ST. THOMAS' REST PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

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1.0 **Introduction**

1.1 **Management Context**

Plans of Management are important documents providing clear guidelines for the effective short and long-term management of all land owned by Council or under Council's control. This document complies with the Local Government Act 1993, and the Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998, and supersedes Council's St. Thomas' Rest Park Plan of Management 2009.

St. Thomas' Rest Park is a unique combination of a recreational facility and a heritage resource. Located in the suburb of Crows Nest, and wholly owned by Council, the Rest Park occupies the site of the former St. Thomas' Cemetery which was the first European graveyard established on the North Shore. The conversion of the former Cemetery into a Rest Park in 1974 provided valuable open space for local residents while preserving the historic significance of the land. The unique nature of the Rest Park warrants the development of a significant Plan of Management.

The St. Thomas' Rest Park Plan of Management examines the broad range of issues associated with this significant area of public open space in a comprehensive and holistic manner. The Plan draws on information contained within previous studies and incorporates them into a useful document that functions as one of Council's key management tools.

Major relevant documents and studies include:

- St. Thomas' Rest Park Conservation Management Plan (CMP) 2014
  The CMP will guide the conservation of St Thomas' Rest Park and its ability to act as a source of information for visitors interested in the history of the North Sydney area, St Thomas' Church and the former Cemetery itself.

- Local Government Act 1993

- Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998

- North Sydney Council Delivery Program

- Local Environmental Plan 2013, North Sydney Council

- North Sydney Recreation Needs Study 2015

- The Burra Charter 1979 (revised)

- St. Thomas' Church of England, North Sydney, Cemetery Act 1967

- Sexton's Cottage Conservation Management Plan 1981

- Cemetery Conservation Guidelines, National Trust of Australia (NSW)

- Heritage Act 1977

- North Sydney DCP 2013

- Playgrounds Plan of Management, North Sydney Council 2009

1.2   Structure of the Plan of Management

The plan is divided into 6 parts:

Part 1 examines what a Plan of Management is, outlines the scope of this Plan, its purpose and its core objectives, explains the linkage between this Plan of Management and Council's land management goals, and details the importance of community consultation in the planning process. It also examines the issue of leases, licences and other estates in the Rest Park.

Part 2 indicates the location of St. Thomas' Rest Park, and examines its characteristics and resources. The function and use of the Rest Park is also discussed.

Part 3 identifies and examines the major planning issues essential to an understanding of the overall directions of the Plan of Management. Current management policies and practices are examined.

Part 4 is the philosophical basis for the Plan of Management. It details the significance of St. Thomas' Rest Park both on its own and within its North Sydney context, and establishes the overall directions and objectives of management that guide policy development and formulation of the action plan.

Part 5 is the implementation and performance component of the Plan of Management. A matrix sets out the objectives, proposed actions and performance indicators for each issue, and each issue is given a priority rating. An indicative works program further details the staging of all works and actions over a 5-year period.

Part 6 contains the appendices. This supporting material and background information provides an important resource base for appreciating the value of St. Thomas' Rest Park.

1.3   Purpose of the Plan of Management

This Plan of Management has been prepared to provide the managers of St. Thomas' Rest Park with a useful and consistent set of guidelines governing the direction of management for this important area of public open space for at least the next 5 years. The production of this Plan of Management is closely linked with Council's overall land management objectives, as set out in the North Sydney Council Delivery Program.

The following information, relevant to managing St. Thomas' Rest Park, comes from the North Sydney Council Delivery Program.

The following outcomes (encompassed in the Delivery Program under Direction 1 – 'Our Living Environment') describe what Council needs to achieve with regard to management of St. Thomas' Rest Park:

1.5   Public open space, recreation facilities and services that meet community needs

The following strategies are derived from this outcome:

1.5.1   Provide a range of recreational facilities and services for people of all ages and abilities

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1.5.2   Improve equity of access to open space and recreation facilities

This Plan of Management examines the present-day condition and characteristics of St. Thomas' Rest Park. It identifies clear objectives and establishes directions for planning, resource management and maintenance. It clarifies direction both to Council staff and the general public, and provides a basis for assigning priorities in works programming and budgeting.

This Plan of Management will be reviewed regularly to assess implementation. A major review after approximately 5 years will allow policy and planning issues to be revisited and updated.

The land covered by this Plan of Management is zoned 'RE1 Public Recreation' under Council's Local Environmental Plan 2013. Refer **Appendix 1**: Schedule of Land.

1.4   Land Categorisation and Core Objectives

Council's St. Thomas' Rest Park Plan of Management, 2009, categorised St. Thomas' Rest Park as a 'park'. This categorisation will be retained. According to the Local Government Act 1993, land should be categorised as a park under section 36(4) of the Act if:

the land is, or is proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, for use mainly for passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that do not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.

The Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998 provides core objectives for management of land categorised as 'park' that are applicable to St. Thomas' Rest Park.

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a park are:

(a)   to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and

(b)   to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and

(c)   to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.

1.5   Leasing of Community Land

Parks and reserves in North Sydney are subject to stringent controls to ensure the land is managed appropriately. The Local Government Act 1993, the Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998 and the North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013 all contain information that places restrictions on the use of public land in order to protect it.

The granting of a lease formalises the use of community land by groups such as sporting clubs, commercial organisations or individuals who are providing benefits, facilities or services for users of the land. A lease is typically required where exclusive use or control of all or part of a park or reserve is required. The terms and conditions of a lease should ensure that the lessee undertakes proper management of the facility

such that it is maintained in a safe and visually pleasing condition, and that the interests of Council and the public are protected.

Licences allow multiple and non-exclusive use of an area. A licence may be required where intermittent or short-term use or control of all or part of a park is proposed. A number of licences for different users can apply to the same area at the same time, provided there is no conflict of interest.

The term 'estate' is defined as an interest, charge, right, title, claim, demand, lien or encumbrance, whether by law or in equity.

This Plan of Management authorises the granting of leases, licences and other estates for uses of and developments on St. Thomas' Rest Park that are in accordance and consistent with:

- The requirements of the Local Government Act 1993;

- The requirements of the Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998;

- The categorisation of the community land (refer section 1.4);

- The core objectives for that category (refer section 1.4);

- The zoning of the land under North Sydney LEP 2013;
  The North Sydney LEP 2013 sets out in general terms what types of developments are permissible within the RE1 Public Recreational zone, and provisions for conservation of heritage items. Any proposed developments within community land must be in line with the LEP 2013. They may require a development and building application in line with the Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979;

- Community values for the land (refer section 4.2.1);

- The objectives of this Plan of Management (refer section 4.2.2);

The Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998 sets out requirements for the granting of a lease, licence or other estate in respect of community land.

General Conditions

Council may only grant a lease, licence or other estate for use of St. Thomas' Rest Park if it is:

- for a purpose specified as a core objective for 'park' (refer section 1.4)

- for activities appropriate to the current and future needs of the community in relation to wide public purposes such as public recreation and cultural development

- for short term casual purposes as listed below:

  o the playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward
  o engaging in a trade or business
  o delivering a public address
  o commercial photographic sessions
  o picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings
  o filming for cinema or television

(Note: The use or occupation of the Rest Park for any of the above listed short term casual purposes is allowed only if the use or occupation does not involve the erection of any building or structure of a permanent nature).

Subleasing of St. Thomas' Rest Park is only permitted for the same purpose as the original lease.

Leases, licences and other estates for periods not exceeding 5 years

In order for Council to grant a lease, licence or other estate in respect of St. Thomas' Rest Park for a period that does not exceed 5 years (including any period for which the lease, licence or other estate could be renewed by the exercise of an option), it must:

- give public notice of the proposal, and

- exhibit notice of the proposal on the land to which the proposal relates, and

- exhibit notice of the proposal to such persons as appear to it to own or occupy the land adjoining the community land, and

- give notice of the proposal to any other person, appearing to the Council to be the owner or occupier of land in the vicinity of the community land, if in the opinion of the Council the land the subject of the proposal is likely to form the primary focus of the person's enjoyment of community land.

A notice of the proposal must include:

- information sufficient to identify the community land concerned

- the purpose for which the land will be used under the proposed lease, licence or other estate

- the term of the proposed lease, licence or other estate (including particulars of any options for renewal)

- the name of the person to whom it is proposed to grant the lease, licence or other estate

- a statement that submissions in writing may be made to the Council concerning the proposal within a period, not less than 28 days, specified in the notice

Other requirements

- Any person may make a submission in writing to the Council during the period specified for the purpose in the notice

- Before granting the lease, licence or other estate, the Council must consider all submissions duly made to it

- On receipt by the Council of a written request from the Minister for Local Government, the proposal is to be referred to the Minister

Final approval of a lease, licence or other estate rests with Council, however, in unusual circumstances, the Minister for Local Government has the discretion to 'call-in' a proposed lease, licence or other estate and determine the matter in place of the Council.

Leases, licences and other estates for a period of 5 years or less for use of St. Thomas'

Rest Park for appropriate recreational or other cultural purposes are not required to be tendered.

Leases, licences and other estates for periods exceeding 5 years

Leases, licences and other estates for use or occupation of St. Thomas' Rest Park for periods of over 5 years must be tendered unless for a non-profit organisation. The public notification and consultation procedure is as for leases, licences and other estates of 5 years or less. Council must submit leases, licences and other estates of over 5 years (including options to renew) to the Minister of for Local Government for his approval.

Leases, licences or other estates may not be granted for a period exceeding 21 years. (This includes any period for which the lease, licence or other estate could be renewed by the exercise of an option).

Uses of Community Land for which leases, licences and other estates are not required

Exemptions regarding the granting of lease, licence or other estate in respect of St. Thomas' Rest Park for terms of 5 years or less may be granted in the following cases:

Use and occupation of the land for events such as:

- a public performance (that is, a theatrical, musical or other entertainment for the amusement of the public),
- the playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward,
- engaging in a trade or business,
- playing of any lawful game or sport,
- delivering a public address
- conducting a commercial photographic session,
- picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings,
- filming for cinema or television

However, the use or occupation of community land for the events listed above is exempt only if:

(a) the use or occupation does not involve the erection of any building or structure of a permanent nature,
(b) in the case of any use or occupation that occurs only once, it does not continue for more than 3 consecutive days, and
(c) in the case of any use or occupation that occurs more than once, each occurrence is for no more than 3 consecutive days, not including Saturday and Sunday, and the period from the first occurrence until the last occurrence is not more than 12 months.

This Plan of Management authorises the leasing of the residential section of the Sexton's Cottage to Link Housing Ltd for the purposes of affordable housing; preferably for a tenant with connections to the North Sydney area. The 5-year lease finishes on 30 June 2019 and there is not an option for renewal. The terms of the lease include several provisions that relate to the building and the Rest Park.

These provisions include:

- maintaining the cottage garden to a high standard

- carrying out minor (non-structural) maintenance to the Sexton's cottage

- permitting access by North Sydney Council staff and those authorised by it to the parts of the premises used in connection with the conduct of the Sexton's Cottage museum and meeting room

- weekly cleaning of the Sexton's Cottage museum

- weekly inspections of the Cottage and Rest Park with any damage or other issues reported promptly to the relevant authorities (Council Historian, Council Rangers, volunteer museum staff, police etc).

1.6   **Community Consultation**

Community consultation plays an important role in the production of Plans of Management. It provides Council with a sound understanding of relevant local issues from people who are familiar with and use the relevant open space areas. To a large degree, the direction for the future development of open space is based on the views expressed by the general public.

Public involvement and consultation generates an understanding of Council's land management aims, combats misinformation and misunderstanding, and fosters support for Council's programs and policies. The consent and co-operation of users and other stakeholders facilitates management and lends weight to the status of the St. Thomas' Rest Park Plan of Management.

The draft St. Thomas' Rest Park Plan of Management is publicly exhibited for 28 days. A further 14 days is allowed to receive submissions. This provides interested parties with the opportunity to comment on and have input into the final document. The following steps were undertaken to generate widespread awareness of the draft Plan of Management:

- Inserting regular notices in Council's corporate advertisement in the Mosman Daily to inform the community that the draft Plan is on public exhibition

- Posting the draft document on Council's website for information and comment, and providing details of how to make a submission

- Notifying nearby Precincts and other known stakeholders (eg Museum volunteers and the Sexton's Cottage tenant) that a new draft Plan is on display, and inviting comments

- Providing hard copies of the draft document to stakeholders, upon request

- Making hard copies of the draft document available for viewing at Council's Customer Service Centre, upon request

Writing a Submission

Submissions give all stakeholders an opportunity to express their opinions, provide information and suggest alternatives to Council's proposed management strategies for St. Thomas' Rest Park over the next 5 years.

To ensure submissions are as effective as possible:

(1)   List all points according to the section and page number in the Plan of Management.
(2)   Briefly describe each subject or issue you wish to discuss.
(3)   State which strategies you agree or disagree with, and give reasons.
(4)   Suggest alternatives to deal with any issue with which you disagree.

Written submissions should be sent to:

The General Manager
North Sydney Council
P O Box 12
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059

<u>Attention</u>:   Ms Megan White
Landscape Planner

Fax No: 9936-8177
Email: council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au

Comments regarding this or any other adopted Plan of Management may be submitted at any time. Each Plan is reviewed regularly, and at the time of the review new issues can be incorporated and existing actions amended. Adopted Plans of Management are available on Council's website: www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au

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2.0   **Characteristics and Resources**

2.1   **Site Location and General Description**

St. Thomas' Rest Park is one of North Sydney's special places. Not only does it have important social and historical significance as the site of the first European cemetery on the North Shore, but it is also the largest park in the densely populated Crows Nest area.

St. Thomas' Rest Park occupies an area of approximately 4 acres (1.6 hectares), and is situated on the brow of a gentle hill. The main entrance is through historic gates on West Street. To the north the Rest Park is bounded by the Warringah Freeway, to the south by residential development and to the west by Matthew Lane and a number of residential premises.

The conversion of the former Cemetery into a Rest Park took place between 1967 and 1974. It went some way to overcoming the relative shortfall of public open space in this part of the North Sydney area. Consisting of historic precincts containing headstones and monuments, a small cottage museum, an interpretive history trail, extensively landscaped grounds, a playground and a public amenities building, the Rest Park caters for the recreational needs of the local community as well as for visitors who come to explore and investigate relics of the past.

The Rest Park is an open-air museum. It contains a wealth of historical and cultural information and provides visitors with an insight into the nature of life and death in the Victorian age. People visit the Rest Park to explore and examine the relics of the past, and to research family history.

Map 1 – 'St. Thomas' Rest Park Location and Environs' shows the Rest Park and some of the key open spaces in the surrounding area. Aerial Photograph 1 – 'St. Thomas Rest Park Principle Features' shows the Rest Park and the location of some of the key features in it.

2.2   **Site History**

St. Thomas' Rest Park is the site of the former St. Thomas' Cemetery which was the first European burial ground established on the North Shore. The land for the Cemetery was donated to the Anglican Parish of St Leonards in 1845 by Alexander Berry, a prominent merchant and landholder. Berry donated 4 acres of his land in order to secure a prestigious burial place for his wife Elizabeth, who was the sister of another important landowner, Edward Wollstonecraft.   The striking pyramid monument in the centre of the Rest Park was erected in honour of Elizabeth; Edward Wollstonecraft and Alexander Berry are also buried there.

St. Thomas' Cemetery contained the graves of many notable historic figures including Conrad Martens, Bernard Holtermann, Captain Owen Stanley and Major Ovens. The names of many North Shore suburbs and landmarks including Berry, Wollstonecraft, Pymble, Ives, Lavender, Blue and Milson, owe their origin to the pioneering families buried here. The first burial, after Elizabeth Berry, was recorded in 1847, and the last in 1950. Other monuments and headstones of particular historic significance including those of Lieut. Col. George Barney, Rev. W.B. Clarke and Captain John Vine and his wife Alice (daughter of E.T. Blackett).

One of the most interesting and significant of all the monuments is the Bent and Ovens' Tomb, an unusually shaped sandstone tomb with an extremely fine inscription. Before Judge Ellis Bent died in 1815, he incurred the displeasure of Governor Macquarie, who refused to allow his burial at Garden Island. He was interred at Devonshire Street Cemetery and later, in 1825, when Brevet-Major John Ovens died, Ellis Bent was re-interred with him at Garden Island. The tomb was transferred to St. Thomas' Cemetery, probably in the 1880s as major redevelopment was underway at Garden Island to improve naval facilities. It is retained in the Rest Park in its original position.

A special Act of Parliament was passed in 1967 to allow the St. Thomas' Cemetery to be converted to a Rest Park. The term 'Rest Park' describes an area of land, formerly a cemetery, which has been modified for the purpose of better catering for the recreational needs of the community whilst retaining the basic features of the cemetery. The area became 'community land', and responsibility for its management and maintenance was transferred from a management committee of the Church of England to North Sydney Council. The Cemetery was renamed St. Thomas' Rest Park, and in 1974 the new Rest Park, designed by Ashton, Powell and Taylor was officially opened to the public.

In the conversion from Cemetery to Rest Park broken monuments and headstones were cleared away and others were moved to the historic section of the Rest Park. Monuments and headstones already in suitable positions were retained in these locations. Most grave surrounds were removed and used to form low walls. Over the following years the old Sexton's Cottage was renovated to become a museum, and a playground was created. The conversion of the Cemetery to a Rest Park was North Sydney Council's first heritage project, and it aimed to conserve a historic site while providing public access to its history and heritage. Had the transformation not occurred, Crows Nest would now be without its largest and most significant area of open space.

The Sexton's Cottage, a stone cottage built around 1850, occupies the north-east corner of the site. Originally consisting of one room, the cottage was used for the 'laying out' of bodies prior to burial. Extensions were carried out in the 1880s to provide a residence for the Sexton who was employed by St. Thomas' Church to look after the Cemetery ground and supervise burials. North Sydney Council restored the cottage in 1985, and it opened as a museum the following year. The museum contains a copy of the burial register, s display and storyboards which explain the history of the Cemetery, the original plot map, photographs and other biographical information useful for family history and other researchers.
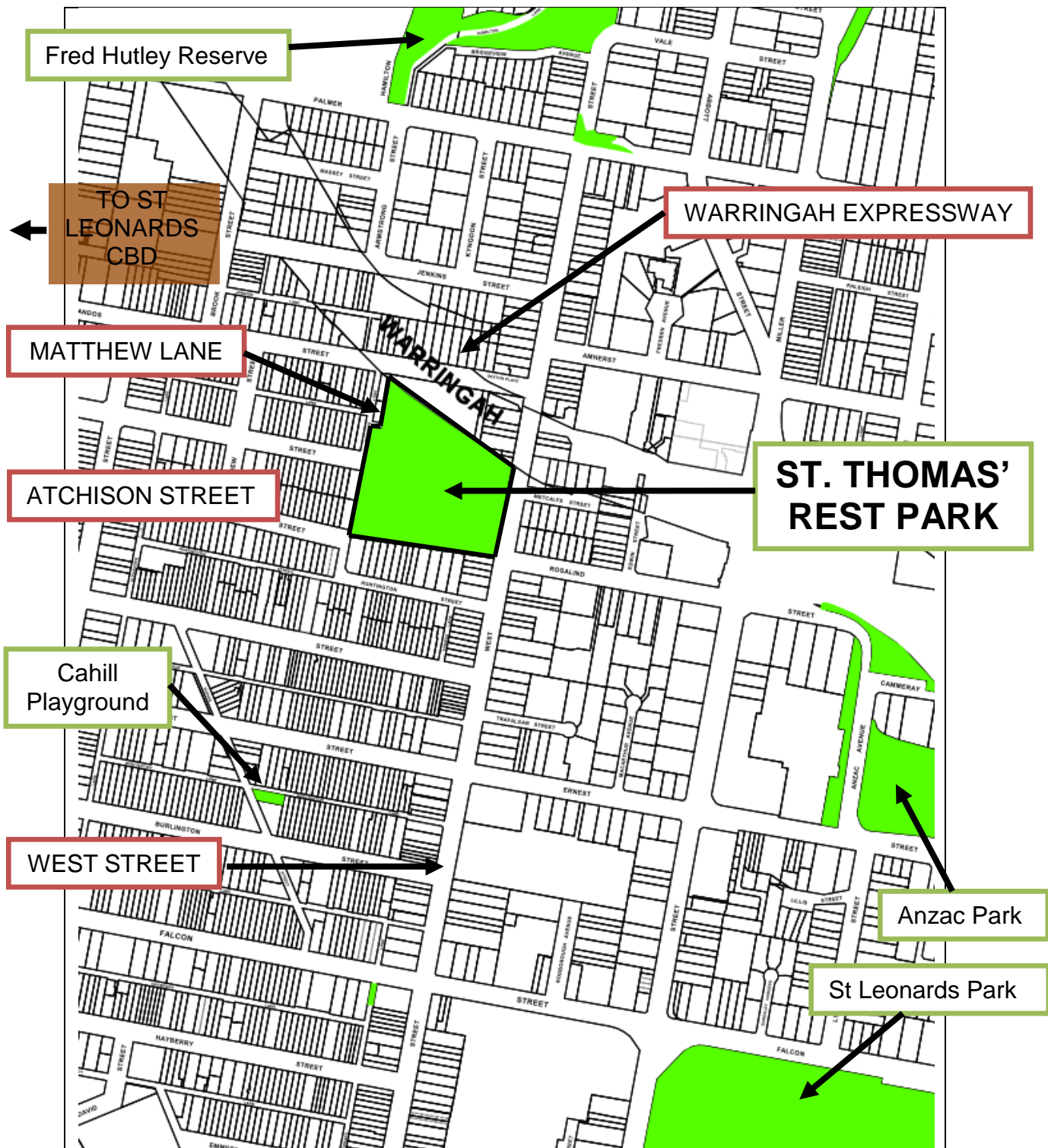
Map 1 – **St. Thomas' Rest Park Location and Environs**

The following labels appear on the map:

- Fred Hutley Reserve
- TO ST LEONARDS CBD
- WARRINGAH EXPRESSWAY
- MATTHEW LANE
- ATCHISON STREET
- ST. THOMAS' REST PARK
- Cahill Playground
- WEST STREET
- Anzac Park
- St Leonards Park
- TO NORTH SYDNEY CBD

Playground

Cross-park pathway

Bent-Ovens monument

Cross-park pathway

Historic precinct

Historic precincts

Commemorative tree

Sexton's Cottage Museum

Historic gates

Berry monument

WEST STREET

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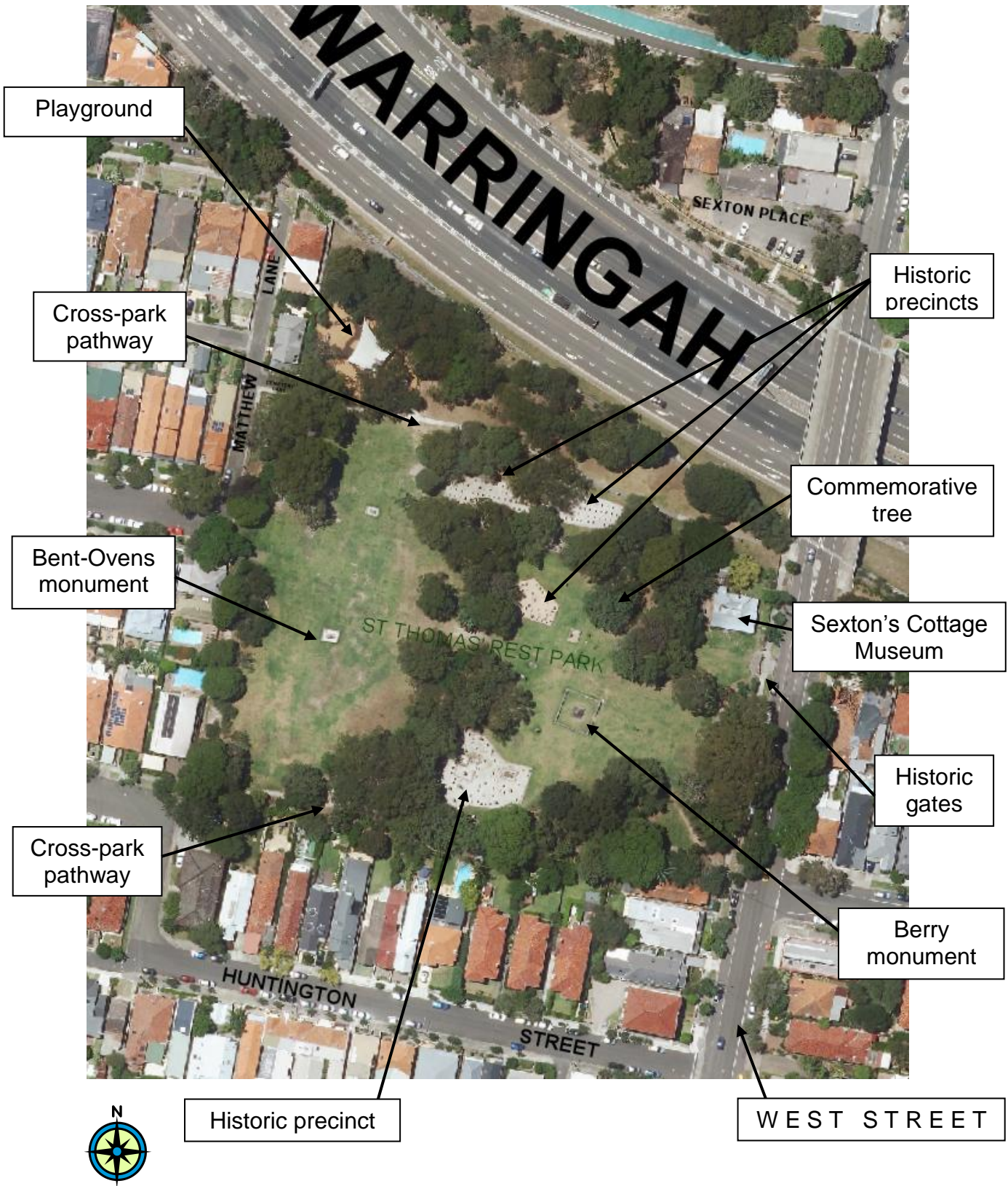
Aerial Photograph 1 **– St. Thomas Rest Park Principle Features**

2.3　Physical Characteristics

2.3.1　Topography

From its southern boundary where the North Sydney area meets Sydney Harbour, the land rises steeply until it reaches a maximum height of around 100 metres in Crows Nest. At this point the land levels out and forms a plateau. St. Thomas' Rest Park is situated on this plateau, on the brow of a gentle hill.

There is little natural topographical variation within the Rest Park; however the construction of a number of earth mounds as part of the landscaping works undertaken in the early 1970s adds an interesting three dimensional element to the site. Composed of crushed sandstone purchased cheaply from nearby office building excavations, the mounds are up to two metres high.

2.3.2　Geology and Soils

St. Thomas' Rest Park is situated within the Sydney Basin, a geological province characterised by sedimentary rocks. Triassic sediments, laid down between 230 and 180 million years ago form the dominant rock type within the basin, and include (in chronological order of deposition) the Narrabeen, Hawkesbury and Wianamatta groupings. Hawkesbury sandstone is the major rock type in the Rest Park and the sandstone bedrock can be clearly seen in the Warringah Freeway cutting which forms the northern boundary of the site.

Soils within St. Thomas' Rest Park closely reflect the nature of the underlying sandstone geology. The topsoil is a brown sandy loam, low in organic matter and deficient in nutrients due to leaching. The subsoil varies between clay, silty sand, sandy clay with ironstone accretions, and weathered sandstone. In many areas of the Rest Park, soil depth over bedrock is minimal. Prior to undertaking the comprehensive planting program carried out in the early 1970s, all areas marked for planting out were extensively cultivated.

2.3.3　Vegetation

The current vegetation in the Rest Park is largely a product of the comprehensive landscape design and planting plan developed by Ashton, Powell and Taylor and implemented by North Sydney Council in the early 1970s. This planting program aimed to reinstate the original vegetation community which would have existed on the site prior to European settlement, and thus consisted almost entirely of species native to the lower North Shore.

Turpentines (Syncarpia glomulifera) were used to form a backdrop around the historic section of the Rest Park and a grove of Casuarinas behind the West Street fence was planted to allow glimpses into the Rest Park from this approach. Sydney wattle (Acacia longifolia), Black wattle (Acacia decurrens), Golden banksia (Banksia ericifolia), White kunzea (Kunzea ambigua), and Leptospermum sp. were all used in areas where screening was desired. Planting of these species on top of the mounds has effectively screened both the paling fences on the southern and western boundaries and the two-storey flats to the south of the Rest Park.

Other trees planted in the Rest Park as part of this planting scheme include Sydney Red

Gums (Angophora costata), Blackbutt (Eucalyptus pilularis), Sydney Peppermint (Eucalyptus piperita), Red Bloodwood (Eucalyptus gummifera), Coastal Myall (Acacia glaucescens) and Sweet Pittosporum (Pittosporum undulatum). Smaller plants include Hairpin Banksia (Banksia spinulosa), Golden Spray (Viminaria juncea), Mountain devil (Lambertia formosa), Dusky Coral Pea (Kennedia rubicunda), Sarsaparilla Vine (Hardenbergia violacea), Kangaroo Vine (Cissus antarctica), River Rose (Bauera rubioides), Isopogon sp. and Dillwynia sp.

A row of poplars growing along the West Street fence was removed when the new planting scheme was implemented as it was felt that these trees introduced a discordant element into an otherwise natural association of plants. At the time of their removal, the poplars were only about 10 years old, and could not therefore claim any historic significance. Had the trees not been removed, they would eventually have completely dominated the site.

Known as the Commemorative tree, the Bermuda cypress (Sabina bermudiana) is the most significant tree in the Rest Park. This species of tree has traditionally been grown near places of burial and is thought to be extinct in its own habitat. Trees of this family have long been associated with funerals and mourning practices in many different civilisations, and the wood has been used to make coffins due to its incorruptibility. It is believed that Alexander Berry planted cypress trees in the Cemetery, and that this tree may have seeded from one of the original trees.

The Bermuda cypress has been retained within the historic section of the Rest Park. Other trees retained on the site include Pittosporums and Brush Boxes. The Blackbutt in the north-west corner of the Rest Park is a remnant of the natural forest which covered the hill prior to European settlement.

In 1990 contractors maintaining St. Thomas' Rest Park prepared a new planting scheme in consultation with Council staff. The scheme involved planting additional native species to supplement the original plantings, and replacing plants nearing the end of their lives. Another significant replanting program took place in 1998. The understorey vegetation was substantially replanted using plants from the original list developed in the 1970s.

2.4   Structures and Park Furniture

The cottage built for the St. Thomas' Church's Sexton was erected somewhere between 1850 and 1880. The earliest part of the cottage consists of one room constructed in simple, vernacular style; the exterior of rendered brick with a verandah and an iron roof over timber shingles. Timber extensions were carried out in the 1880s, and the building became the residence for the Church's Sexton.

In 1985 Council comprehensively restored the cottage and the exterior was painted appropriate heritage colours. In 1986 the cottage was reopened as the Sexton's Cottage Museum, housing the Cemetery's burial register, storyboards relating the history of St. Thomas' Church and Cemetery, photographs of early North Sydney and other memorabilia. Significant maintenance was again carried out in 2003 when a long-term tenant vacated the cottage.

North Sydney Council manages the museum at the front of the cottage and the rear of the cottage is leased for the purposes of providing affordable housing to a tenant with

connections to the North Sydney area. The presence of an on-site tenant acts as a deterrent to would-be vandals. The tenant is also responsible for simple maintenance works including upkeep of the small cottage garden surrounding the cottage.

There are numerous monuments and headstones within St. Thomas' Rest Park. Many of the historically significant graves lie within historic precincts created at the time of the conversion; however others have been retained in sympathetic locations outside these areas. The sandstone edging bordering the historic precincts was repaired and re-laid as part of the landscape improvement program undertaken in the 1970s to allow ease of mowing, and the ground was covered with a white gravel mulch to inhibit weed growth.

A plot map housed in the museum shows the original location of all monuments and headstones which have been moved into the historic section of the Rest Park. Attempts by organisations such as the Army and the Department of Railways to move various monuments to locations outside the Rest Park have been strongly resisted in order to preserve the historic character and the integrity of the Rest Park.

Other significant features of St. Thomas' Rest Park include the original cemetery fence and striking gates that mark the main entry from West Street. The fence is of Gothic design in cast iron on a stone base. A small public amenities block located on the northern side of the Sexton's Cottage is in relatively good condition. Parallel pathways linking West Street with residential and commercial areas on the western side of the Rest Park facilitate pedestrian movement through the Rest Park.

New lights were installed in the Rest Park in 1997, and in 1998 new seats and picnic tables replaced the existing old-style seats that were in poor condition. In 2015 a light was installed to allow the community to use the Rest Park for recreation into the evening (outside of daylight savings times). The light is on a timer, and it points away from residential properties.

In 1998 the St. Thomas' Rest Park History Trail (a series of 7 interpretive signs) was installed in the Rest Park. The signs cover topics including the establishment of the Cemetery, characteristics of a Victorian cemetery, detailed information about specific individuals buried there, the transformation from Cemetery to Rest Park, the Commemorative Tree and the Sexton's Cottage Museum.

A fully-fenced playground is located in the north-west corner of the Rest Park. It is shaded partially by mature trees and partially by a shade sail. New trees have been planted to provide additional shade in the future and the shade sail is likely to be removed when these are fully established. Seats and picnic tables cater for people supervising children's play and the playground also features an accessible bubbler.

2.5 Current Activities in the Rest Park

When St. Thomas' Rest Park was originally created its primary objective was to educate and inform visitors interested in the history of the North Sydney area, St. Thomas' Church and the Cemetery itself. This is currently achieved through a number of programs and initiatives.

The Sexton's Cottage Museum is open between 1.00-4.00 pm every Thursday from October for March (excluding January), and at other times by special arrangement.

The Museum contains a copy of the Cemetery's burial register, a plot map indicating the original locations of all graves, displays which explain the history of the Church and the Cemetery and photographs of early North Sydney. Copies of documents housed in the Museum may also be examined at Council's Heritage Centre in Stanton Library.

The Library's Historical Services staff, Council's Historian and volunteers lead guided tours for school groups and other interested parties upon request. The brochure 'Sailors, Soldiers and Civil Servants' (refer Appendix 5) provides information about the former cemetery and Rest Park. It is available on Council's website. A small book: 'Life and Death on the North Side' that tells the story of the Cemetery and its connection to St. Thomas' Church can be purchased from Stanton Library.

The interpretive History Trail means that historical information about the Rest Park is always available to visitors. The Trail also forms the basis for interpretive walking tours. A small brochure entitled 'St. Thomas' Rest Park – Self-guided Walking Tour Notes' (refer Appendix 6) complements the interpretive History Trail and provides more detailed information about some of the well-known people interred there.

St. Thomas' Rest Park is also an important recreation resource for the local community. It is a good-sized local park that is popular with people picnicking, socialising and dog walking. Away from the historic precincts, the extensive areas of tree and shrub planting and the irregular mounding make the Rest Park ideal for children's informal adventure play. Play equipment located in the north-west corner of the Rest Park caters for younger children and is a meeting point for local families. Other uses of the Rest Park are as a short-cut for commuters, and as an occasional venue for community events such as jazz concerts.

3.0 **Planning Issues**

3.1 **Background**

Physical and social forces have moulded St. Thomas' Rest Park, creating the environment we have today. It is important to monitor these forces to ensure that those making a positive contribution to the Rest Park can be retained, and that those having a negative influence (such as weeds, vandalism, deterioration of monuments and headstones etc) can be appropriately managed. Following is a brief outline of the current major planning issues affecting St. Thomas' Rest Park.

3.2 **St. Thomas' Rest Park Conservation Management Plan (CMP)**

The purpose of the CMP is to guide all work relating to heritage issues and items associated with St. Thomas' Rest Park.

The CMP states that the Rest Park shall be maintained as a park for passive recreation for the local community, while recognising and retaining the memorial component and historical resource of the site as the former St Thomas' Rest Cemetery. These uses are compatible, and allow local residents and visitors to visit and enjoy the place while learning about its former use as a cemetery, the significance of the remaining monuments and headstones and the persons interred there.

The CMP observes that the Rest Park evokes a sense of being within a former cemetery rather than a public park which generates a feeling of respect and care for the space. The CMP notes that future recreational uses of the Rest Park should respect the remaining fabric, the current layout and the landscaping.

The CMP sets out principles for management and maintenance of the Rest Park, and includes a list of future actions to be carried out including carrying out an assessment of individual monuments and headstones in accordance with the National Trust "Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation" to provide better guidance for the ongoing restoration, general maintenance and management of the Rest Park. The CMP identifies the circumstances in which the relocation and restanding of monuments and headstones will be acceptable and suggests possible compatible uses in the Rest Park including anastylosis, a memorial wall and columbarium. It also considers additional educational opportunities in the Rest Park and potential research opportunities.

The CMP investigates the potential State significance of the former cemetery based on the Berry monument, the people interred there and its historical significance, including the use of the cemetery as an unofficial naval/maritime cemetery. The CMP recommends that Council pursue State heritage listing for the Rest Park. Recommendations contained in the CMP are set out in the Matrix section of this document.

3.3 **Site Heritage and Landscape Character**

The North Sydney Heritage Study Review undertaken in 1993 by Godden Mackay describes St. Thomas' Rest Park as being a landlocked urban park of great historical significance due to its original use as the North Shore's first European burial ground. The Study contends however, that the integrity of the Cemetery site has been lost due to its conversion to a Rest Park, and stresses that this once socially accepted practice

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is, in conservation terms, no longer regarded as appropriate. Despite the conversion, the Rest Park remains an extremely valuable and important historical site; the historic precincts and the Sexton's Cottage museum form part of Council's Historical Services and are an important community heritage resource.

Conservation is an integral part of the management of places of cultural significance and is an ongoing responsibility for North Sydney Council. The Burra Charter provides guidance for the conservation and management of places of cultural significance (cultural heritage places), and is based on the knowledge and experience of Australia ICOMOS members.

The Burra Charter defines the basic principles and procedures to be followed in the conservation of Australian heritage places. It sets a standard of practice for those who provide advice, make decisions about, or undertake works to places of cultural significance, including owners, managers and custodians.*

It is due to the initial use of the site as a cemetery that St. Thomas' Rest Park exists today. The CMP acknowledges the duality of the former cemetery and current recreation facility and stresses the importance of the space continuing to operate as an effective open space, while respecting the memorial characteristics of the park.

The current landscape character of St. Thomas' Rest Park is a direct result both of the site's former use as a cemetery and of the landscape design scheme implemented in the early 1970s. The integrity of this original design and planting scheme has been well maintained, and the Rest Park consequently has a strong, well-developed and cohesive landscape character.

The focal point of the Rest Park is Berry's tomb, a large sandstone monument notable for its strong simplicity and the fine quality of its inscription. Around this monument, a historic section containing many of the historic tombs as well as two significant mature trees is separated from the main general activity area by large swathes of planting and artificial grassed mounds. While visual separation between the historic area and the rest of the Rest Park is quite pronounced, the layout of the gardens facilitates a variety of walks connecting the two areas.

The grassed mounds are an important feature of the Rest Park. At around two metres in height, the mounds afford views towards Folly Point and Northbridge. Planting on top of the mounds partially screens the paling fences on the southern and western boundaries, and the two-storey flats to the south of the Rest Park.

Vegetation is a major variable influencing landscape character. With the exception of some cottage garden plantings in the immediate vicinity of the Sexton's Cottage and the commemorative cypress tree, the vegetation in St. Thomas' Rest Park today consists entirely of species native to the lower North Shore. Any future planting in the Rest Park should be consistent with this established style, and the existing plantings should be maintained to a high standard to preserve the aesthetic value and visual amenity of the Rest Park.

The Australian ICOMOS Charter for the conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (the Burra Charter) was adopted by Australia ICOMOS in 1979. Revisions were adopted in 1981 and 1988.

The Burra Charter takes into account the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (Venice 1966), and the Resolutions of the 5th General Assembly of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) (Moscow 1978), but wrote them in a form that would be practical and useful in Australia. The Charter was revised in 1999.

3.4   Access and Circulation

Most visitors to St. Thomas' Rest Park arrive on foot or by car. Although there are no special provisions for car parking, there is generally ample parking in one of the surrounding residential streets. Numerous buses run up and down Miller Street one block from the Rest Park, and buses also run along West Street. General vehicular access to the Rest Park is prohibited, however adequate access for service and emergency vehicles is provided.

Most regular visitors to the Park are local residents, and it is important that the Rest Park is accessible to people pushing strollers and prams. The presence of a popular playground accentuates this need. The playground was designed with accessibility in mind, and the internal path system and many of the activities and ancillary facilities (such as bubblers and picnic tables) in the playground are accessible to all.

The design of the Rest Park encourages informal circulation and the relatively flat topography and the two footpaths mean that the Rest Park is accessible to all. Commuters use these footpaths as a short cut. The pedestrian gates are designed to remain open at all times to allow unrestricted access to and through the Rest Park.

From time to time informal 'goat tracks' appear in the Rest Park (for example there is currently an informal path into the Rest Park from the entrance on the south eastern corner adjacent to West Street. While it is generally inappropriate to install new formal paths due to the conservation significance of the Rest Park layout, Council staff monitor such areas and carry out returfing if required.

3.5   Recreation and Leisure

St. Thomas' Rest Park is a unique combination of a historical resource and a significant recreational green space located in close proximity to a large and ever-increasing population centre. This Plan of Management aims to ensure that the Rest Park provides educational and interpretive information, and that is an attractive green space that meets the recreation needs of the local community.

The interpretive signage trail, self-guiding tour brochures, static displays in the Sexton's Cottage museum and guided tours of the grave sites led by knowledgeable Council staff and volunteers all help visitors seeking to understand and appreciate the history of the site. These interpretive measures enrich the recreational experience of people using the Rest Park, and Council should actively promote the Rest Park and activities taking place in it to the local and wider community.

St. Thomas' Rest Park is a favoured destination for people walking dogs, and a dog drinking trough and dog tidy bins are provided. Open grassy spaces afford casual users with pleasant spots to sit in both the sun and the shade. Other common forms of Rest Park use include picnicking, eating lunch and relaxing. The playground is fully fenced to minimise the potential for conflicts between young children and off-leash dogs.

Managing St. Thomas' Rest Park's is a challenge due to its dual role as a regionally significant historical and educational resource and as a public open space catering to the recreation needs of the local community. Whilst management strategies in this Plan take both these functions into account, priority must be given to the former, as it is the historic elements that give the Rest Park its special value and interest, and that set it apart from other urban recreation areas.

The extensive nature of St. Thomas' Rest Park and its predominantly open character makes it well suited to a variety of recreational pursuits, and, with careful management, able to accommodate several different activities at any one time. However its popularity means that conflicts between people using the Rest Park as a historical and educational resource and people using it for activities such as dog walking can occur. All use of the Rest Park should be consistent with the core objectives for management as set out in Section 1.4.

With the increasing levels of residential and other development in the surrounding Crows Nest/St Leonards area, the importance of the Rest Park as a green space and a recreation resource for the local community will only increase. Management strategies within this Plan need to be flexible and adaptable to provide for the changing recreation needs of the community in relation to St. Thomas' Rest Park. The use of the area in a more effective way for an increasing population as a Rest Park needs to be balanced with the historic use as a former cemetery.

3.6 Dogs and Playgrounds

With numerous parks where dogs can be exercised off-leash, North Sydney is a dog-friendly area. However, the Companion Animals Act 1998 imposes some restrictions in relation to dogs and playgrounds.

As per North Sydney Council's 'Local Companion Animal Management Plan', all Council parks and public reserves are off-leash areas with the exception of:
St Leonard's Oval (No. 1 and 2);
- All playing fields whilst organised sporting events are in progress;
- All bushland areas;
- Cremorne Reserve, Clark Park and Ancrum Street Park.

In addition, all dogs must be on a leash at the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability.

Under the 'Companion Animals Act 1998 (Section 14)', dogs are also prohibited in the following public places:
- In or within 10m of any children's play areas;
- Food preparation and/or consumption areas (unless it is a public thoroughfare such as a road, footpath or pathway);
- Recreation areas where dogs are declared prohibited;
- Public bathing areas where dogs are declared prohibited;
- School grounds (unless with the permission of the person controlling the grounds);
- Child care centres (unless with the permission of the person controlling the centre);

–   Shopping areas where dogs are prohibited (unless secured in a vehicle, with the permission of the person controlling the place or going to or from a vet or pet shop); and

–   Wildlife protection areas.

All dogs in public places must be under the control of a competent person. As per the Companion Animals Act, the maximum number of dogs that a person is permitted to handle in a public place is 4. Council is required by the State Government to enforce the laws concerning dogs, and Council Rangers may issue on-the-spot fines for infringements including those listed above.

This information and more about dogs in the North Sydney LGA is available in Council's free booklet, 'Dog Control in North Sydney' which may be obtained through Council's Ranger Services Department or Customer Service Centre.

3.7   Park Furniture and Other Structures

This Plan of Management looks at long-term policy and directions for park furniture, lighting, signage and other structures in St. Thomas' Rest Park. Adequate facilities which meet identified levels of community need should be provided. Any new items required should be sympathetic to the existing character of the Rest Park and consistent with Council's identified corporate image.

Council's Recreation Needs Study 2015 notes the high value that the community places on open space, and recommends that any required buildings or other structures should have minimal impact on this.

Existing items of park furniture including park lights, seats, picnic tables and the set of 7 interpretive signs are generally in good condition. Children's play equipment located in the north-western corner of the Rest Park is managed and maintained as per Council's Playgrounds Plan of Management to be a safe, functional and attractive facility. The Rest Park's amenities block located near the Sexton's Cottage is in generally good condition.

The headstones and monuments located throughout the Rest Park are historically important structures requiring specialised management. Management and maintenance of these structures is discussed in Section 3.8 – 'Maintenance'.

3.8   Pollution

Traffic noise from the Warringah Freeway bordering the northern edge of St. Thomas' Rest Park impinges upon the otherwise tranquil nature of the Rest Park. Extensive border planting of native trees partially screens the expressway from view, and although the planting has a limited impact on the noise, lessening the visual intrusion of the freeway on the Rest Park has a positive effect on the overall amenity.

Litter levels in the Rest Park are generally low due to the absence of retail food outlets in the immediate vicinity and to an effective program of ongoing park maintenance.

Like most parks and reserves in the North Sydney area, St. Thomas' Rest Park is designated as an 'off-leash' dog walking park. However this popular activity is not always sympathetic to the Rest Park's primary function as a historical, educational and

interpretive resource; exercising dogs can disrupt the peace and tranquillity of the historical section. While the presence of 2 dog tidy bins has significantly improved problems with dog faeces, the CMP recommends careful washing down of headstones and monuments with water when dogs have been seen urinating on them to mitigate these negative effects.

3.9 Maintenance

The St. Thomas' Rest Park landscape is relatively easy to maintain. Grass areas are large and contiguous to minimise edge trimming, and the white gravel much that surrounds the monuments and headstones grouped in the historic precincts inhibits weed growth. The grouping of existing graves and the placement of headstones within planting areas are other low maintenance features of the Rest Park. A low fence and mulched area installed around the root zone of the Commemorative Tree protects the tree by preventing compaction of soil in the root zone.

The monitoring and maintenance of all the historical features in the Rest Park is an issue that requires constant, ongoing attention. Ongoing problems associated with the monuments and headstones include headstones becoming loose, monuments and headstones being damaged by vandals, and general disintegration due to aging. All maintenance of historic items is carried out in accordance with currently accepted conservation practices as described in the Burra Charter. Work is also carried out in accordance with the National Trust of Australia (NSW) document 'Cemetery Conservation Guidelines'. Complex technical issues that may arise in the Rest Park (including repair of vandalised graves and the removal of graffiti) may be referred to specialists such as the National Trust's Cemetery Committee for advice.

The CMP contains a number of recommendations regarding the ongoing maintenance of monuments and headstones in the Rest Park. These include the need to straighten monuments and headstones without damaging the material, the need to remove and make good unsympathetic previous repairs and the need to top up white crushed gravel as required to inhibit weed growth.

Over the years, the original engravings on a number of monuments and headstones have become worn and weathered and are now virtually illegible, however Stanton Library holds a complete transcription of all existing headstones, and a plaque program is also currently in operation. This program involves the installation of standard plaques containing pertinent information on the more historically significant monuments and headstones that have become difficult to read. Additionally, relatives may request the installation of relevant plaques at their own expense.

Vandalism generally occurs at night, and it is therefore extremely important to ensure that all lights in the Rest Park are functioning and that faulty lights are repaired as quickly as possible.

3.10 Management

Since the preparation of the original Plan of Management for St. Thomas' Rest Park in 1995, management strategies have focused on maintaining the desired landscape character, interpreting the historical aspects of the Rest Park, satisfying the recreational needs of users and achieving an acceptable standard of maintenance. Successive Plans of Management have also identified further opportunities to carry out forward planning

to achieve a more holistic approach to the long term care of the Rest Park. The recently completed Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for St. Thomas' Rest Park is the principle document that will guide all work relating to the conservation, management and maintenance of historic items in the Rest Park.

Incorporating community involvement into the management and maintenance of the Rest Park is an important aspect of this Plan of Management. Commenting on the draft Plan of Management, volunteering in the Sexton's Cottage Museum and becoming involved with various improvement projects (as Holtermann Precinct have been in recent years) are all excellent ways in which the community can participate in the life of the Rest Park.

3.10.1 Encroachments

The St. Thomas' Rest Park Plan of Management aims to ensure that any current or future encroachments onto St. Thomas' Rest Park are dealt with consistently, appropriately and in the best interests of Rest Park users and the general public.

Council's Encroachment Management Policy provides the following definition:

'Encroachment: the intrusion of a structure or other object onto land owned or controlled by Council'.

Encroachments typically include fences, steps, paths, paved areas, seating, small buildings such as sheds and vegetation planted to imply a boundary. Encroachments alienate public land and prevent the general public from using public open space. Private encroachments onto St. Thomas' Rest Park are not permitted.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, St. Thomas' Rest Park is classified as 'community land'. It is further categorised as a 'park' as:

'the land is, or is proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, for use mainly for passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that do not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others'.

Encroachments onto community land are not permitted unless authorised by a lease or licence in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*. The Act provides that Council may lease or licence community land where it is expressly authorised to do so under a Plan of Management, and where the purpose for which the lease or licence is issued is consistent with the core objectives for the area of community land in question. If the purpose of the lease or licence is not consistent with these core objectives, a Plan of Management authorising it is rendered invalid.

The Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998 provides core objective for management of land categorised as 'park' that are applicable to St. Thomas' Rest Park:

> (a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and
>
> (b) to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and
>
> (c) to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to

achieve the other core objectives of management.

Alternatively, having regard to section 46(4) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, a lease/licence may be entered into if it relates to such matters as the provision of a public road; or the provision of goods, services and facilities, and the carrying out of activities, appropriate to the current and future needs within the local community and of the wider public in relation to any of the following:

> *(i)   public recreation,*
>
> *(ii)   the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of persons.*

A relevant extract from Council's 'Encroachment Management Policy' is included as **Appendix 3**.

3.11   Improvement Works

Carrying out improvement works identified in previous Plans of Management for St. Thomas' Rest Park has led to the improved condition of the Rest Park that is apparent today. The following list details some of the projects that have been undertaken in St. Thomas' Rest Park since the preparation of the previous Plan of Management in 2009.

- Restoration of Headstones, Graves and other Monuments (ongoing)
  This is an ongoing project aimed at preserving the heritage of North Sydney and ensuring the safety of park users. Headstones and monuments in the Rest Park are subject to both natural deterioration and subsidence and vandalism. Since 2009 the following restoration projects have been undertaken:
  o George Barney monument restoration and installation of plaque
  o Conservation and stabilisation of the Ellis Bent John Ovens monument
  o Stabilisation of the footings of the Owen Stanley monument

- Dog drinking bowl installed in 2010
  In response to community requests a smaller, simpler unit replaced the dog's drinking trough in the Rest Park.

- Community noticeboard installed in 2010
  A community noticeboard was installed in the Rest Park (in close proximity to the playground) in response to community requests.

- Drainage improvement works in 2011
  Extensive work was carried out in 2011 in response to community requests to alleviate problems caused by poor drainage. Following heavy rainfall, water would sit on the path beside the playground and the surrounding grassed areas would remain boggy for some time. Drainage improvements were undertaken following archaeological survey work to ensure the improvements would not impinge on subsurface heritage items.

- Encroachments removed from Rest Park in 2011
  Council undertook the necessary work to remove the encroachments onto the Rest Park caused by the incorrect positioning of back boundary fences of 4 properties on Huntington Street. New fences were subsequently constructed on the true boundary line.

- Sexton's Cottage property improvements in 2012
  Extensive reparative works were carried out to overcome recurring problems of rising damp in the Sexton's Cottage.

- Preparation of a Conservation Management Plan for the Rest Park in 2014
  This document will guide all work relating to heritage issues and items in the Rest Park over the coming years.

- Monument restoration in 2015
  Restoration of the George Barney monument was carried out.

- New Light to facilitate night use in 2015
  In response to a community petition a new light was installed in the Rest Park. The light is on a timer, and oriented to point away from nearby residences. It allows the community to use the Rest Park for recreation into the evenings outside of daylight savings times.

Upgrading and improvement works scheduled to occur during the life of this Plan of Management include:

- Implement recommendations of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) - Ongoing
  These include:

  o Carry out further research to determine the potential State significance of the Berry monument.

  o Carry out further research to determine the individuals of potential State significance.

  o Consider nominating the Rest Park for listing on the State Heritage Register in order to further ensure its protection.

  o Review conservation policies set out in the CMP every 10 years, or whenever a major upgrade of any part of the site is being considered.

  o Prepare a Conservation Management Plan for the Sexton's Cottage to guide its future management, maintenance and use.

  o Prepare a comprehensive electronic burial list.

  o Make the plot map available on Council's website.

  o Investigate the feasibility of running additional themed tours in the Rest Park.

- Lease the rear portion of the Sexton's Cottage
  The lease will go to a tenant (preferably with connections to the North Sydney area) for the dual purposes of affordable housing and of ensuring the Rest Park is keep in good condition.

- Install standard plaques in the Rest Park near monuments

  o James Milson – 2015/16
  o William Waterhouse – 2015/16
  o Hatherly family – 2015/16
  o Others as required

- Preparation of a new display in the Sexton's Cottage Museum – ongoing over 2015/16
  This work includes fabrication of a replica mourning gown and the conservation and interpretation of various monument shards and ironwork.

Specific scheduling details for these and other planned works are contained within section 5.2 of this document – Indicative Works Program.

4.0 Basis for Management

4.1 Philosophical Basis for the Plan of Management

This Plan of Management guides the future use, development, management and maintenance of St. Thomas' Rest Park. It aims to ensure that the unique qualities of the Rest Park continue to be preserved. Conservation of heritage items, recognition of the Rest Park's heritage and management of monuments and headstones must be addressed alongside issues such as recreational use of the Rest Park and practical considerations including access and circulation. Balancing the recreational needs of the current and future local population with the Rest Park's historical, social and educational significance is the main challenge for this new Plan of Management.

4.2 Core Values and Management Objectives

4.2.1 Core Values

St. Thomas' Rest Park is a unique combination of a recreation facility and a heritage resource. The following core values describe the most important qualities of St. Thomas' Rest Park, which must be considered when formulating future management objectives, strategies and actions to ensure their protection.

Historic and Conservation Values

- The Rest Park is the site of the former St. Thomas' Cemetery, the first European burial ground established on the North Shore.

- The conversion of St. Thomas' Cemetery to a Rest Park undertaken in the 1970s was Council's first heritage project; aiming to conserve a historic site whilst providing public access to its history and heritage.

- The Rest Park is a valuable educational resource.

- The Sexton's Cottage Museum, built around 1850, contains significant historical information including a copy of the burial register, the original plot map, photos and other biographical information

- The Rest Park contains numerous monuments and headstones of historic significance (Berry's tomb, a large, pyramid-shaped tomb, is the focal point of the Rest Park).

- The Rest Park contains the graves of many notable historical figures.

- The Commemorative Tree, a Bermuda Cypress, is the most significant tree in the Rest Park. Trees of this species are traditionally associated with funerals and mourning practices.

- Historic precincts, created at the time of the conversion from cemetery to rest park contain many of the historically significant graves.

- The planting scheme reflects the original vegetation that would have existed in the area prior to European settlement.

Social/Recreational

- The Rest Park is the only large public green space in the densely populated Crows Nest area.

- The Rest Park is a valuable recreational resource for the local community; the open lawns cater for people picnicking, relaxing, socialising, dog walking and for informal sports and games.

- The size and topography of the Rest Park make it a suitable venue for local community events such as 'Spring into Jazz'.

- The Rest Park has value to the wider community due to its unique combination of heritage, recreational and scenic features.

- The Rest Park's has a role to provide interested visitors with information about the history and heritage significance of the site.

- There are opportunities for the community to become involved in protection and management of the Rest Park through volunteer programs.

- The playground is a popular meeting point for local parents and carers with young children.

  Visual Qualities and Aesthetics

- The Rest Park has considerable aesthetic value as an attractively landscaped piece of public open space.

- The Rest Park provides a green contrast to surrounding urban development.

4.2.1   Management Objectives

Based on legislative requirements, community needs and expectations, and the values and assets of St. Thomas Rest Park itself, the following broad, primary management objectives have been identified:

– To manage the land for public recreation in accordance with the overall objectives of the North Sydney Council Delivery Plan;

– To manage the Rest Park in accordance with the principles, guidelines and policies set out in the St. Thomas' Rest Park Conservation Management Plan (CMP).

– To retain and enhance the cultural significance of the area (namely its archaeological, historical and social significance) for past, present or future generations by the active use of conservation methods. These conservation methods may include the following methods:

  (a)   the continuous protective care and maintenance of the physical material of the land or of the context and setting of the area

  (b)   the preservation of the land, that is, the maintenance of the physical material of the land in its existing state and the retardation of deterioration of the land;

– To recognise, promote and maintain the historic aspects and elements of the Rest Park;

– To strengthen and promote the heritage character of the Rest Park;

– To ensure that the effective functioning of the Rest Park as a historical resource is not jeopardised by other, unsympathetic uses;

- To provide and maintain a high quality public open space which meets the needs of the local community as a place for recreation;

- To define, promote and maintain an appropriate landscape character for St. Thomas Rest Park;

- To upgrade the existing recreational and cultural environment and the aesthetics of the Rest Park where required;

- To encourage community involvement in the management and maintenance of St. Thomas' Rest Park;

- To manage the land for events in accordance with the overall objectives of the North Sydney Council Delivery Plan;

- To ensure the Rest Park is accessible to all;

- To minimise conflict between Rest Park users;

- To take a consistent approach to management of St. Thomas Rest Park and to maintain the Rest Park to an acceptable standard;

- To manage the playground as per the Playgrounds Plan of Management, NSC;

- To ensure appropriate circulation routes are maintained throughout the Rest Park;

- To ensure the Plan of Management is flexible and able to evolve with changing community attitudes;

- To provide for public safety.

These objectives have been used in the subsequent management issues to guide policy development and formulation of the action plan.

5.0   **Policy, Implementation and Performance**

The policies established in this Plan of Management provide the framework for management consistent with anticipated availability of resources and anticipated community trends.

The priority ratings outlined on the following pages are subject to the availability of necessary staff and funds, and may require modification if special circumstances arise.

Codes used to define priorities in the following matrix:

ST   (Short Term)   Action completed within 2 years

MT   (Medium Term)   Action completed within 2-4 years

LT   (Long Term)   Action commenced after 4 years *

O   (Ongoing)   Action is carried out on a regular basis for the life of this Plan of Management

C   (Commenced)   Action has commenced

CP   (Completed)   Action has been carried out

*   Note:
       This Plan of Management is relevant for a 5-year period, and will be extensively reviewed and updated at the end of this time. As defined by this document, long-term projects are those that are scheduled for commencement but not necessarily completion within the life of this Plan.

5.1 **Matrix**

IMAGE AND CHARACTER

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Existing Vegetation	To manage vegetation using best-practice horticultural techniques.	Monitor all trees in the Rest Park which are in poor condition but which are treatable.	Annual inspections carried out by a qualified horticulturalist.	O	Regular inspections undertaken.	
		Carry out regular, ongoing maintenance works to conserve appropriate existing vegetation.	Use best-practice horticultural techniques.	O	Condition of vegetation in the Rest Park.	
		Remove inappropriate species.	For example self-seeded Date Palms.	O	Inappropriate species removed.	
	To maintain the Commemorative Tree (Sabina bermudiana) in optimum condition.	Assess the condition of the tree on a regular basis.	Annual inspections carried out by a qualified arborist.	O	Regular inspections undertaken.	
		Maintain the low fence installed around the base of the tree in good condition.	This fence prevents further problems associated with soil compaction, dogs and whipper snipper damage.	O	Fence maintained in good condition.	
		Carry out maintenance works as required to improve the condition of the tree.	Use best-practice horticultural techniques.	O	Condition of Commemorative Tree.	
	To ensure vegetation management in the Rest Park takes account of monuments and headstones.	Remove roots that are impinging on or damaging monuments and headstones.		O	Condition of headstones and monuments.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Maintain and clear away vegetation from monuments and headstones so they remain visible.		O	Headstones and monuments remain visible.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.
		Plant low maintenance, and low ground cover vegetation only adjacent to the edge of monuments and headstones.		O	Headstones and monuments remain visible.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.
	To control noxious and environmental weeds.	Undertake weed removal programs when and where necessary.	Removal of noxious and environmental weeds from around monuments and headstones is particularly important. Use techniques such as spot spraying, hand pruning and cutting.	O	Low weed levels in the Rest Park.	
		Implement the Noxious Weeds Act consistently and effectively.		O	Noxious Weeds Act implemented by staff.	Noxious Weeds Act 1993.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Landscape Amenity and Aesthetics	To ensure St. Thomas' Rest Park retains its high amenity value.	Select, plant and establish suitable species of trees, shrubs and groundcovers that are appropriate and that enhance the designated character of the Rest Park.	Plants listed in Appendix 2 are appropriate for the Rest Park. Cottage garden plants are appropriate for the area immediately surrounding the Sexton's Cottage.	O	All new plantings are appropriate.	Appendix 2 – List of Suitable Species for Planting in the Rest Park. NSC.
		Ensure the Berry monument, Bent Ovens monument, the Commemorative Tree and other monuments remain in their current locations.	These are strong visual elements are an important part of the Rest Park's character.	O	No change to the location of significant historic items.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.
	To maintain significant views and vistas within the Rest Park.	Site new plantings strategically to maintain significant views and vistas within the Rest Park.	Views of significant monuments are especially important.	O	Existing significant views and vistas maintained.	
		Consider the importance of existing features and focal points when siting park furniture and any other new elements or structures in the Rest Park.		O	New site features do not negatively impact on existing features and focal points.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Conservation of Heritage Items	To protect and conserve all identified items of heritage significance in St. Thomas' Rest Park.	Carry out all maintenance and other work in the Rest Park in accordance with the conservation policies set out in the CMP.	This document identifies work required to protect and conserve items of heritage significance in the Rest Park.	O	All work consistent with CMP.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.
		Carry out any work necessary to maintain heritage items in good condition as required.	Ongoing repair work to the monuments and headstones is needed due to natural deterioration and slippage due to age, and due to vandalism. More details on conserving monuments and headstones are found in the issue 'Monuments and Headstones'.	O	Maintenance work on heritage items undertaken as required.	The Burra Charter. Cemetery Conservation Guidelines.
		Consult with the National Trust, the Heritage Council and other appropriate organisations on the specialist management of heritage items if required, and fulfil the requirements of the Heritage Act.	Items of heritage significance in the Rest Park include: - the remaining headstones and monuments - the Sexton's Cottage - the gates and fence along West Street	O	Co-ordinated and effective management of heritage items.	Heritage Act 1977 Heritage Review Study 1993, NSC. The Burra Charter.
		Liaise with relevant organisations including the National Trust to keep abreast of the most up-to-date and appropriate maintenance and management techniques.		O	All work done in accordance with currently accepted conservation practices.	Cemetery Conservation Guidelines, National Trust of Australia (NSW).

		Review conservation policies set out in the CMP every 10 years, or whenever a major upgrade of any part of the site is being considered.	Review of the conservation policies should be based on the Burra Charter and other relevant guidelines provided by the Heritage Division of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.	LT	Conservation policies reviewed as required.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014. Burra Charter.
		Consider nominating the Rest Park for listing on the State Heritage Register in order to further ensure its protection.	The listing would be on the basis of the significance of the Berry monument, the assembly of other significant graves, the naval/maritime theme and individuals of State significance.	LT	Assessment carried out and nomination made, if appropriate.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.

ACCESS AND CIRCULATION

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Access to St. Thomas' Rest Park	To provide safe and convenient access to the Rest Park and its amenities.	Ensure pedestrian gates are kept open at all times.	All heritage items in the Rest Park should be accessible, as far as possible, as long as this can be achieved without significant adverse impacts.	O	Pedestrian gates remain open. Annual number of complaints received.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.
		Assess opportunities to improve access to the Rest Park as they are identified.	Consider pedestrian crossings, pram ramps, footpaths etc. Opportunities to improve access to the Rest Park will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.	O	Opportunities identified and work scheduled if financially practicable.	Recreation Needs Study 2015.
	To encourage visitors to walk, to use public transport or to ride bikes to reach the Rest Park.	Publicise the methods of getting to the Rest Park on foot and by bike.	Walking and cycling information is available on Council's website.	O	Relevant maps and brochures provide useful information and are easily accessible.	'Walk North Sydney' maps and brochures.
		Encourage visitors coming from further afield to use public transport to reach the Rest Park.	Council aims to reduce the number of cars in North Sydney; however car parking restrictions in the area immediately in front of the Rest Park on West Street allow easy access for a small number of private cars.	O	Decrease in number of complaints regarding lack of parking spaces.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
	To control vehicular access to the Rest Park.	Prohibit and prevent general vehicular access to the Rest Park.		O	General vehicular access prevented.	
		Allow service and emergency vehicles to enter the Rest Park.		O	Ease of entry for service and emergency vehicles.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Circulation within the Rest Park	To provide a useful and safe circulation system for pedestrians in the Rest Park.	Carry out regular inspections of all paved pathways.	The paved pathway system is suitable for users of all mobility levels.	O	Regular inspections undertaken.	
		Carry out corrective pathway works as and when required to ensure pathways are maintained in good condition.		O	Corrective pathway works undertaken as speedily as practicable.	
		Ensure gates and other barriers to vehicle access allow for pedestrian access, including wheelchairs and people pushing prams.	The flat nature of the Rest Park makes it one of Council's most accessible open spaces.	O	All pedestrian access points accommodate people with mobility impairments.	
		Monitor pedestrian circulation paths along the interpretive signage trail to ensure levels of wear are not excessive.		O	Regular inspections undertaken.	
		Carry out repairs to turf along the interpretive trail and along other informal tracks that may appear from time to time if and when required.		O	Repair work undertaken as speedily as practicable.	

RECREATION AND LEISURE

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Use of the Rest Park	To enable users to appreciate and understand the historical significance of the Rest Park.	Ensure informative literature about the Rest Park is readily available to the general public.	Current literature includes brochures and a book 'Life and Death on the Northside'. Brochures are available from the Museum, Stanton Library or Council's website. Copies of documents housed in the Museum may be viewed at Council's Heritage Centre in Stanton Library.	O	Good supply of literature easily available for Rest Park visitors.	Refer Appendices 5 & 6 for copies of brochures.
		Offer and promote interpretive walks through the historic section of the Rest Park.	Organised tours take place during Heritage Week and History Week and at other times by arrangement. Self-guided tour notes are available from Stanton Library, the Museum or from Council's Customer Service Centre.	O	Interpretive walks and tour notes available to interested visitors.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.
		Provide regular access to the Sexton's Cottage Museum.	The Museum is open between 1.00-4.00 pm every Thursday from October for March (excluding January), and at other times by special arrangement.	O	Museum open at stated times and dates throughout the year.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
	To allow for a range of unstructured recreational activities.	Ensure all recreational activities are compatible with the primary function of the Rest Park as a historical resource, and lie within the carrying capacity of the Rest Park.	St Thomas' Rest Park functions as a memorial to those interred at the former cemetery. All activities occurring in the Rest Park must also be consistent with the 'core objectives' for the land (refer section 1.4). Suitable activities include picnicking, walking, children's play, relaxing and contemplation.	O	Satisfaction of users gauged from feedback.	Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998.
		Restrict more active forms of recreation to appropriately large grassed areas and areas where monuments and headstones will not be disturbed.	The large open area near Matthew Lane is the area most suitable for activities such as informal ball games.	O	Annual number of complaints regarding inappropriate use of the Rest Park.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014. Appendix 4.
		Allow use of the Rest Park for temporary, one-off uses, including events, that do not detract from the heritage significance and general ambience of the place.	For example 'Spring into Jazz'.	O	Satisfaction of users and the general community as gauged from feedback.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.
		Ensure the character of the Rest Park is the historic items and elements in it area respected when considering appropriate future uses/activities.	The CMP includes a list of factors to consider if uses and/or events are proposed to be held in the Rest Park.	O	Satisfaction of users and the community as gauged from feedback.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Dogs in the Rest Park	To reduce the impact of dogs on St. Thomas' Rest Park.	Allow dog walking in the Rest Park in accordance with the Local Companion Animals Management Plan NSC.	The Rest Park is a popular location for off-leash dog walking. Two repositories for dog waste are located in the Rest Park to cater for people walking dogs.	O	Rangers carry out regular patrols to ensure compliance with Council's Policy.	Companion Animals Act 1998. Local Companion Animals Management Plan NSC.
		Clearly indicate and enforce restrictions and responsibilities of those walking dogs in the Rest Park.	Dogs are not permitted within 10 metres of play equipment. Dog's off-leash must be under their handler's control.	O	Annual number of complaints regarding inappropriate dog behaviour in the Rest Park.	
		Patrol the Rest Park to ensure compliance with the above action.	Patrols are carried out by Council Rangers.	O	Regular Ranger patrols.	
		Educate dog owners to prevent their dogs from urinating on monuments and headstones.	For example using the Rest Park noticeboard or through campaigns in the local media.	O	Reduction in annual number of incidents.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Playground	To ensure that the existing playground area is safe, functional and inviting.	Manage and maintain play equipment and surrounds as per Council's 'Playgrounds Plan of Management'.	The playground is in a landscaped setting. It has a retro theme, is fully fenced, and has many elements that are accessible to all.	O	Condition of playground as gauged from user feedback.	Playgrounds Plan of Management 2009. NSC.
		Upgrade the play equipment and landscaping in St. Thomas' Rest Park playground.	It is currently anticipated that a major upgrade will occur in 2020/21. Minor upgrading of 'worn out' equipment, ancillary items and landscaping will take place as required.	LT	Playground equipment and ancillary items in good condition.	Council's Playgrounds Methodology 2011.

BUILT STRUCTURES & PARK FURNITURE

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Sexton's Cottage	To manage and maintain this important heritage element as an educational resource and a visually attractive feature of the Rest Park.	Open the Museum at the front of the Cottage on a regular basis.	Opening hours are between 1.00-4.00 pm every Thursday from October for March (excluding January), and at other times by special arrangement.	O	Museum opened on a regular basis.	
		Provide information to Museum visitors.	Council officers and volunteers staff the Museum. The interpretive signage gives details of Museum opening hours.	O	Visitor satisfaction as gauged from feedback.	
	To ensure the overall integrity of the Sexton's Cottage is retained and conserved when carrying out maintenance.	Prepare a Conservation Management Plan for the Sexton's Cottage to guide its future management, maintenance and use.	The St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP identified the need for a specific CMP for the Sexton's Cottage. A draft CMP for the Cottage was prepared in 1981 but was not adopted by Council.	MT	CMP for the Sexton's Cottage completed on time and to a high standard.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.
		Carry out future maintenance work as per the CMP for the Rest Park.	Detailed information on maintenance of the Sexton's Cottage is contained in the issue: 'Maintenance'.	O	All maintenance work is consistent with the CMP.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
	To lease the rear portion of the Cottage to an appropriate tenant.	Lease the rear portion of the Sexton's Cottage to a tenant for the dual purposes of affordable housing and of ensuring the Rest Park is keep in good condition.	Preference is given to a tenant with connections to the North Sydney area. Provisions of the lease include: - Maintaining the cottage garden - Carrying out minor maintenance to the cottage - Weekly cleaning of the museum - Weekly inspection of the cottage and rest park, reporting any damage or other issues to relevant Council staff. The current 5-year lease runs until 30 June 2019.	O	Conditions of lease adhered to. Standard of Rest Park.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Park Furniture and Other Structures	To provide required park furniture and other structures that complement the established landscape character of the Rest Park.	Install park furniture and other structures in St. Thomas' Rest Park if a need is identified.	Ensure any new structures or park furniture are compatible with the designated heritage character of the Rest Park.	O	Appropriate new park furniture and structures which meets user needs installed when required.	
		Assess any future proposal for new structures and park furniture against the principles set out in the CMP.	The CMP mentions future elements that may be considered for inclusion in the Rest Park including paths around existing heritage precincts, seats for reflection, a columbarium and a memorial wall.	O	Any new structures and/or park furniture are appropriate.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.
		Submit a Development Application for proposed structures and other major works to be undertaken in the Rest Park in accordance with Council's LEP.	A Development Application is not required to install simple items such as seats.	O	New developments in the Rest Park comply with Council's LEP.	Local Environmental Plan 2013. NSC.
		Consult and elicit comments from Rest Park users and the general community prior to the commencement of any new development in the Rest Park.	This is in addition to consultation undertaken as part of the DA process. Eg - Liaise with local Precincts and other interested groups and individuals.	O	Satisfaction of users and the general community with the consultation process.	Local Environmental Plan 2013. NSC.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
	To provide appropriate lighting in the Rest Park.	Ensure that all lights in the Rest Park are working.	The Rest Park should be appropriately lit at night to meet the needs of people who use the park at night and to facilitate passive surveillance (to reduce vandalism). Rest Park users and the caretaker report faulty or damaged lights to Council.	O	All lights functioning properly.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.
		Repair any faulty or damaged lights as quickly as possible.	Council owns the lighting stock in the Rest Park and maintains a supply of replacement parts to facilitate quick repairs.	O	Speed of repair work.	
		Ensure any new lighting installed in the Rest Park does not impact on the heritage significance of the site.	New lighting shall be located in areas where there is already existing infrastructure, such as adjacent to existing paths.	O	Satisfaction of users and the community as gauged from feedback.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.
		Take appropriate measures when carrying out any required excavation works for new lighting.	Prior to any subsurface work, investigations must be undertaken to ensure the work will not impinge on subsurface items of heritage significance.	O	No damage to historic items (either above or below ground).	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.
	To ensure the public amenities building is maintained in good condition.	Carry out required maintenance works as identified in Council's Amenities Buildings Condition Assessment Report.	Identified minor works include paint touch-ups (internally and externally), pest control and minor electrical, cleaning and building repairs.	O	Public amenities block maintained in good condition.	North Sydney Council Amenities Buildings – Condition Assessment Report 2007.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Monuments and Headstones	To protect and conserve the historic monuments and headstones in good condition.	Straighten monuments and headstones, as required, without damaging the material.		O	Headstones and monuments maintained in good condition.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.
		Remove and make good unsympathetic repairs.		O	Unsympathetic repairs undertaken.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.
		Use water to clean uric acid off monuments and headstones when dogs have been witnessed urinating on monuments.	Ensure monuments and headstones are not 'overcleaned'.	O	Monuments and headstones washed down with water.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.
		Top up white crushed gravel around monuments within the historic precincts as required.	The crushed gravel prevents the spread of weeds and gives the historic precincts their characteristic appearance.	O	Gravel maintained at required levels to inhibit spread of weeds.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.
		Continue to carry out all repair work on monuments and headstones in accordance with currently accepted heritage conservation practices.	Repair work to be undertaken by a monumental mason or other conservation practitioner with experience in the repair of aged and fragile monument fabric.	O	All repair work carried out in accordance with currently accepted conservation practices.	The Burra Charter.
		Repair the remains of the Tiffin family gravestone and reinstate it in its original location next to the Blue family stone as permitted by the Conservation Plan of Management.	Note that Mary French's name is no longer visible on this stone.	ST	Gravestone repaired and reinstated in its original location.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Install a plaque recording the wording of the original Tiffin family stone and the relationship to the Blue family.	This work will be managed by Council's CLS Division.	ST	New plaque installed.	
		Continue to liaise with appropriate bodies including the National Trust of Australia to keep abreast of the most up-to-date and appropriate maintenance techniques.		O	Liaison carried out on a regular basis.	
		Carry out regular inspections to check for vandalism of monuments and headstones that have become loose or are otherwise deteriorating.	Parks Department staff and Council Rangers carry out inspections. The Sexton's Cottage tenant and Museum volunteers also provide information from time-to-time.	O	Regular inspections undertaken.	
		Submit reports to the relevant Council departments as needed regarding required maintenance work on the monuments and headstones.	Work may be carried out in-house or by specialist contractors depending upon the complexity of the job.	O	Reports prepared and submitted as required to facilitate maintenance.	
	To provide and install relevant plaques near monuments and headstones where the original inscription has become hard to read.	Install standard plaques with pertinent interpretive information near monuments and headstones as required.	Work is generally only carried out on the most historically significant monuments and headstones; however relatives may request this service at their own expense. The CMP sets out detailed guidelines for how this work should be undertaken.	O	Plaques installed in accordance with Council's plaque program.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Install standard plaques in the Rest Park near the following monuments: - James Milson - William Waterhouse - William Huntington - Hatherly family.		ST	New plaques installed.	

LANDUSE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Leases, Licences and Other Estates	To allow use of St. Thomas' Rest Park for appropriate cultural and recreational activities.	Grant leases, licences and other estates to cultural and recreational organisations for use of St. Thomas' Rest Park as a venue for appropriate events.	Occasional or one-off use of the Rest Park may not require a lease, licence or other estate – refer section 1.5. Proposed uses must comply with core objectives for community land categorised as a 'park'– refer section 1.4.	O	Cultural or recreational activities held in St. Thomas' Rest Park are appropriate.	Local Government Act 1993. Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998.
	To protect and safeguard this valuable and unique community resource.	Grant a lease to allow an appropriate tenant to reside in the rear portion of the Sexton's Cottage.	The rear of the Sexton's Cottage is currently leased to Council's community housing provider; Community Housing Lower North Shore. The tenant has a role in looking after the Rest Park and reporting issues and incidents.	O	Lease granted to facilitate an appropriate tenant living in the rear portion of the Sexton's Cottage in the Rest Park.	Section 1.5 - Leasing of Community Land.
		Review the terms and conditions of the current lease when it expires in light of the above objective.	A comprehensive list of responsibilities required under the lease is detailed in section 1.5 of this document. The current 5-year lease finishes on 30 June 2019.	LT	Lease reviewed upon expiry.	
		Prepare a new lease document as required following completion of above action.		LT	New lease document prepared when required.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Research and Promotion	To recognise, acknowledge and promote the Rest Park as an important historic resource in the wider community.	Acknowledge the heritage of the area through appropriate interpretive literature and signage.	Relevant information currently includes: - Self-guided walking tour notes and brochures - Permanent interpretive signs - Displays in the Museum and in Council's Heritage Centre - Verbal information supplied by on-site staff and volunteers - Tours of the historic section of the Rest Park.	O	Feedback received from Rest Park users.	
		Publicise and promote the Rest Park as a local history and educational resource to the wider community.	History Week and Heritage Week activities such as tours are well publicised in the local and Sydney-wide press.	O	Continuation of History Week and Heritage Week activities.	
		Investigate the feasibility of running additional themed tours in the Rest Park.	Potential topics could include: - Significant people interred - Lives of those interred - Monument tours for Architecture students - Cemetery vegetation tours - Tours for school groups.	LT	Feasibility assessed and recommendations made.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.
		Build upon existing documentation by carrying out additional research to identify the occupations of those interred in the cemetery.	Information gained can be included as part of the education programs associated with the cemetery.	LT	Additional research carried out.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.
		Prepare an electronic burial list.	The list will be based on information available in the existing Burial List, but will be expanded and properly formatted.	LT	Expanded, electronic burial list prepared.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Make the plot map available on Council's website.	The plot map is currently housed in the Museum. It shows the original location of all individuals interred in the former cemetery.	LT	Plot map available on Council's website.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Community Involvement	To provide opportunities for local residents and other stakeholders to be involved in the development of the St. Thomas' Rest Park Plan of Management.	Encourage community involvement by widely publicising the draft Plan of Management.	Neighbouring Precincts and other known stakeholders are notified when the new draft document is on public exhibition. Regular advertisements in the Mosman Daily inform the general community that the draft Plan is on public exhibition. The draft Plan is available on Council's website for viewing and comment. Details of how to make a submission are contained in section 1.6.	O	Public exhibition of draft Plan widely publicised. All comments considered prior to adoption of the final Plan of Management.	
	To provide opportunities for stakeholders to become involved in new developments in the Rest Park.	Consult with stakeholders prior to and during the development of new proposals for the Rest Park and consider comments.	Depending upon the nature of the project, stakeholders may include Rest Park users, the local Precincts, neighbouring households, the National Trust and the Heritage Council.	O	Community satisfaction with the consultation process as gauged from feedback.	
		Lodge Development Applications where required for building and other works occurring in the Rest Park and seek public comment.	The Development Application process includes a community consultation component.	O	Development Applications lodged for appropriate new works.	Local Environmental Plan 2013. NSC.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
	To maintain the current number of volunteers working in the Rest Park.	Recruit new volunteers to replace any volunteers leaving the Rest Park as and when required.	Volunteers working in the Rest Park are responsible for opening the Sexton's Cottage to the public on Thursday afternoons. They help visitors obtain information about particular individuals, give general information about the Rest Park, and let visitors peruse information housed in the Cottage such as the original Plot map. They also (along with Council staff) conduct guided tours of the Rest Park.	O	Current level of volunteers maintained.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Encroachments	To prevent alienation of public open space and ensure there are no private encroachments onto St. Thomas' Rest Park.	Provide staff and contractors working in the Rest Park with maps and other relevant information about the location of boundaries between the Rest Park and adjacent private property.	Ensuring staff and contractors are aware of property boundaries will mean new encroachments can be easily identified.	O	Regular inspections by Council staff working in the Rest Park.	
		Allow areas of St. Thomas' Rest Park to be leased or licensed only for purposes consistent with the core objectives for land categorised as a 'park' under the Local Government Act 1993.	All leases and licences must be authorised by a Plan of Management, and must be for a purpose consistent with the core objectives for land categorised as a 'park'. These core objectives are listed in section 1.4.	O	All leases and licences are for appropriate purposes.	Local Government Act 1993. Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Maintenance	To maintain St. Thomas' Rest Park to an appropriate standard to respond to the needs and expectations of users and the general community.	Carry out regular maintenance to appropriate standards in the Rest Park.	Refer also to the Issues: - 'Existing Vegetation' - 'Playground' - 'Monuments and Headstones'.	O	Condition of the Rest Park. Level of community satisfaction as gauged from feedback.	North Sydney Council Delivery Plan.
		Ensure sit-on mowers and whipper snippers do not come into contact with the edges of monuments or headstones.		O	Monuments and headstones remain in an undamaged condition.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.
	To maintain all items of heritage significance appropriately to ensure their conservation.	Carry out all regular maintenance of all historic items in accordance with currently accepted conservation practices as described in the Burra Charter.		O	All maintenance work is appropriate.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014. Burra Charter.
		Undertake prompt preventative action and repairs as necessary.	Council staff are pro-active, identifying problem areas and responding to public feedback.	O	Work undertaken as required.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.
		Refer complex technical issues that may arise to the National Trust's Cemetery Committee for advice as required.	Issues may include repair of vandalised graves and the removal of graffiti.	O	Relevant issues referred to appropriate specialists.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.
		Establish a regular monitoring program for headstones at the Rest Park.		LT	Monitoring program established.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.
		Ensure adequate funding is available for recurrent long-term maintenance.		O	Budgeting process takes account of required work.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
	To ensure the historic gates on West Street and all cast iron fencing in the Rest Park is maintained in good condition.	Carry out repair works as necessary to maintain the gates and the cast iron fencing.	The CMP sets out detailed information about how the gates and cast iron fencing in the Rest Park should be retained and conserved. The decorative fence along West Street is cast iron; cast iron fencing also surrounds some monuments and headstones.	O	Gates and fences maintained in good condition.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014. The Burra Charter.
	To ensure the ongoing conservation of the Sexton's Cottage.	Carry out regular inspections and undertake remedial action to minimise deterioration of building fabric due to the effects of weathering and use.	All maintenance work to be carried out in accordance with currently accepted conservation practices.	O	Maintenance activities implemented on time and to budget. Cottage appears in good condition.	
		Engage professionals and/or tradespeople with appropriate conservation experience and knowledge of traditional building skills to carry out required maintenance work.	The approach to the conservation of this historic building fabric shall be based on a respect for the existing significant fabric.	O	Appropriate professionals and specialists engaged as required.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.
		Carry out maintenance works as specified in the Amenities Buildings Condition Report to extend the life of the Cottage.	Identified minor works include paint touch-ups, pest control and electrical, cleaning and building repairs.	O	Identified works carried out.	NSC Amenities Buildings – Condition Assessment Report 2007.
		Undertake emergency repairs as required.		O	Speed of repair work.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Safety and Risk Management	To identify, measure and manage potential hazards in a timely manner to minimise Council exposure to complaints, compensation claims and litigation.	Continue to carry out an inspection program to identify and eliminate all potential hazards.	Refer Issue 'Maintenance'. The regular maintenance inspections also function as risk assessment inspections.	O	Inspection program regularly carried out.	
	To minimise the incidence of vandalism in the Rest Park.	Carry out patrols in the Park on a regular basis.	Council Rangers carry out Patrols. The Sexton's Cottage tenant also keeps an eye on the Rest Park.	O	Decrease in annual number of incidents reported.	
		Remove graffiti from all items with the exception of monuments and headstones as soon as practicable.	People are less likely to deface surfaces that are in an undamaged condition. Removing graffiti from monuments and headstones must be undertaken carefully to avoid damaging the stonework.	O	People are less likely to deface surfaces that are undamaged.	St. Thomas' Rest Park CMP 2014.
		Repair vandalised park and play equipment as soon as practicable, or remove if damaged beyond repair or dangerous.	Speedy repair of broken or faulty lights is particularly important, as good night lighting should help to deter vandals.	O	Speed of repair work or removal.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Monitoring of Management Systems	To ensure the St. Thomas' Rest Park Plan of Management is relevant and up-to-date.	Review the St. Thomas' Rest Park Plan of Management approximately every 5 years.		O	Relevancy of the Plan of Management.	

5.2   Implementing the Indicative Works Program

Council's Plans of Management identify clear objectives and directions for planning, resource management and maintenance of public open space. They inform the community about upcoming projects and works; not only clarifying what will be happening, but explaining why, and assigning priorities.

However Plans of Management also have the flexibility to respond to new opportunities as well as to changed circumstances and community needs. While significant shifts in policy or planning issues during the life of a Plan of Management (approximately 5 years) are extremely unlikely, it is possible that individual works and projects or the order in which works are undertaken may vary.

5.2.1   New Opportunities

Implementing many of Council's 'visionary' objectives and goals (contained in policy documents such as the Delivery Program and the Open Space Provision Strategy) requires Council to react to plans proposed by other organisations or individuals.

For example, Council has a long-term vision to achieve continuous public access along the foreshore. Opportunistic acquisition of a link or open space as a result of redevelopment of a foreshore site is one of the most realistic ways of working towards this goal. When such an opportunity arises, swift Council action is needed.

Although the work to acquire the foreshore land and to develop it for public use and access may not be directly identified as an action in the relevant Plan of Management (in this case the Foreshore Parks and Reserves Plan of Management), it is consistent with the core values and the stated management objectives expressed in that document, and is therefore appropriate. The fact that the objective of continuous foreshore access is also referenced in the relevant high-level policy documents (Delivery Program and Open Space Provision Strategy) further justifies taking quick action.

5.2.2   Changed Circumstances and Community Needs

It is important to recognise that the process of reviewing and revising Council's set of 12 Plans of Management is cyclical, and that other significant studies completed 'between Plans' may identify actions and works that can appropriately 'leap frog' over and ahead of existing Plan of Management actions. This is particularly appropriate when the study in question has been prepared with a very high level of community engagement and involvement.

Council's Recreation Needs Study 2015 (RNS) is an example of such a Study. Generally, actions identified in the Recreation Needs Study are inserted into the relevant Plans of Management when those Plans are reviewed. However because Plans of Management are reviewed only every 5 years, it may be appropriate to undertake some works identified in the RNS as of the highest priority before the next review takes place. Again, as long as the 'fast-tracked' action is consistent with the core values and stated management objectives expressed in the relevant Plan of Management, it is justified and appropriate.

5.3 INDICATIVE WORKS PROGRAM

Note: Works listed in the following table are proposed new projects only. Actions designated as 'Ongoing' in the Matrix section of the Plan are not listed here.

WORKS/ACTION	SHORT TERM		MEDIUM TERM		LONG TERM
	Jan 2016 - Dec 2016	Jan 2017 - Dec 2017	Jan 2018 – Dec 2018	Jan 2019 – Dec 2019	Jan 2020 – Dec 2020
Carry out further research to determine the potential State significance of the Berry monument.	████████████				
Carry out further research to determine if there are other individuals interred in the Rest Park who are of potential State significance.	████████████				
Consider nominating the Rest Park for listing on the State Heritage Register to further ensure its protection.	████████████				
Install a standard plaque near the James Milson monument.	████████████				
Install a standard plaque near the William Waterhouse monument.	████████████				
Install a standard plaque near the William Huntington monument	████████████				
Install a standard plaque near the Hatherly family monument.	████████████				
Repair the remains of the Tiffin family gravestone and reinstate it in its original location next to the Blue family stone.	████████████				

WORKS/ACTION	SHORT TERM		MEDIUM TERM		LONG TERM
	Jan 2016 - Dec 2016	Jan 2017 - Dec 2017	Jan 2018 – Dec 2018	Jan 2019 – Dec 2019	Jan 2020 – Dec 2020
Install a plaque recording the wording of the original Tiffin family stone and the relationship to the Blue family.	▬▬▬▬▬▬	▬▬▬▬			
Prepare a CMP for the Sexton's Cottage to guide its future management, maintenance and use.			▬▬▬▬	▬▬▬▬	
Lease the rear portion of the Sexton's Cottage to a tenant for the dual purposes of affordable housing and of ensuring the Rest Park is kept in good condition.				▬▬▬	
Prepare an electronic burial list.					▬▬▬▶
Make the plot map available on Council's website.					▬▬▬▶
Investigate the feasibility of running additional themed tours in the Rest Park.					▬▬▬▶
Review conservation policies set out in the CMP every 10 years or whenever a major upgrade to any part of the site is considered.					▬▬▬▶
Carry out a review of the St. Thomas' Rest Park Plan of Management.					●

6.0 **Appendices and Supporting Material**

6.1 **Appendix 1 – Zoning of St. Thomas' Rest Park**

Zone RE1 Public Recreation

1. **Objectives of the Zone**

   The particular objectives of this zone are to:

   - To enable land to be used for public open space or recreational purposes.
   - To provide a range of recreational settings and activities and compatible land uses.
   - To protect and enhance the natural environment for recreational purposes.
   - To ensure sufficient public recreation areas are available for the benefit and use of residents of, and visitors to, North Sydney.

2. **Permitted without consent**

   Environmental protection works.

3. **Permitted with consent**

   Building identification signs; Business identification signs; Community facilities; Environmental facilities; Information and education facilities; Kiosks; Recreation areas; Recreation facilities (outdoor); Roads; Water recreation structures.

4. **Prohibited**

   Any development not specified in item 2 or 3.

6.2   Appendix 2 – List of Species Suitable for Planting in the Rest Park

The following list of species was compiled in 1998 based on the original planting scheme implemented in the 1970s when the Cemetery was converted to a Rest Park. It includes plants from the original vegetation community which would have existed in the area prior to European settlement, and should be consulted as a point of reference when any new planting programs for the Rest Park are being developed.

- *Angophora costata*   Sydney Red Gum
- *Acacia decurrens*   Black Wattle
- *Acacia glaucescens*   Coast Myall
- *Acacia longifolia*   Sydney Golden Wattle
- *Banksia spinulosa*   Hairpin Banksia
- *Banksia ericifolia*   Heath Banksia
- *Bauera rubioides*   Dog Rose/River Rose
- *Cissus antarctica*   Kangaroo Vine
- *Dillwynia sp.*   Eggs and Bacon Pea
- *Eucalyptus gummifera*   Red Bloodwood (now Corymbia gummifera)
- *Eucalyptus pilularis*   Blackbutt
- *Eucalyptus piperita*   Sydney Peppermint
- *Hardenbergia violacea*   Sarsaparilla
- *Isopogon sp.*   Drumstick
- *Kennedia rubicunda*   Coral Pea
- *Kunzea ambigua*   Tick Bush
- *Lambertia Formosa*   Mountain Devil
- *Pittosporum undulatum*   Sweet Pittosporum
- *Syncarpia glomulifera*   Turpentine
- *Viminaria juncea*   Native Broom

6.3 Appendix 3 - Extract from Council's Encroachment Management Policy

4.5.3 Management of Encroachments on Community Land (Governed by the *Local Government Act* 1993*)*

4.5.3.1 Lease, Licences and Other Estates

Management of Encroachments on Council-owned Community land shall be in accordance with the following principles:

a) Development and use of Community land is subject to strict controls, in accordance with the *Local Government Act* 1993.

b) Community land cannot be sold, is subject to strict restrictions to ensure its long term retention for public use, and is required to be used and managed in accordance with an adopted Plan of Management.

c) Encroachments onto Community land are not permitted unless authorised by a lease or licence in accordance with the Act, which provides that Council may only lease or licence community land where it is expressly authorised to do so under a Plan of Management, and where the purpose for which the lease or licence is issued is consistent with the core objectives for the area of community land in question.

Note: if the purpose of the lease or licence is not consistent with the core objectives for the area of community land in question a Plan of Management authorising it will be rendered invalid.

d) Under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act* 1979, Community land may be reclassified as Operational land. Reclassification can occur by amending the Local Environmental Plan, however a public hearing into the proposed reclassification must be held prior to Council making any resolution.

4.5.3.2 Sale/Transfer

a) Council has no power to sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of Community land unless it is re-classified as Operational land.

b) Council, pursuant to the Act, must first determine whether the subject land be considered for sale.

c) If Council resolves that the land be considered for sale, and the use is not consistent with the core objectives of the land, the land must be:
   i. re-zoned in accordance with the intended use;
   ii. sold subject to an environmental study being undertaken;
   iii. re-classified to operational land through a change in the LEP; and
   iv. sold subject to a public hearing being undertaken.

6.4   Appendix 4 - Definitions: Organised Sport and Informal Sport and Games

Organised Sport

Organised sport describes sporting activities that are played on a permanently marked or designated playing surface provided and maintained by Council. These playing surfaces include grassed sportsgrounds (accommodating cricket, rugby, soccer, AFL, touch football etc), basketball, netball and tennis courts, cricket wickets and hockey fields. Fees are charged for use of all organised sporting facilities, and bookings must be made through Council's Customer Services Department.

Informal Sport and Games

Informal sports and games are those that do not require use of a marked or designated playing surface. They may be played within Council's parks and reserves free of charge, on a first-come first-served basis, as long as they comply with the requirements of the relevant Council Plan of Management, and do not significantly compromise the amenity of other park users.

Sailors, Soldiers and Civil Servants

A walking tour of St Thomas' Rest Park, Crows Nest

Distance: **1 Km**
Approximate time: **1.5 hours**
Grading: **low to medium**

Introduction

St. Thomas' Cemetery was the first burial ground established on the north side of the harbour. Although now converted into a Rest Park, elements of the original mid-nineteenth century cemetery remain. The elaborate stone and iron gates and fence were designed by the church wardens from pattern books in 1883.

The land for the cemetery was donated to the Anglican Parish of St. Leonards in 1845 by a prominent landowner and merchant, Alexander Berry. Berry erected the Pyramid-shaped family vault to house the remains of his wife, Elizabeth, and his brother-in-law, Edward Wollstonecraft; and was later interred there himself.

In 1967 the cemetery was handed over to North Sydney Municipal Council and proclaimed a Rest Park. Several historic precincts were created to relocate headstones, the remainder of the site was landscaped for recreational use and planted with native trees.

The Rest Park was officially opened in 1974 and the restored Sexton's Cottage in 1983.

The cemetery contains approximately 4000 graves, though only a small portion of the burials are marked by headstones nowadays. Sadly the headstones of many of the interred are missing. Many have been lost over the years through vandalism or irreparable damage caused by excessive weathering, namely many of the naval personnel including Robert Deane, R.N., who designed "Johnny's" Naval House, Grosvenor Street; Rear Admiral Willoughby Pudsey-Dawson; and Captain Leopold Von Reicherbach, Captain in the Imperial Germany Navy, HMS Olga.

Buried alongside the naval personnel, there are the graves of military personnel and government

North Sydney
Heritage Centre

officials. This latter group of men, settled with their families on the North Shore, in the mid-nineteenth century when the township of St. Leonards (the boroughs of St. Leonards, East St. Leonards and Victoria amalgamated in 1890 to form the borough of North Sydney) was a much desired residential location, away from the noxious and populated areas to the south. Again, and unfortunately, there are many missing monuments amongst these groups which include Sir George R. Dibbs, Premier of NSW, 1889, 1890-1894; William Christopher Bennett, Commissioner for Roads and Bridges; William Harrington Palmer, Official Assignee; and Alfred McFarland, District Court Judge.

There are too many names to mention here, but on this tour we shall be looking at the monuments of some of the naval and military personnel, and civil servants and administrators of the colony buried at St. Thomas' Cemetery, now St. Thomas' Rest Park.

1. HARRIOTT, William Rupert (Lieutenant) (E04)

Born in 1876 in Armidale, he moved with his family to North Sydney where he lived for 20 years. He enlisted in the Army Service Corps, becoming a lieutenant in E. Company of the Mounted Rifles. He travelled to Africa with the Australian Contingent in 1900, where he fell, mortally wounded in the thigh on 12 June 1900 aged 23, at Diamond Hill. Ceremonial gates erected in his memory were opened at St. Thomas' Church in April 1901. Harriott Street in Waverton bears the family name.

2.PIDDINGTON, Albert Bathurst (H42)

Born 9 September 1862. Piddington was a leading figure in the labour movement in Australia. Called to the bar in 1890 he refused

an appointment to the High Court in 1913 when it was criticised as a political appointment. He was a Royal Commissioner on the basic wage inquiry and was responsible for the introduction of child endowment. He died 6 June 1945 aged 83. The epitaph reads:

His work will live on in the thoughts of those who loved him, and in the lives of countless others, who will know his name.

The comfort of having a friend may be taken away but not that of having one.

3. WHITTON, John *(H45)*

Born 21 December 1819. Called by Sir Henry Parkes 'the father of NSW Railways'. While engineer-in-Chief from 1857-1889, John Whitton's railway system reached every corner of the State. His greatest feats were the Zig-Zags on the Blue Mountains line. He died 20 February 1898 aged 79. John Whitton lived in 'Montrose', McLaren Street (demolished about 1907).

4. POCKLEY, Robert Francis (Captain) (K06)

Born 10 March 1823 at Deptford, England. He attained his Master's certificate at age 18, and at age 19, in 1842, he sailed the ship "Tobago" to Sydney. In 1853, he built his home 'Pictonville' at North Sydney on the Pacific Highway near Berry Street. He became harbourmaster of Port Jackson in 1867. He was also a supporter of the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron and a warden of St. Thomas' Church. He died 29 September 1892 aged 69.

5. BATTYE, Edward Montague (Captain) (D13)

Captain Battye was born in 1817 and became attached at an early age to the Royal Household

as page to Queen Adelaide, wife of William IV. He arrived in Sydney in 1847 as Aide-de-Camp to his uncle, George Wynyard. In 1850 he was appointed to re-form the Mounted Military Police as Superintendent of the Western Patrol with 27 troops, and when gold was discovered was transferred to Bathurst to keep order on the goldfields. In the 1860s he cleared bushrangers from the Young area. In 1880 he was appointed superintendent at Albury to deal with the Kelly gang. He died 12 July 1898 aged 81 after retiring in 1893 after 42 years of police service.

The epitaph reads:
Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to thy cross I cling.

6. BENT, Ellis (K15)

Appointed Deputy Judge Advocate in NSW in 1809. He arrived in the same vessel as Governor Macquarie. Bent was the first practising barrister-at-law to reach the colony. At first on good terms with Macquarie, he disagreed with Macquarie's policy that convict attorneys who had served their term and were of good character should be allowed to practice. This led to the termination of his post. Bent was buried in the George Street Burial Ground, Macquarie refusing to allow his burial on Garden Island of which he had been given a lease. Later he was reinterred with his friend Ovens at Garden Island and finally at St. Thomas'. Bent Street in the city is named after him.

7. OVENS, John (K15)

Came to Sydney as an ensign in the 73rd Regiment and by 1810 was Lieutenant and Engineer in charge of public works. He returned to England and fought under Brigadier-General Thomas Brisbane at Pampeluna, Orthes, and Vittoria during the Peninsula war (1813-1814). Ovens returned to Sydney as Aide-de-Camp to

Governor Brisbane and acting engineer. In this position he supervised convict road gangs employed on public works. In 1823, Ovens explored the Upper Murrumbidgee and Monaro district and helped John Oxley survey Twofold Bay. He was promoted to Major and granted land at Concord.

By his request he was buried in the same grave as his friend Ellis Bent in the George Street Burial Ground (now Town Hall site). Later the bodies were reinterred at Garden Island and finally at St Thomas' Cemetery. Ovens name was given to a river in Victoria and a mountain near Bathurst.

8. BOWER, James St. Clair (Lieutenant Commander) (K15)

Lieutenant Commander James St. Clair Bower, in command of the HMS Sandfly, was undertaking a survey cruise of the Solomon Islands. He and four of his seaman were attacked and killed by the natives of Florida on October 15, 1880 whilst surveying the Florida Coast in the Sandfly's whaleboat. A retaliatory expedition was despatched in April 1881 to catch the murderers of Lieutenant Bower and his boat's crew, and to execute them where the massacre took place. When they found Bower's body, it was naked, headless and divested of the right arm, and great pieces of flesh were stripped from the back.

Reginald Tupper was a young sub-lieutenant who took part in this punitive raid, and years later gave the finale to this story. *"There is one curious incident in the affair which is worth recounting. The second surgeon of the "Cormorant", ...when taking his walk, saw a small native girl with a necklace of human teeth, and he noticed at once that some of them had been stopped with gold. He bought the necklace for a stick of tobacco - surely a curious desire for*

a small girl - and as soon as he returned to the ship he found that not only that the teeth fitted the skull perfectly, but that Bower had that number of teeth stopped with gold, so there was no doubt that we had at least small part of the remains to be taken back to Sydney for burial".

9. MORIARTY, Merion (K5)

Born in County Cork, Ireland, he joined the Royal Navy in 1807 serving at Copenhagen, the Mediterranean and West Indies.

In 1842 he was appointed Harbour Master in Sydney by the British Government and arrived in Sydney with his family in 1843. His duties included control of port, lighthouses and pilot vessels in the colony. His career was uneventful until in 1847, when piloting HMS Inflexible, he ran aground in Sydney Harbour. From 1860 he represented Braidwood in the Legislative Assembly. He died 10 January 1864 aged 70. This family monument was repaired and a new iron railing erected in 1990 at the instigation of members of his family.

10. GOODENOUGH, James G. (Commodore) (G82)

Joined the Royal Navy aged 13 years and pursued a naval career in many parts of the world. In 1873 he was appointed Commodore of the Australian Station with HMS 'Pearl' as his flagship. He played a key role in negotiations leading to the Deed of Cessation being signed between the Chiefs of Fiji and British representatives.

In 1875 the 'Pearl' conveyed the newly-appointed Governor Sir Arthur Gordon to Fiji and then continued on to Santa Cruz in the New Hebrides. Here Goodenough and his men were attacked by natives and subsequently

Goodenough and two crewmen, Edward Rayner and Frederick Smales, died from arrow wounds received in the attack. Their funeral service at St. Thomas' Church occasioned expressions of great public sympathy.

Captain Goodenough's ceremony, in 1875 was a large public occasion. It was one of the most numerously attended funerals which have been witnessed for many years in the colony. All the public offices were closed at noon and business at many of the leading establishments in the city out of respect for the memory of the deceased officer. In accordance with the Commodore's own request arrangements were made to inter the bodies in the little cemetery at St. Leonards. Steamers commenced to ply across the water at an early hour and before long a dense concourse of people, numbering several thousands, had assembled on Milsons Point ... a small detachment of men from the artillery were left at West Point to fire minute guns after the bodies were landed. HMS "Pearl" lay in Farm Cove with crossed yards, and a little after 2pm the bodies of the two seamen were lowered into the steamer "Bungaree" and brought across under escort of a body of marines and sailors. The Commodore's body was brought across in his own gig, towed by a little steam launch and followed by the state barge of his Excellency the Governor, who was accompanied by Mrs Goodenough and the Commodore's two little boys. When the bodies were landed at Milson's Point, they were placed on gun carriages, which were pulled up the hill by the seamen of the "Pearl".

Anchors used on the iron railing around his headstone were Victorian symbols of hope as well as representing his occupation.

11. HMS PEARL AND WATSON, Arthur (Captain of Tops) (G83, G81)

Commercial exploitation of South Pacific Islanders last century, and particularly the 'recruitment' or kidnapping of natives for the Queensland Kanaka labour force, led to British Navy patrols of South Seas Island groups.

In 1873 HMS Pearl under Commodore Goodenough was sent on a cruise of peace and conciliation to the area. Goodenough and his men were attacked by natives at Santa Cruz, New Hebrides in 1875 and Goodenough, Edward Rayner and Frederick Smales (both 18) were killed by poisoned arrows. The 'Pearl' returned to Britain in 1876 at the end of her Commission. The headstone lists all the crew who perished during the three years in the Pacific.

12. ROLLESTON, Christopher (G69)

Born 27 July 1817 at Burton-Joyce, Nottinghamshire, England. He worked in a mercantile house before coming to Sydney in 1838. He purchased farmland near Paterson, but the farm was unsuccessful, and he sought a government post.

He was appointed a Commissioner of Crown Land in the Darling Downs area in Queensland. He returned to England for a short time in 1853 and he declined the presidency of Montserrat, West Indies which was offered to him. He returned to Sydney with his new bride, and became private secretary to the Governor-General William Denison. He was appointed Registrar-General in 1855, joined the Philosophical Society of NSW in 1856, was involved in several Royal Commissions. As well as being a magistrate from 1842 he was appointed Auditor-General in 1864, retiring from

this post in 1883. He died 9 April 1888 aged 70 at his Milsons Point home, 'Northcliffe', of chronic Bright's disease.

13. OLIVER, Alexander (G61)

Born 30 September 1832 in Sydney. His career was interrupted when he lost his left arm in a shooting accident. He matriculated in 1852 as one of the first 24 students at the University of Sydney. He went to England at the age of 21, where he practised as a barrister. He returned to Sydney in 1864 with his wife (who died in June of that year), and was appointed examiner to the Council of Education. In 1865 he was appointed parliamentary draftsman, secretary to the Law Reform Commission 1870 - 1872, elective trustee of the Australian Museum 1873, examiner of titles under the Real Property Act from 1874, as well as the registrar of the Friendly Societies.

He was reappointed sole parliamentary draftsman in 1878, registrar of trade unions from 1882, fellow of the Senate of the University of Sydney, and was president of the Land Appeal Court 1892 - 1904. He died on 2 June 1904 at his home, 'Shelcote', Neutral Bay. He had a library which was reputedly "one of the best in private hands", his taste including the classics, theology, history, political economy, science, philosophy, sea poetry, novels and works by contemporary Australian writers. Note the Latin epitaph, which translates as - *Alexander Oliver, a man learned in the law and devoted to belles lettres, a great lover of his country, who, having lived for seventy years, rests from his labours in the peace of the Lord.*

14. HIXSON, Francis (Captain R.N.) (G60)

Born in 1833 at Swanage, Dorset, he joined the navy as a young man. Between 1848 and 1851 he served as master's assistant helping to survey the east coast of NSW, New Zealand and South Seas aboard the 'Havannah'. In 1852 he joined the 'Herald' to take possession of New Caledonia. Finding the French in occupation, they surveyed the Fijian Islands and came to Sydney. In 1858 he won the silver medal of the Royal Humane Society for the rescue of a drowning seaman who fell overboard in Shark Bay, Western Australia. In 1863 he became Superintendent of pilots, lighthouses and harbours in NSW. He was also President of the Marine Board and Officer commanding Naval Forces of NSW. In 1870 he lived at St. Leonards Cottage' now Don Bank Museum; 'Upton Grange' in Edward street (now SCEGS Shore Junior School) was built for him by his father-in-law, Francis Lord. He died 2nd March 1909 aged 76.

According to the Sydney Morning Herald 14 March 1909

Full of years and of honour, and with all the imposing solemnity of a naval funeral, the late Captain Hixson, R.N., was laid to rest, yesterday afternoon in the burial ground of St. Thomas'

15. GOWLLAND, John Thomas Ewing (G48)

Born 10 July 1838 at Leysdown, Kent. As a naval officer he saw active service at the Crimea. He later served in the survey of the Islands off Vancouver and became friendly with many Indian chiefs. Appointed to the Australian Survey in 1865, he compiled many charts of the coast of NSW and waters of the Richmond, Clarence, Hunter and Hawkesbury Rivers.

While surveying Middle Harbour he was drowned when his boat overturned in the bombora off Dobroyd Point, 14 August 1874 aged 36 years. The monument was erected by his friends. According to the Sydney Morning Herald 15/8/1874

"at about 1.16pm when off Dobroyd Point, which is the headland between Manly Beach and the entrance to Middle Harbour, the boat was capsized by a heavy "roller". Henry Peterson struck out immediately for the shore, but, when about half way, sank ... Mr Gowlland, Gardiner, and a man named Charles Venus got hold of the boat ... Venus who was the captain of the boat, stripped his clothes off and advised Mr Gowlland to do the same, but he was unable to do so. The boat, in the meantime, was prevented from drifting to shore by the lead-line, which was being used when the boat upset, getting entangled with something on the bottom. Venus then said that he would swim ashore and told Mr Gowlland to keep by the boat until he sent assistance. It is presumed however, that Mr Gowlland got benumbed, and was unable to hold on any longer, as he was afterwards seen endeavouring to swim ashore, and then suddenly to sink".

16. MANN, Gother Kerr (G43)

Born in 1810. He was the first Chief Commissioner for Railways in NSW, 1855 - 1857, Commander of the first Volunteer Artillery Corps, Engineer in charge of the construction of the Fitzroy Dry Dock on Cockatoo Island, and Superintendent of the convicts on the island. He lived at "Greenwich House" on Greenwich Point. Mann's Point and Manns Avenue, Greenwich and Neutral Bay, are named after him and his famous family. He died 1 January 1891 aged 89.

17. AMPHLETT, Edward Albert (G30)

Born 28 December 1829 in London. He was 14 years old when he joined the Royal Navy, serving on various ships until 1878. He served in the Baltic 1852 - 1854 and China 1854 -1859. He was Paymaster of the Naval Brigade at the capture of Canton and other operations in China, and was in New Zealand during the Maori War 1859 - 1861. In 1863 he was one of the survivors of the wreck of the Orpheus in Manuka Harbour whilst serving as the Paymaster. He retired in 1880 but took up the position of Paymaster of Imperial Pensions in NSW in 1891, aged 63. He died 31 January 1896 at his home 'Clent', McLaren Street, North Sydney, aged 67.

18. STANLEY, Owen (Captain) (G14)

Born in England in 1811 he joined the Royal Navy aged 15 years. Until 1836 he served on a number of survey ships in South America, the Straits of Magellan, and in the Mediterranean. In June 1836 he joined an Arctic expedition and was in charge of astronomical and magnetic observations. In 1838 he was a member of the expedition to found a settlement at Port Essington in the Northern Territory.

In 1846 he was made Commander of the survey ship HMS 'Rattlesnake' and undertook hydrographic surveys of New Guinea waters. He died of a fever in his cabin in Sydney Harbour in the arms of the ship's surgeon, Thomas Henry Huxley, later to achieve fame as a biologist. The Owen Stanley Ranges immortalises his name. Captain Owen Stanley, the explorer and navigator, who died aboard the HMS Rattlesnake in 1850, was buried at St Thomas' with much fanfare. The Sydney Morning Herald, on 16th March, 1850, takes up the story:

The coffin was placed in the Rattlesnake's pinnace, which was taken in tow by the gig, pulled by the late captain's crew and by another boat. These were escorted by two rows of boats from the naval vessels, from the police and customs and from the merchant ships and whalers... firing minute guns which continued until the coffin had landed ... At Blues Point it came under the escort guard of 200 men and the band of the 11th Regiment. The cortege then moved to the Church of St Thomas in North Sydney.

Of the grave side scene:

An immense concourse of people were assembled to witness these obsequies, and no token of respect that could be paid to the memory of the deceased was omitted ... The coffin was removed to a vault prepared for its reception. The funeral services were terminated by three volleys fired over the grave by the guard of honour... A feeling of deep sympathy has been manifested by all classes in our community.

19. BARNEY, George (Lieutenant Colonel) (G66)

Born in London in 1792. At age 16 he joined the army. He arrived in Sydney in 1835 and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1840. He was Commander of the Royal Engineers and designer of Victoria Barracks as well as being Chief Commissioner of Crown Lands, Member of NSW Legislative Council; Lt. Governor of Northern Australia (site of Gladstone) and Surveyor-General responsible for the completion of Fort Denison, Circular Quay, Cockatoo Dock, Darlinghurst Gaol and Newcastle Breakwater. He lived in the 'Priory' still at 5 Priory Road, Waverton. He died 26 January 1862 aged 71.

20. CARTER, William (G06)

William Carter emigrated in 1824 on the ship the Prince Regent to take up the position as Australia's first Master in Chancery of the Supreme Court of NSW. In 1843 he became the first Registrar-General of the Colony. His daughter Jane married the artist Conrad Martens in 1837. In his later years he and his wife lived at 'Rockleigh Grange', Edward Street, North Sydney with their daughter and son-in-law. He died 1 August 1860 aged 81 years.

21. LITHGOW, William (F01)

Born 1st January 1784 in Scotland. He was educated at Edinburgh University and arrived in Sydney in May 1824 as Assistant Commissary-General of NSW. In 1827 he was appointed Auditor-General of Colonial Accounts. He resigned from the Legislative Council in 1848, and he retired as Auditor-General in 1852. As well as his Governmental responsibilities, he also served on several Bank Boards and provisional committees, amassing considerable financial holdings. He died on 11 June 1864 at his home, 'St. Leonards Lodge' (which was formerly located a few streets from the Cemetery) aged 80. The City of Lithgow bears his name.

6.6   Appendix 6 – St. Thomas' Rest Park – Self-guided Walking Tour Notes

G.   GOODENOUGH, James G

In 1873, Goodenough was appointed Commodore of the Australian station. He played a key role in bringing Fiji into the British Empire. He died in 1875 upon the HMS 'Pearl', his flagship, from poison arrow wounds received at Santa Cruz Island in the New Hebrides. (refer also to Sign 3 – History Trail)

H.   CLARKE, William Branwhite (Rev.)

Rev. Clarke was the founding rector of St. Thomas' Church from 1843 until his retirement in 1870. He was an eminent scientist, as well as a theologian, and regarded as the father of Australian geology. Clarke made many famous discoveries for the Government, including the Hunter River coal fields and gold in Hartley Valley and Bathurst.

I.   BENT, Ellis / OVENS, John

Appointed Deputy Judge-Advocate in NSW in 1809, Bent arrived in Sydney on the same vessel as Governor Macquarie. He was the Colony's first practising barrister-at-law.

Ovens came to Sydney as an ensign on the 73rd Regiment, and by 1810 was a Lieutenant and Engineer-in-Charge of public works. In 1823, Ovens explored the upper Murrumbidgee and Monaro district and helped John Oxley survey Twofold Bay.

J.   The Crib

(refer to Sign 5 – History Trail)

K.   WILLIAMS, James Hartwell

The first US Consul appointed to Sydney in 1836. He arrived on the 'Tartar' in 1836 to take up his official duties. The broken headstone was reconstructed in 1991 and erected on a slate slab on the exact site of his burial plot. A bronze plaque commemorating the 110th anniversary of his death was unveiled by the U.S. Consul General in 1992.

L.   MCLEOD, Hannah

The first matron of Crown Street Women's Hospital, Hannah was the daughter of William McLeod, a master mariner. Trained in Newcastle, it is said she lived 'a perfect life, unselfish and merciful'. Her broken monument was restored and re-erected on the exact site of her burial in 1992.

The Sexton's Cottage Museum

Open: February to December

- Thursdays: 1pm – 4pm

Admission: free (donations welcome)

The Museum holds information about the history of the park and those who are buried there.

The Museum is located within the grounds of St. Thomas' Rest Park at 250 West Street, Crows Nest.

Tours

Group tours are available by appointment. For further details contact Stanton Library. Detailed tour notes are also available from the Sexton's Cottage Museum.

More information about the Rest Park and its occupants is available from Stanton Library. Phone: 9936 8400 or email: library@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
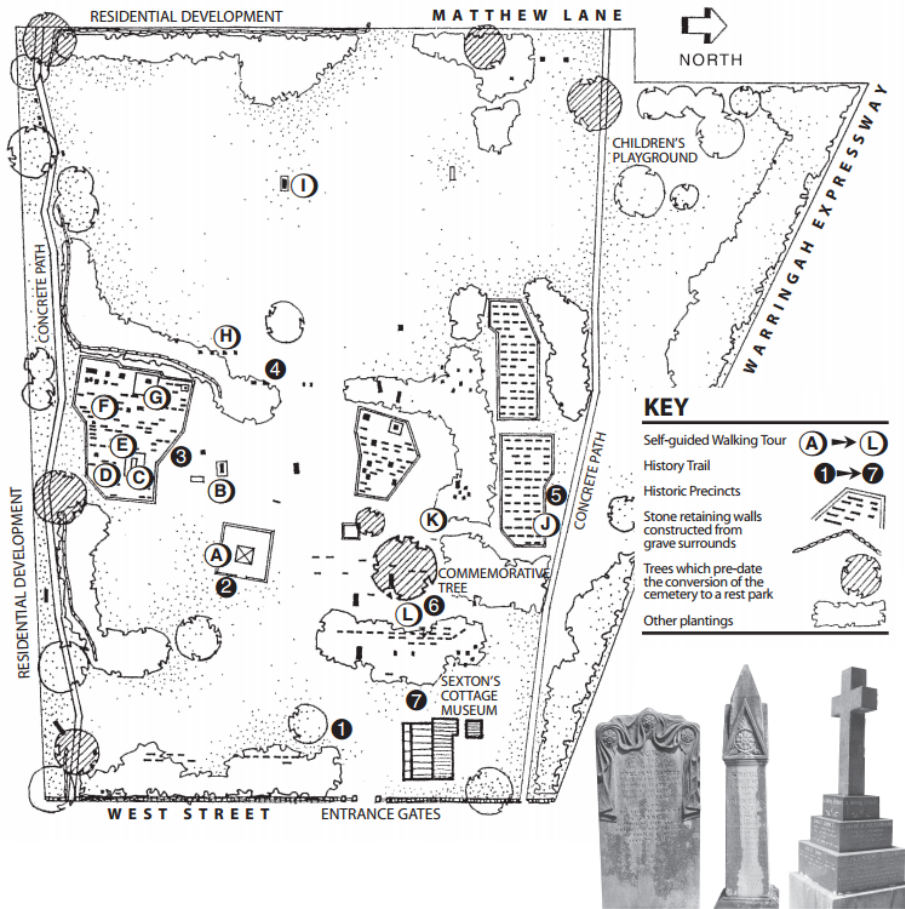

St. Thomas' Rest Park

Self-guided walking tour notes

This self-guided walking tour will tell you about some of the people buried in St. Thomas' and give you a brief snapshot of life and death in Australia in earlier times.

These tour notes complement the interpretive history trail which starts at the entrance gates to the Rest Park on West Street.

KEY

Self-guided Walking Tour (A) ➤ (L)

History Trail (1) ➤ (7)

Historic Precincts

Stone retaining walls constructed from grave surrounds

Trees which pre-date the conversion of the cemetery to a rest park

Other plantings

A. BERRY/WOLLSTONECRAFT
(refer to Sign 2 – History Trail)

B. MORIARTY, Merion
In 1842 Moriarty was appointed Harbour Master in Sydney by the British government, and he arrived to take up the post in 1843. His duties included control of ports, lighthouses and pilot vessels. From 1860 he represented Braidwood in the Legislative Assembly. His monument was restored by descendants of the Moriarty family and North Sydney Council.

C. STANLEY, Owen
Born in England in 1811, this explorer and navigator served on a number of survey ships in South America, the Straits of Magellan and in the Mediterranean. In 1846 he was made Commander of the survey ship HMS 'Rattlesnake', and undertook hydrographic surveys of New Guinea waters. He died of a fever aboard the 'Rattlesnake' in 1850. The Owen Stanley Ranges bear his name.

D. BARNEY, George (Lieutenant Colonel)
Born in London in 1792, Barney arrived in Sydney in 1835. He held a number of posts including Commander of the Royal Engineers and he designed Victoria Barracks. He was responsible for the completion of Fort Denison, Circular Quay, Cockatoo Dock and Darlinghurst Gaol.

E. MARTENS, Conrad
A topographical draughtsman on the survey ship 'Beagle' with Charles Darwin, Martens arrived in Sydney in 1835. He designed the first St. Thomas' Church and sculpted its font. A celebrated water-colourist, his record of Sydney and the Harbour in the mid-nineteenth century is significant from an historical point of view. His daughter Rebecca sketched many early views of the North Sydney region.

F. HOLTERMANN, Bernard Otto
Born in Germany, Holtermann arrived in Australia in 1858. At Hill End, his Star of Hope Syndicate discovered the world's largest specimen of reef gold ever found. He built an impressive mansion in North Sydney, complete with tower, on the site of what is now Shore School. It is from this tower that he commissioned the famous Holtermann collection of late 19th century panoramas of Sydney Harbour.