



*Conservation Management  
For Wattle Flat Cemetery*

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## INTRODUCTION

### What is a Conservation Management Plan

An important tool in caring for a heritage item can be a conservation management plan (CMP). This document provides a guide for future care and use, including any new development. Dr James Kerr describes a CMP as "...a document which sets out what is significant in a place and, consequently, what policies are appropriate to enable that significance to be retained in its future use and development. For most places it deals with the management of change" (Kerr, *The Conservation Plan*, National Trust NSW, Sydney 2000: 1).

### The Process

#### 1 INVESTIGATE SIGNIFICANCE

- Investigate the physical evidence remaining
- Investigate the history of the cemetery
- Check on listings
- Decide upon relevant Local and State historical themes
- Make comparisons with other cemeteries
- Summarise what you know about the item

#### 2 ASSESS SIGNIFICANCE

- Assess significance using the NSW heritage assessment criteria
- Prepare a succinct statement of heritage significance
- Determine level of significance
- Write up all your information including SHI form
- Get feedback from your community
- Complete your significance assessment

#### 3 MANAGEMENT of SIGNIFICANCE

- Consider the management implications of the cemetery and its level of significance
- Analyse the constraints and opportunities
  - existing conditions
  - owner & descendant requirements
  - statutory and zoning requirements
  - other constraints
- Prepare conservation recommendations and management policies covering
  - monuments
  - maintenance
  - interpretation
  - urgent works
- Get feedback from the community
- Recommend a process for carrying out the conservation management recommendations

## **WATTLE FLAT GENERAL CEMETERY**

### **Date**

25<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

### **Location and property description**

DP 1058117, Limekiln's Road, Wattle Flat, Parish of Wiagdon, County of Roxburgh.

### **Method**

The method used in this study is based on the Australia ICOMOS 1988 Charter for the Conservation of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter); Conservation Management Guidelines and Heritage Assessment by the NSW Heritage Office and Department of Planning 1996; NSW Heritage Manual and James Semple Kerr's 'The Conservation Management Plan' printed by the National Trust of Australia, NSW.

### **Authors**

Barbara Hickson Architect and Heritage Adviser using the Bathurst Regional Cemetery CMP proforma.

All recent images unless otherwise stated are by Barbara Hickson.

### **Definitions**

See appendices: The Burra Charter.

## SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATIONS

### Summary:

This small general cemetery was dedicated on 18<sup>th</sup> January 1884. Known burials are however very few. Only six memorials still stand and two of these are for unknown persons. <sup>1</sup>The dates of burial range from 1910 to 1925. The remaining legible headstones appear to be in what was the dedicated Church of England, (Anglican), section of the cemetery.

The gravestone of Jose De La Torre, formerly recorded by Evans Shire Council, was not located during the current study. The cemetery land is general scrubland and is possibly used sometimes for grazing. Due to the difficulty to survey, other memorials may still exist.

The cemetery is generally in very poor condition, unfenced and without signage.

Parish maps of the cemetery indicate different denominational sections. They also indicate that the route of Limekilns Road was altered in order to bypass the cemetery.

### Recommendations:

#### 1. That Bathurst Regional Council adopt this CMP.

#### 2. Develop a site management plan.

Include implementation of the study Recommendations from Part 8 of the Bathurst Regional Heritage Study 2007, and the site specific recommendations developed as part of this CMP as follows:

- **Repairs to monuments:** There are a minimum of two monuments that require conservation work. Refer to the Inventory of memorials contained at the back of CMP, and to the 'condition' column for specific works.
- **Site Works:** In the vicinity of memorials remove or cut back larger shrubs that are adversely affecting the particular grave site. Refer to maintenance below.
- Carry out a more intensive search of the land to see if any other monuments exist.
- **Fencing:** Survey the area and provide a stock proof fence to an area that will, as a minimum, encompass all known memorials. Provide a vehicular farm style gate at the entry.
- **Interpretation:** Interpretation information that should be implemented includes:
  1. A sign at the cemetery gate listing all known burials, and a brief history.
  2. Make available interpretation materials in printed form or information on Council's website.
- **Maintenance:** Within the recommended fenced area adopt appropriate weed control measures. In particular control 'Biddie bush' around the graves. No firewood collection and no slashing.
- **Documentation:** Document all works.
- **Staff resource:** Encourage Council to allocate a special officer, who has an interest in the preservation of cemeteries, whose role could be to oversee the care and maintenance of rural cemeteries while encouraging local community group and / or descendants to assist.

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<sup>1</sup> Evans Shire records indicate seven (7) gravesites.

- **Biodiversity:** Further assess the biodiversity of the cemetery by documenting any fauna in the cemetery and adjacent areas in the format contained in this CMP document.

### **3. Re-Zoning:**

The rural cemeteries in Bathurst Region are zoned 1(e) Outer Rural. Therefore rural uses of the cemeteries are permissible under the Bathurst Regional (Interim) LEP 2008, providing they will not have a detrimental effect on the cemetery.

It is recommended that the zones of the cemeteries be zoned as *SPI - Special Activities*, under the future Comprehensive LEP. This would ensure that the zone will assist in the conservation of these cemeteries by restricting the potential development on that land.

### **4. Listing:**

Wattle Flat Cemetery should be listed as a heritage item of heritage in the 2009 Comprehensive LEP.

### **5. Community Consultation:**

Local members of the Wattle Flat community, the Wattle flat Progress Association and/or descendants of those buried in this cemetery, should be encouraged to comment on, or add to, this CMP.

## **PART A - INVESTIGATE SIGNIFICANCE**

### ***Physical Description***

## Conservation Management Plan for Wattle Flat General Cemetery

The original land dedicated as a cemetery comprised some 3.56 acres, or 1.4 hectares. The land is located on the Limekiln's Road. It is generally rough bushland.

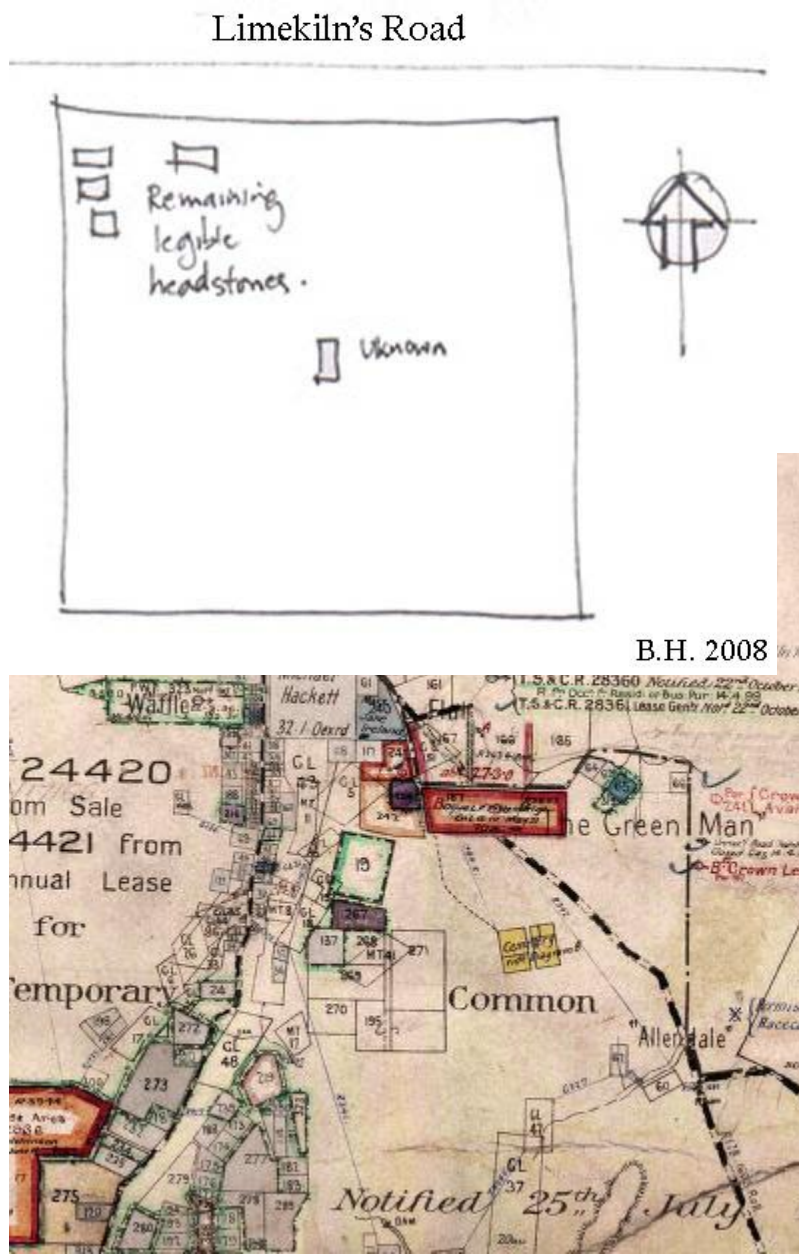
Most of the remaining headstones, four of them, are located close to the road on the north western corner in the former Church of England section.

Another gravestone that of Jose De La Torre formerly reported by Evans Shire Council, was not located in this study. The cemetery is difficult to survey therefore other memorials may still exist.

The cemetery is generally in very poor condition, unfenced and without signage.

### Plan

The sketch below by Barbara Hickson shows the general layout of cemetery and remaining known graves.

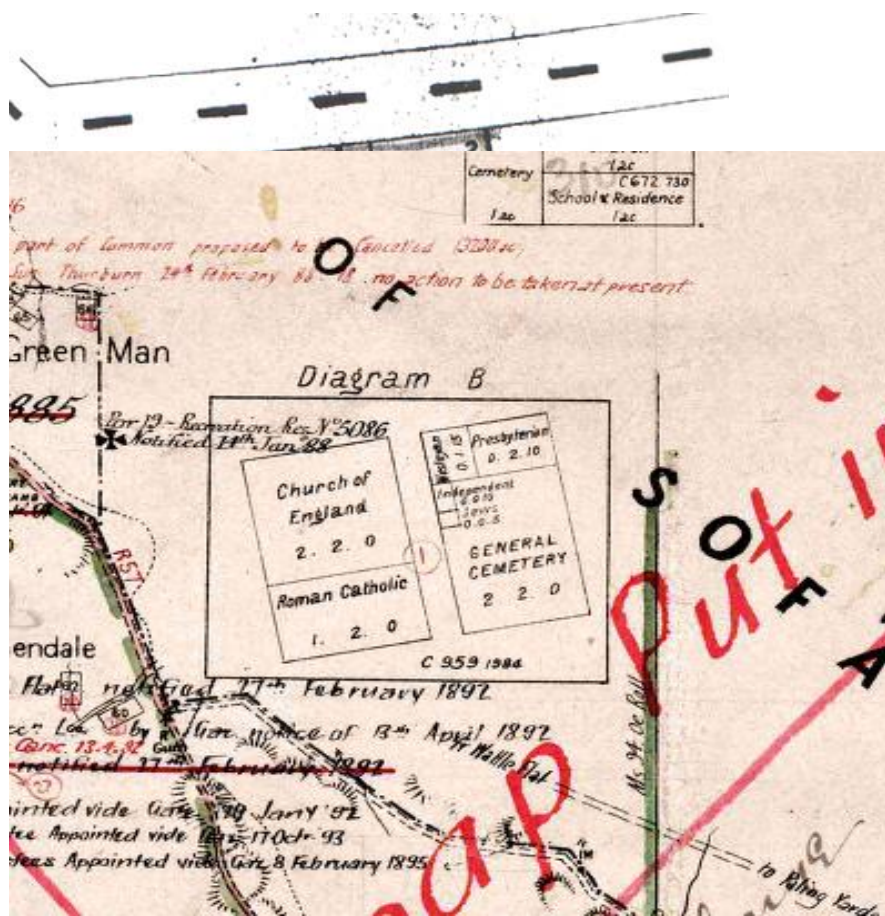


*Figure 1: The general layout of the Wattle Flat Cemetery, (Barbara Hickson).*



**Figure 2:** The above Parish Map illustrates the location of the Wattle Flat General Cemetery notified 2nd July 1887. The dotted line leading to the cemetery from the north is the general line of the passing Limekilns' Road today.

Parish maps seem to indicate changes in the denominational layout of the cemetery. Evans Shire council files illustrate a significantly different layout, (refer Figure 3 below), from the layout shown on the Parish map, in Figure 4. However the location of the Church of England section remains fairly constant.



**Figure 3:** The Parish map of the Wattle Flat General Cemetery illustrating areas for different denominations.



*Figure 4: Part of the Parish Map illustrating the general cemetery, notified in 1884.*

### **Setting and curtilage**

This old cemetery is no longer in use and is covered with a heavy scrub and bushland. Only six headstones or grave markers appear to remain. However bushland may obscure others.

### **Fencing and gates**

There is a light stock wire fence on the western side only, part of a boundary fence, with the adjoining property and residence.

### **Layout**

The few remaining headstones are generally located together at the front north-western corner of the site.



**Figure 5:** The above aerial image was provided by Bathurst Regional Council. The cemetery is located in the bushland to the south of Limekilns Road.

## **Monuments and grave sites**

The remaining monuments that are legible are for:

Louisa Mann, died 1924, aged 87 years,  
Arthur George Eldridge, died 1912 aged 47 years,  
John Hart Dean, died 1925 aged 84 years,  
Alexander Forster, d.1910, aged 21 years.

There are two other burial plots indicated by a grave bed surround, and an illegible monument. The monument is located roughly the centre of the cemetery.

## **Inventory sheet**

A description of most of the grave plots or headstones is included at the back of this CMP. Reference should be made to it for more detail and for a condition assessment.

## **Monumental masonry**

Monumental masons are unknown.

## ***Biodiversity: Plantings and fauna***

A survey of the site in September 2003 by staff from former Evans Shire Council recorded the following information about the plants in the Wattle Flat General Cemetery:

Structural formation class: Open woodland.

Dominant Eucalypt Species: Red stringybark, Blakley's Red gum.

Shrub Species: Biddie Bush, Wattle, White and Pink heath, Bush peas.

Ground covers: Mat rush, Tussock Poa.

Weeds: None were recorded.

General health: Previous clearing history, recovering dense Biddie bush growth.

Management Issues: Control Biddie bush around graves.

Overall Conservation Asset description: Vegetation type not locally significant.

### **The recommendations for future biodiversity management include:**

Weed control and control of Biddie bush around graves.

No fauna were seen within the cemetery or within the vicinity at the time of the authors visit. No fauna were noted on existing surveys. On future visits any fauna observed should be recorded in the following table form and added to this CMP:

## Conservation Management Plan for Wattle Flat General Cemetery

**Table 1:** How to record observed fauna.

Fauna Record			
Xx minute period	Type observed	Number observed	Suggested by indirect observation
Birds			
Mammals			
Reptiles			

### Other Features

A dam has been constructed adjacent to the cemetery.

### Documentary evidence

Records indicate seven (7) burials or memorials are within this cemetery<sup>2</sup>. The exact number of people are buried in this cemetery is unknown. However the existing memorials date from 1912 to 1925 and the cemetery was dedicated by 1884. Presumably other burials do exist.

The references to these burial lists include:

1. Evans Local Government Area – Cemetery Register, (North), 2003.
2. Site visit 29<sup>th</sup> September 2007 by B.J. Hickson.

The NSW Birth, Death and Marriages records may contain additional information regarding internments; however Wattle Flat does not appear to be a registration office. Therefore deaths were registered at Bathurst.

However some additional information was sourced regarding known burials which are indicated in the table below.

**Table 2:** Additional information sourced from the Births, Deaths and Marriages records.

9668/1925	DE LA TORRE	JOSEPH	93 YEARS (WATTLE FLAT)		BATHURST
9667/1925	DEAN	JOHN H	JOSEPH	ELIZABETH	BATHURST
855/1913	ELDRIDGE	ARTHUR G	JAMES	MARGARET	BATHURST
10000/1924	MANN	LOUISA	(-BAILEY)	90 YRS BATHURST	BATHURST

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<sup>2</sup> Former Evans Shire Council records.



## Summary of physical description

- A small general cemetery which was apparently dedicated 18<sup>th</sup> January 1884.
- Known burials are very few, (6 or 7).
- Only four memorials are legible.
- Other memorials may still exist within the cemetery.
- The layout of the cemetery in denominational areas appears to have changed.
- The dates of burial range from 1910 to 1925 and are in the Church of England, (Anglican) section.
- The gravestone of Jose De La Torre, formerly reported by Evans Shire Council, was not located during the site visit for this CMP.
- The cemetery land is generally bush and scrub land and is not believed to be of local significance.
- The cemetery is generally in very poor condition, unfenced and without signage.

## History

### In Brief:

The Wattle Flat General Cemetery was dedicated on 18<sup>th</sup> January 1884 and the dates of known burials range between 1910 to 1925<sup>3</sup>.

In Wattle Flat there are three other cemeteries, the Anglican, Catholic and Presbyterian cemeteries each associated with their own church. Possibility because of the availability of cemetery choice within the area, the general cemetery fell into disuse.

The land containing the cemetery appears to have been used for farming practices such as grazing by the adjacent manager.

**(Below is an extract from Bathurst Regional Council's State Heritage Inventory database<sup>4</sup>).**

The discovery of gold in 1851 introduced a catalyst to the peaceful Wattle Flat setting. Within weeks the Turon catchment was pulsating with hundreds, later thousands of people, who had recklessly stacked everything on the dream of finding gold. Ill prepared, mostly from city origins, the gold seekers surged to the Turon goldfield. Walking, riding and in waggons, their trek was endured over hundred of miles, with extremes of weather, terrain and shortage of provisions.

Eventually they struggled 1,000 feet up the sheer slopes of Wyagdon Mountain to the Wattle Flat tableland. There they found that enterprises to meet the needs of the desperate travellers had been quickly set up. Blacksmiths, bakeries, butchers, stores, grog-shops and accommodation spread

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<sup>3</sup> Wyagdon Parish Map.

<sup>4</sup> Provided by the Bathurst & District Historical Society.

along the bush road in shanties, tents and shacks. Replenished and equipped the travellers hurriedly followed the road that plunged to the Turon catchment.

For a few years Wattle Flat retained its significance as a gateway to the goldfields. Then the focus of mining changed around 1855. The easily acquired alluvial gold petered out and the focus shifted to quartz reef gold mining. Large mining companies were established across Wattle Flat, as the plateau and its gorges proved to be the most successful sites for such mines. Hundreds of miners chose to make Wattle Flat home for their families, combining labouring in the reef mines with farming and other activities. Within five years the crude structures first erected were being replaced by substantial buildings, including churches, stores, schools, houses, a Post Office, Land and Mining Warden Office, and the Wattle Flat Racecourse (dating from 1852 and still used). Many of these buildings remain today. Wattle Flat soon became the most populous area of the Turon Goldfields, and remains so.

The following Thematic History has been abridged from the **Bathurst Regional Thematic History by Dr. Rob McLachlan.**

The goldrush of the 1850s and 60s led to the rapid development of goldfield towns and accompanying commercial activity. Sofala, Hill End, Trunkey Creek, Chambers Creek, Wattle Flat and other rush communities also had their hotels, stores, banks, barber shops and similar commercial premises.

Mining, particularly for gold, has had a widespread impact. As the diggers scoured every possible creek and valley for signs of gold, ground was turned over and mullock heaps were spread across the terrain. The impact can still be seen around Wattle Flat, Sofala and Trunkey Creek, for example.

#### **Historic Pictures from the Pictures Australia website.**



*Figure 6: Mr Francis Moon, sawyer of Wattle Flat & Miss Mary Wilson, before their marriage on 5th May 1874. (Pictures Australia).*



*Figure 7: Street scene, at Wattle Flat 1904. (p.301, Cook & Garvey:*

*The Glint of Gold.1999).*

## Land history

The cemetery was dedicated on 18<sup>th</sup> January 1884. Initially only a track led to the cemetery then the path from the Limekilns Road was altered to pass in front, (north), of it. The land is now crown land.

## Management history

Initially the cemetery would have been managed by Trustees of the various denominations. From about 1967 the Wattle Flat General Cemetery came under the management of Evans Shire Council until amalgamation with Bathurst City Council in 2005 and is now managed by Bathurst Regional Council.

## Listings

This cemetery is not listed in any statutory way at the present time. In the recent Bathurst Regional Heritage Study it was recommended for listing as part of the Comprehensive LEP. This study supports that recommendation.

The cemetery is recorded in the State Heritage Inventory database, which is maintained by the Bathurst Regional Council.

## Historic Themes

The following table includes NSW heritage themes relevant to this cemetery. For a more complete list of themes refer to the 'NSW Historical Themes' on the Heritage Branch Department of Planning website.

**Table 3:** *NSW Heritage Themes relevant to the Sunny Corner Cemetery.*

Australian Theme	NSW Theme		Notes	Examples
4 Building settlements, towns and cities	Towns, suburbs and villages	Village of Wattle Flat	Activities associated with creating, planning and managing urban functions, landscapes and lifestyles in towns, suburbs and villages.	One of four cemeteries at Wattle Flat.
4 Building settlements, towns and cities	Land tenure	Local themes	Activities and processes for identifying forms of ownership and occupancy of land.	Parish maps indicate the dedication of this cemetery and the alteration of adjacent roads.





8 Developing Australia's cultural life	Religion	Multi-denominational	Activities associated with particular systems of faith and worship.	One of four cemeteries at Wattle Flat and the only one that is multi denominational. However most graves here are probably Anglican based on location.
9 Marking the phases of life	Birth and Death	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.	Marking the passing of a number of persons of Wattle Flat.

## Make Comparisons

There are many other small cemeteries in the Bathurst Region associated with past mining villages and activities. This cemetery is in the worst condition and has the least number of marked graves.

## Summary of history

- A small cemetery relating to the past history of Wattle Flat, a former gold mining village.
- The cemetery was dedicated on 18<sup>th</sup> January 1884 and the dates of known burial are 1910 to 1925<sup>5</sup>. The cemetery has fallen into disuse.
- The land containing the cemetery has apparently been used in recent decades for farming practices such as grazing by the adjacent manager.
- The Cemetery was formerly managed by Evans Shire Council until amalgamation with Bathurst City Council in 2005 and it is now managed by Bathurst Regional Council.
- It is located on Crown land which appears to be used for grazing purposes.

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<sup>5</sup> Wiagdon Parish Map.

*Figure 8: Unknown grave monument located towards the centre of the cemetery.*

## ASSESS SIGNIFICANCE

### Criteria

Following the Heritage Branch guidelines, a statement of significance is developed by working through the following assessment criteria, (adopted from the Heritage Office CMP guideline):

**Criterion (a) - Historical Significance** - *an item or place is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history, or the cultural or natural history of the local area.*

A small cemetery dedicated on 18<sup>th</sup> January 1884 with dates of known burials from 1910 to 1925.

**Criterion (b) – Social Significance** - *an item or place has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history, or the cultural or natural history of the local area. This might include a local family of note, pioneers, or soldiers.*

The cemetery is important to the past history of Wattle Flat as a former gold mining village, especially for the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

**Criterion (c) – Aesthetic Significance** - *an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW or the local area. Consider the work of the monumental masons.*

This criteria was not used.

**Criterion (d) – Religious Significance** - *an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW, or the local area for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.*

One of at least four cemeteries that served the Wattle Flat area. However this was the only cemetery one that catered for all denominations. The fact that there was so much choice may have been a cause of this cemetery falling into disuse.

**Criterion (e) – Educational or Technical Significance** - *an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history, or the cultural or natural history of the local area.*

Further investigation of courthouse and church records may reveal the total number of people buried at this cemetery.

**Criterion (f) – Rarity** - *an item that possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's, or a local area's cultural or natural history.*

This criterion was not used.

**Criterion (g) – Typical or Representative** - *an item important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's or local area, cultural or natural history.*

This criterion was not used.

## **Statement of Significance**

This is one of four cemeteries that served the Wattle Flat area, a former gold mining village. It is an important place of commemoration for the past lives of Wattle Flat, especially for the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Only a very small selection of grave markers remain to commemorate the Mann, Eldridge, Dean and Forster families.

Bushland and re-growth are eroding the setting and affecting the remaining monuments.

## **Level Of Significance**

This cemetery is of local significance.

## **State Heritage Inventory (SHI form)**

A SHI form is available from Bathurst Regional Council.

## **Community feedback**

Before completing the assessment, community or descendant feedback on the initial work undertaken should be obtained.

## **INVENTORY 1**

Inventory of burials and memorials. Recorded by B. Hickson 05<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

# Conservation Management Plan for Wattle Flat General Cemetery

Name	First Names	Date of death	Age	Denomination	Cemetery No.	Additional Inscription	Description	Condition
MANN	Louisa	15.06.1924	87	Ang		In Loving Memory of our dear mother <b>MANN</b> Louisa d.15.06.1924 aged 87 yrs. At Rest.	Concrete surround with a small marble plaque leaning against the surround.	Fair.
ELDRIDGE	Arthur George	31.12.1912	47	Ang		In Loving Memory of my dear husband and our dear father Arthur George <b>ELDRIDGE</b> d. 31.12.1912 aged 47 yrs. At Rest. Verse: Gone but not forgotten.	A marble headstone semicircular topped within a single bed with wrought iron fence. A fern is carved across the top of the headstone.	Good.
FOSTER	Alexander	23.02.1910	21	Ang	-	In Loving Memory of Alexander <b>FOSTER</b> d. 23.02.1910 aged 21 yrs At Rest.	A broken and small headstone lying flat. Made of marble, lying on a concrete base. This broken headstone appears to have been put together by a friend in recent years.	Broken monument.
DEAN	John Hart	04.06.1925	84			In Memory of my dear husband John Hart <b>DEAN</b> d. 04.06.1925 in his 84th year.	Approx. 50 paces away from the road is a small single bed surrounded by mesh and rails. Concrete surround and stand at the back support a small marble plaque.	Fair.
UNKNOWN #1							A large square double bed area of the previous grave which now only has the brickwork surround.	No work required.
UNKNOWN #2							Isolated, A semi circular sandstone headstone. It is surrounded by timber hand-hewn fence posts and a small scale sandstone headstone. At the sides of this stone which has no writing you would be inclined to imagine it was either the grave of a child.	Should reconstruct fence surround.
DE LA TORRE	Jose						Not able to locate the grave marker of Jose DE LA TORRE (noted previous study–2003).	

## INVENTORY 2

### Compilation of Known information on burials.

#### Wattle Flat (Old) Cemetery

NAME	FIRST NAME(s)	D. of D.	AGE	DENOM.	CEM. NO.	INSCRIP.	AD. INFO
MANN	Louisa	15.06.1924	87	Ang		'In Loving Memory of our dear mother at Rest;	
**Unknown #1				Ang		A large square double bed area of the previous grave	
which						now only has the brickwork surround.	
ELDRIDGE	Arthur George	31.12.1912	47	Ang		'In Loving Memory of my dear husband and our	
						dear father Arthur George ELDRIDGE who died	
						31.12.1912 aged 47 years At rest gone but not	
						forgotten.'	
FOSTER	Alexander	23.02.1910	21	Ang		'In Loving Memory of Alexander FOSTER died	
						23.02.1910 aged 21 years At rest'.	
DEAN	John Hart	04.06.1925	84			'In Memory of my dear husband John Hart DEAN who	
died						04.06.1925 in his 84 <sup>th</sup> year'.	
* Unknown #2							
■De La Torre	Jose					Not located	

## PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES INDEX

(recorded by B. Hickson 5<sup>th</sup> September 2007).

### WATTLE FLAT CEMETERY

Surname	page
MANN	2
ELDRIDGE	3
FOSTER	2
DEAN	1,2
UNKNOWN	1,3
DE LA TORRE	not located





# Conservation Management Plan for Wattle Flat General Cemetery





# Conservation Management Plan for Wattle Flat General Cemetery

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6. Wattle Flat Cemetery  
FOSTER A. - Anglican section  
site visit/photo by B Hickson 05.09.2007



4. Wattle Flat Cemetery  
DEAN J.H. - Anglican section  
site visit/photo by B Hickson 05.09.2007



10. Wattle Flat Cemetery  
MANN Louisa - Anglican section  
site visit/photo by B Hickson 05.09.2007





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