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**Name:** Penguin Cemetery  
**Status:** Permanently Registered  
**Tier:** State

**THR ID Number:** 10918  
**Municipality:** Central Coast Council  
**Date Listed:** 18/04/2007

**Location Addresses**

<u>Location Addresses</u>	<u>Title References</u>	<u>Property Id</u>
MAIN RD, PENGUIN 7316 TAS		7620384
MAIN RD, PENGUIN 7316 TAS	234374/1	7620384
MAIN RD, PENGUIN 7316 TAS	235334/1	7620384
Main RD, Penguin 7316 TAS	234027/1	7620384



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**Setting:** The Penguin General Cemetery is a large regional cemetery located at the western end of the township, astride the original Bass Highway route out of Penguin to Burnie. It is on a hill overlooking the town with sweeping views to the coast and out to Bass Strait forming a distinctive landmark that is a significant element in the townscape. The first Primitive Methodist Church and former rectories were located nearby forming a small religious precinct. The Reformed Church is currently located on the southern side of the cemetery and St Stephens, the Anglican Church is located 500 metres east at 34 Main Road. The original Boer War Memorial was also located nearby on a road reserve but has since been removed to the Esplanade.

**Description:** The cemetery, with over 1400 burials with various monuments (of a variety of fabrics and styles) extant is a large and prominent site within the town. A pedestal plinth marking the Rowsthorn family stands at the approximate centre of the Old Section of the Cemetery. There is one vault in the cemetery located in the new Section. It was built by Bill Deverell, local builder for the internment of Mrs Hilda Louisa Dove (nee Ling) in 1957. Within the Old Section to the north there is an interpretive map mounted in a wooden shelter that was erected by the Penguin History Group several years ago. A Memorial 'Lone Pine' (from Gallipoli seed stock?) is located in the north eastern corner of the cemetery. On the ocean side of the cemetery, the boundary is lined with various ad-hoc planting including pines and native species. On the southern side (roadside) is a row of calistamons.

**History:** Rev. WH Walton purchased 50 acres from William Russell for the Primitive Methodist Church and cemetery in Penguin in 1860s. (Valuation Rolls) Part of this land now forms the Penguin General Cemetery. In 1886 the Penguin General Cemetery Committee took over the administration of the cemetery consisting of JM Smith, J Hales, WH Cann, J Brown, G Ling CS Ellis and TM Clerke as Chairman. (PHG)  
In 1908 the Advocate reported that the Anglican Bishop Mercer consecrated land on Cemetery Hill. For some time the cemetery was divided between the public and the Anglican Church. It is believed that Roman Catholics were buried at Ulverstone at least until the early 1900s with several prominent early Catholic families being absent from the Penguin General Cemetery such as the McKenna family. There is no known Jewish cemetery or non Christian section within Penguin.  
Numerous original grantees, pioneer families, and immigrant families from Norfolk UK (part of the Bounty Immigration Scheme arriving aboard the Whirlwind and Southern Eagle in the mid 1850s), miners and farmers are represented on the inscriptions in the cemetery, the earliest monument dating from the 1860s. Eliza Hale who died in childbirth at the age of 38 years was the earliest burial in 1869.

The Cemetery is divided into two sections known as the Old Section at the western end and New Section located at the eastern end. Both ends have separate entrances. There are approximately 1400 burials at the Old Penguin General Cemetery from 1869-1957. The oldest Burials continued in the New Section until 1977. There are 1,853 recorded burials in the cemetery overall. This section was used until 1955 when the new section was opened. Since 1977 all burials in Penguin have taken place in the Central Coast Memorial Cemetery, previously known as the Penguin Ulverstone Lawn Cemetery. The Penguin General Cemetery (as it is called) is closed except for a few pre-booked burial sites. The Penguin Council took over the administration of the cemetery in c1943 and it is now controlled by the Central Coast Council. The local Penguin History Group conducts tours of the Cemetery.

The most significant structure in the cemetery is a plinth obelisk commemorating the Rowsthorn Family. Walter Henry William Rowsthorn died at Boursies, France in 1917 where he is buried but there is a memorial located in the old section of the cemetery (AWM145 Roll of Honour cards, 1914-1918 War). On the 21st October 1967 a Lone Pine (the seed source from Gallipoli) was planted by Sgt Hedley Deverell, an original Anzac on behalf of the RSL to commemorate the fallen soldiers. A small plaque is located at the base of the tree. Hedley Deverell died in 1974 and is buried in the New Section of the Cemetery. Commemorative Gate Posts at the entrance of the Old Section of the Cemetery were erected by the Penguin History Group to identify the original entrance. It was completed with a grant through the Bi-centenary Funding. A dedication ceremony was held in September 2004. A map of the cemetery was recently erected in the Old Section of the Cemetery by the Penguin History Group facilitating the identification and improvements such as new headstones, plaques and inscriptions to the cemetery by visiting relatives. (The Penguin History Group)

Notables buried in the Penguin General Cemetery include eminent Australian Historian Dr Robson, Rev W H Walton, Councillors and Wardens, several Sea Captains including Captain Anton, and Captains Taylors & returned servicemen from the Boer War, (2) World War 1 (including ANZACs), (11) and World War 2, who were well known and lived in Penguin. There are 61 records of men who joined up from Penguin in WW2 and 125 records giving Penguin as an address.

Dr Leslie Lloyd Robson was born in 1931 in Penguin and died in 1990. During his career he published 20 books most notably a two volume set on the History of Tasmania. He was a graduate of the University of Tasmania, studying at London and Canberra. He was a Lecturer and later Reader at the University of Melbourne (1964-1988). According to Prof Stuart Macintyre pioneered techniques of quantitative history in studies of The Convict Settlers of Australia (1965) and the first AIF (1970). According to University of Melbourne sources he stood at the forefront of promoting history nationally as a significant arena of scholarly inquiry. Memorial Awards have been set up in his honour in both the University of Tasmania and the University of Melbourne. He is buried in the Old Section of the Cemetery.

The Thomas Family members associated with the Drapery Store (state significance) and are particularly important in the social history of Penguin are also buried in the Old Section.

Further community-sourced historical information available through Wikipedia.

**Statement of Significance:**  
(non-statutory summary)

No Statement is provided for places listed prior to 2007

**Significance:**

The Heritage Council may enter a place in the Heritage Register if it meets one or more of the following criteria from the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995:

**a) The place is important to the course or pattern of Tasmania's history.**

The Penguin General Cemetery is of historic cultural heritage significance as it is important in demonstrating the evolutionary pattern of the Central Coast district. Established in the 1860s, the Penguin General Cemetery represents an historical record of Penguin's occupation, demonstrating aspects of the community's development and growth - encompassing practical, economic, and social characteristics of the community. It is also the last resting place of Bounty immigrants of the 1850s, returned soldiers from the Boer War, WWI and WWII, and many of the town's notable early settlers and several prominent individuals associated with religious, seafaring and educational life.

**b) The place possesses uncommon or rare aspects of Tasmania's history.**

**c) The place has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Tasmania's history.**

The Penguin General Cemetery is of historic cultural heritage significance as the monuments, inscriptions and burial remains have research potential into burial and memorial practices from the 1860s to the present. It has research value as an index to the social and religious history, and for its layers of biographical information. Information yielded may include the burial practices of families, economic status, changes in health and lifestyle or values and tastes.

- d) **The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of place in Tasmania's history.**
- e) **The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement.**
- f) **The place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social or spiritual reasons.**

The Penguin General Cemetery has strong and special meaning to the community because it represents a commemorative landscape, inscribed with layers of meanings and memories, both individual and collective. It also contains the graves of several notable individuals including returned soldiers from the Boer War through to World War Two. The cemetery forms a prominent landmark on the outskirts of Penguin. The dedication of gate posts and plaques demonstrates this long-running significance. The cemetery continues to be a place of visitation of family and friends of the deceased buried at the Penguin General Cemetery as evidenced by continual laying of wreaths and fresh flowers and the recent improvements made as a consequence of the erection of the map illustrating the location of burials.

- g) **The place has a special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Tasmania's history.**

The Penguin General Cemetery is of historic cultural heritage significance for its special association with individuals important in Tasmania's history. A prominent individual buried in the cemetery is eminent historian Dr L Robson .

- h) **The place is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.**

**PLEASE NOTE** This data sheet is intended to provide sufficient information and justification for listing the place on the Heritage Register. Under the legislation, only one of the criteria needs to be met. The data sheet is not intended to be a comprehensive inventory of the heritage values of the place, there may be other heritage values of interest to the Heritage Council not currently acknowledged.