

Living Above the Dead

*A History of the Redevelopment of Six Launceston Urban Burial
Places, 1931-1963.*

By Ron Mallett BA

A thesis submitted as part of the requirements for the degree of
Bachelor of Arts with Honours in History
School of History and Classics
University of Tasmania
November 2006

I certify that this thesis is all my own work, except as indicated and acknowledged, and that I have not submitted it for any other award.

.....
Date...../...../ 2006

I place no restriction on the loan or reading of this thesis and no restriction, subject to the law of copyright, on its reproduction in any form.

.....
Date...../...../ 2006

Ronald Alan Mallett
20 Dineen Street
Mowbray 7248
Launceston TAS

Phone: (03) 63265040

Acknowledgements

Thanks first to Tom Dunning, my Supervisor for being so encouraging and making the process as painless as possible.

Thanx to Kylie and our boys James and Thomas, for doing without me at times. Special thanx to our cat Frankenstein for keeping a close “eye” on me from behind on top of the spare bed as I typed away in the study through many nights.

Special thanks indeed to Michael, Brian and Shirley for being so generous with their minds as well as their time.

Thanks indeed to the staff of the Local History Room at the State Library of Tasmania, particularly Marion, for being a great help. Thanks again to Ross and Danielle at the Queen Victoria Museum History Room at Inveresk for their help as well. Also sincere thanks to young Ben Ashman and his father Rod for their special contributions. Further thanks to Ian Campbell for allowing me access to his manuscript on the history of Carr Villa and taking the time to read through a draft.

Hopefully I’ve not forgotten anyone. There were a lot of people who just offered a word of advice or gave me an idea or some encouragement and I’d like to thank them collectively.

Contents

List of Illustrations	iv
Definition of Terms.....	v
Introduction	
- Literature Review	1
- Sources and Methodology	4
Chapter One: Burial Places in Imperial, National and Regional Context	
- Britain and the Changing Concept of Burial Places	10
- Australia - Attitudes to Death and Burial Places	13
- Tasmania’s Approaches to the Redevelopment of Burial Places	17
Chapter Two: The Changing Concept of the Burial Place in Launceston	21
Chapter Three: Launceston - Attitudes to Death and Burial Places	31
Chapter Four: Launceston’s Approaches to the Redevelopment of Burial Places ...	41
Conclusion	
- The Changing Concept of the Burial Place	55
- Attitudes to Death and Burial Places	57
- Approaches to the Redevelopment of Burial Places	58
- Final Reflections.....	60
Appendix A: Aerial Map of Burial Places 1922	63
Appendix B: Comparative Photography	64
Appendix C: Oral Interviews Questionnaire	67
Appendix D: The Historical Stages of the Redevelopment of Burial Places	68
Appendix E: Timeline of Burial Place Redevelopment in Launceston.....	70
Bibliography:	75

List of Illustrations

Figure 1.	Intensive Suburban Burials in Church Yard and Basement, London, England.....	10
Figure 2.	View of High Street, Presbyterian Cemetery, Launceston, 1922.....	21
Figure 3.	Howick Street Road Works, Roman Catholic Cemetery in Background, 1941.....	31
Figure 4.	Gunn Family Monuments, Carr Villa Memorial Park, Launceston, 2006.....	40
Figure 5.	Charles Street General Cemetery, Launceston, during the Redevelopment into Ockerby Gardens, 1945.....	41
Figure 6.	Grave of Michael Fahey and View of Catholic Cemetery, Connaught Crescent, Launceston.....	50
Figure 7.	View of the D2 General Pioneers' Section and Carr Villa Memorial Park, Launceston, 2006.....	51
Figure 8.	View of A6 Catholic Pioneer's Section, Carr Villa Memorial Park, Launceston, 2006.....	52
Figure 9.	Members of the Royal Society at Reverend John Youl's Grave, Cypress Street Cemetery, Launceston, 8 July 1950.....	55
Figure 10.	Aerial Survey of Launceston, 1922.....	63
Figure 11.	Charles Street General Cemetery, Launceston, Looking Towards Charles Street Entrance near the Mortuary, circa 1880.....	64
Figure 12.	Ockerby Gardens (formerly Charles Street General Cemetery), Launceston, 2006.....	64
Figure 13.	Jewish Cemetery, South Street, Invermay, Launceston, 1927.....	65
Figure 14.	Monash Reserve, South Street (formerly Jewish Burial Ground), 2006.....	65
Figure 15.	Presbyterian Burial Ground, High Street, Launceston, 1951.....	66
Figure 16.	St. Andrew's Gardens, High Street (formerly Presbyterian Burial Ground), 2006.....	66

Unless otherwise specified in the text, the originals are with the author.

Definition of Terms

Burial Ground:	Specifically a traditional area simply devoted to interment and often associated with a specific church or denomination.
Burial Place:	A more collective term referring to both burial grounds and the much more dynamic concept of the cemetery.
Cemetery:	Traditionally applied to any burial place, in the modern sense it is applied to an area that not only facilitates burial but also attends to the wider emotional and practical needs of the public, with an emphasis on aesthetic beauty.
Extramural:	Literally “outside the walls”. In relation to Launceston, by the early Twentieth Century the “walls” had come to symbolise the city limits.
Intramural:	A burial that takes place within the “walls”. By the early Twentieth Century in Launceston, the term was being used to refer to burials that took place in any of the inner-city burial places.
Pioneer Park:	A discredited process through which a burial place is redeveloped into a recreational area in an attempt to preserve what were considered to be the important historical aspects of the site. The process became popular in Australia in the early Twentieth Century and remained in vogue until the 1970s. The process often entailed the separation of monuments from their specific burial plots and their rearrangement into alternative patterns that destroyed the original spatial character of the site and often damaged the fabric as well.