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### Cemetery as History Lesson

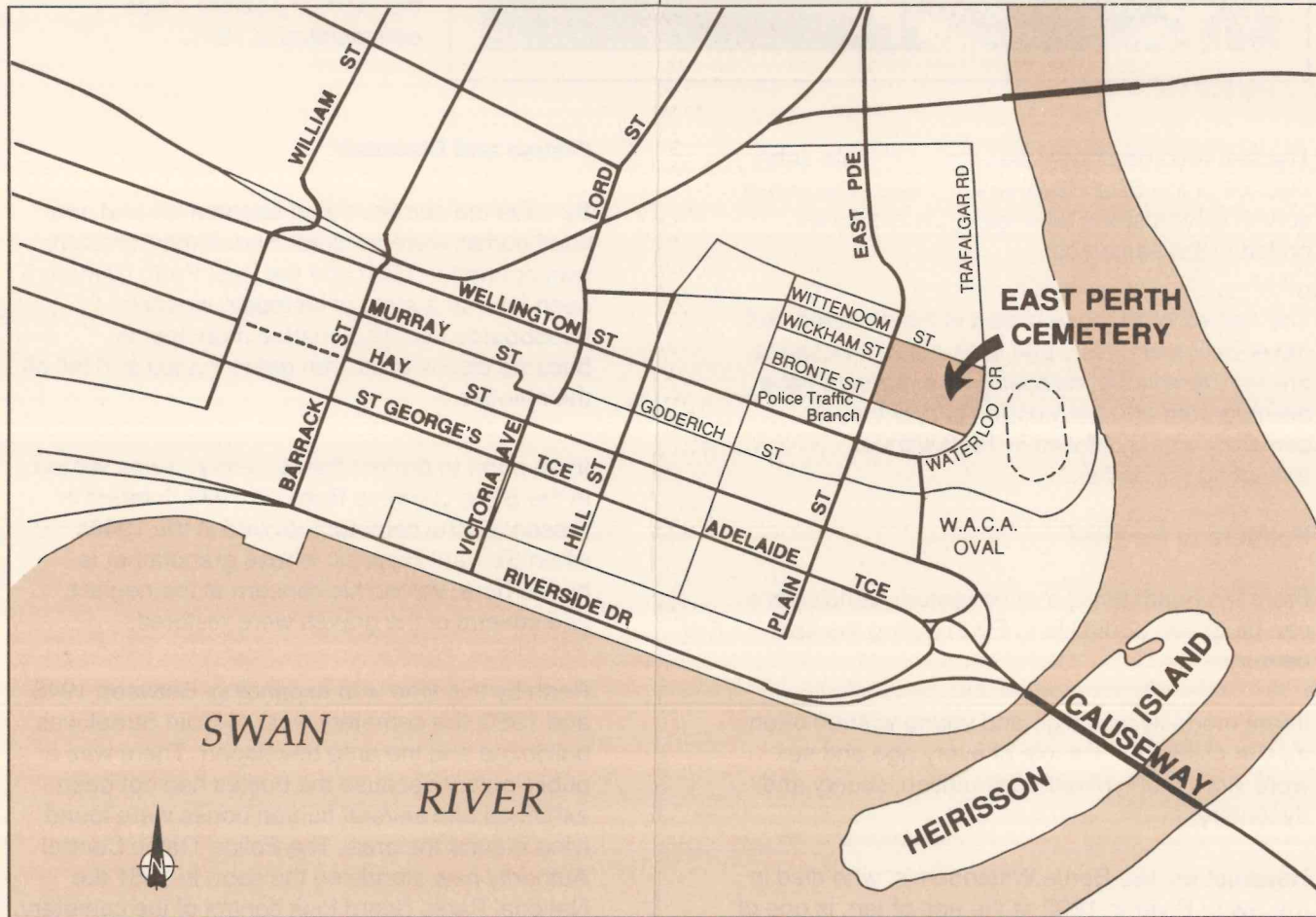
In 1985, the cemetery became the responsibility of the Department of Conservation and Land Management, and together with the W.A. Historical Society, is restoring the cemetery. The Western Australian Historical Society holds a memorial service each year on the first Sunday in June for those buried here.

### Further Information

For further information on the East Perth Cemetery contact:

Department of Conservation and Land Management,  
State Headquarters,  
50 Hayman Road, Como WA 6152  
or telephone 367 0333.

Department of Conservation and Land Management,  
Metropolitan Regional Office,  
5 The Esplanade, Canning Bridge WA 6153  
or telephone 364 0777



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION REFERENCE

# THE EAST PERTH CEMETERY

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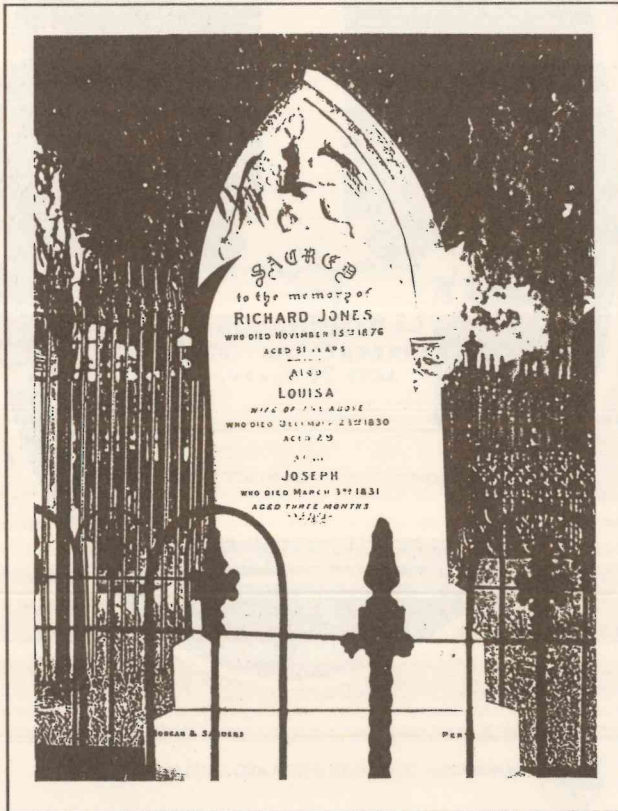
## East Perth Cemetery

**T**HE East Perth Cemetery sits atop Plain Street hill, a fragment of our colonial past surrounded by highrises and urban sprawl.

This area, once on the very outskirts of Perth, was first surveyed in 1829, and gazetted a cemetery in 1847. An estimated 10 000 pioneers are buried here, including the well known settlers John Septimus Roe, Sir Luke Leake and Peter Broun.

### Wooden Cross, Marble Monument

Most of the people who died in Perth between 1830 and 1899 were buried in the East Perth Cemetery, and their graves are a window to Perth's past.



The first recorded burial was that of Private John Mitchell of the 63rd Regiment, in 1830. The oldest surviving headstone belongs to Louise Jones, buried in the same year.

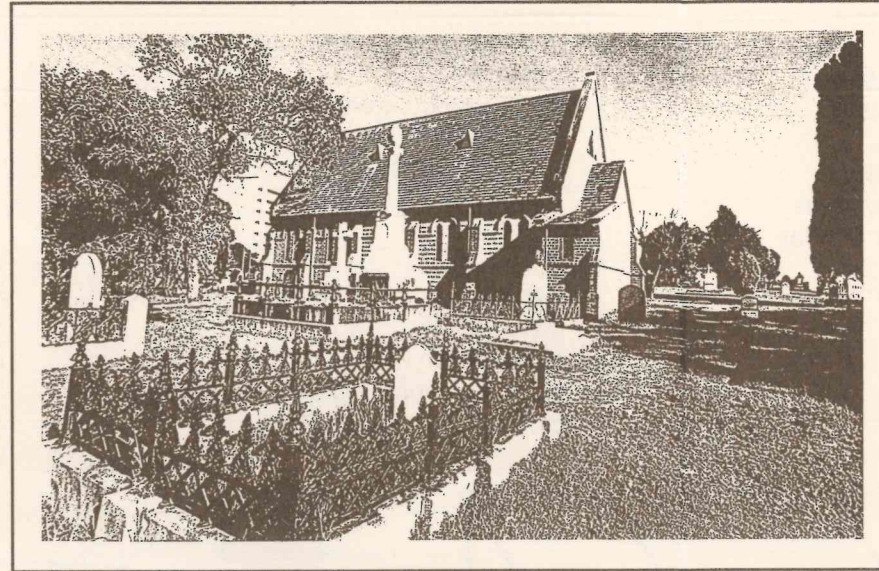
The names of all those buried in the cemetery will never be known. Only 804 sites out of thousands are still identifiable; wooden grave markers have disintegrated and the western part of the cemetery was bulldozed in 1948 without exhuming the bodies.

### Pointers to the Past

From the headstones that do remain, conclusions can be drawn about life in Perth during the last century.

Infant mortality was high and young women often died in childbirth. People of every age and sex were victims of typhoid, malnutrition, scurvy and dysentery.

Headstones, like Bertie Wittenoorn's, who died in the Swan River in 1892 at the age of ten, is one of



many which indicates drowning was common. Several convicts and soldiers are in the cemetery, testimony to our penal history. Here, too, are the bodies of explorers Panter, Harding and Goldwyer, who were killed by Aborigines at Le Grange in 1864.

The cemetery was divided into areas of religious denominations, and there were separate sections for Aborigines and Chinese. St Bartholomews Church, which stands in the middle of the cemetery, was the mortuary before it was consecrated in 1871.

### Disuse and Disrepair

By 1899 the cemetery had become full and only vault burials were allowed. Karrakatta Cemetery was opened in 1900 and the East Perth Cemetery soon fell into a state of disrepair: wooden headboards decayed, marble monuments became discoloured, iron gates rusted and fell off their hinges.

In an effort to protect the cemetery, it was vested in the State Gardens Board in 1934. Interest in preserving the cemetery revived in the 1940s when Sir Paul Hasluck, whose grandfather is buried here, voiced his concern at the neglect, and several of the graves were restored.

Perth by this time was expanding. Between 1948 and 1950, the cemetery west of Plain Street was bulldozed and the area developed. There was a public outcry because the bodies had not been exhumed and several human bones were found lying around the area. The Police Traffic Control Authority now stands on the spot. In 1951 the National Parks Board took control of the cemetery.