

Prospect Heritage Survey—Item Identification Sheet**ITEM NAME:** *Main North Rd Cemetery***Description:**

An Anglican cemetery covering many hectares, bounded by housing along Main North Road, Derlanger Ave, Charlbury Rd and Harvey St. The chapel is constructed of random stone walling with brick quoins and surrounds to openings. Brick is also used as feature-work on the porch and around windows and doorways. Moulded gables rise to crosses on the western and eastern facades. Most of the windows contain fine stained glass.

**Historical Summary:**

The first section of this Anglican cemetery was consecrated in April 1853. Over the next seventy years the cemetery was enlarged to its present size. The small chapel is of great beauty, but the graves themselves are of particular interest.

The cemetery has had some of South Australia's principal pioneers, explorers and leaders buried within its bounds. Charles Hawker, Daisy Bates, The Mortlock family, the Bagot family, William Charles Belt and William Bakewell the lawyers, Sir Ross and Keith Smith, John Chambers, William Milne, Harry Butler and Jimmy Melrose are only a few names of those whose remains lie there.

**Heritage Significance:**

The cemetery is of State significance because so many notable South Australians are buried there. The calibre of these people and their contributions to the State's history, make the site of profound importance. The chapel itself is of great beauty. The interior is plain, but gracious, with fine stained glass windows and altar of character.

**References:** Robert Nicol, *Cemeteries of South Australia—a heritage survey*  
Max Lamshed, *Prospect 1872–1972: A Portrait of a City*, pp. 55–7

**Verbal:****Archival Photographs:**

PHOTOGRAPH—Film no. 1530

Negative no. 26–8

Item Ref. No. 33

Office Item No.

Office Docket No.

Address: Derlanger St

Town: Collinswood

Postcode: 5081

Section: 347 2 Row CL/RD

Hundred: Yatala

County: Adelaide

L.G.A.: Prospect

S.H.P. Region: 2

A.M.G. Ref.

Subject: 2.1

Use:

Period—State: 1852–1883

Period—Local: 1836–1870

LAND Natural Feature:

LAND Historical site: X

LAND Historical Gdn.

BUILDING: X

STRUCTURE:

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

Reg. of State Her. Items:

National Estate:

National Trust:

Other:

LAND TITLE: CT 4140/311, 1733/137

RECOMMENDATION— State: X

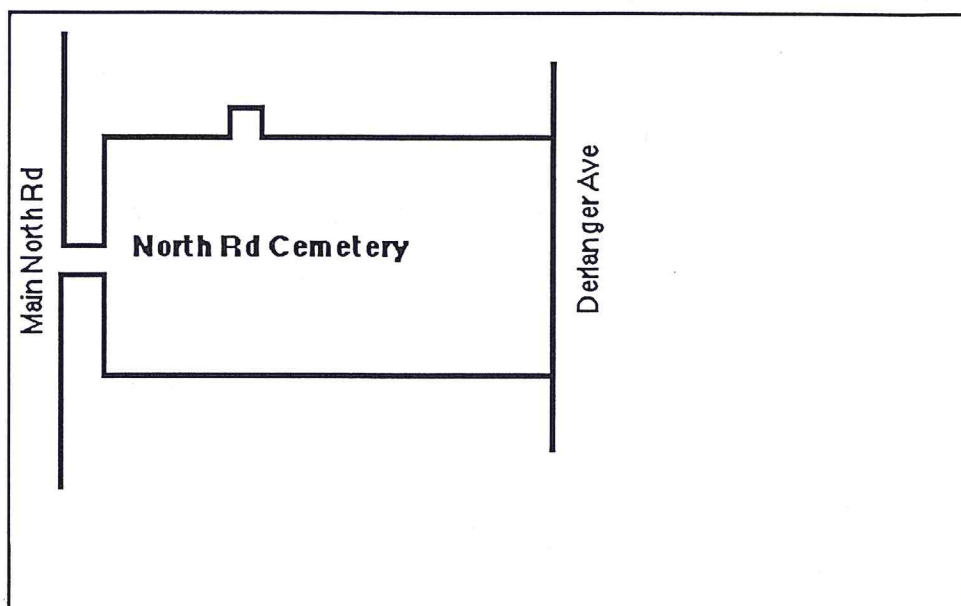
Local:



Prospect Heritage Survey—Item Site Plan

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2.3.1 North Road and Anglican Cemeteries.

Apart from West Terrace, the largest of the cemeteries in the Adelaide area in the nineteenth century was that run by the Anglican Church and popularly known as North Road Cemetery. Originally intended simply as the parish burial ground of Christ Church North Adelaide and established in 1853, it achieved a greater significance after Bishop Short surrendered the Anglican grant of land in West Terrace Cemetery in 1862. At first, it consisted of only two acres and was held in trust by Short. Its use was restricted to members of the Anglican faith and Christ Church North Adelaide parishioners. The difficulties experienced at West Terrace, however, together with its proximity to Adelaide, soon made it popular with leading Anglican families, though it was not until 1882 when Bishop Short retired and conveyed the land to the Anglican synod in trust, that the cemetery officially became a burial ground for all Anglicans. <sup>66</sup>

In many ways, North Road and other Anglican cemeteries provided the same difficulties for church authorities as West Terrace Cemetery and the 1862 Cemetery Act did for the government. For much of their early history, they were allowed to develop quite independently under their own trustees and with their own fees and regulations. Even the 1862 Act failed to impose uniformity on them. In 1873, the Anglican Synod set up a sub-committee to investigate the church's cemeteries in South Australia. Its report indicated a complete lack of consistency. Some cemeteries had no authorised scale of fees; some were vested in the Bishop alone; some in the Bishop and local trustees; some in local trustees only; and one was vested in Synod. Some were paid for by money from leases and fees for breaking ground; some by subscriptions from the local congregations or weekly offerings; one by the voluntary labor of male parishioners; and one was paid for from the local congregations or weekly offerings; one by

the voluntary labor of male parishioners; and one was paid for from his own pocket by the incumbent minister. The committee reported widespread ignorance of the 1862 Act and of whose responsibility it was to set fees, and expressed doubt as to whether curators had been appointed for all cemeteries according to the Act. Its recommendation was that Synod introduce the government regulations uniformly to all Anglican cemeteries and concluded by pointing out the practical difficulties of keeping cemeteries in repair, difficulties for which it could suggest no remedy.<sup>67</sup> Other denominations undoubtedly experienced the same problems with their own cemeteries.

At North Road Cemetery, the original two acres were extended to four, then eight, and finally to twelve acres.

<sup>68</sup>. Some of these extensions met with community opposition. In 1890, for example, a meeting of Prospect ratepayers opposed extension for the same reasons advanced against the expansion of West Terrace Cemetery, i.e. for sanitary reasons and because it would depreciate the value of property in the district. However, by the late 1890s much of the public concern about the cemetery had been dissipated by a determined policy of improving and maintaining its appearance and accumulating a fund to ensure its good order even after the land had all been used and burial fees ceased to be paid. In 1898, the curator, Augustus Sturke reported that the cemetery averaged one hundred and twenty burials per year and that there was sufficient land to last another fifteen year.<sup>69</sup> Thereafter, re-use of ground allowed yet another cemetery to continue in use .

7.2 North Road Church of England Cemetery

The entire cemetery should immediately be placed on the State Heritage Register.

Originally intended simply as the parish burial ground of Christ Church North Adelaide, and established in 1853, this cemetery eventually became the main Anglican burial ground to serve Adelaide. Like West Terrace, it is of exceptional state significance:

- (a) The cemetery contains the graves and monuments of many of the leading Anglican political, social and religious figures of South Australian history.
- (b) In its history and development the cemetery reflects the difficulties of the Anglican Church in adapting to a society in which there was to be no established church.
- (c) The cemetery contains many fine monuments, some of them unique, and many representative of the range of more elaborate and expensive monuments available in South Australia in the second half of the nineteenth century and early decades of the twentieth century.
- (d) The monuments contain much documentary evidence, some of it not recorded elsewhere, of considerable importance to the history of the state.
- (e) The cemetery is an exceptionally fine example of a well laid out, planted and maintained burial ground.
- (f) The cemetery contains a fine and in South Australia a rare example of an Anglican cemetery chapel.

It is the recommendation of the consultant that a detailed conservation plan be prepared for the cemetery in consultation with the Anglican Archdiocese of Adelaide. Pending completion of the plan the conservation guidelines contained in this survey should be applied to the site. In particular, the re-use of ground where it requires removal of earlier monuments should be prohibited.



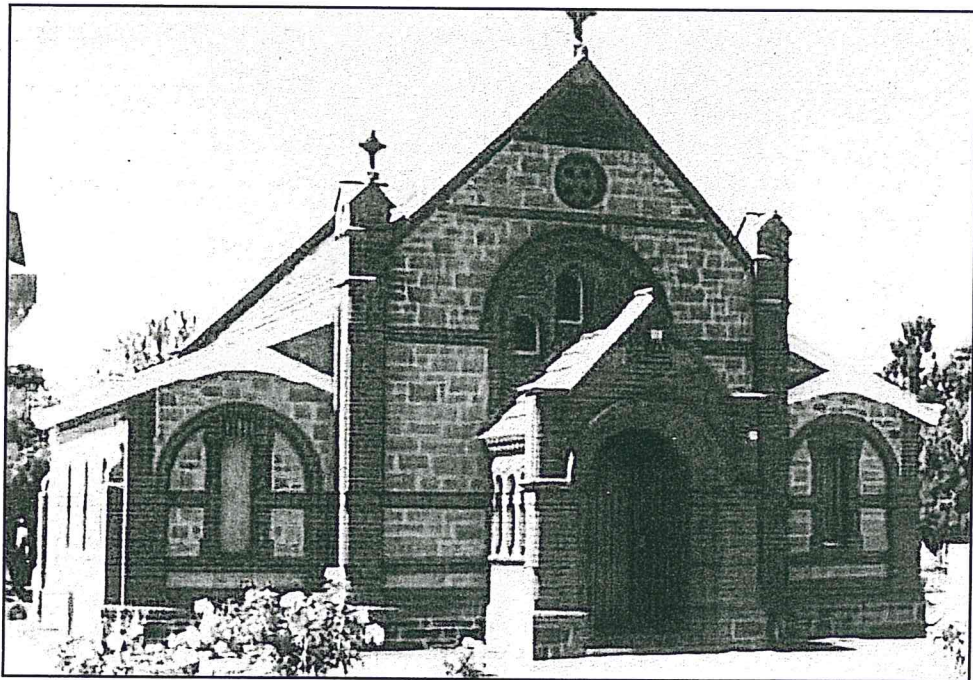
## NORTH ROAD CEMETERY

David Wyatt

SIXTEEN SAGHS members enjoyed a very informative walk through parts of the North Road Cemetery on Sunday, March 19. This cemetery lies between Main North Road and D'Erlander Avenue, Nailsworth, and can be entered from both those streets. With six kilometres of paths, more than 2 hours walking barely scratched the surface of what this intensely historic place has to offer!

The visit was organised by the Promotions Committee, and our host was Cemetery Manager, Robin McKnight, who is also responsible for the St Michael's Anglican Cemetery in Blythwood Road, Mitcham. Robin takes obvious pride and pleasure in looking after the Cemetery, and so began the tour with a talk that gave us some fascinating insights into the legal, logistical and other aspects of his work, including the different arrangements available for leasing and retaining plots (at North Road alone it is possible to secure a 200 year lease), upkeep costs, the pains taken to trace relatives for instructions when leases are near to expiry, and the day-to-day business of maintaining the grave sites and their surroundings.

Robin's initial talk was held in the delightful chapel, built in 1905 at the cost of 699 pounds. A striking mosaic dominates the altar space. This is the work of Napier Waller, an amputee from the First World War whose work is also found in the Australian War Memorial and other public places.



*North Road Cemetery Chapel*

The talk and subsequent walk highlighted some of the North Road Cemetery's special features. It began its existence as private premises. In 1853 Bishop Augustus Short donated 2 acres of his grazing land to provide a burial ground for the Church of England congregation in Adelaide, and his will bequeathed the land to the Anglican Church, whose Diocese of Adelaide retains ownership. Starting at the D'Erlander Avenue end, where the original stone wall still stands, the Cemetery has since expanded towards Main North Road, and now takes up about 16 acres. Until the early 1990s North Road Cemetery was exclusively Anglican, but economic considerations have led to making the facility available to all Christian denominations.

One unusual feature of the Cemetery is the continued use of lawn on top of many graves. Robin explained that these graves have had to be marked with a green dot to help protect the lawn when general weed-spraying takes place. Trellised flowers and other plantings are also much in evidence.

As might be expected, given its age and origins, the graves of many important figures in South Australian history are located in the North Road Cemetery. Robin took us to the burial sites of Ross and Keith Smith, Daisy Bates, Harry Butler, Charles Rasp (founder of BHP), and many others. Frequently, attention to details of the graves or anecdotes about the occupants lent additional interest. Robin also took the trouble to ask group members about their own family or local history interests, and took us to some relevant graves or pointed out the locations of others along the way.

The walk took us to several graves, both old and new, that are stunningly beautiful in their craftsmanship and statuary. Robin McKnight also shared some of the insights he has gained from his own thorough knowledge of the Cemetery and his passionate historical researches. Most interesting of all, perhaps, was the attention he often drew to what a grave site can tell us about the occupants. For example, Sir Ross Smith's memorial stone gave full details of all his titles, but that of his also-knighted and much-awarded brother Keith gave the name only, in keeping with the latter's more withdrawn and unassuming nature. In the absence of birth dates on another multi-burial site, analysis of the burial dates and ages recorded showed that two of the occupants were twins, who died 3 months apart, and that their mother had died in childbirth.

In all, Robin gave a very convincing demonstration of both the intrinsic interest and the significant family and local history value of wandering through a long-established cemetery such as North Road. More than that, he offered to respond to telephone queries from SAGHS members seeking information about burials in the North Road Cemetery and the St Michael's Anglican Cemetery in Mitcham by referring to his own detailed and computerised records (which are not themselves available to the public). Robin's telephone number at North Road Cemetery is 8344 1051.

Robin advised that the Flinders Ranges Research Website <http://www.southaustralianhistory.com.au> offers information about a number of occupants of the Cemetery.

Andrew Peake, Chairperson of the Promotions Committee, thanked Robin McKnight warmly on behalf of the group and SAGHS as a whole, and presented a gift. Not surprisingly, several members of the group stayed on for another hour or so following up points of interest raised by Robin or chasing connections of their own.