



Children's Cemetery

Byron Bay

CONCEPT DESIGN

September 2021

Plummer & Smith have been engaged by Byron Shire Council to provide designs for the Children's section of the Byron Bay Cemetery.

The intent of this proposal is to design upgrades to the Children's section of the Cemetery that can provide a respectful and contemplative space.

The proposals follow on from an existing condition and analysis report produced for Byron Shire Council by the consultant 'Changing Places' that included recommendations to rejuvenate the Children's section of the Cemetery.

Recommendations included potentially removing the existing un-used brick niche wall and revitalising the Children's section.

Another key recommendation was the development of illustrative plans and perspectives for consultation purposes. The purpose of this document is to provide proposals for consultation and discussion with families.



The Children's section is situated in a small clearing on the western edge of the Byron Bay Cemetery. The Cemetery is largely made up of a series of clearings with open forest surrounds.

1. The clearing of the Children's section
2. Potential for planting and amenity improvements to the entry drive

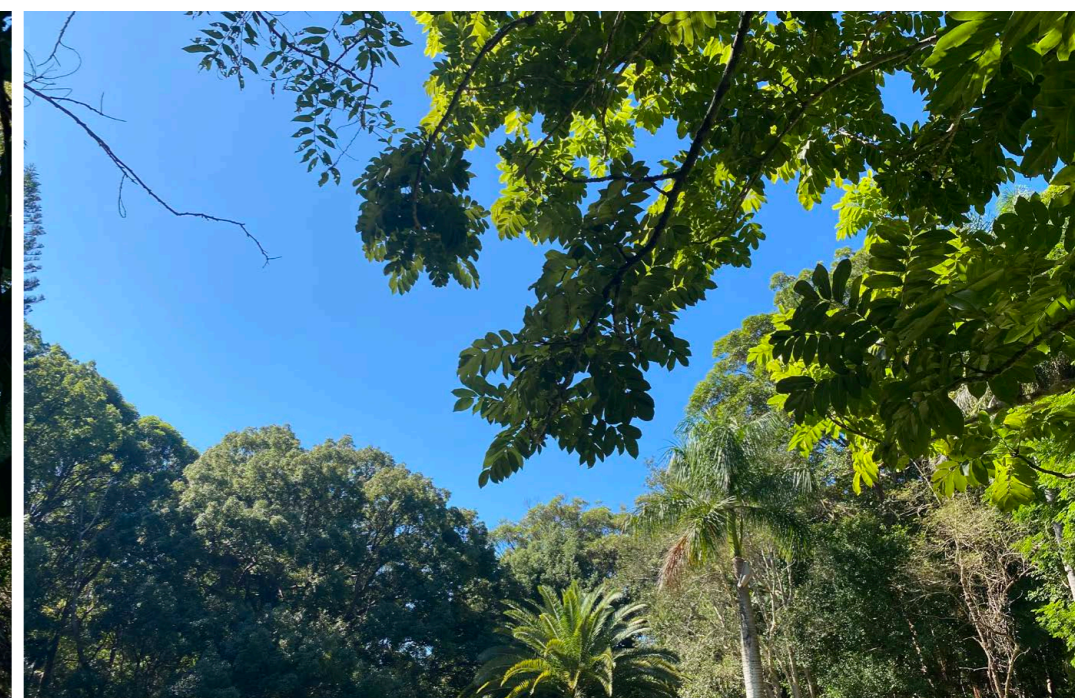
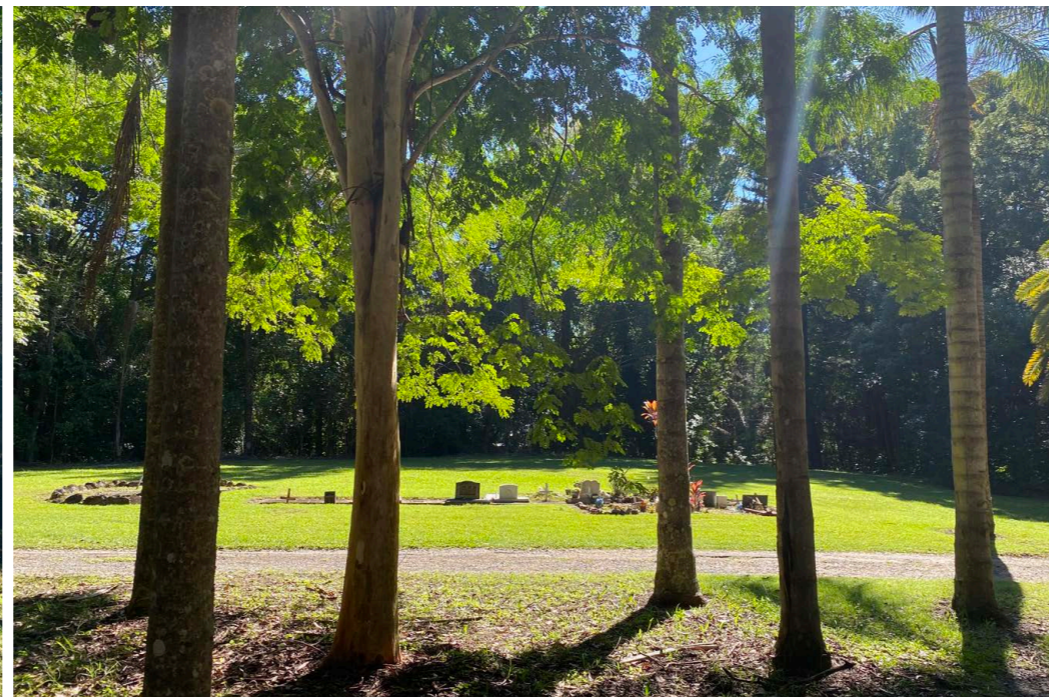
This part of the cemetery has a sense of seclusion and quiet which is the result of existing vegetation that frames the edges of the space. The experience of light and sky within the clearing is a feature that the proposal seeks benefit from.



Current Conditions (environment)

As outlined above the key condition, or experience, of the site is of a clearing open to the sky. The following pages propose revitalisation works to the site area that seek to capitalise on the key positive experiences of the space - a sense of quiet and protection that exists within a clearing in a forest. The space should allow people to be still and experience the natural environment around them:

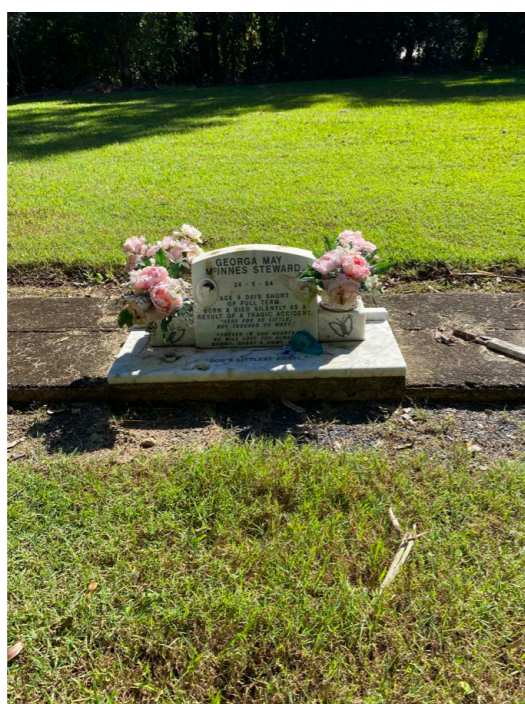
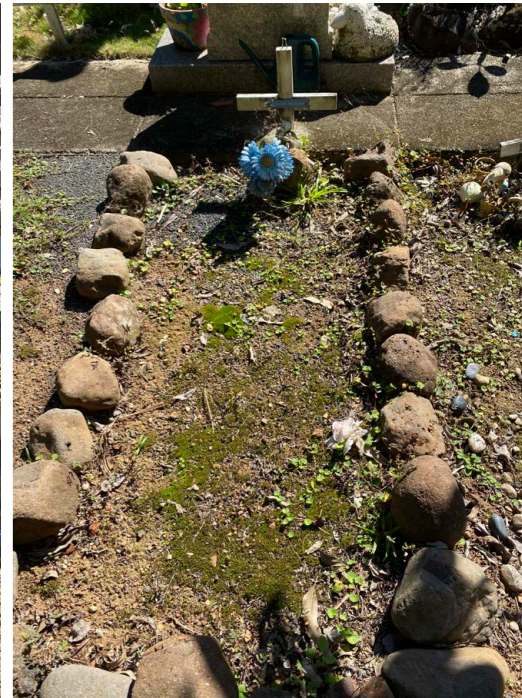
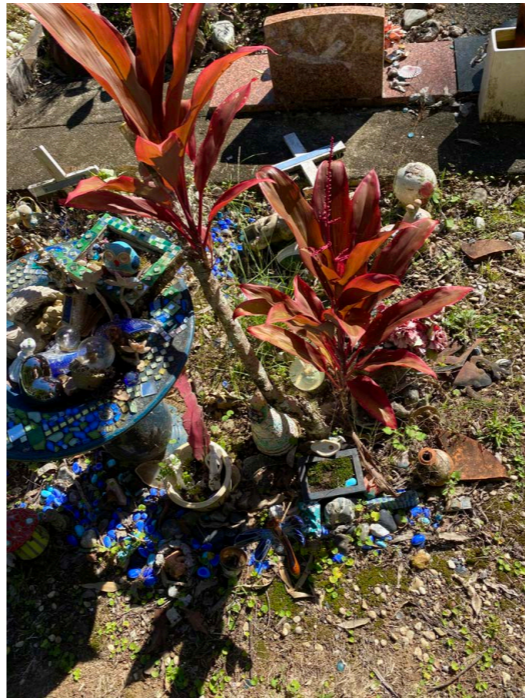
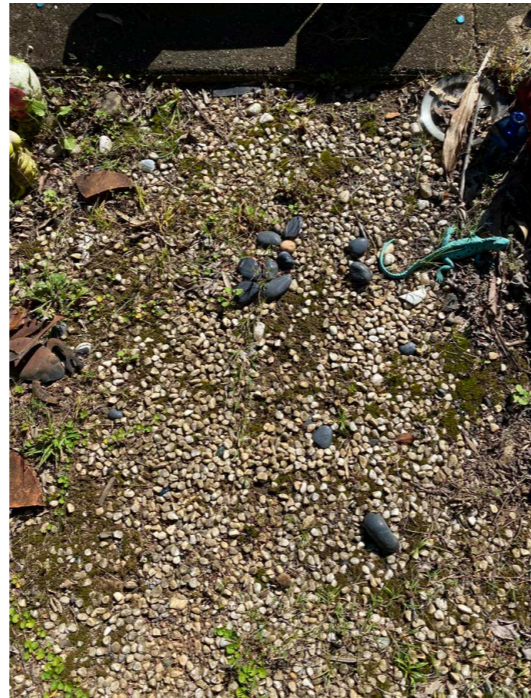
- the movement of the sky across the top of the clearing
- the movement of the leaves and trees
- the activity and music of the birds across and around the clearing
- the movement of light- from deep shade to vivid sunlight



Current Conditions (graves)

A key component of the analysis report was to recommend ways that the area can be maintained in ways that are respectful. Part of the process will include Byron Shire Council establishing guidelines that enable maintenance and upkeep to take place.

The following pages include proposed treatments of existing grave sites and the locations for future interment areas.



BASIC DESIGN STRATEGIES

The basic design approach is to create a very simple and contemplative space- a space that provides visitors with the opportunity to stay and rest at the protected edges of the clearing

Seating and gathering area with views across the clearing and the grave sites- locations that provide shade, prospect and views to the sky across the top of the canopy

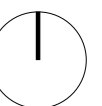
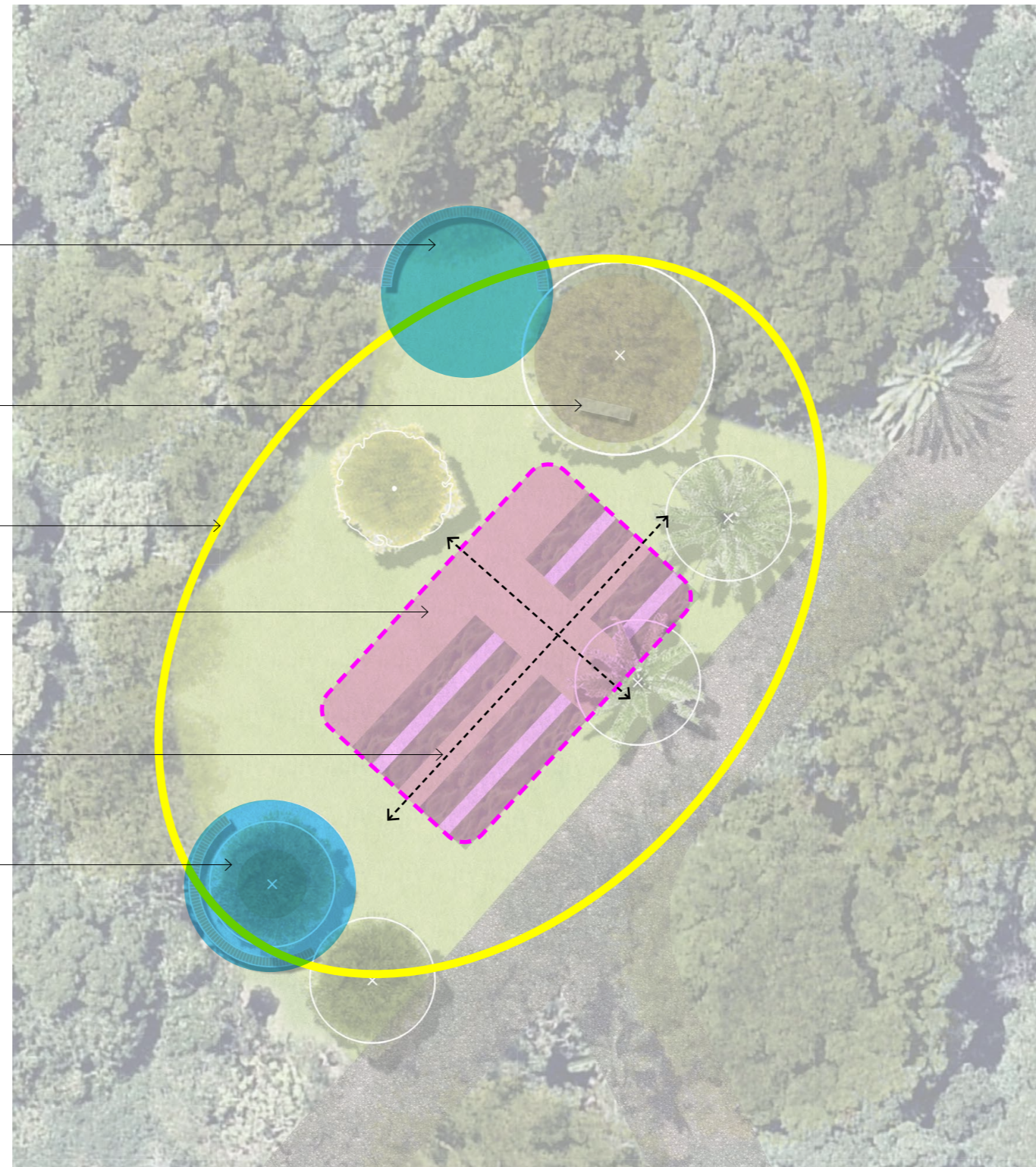
Seat under the canopy of existing tree- protected views across the space

Clearing zone

Area for existing and future grave sites

Simple axis through grave zone for access and management

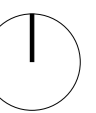
Seating and gathering area with views across the clearing and the grave sites- space established under an existing tree to be retained



Plan

NOTES

1. Curved brick seating wall to the northern edge of the clearing- a contemplative space
2. Seat with backrest under the canopy of an existing tree- a location that provides deep shade and protection. Minor under pruning required to lift canopy slightly
3. Mulched garden area under existing tree
4. Potential location for formal and/ or informal parking spaces
5. Existing tree to be retained
6. Existing vegetation areas to be managed and rehabilitated
7. Proposed new tree on the axis of the grave sites
8. Proposed future expansion areas for grave sites
9. Existing headstones of existing grave sites
10. Proposed 'garden' areas through grave zone- 'no-mow' grass or low maintenance low growing plants
11. Existing grass areas retained
12. Feature gathering space under existing tree- a small feature garden and gravel surface for gathering
13. Curved brick or stone seating wall with views across the clearing from the sheltered and shaded edge of the space
14. Existing un-used brick niche wall to be removed
15. Existing access drive



Indicative Perspective

VIEW

Looking north across the space from the south west corner of the clearing. Seating wall and gathering space garden in foreground with views across the grave site zone and broader clearing. Northern seating area visible on the far side of the clearing



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