Mona Vale General Cemetery (formerly Turimetta General Cemetery)

Item details

Name of item:	Mona Vale General Cemetery (formerly Turimetta General Cemetery)
Other name/s:	Turimetta Cemetery
Type of item:	Archaeological-Terrestrial
Group/Collection:	Cemeteries and Burial Sites
Category:	Cemetery/Graveyard/Burial Ground
Primary address:	107 Mona Vale Road, Mona Vale, NSW 2103
Parish:	Narrabeen
County:	Cumberland
Local govt. area:	Pittwater

Boundary:

Lot 2 DP 1124862

All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
107 Mona Vale Road	Mona Vale	Pittwater	Narrabeen	Cumberland	Primary Address

Statement of significance:

This cemetery is important for the historical evidence recorded on gravestones concerning the residents of Mona Vale and its surrounding area. It is also significant as an example of twentieth century burial practices for a number of different religious and cultural groups.

The gateposts are locally significant for their association with the original entrance to the first general cemetery in the area and because they were built by James Booth, a local stonemason who was also associated with the construction of a number of other important local structures.

Date significance updated: 04 Feb 16

Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Division intends to develop

or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.

Description

Designer/Maker: Unknown

Builder/Maker: Gateposts- James Booth

Construction years: 1905-

Physical description: Mona Vale Cemetery is a 10 acre (4.047 hectares) monumental cemetery with close to 5,600 graves, 275 garden niches and 1199 wall niches, which cater for the interment of cremation ashes. The cemetery caters for a number of religious denominations as well as a non-sectarian area for those with no religious affiliation. The first entrance roadway ran south to north along the centre of the cemetery between the two rows of cypress pine trees. This area is now being used as an extension to the Church of England section. At the end of this avenue on Mona Vale Road are the stone gateposts erected by James Booth for 12 pounds in 1929. The cemetery is bordered by a wide buffer zone of trees on the eastern boundary and to the north is the Warriewood Electricity substation. Power cables run underground through the cemetery from the substation to Mona Vale Road. A row of trees appears to have been lost along the western boundary when the driveway was extended there. In 2003 work started to create a road around the cemetery perimeter which resulted in the loss of a number of trees. The area taken by the current access road will be used for burials.(Pauling.14-17)

Physical condition   The 1929 posts are in a reasonably good condition.

**and/or
Archaeological
potential:**

Date condition updated: 21 Aug 12

**Modifications and
dates:**

The original avenue entrance roadway is now being used for burial sites.

Further information:

A Conservation Management Plan should be prepared and incorporated with the Plan of Management.

Current use:

Cemetery

Former use:

Cemetery

History

Historical notes:

The ten acres (4.047 ha) of land for the cemetery was dedicated on the 18th October 1905. It was part of an 80 acre grant to Thomas Collins in 1859 and was divided into sections for Church of England, Methodist, Congregational, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Unsectarian and Jewish burials with a section unallocated. Over the years some sections have been reallocated to provide for the burial of Uniting Church, Baptist, Baha'i and Latter Day Saints

believers. There is now no Jewish section.

The earliest marked grave is dated 1914. The cemetery was initially the responsibility of the Lands Department, with the cemetery being administered by trustees representing various churches. However, by 1926 it was neglected and local people were urging Warringah Shire to take over its management. After the trustees had been consulted, Council took management from 31 May 1929 and the cemetery was surveyed and sectors allocated for each denomination. (Virginia Macleod, 2003)

The Church of England trustees appointed in 1906 were John Blackwood, Cornwallis Wade Browne, Samuel Stringer, Stuart Greig and William Boulton. The earliest burials were in the Church of England and Methodist sections. The oldest surviving headstone in the cemetery is for Percy Johnson who died in 1914 aged 2 years.

In 1992 the cemetery became part of Pittwater Municipality and Pittwater Council is now the cemetery trustee. Prior to Warringah Council becoming the trustee in 1929, people applied to the police station for permission to bury their dead, and then organized it themselves. This probably explains the haphazard arrangement and absence of grave numbers on some early graves. Land at the corner of the cemetery at Walana Crescent and along Mona Vale Road was resumed by the Department of Main Roads in 1982. The columbarium (niche wall) was started in 1974 and named 'S.O. Reynolds Memorial Wall' in memory of Sydney Owen Reynolds who was a Warringah Councillor from 1956 to 1959. His request for interment in the area led to the proposal for the wall to be erected. He died in 1972 but there is no record of his interment in a niche or grave at the cemetery.(Pauling 14-17).

Gateposts:

The gateposts were constructed by local stonemason James Booth (c1863-1941).

On 11 May 1929 he wrote offering to build the posts and 12 pounds was allocated by Warringah Council subject to Council assuming control of the cemetery. (Warringah Shire Minutes 27/5/1929 Letter 40.)

James Booth lived and worked in Pittwater from c 1890. He also ran the store at Church Point, was a boat builder, writer and lecturer (McDonald 1979). He lived in Pittwater for 51 years and died 20 June 1941 (McDonald 1979). Booth has a memorial on the family grave in this cemetery although he was buried at Wilton NSW. Other works

include Dungarvon, Mona Vale (c1904); Red House, Rocky Point; St John Church, Mona Vale (c1906-07); Pittwater (dance) Hall (c1912 – now demolished); and the War Memorial in Mona Vale.

James Booth was also known for having cut the first track leading from McCarrs Creek to Coal and Candle Creek and as a member of the local Historical Society (McDonald 1979).

Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Religion-Activities associated with particular systems of faith and worship	(none)-
9. Phases of Life-Marking the phases of life	Birth and Death-Activities associated with the initial stages of human life and the bearing of children, and with the final stages of human life and disposal of the dead.	(none)-

Assessment of significance

SHR Criteria a)
[Historical significance]

This cemetery is important for the historical evidence concerning the residents of Mona Vale and its surrounding area recorded on gravestones. It is significant as an example of twentieth century burial practices for a number of

different religious and cultural groups.

The gateposts have local historic significance as the entrance to the first cemetery to be gazetted in this area (1905). Stone was quarried locally at Foley's Hill.

SHR Criteria b) [Associative significance]	The cemetery has been and remains the primary burial ground for the Pittwater area and is therefore associated with many early settlers and residents of the area. James Booth has strong local connection having built a number of items locally using stone. He and his family were also local residents for many years. The cemetery contains a memorial for James Booth.
SHR Criteria c) [Aesthetic significance]	Aesthetically, the cemetery has the appeal of a traditional graveyard complemented by symbolic landscape and tree plantings.
SHR Criteria d) [Social significance]	This cemetery is still used and revered by the local community and is therefore important to the Pittwater community's sense of place. The cemetery is important for its associations with a large number of former Pittwater residents. The gateposts were built by a local resident who was closely involved in the community and was a member of the local historical society. They were associated with the cemetery as part of its older fabric, and evidence its age, supporting community esteem.
SHR Criteria e) [Research potential]	As the primary burial ground in Pittwater for over 100 years the cemetery provides evidence of Pittwater's past inhabitants and evidence related to burial cultures that is unavailable elsewhere in the local area. The cemetery is also an important source of information on family and local history.
SHR Criteria g) [Representativeness]	The cemetery is representative of burial practices and memorial types from the early 1900s through to the present day.

Integrity/Intactness:	Most of the cemetery monuments are in reasonable condition. The original context of the cemetery is maintained through its continued use.The gateposts retain aspects of significance even though not currently in use. The posts are in good condition and have only been repainted.
Assessment criteria:	Items are assessed against the [PDF] **State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria** to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

Recommended management:

The cemetary should be retained and conserved. A Heritage Impact Statement should be prepared for the cemetary prior to any major works being undertaken. Photographic Archival Recording should be undertaken before major changes in accordance with the NSW Heritage Office guidelines for Photographic Recording of Heritage Items using Film or Digital Capture (2006). The site should be managed within scope of Conservation Management Plan for cemetery. The Mona Vale General Cemetery Plan of Management, prepared by Pittwater Council, should also be followed.

Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page

Local Environmental Plan			04 Feb 94		
Local Environmental Plan	Pittwater LEP 2014	2270088	27 Jun 14		

Study details

Title	Year	Number	Author	Inspected by	Guidelines used
Pittwater Community Based Heritage Study Review	2015		City Plan Heritage		Yes

References, internet links & images

Type	Author	Year	Title	Internet Links
Written	Bob Pauling	2004	"History of Turimetta Cemetery, Mona Vale" in Mona Vale Cemetery	

Written	HLA Envirosciences	2005	Heritage impact Statement - Mona Vale Cemetery Sector 20	
Written	Nan Bosler	1990	Turimetta Cemetery	
Written	Virginia Macleod	2003	Mona Vale Cemetery in www.pittwaterlga.com.au	

Note: internet links may be to web pages, documents or images.

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Data source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

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