. It must be remembered that archaeology deals with the material record. Archaeology is the study of human society, primarily through the recovery and analysis of the material culture and environmental data.

The historical record is largely the study of the written record, and it is not infallible. It is open to the vagaries of the actual recorders view on what is important and what is not, on what is remembered against what actually happened, and so on. Consequently, it is no great surprise at OPHC to find that the archaeology disagrees with the history of the

place. Perhaps it is better to consider what may have caused or contributed to the observed discrepancy.

- Firstly, there is obviously the cadastral boundary of the site itself which may have been arbitrarily gazetted in 1912. The OPHC may well have been somewhat larger than today's confines as suggested by some of the informants. Furthermore, burial records on the register may not be within that region covered by the GPR investigation.
- Secondly, perhaps the burial register was not diligently maintained as far as accuracy went and it was more of a record of burials in general, rather than a record of actual interments inside the boundary of the OPHC.
- Thirdly, oral history accounts tell us that the Asian section was much larger than that is represented today and perhaps that has not been accounted for in the current study.
- Fourthly, decay and decomposition rates may vary from site to site affecting soils densities and by inference the GPR results.

Unfortunately, all of the above is speculation and as such cannot be confirmed or denied with any level of certainty by the study.

This means that what we need to assess, manage and respect at the OPHC is what is actually known about it. Consequently, given that we now have fairly accurate spatial records for potentially 313 previously lost burials we should at least endeavour to identify various individuals that are recorded as having been buried in or near to those locations picked up by the GPR.

It is also interesting to note where there were no burials detected by GPR and ask why that might be so. On this matter we can be a little surer. In the north western corner of the cemetery the depth of cover is only 1 m – 1.5 m before the limestone bedrock is reached. Therefore, the geological substrate dictates that burials cannot be made there that would be deep enough to deter animals or storm events from disturbing or exposing human remains.

In other regions there is enough depth of cover, yet there appear to be no burials. This may indicate that the cemetery had not reached its capacity when closed in 1968.

Additionally, it is well known in archaeological circles that in sand material remains move both vertically and horizontally. This may account not so much for the disparity in numbers the results comparison declared, but in the actual disparity between the spatial location of the burials recorded by GPR and those noted in the historic site plan.

RPS geo registered in GIS the historical burial plan and re-laid them under the GPR results. Figure 7-2 illustrates the findings, but what is apparent is that many of our locations for burials do not coincide with the historic plot layout. It is also apparent that there are many burials particularly in the east and north that are well outside of the historical burial plan. Further investigations largely to do with surface surveying will give us better control over this aspect and should form part of the Stage 2 works.



## 7.4 Reconciliation of GPR results

Let us return to the 313 burials identified by the GPR and the 106 “lost” burials. How do we reconcile these?

It is first necessary to list all the names of people in marked surface burials. These individuals can be separated out from the overall list of 522 names. What is left are those individuals who are listed as being buried in OPHC, but for whom there is no physical grave marker. From this remaining information, we can generate a list of people in unmarked graves. It is these individuals to whom we seek to provide remembrance through our work.

The next step would be to conduct surface survey detail work in order to tie the subsurface GPR results to recognisable surface features and pegs accordingly. This will provide accuracy to what is below and above ground and provide spatial control across the site. A new map showing these results should then be generated detailing the findings subsurface and above ground. Once completed, comparisons between this new survey map and the geo rectified historical burial register and burial plot mapping may be undertaken. Do any line up? If so, identify each individual listed for each of those locales and mark physically on the ground in conjunction with any identified living relatives.

Further refine the unmarked burial list to delete the matched individuals.

It is then necessary to engage with those individuals still living who attended certain individuals' funeral service who can remember the general location of where the burial took place. Does their memory coincide with a GPR identified locale? If so there is every chance that the burial identified via GPR can be positively identified and a name attached.

Once again, further refine the unmarked burial list to delete the newly identified individuals.

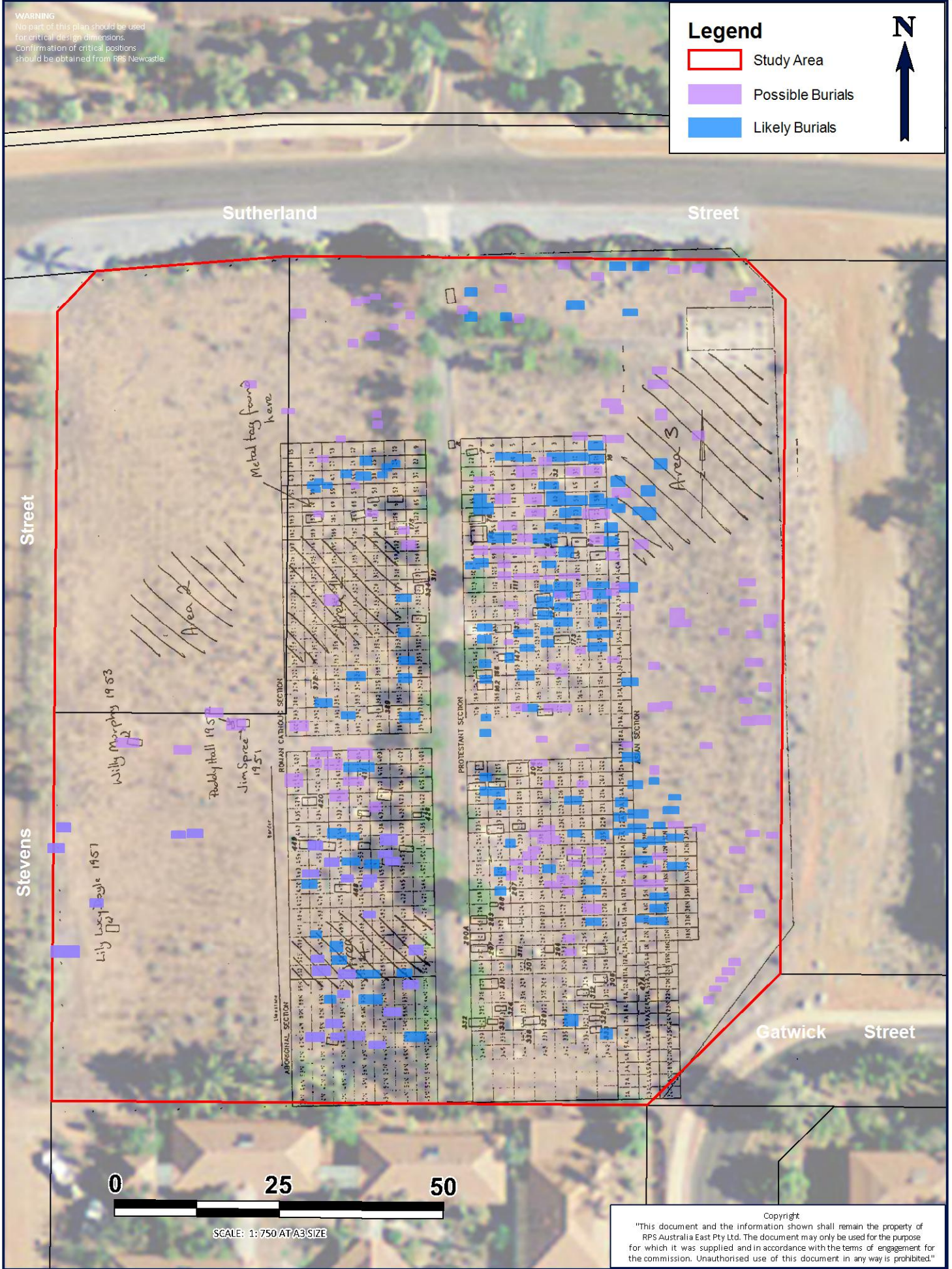
The above process may take many years to work through, but it is perhaps a way forward to meet many people's wishes that their relatives or friends graves be physically identified.

Of course, there will be many for whom we cannot provide that level of certainty. In that case, other forms of memorial may be appropriate. This may include tree plantings with a plaque at the base in memory of a person for whom there is a historic record of burial, but for whom no physical surface reminder could be found. Another thought may be an area set aside where blank tombstones are erected as a reminder, similar to those in military graveyards for unknown soldiers. The broader community could be consulted on this matter once constraints are known.

**WARNING**  
 No part of this plan should be used for critical design dimensions. Confirmation of critical positions should be obtained from RPS Newcastle.

**Legend**

- Study Area
- Possible Burials
- Likely Burials



0 25 50  
 SCALE: 1:750 AT A3 SIZE

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TITLE: FIGURE 7-2: GPR FINDINGS OVERLAY HISTORICAL CENETERY REGISTER LOCATION: PORT HEDLAND DATUM: N/A DATE: 14/10/2011 LAYOUT REF: 1\JOB\SWA\work\2011\W\_108040 01.d Post Hedland Gem \10- Drafting\Workspace  
 PROJECTION: MGA ZONE 50 (GDA 94) PURPOSE: HERITAGE ASSESSMENT VERSION (PLAN BY)JA A4 (NW-CYL)

CLIENT:  
 JOB REF: 108040

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## 8 Conclusion & Recommendations

The purpose of this investigation was to develop a better understanding of what the community presiding within the town would like to see achieved to upgrade the current condition of the cemetery landscape and collate all the information known about the cemetery to date. There are people in the community that have a strong connection to the OPHC because they have relatives interred in the cemetery and/or because the cemetery itself represents a significant part of the town's history. One of the most concerning issues that those interviewed raised was that there were many unmarked graves, leaving the identity of the people interred unknown. The lack of maintenance and repair shown in the past has also caused frustration because the people buried in the cemetery should be remembered in a more respectful manner. The dilapidated condition of the cemetery, coupled with the lack of public amenities and information about the people buried, was believed to have been the main reason to why the OPHC has been largely abandoned.

What was discovered during our investigation is that the OPHC is a significant landmark to the residents of the town and that the memory of the people buried in the cemetery is still strong in the hearts of loved ones. Fears that these memories will eventually disappear when those with direct ties to the cemetery pass away has made it a priority to preserve what is still known today and to possibly expand our depth of knowledge beyond what is obtainable via oral histories for future generations.

In order to comprehensively and accurately collate the known information to date would be a long and slow process which may take years to complete. The undertakings of this task would require collaboration of historical literature with archaeological investigations. This report merely represents the first phase of a much larger project to achieve the following outcomes that the community would like to see achieved:

- 1) Restore the OPHC to a better state of repair;
- 2) Protect the cemetery grounds as a public burial space in perpetuity to protect the site from any future development or site encroachment;
- 3) Establishment of clear and realistic commitments that are required to maintain the cemetery;
- 4) Undertake further historical and archaeological investigations to identify as many individuals interred in the cemetery as possible;
- 5) Provide greater access of information about the history of the OPHC to the general public; and
- 6) Transform the OPHC into a place where current and future generations may learn and understand a little more about the rich history of the town and gain a better appreciation of those that pioneered and set the foundations of the township.

The recommendations that follow were provided in order to facilitate Phase 2 of the project, which is to address the concerns raised by the community. These recommendations have been formulated based on the findings in this report and have been divided into two distinct phases. The first stage of phase 2 will enable a scope of works to be developed for the upgrade of the cemetery with assurance that the location of

the graves on the site and the people interred is as accurate as possible at this time. The stage 2 phase 2 recommendations will act to ensure the findings of stage one are acted upon, protect as far as possible on ground works from impacting upon burial sites and provides a pathway for future redevelopment, community involvement and management.

## Phase 2, Stage 1 Recommendations

### **Recommendation 1**

Create two lists of individuals. Those with marked graves and those without. Initiate a programme as outlined in section 7.4 of this report.

### **Recommendation 2**

Initiate a surface survey programme to tie subsurface GPR results to tighter cadastral surface features and boundaries.

### **Recommendation 3**

Two titles currently exist at the cemetery. If the WA Planning Commission (WAPC) allows, ToPH will collapse both titles into a single title covering the current cadastral boundaries of OPHC and ensure it remains as 'reserved for cemetery purposes'.

### **Recommendation 4**

3D Surface Terrestrial survey to be completed to accurately denote surface features and also act as an archival record of the place prior to any future refurbishment occurring that would significantly alter the cemetery appearance.

## Phase 2, Stage 2 Recommendations

### **Recommendation 1**

The cemetery is to be gazetted by council as a public burial space in perpetuity to protect the site from any future development or site encroachment.

### **Recommendation 2**

Irrespective of future refurbishment works at the cemetery, grounds maintenance funding and physical manifestation of grounds maintenance is to be guaranteed by the ToPH in perpetuity. This will ensure that the cemetery never again returns to its unkempt decayed state. Certain responsibilities may be able to be carried out by the community.

### **Recommendation 3**

Perimeter fencing to be replaced or fixed. Hedging may be an option.

### **Recommendation 4**

Determine the responsibility hierarchy for the cemetery so that community feedback, comment and assistance can be appropriately directed and acted upon.

### **Recommendation 5**

The information collected as part of this report is to be made freely available to the broader community either in complete report form or in excerpts from it or via download

via the internet.

#### **Recommendation 6**

It is recommended that the ToPH organise a means by which agencies such as the ToPH Library, the Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre, the ToPH Historical Society and the Battye State Library (WA State Library) share and disseminate information related to this report. This will ensure that people may approach their preferred organisations to request the information they need.

#### **Recommendation 7**

A copy of this report be sent to all those who participated in the oral history recording connected with the report.

#### **Recommendation 8**

Future design and refurbishment works are to be conducted in accordance with and are culturally sensitive to the findings of this report.

#### **Recommendation 9**

Any subsurface works are to be cleared against the GPR results prior to any sub surface impact occurring in order to avoid impact to burials.

#### **Recommendation 10**

The name of the cemetery should be formally decided upon. Despite several previous reports noting that 'Pioneers and Pearlys' cemetery was not broadly representative and hence the name 'Old Port Hedland' cemetery should be adopted in place, it appears this may not be the case. During the research conducted as part of this study there was general agreement that it was a 'pioneers' cemetery. It may therefore be more appropriate to name it "Port Hedland Pioneer Cemetery" as it better reflects the collective effort from all at establishing the town irrespective of race, religion or politics.

#### **Recommendation 11**

The cemetery is to be maintained as a public place open to all comers.

#### **Recommendation 12**

Archival photograph all remaining grave markers and tombstones with high resolution camera. Generate a file identifying each of them and a transcript taken of the inscriptions on each. Records to be kept by the ToPH Library, the Wangka Maya organisation and ToPH Historical Society.

#### **Recommendation 13**

If a memorial plaque is to be erected in and/or around the cemetery premises, information should be written in English, Chinese and Japanese to accommodate for a more multicultural audience and foreign visitors with relatives interred.

#### **Recommendation 14**

Headstones written in Chinese and Japanese characters should be translated in English and archived for future reference.

#### **Recommendation 15**

Engage in a dialogue with identified community representatives during this study to determine the type and scale of refurbishment necessary. This would cover the erection of

shade trees, shelters seats, memory walls, provision of water and so on.

**Recommendation I6**

The connection between the cemetery and Cemetery Beach Park should be maintained and strengthened as part of any refurbishment plan. Historically beach access was often via the cemetery and any future works should at least be sympathetic to this and reflected in landscape architecture design.

**Recommendation I7**

The shell midden display signage within the OPHC should be removed as the ACMC has determined that it is not an Aboriginal site.

**Recommendation I8**

It may be necessary to consider a financial assistance programme (eg. Application for funding with Lotteries West) so that those living people whom are able to identify the burial location of relatives or friends via the GPR investigation, but who are perhaps financially unable to do so, are enabled to mark it with a headstone or grave marker.

**Recommendation I9**

ToPH could initiate and provide ongoing support to a cemetery care group (working group) that meets annually to discuss issues surrounding future works, maintenance and/or other relevant items that may come up for consideration such as which organisation(s) or community members would be able to assume the role of guardian for burials without any living relatives to care for and possibly erect a grave marker.

The cemetery care/working group could be established as the decision makers and continue to support information collection and future memorial installations. As a suggestion, the working group for example may consist of Friends of the Cemetery, TOPH, local history collection staff, Wangka Maya and the ToPH Historical Society representatives.

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## 9 Plates



**Plate 1: View of OPHC Gate-From Sutherland St**



**Plate 2: Dr Dodwell Browne and Wife Lily at their marriage in 1903 (in Hedland Voices 1997:56-donated by Peggy Davies)**



**Plate 3: Dr Dodwell Browne's Grave (Plot 7, Died 1917)**



**Plate 4: Photo of Keith McKay and father Sam McKay (Hardie 1981)**



**Plate 5: Keith McKay's Grave (Plot 85, Died 1924)**



**Plate 6: Burial with Shell Decoration**



**Plate 7: Burial with Iron Cross Headstone**



**Plate 8: Paddy Hall's Headstone**



Plate 9: Photo of Frank Murray Thompson (Hardie 1981:35)



Plate 10: Middi Bin Brahim's Grave (Plot 400, Died 1953)



Plate 11: Veronica Brahim's Grave (Plot 450, Died 1966)



Plate 12: Asian Grave Marker



Plate 13: Asian Grave Marker



Plate 14: Asian Grave Marker



Plate 15: Photo of Ah Tie (Hardie 1981)



Plate 16: Grave with Missing Letters



Plate 17: Grave with Damaged Headstone



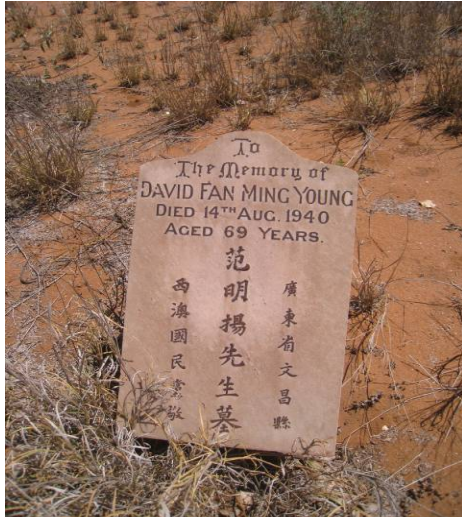
Plate 18: Burial with Missing Grave Border



Plate 19: Badly Damaged Grave



Plate 20: Damaged vase



**Plate 21: Slumping Headstone**



**Plate 22: OPHC without Public Amenities**



**Plate 23: Rusted and Sun Bleached Signage. This sign is to be removed.**



**Plate 24: Rusty Fence in Background**



**Plate 25: Shell Type and Density in OPHC**



**Plate 26: Shells identified in the OPHC**

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# Appendix I

## Legislative Requirements

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## Legislative Requirements

### **Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972**

The AHA recognises the Aboriginal people's connection to the land and all associated cultural remains. Under the Act, all Aboriginal heritage sites and objects are protected because of their cultural significance and connection to the land. Under section 17 (AHA), it is an offence for a person to:

- (a) Excavate, destroy, damage, conceal or in any way alter any Aboriginal sites; or
- (b) In any way alter damage, remove, destroy, conceal or deal with in a manner not sanctioned by relevant customs or assume the possession, custody or control of any object on or under an Aboriginal site.

The purpose of the AHA is to protect sites and artefacts of significance to the Aboriginal people in addition to sites containing historical and ethnographic significance to the greater public. The AHA is currently administrated by the Western Australian Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA).

### **The Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993**

The Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993* (NTA) also protects the interests of Aboriginal heritage and artefacts. The purpose of the NTA is to provide a national system of recognition and protection of native title and to clarify how native title co-exists with land management systems in Australia.

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984**

Aboriginal heritage sites are also protected under the Commonwealth *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* (HPA). The HPA provides legislative protection of important places and artefacts and is invoked as a final resort if state/territory laws are unable to provide the necessary protection.

Under the AHA and the HPA, Aboriginal human remains are protected. The following personnel/parties must be notified if human remains are discovered:

- (a) The police or Coroner as instructed under section 17 of the Coroners Act 1996;
- (b) The State Registrar of Aboriginal Sites under Section 15 of the AHA; and
- (c) The Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs under Section 20 of the HPA.

### **Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975**

This Act established the Australian Heritage Council in providing independent advice and to formulate policies in the interest of identifying, assessing, conserving and monitoring places of historical significance.



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## Appendix 2

### Relevant Sections of the Port Hedland Municipal Inventory



# **TOWN OF PORT HEDLAND**

## **MUNICIPAL INVENTORY of HERITAGE PLACES**

# **REVIEW**

**2007**

**Laura Gray**  
Heritage & Conservation Consultant

TOWN OF PORT HEDLAND  
MUNICIPAL INVENTORY OF HERITAGE PLACES



**PLACE NUMBER 8**

**PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION**

**Name of place/s** Midi bin Brahim's Trees **Other names**  
**Address** 8 Edgar Street, Port Hedland **Lot No** 34  
**Construction Date/s** 1920s-1930s  
**Designer/s** n/a **Builder/s** n/a  
**Heritage listings** Town of Port Hedland MI 1996. **HCWA Database No** 5950

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

**Architectural Style** n/a  
**Setting** Located near the ROW at the rear of a residential site with a recent dwelling  
**Description** 8 trees varying in height from 15- 25 metres in height, with the lush foliage that provides broad shady canopies.  
**Condition** The trees seem to be in healthy condition **Integrity** Impacted by construction **Authenticity** High degree

**Changes to place** Setting: demolition of the associated house, and recent development.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Midi bin Brahim and family lived in the dwelling on the site and planted the trees (*Albizia lebbek*- natives of South East Asia and Northern Australia). Midi bin Brahim was a well known town identity having been an indentured pearl worker from Indonesia. He was a practicing Muslim with a prayer house (Musolah) constructed at the rear of the dwelling. Midi's wife Elsie (nee Talbot), an Aboriginal woman of the Fitzroy crossing Banuba tribe, was one of the first Aboriginal people allowed to live in the town. Midi died in 1953 and is buried in the Pioneer and Pearlery Cemetery. Subsequently the dwelling was demolished, and the site was developed.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Midi bin Brahim's Trees are of significance for the associations with early Asian pearling workers, particularly Midi bin Brahim, and the social history of indentured Indonesian pearl workers, Aboriginal woman living in 'town', and an ongoing reminder of Port Hedland's multicultural history.

**MANAGEMENT CATEGORY**

**Category 2** A place of considerable cultural heritage significance to Town of Port Hedland that is worthy of recognition and protection through provisions of the Town of Port Hedland's Town Planning Scheme.  
**Implications:** Planning application needs to be submitted to Town of Port Hedland for any proposed development. **Recommend:** Retain and conserve the place.

**REFERENCES** Town of Port Hedland MI 1996

TOWN OF PORT HEDLAND  
MUNICIPAL INVENTORY OF HERITAGE PLACES



**PLACE NUMBER 17**

**PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION**

**Name of place/s** Ellery Cottage (fmr) – currently professional offices **Former/other names**  
**Address** 19 Kingsmill Street, Port Hedland **Lot No** 90?

**Construction Date/s**

**Designer/s**

**Builder/s**

**Heritage listings** n/a

**HCWA Database No** n/a

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

**Architectural Style** bungalow-northwest vernacular

**Setting** Setback from street (south) with extensive ocean frontage to north.

**Description** Single storey timber framed Hardiflex clad bungalow. Break pitch gable roof clad with colourbond steel sheeting.

**Condition** Good **Integrity** Moderate **Authenticity** Low to moderate

**Changes to place** Extensive refurbishment

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Bob Ellery followed father Bob, also in railways, as a fettler in the 1930s, on the Port Hedland to Marble Bar railway. In his youth, Bob Ellery was one of Len Taplin's drivers between 1923-1930. Taplin pioneered the use of trucks in the Pilbara, servicing stations.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Ellery Cottage (fmr) is significant for the associations with Bob Ellery and as one of the few of many original, direct oceanfront cottages along the foreshore strip that contributes to the character and streetscape of Port Hedland town.

**MANAGEMENT CATEGORY**

**Category 2** A place of considerable cultural heritage significance to Town of Port Hedland that is worthy of recognition and protection through provisions of the Town of Port Hedland's Town Planning Scheme.

**Implications:** Planning application needs to be submitted to Town of Port Hedland for any proposed development. **Recommend:** Retain and conserve the place.

**REFERENCES**

TOWN OF PORT HEDLAND  
MUNICIPAL INVENTORY OF HERITAGE PLACES



**PLACE NUMBER 32**

**PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION**

**Name of place/s** Pioneers and Pearlery Cemetery **Other names** Port Hedland Cemetery  
**Address** Sutherland Street, Port Hedland **Lot No** 829- 831 **Reserve** 27693

**Construction Date/s** 1912

**Designer/s**

**Builder/s**

**Heritage listings** Town of Port Hedland MI 1996 **HCWA Database No**

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

**Architectural Style**

**Setting**

Arched central entry on Sutherland Street. The cemetery site slopes up from Sutherland Street to a commanding position overlooking the ocean.

**Description**

The cemetery is divided into 4 sections: Protestant, Roman Catholic, Native and Asiatic. The Japanese section is particularly distinctive. Palisades and headstones of various designs throughout. There is an Aboriginal shell midden within the cemetery.

**Condition** Fair to good

**Integrity** High **Authenticity** High

**Changes to place**

Ashes placed at Cemetery since 1974.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The first burial took place on 2 January 1912. Since that time, until it closed in 1968, although the last burial was in 1974, there were 522 burials recorded. Of those burials, 387 were in the General Register, and 135 'Native' burials. Only about 90 of the graves are marked with headstones or by other means.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Pioneers and Pearlery Cemetery is of considerable significance in providing a historical record of the development of Port Hedland between 1912 and 1974, including Aboriginal people and pastoral identities, the Asian associations with the pearling industry, and generally reflects the pioneering spirit of Port Hedland. The setting, identity and design of the headstones and palisades and grave markers are of significance and aesthetically contributes to the character of Port Hedland.

**MANAGEMENT CATEGORY**

**Category 1** A place of exceptional cultural heritage significance to Town of Port Hedland and the state of Western Australia, that is worthy of consideration for the Heritage Council of Western Australia's Register of Heritage Places. **Implications:** A development application needs to be submitted to Town of Port Hedland and Heritage Council for approval for any proposed development. **Recommend:** Retain and conserve the place.

**REFERENCES** Town of Port Hedland MI 1996

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# Appendix 3

## List of Correspondence

## List of Correspondence

ORGANISATION	Representative	TELEPHONE	Date of Contact
Ian Lewis	Long Term Resident of Port Hedland	N/A	2/8/2011
Ms Margaret Derschow	Long term resident of Port Hedland	N/A	2/8/2011
Mr Arnold Carter	Long term resident of Port Hedland & Deputy Mayor of the ToPH Historic Society	(08) 91731042	2/8/2011
Mr Iman Halim	Priest-Islamic Association	(08) 91722528	3/8/2011
Julie Hunt	Dalgety House Museum	(08) 9173 4444	3/8/2011
Mr Merv Stanton	Long term resident of Port Hedland	N/A	3/8/2011
Beryl Adamson	Long term resident of Port Hedland	N/A	4/8/2011
Derrick Adamson	Long term resident of Port Hedland	N/A	4/8/2011
Sue Baker	Frontier Services	N/A	4/8/2011
George Pitt	DIA Port Hedland		10/8/2011
Alan Lockyer	Long term resident of Port Hedland	N/A	10/8/2011
Patricia Mason	Long term resident of Port Hedland	N/A	16/8/2011
Mary Attwood	Long term resident of Port Hedland	N/A	16/8/2011
Alan Lockyer	Long term resident of Port Hedland	N/A	16/8/2011
Julie Hunt	Dalgety House Museum	(08) 9173 4444	16/8/2011
Mr Arnold Carter	Long term resident of Port Hedland & Deputy Mayor of the ToPH Historic Society	(08) 91731042	16/8/2011
Patricia Mason	Long term resident of Port Hedland	N/A	30/9/2011

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## Appendix 4

DIA Site Card Submitted (1013)



12 Site Description - include ethnographic and archaeological comments.

(See separate Site Recording Aid.) The "Pioneer Cemetery" in Port Hedland was used from 1912 to 1968. Aboriginal people were officially buried there from 1960 onwards, although 3 or 4 Aboriginal graves exist within the fenced boundary (see plan) which date from the 1950's. These graves are marked with headstones made by the deceased's families from stone collected from the Cemetery Beach area. Prior to 1960 many Aboriginal people were buried behind the Lock Hospital further west.

[Informant for all above was Teddy Allen] This site <sup>will be</sup> recorded separately as "Lock Hospital."

According to Shire records (see attachment A1) there are ~~135~~ 135 Aboriginal burials within the cemetery, mainly within the 'Native' sections at the south western corner and the eastern side (see plan). All but one of these graves are unmarked. All the grave borders & headstones noted above, and many others in the cemetery, are severely damaged by time and indiscriminate grass slashing (see below).

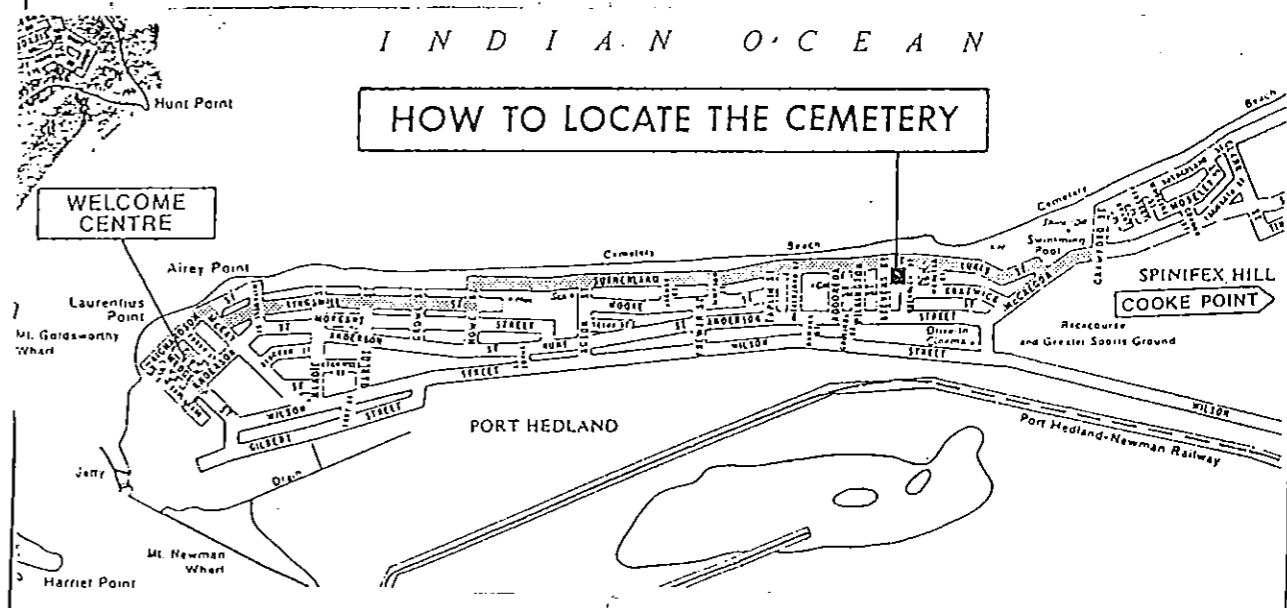
The cemetery also contains some exposed midden material, mainly concentrated in 4 areas (see plan). The material is disturbed by the tractor the shire uses to slash the grass. The main cause for concern is the turning & displacement of the cultural material by the tractor wheels, particularly in soft sandy areas. This action is also facilitating the exposure of initially covered cultural material. Area 1, in particular, is also windscoured. See attachment A2 for details of contents. Areas 1 and 4 are areas of unoccupied graves plots.

13 General Remarks:

The Town of Port Hedland and BHP Currently have plans to manage the cemetery as a Centenary project (see attachment B). DAS have offered to be involved in promoting the Aboriginal historical aspects and in helping to make sure that cultural material is not disturbed

There is some concern that the grass slashing in the cemetery is damaging midden material and grave markers. Letters have been written to the Shire about this (see attachment c).

14 Sketch Map - to locate the site. (Please indicate distance between 2 points. A xerox copy or trace map may be attached.)



Cemetery is on Sutherland St between Stevens & Brearley Sts.

Recorder \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

15 Site Plan (Give distance between two points & extent of site in metres)

See attached plan.

Site extent: \_\_\_\_\_ m x \_\_\_\_\_ m  
Recorder \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**16 Land Status:**  
 Vacant Crown Land ( C ) \_\_\_\_\_ Land held under Lease ( L )  L  State Forest ( S ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reserve (Aboriginal, Park, Flora & Fauna, etc) ( R ) \_\_\_\_\_ Privately-owned Land ( P ) \_\_\_\_\_

**17 Reserve/Lease No:**  27693/831

**18 Owner/Occupier & Full Address:**  Town of Port Hedland   
 PO Box 41 Port Hedland 6721  Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

**19 Work Done: (Marked 1-6)**

Site Marker/peg ( 1 ) _____	Site specific sign ( 5 ) _____	Excavated ( E ) _____
Site sign ( 2 ) _____	Other ( 6 ) _____	Salvaged ( V ) _____
PA sign ( 3 ) _____	Fenced ( F ) _____	Disturbed ( D ) _____
Burial plaque ( 4 ) _____	Sampled ( S ) _____	Other work: _____

**20 Work needing to be done:**

Recording ( R ) _____	Airphoto ( A ) _____	Mark ( 1-6 ) <u> 5 </u> _____
Sample ( S ) _____	Excavate ( E ) _____	Salvage ( V ) _____
Other: _____	Fence ( F ) _____	

**21 Proposed Protected Area No:** \_\_\_\_\_ PrPA ACMC Resolution No: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approved ( A ) \_\_\_\_\_ Conditional Approval ( C ) \_\_\_\_\_ Refused ( R ) \_\_\_\_\_

**22 Protected Area No:** \_\_\_\_\_ Gazettal Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**23 Australian Heritage Commission No:** \_\_\_\_\_ AHC ACMC Resolution No: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**24 ACMC Resolution - section 113 - Utilisation of Land:**

Resolution No: _____ / _____	Permission ( P ) _____	Avoid ( A ) _____
	Conditional Permission ( C ) _____	Refused Permission ( R ) _____
	Avoid if possible ( V ) _____	
Resolution No: _____ / _____	Permission ( P ) _____	Avoid ( A ) _____
	Conditional Permission ( C ) _____	Refused Permission ( R ) _____
	Avoid if possible ( V ) _____	

**25 Accession No:** \_\_\_\_\_ Carbon Date: \_\_\_\_\_ ± \_\_\_\_\_

**26 Graphics:** Photographs ( P )  P  Transparencies ( T ) \_\_\_\_\_ Map(s)/Plan(s) ( M )  M

**27 Literary Reference - Author:** \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Reported By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Reported By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**29 Recorded By:**  Louis Warren / Diana MacCallum  Date  9/2/94  Survey No: \_\_\_\_\_

Recorded By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Survey No: \_\_\_\_\_

**30 Survey Report: Author:** \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Library No: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Report: \_\_\_\_\_

# Aboriginal Site Recording Form

DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL SITES  
 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

35 Havelock Street, West Perth WA 6005  
 Phone: (09) 322-7144  
 Fax: (09) 321-4525

Please complete items 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 29, and other items where applicable. Entries should be letters or numbers as indicated (NOT ticks).

**1 Registered Site No:**  P 07209

**2 Access:** Restricted ( R ) \_\_\_\_\_ Significant ( S ) \_\_\_\_\_ Open ( O )  O  Uncertain ( U ) \_\_\_\_\_

**3 Registered Site Name:**  PIONEER CEMETERY

**4 Other Site Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**5 Project/**

**Survey:** \_\_\_\_\_ **For:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year:** \_\_\_\_\_

**6 Location:**

1:250,000 Map No: <u> SF 50.04 </u>	Imperial Grid Reference: _____	← (N:B: Imperial and Metric References to have a 6 figure numerical reference) Grid Reference: _____
	Metric Grid Reference: <u> 667 753 </u>	
1:100,000 Map No: _____	Grid Reference: _____	
Other Map Scale: _____	Map No: _____	
Latitude: _____ ° _____ ' S	Longitude: _____ ° _____ ' E	

**7 Position (1:250,000 Grid Reference):**

Reliable ( r ) <u> r </u>	Approximate ( a ) _____	Doubtful ( d ) _____
Unknown ( u ) _____	Concealed ( c ) _____	Extensive area ( e ) _____

**8 Site Extent:**  125  metres x  100  metres

**9 Airphoto:** Film No: \_\_\_\_\_ Run: \_\_\_\_\_ Frame: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Pinned ( P ) \_\_\_\_\_

**10 Site Category:** Ethnographic ( ETH )  ETH   
 Archaeological ( ARC )  ARC

**11 Site Type(s):**

Ceremonial ( C ) _____	Fish Trap ( F ) _____	Quarry ( Q ) _____
Mythological ( M ) _____	Modified Tree ( T ) _____	Artefacts ( A ) <u> A </u>
Repository/Cache ( R ) _____	Painting ( P ) _____	Midden ( M ) <u> M </u>
Skeletal material/Burial ( B ) <u> B </u>	Engraving ( E ) _____	Other ( O ) <u> O </u>
Man-made Structure ( S ) _____	Grinding patches/grooves ( G ) _____	Not a site ( N ) _____

"Other Site Description":  Cemetery with grave markers + oral history   
 Reason "not a site": \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE USE ONLY

SITENO R MAPNO IMPGRID METGRID C POS ETH ARC C M R B S F T P E G O A M O H

SITE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ "OTHER": \_\_\_\_\_

CROSS-REFERENCED SITES: \_\_\_\_\_ DASMAP No: \_\_\_\_\_

PTO



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# Appendix 5

## ACMC Determination of Site 1013

## OLD PORT HEDLAND CEMETERY

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS,

APRIL 2011.

#### INTRODUCTION

This work stems from a meeting requested by DIA Port Hedland at which George Pitt and Ryan Crawford of DIA were present. Also participating were RPS Archaeologists Darrell Rigby and Laraine Nelson along with RPS Planner, Dan McKillop.

During the above meeting a request was made by Ryan Crawford, Senior Heritage Officer, DIA to RPS to gather the multiple information sources relevant to the OPHC Site listing and the proposed rehabilitation works (Appendix A). This paper will then guide a decision by DIA as to whether an Aboriginal site exists at all at OPHC, and then depending on that outcome, what level of clearances may be necessary to allow a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey to commence.

The aim of this work by RPS therefore is to clarify any and all confusion relating to the OPHC that may have accrued over the almost 20 years that have passed since the original activities were initiated relating to improving the general condition, both physical and aesthetic, of OPHC.

The level of consultation carried out by RPS to date has been extensive. A full recount of this can be seen in the appendix to this paper (Appendix B).

It is important to state from the outset that the OPHC has no relationship to the Lock Hospital and Lock Burial Ground. The Lock Hospital and Lock Burial Ground are located approximately 500 metres west of the OPHC.

#### BACKGROUND

The first burial at OPHC took place in 1912 with the last burial occurring in 1974. During that period 522 burials took place. Those burials reflects the diversity of the population of Port Hedland during the twentieth century with 387 people of Chinese, Japanese, Afghan and European extraction and 135 Aboriginal burials. Grave markers are present on only 90 of the 522 burials.

The status of the cemetery as an Aboriginal site was triggered in 1994 when an Aboriginal Site Recording Form (ASRF) P07209 was lodged for the OPHC with the site recorded as AHIS#1013. This site has been lodged, but is still awaiting assessment. The site type is described as containing skeletal material; man made structures; and midden/scatter.

#### PREVIOUS OPHC WORKS

In 1994 the Pioneer Cemetery Development Committee was given approval by the then Department of Aboriginal Sites to conduct a range of works at the cemetery that included:

- upgrade of the central pathway with construction of concrete kerbing and placement of compacted pavements; repair and upgrade to existing headstones and graves;
- planting of boundary trees and vegetation;
- upgrade of an external reticulation system; and
- other projected future works included placement of markers and headstones to all unmarked graves; construction of entry statement to cemetery; etc.

Approval for these works was given and it was stated;

*'the.....development proposals outlined.....should not require any special approvals under the Aboriginal Heritage Act, 1972. The only requirement being that a Department of Aboriginal Sites site officer be present during any ground disturbance activities (Appendix C).*

Despite those works, the OPHC is still in a very dilapidated condition and while previous rehabilitation work has occurred it has not resulted in a significant long term improvement. Those proposals and works are documented in:

- MaCallum, D. 1995, *HM3: Management of burial sites: Pioneer Cemetery Port Hedland*, Aboriginal Affairs Department, Port Hedland.
- Curtin University of Technology. 2003, *Interpretation Plan for the OPHC (Pioneers and Pearlers Cemetery)*, Unpublished Report for Town of Port Hedland.

## THE CURRENT PROJECT

The Town of Port Hedland (ToPH) has commissioned RPS to investigate remediation and rehabilitation works at the Old Port Hedland Cemetery (OPHC). RPS Cultural Heritage has been working on the OPHC project since January 2010 and consequently has developed an extensive knowledge of the site including its physical characteristics and its documented history.

The OPHC was from 1912 to 1974 the official cemetery for the town of Port Hedland and the primary place of burial for Port Hedland residents. This investigation stems from requests from the broader Port Hedland community to restore the OPHC to a better state of repair out of respect for all buried there.

The current project scope is dependent on the Phase 1 works which will inform the progress of concept design works; approvals; and on-ground delivery of the upgrade works. Phase 1 includes:

- Consultation with stakeholder groups
- Background analysis
- Site Investigation including non-invasive field survey and use of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR).

RPS, acknowledging the ASRF P07209, contacted the WA Department of Indigenous Affairs to advise that Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) was to be used to establish the location of burials in accordance with the works requested by the ToPH under Phase 1. In subsequent correspondence DIA raised the possibility that a Section 18 Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (WA) or a Regulation 10, under the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 1974 (WA) may be required prior to works commencing.

## CURRENT STATUS OF OPHC

A series of inspections of the cemetery by Darrell Rigby, Archaeology Manager RPS and Laraine Nelson, Senior Archaeologist RPS resulted in the following observations of items recorded on AHIS#1013A.

- **Skeletal material.** It is considered that all skeletal material within the cemetery has been buried in recent time and in accordance with modern burial practices. There is no erosion or soil displacement that has or would inadvertently lead to the exposure of that material. Plate 1 & Plate 2 illustrate the nature of the ground surface of the cemetery. These plates demonstrate that despite seasonal changes in vegetation ground cover provides surface stability.

- **Midden.** The only item of potential Aboriginal material protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (WA) is a midden that while recorded in 1994 is yet to be assessed by DIA. Dispersed scatters of shell were noted in various sections of the cemetery with no areas of significant clusters seen (Plates 3 - 6). It was noted that shell (some modern) and stone had been used as grave ornamentation on some plots (Plates 7 - 10).
- **Man made structures.** All built items are consistent with European cemetery architecture and comprise headstones, formed paths, signage and the entrance gate. There are **no** built items of Indigenous heritage significance (Plates 11 -14).

The Plates 1 -14 were taken during three visits to the OPHC in January 2010; and February 2011 (Darrell Rigby) and March 2010 (Laraine Nelson). The plates provide visual evidence that little identifiable midden material remains at the cemetery and what exists at the site is a twentieth century cemetery and place of internment for the general population of the Town of Port Hedland.

## DISCUSSION

This discussion centres on determining the integrity of the shell midden. With regard the shell deposit two separate archaeological inspections has shown it to be extremely disturbed, highly fragmented and thoroughly dispersed. The shell has no identifiable boundary or characteristic that would unequivocally give rise to it being labelled a midden. It contains nil potential for further research and in the view of RPS is dubious as to whether it constitutes a midden at all.

The correct identification of shell material as being of cultural origin has been the subject of recent academic research in the Port Hedland area and has given rise to a need to more thoroughly assess the criteria for labelling shell deposits as being culturally formed. To ensure a rigorous investigation of the evidence, in addition to site inspections, RPS staff visited the WA DIA office in Perth to obtain documents relevant to coastal archaeology in north-western Australia. In addition a literature review was undertaken of relevant published and unpublished reports (Appendix A).

A review of those documents has provided the basis for the following discussion.

### Midden

**Shell – natural or cultural deposit.** The 1994 site card records ‘some exposed midden material mainly exposed in four areas. The midden was described as disturbed through turning and displacement of the material by the tractor wheels and undoubtedly through internments. Midden Area 1(Plate 3) is also described as being wind scoured.

The contents of the midden are given as predominately *Anadara granosa*, with some *Terebralia palustris* (mudwhelk), and smaller quantities of *Saccostrea* (oyster) chiton (unidentified spp.) and *Hexaplex stainforthii* (murex) numerous quantities of *Melo amphora* (baler) and *Syrinx aruanus* (conch).

One lithic artefact, a *fragment of chalcedony*, was recorded in the midden. It was deemed an artefact because chalcedony is not local to the area. The identification of the chalcedony fragment is problematic given burial practices often include the placing of introduced stones as markers and/or decoration (Plates 9 & 10). The oft repeated problem of the slashing of the grass in the cemetery area also raises the potential of the fragment’s artefactual appearance being a result of machine damage.

It was noted during the 1994 inspection of the cemetery that a number of graves had introduced shells and stones as decoration (Plates 7 - 10).

Two papers delivered at the 2010 Australian Archaeological Association Conference were based on midden research in the Port Hedland area. The research aim was to improve the accurate identification of shell deposits as being of natural or cultural origin. Dr Marjorie Sullivan (Visiting

Fellow, Resource Management in the Asia Pacific Program, Australian National University) and Dr Patrick Faulkner (Lecturer, School of Social Science, University of Queensland) reported on the excavation and analysis of a series of shell deposits at Harriet Point, Wedgefield North and Anderson Point, Port Hedland. Excavation and analysis demonstrated that of 21 sites, that on an initial observation could be called midden, only three were unambiguously of cultural origin. Four were potentially cultural in origin, two were ambiguous and twelve were natural shell deposits. The research has considerable implications for midden recording and research in north-west Australia. Dr Faulkner was contacted for further discussion by RPS on the correct identification of cultural shell deposits. His advice was that without controlled excavation and analysis correct identification is extremely difficult. Dr Sullivan similarly indicated that at this stage further research was required to establish adequate criteria for the correct identification of shell as cultural material.

**Disturbance through internments.** Investigations have shown the area with shell deposits to be highly disturbed and extremely fragmented. A plan produced in 1995 shows areas described as Middens 1 to 4 (Appendix D). Midden Area 1 (Plate 3) and Midden Area 4 (Plate 6) are within the Catholic internment area, an area highly disturbed through the excavation of burial plots. Midden Area 2 (Plate 4) and Midden Area 3 (Plate 5), are recorded outside the extent of officially designated plots. It is also probable that this area has also been disturbed by unrecorded internments, as the Curtin University of Technology (2003:2) report recorded that prior to 1912 the general area was an unofficial burial ground. It is therefore incongruous to RPS that a midden could be declared at surface level covering burial deposits that had been dug below ground surface for at least the preceding 82 years.

**Disturbance through cemetery maintenance procedures.** Each report on the OPHC has commented on the significant damage to the midden, headstones and grave surrounds caused by the use of tractor towed grass slashers [ASRF PO7209; MacCallum (1995:2); Curtin University of Technology (2003:7)]. Damage is described as causing significant displacement and uncovering of midden material. These reports, covering a period of nine years, demonstrate that ongoing procedures have significantly affected the integrity of the shell deposit as well as the condition of the headstones and surrounds.

The state of the shell deposit at OPHC as shown in Plates 3 -6 is in such a poor state that it offers no archaeological evidence that would justify it being labelled a midden. Even if registration as a midden was upheld, the 'midden' is neither intact, nor representative and offers no research potential.

**Local coastal site formation and erosional processes.** Of particular note should be the coastal surface geology in close proximity to the OPHC. The coastal landform at Port Hedland and especially in the OPHC locality is made up of coastal dunes atop a limestone barrier formed during the Quaternary period by various processes that includes fluvial and shoreline accretion, coastal cementation and coastal erosion (Semeniuk, V. 1996:51). This process is clearly evident today just across the road from OPHC (Plates 15-17). Consequently, there is sufficient evidence of erosion, sedimentation, precipitation and cementation influences in the vicinity of OPHC to cast considerable doubt as to the integrity of the cultural midden identification made in 1994.

### **Aboriginal burials**

The unmarked Aboriginal burials recorded on ASRF PO7209, as with the unmarked European and Asian burials were from the twentieth century and in accordance with and consistent with the status of the cemetery as the primary public burial ground for Port Hedland.



## CONCLUSION

It is considered that given:

- OPHC was the official public burial ground for the Town of Port Hedland and is the final resting place of a diverse variety of ethnic groups that include in the majority individuals of Chinese, Japanese, Afghan and European backgrounds in addition to Indigenous people.
- The man made structures are not Indigenous.
- This project came into existence in response to a desire by the broader community, Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike, to repair and maintain the cemetery, a wish supported by the Town of Port Hedland Council.
- The shell within the OPHC does not meet current scientific standards to be classified as an Aboriginal midden.
- Prior works of a more invasive nature at OPHC in 1994 were given permission to proceed without the need for s18 or Reg10 permits by DIA.

The OPHC Site 1013 should be de-registered from the Register of Aboriginal Sites by DIA.

The proposed GPR investigation of the OPHC and subsequent works be allowed to proceed with no caveats or encumbrances in relation to the Aboriginal Heritage Act, 1972 (WA).

**PORT HEDLAND CEMETERY - MARCH 2010 AND FEBRUARY 2011**



**Plate 1:** Looking south west - example of ground surface (February 2011)



**Plate 2:** Looking south west – example of ground surface (March 2010)



**Plate 3:** Looking south west across Midden Area 1 (March 2010)



**Plate 4:** Looking south in the vicinity of the area designated as Midden Area 2 (March 2010)



**Plate 5:** Looking north across Midden Area 3 toward Japanese section. Shell in this area was observed as 1-2 shell per square metre (March 2010)



**Plate 6:** Looking south eastern corner of cemetery and across the area designated as Midden Area 4 (March 2010)



**Plate 7:** Grave marker in the Catholic Section. Note use of *Melo amphora* as decoration, a single *Anadara granosa* is also present (March 2010)



**Plate 8:** Another example of the use of shell as grave decoration (March 2010)



**Plate 9:** Imported pebbles used on grave and pile of pebbles to rear of grave (March 2010)



**Plate 10:** Another instance of imported pebbles used on grave (March 2010)



**Plate 11:** Built structure – Entrance gateway (February 2011)



**Plate 12:** Built structures – pathway (February 2011)



**Plate 13:** Built structures – Headstones in Japanese portion of cemetery (February 2011)



**Plate 14:** Built structures – European headstones and grave surrounds (February 2011)





**Plate 15:** Beach deposit near OPHC showing shells eroded from coastal limestone barrier (February 2011)



**Plate 16:** Large limestone piece of bedrock with shell deposits embedded in surface (February 2011)



**Plate 17:** Detail view showing limestone bedrock with accreted shell deposits in situ with eroded shell detritus immediately below on ground surface (February 2011)

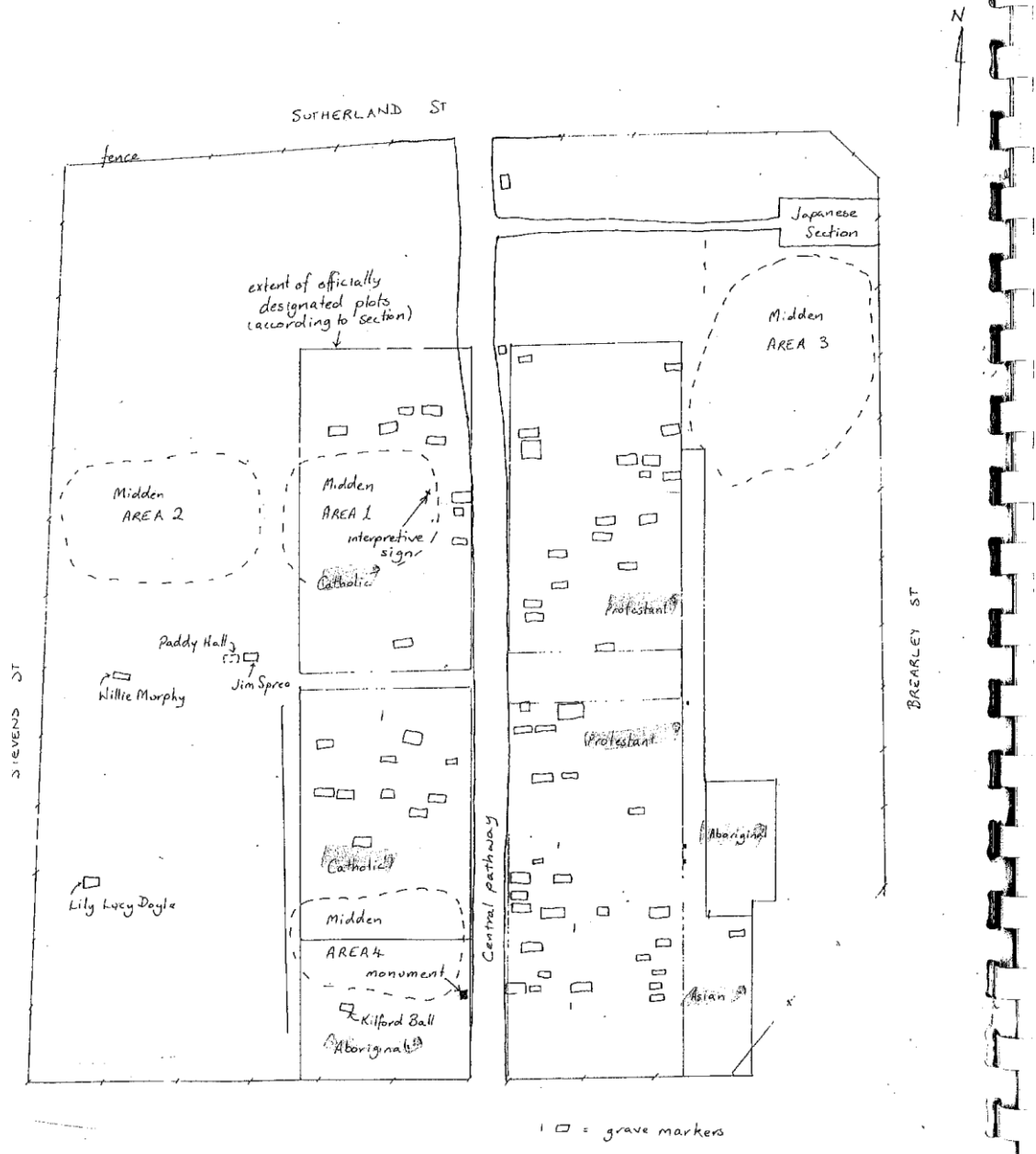


Figure 2: Site Plan

**From:** Camille Kirby [<mailto:Camille.Kirby@dia.wa.gov.au>]

**Sent:** Monday, 11 July 2011 4:29 PM

**To:** Dan McKillop

**Cc:** Ryan Crawford

**Subject:** Pioneer Cemetary

Hi Dan,

Please be advised that Site DIA 1013, Pioneer Cemetery was assessed by the ACMC on the 6 July 2011 meeting and has now been assessed as 'not a site' under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

As I discussed on the phone, this will not be reflected online until after the minutes are endorsed at the following ACMC meeting (3 August 2011). However, for all intensive purposes, DIA 1013 is no longer classified as a site. . If you would like to keep checking the Register, you can do so at <http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/en/Site-Search/Aboriginal-Heritage-Inquiry-System/> however it is not necessary as the determination has been made and I have confirmed this for you in writing.

Regards

Camille

**Camille Kirby**

Executive Officer | Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee



**Government of Western Australia**  
Department of **Indigenous Affairs**

1st Floor, 197 St Georges Terrace Perth WA 6000

Ph: (08) 9235 8059 Fax: (08) 92358088

[Camille.Kirby@dia.wa.gov.au](mailto:Camille.Kirby@dia.wa.gov.au) [www.dia.wa.gov.au](http://www.dia.wa.gov.au)

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# Appendix 6

## Newspaper Advert of OPHC Upgrade

## Old Port Hedland Cemetery Upgrade

The Town of Port Hedland would like to invite you to provide comment / supply information to inform the Old Port Hedland Cemetery Upgrade Project.

### Objectives of the OPHC Upgrade project include:

- Collation of base data to inform future design works;
- Recording of oral histories;
- Facilitate the upgrade of the amenity of the area for Port Hedland residents and visitors of the site; and
- Provide an opportunity to celebrate a significant part of Port Hedland's history

### The project is going to be delivered in two phases:

- Phase 1: Site Investigation and Information Gathering; and
- Phase 2: Concept Design and Implementation (on ground works).

If you have any information with regard to the history of the cemetery or buried relatives (known or unknown), please submit your information to:

**Enquiries to:** Debra Summers, [directorcd@portheadland.wa.gov.au](mailto:directorcd@portheadland.wa.gov.au)

**Closing Date:** Wednesday 13 April 2011 - Close of Business

**Lodgement Details:** Debra Summers, Town of Port Hedland, McGregor Street, PORT HEDLAND WA 6721 or [directorcd@portheadland.wa.gov.au](mailto:directorcd@portheadland.wa.gov.au)

Information gathered will be used to guide the cemetery upgrade and celebration works.

Paul Martin

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

MFE C37713



# URGENT PROOF APPROVAL

Your Co-ordinator is: **Caragh Johnson**

Phone: 9216 2005 Fax: 9216 2018

Email: [cjohnson@mfexpress.com.au](mailto:cjohnson@mfexpress.com.au)

File name: POR007020643x97\_NEW\_M

Setter: Boycie

Version: 2mb

Day Set: 1/3/2011

Publication	Size	Position	Publication Date
North West Telegraph	11x3 (97mm)	Public Notices	9, 16/3/2011

Read by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

marketforce  
exPress

**NOTE:** Marketforce exPress has prepared the above proof for your approval based on your instructions. Accuracy, content, media, position, appearance dates and final approval for media publication of this ad is the client's responsibility. Please check all details carefully.

---

## Appendix 7

### Information Gathered About Some Individuals Interred in the OPHC

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## Information Gathered About Some Individuals Interred in the OPHC

### **Ah Tie (Plot No. 296)-Buddhist?**

Ah Tie was a blacksmith that migrated to Port Hedland in 1889 and stayed in Australia till he died at aged 72. There is an account of his helping restrain a “Native” from killing his boss Bunga McKay (Hardie 1981:39, refer to Plate 15).

### **James Anderson (Plot No 175)-Buried in the Protestant Section**

Anderson was one of the Anderson brothers who were sent up river from De Gray to establish Mulyie in 1879 (A cattle station 40 m up river).

### **Middii Bin Brahim (Plot No. 400)-Muslim**

He was a well known identity in the town. He was a practicing Muslim that was sent to Port Hedland as an indentured pearl worker from Indonesia. What is interesting is that he is buried in the Roman Catholic section of the Cemetery.

### **Elis Brahim (Plot No. 450)-Buried in the Roman Catholic Section**

Elis Brahim was married to Middi Bin Brahim. Elis was an Aboriginal woman of the Fitzroy Crossing Banuba Tribe and one of the first Aboriginal people allowed to live in town (ToPH Inventory 2007).

### **Robert Ellery (Plot No. 172)-Buried in the Protestant Section**

Robert Ellery was involved in maintaining railway lines during the 1930's. In his youth, he was one of Len Taplin's drivers (c1923-1930). Len Taplin pioneered the use of trucks in the region. Taplin was also one of the first pilots employed by the Western Australian Airlines which came into commercial operation in 1921.

### **O'Donel Dodwell Browne (Plot No. 7)-Buried in the Protestant Section**

O'Donel Browne was a distinct medical officer, Magistrate and Clerk of Courts. He observed the town for many years and was regarded as a good medical officer. He often referred patients requiring surgery to Carnarvon due to shortage of facilities. Browne was married to Lily Browne (Plate 2).

### **Frank Murray Thompson (Plot 88)-Buried in the Protestant Section**

Frank Thompson was the son of Frank FF Thompson. Frank (senior) came to the Pilbara in the early 1890's with his son (Plot 88) and wife Cecilia.

### **Keith McKay (Plot 85)-Buried in the Protestant Section**

Samuel McKay belonged to the McKay family and at the turn of the century his family brought stone masons from Skye to build attractive local bluestone homesteads. Samuel also inherited part ownership of the Mundabullangana Station from his uncle Rod McKay until Bunga McKay died in 1903 and full ownership was sold to Samuel. Samuel died in 1923 and left his property to Keith McKay (Plot 85) as manager. Keith died during a plane crash and is now interred in the OPHC.



### **Lawrence William Clarke (Plot 432)-Protestant Section**

Lawrence was affectionately called the "Senator". He was an out spoken leader of the Part Aboriginal Community. In 1934, he led the way in the establishment of the Euralian Society. During his life, Lawrence worked as a cook, shoemaker, butcher, the wharf and goods shed.

### **Adam McDonald Gunning (Plot 112)-Buried in the Protestant Section**

Little is known about Adam Gunning, but there was a story that sheds light about the nature of this individual. Adam Gunning attended the Poondino Races (date unknown) and got so drunk that he was carried off in his swag onto the verandah-snoring heavily. His friends decided to play tricks on him and strapped an old buggy shaft to his side binding it to his knees, thigh, waist and arms. He woke up thinking he must have broken his arms (Hardie 1981).

### **Ali Sudin Bin (Plot 246)-Buried in the Protestant Section**

Ali Sudin Bin was Roma Wood's grandfather on her mother's side. Ali died of an asthma attack and was buried in an unmarked grave because Roma Wood's mother could not afford a headstone (Wood 1995).

Ali Sudin Bin: (Date of Birth)-1862  
Place of Arrival: Surabaya, Dutch Java  
Occupation: Cook at the Malay Camp in Broome  
Religion: Muslim  
Date of Death: 24 May 1952.

### **Charley Souey (Lui Chin Shui)-Burial Plot is unknown**

Charley Souey was Roma Wood's father. He was from Canton, China in 1895. Charley worked as a cook, and later in life as a merchant. Charley died in 1940.

### **Thomas Archibald Gilmore (Plot 133)- Buried in the Protestant Section**

Little is known about Thomas Gilmore except that he worked at the Warrawagine Station as a saddler.

### **Joseph Dane Moore (Plot 124)-Buried in the Protestant Section**

Joseph Moore was a Chairman of the Race Club from 1915 till death. He owned a lot of good horses many of which were bred on the De Gray Station (Hedland Voices 1997: 54).

### **Theodosia Paspalis (Plot 226)**

Theodosia arrived by ship (Minderoo) at Cossack on the 30th September 1918 with his wife Chrisifina Paspalis and their five children. They travelled by truck to Port Hedland and Theodosia died in 1921 from a tapeworm. The Paspalis family owned a drapery store in Port Hedland. One of Theodosia and Christina's children, Mary moved to Broome and started Paspaley Pearls eventually owning five pearl luggers. One of Mary and Theodosia's children Florence resides in Perth currently but can recall loading luggers with provisions for workers. Florence's father is buried in the cemetery at Marble Bar.

---

## Appendix 8

### Family History Information Donated by Oral History Participants



## **Minnie Hall**

**Passed Away:** 10<sup>th</sup> of April 1968 in Port Hedland

**Wife To:** William Hall

Minnie lived in the 3 mile reserved in Port Hedland with her husband William Hall. Minnie was a friend of the Brockman Family.



## ***John Ball***

**Born:** Muccan Station via Marble Bar  
in the year 1903

**Passed away:** 19<sup>th</sup> of June 1960 in Port  
Hedland                      **Age: 57** years

**Husband to:** Kathleen Ball (Nee Lockyer)

**Father to:** Timothy Cam Ball  
John Edward Ball

**Brother to:** Wambie  
Murphy  
Kitty  
Mabel

x *MARRIED ANNIE + WILLIAM LOCKYER'S DAUGHTER. (KATHLEEN).*

John Ball was a descendant of the Nyamal people



John Ball's son John Edward Ball  
School photo



John Ball With Son Timothy Cam Ball  
Photo taken at Hillside Station

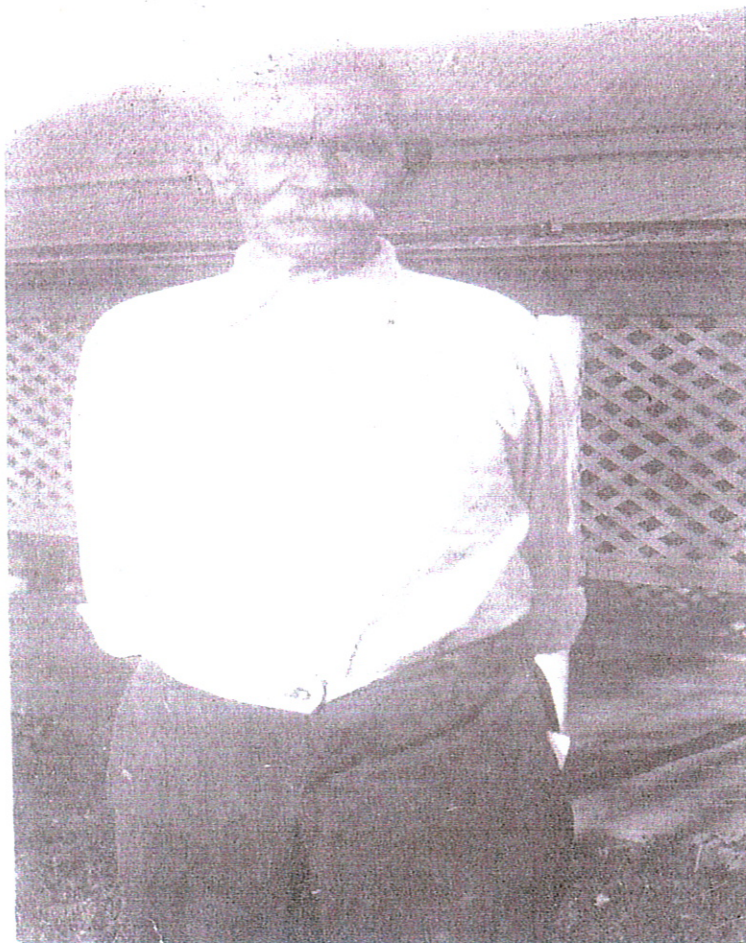


**Aubrey Lockyer**

**Passed Away:** 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1960 in Port Hedland

**Son To:** William Joseph  
&  
Annie Lockyer

**Brother To:** Samuel  
Susie  
Alec  
Alfred  
Maude  
May  
Kathleen  
George  
Elsie



**William Joseph Lockyer**

**Born:** Cooyapooya Station Roebourne in 1872

**Passed Away:** 20<sup>th</sup> of April, 1960 in Port Hedland **Age: 92** years

**Husband To:** Annie Lockyer (nee Wright)

**Father To:** Samuel  
Susie  
Alec  
Aubrey  
Alfred  
Maude  
May  
Kathleen  
George  
Elsie





**Annie Lockyer (Nee Wright)**

**Born:** Cooyapooya Station Roebourne

**Passed Away:** 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 1956 in Port Hedland

**Wife To:** William Joseph Lockyer

**Mother To:** Samuel

Susie

Alec

Aubrey

Alfred

Maude

May

Kathleen

George

Elsie



**Albert Brockman**

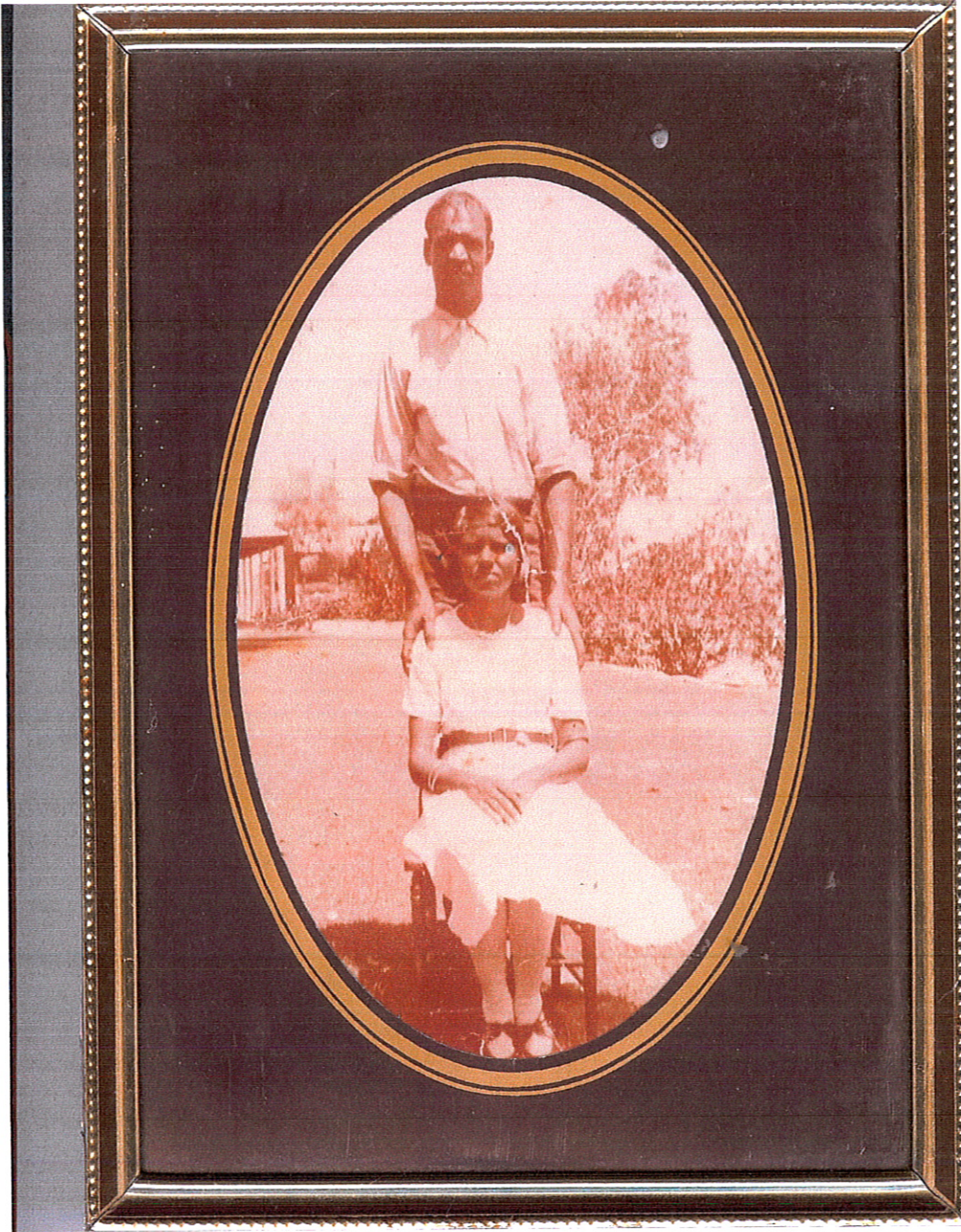
**Born:** Corunna Down's Station  
Marble Bar - in 1908

**Passed Away:** 20<sup>th</sup> of January 1958 in Port Hedland

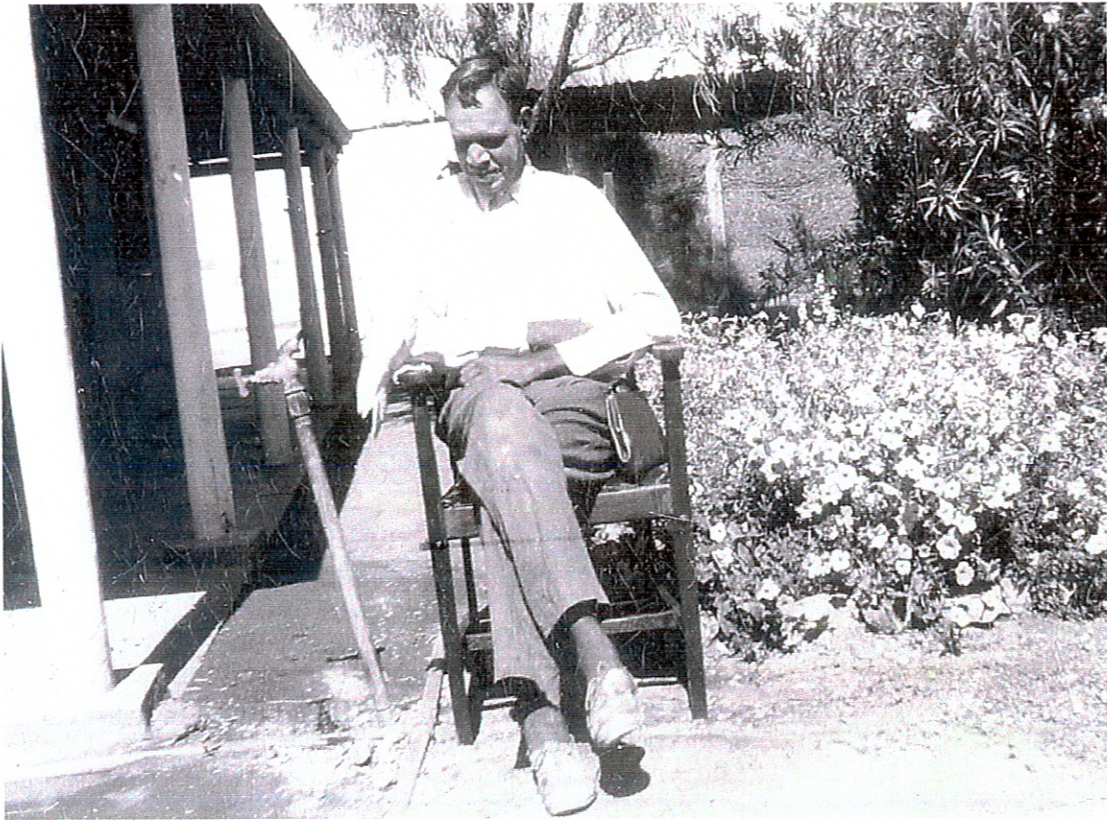
**Age:** 50 years

**Husband To:** Elsie Brockman (nee Lockyer)

**Father To:** William  
Margaret Ann  
Albert Brian  
Claude Timothy



Albert and wife Elsie taken at Hillside Station



Albert with his white cockatoo taken at Hillside Station



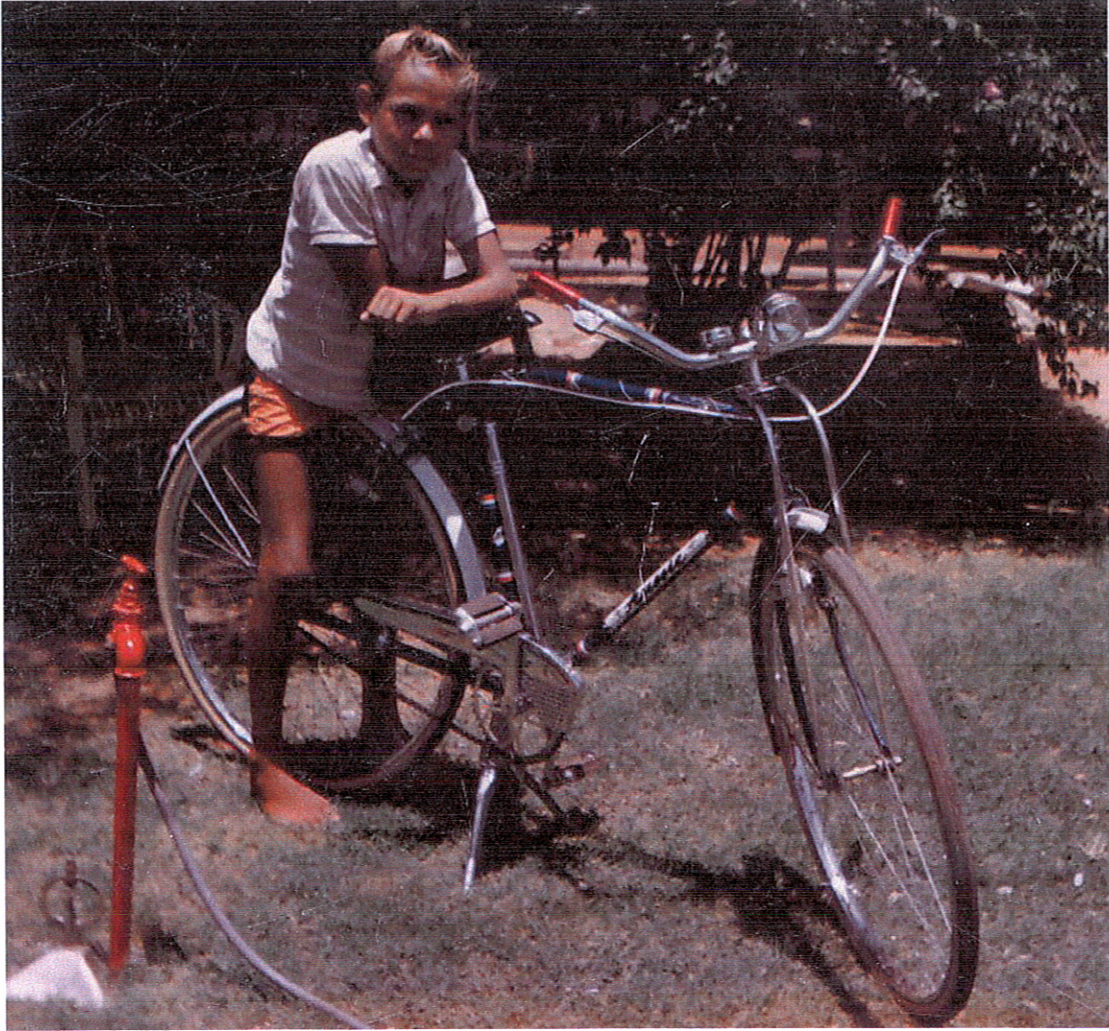
Albert and his truck



The house Albert built in 1955



Albert's Children- William, Margaret & Albert Brian



Claude

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# Appendix 9

## Alpha GeoScience: GPR results

**Geophysical Services for the Environmental,  
Exploration, Engineering and Ordnance Industries**



**FINAL REPORT**

**GRAVE LOCATION GPR SURVEY  
OLD PORT HEDLAND CEMETERY  
PORT HEDLAND , WA  
RPS Australia/SE Asia**

**SEPTEMBER 2011**

**CLIENT P/O: 2121/00186**

**[www.alpha-geo.com](http://www.alpha-geo.com)**



**FINAL REPORT****GRAVE LOCATION GPR SURVEY  
OLD PORT HEDLAND CEMETERY  
PORT HEDLAND , WA  
RPS Australia/SE Asia****SEPTEMBER 2011****FOR:****Darrell Rigby  
RPS Australia/SE Asia**Ground Floor  
241 Denison Street  
Broadmeadow NSW 2292T | 02 4940 4200  
F | 02 4961 6794  
E | darrell.rigby@rpsgroup.com.au**BY:****ALPHA GEOSCIENCE Pty. Limited  
ABN: 14 080 819 209**Unit 1, 43 Stanley Street  
Peakhurst. NSW. 2210. AustraliaT | +61 (0) 2 9584 7555  
F | +61 (0) 2 9584 7599  
E | info@alpha-geo.com**REVISION HISTORY**

Alpha Reference: AG-10-17

Revision	Date	Comments	Signatures		
			Originated by:	Checked by:	Authorised by:
1	12 Sep 2011	Draft Report	GB	JS	JS
2	19 Sep 2011	Final Report	GB	JS	JS
3	19 Sep 2011	Final Report v2	GB	--	JS

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

Alpha Geoscience Pty. Ltd. (Alpha) was contracted by RPS to undertake a geophysical survey to locate unmarked burials at Old Port Hedland Cemetery in Port Hedland, WA. The aim of the project was to survey the site using a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) system and analyse the resulting data to locate all possible unmarked burials at the site.

## **2 AUTHORITY**

An authority to proceed with the project was provided by way of a purchase order (No. 2121/00186) on 16/03/2011.

## **3 SURVEY RATIONALE**

The survey method used was GPR, utilising a MALA CUII controller with a MALA XVII monitor and a RAMAC 500MHz mid-frequency antenna.

The GPR technique is ideal for locating human burials as it can detect non-metallic objects and responds well to changes in density or structure in the subsurface. When used for detecting human burials the GPR generally reveals the ground disturbance above the body where the ground was dug up and subsequently backfilled. In the case of a body placed inside a coffin, the GPR generally picks up the coffin very effectively.

The primary disadvantage that GPR suffers is that it does not function effectively over clay and other high conductivity environments. However, this was not a concern on this project as the geology of the area where Pioneer Cemetery is located consists of dune sand over a limestone base.

A Trimble AG-114 DGPS system with Omnistar VBS corrections was used to acquire positioning information.

## **4 SURVEY PARAMETERS**

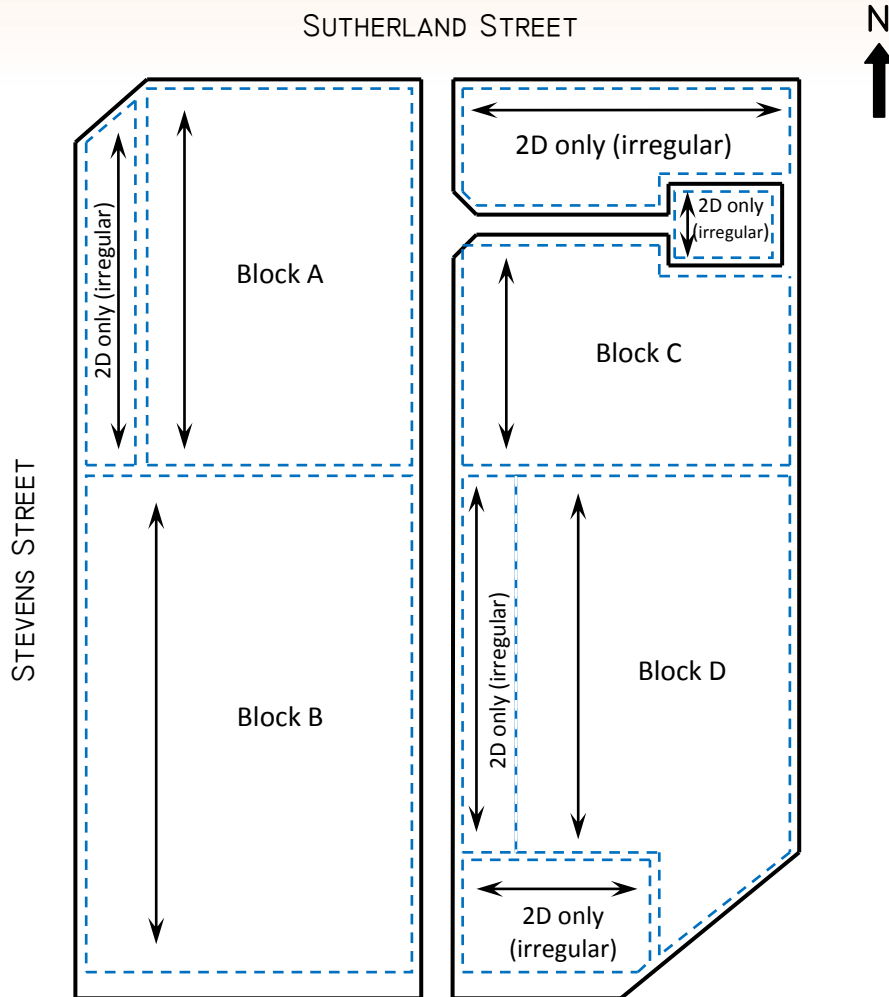
Upon arrival at the site, some brief testing was carried out to determine the most appropriate antenna to use. The results indicated that the 500MHz antenna exhibited the best compromise between signal strength down to 2.0m depth and resolution of reflected signal.

It was decided that the methodology outlined in the proposal would be modified in the interests of completing the survey on time and preventing the subsequent processing time from becoming excessive. A decision was made to not conduct the survey in perpendicular lines of 1.0m separation, but instead, conduct the survey only along N-S parallel lines, but at a tighter line spacing. The line spacing varied between 0.5m and 1.0m and was adjusted in realtime depending on the frequency of graves being spotted

as data was being collected. In addition to faster data collection, the modified methodology allowed the construction of a 3D data block for visualisation of the data, which allowed faster and more accurate interpretation.

All of the marked graves on site were oriented E-W along their long axis and therefore the survey profiles were walked in a N-S direction. This allows as many GPR profiles as possible to cross each grave which substantially increases the chances of successfully detecting a grave.

The site was split up into 4 main blocks for the collection phase (figure 1). These blocks (A to D) were converted into 3D for interpretation by timeslice analysis. In addition, there were a further 4 smaller, irregular areas which were unfeasible to convert into 3D blocks. These areas were interpreted using the originally recorded 2D profiles. Two of these irregular areas were collected in an E-W direction. This was due to the shape of the areas and the distribution of marked graves within them, which made it more efficient to survey in an E-W direction.



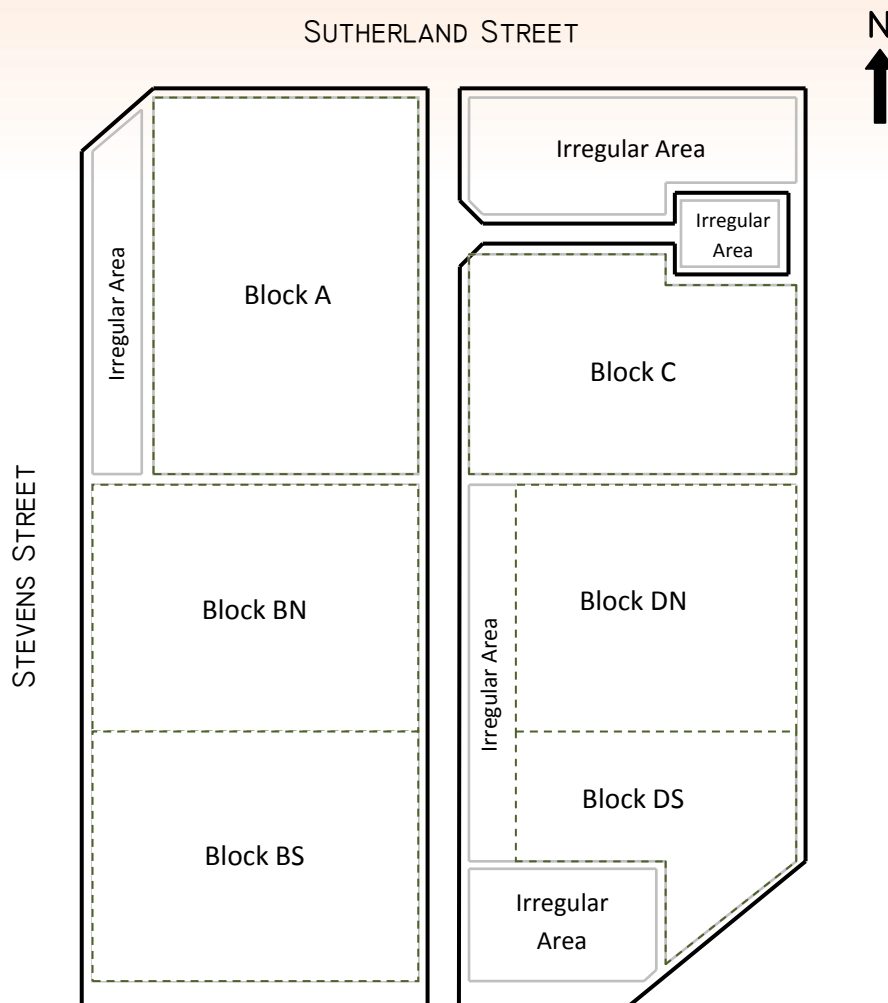
*Figure 1. Schematic of survey layout showing sections that were processed as 3D blocks and smaller, irregular areas which were left as 2D profiles for processing. Not to scale.*

## 5 DATA PROCESSING

Data recorded by the GPR system was constantly observed as it was being collected to ensure consistent data quality. The day's data was downloaded to a laptop each evening and each file was converted to Reflex format, checked for quality and checked against the field notes for correct length and to confirm the presence of any obstacles and features encountered in the field.

The following steps were followed during the data processing stage:

- Data files were downloaded to a laptop computer and converted to Reflex format.
- Information recorded in field notes regarding measurements and layout of the site was used to construct a schematic of the survey area in AutoCAD 2009.
- All the file location information from the field notes was used to construct a spreadsheet in which every file is listed, along with its length, start position, parent block, position within the parent block and any other files contained on the same line due to obstacles.
- Due to the large number of marked graves on the site, many of the GPR profiles could not be recorded as a single file and had to be stopped when coming up to a grave and continued as a new file once over the other side of the grave. These multiple file profiles required careful repositioning of each file and stitching together to form a complete profile that correctly fits in its place within the 3D block.
- Carry out processing on the data in ReflexW 6.0.5 to allow maximum clarity of objects in data:
  - X-flip every 2<sup>nd</sup> profile so that all profiles are oriented in the same direction;
  - Correction for zero/surface level for each file;
  - Background removal to remove background artefacts common in GPR;
  - Application of custom gain curve to equalise energy distribution to enhance reflected signals;
  - Deconvolution 1D filter to smooth background and enhance reflected signals;
  - Diffraction stack migration to better define reflections in the data.
- The processed profiles were imported in sequence into ReflexW's 3D data interpretation module. The module then used the data from the profiles to construct a 3-dimensional block of each area.
- Time slices were extracted from the 3D blocks at 50mm intervals between depths of 400mm and 1100mm.
- These timeslices were imported into AutoCAD as separate layers and interpretations were marked directly in the AutoCAD drawing as either *high probability* targets or *uncertain* targets.
- The positions of the remaining profiles from the irregular areas were marked in the CAD drawing by analysing the 2D profiles and marking any possible burial on the correct line and in the correct position.

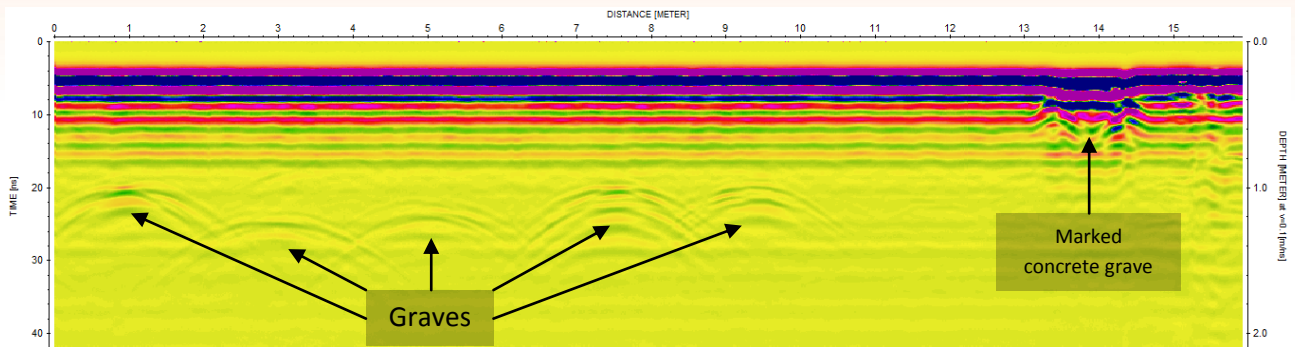


*Figure 2. Schematic of survey area showing how blocks were split for 3D processing. Not to scale.*

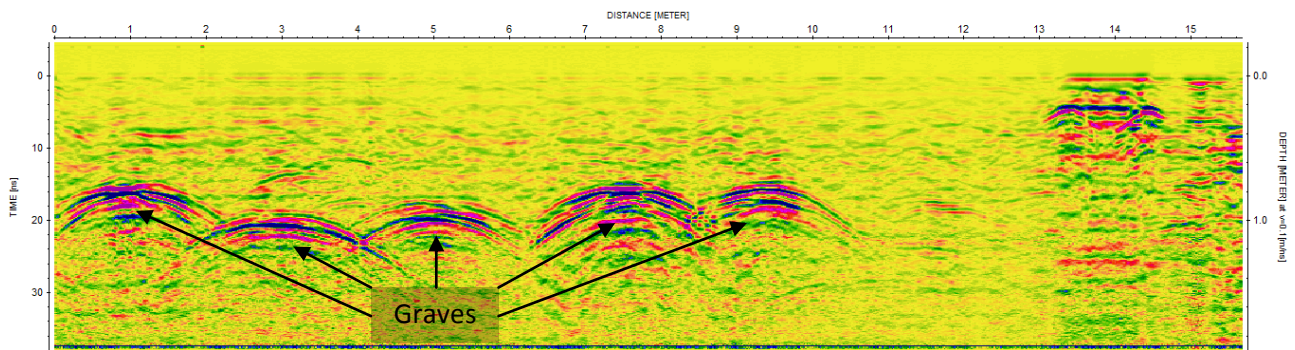
## 6 SURVEY RESULTS

The data acquired at Pioneer Cemetery was of a very high quality due to the homogenous, dry and sandy subsurface. Most graves were identifiable in realtime on the instrument display while data was being collected.

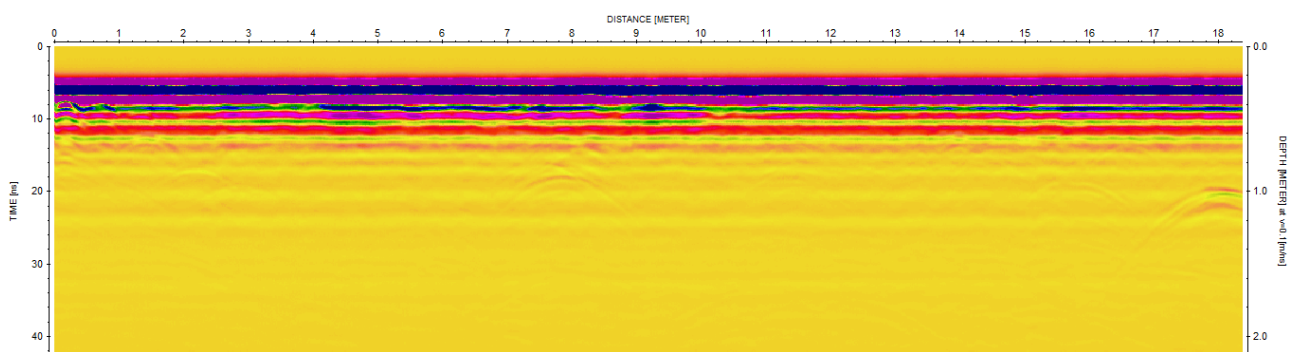
Below are examples of the raw data after conversion to Reflex format and also fully processed versions of the same data.



**Figure 3a. Screenshot of a raw (unprocessed) GPR profile taken from part of a file in block D. A number of graves are faintly visible in the profile.**

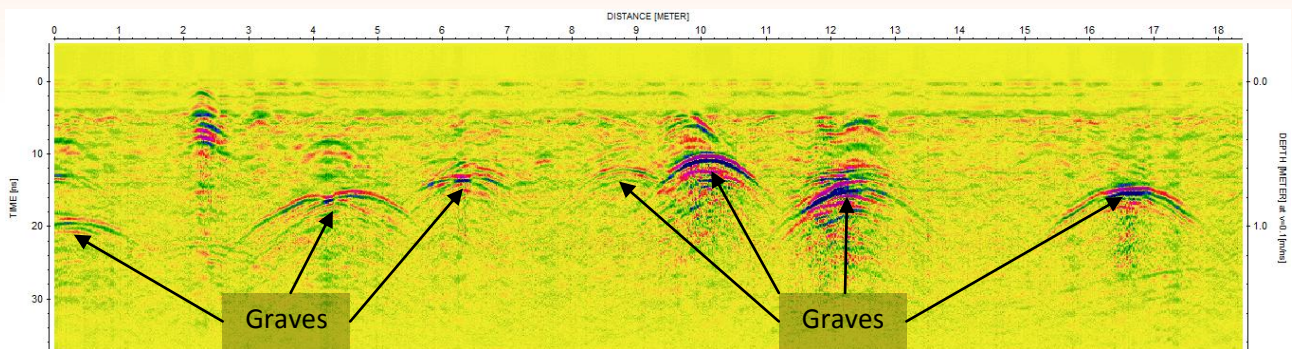


**Figure 3b. Screenshot of a fully processed GPR profile taken from part of a file in block D. The processing applied has made the 5 graves in this profile clearly visible.**



**Figure 4a. Screenshot of a raw (unprocessed) GPR profile taken from part of a file in block C. A number of graves in the profile are not visible at all.**





**Figure 4b. Screenshot of a fully processed GPR profile taken from part of a file in block C. The processing applied has very clearly revealed a number of graves.**

### 6.1 BLOCK A (NW)

Block A is approximately 48m x 50m and contains a small number of marked graves, all of which are close to the eastern edge adjacent to the path. All possible burials revealed by the survey are concentrated within the eastern half of the block, with one being placed approximately halfway across the block.

The interpretation results show 10 likely burials and 20 possible burials (excluding marked graves) within block A.

### 6.2 BLOCK B (SW)

Block B is larger than block A, measuring approximately 57m x 70m and contains a slightly greater density of marked graves. The marked graves are all concentrated towards the eastern edge of the block. The survey results show that the majority of possible burials are concentrated within the eastern most 20m of the block with a small number scattered throughout the remainder of the area.

The interpretation results reveal 23 likely burials and 42 possible burials within block B

### 6.3 BLOCK C (NE)

Block C is approximately 50m x 34m and contains a high concentration of marked graves mainly in the SW region of the block but extending out beyond halfway towards the east and north. The survey also revealed a large number of burials with a similar distribution to the marked graves.

The interpretation results reveal 32 likely burials and 32 possible burials within block C

#### **6.4 BLOCK D (SE)**

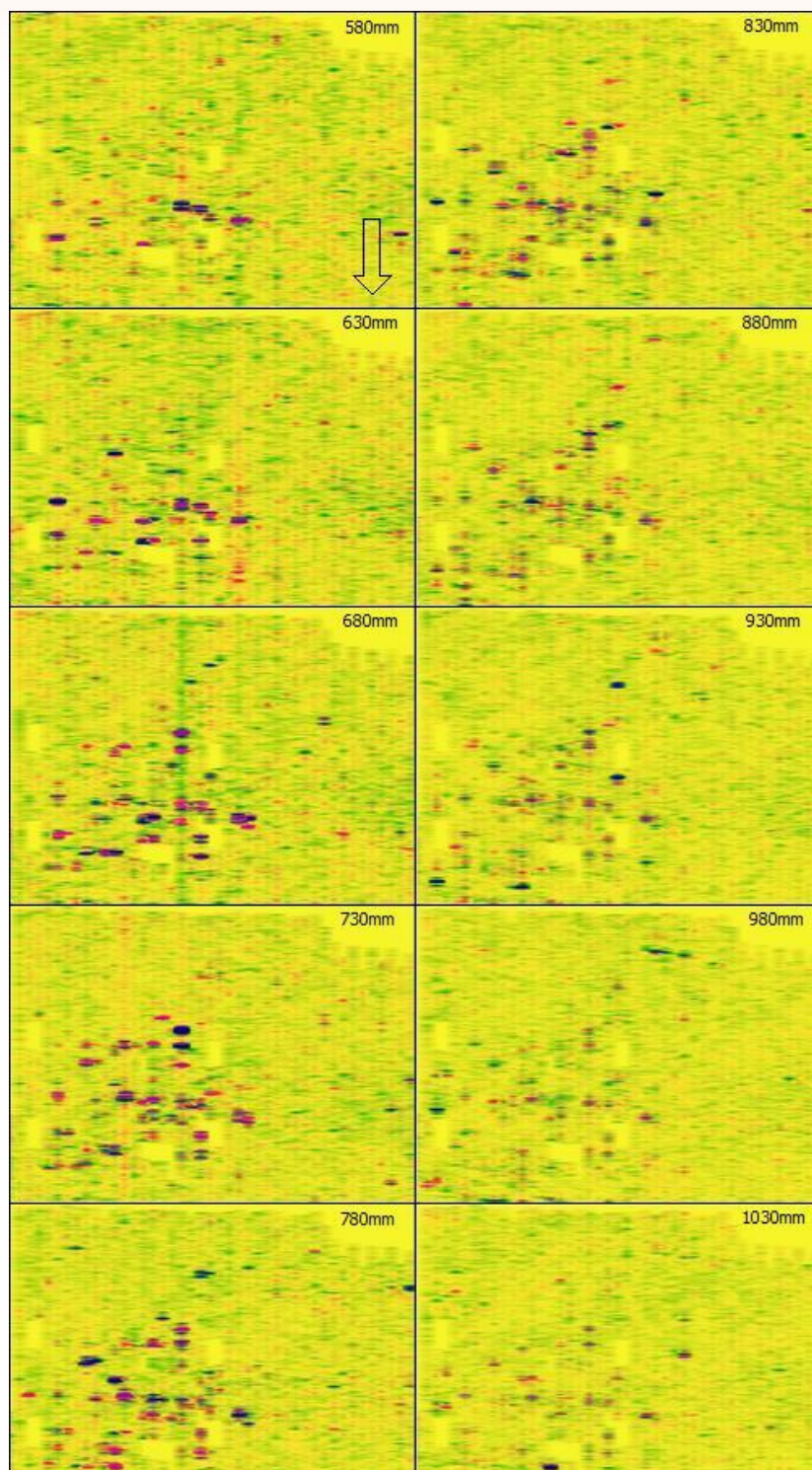
Block D is approximately 42m x 52m and contains a large number of marked graves with a concentration that is slightly less than Block C. The marked graves are concentrated mostly within the western half of the block. The survey indicates that the burials are concentrated mainly in the NW and SW portions of the block with a smaller number of burials scattered throughout the remainder of the area.

The interpretation results reveal 51 likely burials and 70 possible burials within Block D.

#### **6.5 IRREGULAR AREAS**

There were a number of areas which could not be included as part of any of the 3D blocks due to their irregular dimensions, orientation or large numbers of obstacles (eg. marked graves). These areas were surveyed in the same way as the rest of the site except all interpretation work was conducted by examining the 2D profiles as opposed to time slices from the 3D blocks.

There is a 9m wide strip between the western edge of block A and the western boundary fence which appears to contain no burials. The small Asian cemetery near the NE corner of the greater site also appears to contain no burials despite it containing a number of headstones. The remaining irregular areas exhibit 21 likely burials and 12 possible burials.



**Figure 5. Example of time-slices extracted from 3D blocks. This example is from Block C.**

## **7 CONCLUSIONS**

The survey located a significant number of possible unmarked burials at Old Port Hedland Cemetery. The unmarked burials appear to have a similar distribution to the marked graves at the site.

All interpreted burials have been marked on a CAD drawing of the site supplied by RPS and all positioning information regarding the burials can be extracted from the modified CAD drawing (DWG file) that comes with this report.

Any further information such as GPR profiles and time-slices are available upon request.

## **8 LIMITATIONS OF REPORT**

This report has been prepared for the use of RPS Australia/SE Asia in accordance with general accepted consulting practice. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this report. This report has not been prepared for the use by parties other than the client, the owner and their respective consulting advisors. It may not contain sufficient information for purposes of other parties or for other uses.

This report was prepared on completion of the field work and is based on conditions encountered and reviewed at the time of preparation. Alpha Geoscience disclaims responsibility for any changes that might have occurred after this time.

This report should be read in full. No responsibility is accepted for use of any part of this report in any other context or for any other purpose or by third parties. This report does not purport to give legal advice. Legal advice can only be given by qualified legal practitioners.

Whilst to the best of our knowledge, information contained in this report is accurate at the date of issue, conditions on the site (including the depositing and removal of contamination) can change in a limited time. This should be borne in mind if the report is used after a protracted delay.

## 9 APPENDICES

### 9.1 Appendix 1 – Alpha Geoscience – Curriculum Vitae

Alpha Geoscience was established in 1997 to offer high sensitivity geophysical tools and expertise as an alternative to intrusive investigations in the following areas:

- **Environmental Services** Including the mapping of buried structures, site assessments and the detection of chemical pollutants.
- **Ordnance Services** The location of buried unexploded ordnance (UXO), site assessments and sample surveys to determine extent of pollution.
- **Engineering Services** Assisting civil mining and construction engineers with sub surface investigations, especially where intrusive investigation is difficult and costly to undertake.
- **Forensic Geophysics** The location of buried gravesites and other buried objects for the police and other crime agencies.
- **Mining and Exploration** Assist mining and exploration companies with near surface investigations.
- **Training** Provides training courses in high-resolution magnetics, electro-magnetics, seismic refraction and ground-penetrating radar for clients who wish to undertake surveys themselves.
- **Project Management** Is an intricate part of all projects and Alpha Geoscience has expertise and experience in setting up, running and reporting on both major and minor projects worldwide.
- **Research and Development** Alpha Geoscience has been involved in running a number of research and development projects including the development of a multi-sensor geophysical instrumentation package for the horizon control of a coal-mining machine.

The types of techniques offered by Alpha Geoscience include high sensitivity magnetics, ground penetrating radar, time or frequency domain electro-magnetics, resistivity mapping and seismic refraction and reflection techniques. These services combined with the digital processing of the data to produce colour images of the site and the interpretation of the data, gives high-resolution detail of the sub surface on the site. This data can be imported into Geographical Information Systems (GIS) for future reference and auditable documentation.

Alpha Geoscience also offers the services of processing and interpretation of data in Sydney with the data being downloaded from the field via the Internet.

Alpha Geoscience is based in Sydney Australia and is capable of mobilising to any part of the world with very short notice. We have experience in operations throughout Australia, North America, Europe and South East Asia.

Alpha Geoscience is offering its services and consultation so that the client obtains the best technology for the particular target being investigated. Whether it is an ordnance item or environmental pollution plumes, it has the technical expertise to provide the right solution.