



Community Land Management Plan for **Tabernacle Church Cemetery Reserve**



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Introduction

Introduction

A Community Land Management Plan is a document prepared in consultation with the community to provide direction in regard to land classed as *Community Land*.

Legislation

Council is obliged to manage Community Land in accordance with the relevant Management Plan, as a legislative requirement under Section 199 of the Local Government Act 1999.

Under the Community Land status the land is protected in a number of ways. Community Land cannot be sold or disposed of without public consultation and approval from the Minister in whom the Local Government Act is vested.

Community Land includes all land that is owned or managed by Council (other than roads) not been previously excluded by Council from the classification as Community Land.

Description of Land

Tabernacle Cemetery also known as Tabernacle Church Cemetery Reserve is of significant local historical importance, being the site of the first Newland Congregational Church built in 1846 by Reverend Ridgway William Newland. Newland being a leading pioneer, clergyman and the first chairman of the District Council of Encounter Bay.

Tabernacle Church Cemetery Reserve is also the last resting place of many of the area's pioneers.

The Tabernacle Church Cemetery Reserve currently presents itself as an attractive open space area with well established native trees. Providing habitat for and attracting a variety of bird life. Beneath these trees is a maintained open grassed area, providing for passive recreation and enjoyment of the natural grounds (refer Image 1).

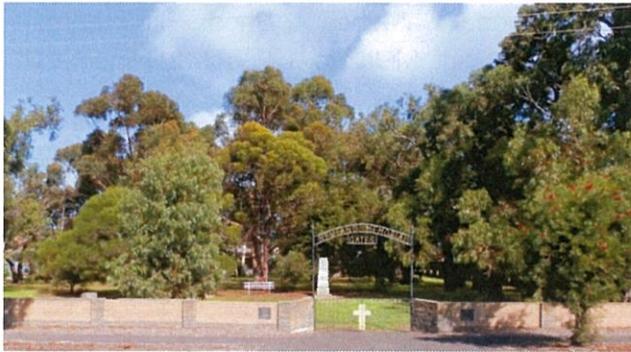


Image 1 Tabernacle Church Cemetery Reserve, as seen from Tabernacle Road, Encounter Bay

Land Location / Detail

Tabernacle Church Cemetery Reserve is located on the Tabernacle Road, Encounter Bay. The reserve occupies a total of 0.3841 hectares (3,841m²) of land, which is surrounded by road reserve on all sides. Refer **Map 1** of this plan.

Grid reference: GDA94 54 282490^E 606100^N

The reserve is made up of the two adjoining land parcels, as follows.

Filed Plan 162862, Allotment 91
Certificate of Title 5307, Folio 787
0.3784 hectares

Deposited Plan 71731, Allotment 179
Certificate of Title 5980, Folio 810
0.0057 hectares

Until about 2004 the reserve was largely surrounded by farm land. However, by 2015 the area was built up with urban development on all sides, centrally located within the suburb of Encounter Bay.

Ownership of Land

At the onset of preparing this Community Land Management Plan, the Tabernacle Church Cemetery Reserve was owned by the *Uniting Church in Australia* and managed locally by the *Newland Memorial Uniting Church* congregation of Victor Harbor.

This plan was initially developed to accommodate the gifting as community land from the Newland Memorial Church (Uniting Church) to the City of Victor Harbor, as

community land, thus providing for the recognition, management and protection of the land and its historical importance.

Heritage Listing

The Tabernacle Cemetery and Newland Memorial Gates are listed on the South Australian Heritage Register as local heritage. The heritage listing having statutory implications and recognised under Council's Development Plan and the Development Act 1993. The State Heritage Database reference number for the cemetery and gates is 14678, with the register authorisation date of 2 October 2003.

Under the heritage listing, the property is recognised as:

- Displaying historical, economic or social themes that are of importance to the local area.
- Having played an important part in the lives of local residents as a pioneer cemetery.
- Associated with the notable local personality of Reverend Ridgway Newland and the early pioneer Tabernacle Church.
- Requiring the need to consult and seek heritage advice.

Ecologically

Management Plans prepared by Council take into consideration ecologically sustainable development principles. Council endeavours to use, conserve and enhance the site's natural resources so that the ecological processes on which life depends are maintained, and the total quality of life now and in the future, is improved.

Development

Tabernacle Church Cemetery Reserve is zoned as residential, falling entirely within Residential (Lakeside) Policy Area 5, identified within the Victor Harbor (City) development plan.

The reserve is a burial ground and a registered historic site. No residential development can take place on this land, including development in any form that is inconsistent with the purpose stated within this management plan.

History

The land occupied by the Tabernacle Church Cemetery Reserve forms part of the land grant and the 1840 survey of the pioneer township of Yelkie (Yilki).

The acre of land was used as a cemetery from 1840 until the early 1900s. The Tabernacle Church was built on the land in 1846 and operated as a church until the late 1800s. The Reverend Ridgway Newland, the church's founder and the area's patriarch, initially buried beneath the Tabernacle's pulpit following his death in 1864.

Pioneer churches like the Tabernacle Church acted as the cultural centres of pioneer communities in Australia. They were often the only places in which people could hear music and join together in song. Usually the minister and his wife, as in the case of Newland and his wife Martha, were the best educated members of the community, the possessors of the only library, and the fount of all wisdom and advice, on worldly as well as heavenly matters. A man of such total integrity and moral strength as Newland was able to exert an influence for good.

Church Site

The Tabernacle church (refer image 2) was built in 1846 and named after the Tabernacle Chapel at Hanley in Staffordshire, England, where the Reverend Ridgway Newland served as the Pastor for 22 years before sailing to South Australia.

The church dimensions were 28' x 19' (8.5 x 5.8 metres) built of limestone, with a thatched roof and French windows which opened to verandas on both sides. The church being lit by whale oil lamps and tallow candles, until kerosene later became available.

The Tabernacle Church was the first Congregational church in the southern districts. Later the Reverend Ridgway Newland established

Congregational Churches at Sheoak Hills, Inman Valley, Port Elliot, Middletown, Goolwa, Hindmarsh Island, Currency Creek, Point Sturt and Milang.

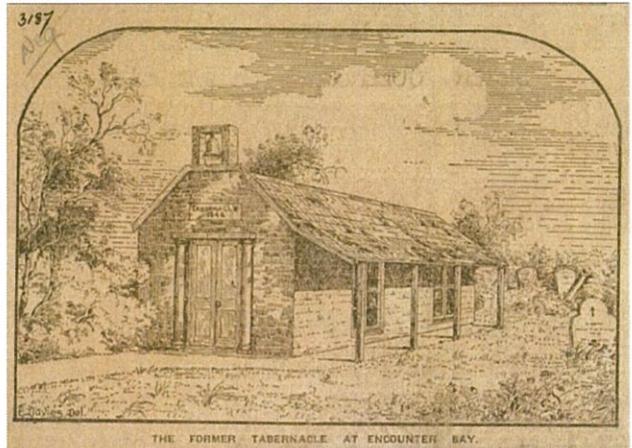


Image 2 Newland's Tabernacle Church built 1846 (State Library of South Australia, B3187)

In 1850 members of the church formed themselves into a Congregational Church, which in 1977 became part of the Uniting Church of Australia.

In 1854 a bell was hung in the tiny belfry of the Tabernacle Church. This bell was transferred to the first Newland Memorial Church in 1869.

In 1867 a decision had been made to provide a place of worship in the rapidly growing Victor Harbor Township. This need had been recognised by Newland before his death in 1864. In 1869 the new church was opened and named the *Newland Memorial Church* (refer Image 3) in honour of the area's Christian and civic founder, the Reverend Ridgway William Newland.



Image 3 Newland Memorial Church built 1867 (State Library of South Australia, B5690)

Extensions to the Newland Memorial Church were completed in 1919 and this building is now used as the church hall (refer image 4).

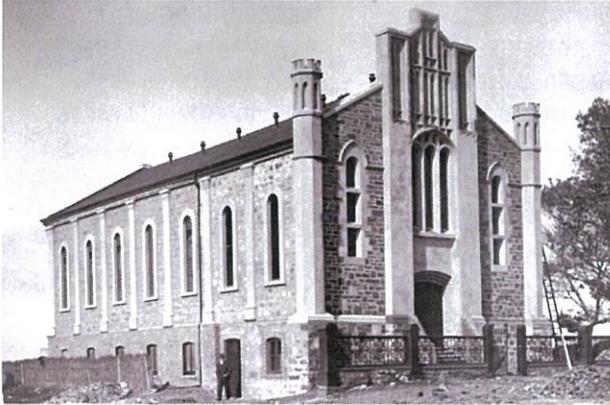


Image 4 Newland Memorial Church extension of 1919 (State Library of South Australia, PRG280/1/17/552)

Due to the growth of population in the town it was deemed necessary to build a larger church and in 1927 the current church was opened on an adjacent site. This significant building is now one of the largest and most recognised historical buildings in Victor Harbor (refer image 5).

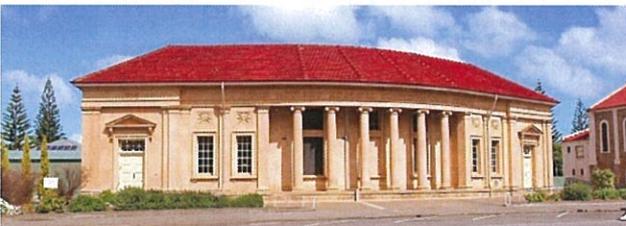


Image 5 Modern day Newland Memorial Church

Reverend Newland

The Reverend Ridgway William Newland (born 1790), also known as the *Pioneer Pastor of the South*, was a Congregational clergyman from the south of England, who led the first true party of settlers to Encounter Bay in July 1839 (then aged 49). The pioneering group comprised of his family, some relations and friends along with several skilled workers and their families.

Newland had obtained letters of introduction to Governor George Gawler from Lord Glenelg, Secretary for the Colonies. Gawler told Newland that the village of Adelaide was becoming overcrowded, that most of the nearby land had been taken up and splendid land was available at Encounter Bay for only one pound an acre.

Newland spent his last 25 years at Encounter Bay until his death in 1864. During this time he became the patriarch of the area. He saw the district develop from a toehold in the bush to a flourishing Australian community, with Newland being the mainspring of the development.



Image 6 Reverend Ridgway William Newland

At times Newland bitterly complained about the neglect of Aborigines by the Governor and also informed the Aborigines Protection Society in London about their plight. He was against the practice of taking all the weapons from the Aborigines as it prevented them from hunting, gathering, fishing and defence against other tribes. Weapons confiscated were often given to settlers and the governor as curiosity objects. He found this practice degrading and abhorrent.

Ridgway Newland also became a magistrate and was the first chairman of the District Council of Inman between 1853 and 1856, then from 1856 the first chairman of the District Council of Encounter Bay until his death in 1864.

Although Newland had not emigrated with the intention of becoming a missionary, he soon accepted the challenge of spreading the gospel around the neighbourhood (although he would accept no money for his ministrations). He rode along the wild bush tracks in every kind of weather, covering a huge parish ranging from Bald Hills to Goolwa and the Port Elliot to

Currency Creek. His rides helped to knit together the scattered pioneer communities, and they came to regard Newland not only as a minister of the gospel but also as the area's secular leader and representative.

Returning from one preaching visit to Adelaide and Willunga, his coach capsized and he was fatally injured. He died on 8 March 1864 at the age of 74. He was buried in a vault beneath the pulpit of the Tabernacle Church and in 1870 reinterred in the Victor Harbor Cemetery.

In addition to the Newland Church built in honour of Reverend Ridgway Newland, *Newland Head* (at the southern end of the conversation park with the same name) and the *Newland Bridge* (Lower Inman River Bridge) were also named in his honour.

Cemetery

The Tabernacle cemetery was officially used from 1840 until 1860 when it was determined that no more plots could be sold due to the opening in 1855 of the Victor Harbor Cemetery. Occasional burials took place after this date in lots sold previous to 1860. The first recorded interment in the cemetery was John Jagger in 1840 and the last Eliza McDonald in 1941.

Only a handful of grave sites are marked, with most remaining unmarked. At least 26 settlers whose names are known have been buried here along with others whose names are not known.



Image 7 Memorial of known burials at cemetery

The plaque of 1977 reads:

THIS PLAQUE COMMEMORATES THE FOLLOWING PERSONS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN BURIED IN THE TABERNACLE CEMETERY AND THOSE WHOSE NAMES CANNOT BE TRACED

JOHN JAGGER 1840	ROBERT HIGGINS 1855
MARY JAGGER 1852	WILLIAM FULLER 1856
FREDERICK HEIGH 1852	JOSIAH STORER 1856
EDWARD GROSVENOR 1853	DAVID RUMBELOW 1859
MRS HENRY TAYLOR 1853	ANN RUMBELOW 1861
JOHN BARTON 1854	JOHN BARRATT 1863
INFANT GARDNER 1854	WILLIAM JAGGER 1865
JOHN WISE 1854	SAMUEL HARGREAVES 1870
GODFREY RUMBELOW 1855	MARTHA SWIFT 1920
THOMAS POLLARD 1855	WILLIE JAGGER 1935
ELIZA McDONALD 1941	

DEDICATED 17TH APRIL, 1977 BY MR. H.R.S. NEWLAND

A further plaque was added in 1979 noting the following additional names:

ADDITIONAL NAMES OF PERSONS BURIED IN THIS CEMETERY

JOHN PETTERMANN 1845	PHILIP HYDE 1847
CHARLES HULL 1854	MR. CLARKE 1856
EMMA SOUTH 1856	

UNVEILED BY MR. D.M. SHANNON 2ND DECEMBER, 1979

The Anthropological Society of South Australia published a 14 page report in July 2012, on a geophysical investigation carried out on the Tabernacle Cemetery. The investigation was carried out at the request the local Newland Church Council. A summary/extract of the report follows (in *Italics*).

The investigation using ground penetrating radar and electromagnetic induction identified 25 Probable and 16 possible grave locations, which is significantly more than the historical record suggests are present.

While a definitive audit of the burial locations of the graves and the former location of the church at the Tabernacle (Yilke) Cemetery would require direct investigation through excavation, this approach would be destructive, expensive and disrespectful to the cemetery inhabitants and their families. In contrast, the geophysical survey has contributed significantly to the knowledge available for this significant site in a non-invasive fashion.

Memorials

The memorial gates (refer Image 3) are an important feature of Tabernacle Church Cemetery Reserve and are heritage listed. At the top of gateway arch are the words **NEWLAND MEMORIAL GATES**. On the actual gates are the words **TABERNACLE CEMETERY**.

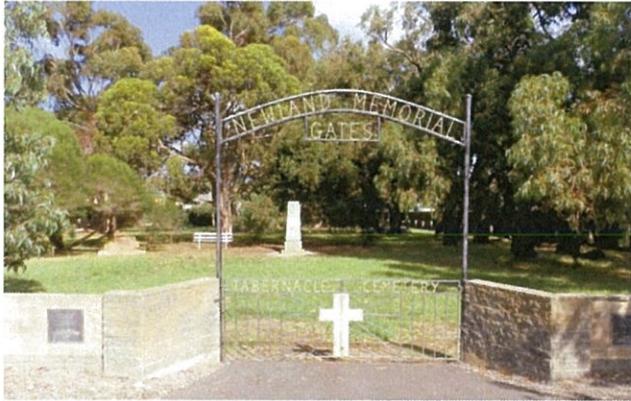


Image 8 Newland Memorial Gates

The memorial plaque displayed on the northern (right hand) side of the gates is shown in **Image 9**, with the words following.



Image 9 Plaque of Tabernacle Church (located on wall north of memorial gates)

Erected 1846 - Dimensions 28 feet by 19 feet. Rev Ridgeway William Newland, first congregational minister 1839 to 1864

The memorial plaque displayed on the southern (left hand) side of the gates is shown in **Image 10**, with the words following.

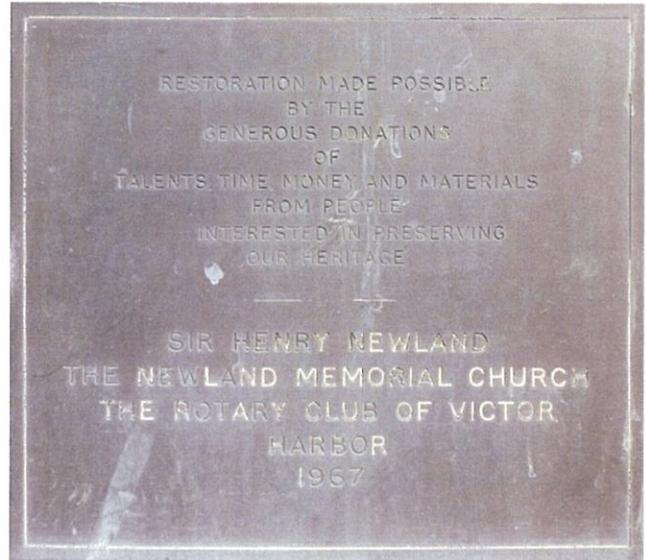


Image 10 Memorial plaque displayed on the southern side of the gates

Restoration made possible by the generous donations of talent, time, money and materials from people interested in preserving our heritage

SIR HENRY NEWLAND
THE NEWLAND MEMORIAL CHURCH
THE ROTARY CLUB OF VICTOR HARBOR
1967

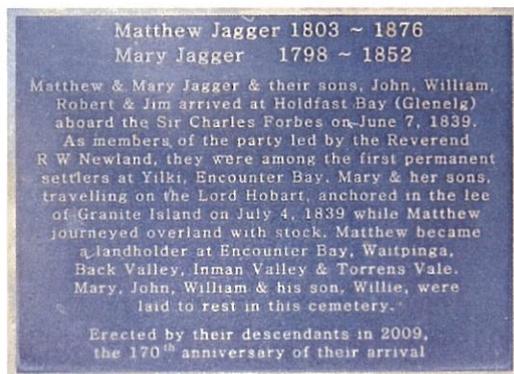
Near the front of the reserve is a granite monument, shown below, with the words following.



This stone marks the site of THE TABERNACLE the first Congregational Church in the southern district. Founded in 1846 by the Reverend R W Newland the Pioneer Pastor of the South

A service commemorating the centenary was held on this spot 7th April 1946.

Other Memorials are shown below, followed by the wording of each.

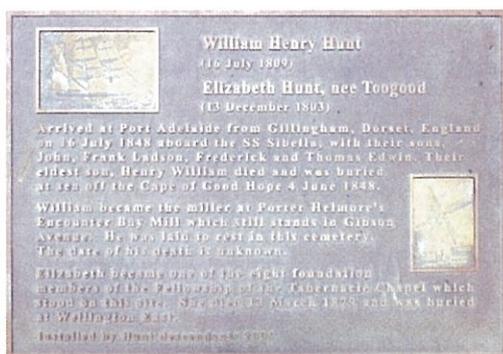


MATTHEW JAGGER 1803 - 1876

MARY JAGGER 1798 - 1852

Matthew & Mary Jagger & their sons, John, William, Robert & Jim arrived at Holdfast Bay (Glenelg) aboard the Sir Charles Forbes on June 7, 1839. As members of the party led by the Reverend R W Newland, they were among the first permanent settlers at Yilki, Encounter Bay. Mary & her sons, travelling on the Lord Hobart, anchored in the lee of Granite Island on July 4, 1839 while Matthew journeyed overland with stock. Matthew became a landholder at Encounter Bay, Waitpinga, Back Valley, Inman Valley & Torrens Vale. Mary, John, William & his son Willie, were laid to rest in this cemetery.

Erected by their descendants in 2009, the 170th anniversary of their arrival.



WILLIAM HENRY HUNT (16 JULY 1809)

ELIZABETH HUNT, nee TOOGOOD (13 DECEMBER 1803)

Arrived at Port Adelaide from Gillingham, Dorset, England on the 16 July 1848 aboard the SS Sibella, with their sons, John, Frank Ladson, Frederick and Thomas Edwin. Their eldest son, Henry Williams died and was buried at sea off the Cape of Good Hope 4 June 1848.

William became the miller at Porter Helmore's Encounter Bay Mill which still stands in Gibson Avenue. He was laid to rest in this cemetery. The date of this death is unknown.

Elizabeth became one of the eight foundation members of the Fellowship of the Tabernacle Chapel which stood on this site. She died 13 March 1879 and was buried at Wellington East.

Installed by Hunt descendants 2006.

Grave Site Memorials

While most of the grave sites remain unmarked, there are six known marked locations or memorials present on the reserve (Image 11).



Image 11 Marked Grave Sites/Memorials

Purpose

The purpose for which the Tabernacle Church Cemetery Reserve is held by Council on behalf of the community is to preserve and acknowledge the historical significance of this site in the early settlement and development of the district, now known as Victor Harbor (City of Victor Harbor).

As part of the above, maintaining the natural ambience of the open space reserve and its native trees lends itself toward passive recreation and enjoyment by the public.



Objectives

Core Objectives

To provide an area in a park setting for the preservation and display of gravesite headstones and memorials from the historic cemetery and church site.

To protect and enhance the environmental character of the reserve, ensuring it is aesthetically pleasing and accessible to the community.

To provide an area for the use and convenience of the community where passive recreational activities may be undertaken.

Community Values

Consideration of community values is essential in the development of a Community Land Management Plan. Community values being the attributes that make something important to the community.

An understanding of community values for this historic land site is appreciated as it identifies the European settlement and development of the area, its people, their faith and their values.

Social Values

The land helps meet the social need for open space reserves within urban areas and the recognition of local heritage.

Permitted Uses

Based on the purpose and core objectives of this plan, the uses permitted on this land are:

- Construction and placement of memorials which recognise the historical significance of the land.
- Maintenance and up keep of existing gravesite headstones and memorials.
- Passive recreational activities and pastimes.
- Planting and maintenance of flora.

- Installation and maintenance of fencing.

Public Access

Public access to the land is not limited, provided such access is consistent with the purpose, core objectives and permitted uses of this plan.

Plans & Policies

To manage the land in accordance with this Community Land Management Plan and with the relevant plans, policies, by-laws, including but not limited to the following.

- City of Victor Harbor Community Plan 2022
- Victor Harbor Environmental Management Plan, 2010 - 2014
- Ecologically Sustainable Development Policy
- Tree Management Policy
- Public Consultation Policy
- Asset Management Plans
- By-Law No. 4 - Local Government Land

Proposals

The proposals for the management of land are:

- The layout of historic headstones and memorials in a manner to ensure their retention and conservation.
- Provide convenient access to the headstones and memorials for the general public.
- To provide an attractive landscaped area complementary to the heritage function of the site.
- Provision of interpretive signage promoting the heritage significance of the site, including the Tabernacle Church, the Reverend Ridgway William Newland and the pioneer cemetery.
- The property is kept on the Local Heritage listing.

Performance

Performance targets

To provide a safe and functional reserve developed and maintained in a manner appropriate to its location and purpose.

To maintain the heritage value over the land, headstones and memorials.

Performance measures

Regular inspection and maintenance of the reserve.

Plan

Amendment or Revocation

Pursuant to Section 198 of the Local Government Act 1999:

- (1) *A management plan may be amended or revoked by the adoption of a proposal for its amendment or revocation.*
- (2) *A council may only adopt a proposal for amendment to, or revocation of, a management plan after the council has carried out the public consultation that would be required if the proposal were for a new management plan.*
- (3) *However, public consultation is not required if the amendment has no impact or no significant impact on the interests of the community.*
- (4) *A council must give public notice of its adoption of a proposal for the amendment or revocation of a management plan"*

Effect of Management Plan

In accordance with Section 199 of the Local Government Act 1999 "A council must manage community land in accordance with any management plan for the relevant land".

Community Consultation

Community consultation and input is essential in developing Management Plans for community land. Public consultation helping to identifying the needs, interest and support of the local community, both from special interest groups and the wider community.

This Management Plan has been developed with community consultation.

Review of Management Plan

This Management Plan may be reviewed from time to time, requiring public consultation.

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Disclaimer

The City of Victor Harbor has made every reasonable attempt to ensure the accuracy of the information presented in this document. However, it does not guarantee the information is complete, correct or up to date.

Version History

Council Resolution 17/12/2012, to investigate gifting of land, OC 12/0673.

Draft Version 3 August 2015, Public Consultation 14/12/2015, OC6062015

Final Version adopted 28 August 2017.

