
NARROMINE SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING BUSINESS PAPER – 14 FEBRUARY 2024
REPORTS TO COUNCIL – INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

1. WORKS REPORT

Author	Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Responsible Officer	Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Link to Strategic Plans	CSP – 4.3.4 Ensure Council's property assets are monitored and well managed

Executive Summary

This report provides information regarding works undertaken for the given period in regard to both operational and capital works.

Report

The Works Report (**Attachment No. 1**) for the period 1 30 November 2023 to 31 January 2024 is presented to Council for information.

Financial Implications

Council has provision for these services in its Operational Budget.

Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Local Government Act 1993
Roads Act 1993

Risk Management Issues

Nil

Internal/External Consultation

Nil

Attachments

1. Works Report (**Attachment No. 1**)

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be noted.

NARROMINE SHIRE COUNCIL
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2. KURRAJONG TREES, NARROMINE CEMETERY

Author	Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Responsible Officer	Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Link to Strategic Plans	CSP – 1.1.10 Ensure that quality built and natural shade is provided to public places, open spaces and recreation facilities

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the Kurrajong trees at Narromine Cemetery.

Report

In September 2022 Council resolved to undertake a community consultation process for the Kurrajong Trees at the Narromine Cemetery. Fifteen submissions were received, and a report was presented to the February 2023 Council Meeting. The resolution of the February 2023 Council Meeting was to undertake a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) at the Narromine Cemetery to determine the future of the trees.

In late 2023 Council engaged a consultant to provide Heritage Advice on the Kurrajong trees at Narromine Cemetery (**Attachment No. 2**).

The report noted the following:

- The oldest of the Kurrajong trees within the cemetery were planted over 80 years ago.
- The main avenue of the Kurrajong trees aligned with the original main entrance to the cemetery, from Nellie Vale Road.
- The trees should be pruned and maintained as needed.
- Any gaps in the road-way alignment should be filled with replacement trees.
- All of the trees within the cemetery provide beauty, shade and support bird life.
- During a public submission Council received fifteen (15) submissions from the local community, with seven (7) submissions in favour of retaining Kurrajongs, seven (7) in favour of replacement and one undecided.
- There are currently fifteen large Kurrajong trees lining avenues within the cemetery and it is noted that there are currently several gaps where trees have previously been lost.

The following recommendations were suggested:

- Plant two new trees on the western side of the eastern avenue;
- Plant six new trees on the eastern side of the eastern avenue;
- Remove the dead tree on the western avenue;
- Plant two new trees on the western avenue.

All replacement trees are to be Kurrajong trees at least 1m in height.

Council staff agree with the recommendations and propose to remove dead trees, purchase, and plant replacement trees at the Cemetery.

Financial Implications

Council has provision for these services in its Operational Budget.

2. KURRAJONG TREES, NARROMINE CEMETERY (Cont'd)

Risk Management Issues

The cemetery is a spiritual and special location for many residents. Care will be taken during the works to ensure minimal disruption to the area.

Internal/External Consultation

Nil

Attachments

2. Narromine Cemetery Statement of Historical Importance (2023)

RECOMMENDATION

Council proceeds to implement the recommendations noted above, including the removal of dead trees from the cemetery and replacement with advanced Kurrajong trees.

3. TRANGIE WASTE MANAGEMENT

Author	Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Responsible Officer	Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Link to Strategic Plans	CSP – 3.1.5 Reduce waste to landfill through effective and efficient domestic waste and recycling services to the community

Executive Summary

This report provides recommendation on waste management at Trangie.

Report

Narromine Shire Council is responsible for the safe and sustainable operation of the Trangie Waste Depot. There are two issues with waste management within Trangie: low usage of the waste depot and illegal dumping of waste on kerbsides.

The Trangie Waste Depot is currently open for 7 hours on Saturday and Sunday and 4 hours on Wednesday and Friday. The below table shows the average and maximum customer attendance between the period 1/7/23 – 30/12/23.

Day	Total	Average	Maximum
Saturday	209	8.4	18
Sunday	217	8.7	14
Wednesday	163	6.8	12
Friday	147	6.4	16

3. TRANGIE WASTE MANAGEMENT (Cont'd)

Due to the low attendance, particularly on weekends, the Trangie waste depot is currently operating at a financial loss. Council would like to reduce the opening hours on Saturday and Sunday to 4 hours: 8am to 12pm. This trial is proposed to start 1/3/24 and continue until 26/7/24. An update will be provided to the July Council meeting to determine the long-term operating hours of the waste depot.

There will not be any financial or responsibility changes for the Trangie Waste Depot Council staff member as a result of reduced opening hours. The reduced opening hours will be spent tidying the site and preparing for the future closure of the site. The Trangie Waste Depot is scheduled for closure by 2028 with the site transitioning into a transfer station, as identified in Council's *Waste Management Strategy 2020-2028*.

To assist with the occurrence of illegal kerbside "hard rubbish" dumping, it is proposed to trial a "click and collect" system, starting 1/3/24. Customers can phone Council to organise collection of kerbside rubbish free of charge for one collection per household. The trial will operate until 26/7/24 and Council staff will provide a report to Council recommending the long-term operation. This service would only apply to residents within the Trangie town area. The kerbside green, yellow and red lidded bins will continue to be collected and this optional collection will be provided by Council staff. There will be no change to the kerbside bin collection contract.

Financial Implications

Council has provision for these services in its Operational Budget. Costs will be monitored during the four-month period and the long-term recommendations will consider the projected ongoing costs.

Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Local Government Act 1993
Roads Act 1993

Risk Management Issues

Nil

Internal/External Consultation

Nil

Attachments

Nil

3. TRANGIE WASTE MANAGEMENT (Cont'd)

RECOMMENDATION

That:-

1. Trangie Waste Depot hours are reduced on Saturday and Sunday to 8am – 12pm for the period 1/3/24 - 26/7/24.
2. A report is provided to the July Council meeting recommending the long-term waste depot operating hours.
3. A “click and collect” system for Trangie urban residents is offered between the period 1/3/24 – 26/7/24. Customers can contact Council to organise one free collection of kerbside rubbish per household.
4. A report is provided to the July Council meeting recommending the long-term kerbside waste management strategy.

Melanie Slimming
Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services

Works Report

December and January saw a lot of work undertaken; an overview of the major works that occurred is included below.

Water and Sewer

The extended hot weather in January and early February resulted in the highest peak-day usage in Narromine township in four years. The town used over 4.7 ML of water in one day. During this period the water supply system operated non-stop for a period of five days. This unceasing operation is not recommended for mechanical infrastructure as prolonged operation can lead to equipment failure. Narromine's system performed well during this period of high demand and no service interruptions occurred. Council was proactive during this period in reminding the public to be water conscious.

In December 2023 Council applied for grant funding for the construction of a new water treatment plant in Narromine. Unfortunately, Council's application was unsuccessful, however, staff continue to work with the funding body and other potential funding bodies to secure funding for the works. Fifty percent of the cost has been approved from the Department of Planning and Environment (DPIE) and Council continues to seek other sources.

Since the upgrade of the Tomingley water treatment plant in mid-2023 the Tomingley residents have significantly increased water consumption. The original plant setup was struggling to meet the town's demand. In early January the water team made some modifications to the plant to increase treatment capacity, increasing the volume of water the plant can produce. This modification has nearly doubled water treatment capacity and ensured the town is self-sufficient even in extreme weather conditions.

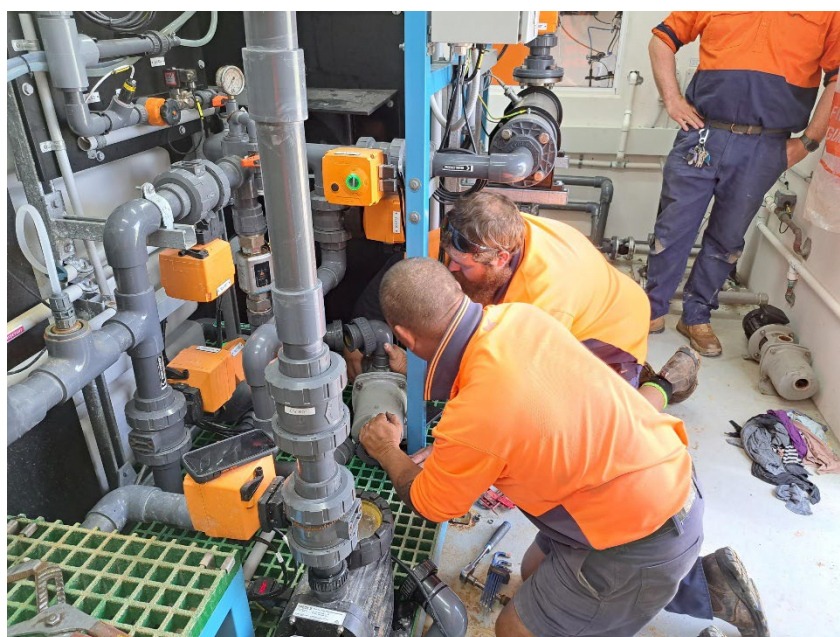


Figure 1: The water team modifying the Tomingley water treatment plant

Wetlands Project

The wetlands project continues to expand Council's stormwater holding capacity, improving the town's stormwater management. The project is funded through both grant funding and Council contribution. The project is nearing completion with the earthworks scheduled to be completed by April. Currently the team is finalizing the surrounding levee bank with walking track and the secondary entrance from Gainsborough Road.

Correctional Services have started maintenance work at the wetlands; they attend the site weekly and provide their own equipment. This collaboration has been positive both for parties and we will continue to grow the relationship with the potential to expand into other maintenance areas.

Facilities and Major Projects

Both Narromine and Trangie Pools continue to operate with assistance from Council's Facilities team. The pools are looking fantastic and are getting plenty of use by customers. The pools will close at the end of the season with the Trangie pool lining to be repainted during the winter season.

Council received a grant to upgrade public amenities and are replacing the toilets at Dundas Park. A toilet block has been ordered and will arrive in February with installation scheduled for early March.

The Trangie sporting precinct building, facilities and car park earthworks are now complete. The car park will be sealed at the same time as the Trangie truck wash to reduce sealing costs across both projects.

Council continues to maintain the Narromine Aerodrome with a focus on maintenance and slashing. The Aerodrome is over 300 hectares (750 acres), and the majority of this land requires maintenance. Given the wet and warm weather recently land maintenance requires a lot of effort. Due to the strict regulations around operation within an airfield only a small number of Council employees are qualified to work within the Aerodrome. A number of Council staff will be attending Airfield Training in March to provide the appropriate skills to enable working within an airfield.

Council is currently updating the management software for our waste depots. This upgrade will significantly increase the data we capture on types of waste and also improve the payment system for customers using the tip. In addition to the software upgrade Council staff will be reviewing the Fees and Charges for the waste depots to improve clarity and streamline the different charges. Council is committed to providing the best service to the community.

Parks and Gardens

The Parks and Gardens team were busy over the Christmas period and have focused on mowing and slashing. The rain and warm weather have seen significant plant and grass growth and the team has been focusing on maintaining the town centres and sporting fields. Additionally, the removal of dead trees has been a focus for January, ensuring that all dead trees are removed and correctly disposed of.

Council's newly appointed street sweeper operator started in late January. This was a welcome for the parks and gardens team that was operating short-staffed. The street sweeper visits Trangie weekly on Tuesdays and completes Narromine on all other days.

Spraying continued in December and January; the following areas were sprayed:

- Burraway Rd
- Storm water drains – Trangie and Narromine
- Eumungerie Rd
- Macquarie View Rd
- Webb Siding Rd
- Narromine Aerodrome
- Narromine Pound
- Laneways – Trangie and Narromine
- Narromine Pump Stations and bores
- Wetlands
- Narromine Tip
- Broadleaf spraying has occurred at all Narromine and Trangie Parks and ovals

Council has installed some signs at the Narromine Cemetery to encourage visitors not to drive or park on the grass.



Figure 2: New signs installed at the Narromine Cemetery

Roads

Council is currently working on a number of roads projects. Gainsborough road continues to be upgraded, with works starting on the Tullamore Road intersection in late January. The new intersection will provide a turning lane and an overtaking slip-lane for traffic in both directions. The intersection construction is being completed by Council's grader with automatic "machine control". This should ensure the works are completed to design specifications. Machine control can improve accuracy of work and reduce time for works to occur due decreased manual checks.



Figure 3: Works on Gainsborough Road are well underway

Bogan Cathundril resheeting was completed in late December with residents pleased with the outcome.

Council has started shoulder work on Tullamore Road, approximately 15 km south of Narromine Township for nearly 7 km. This is a huge project which will take up to 8 months to complete, however, the widened road and new seal will be a great improvement for all users of the road.

Flood repair works are occurring on Bulgandramine Road with works to be ongoing until May. Works are also occurring on Dilladerry Road to complete some flood work that occurred in 2022. Staff are also completing some shoulder work on Dandaloo Road.

Council has been working with a consultant to finalise the funding for the remainder of the flood damage and it is expected that this funding will be granted in the coming months. This funding amounts to over three million dollars which will contribute to any remaining flood damage.

In December a large program of heavy patching occurred with the following roads receiving patching:

- Tomingley
- Tantitha
- Wambianna
- Warren
- Ellengerah

Roads (Cont'd)

In January Council staff undertook an inspection of Enmore Road in Trangie and are finalizing the scope of works for the road repair. This work is scheduled to start in late March.

Works on the car park on Manildra street, next to the public toilets are scheduled to occur in the coming months. This work is currently being designed and will provide a sealed parking area and increased grass around the barbeque and shelter.

Trangie Truck Wash

The Trangie Truck Wash continues to progress. The sloped concrete base was completed in early February and the final pavement has been laid. The final works including power, water and the concrete receiving structure will be completed in the coming months.



Figure 4: Aerial view of Trangie Truck Wash



Narromine Cemetery SoH

FIGURE 1 WESTERN SIDE KURRAJONG TREE AVENUE

HERITAGE ADVICE: KURRAJONG TREES AT THE NARROMINE CEMETERY

DRAFT 1

Address 19 Tomingley Road Narromine

Lot 7301 DP 1147859

Date November 2023

Author Barbara Hickson Heritage Adviser

Barbara Hickson Heritage Adviser [REDACTED] Mudgee NSW

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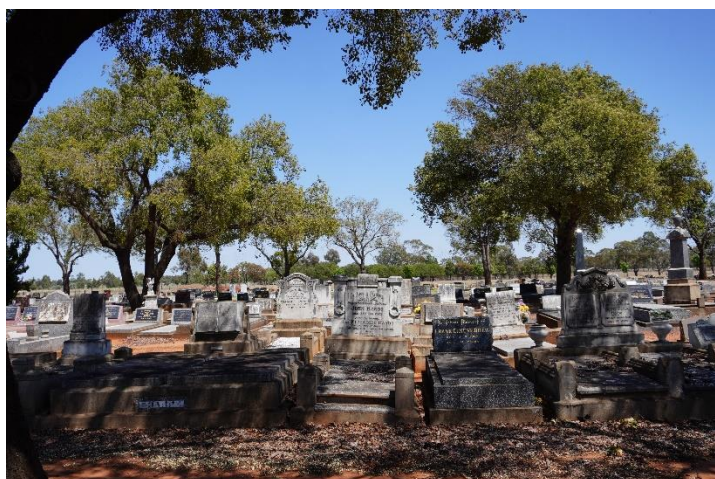


FIGURE 2 GRAVES IN THE SHADE OF THE KURRAJONGS.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT

SCOPE: To investigate significance of the cemetery and its landscape features to determine whether there is significant value: cultural, heritage, environmental, social etc. attached to them before a final resolution could be made regarding the future of the trees or any structure.

there is significant value: cultural, heritage, environmental, historical, and social significance in the Kurrajong plantings at the cemetery. From that investigation recommend whether

- All Kurrajong trees should be replaced.
- Kurrajongs should be replaced only as necessary due to poor condition.
- Other recommendations in relation to their heritage significance and future management and maintenance.

LOCATION: The Narromine cemetery is located at 19 Tomingley Road Narromine. Property description Lot 7301, DP 1147859; Lot 13, DP 114146; Lot 1, DP 591325; Lot 21, DP 614993. Current access is from Tomingley Road.

The original access was from Nellie Vale Road.



FIGURE 3 PLAN AND LOCATION OF NARROMINE CEMETERY ADAPTED FROM SIX MAPS

This Statement of Heritage Impact is based on the revised Guidelines for preparing a Statement of Heritage Impact (SoHI) as updated by the NSW Dept of Planning and Environment on 19 June 2023. A SOHI is an assessment report that examines how proposed works to a heritage item, may impact on heritage values.

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- **PREPARED FOR:** Narromine Shire Council NSW
- **LIMITATION:** This report was undertaken by one discipline only: Heritage Adviser.
- **DATE:** 22 November 2023
- **ISSUE:** **DRAFT 1**

SITE VISIT: A site visit and inspection of the cemetery, and the Kurrajong Trees, was undertaken on Monday 6th November by Barbara Hickson. Also on site was Council's employee Anthony Everett, Manager Waste and Community Facilities. All recent photographs of the Narromine Cemetery in this report were taken on that day by Barbara Hickson.

INFORMATION ON THE NARROMINE CEMETERY

Council received a report requesting the replacement of 34 Kurrajong Trees from the Narromine Cemetery. In a report to the Council, it was stated that the trees 'could cause damage to roads and graves. They were to be replaced with Eucalyptus Laurina (Water Gums)¹ which had been successfully planted at Trangie Cemetery. A public consultation process was undertaken with the community, from which 15 written submissions were received.

The Narromine Council then determined that a consultation process be undertaken to determine if the trees had significant cultural value, and is so, what should be the future of the Kurrajong trees.²

The council resolved that there were two options.

1. To remove and replace the Kurrajong trees. or
2. Commence a staged replacement of the trees by replacing dead or diseased trees as necessary with a suitable species.

¹ Part of the Brush Box family

² Narromine Council Ordinary Meeting 14 September 2022

SUMMARY

Many of the advanced trees in the Narromine cemetery were planted over 80 years ago. The layout of the cemetery was largely determined in 1930, when access was via Nellie Vale Road. Later a change to the main access via Tomingley Street in 1972-4 brought new changes to the layout.

The main avenue of Kurrajongs, on the eastern most internal road, was aligned with the first main entry from Nellie Vale Road. This first of the two Kurrajong Avenues was probably planted in 1933, or at least pre1940. They were some of the earliest plantings in the cemetery and part of an initial 'beautification' program under the care and guidance of caretaker Jacob Stein. In 1933 Narromine Cemetery was named the "most beautiful cemetery in the west" much to the credit of Jacob, appointed there in 1927.

The Kurrajongs are of considerable historical, cultural, and social significance.

They are **historically significance** as part of the earliest plantings c. 1933. They are **culturally significance** as a tree that provides shade and beauty and the support of bird life. Beyond this they were particularly relevant to the local farming community. Praised for their use as a livestock feed crop by Mr. T Bragg of Mungeribar, a well-known farmer of the area. He planted them locally for that purpose and encouraged others to do likewise. They are **social significance** as the backdrop to many burials in the cemetery, some of which are now likely to be memorials.

The trees should be maintained with pruning and supplementary care as needed, and the gaps in the avenues should be filled, preferably with replacement trees of the same variety.

All the trees in the cemetery, including the Kurrajongs, provide beauty, shade, and support bird life. Palm trees and Jacaranda trees also have heritage value and should similarly be retained.

The Narromine Council are commended for taking time to consider the impacts of these proposals.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR HERITAGE LISTED PLACES

The trees form part of a locally listed heritage item: the Narromine Cemetery. This assessment pathway involves reviewing that item and its significance through physical description and historical background, then to evaluate the contributing cultural significance of the Kurrajong Trees.

When dealing with an item or place that is listed as a heritage item, the requirements of the local LEP must be met. These requirements are as follows.

In the Narromine Shire LEP 2009, clause 5.10 describes the policies with respect to all heritage listed items. The Narromine Cemetery in Tomingley Road is a heritage item: I 24.

Relevant sections in the LEP, Clause 5.10 state:

The Objectives are:

- (a) to conserve the environmental heritage of Narromine,*
- (b) to conserve the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas, including associated fabric, settings and views,*

Development Consent is required when:

Barbara Hickson Heritage Adviser [REDACTED] Mudgee NSW

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- (a) demolishing or **moving** any of the following or altering the exterior of any of the following
(i) a heritage item,

Development consent is not required when the work:

- a.(i) is of a minor nature or is for the maintenance of the heritage item,
a.(ii) would not adversely affect the heritage significance of the heritage item

4. The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause in respect of a heritage item or heritage conservation area, consider the effect of the proposed development on the heritage significance of the item or area concerned.

REVIEW EXISTING INFORMATION

To determine the effect of the proposed work, following is a review the item and its significance through physical description and historical background. The Kurrajong trees are evaluate as to their contribution to the cultural significance of the Cemetery. This evaluation includes:

- Existing statement of significance for the cemetery as a whole
- Physical description of the Kurrajong Trees
- Historical update, especially regarding the landscape
- Public submissions
- Question posed by the Heritage Council to evaluate the proposed works the heritage impact.

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

An item's heritage values are summarised in a statement of significance. The State Heritage Inventory entry on the Narromine Cemetery provides a statement of significance, history and description, and details how an item meets one or more of the criteria for listing on a heritage register. Sometimes the information may include recommendations for its future management. The present statement of significance does not specifically mention the Kurrajong trees. Care and maintenance is however noted.

The Statement of Significance (from the NSW Heritage Database)

This historically significant cemetery has served the town of Narromine over the length of its whole history, having been used from 1880 and gazetted in 1884. There are over 3000 people interred here. The cemetery was originally managed by trustees, each group caring for its own denomination until taken under Council care in 1968.

There have been some important and exceptional personal associations with the care and maintenance of the cemetery over the decades including the Everingham family and Jacob Stein, in the 1930s. The main religious group represented here is the Church of England (Anglicans) with over 1100 persons recorded as being of that faith. The first C of E buried was baby Laura Bastion in 1891. The first recorded burial was that of Alice Evelyn Webb in 1880, aged 3 years, while the first burial on the site is believed to be an unknown swagman.

The special War Cemetery section was first deeded to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in 1949. It was separately fenced through considerable volunteer effort and was officially opened in 1957. It presents an exceptionally well presented and landscaped discrete section devoted to war service memorials.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Narromine cemetery is described in the NSW Heritage data Base as ‘a well-established and old general cemetery which is set out formally with a well planted avenue of advanced trees including Kurrajong trees, cypress trees, magnolias and palms. The cemetery contains many monuments set in religious denomination areas, and others. One section is devoted to small children.’



FIGURE 4 KURRAJONG TREE EXAMPLES AT NARROMINE CEMETERY

The Cemetery contains many advanced trees including ‘Kurrajongs, Callitris, jacaranda, magnolias and palms. There are dispersed Kurrajong trees throughout the cemetery but of particular interest are two avenues of the Kurrajongs. See Figures 12 and 13.

The eastern most avenue is the oldest and consists of two rows of trees. This avenue was in existence well before 1952.³ The trees could have been those obtained in July 1927 and planted later in 1927-28. Or they were planted a few years later in 1933 when an avenue of trees was planted to line each side of the original central driveway, which was accessed from Nellie Vale Road gates. Boy Scouts volunteered in June 1928 to help with the plantings.⁴ Some must have been planted before that as in June 1928 it was noted some replacements were needed for lost trees.

In 1927 ‘A line wide roadway has been formed running through the cemetery, and from this radiates properly constructed foot-paths at intervals between the rows of graves throughout the area. These have been levelled and laid by Mr. Baker (Shire Engineer). It is the intention of the Trust to plant suitable shade trees and provide seats at intervals in the cemetery’⁵

There were other trees planted in the earliest years but many were lost, according to the local newspaper.

The Kurrajong Tree or *Brachychiton populneum*, is widely distributed in inland NSW on a variety of soils. The name Kurrajong is aboriginal for ‘fibre yielding plant’ and they were used in the production of nets. They are moderate in height, growing 14 to 20 m high.

An excellent example in the cemetery is tree no 5 which is isolated in its row and had grown into an excellent well-spread example.

³ A witness now in her 80s that was present at her father’s funeral in 1952.

⁴ Dubbo Liberal, Friday 29 June 1928

⁵ Narromine News and Trangie Advocate, Wednesday 31 August 1927

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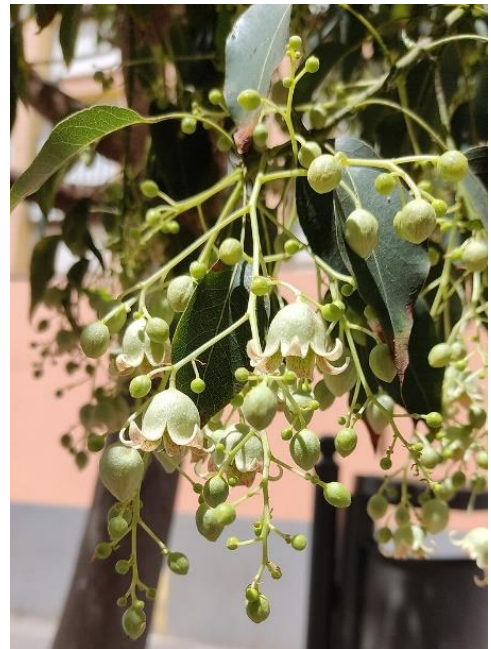


FIGURE 5 TREE NO 5 ON PLAN IN ORIGINAL EAST MOST AVENUE AND FLOWERS BELOW.

Kurrajongs can provide dense shade. The shape of the leaves can vary greatly from 'poplar' like to deeply lobed. They have small bell-shaped flowers in cream or greenish, that go largely unnoticed. However, the seeds and seed pods are black and numerous and can drop all round the tree, most commonly in early summer.

The tree is deep rooted which makes it a good tree in drier regions and drought times.⁶ It also means that the tree is not likely to cause disturbance to the cemetery graves in the vicinity.

This appears to be true on inspection of the grave sites. Some graves suffer from settlement and ground disturbance, which can be partly due to drainage issues, while others are firm, well set in the ground and not disturbed by nearby Kurrajong trees.



⁶ 'Australian Trees' by Ivan Holliday and Ron Hill. P50,51



FIGURE 6 KURRAJONG BESIDE WELL-ORDERED GRAVES BEDS.

The trees are a haven for birds as well and many Galahs and Magpies were about on the day of site visit.



FIGURE 7 GALAHS IN THE KURRAJONG TREES.

The most pronounced poor feature of the tree is bark displacement and dead wood that should be removed annually to give the trees their best growth. Examples below.



FIGURE 8 KURRAJONG TREE WITH CONSIDERABLE DEAD WOOD



FIGURE 9 TREE BRANCHES WITH LOSS OF BARK.

The trees that form eastern avenue number 15. See figure 12. There are several blank spaces where trees have been lost in the past. The western avenue, which is younger, contains 20 trees and has possibly lost only one and there is another dead tree that should be removed/replaced. (Position No 5).

Kurrajongs are, or were, a rural favourite. Most towns in the central west have them in parks and gardens and as street trees, including Narromine. Examples are commonplace.



FIGURE 10 STREET TREES IN MUDGEES NSW



FIGURE 11 ROBERTSON PARK IN MUDGEES

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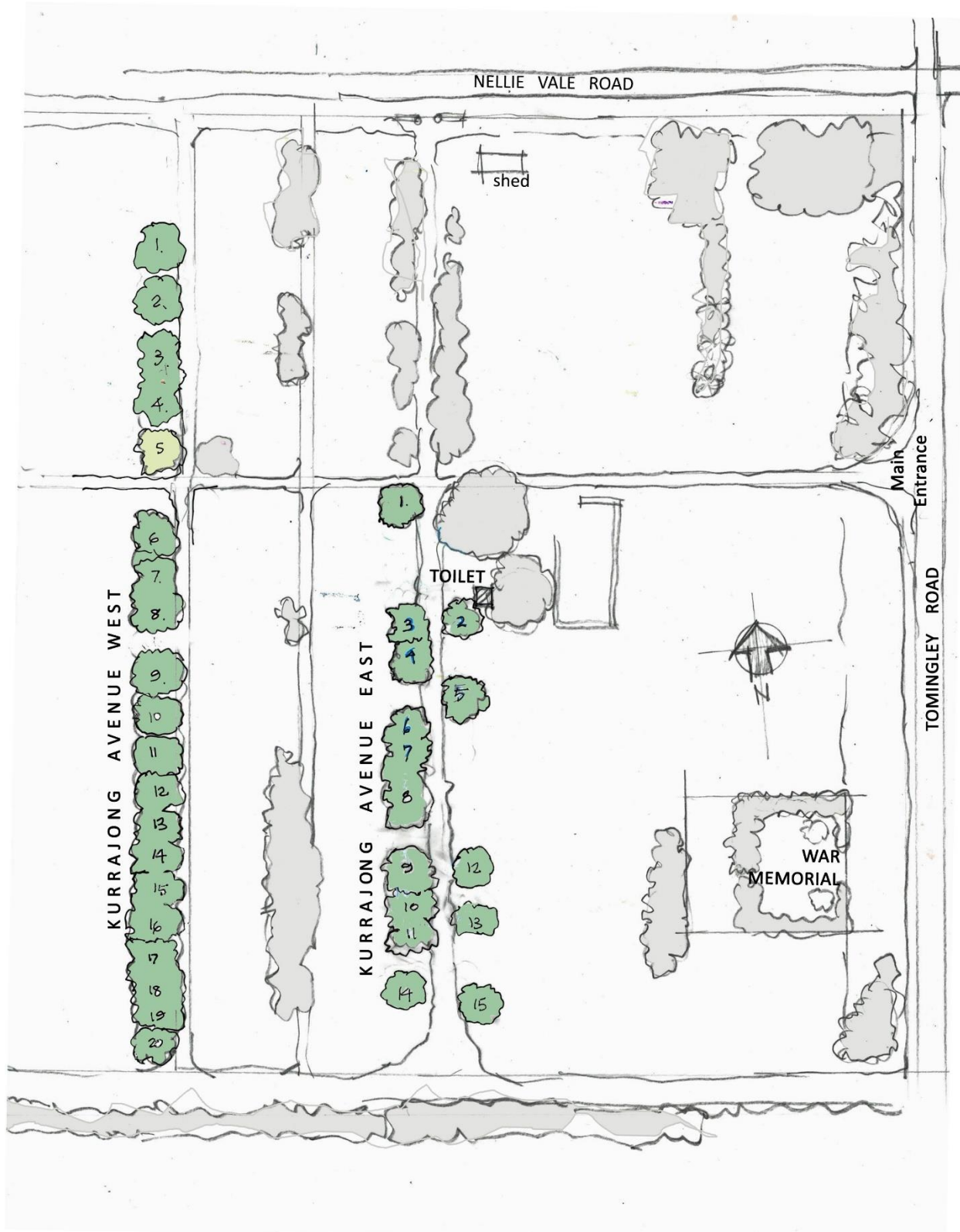


FIGURE 12: CEMETERY LAYOUT SHOWING KURRAJONG TREES IN THE TWO AVENUES SHOWN SHADED GREEN. YELLOW TREE NO 5 NEEDS TO BE REPLACED.

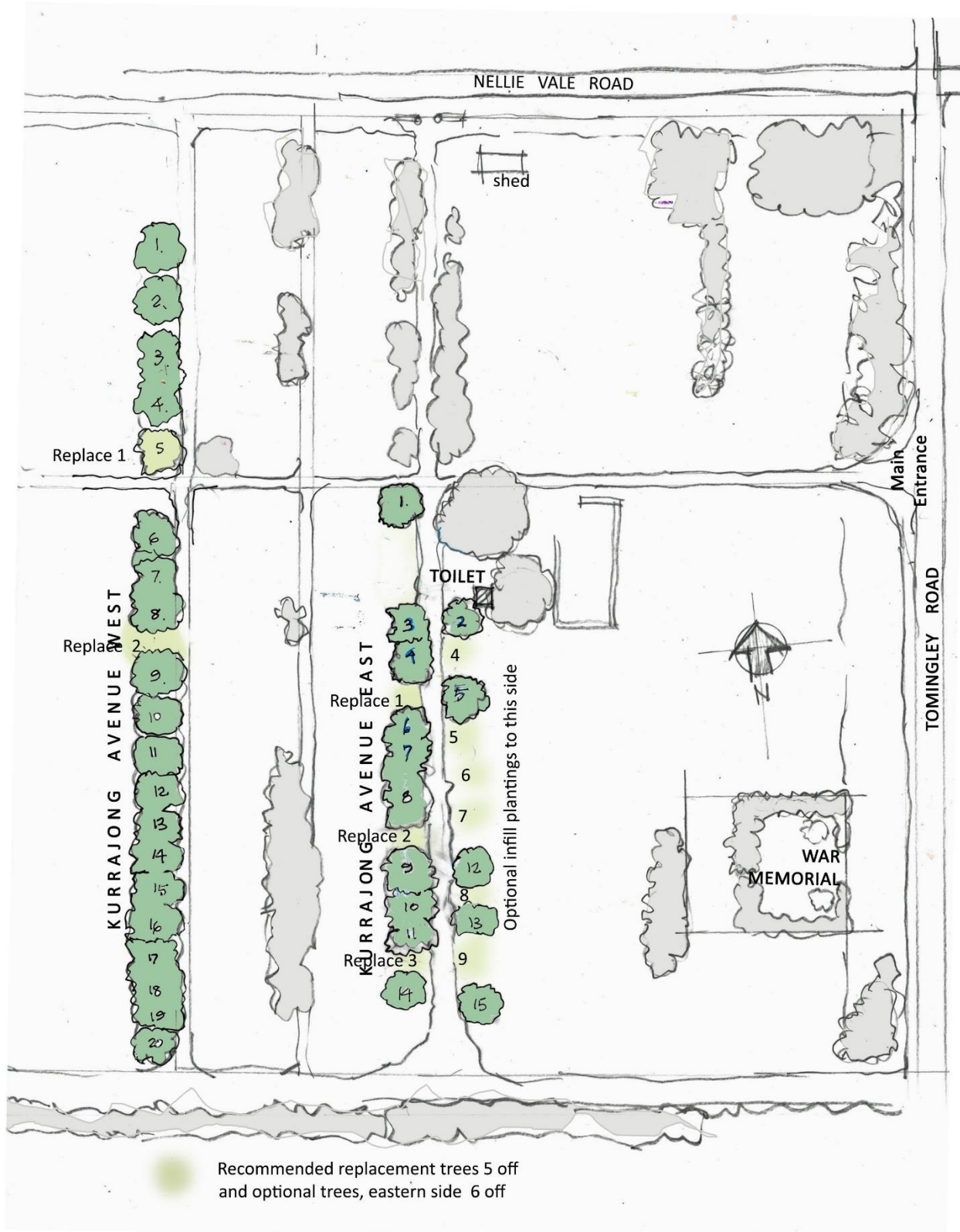


FIGURE 13 LAYOUT OF THE TWO KURRAJONG AVENUES WITH POTENTIAL REPLACEMENT TREE SPACES IN YELLOW. 2 IN THE WEST, 9 IN THE EAST.

CEMETERY HISTORY

With particular emphasis on landscaping and planting.

The Narromine Cemetery was laid out and dedicated on the 29th of April 1884 under Section 106 of the Crown Land Act of 1884. It was outside the Village of Narromine's Boundary, to the south, in the Parish of Wentworth, Timbregongie Shire. The area was Portion 62, and covered 9 acres, 2 roods and 10 perches.

The cemetery was divided into portions representing the initial likely demand for each section with the Church of England the largest, followed by the Catholics, the Presbyterians, Wesleyans and General Cemetery. Some adjustments had to be made over time such as an additional portion being dedicated to the Presbyterian section and to the Wesleyan (Methodist) section in 1910.

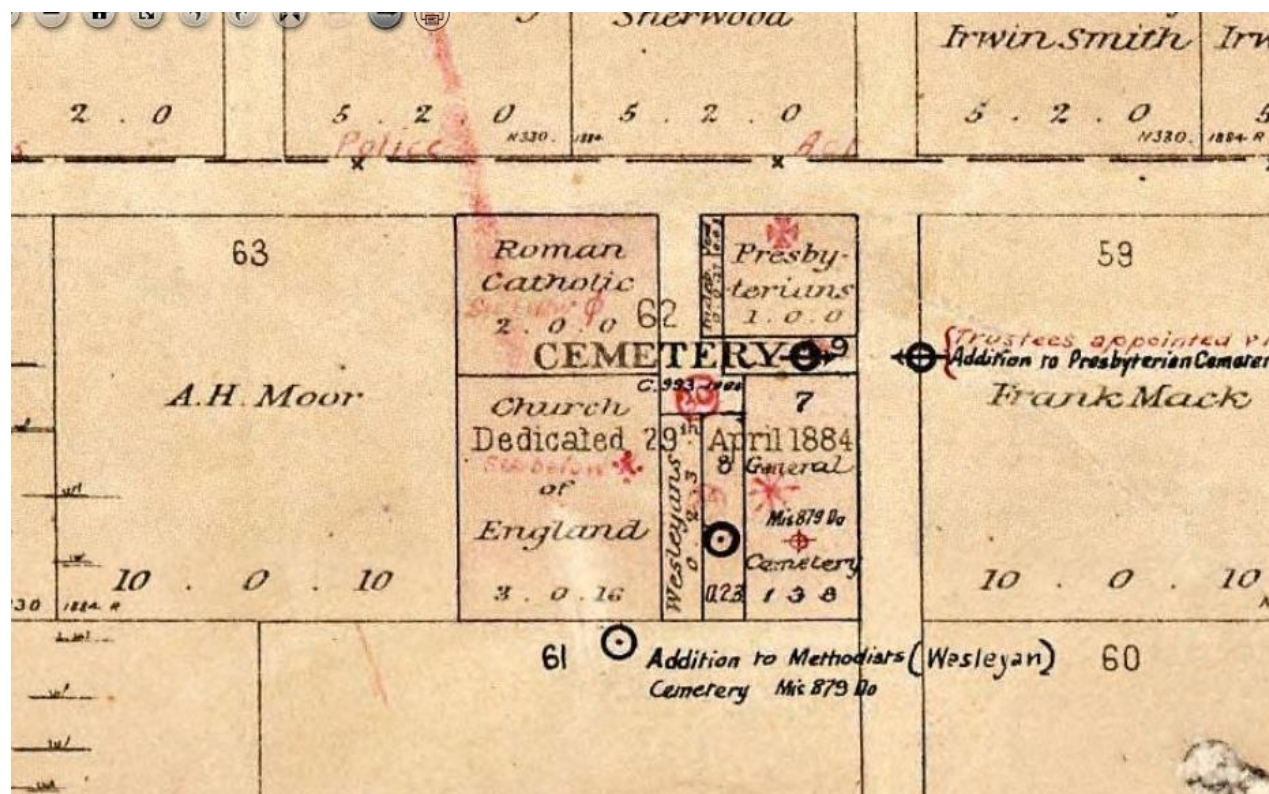


FIGURE 14 PART OF THE PARISH MAP 1920 SHOWING THE LAYOUT AND DIMENSIONS OF THE CEMETERY.

In September 1897 Dr. Camidge consecrated the Church of England portion. The first entry in the Church of England register is that of Laura Bastion, Narromine 20 October 1891, aged 14 days.

The orientation off the main access road into the cemetery was from north to south, turning in off Nellie Vale Road. It remained the main entry for around 88 years.

The first substantial improvements occurred between the wars, when in 1927⁷, the newly formed Cemetery Trust raised funds for the irrigation works including: 'a well, for a good supply of water, and a

⁷ Narromine News 31 August 1927

windmill to raise the water'.⁸ The central roadway was properly formed and from this *'radiate(d) properly constructed footpaths at intervals between the rows of graves throughout the area.'* The next stage was to plant suitable shade trees and provide seats at intervals in the cemetery.

While the specific type of tree is rarely mentioned in the newspapers it was known that Narromine farmers prized Kurrajong trees for their hardy character and ability to be used for stock feed, especially during drought times. Several station holders have been cultivating the tree for a long time. Farmers could start plantations under a NSW land grant scheme supported by the Minister for Lands to encourage the growing of edible fodder trees. One such farmer was Mr. T. Bragg, who in 1917 laid out ten acres of Kurrajong at Mungeribar. He put out small seedlings, obtained from the State forestry nursery, at the rate of 100 to the acre on a deeply subsoiled block. By 1921 the trees *'grew to 8 to 10 feet, high, despite the fact that they made no growth the last year of drought.'*⁹

In 1927 the cemetery was noted as being in a state of neglect. Later the same year the Cemetery Trust recommended *'flowering gums' be purchased for planting at the cemetery*¹⁰. This motion was passed although it is not known the variety, or, if they were planted. They were proposed to be purchased from a Sydney nursery. In 1928 the Boy Scouts offered their assistance in planting trees; a skill they said they had learnt at school. Some trees had been lost by then and replanting was encouraged. Mr. Baker, the Shire Engineer at the time, organised the council to plant shade trees and provide seats. Thirty-three trees were planted and staked.

In 1930 considerable progress with the plantings and the cemetery layout was reported by the Cemetery Trust: *'Since the beginning of the year several new paths were formed and graded. Two wide ones were formed in the Presbyterian portion and one at the back of C. of E. and R.C. portion, also one along fence from main gate to Tomingley road. At the same time all other paths were straightened up and reformed.*

The water service was extended to the Presbyterian portion and two extra standpipes put in. A large garden plot was laid out and planted with shrubs. Sundry other trees and palms were planted along the new pathway formations. Approximately **one hundred and fifty trees and shrubs** were purchased and planted during that season. It was during this phase that the first eastern avenue of Kurrajongs was likely planted. All the trees thrived, and it was said that this was "largely due to attention given to them by the caretaker and his assistant".

Also, in 1930, the road outside the cemetery was better formed and under instructions from the mayor a substantial culvert was constructed leading to the cemetery gate.¹¹

⁸ The well sunk in October 1927 was 100 feet deep with 6 foot of water showing. Cost of the tank was about £3, supplied by Mr. Cale. A Mr. Baker, Shire Engineer at the time, organised the council to plant shade trees and provide seats. Thirty-three trees were planted and staked.

⁹ The Urana Independent 21 Jan 1921

¹⁰ Narromine News Oct 1927

¹¹ Narromine News 19 Sept 1930

In 1932 unemployed people carried out cleaning and improvement works at the cemetery and a vote of thanks to them was endorsed at a meeting in January 1932. Working bees had been held throughout the year.¹²

In 1933 the cemetery was declared '**the most beautiful in the west**' preserving the memories of those '*who have passed on, not only by headstones and flowers on the graves, but also by the careful planting of trees along the avenues.*'¹³ It is likely that this avenue planting was the first two-sided avenue of Kurrajong Trees: which was well developed and recalled at a funeral in 1952.

Trees continued to be planted through 1933 and individuals were encouraged to plant trees as memorials to specific people. By 1936 funds and support for beautification had fallen and the Trust made calls for donations.¹⁴

Most of this 'beautification' work and core service work was undertaken by Mr. C. F. Milgate and Mr. Jacob Stein. They each resigned in 1936. Milgate for business reasons and Stein because of ill health.¹⁵ After they resigned Mr. R. Wallace was appointed as caretaker. Sadly after less than 2 months after resigning Jacob Stein passed away.

After a short illness, Mr. Jacob Stein, aged 72 years, died at his residence on the Peak Hill Road, Narromine, on Sunday night. The deceased, who was well-known in Narromine and Dubbo districts, was sexton of the Narromine cemetery for many years.

He was married at Dubbo to Miss Rose Cridland and is survived by his widow and four daughters. The funeral left the Catholic church on Monday afternoon for the Catholic section of the Narromine cemetery, where the Rev. Father Hennessy officiated at the graveside.

There was a large attendance, and many beautiful wreaths were placed on the coffin. Messrs. C. J. Shakespeare and Sons had charge of the funeral arrangements.¹⁶

The Narromine News dated 26 November 1937 states: '*For many years his energies were devoted towards building up and maintaining the beauty of that plot of ground in which so many have been laid to rest. Knowing that the resources of the Cemetery Trustees were slight, Mr. Stein accepted but one day's pay for six day's work, toiling not for monetary gain but for the reward that comes from the knowledge that a job is well and truly done. His unselfish devotion to his self-appointed task should act as an inspiration to all.*'

In 1944 Rev. Father D. Hennessy requested that more ornamental trees be planted, and the Shire Council was to be asked to assist.¹⁷ In 1949 The special War Cemetery section was deeded to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and in 1957 this special section was opened.

In 1968 the Narromine Council took over control of the cemetery and instigated regular maintenance.

¹² "A Short History of St. Mary's Anglican Church, Narromine 1884-1999" by Nona Leeds

¹³ Narromine News 25 August 1933

¹⁴ Presumably some were feeling the extra effects of the Great Depression.

¹⁵ Narromine News 29 Oct 1936

¹⁶ Lachlan and Condobolin Recorder 23 Nov 1936

¹⁷ Dubbo Liberal 4th April 1944

In 1972-77 the cemetery was fenced. The orientation of the entry was then changed to Tomingley Road and a new gateway constructed. The first official opening took place in 1971 when the work commenced. When the work was completed, another ceremony took place on 11 Sept 1977 with Mrs. D.P. Tancred officiating at both.

FIGURE 15 OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE NEW GATES FROM TOMINGLEY ROAD 1977



A Columbarium or “Wall of Memory” for ashes to be interred, was built in the late 1960’s, the earliest known record is 1966, but some ashes may have been held by family members for a few years before the wall was built. The nearest Crematorium in those years was at Orange, so there was not much demand for a Columbarium. However when a Crematorium was established in Dubbo this led to greater demand and a second wall was built in 2001, and in 2003 some landscaping was established around the Wall, with seating.

FIGURE 16 COLUMBARIUM AND PALM TREE PLANTINGS.



In 1997 New paving and new fences were added to War Service Cemetery.

REVISED STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Through detailed examination of the history and physical evidence of the heritage item the significance of the heritage item is better understood, which in turn brings and understanding of how the proposed works may impact that significance.

Impacts can be both positive or negative.

There are two widely ranging scenarios requested by the Narromine Shire Council:

1. The removal of all the Kurrajong trees in the avenue plantings in the Narromine Cemetery, and
2. The replacement only of missing or dying Kurrajong trees in the avenue plantings in the Narromine Cemetery, and

The former works involve a large amount of change and so is likely to have far greater impact on heritage significance of the listed place. The second option is of a minor nature and will have little or a positive impact on significance.

Here a revised Statement of Significance has been developed through the above examination of history and physical description considering the landscaping and layout of the Narromine Cemetery:

A Revised Statement of significance:

This historically significant cemetery has served the town of Narromine over the length of its whole history, having been used from 1880 and gazetted in 1884. There are over 3000 people interred here. The cemetery was originally managed by trustees, each group caring for its own denomination until taken under Council care in 1968.

There have been some important and exceptional personal associations with the care and maintenance of the cemetery over the decades including the Everingham family and Jacob Stein, in the 1930s. The main religious group represented here: the Church of England (Anglicans) with over 1100 persons recorded as being of that faith. The first C of E buried was baby Laura Bastion in 1891. The first recorded burial was that of Alice Evelyn Webb in 1880, aged 3 years, while the first burial on the site is believed to be an unknown swagman.

The special War Cemetery section was first deeded to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in 1949. It was separately fenced through considerable volunteer effort and was officially opened in 1957. It presents an exceptionally well presented and landscaped discrete section devoted to war service memorials.

The Kurrajong trees have historic, cultural, and social significance. They were among the earliest plantings in the cemetery, being planted in c. 1927, 1930 or 1933 when an avenue of trees was planted under the guidance of the cemetery trust and the caretaker Jacob Stein. Culturally significant the Kurrajongs are prized as a fodder tree by local farmers and were promoted by Mr. Bragg of Mungeribar. They have social significance as much of the work in planting was by volunteer labour including working bees and plantings by the Boy Scouts and much of the work by Jacob Stein was voluntary. They have social significance as the backdrop to many burials in the cemetery, some of which are likely to be memorials.

The Kurrajong plantings strengthened the overall layout of the cemetery and provided beauty, shade and shelter for birds.

PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

Narromine Council called for submissions and 15 written submissions were received. As to whether they should be kept or replaced produced a very even reaction with 7 in support of retaining them, 7 in support of replacement and one (No 14) that was divided in their opinion with the suggested that the eldest trees in the eastern avenue be replaced while the western avenue be retained.

Most of the opinions that favoured removal were that they were unsightly, a hazard because of pod droppings, or that there were better options.

Most of the opinions in favour of retention sited their historical and cultural value, their durability and hardiness.

A very even result. Those that favoured removal may find the trees to be more acceptable after maintenance and with the knowledge of their considerable heritage value.

There is opportunity in the cemetery to plant other species in other rows or as specimens to guide future planning.

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The following questions are as posed by the NSW Dept of Planning and Environment and are the current guidelines for Statements of Heritage Impact (SoHI) as updated 19 June 2023.

1. Is the location of the work clearly identified?	Yes. The proposal pertains to the Narromine Cemetery, a heritage listed item on the Narromine LEP. The reference is to 35 Kurrajong trees that form the two avenues of plantings as shown in Figures 12 and 13.
2. Is the significance of the item clearly understood.	Yes. Through the history and description, the Kurrajongs are significant because they were part of the earliest plantings in the cemetery, under the guidance of the cemetery trust and the caretaker Jacob Stein. Culturally significant as a fodder tree promoted by Mr. Bragg of Mungeribar. Socially significance as many planted by volunteer labour including working bees and the Boy Scouts. Socially significance as the backdrop to many burials in the cemetery, some of which are likely to be regarded as memorial trees.
3. Is there enough information available about the proposed works to determine how they may impact the heritage item and its significance?	Yes. There are 2 options: <u>Option 1</u> : the complete removal of the Kurrajong trees, which is not supported in heritage terms. <u>Option 2</u> : Retain existing Kurrajong avenue plantings. Allow replacement of dying or missing trees is supported

4. Will the proposed works be the best conservation solution for the heritage item?	<p>YES. Retention of the existing Kurrajong trees in the avenues and replacement of dying or missing trees with the same species would be the best outcome.</p> <p>There is however the opportunity to plant new trees of other species, such as the Water Gum, elsewhere in the cemetery. Beautification with shade trees should remain a continuing process.</p>
5. Do the proposed works include removal of significant trees.	<p><u>Option 1:</u> Remove Kurrajong Trees YES</p> <p><u>Option 2:</u> Retain and maintain Kurrajong Trees NO</p>
6. Do the proposed works affect the setting of the heritage item, including views and vistas to and from the heritage item and/or a cultural landscape in which it is sited? Can the impacts be avoided and/or mitigated?	<p><u>Option 1:</u> YES. Removing all the Kurrajongs would greatly affect the setting of the heritage item. The plantings are visually significant. Views to and from the cemetery will be affected.</p> <p><u>Option 2:</u> NO, the setting would not be affected. If replacement with the same species is the future plan then detrimental impacts will be avoided, and significance maintained into the future.</p>
7. Does the proposed work relate to any previous or future work? What is the impact on the heritage items significance?	<p>Yes, it relates to future works.</p> <p>The impacts are stated above.</p>
8. Will the proposed works result in adverse effects on heritage significance?	<p><u>Option 1:</u> YES. As stated above there would be effects on cultural, historical, social, and aesthetic significance.</p> <p><u>Option 2:</u> NO. By retaining the Kurrajongs significance will be maintained. By replacing missing Kurrajongs with the same species the avenue plantings will become more significant through recovery of continuity.</p>
9. If so, can this be avoided or mitigated?	<p><u>Option 2 is highly recommended, and avoids adverse effects.</u> The recommendation that replacements in the avenue rows be of the same species is highly beneficial to the heritage outcomes of the future.</p>

New Landscape works and features.

10. How has the impact on the heritage significance of the existing landscape been minimised.	The impact on the plantings and their arrangement as Avenues will be <u>NO IMPACT</u> if the recommendations of this report are followed as per: <u>Option 2</u> : Retain existing Kurrajong avenue plantings. Allow replacement of dying or missing trees is supported. The landscape setting, views and vistas will not change. Replanting in same species in the avenues will lead to long term retention of significance.
11. Are works to the landscape or pathways necessary to comply with the access requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.	N/A
12. Has evidence (archival or physical) of previous landscape work been investigated?	Yes, see this report. Historical evidence, especially newspaper reports, indicates the Kurrajong avenue plantings as historic.
13. Will any known or potential archaeological relics be affected by the landscape works? How will this be mitigated?	This is a cemetery, and all grave sites contain archaeological relics. No change is the preferred action.
14. Do the proposed works impact views to, from and within adjacent heritage items	The proposed recommendation of <u>Option 2</u> : Retain existing Kurrajong avenue plantings will result in no impact to views.

Tree Removal or replacement.

15. Does the tree proposed to be removed contribute to the heritage significance of the heritage item	Yes, the Kurrajong trees, in particular those arranged in avenues along the north south pathways are major features of the beautification of this heritage item: the Narromine Cemetery. They are of social, cultural and historical significance and contribute to the vistas across the cemetery from all sides.
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16. Why is the tree being removed	The were to be removed because they had become less attractive over time and can drop pods in the early summer months, which can be unsightly.
17. Has the advice of a qualified arborist, tree surgeon or horticultural specialist been sought and implemented	No. An arborist could be asked about the best way to maintain the health of the trees into the future.
18. Is the methodology for tree removal adequately understood?	Yes. The recommendation is to only remove trees that are very dying or dead.
19. Are the trees being replaced? Where will it be replaced and with what species? Why	If the Kurrajongs in the avenues are replaced because they are in poor condition they should be replaced with matching species. This will maintain the strong visual links with the past.

Interpretation

20. Will the proposed works contribute to a continued understanding of the heritage item's history and significance	By replacing missing avenue trees with similar Kurrajongs, their heritage presence will be maintained into the future.
21. Can interpretive features be integrated into the design?	YES. An interpretive sign would provide good feedback to the community. Many participants in the feedback have asked for extra seats. An additional seat, or several, could accommodate a sign about the significance of the Kurrajong Avenues, their longevity and the enormous contribution the caretaker, Jacob Stein, made in the 1927-33 to the cemetery.

Response to Climate Change

22. Are the proposed works in response to a threat posed by the changing climate?	No, not because of Climate Change. But Kurrajong trees have proven to be drought tolerant and a fodder crop for all seasons.
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Disaster Risk management.

23. Are the proposed works designed to minimise or mitigate the risks of natural disasters to the heritage item?	No. But the Kurrajong avenues have been there for about 90 years. There is some potential for the pods to cause slippery surface when composting. A recommendation is to check in the early summer and clean any accumulated waste.
24. Will the proposed works impact the significance of the heritage item?	No. Cleaning away compostable pods from grave sites will not affect significance.

New Services and upgrades.

25. Are any of the existing significant services?	<p>The whole of the land of the cemetery is heritage listed. However, there are no known significant services. Generally, services, water and sewer have been upgraded regularly over time.</p> <p>The existing modest toilet block is not significant historically or culturally and it can be considered for replacement in the future. Any proposed location should consider the setting and any disturbance of the setting.</p>
26. How have the impacts of new services on heritage significance been minimised?	N/A
27. Are any known or potential archaeological deposits affected by the proposed new services.	<p>On inspection of the cemetery some graves in this cemetery do suffer from settlement and ground disturbance, which can be due to drainage issues; others are firm and well set in the ground and not disturbed by the nearby Kurrajong trees.</p> <p>All trees have the potential to disturb the surface, but Kurrajongs are deep rooted and so should minimally affect the surfaces.</p>
28. Has specialist advice from a heritage consultant, architect, archaeologist or engineer been sought	This is a cemetery, and all grave sites contain archaeological relics. No change is the preferred action. The specialist advice was that of a heritage adviser, who is also an architect.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The two avenues of Kurrajong trees at the Narromine Cemetery are an important part of its significance. The first of the two avenues was laid out to align with the original entry from Nellie Vale Road and probably dates from 1930-33. The second avenue was laid out in the decades after that. The Kurrajongs were some of the earliest plantings in the cemetery and part of an initial 'beautification' established under the care and guidance of caretaker Jacob Stein.

The trees that form the easternmost avenue were laid out in two rows, which now number 15. There are several blank spaces where trees have been lost in the past.

The trees that form the western avenue is in one row and are younger. That avenue contains 20 trees and has possibly lost only one tree in the past and another is almost dead. (Position No 5).

Kurrajong Recommendations:

- 1: Infill the west side of the eastern avenue with 2 trees. See Figure 13.
- 2: Infill the east side of the eastern avenue with 6 trees.
- 3: Infill the western avenue with 2 trees. (include replacement of the dead tree in Pos. 5)
- 4: Rake up pods in early summer.

Use Kurrajong trees for the replacements. Buy advanced trees from a local nursery. (As an example of purchase cost a Nursery in Mudgee quoted \$120 each for advanced Kurrajongs in 300mm pot.)

General Recommendation:

- 5: Plan future shade trees and create new decorative trees rows or single plantings. Choose trees that are deep rooted, drought resistant, long lived and encourage bird life. Take the opportunity to plant new trees of other species, such as the Water Gum, elsewhere in the cemetery and have an ongoing program for the investigation of suitable shade trees of the cemetery into the future.
6. Carry out maintenance to all retained trees. Remove dead wood. Investigate tree disease or pest causing bark loss on some branches.
7. Rake up pods in early summer as part of general care and maintenance.
8. Existing services are not considered of heritage significance. General planning for upgrades of irrigation, water, drainage, amenities, including a new toilet block should be planned for, into the future.
10. Update the Heritage Inventory data sheet using the revised Statement of Significance in this report.

Interpretation:

11. Telling the storey of the past is important and helps in the appreciation of the place. A sign about the significance of the cemetery, the caretakers and the Kurrajong Avenues would be of public benefit. Consider another interpretation sign at the entrance to the cemetery also.

Barbara Hickson
Heritage Adviser



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