

Project Brief

Expressions of Interest

Tender for Consultancy Services

East Perth Cemeteries Boundary Interpretation
Project



Closing date:

5pm Monday 12th April 2021



National Trust
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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Author:

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Introduction:

The National Trust of Western Australia [the National Trust] seeks expressions of interest from a multi-disciplinary team of experienced consultants to undertake an interpretation project focussing on one of its heritage places, East Perth Cemeteries, [Place No. 2164] on the State Register of Heritage Places.

The National Trust aspires to awaken the community to the value of heritage. It is a statutory authority that works under an Act of Parliament, and is also recognised as a not for profit, community based organisation and a registered charity. The National Trust works both for Government and for the community.

Background:

This has been the land of the Wadjuk people since dreamtime. This area is known as Martellup.

The East Perth Cemeteries is spread over an area of approximately 5 hectares and bounded by Wittenoom Street, Waterloo Crescent, Plain Street and Bronte Street. The natural vegetation of the area was Banksia-Jarrah open woodland, similar to that which still exists in parts of Kings Park. Selected for its good drainage and proximity to town, the Colonial Secretary deemed it a suitable place for a burial ground and the site was surveyed as early as November 1829.

“Cemetery Hill” was initially a general cemetery and was the main burial ground for the Swan River Colony. The earliest colonists were mainly Church of England but Methodists arrived as early as 1830 and large numbers of Roman Catholics in the 1840s so subsequently land was granted for denominational cemeteries: Church of England 1842, Catholic 1848, Congregational 1854, Wesleyan 1854, Jewish 1867, Presbyterian 1881 and Chinese 1888. An eighth cemetery was assigned for the burial of felons in 1867.

As Perth grew so did concerns about the position of Cemetery Hill as there were fears relating to possible health hazards as “noxious matter will gradually drain down from the summit of the hill”. These concerns coupled with the loss of religious grants to the denominations led to the closure of the Cemeteries in 1899 although due to public pressure some were permitted in vaults and existing family graves until 1916 and then 1924. Karrakatta Cemetery opened in 1900.

Through the 1920s and 1930s there had been much criticism of the neglect and vandalism that was occurring at the Cemeteries but little serious action was taken until many grave sites had been lost forever. In 1932 the site was declared a disused burial ground under the control of the State Gardens Board and its fate was uncertain during the Depression and war years. In the late 1940s headstones were bulldozed, piled in heaps and removed. In addition the Presbyterian, Jewish and Chinese cemeteries were relinquished and the land made available to the Education Department. Some surviving headstones were relocated to former road reserves within the main area of the extant site.

In the 1950s the Royal Western Australian Historical Society was one of several groups agitating for action to be taken to preserve the site. Growing recognition of its cultural heritage significance saw St Bartholomew’s Church vested in the National Trust in 1975. The burial grounds were

transferred to the National Trust in 1994 which now manages the place according to conservation plans and in line with contemporary heritage conservation practice.

Historic cultural landscapes are the work of both nature and people, preserving tangible and intangible traces of the past. The combination of the church, graves, plantings, landscape and surrounding urban area make East Perth Cemeteries a unique example of a 19th century burial ground. It has now been closed for a period of over 120 years, twice as long as it was in use. Its history of development and use, and context as a cemetery in a period of deprivation and hardship, informs its current appearance and presentation.

The graves represent a cross section of society from 1829 to 1899 and reveal stories of commerce and government, family and relationships, exploration and change, faith and community, hardship and struggle, love, and ultimately of loss. It has been estimated there were up to 10,000 burials here. Today fewer than 800 graves have survived the fires, clean-ups and urban encroachment that have had an impact on the place.

The Cemeteries site is located on the outskirts of the CBD with good public transport and parking. It is within the catchment of the Perth Stadium and the Matagarup Bridge. The Waterbank redevelopment just east of the WACA, and the proposal for apartment towers adjacent to the former Perth Girls' School site, will substantially increase the population in the area, and with it pedestrian traffic. In 2016/17 Main Roads WA counted 11,535 vehicles per week passing the Cemeteries on weekdays. Pedestrian traffic around the Cemeteries is unknown but in 2018 it was estimated 14,000 people would cross the nearby Matagarup Bridge on event days at the Stadium, a proportion of which would be expected to walk past the East Perth Cemeteries.

Project Aims:

The National Trust wishes to increase awareness of the Cemeteries, increase visitation, and build community support for the place. This can be done through sharing the stories of the place. Making connections between the past and the present ensures the stories are relevant to people in a contemporary world.

East Perth Cemeteries is arguably one of the most significant heritage places in the National Trust's portfolio. It currently attracts small numbers of on-site visitors due to restricted opening hours. It is heavily utilised by school groups and there is a considerable number of virtual visitors via the website. Attendances at arts based programs regularly sell-out.

Through a combination of prominent signage and intimate audio stories, it is expected the project outcome will be one that will both surprise and intrigue those who pass by so they feel compelled to visit. It will also challenge assumptions of the place as little more than an 'old cemetery' and instead frame it as a place that reveals compelling and memorable stories of over 10,000 separate and interconnected lives.

The National Trust seeks to appoint a multi-disciplinary team of experienced consultants to develop content, and to design, fabricate and install prominent signage on the Plain Street boundary fence to attract the attention of vehicular traffic; and to write and produce a series of short stories to be made accessible via QR codes that will be mounted in various locations on the surrounding boundary fences to be used by pedestrians. The intention of these stories is to encourage pedestrians to visit the Cemeteries and discover more through complementary QR codes placed within the site and at relevant graves.

Project Scope:

The consultant will:

- Develop content, design, fabricate and install an eye catching prominent signage on the Plain Street boundary to attract the attention of vehicular traffic (size to be determined)
- Write a series of no less than 10 highly engaging and creative short stories about the Cemeteries and/or individuals buried there. The stories are to be audio recorded and made accessible via QR codes that are attached to the boundary fence for use by pedestrians. The stories are expected to be of approximately 3-5 minutes duration
- Obtain all necessary permissions and approvals for the signage (and QR codes if required) including DA approval and Building Permit approval for signs. If the final signage design requires footings then engineering consultant input will be required along with archaeological monitoring during installation
- Design, fabricate and install the QR codes on the boundaries with complementary QR codes to be placed adjacent to graves relevant to the stories

The National Trust can provide research materials in addition to the content available on the East Perth Cemeteries website that can form the basis for short story development. A small collection of historical photographs is also available.

Copyright:

Copyright of all original material produced during the course of the project will remain with the National Trust of Western Australia. Permission to use already copyrighted material must be obtained and appropriately acknowledged. Further publication or distribution of all or part of the document must receive prior permission from the National Trust.

Project Timing:

This project will commence as soon as possible on appointment and will be due for completion by September 2021.

Insurance Requirements:

The consultant is expected to hold Professional Indemnity Insurance to the value of \$5 million and Public Liability Insurance to the value of \$10 million.

Key References:

Bush, F., Palmer, P. and Bodycoat, R. (2005) *Conservation Plan East Perth Cemeteries*, unpublished report

Mulloway Studio with Kloeden, P. (2005) *Interpretation Plan, East Perth Cemeteries*, unpublished report

East Perth Cemeteries website www.eastperthcemeteries.com.au

Project Budget:

It is expected the project, for which this brief applies, will be carried out within a budget of \$40,000 +gst inclusive of all fees, travel and disbursements.

Form of Contract:

National Trust short form contract for consultancy/contract services. NOTE: Payment terms are 30 days from acceptable completion of work being invoiced.

Information Required:

Submissions should demonstrate the applicant's knowledge, expertise and experience in projects of this nature, particularly in relation to heritage places.

Submissions must be limited to 10 pages and will be evaluated against the following criteria:

1. Response to the brief and proposed approach to the project
2. Understanding of the tasks and outcomes and proposed timeframes
3. Availability of the team
4. Team members' previous experience in working on projects of this nature

The following details must be included within the submission:

- Name of the consultant, business address and relevant contact details
- Details of services offered
- Availability for work within the identified timeframe
- Confirmation of total fee including travel and other disbursements
- Hourly rates for any additional works outside the agreed scope
- Names and contact details of two referees who have had recent dealings with the consultant for similar work
- Levels of professional indemnity and public liability insurance and the name of the company that holds the policy

Submissions:

All submissions should be clearly marked 'East Perth Cemeteries Boundary Interpretation Project' and submitted no later than 5pm Monday 12th April at the following address:

National Trust of Western Australia
The Old Observatory
4 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005
Email: trust@ntwa.com.au

Email proposals received by the nominated closing date and time will be accepted provided that they are completed, signed, legible and include all necessary information required to be submitted as part of the proposal.

Project Manager:

Ms Sarah Murphy, Manager Interpretation and Collections

Telephone: 9321 6088 Email: sarah.murphy@ntwa.com.au

The National Trust acknowledges its properties are situated on Aboriginal land across the state and recognises Aboriginal people remain the cultural and spiritual custodians of their land and continue to practise their values, languages, beliefs and knowledge. The Trust is committed to working with Aboriginal people to ensure these practices are recognised and included in the conservation and interpretation of its properties and Aboriginal people are consulted and involved in the development of Trust projects and programs.

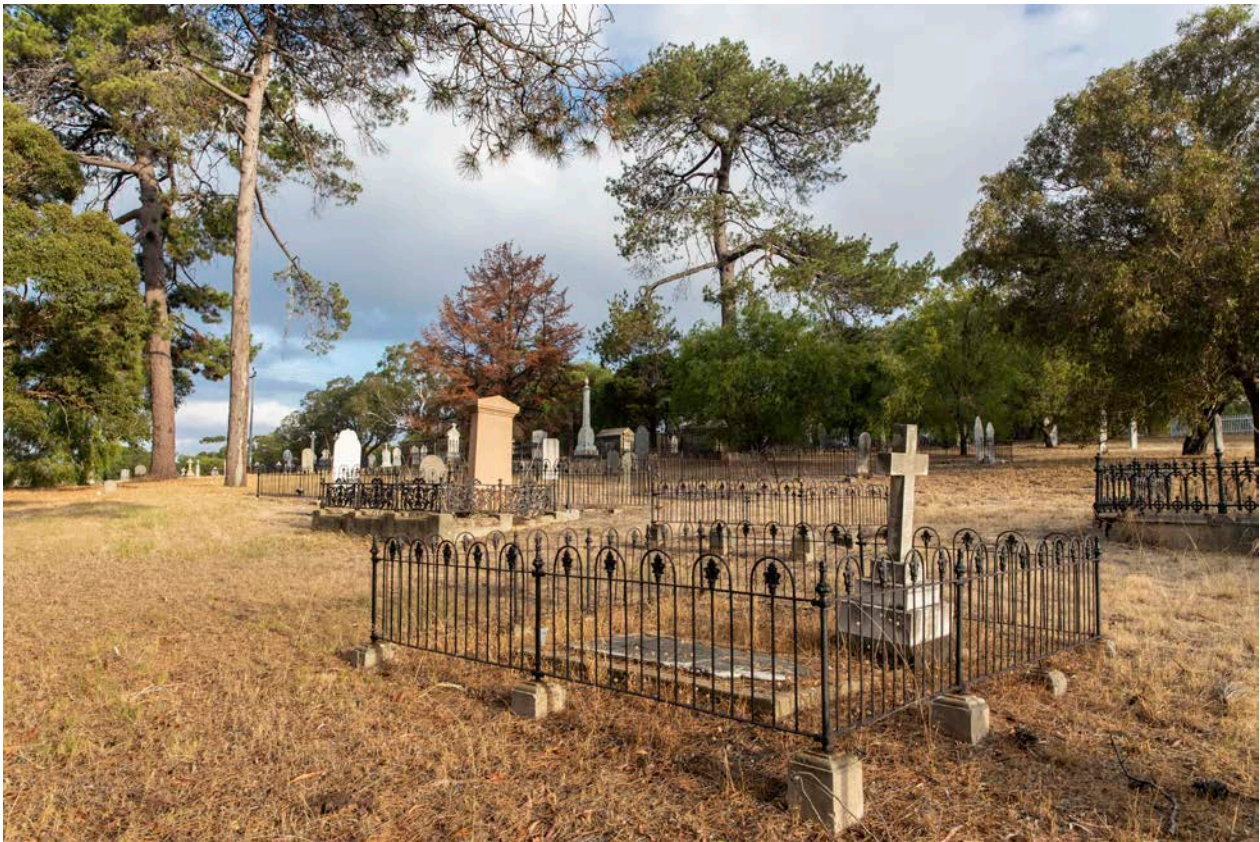


Photo: Matt Poon