

Place No. 26 Karratha Cemetery



View of Karratha Cemetery 2012

LOCATION	
Name of Place	Karratha Cemetery
Other Name (1)	
Other Name (2)	
Location/Address	
Street Number	
Street Name	Madigan Road
Suburb/Town	Baynton, Karratha
Other Locational descriptor (text)	At the junction with Dampier Road mE 478185 mN 7705784 Longitude 116.7904 Latitude: -20.7475

OWNERSHIP & LAND DESCRIPTION				
<i>Owner</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Phone/fax</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Item No.</i>
Shire of Roebourne				
<i>Reserve No.</i>	<i>Lot/Location No.</i>	<i>Plan/Diagram</i>	<i>Vol/Folio</i>	<i>Item No.</i>
RES41146	262	189261	LR3062/ 168	

Listing and Assessment	
HCWA Reference Number	NEW ENTRY
State Register of Heritage Places:(Y/N)	No
Classified by the National Trust (Y/N)	No
Register of the National Estate (Y/N)	No
Local Town Planning Scheme (Y/N)	Yes
Management Category	B

DESCRIPTION	
Construction Date (1)	Mid-late 1980s
Construction Date (2)	

Site Type (Place Type)	Other Built Type
Use(s) of Place	
<i>Original</i>	MONUMENT/CEMETERY: Cemetery
<i>Present</i>	MONUMENT/CEMETERY: Cemetery
<i>Other</i>	
Construction Materials:	
<i>Walls</i>	
<i>Roof</i>	
<i>Other</i>	
Condition	Good
Integrity (how much of the original fabric is intact?):	Complete

Physical Description

The Karratha Cemetery is located on the outskirts of Karratha. Head stones are of varied design, reflecting an individualistic approach to memorialisation of life and frequently providing a window into the life of Karratha residents. Grave sites are of many religious denominations and the cemetery doesn't appear to be divided into religious areas. A memorial for cremations is built from salmon and red brick in a triangular form located in the centre of the back perimeter of the cemetery, where ashes are interred in the niche wall. The cemetery is not densely populated; people tend to be buried elsewhere and the town has no funeral directors. The barren landscape is planted with Robinia trees around the perimeter of the cemetery, providing some shade for seating.

History

Planning for the town of Karratha began in 1968, with the first permanent buildings constructed in 1970. The development of the town was as a combined effort between the State Government and Hamersley Iron to accommodate the workforce of the Hamersley Iron mining company.

The original cemetery for the region was the Roebourne Cemetery. However, with the construction of the Roebourne village housing project adjacent to the Roebourne Cemetery, which caused great offence to the Aboriginal community, the cemetery was subject to vandalism and reached capacity without the ability to expand in area.

The Shire of Roebourne Council allocated funds for the creation of two new cemeteries – one in Roebourne (located near the Roebourne Regional Prison) and one in Karratha. The plans for the new cemeteries included water supplies, bitumised car parking areas and gardens.¹

There are a few distinctive graves, including the grave of a sailor, David Reginald Legge (1932-2003), which is marked by a post with ship's bell and a ship's rope demarcating the grave site with the inscription 'Farewell Captain: a good mate to all'.

Archaeology

There is considered to be little research potential for archaeology at this site.

SIGNIFICANCE**Historic theme (s)**

1. DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT & MOBILITY
107 Settlements

4. SOCIAL AND CIVIC ACTIVITIES
404 Community services and utilities
406 Religion

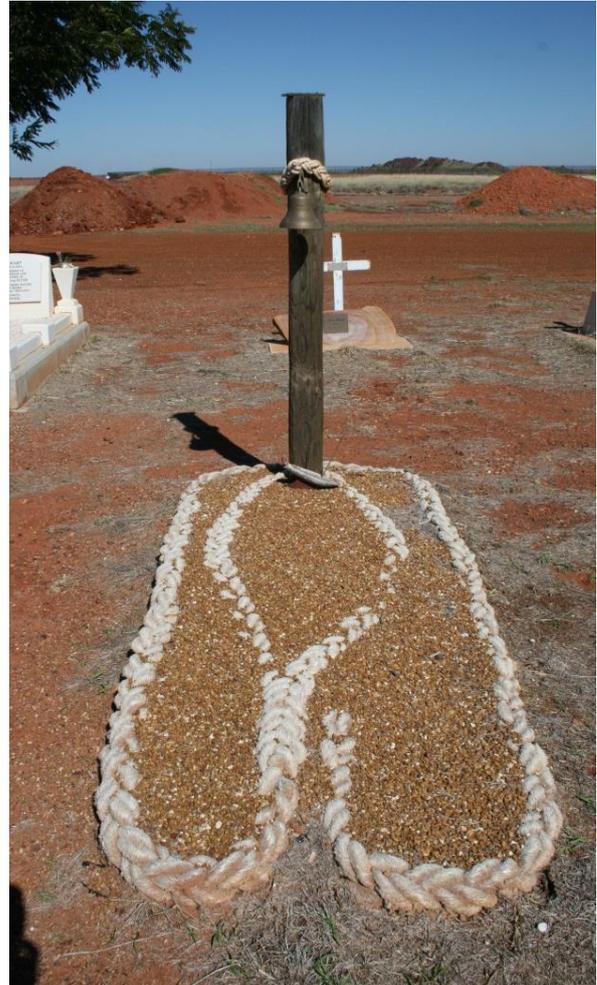
Statement of Significance:

The Karratha Cemetery holds spiritual and social significance for its memorialisation of the life and death of Karratha residents. It reflects the growing and changing population of Karratha with the diverse influence of migrants from a wide range of cultural backgrounds.

ASSOCIATIONS	
Architect/Designer (1)	
Architect/Designer (2)	
Other Associated Person(s)	

OTHER	
References	
See endnotes.	

MHI 1996	Identified on Review List
MHI Review 2012	Site assessed and Place Name Record created



Detail of graves in Karratha Cemetery 2012

Detail of David Reginald Legge's grave 2012

¹ Hamersley News article, mid-late 1980s, MHI site file folder, Local History Collection, Shire of Roebourne