

## Item Details

### Name

Castlereagh General Cemetery and native vegetation

### SHR/LEP/S170

LEP #C-16

### Address

77-85 East Wilchard Road CRANE BROOK NSW 2749

### Local Govt Area

Penrith

### Local Aboriginal Land Council

Unknown



### Item Type

Archaeological-Terrestrial

### Group/Collection

Cemeteries and Burial Sites

### Category

Cemetery/Graveyard/Burial Ground

## All Addresses

### Addresses

Records Retrieved: 1

Street No	Street Name	Suburb/Town/Postcode	Local Govt. Area	LALC	Parish	County	Electorate	Address Type
77-85	East Wilchard Road	CRANE BROOK/NSW /2749	Penrith	Unknown			Unknown	Primary Address

## Significance

### Statement Of Significance

The bushland setting of the Castlereagh Anglican Cemetery and its historical associations with the Macquarie era town reserve are unique at a state level. The cemetery demonstrates longevity of European occupation in Australia, clearly demarcates the old township and is the major remaining physical evidence of the town reserve, and has associations with a high number of early settlers of local and state significance and documents many pioneer families prior to Civil Registration. It is one of the oldest undisturbed burial grounds in Australia. The bush setting evokes the pioneer period of settlement, while it contains several monuments of unusual and early design. The cemetery includes a small population of the endangered native plant species, *Dillwynia tenuifolia*.

### Criteria a)

#### Historical Significance

The cemetery demonstrates longevity of European occupation in the region and has associations with a high number of early settlers of local and state significance. The cemetery is an integral element of the township reserve and also demonstrates ongoing historical associations with the natural vegetation.

### Criteria b)

#### Historical Association Significance

The cemetery is associated with persons associated with founding and early occupation of the town such as Governor Macquarie, surveyor Meehan, and Reverend Fulton, and settlers of the broader region.

### Criteria c)

#### Aesthetic/Technical Significance

The remote and secluded cemetery with its extensive tree cover provides a place for quiet reflection in a bushland setting and provides an insight into the endangered natural vegetation in the area. The individual monuments demonstrate the local artisan's craft.

**Criteria d)**

**Social/Cultural Significance**

The cemetery is the focus for community interest in history of the local area and the contribution of the early settlers to the history of the State. This is demonstrated by ongoing restoration of gravestones by individuals and groups.

**Criteria f)**

**Rarity**

The partially endangered bushland setting of the cemetery and its historical associations with the town reserve and local community is unique at a state level.

**Owners**

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Records Retrieved: 0

Organisation	Stakeholder Category	Date Ownership Updated
No Results Found		

**Description**

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**Designer**

**Builder/Maker**

**Physical Description**

**Updated**

Castlereagh Cemetery is adjacent to the eastern side of the intersection of Church Lane and Wilchard Road. The cemetery area is covered by remnant native vegetation classified as Castlereagh Scribbly Gum Woodland and Castlereagh Ironbark Forest. The latter is listed as an endangered ecological community under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. The endangered plant species *Dillwynia tenuifolia*, occurs along the north-west, north-east and south-east boundaries of the site. No traditional introduced plantings are evident.

The cemetery is overgrown with indistinct tracks providing access across the cemetery area. The western and southern boundaries are defined by an earth bank, the remains of an original fenced ditch. Remnants of previous picket fencing were removed several years ago. No clear boundaries are evident on the northern or eastern sides of the utilised cemetery area. The cemetery contains at least sixty-four monuments (not including footstones) and several concentrations of monument fragments. Of the sixty-four monuments evident about one third require repair and/or resetting. The monuments are scattered across the cemetery area, arranged in small clusters which appear to relate to family groupings. Families represented include: Hadley, Field, Herbert, Rope, Fraser and Mills. Depressions in the ground throughout the cemetery area suggest that there are many graves which are now unmarked. The extant monuments in the cemetery date from 1814 to 1973. A majority of monuments are nineteenth century sandstone headstones with footstones, although the site also includes four altar monuments (all damaged), two timber crosses, one marble headstone (smashed) and four twentieth century slab and desk monuments. There are also three iron grave surrounds/fences and a number of iron chain surrounds with sandstone corner posts. More than half the monuments record burials prior to Civil Registration in 1856 and may be the only record of the individuals concerned. Most of these early monuments are headstones of Georgian style with simple semicircular or anthropomorphic profiles. Many monuments feature excellent quality, low relief carving of simple motifs such as seraphs or florals and finely incised Roman and copperplate scripts. Some stones bear crude lettering styles that indicate the probable illiteracy of some early masons and their problems with spacing and spelling of early inscriptions. One example is the 1836 headstone to 'elibeteth herbert' [sic]. The early monuments commonly have inscriptions which include considerable biographical detail and a number feature the inclusion of lengthy verses which provide insight into the beliefs and values of the era. (RNE)

**Physical Condition**

**Updated 02/25/2005**

## Modifications And Dates

## Further Comments

## Current Use

## Former Use

## Listings

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### Listings

Records Retrieved: 4					
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Castlereath General Cemetery	C-16	12/20/1991 12:00:00 AM	180	
Local Environmental Plan	Penrith Local Environmental Plan 2010	32	9/22/2010 12:00:00 AM		
Heritage study		2260032	11/1/2007 12:00:00 AM		
Heritage study	Castlereath General Cemetery	C-16	4/1/1987 12:00:00 AM		

## Procedures/Exemptions

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Records Retrieved: 0

Section of Act	Description	Title	Comments	Action Date	Outcome
No Results Found					

## History

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### Historical Notes or Provenance

**Updated**

The cemetery forms part of the official town reserve set aside with the common by Governor Macquarie in 1810 for the settlers on the eastern bank of the Nepean River. While few if any settlers relocated to the town, the Rev Henry Fulton had an Anglican chapel and schoolhouse erected nearby the cemetery. The first recorded interment in the cemetery is that of Mary Ann Smith in 1814.

### Historic Themes

Records Retrieved: 1

National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
9. Phases of Life	Birth and Death	Unknown

## Recommended Management

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## Management Summary

### Management

Records Retrieved: 0

Management Category	Management Name	Date Updated
No Results Found		

## Report/Study

### Heritage Studies

Records Retrieved: 8

Report/Study Name	Report/Study Code	Report/Study Type	Report/Study Year	Organisation	Author
Penrith Heritage Study Review			2005		Paul Davies Pty Ltd
Penrith Heritage Study Review			2005		Pail Davies Pty Ltd
Penrith Heritage Study Review			2005		Paul Davies Pty. Ltd.
Penrith Heritage Study Review			2005		Paul Davies Pty. Ltd.
Penrith Cemeteries: Conservation Plans			1989		Don Godden and Associates Pty Ltd
Penrith Cemeteries: Conservation Plans			1989		Don Godden and Associates Pty Ltd
Heritage Study City of Penrith			1987		Fox & Associates
Penrith Lakes Scheme RES			1983		TBD

## Reference & Internet Links

### References

Records Retrieved: 2

Type	Author	Year	Title	Link
Written	Kevin Mills & Associates Pty Ltd	2001	Report on Flora and Fauna, Portion 245 Church Road Castlereagh	
Written	Kevin Mills & Associates Pty Ltd	2001	Report on Flora and Fauna, Portion 245 Church Road Castlereagh	

## Data Source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

### Data Source

Local Government

### Record Owner

Penrith City Council

### Heritage Item ID

2260032

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