

# State Heritage Areas of South Australia



## Burra Cemetery

Spring Street, Burra

SAHR 10432 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 8 November 1984



*Main gates and central avenue, 2005*

The Burra Cemetery was established on its present site in 1850 and features a range of head stones and grave fencing and a stone perimeter wall, erected by public subscription in the 1860s and later extended.

It is set on open flat ground

adjacent to the Burra Creek, with a formal avenue of trees in the centre and olives along the boundary walls.

The cemetery provides a valuable record of the diversity of Burra's early mining population, and the later farming and pastoral community of the region.



*Burra Cemetery, 2005*

An earlier cemetery was established in 1845, shortly after the mine commenced operations. The site is located on the hillside opposite the walled cemetery, and separated from it by Burra Creek. The South Australian Mining Association would not permit freehold in its township (Kooringa), nor would it allow graveyards in the church allotments, being mindful of the possibility that the ore deposits might spread into these areas. However, the first choice of a cemetery site was subject to flooding from the creek. Reports of human remains uncovered by floods prompted the SA Mining Association to relocate the cemetery to its present position. Some sources suggest that headstones from the old cemetery were placed along the western boundary of the new site.

The headstones within the cemetery chronicle the lives and misfortunes of the mining community (up to 1877) and the pastoral and agricultural families who have since used Burra as a commercial, social and religious centre. A cleared area in the centre of the cemetery resulted from a 'tidying' exercise c1970. Unusually heavy rainfall caused the graves to subside and many headstones toppled or leant at various angles. While some of these headstones were placed around the cemetery's perimeter, many have unfortunately disappeared. A list of headstones was drawn up by the SA Genealogy Society following the clean-up, and is stored in the State Library.



*Cleared centre area, 2005*



*Headstones along the boundary wall, 2005*

