1 MICHAEL FARRELL (1848-1890)
Catholic Section: Row 7 Grave 5

Michael Farrell, an Irishman, pegged the lease with Thomas Nutt on Block 9 in 1884, an area outside the original 'Syndicate of Sevens' claim on the newly-discovered outcrop in 1883. This landmark grave is notable for its sophisticated and charming marble statuary set aloft four granite columns, and clearly shows that the proceeds of this lease were profitable for Farrell and his family. This grave structure was erected prior to the Town Hall and Post Office at a time when Broken Hill was still developing and shows that there were already masons with skills in the community to undertake a monument of this quality.

2 SISTERS OF MERCY (1890s-1950s) - Catholic Section

This striking group of graves is readily identifiable with the black crosses set on marble plinths. Situated in the oldest Catholic section of the cemetery, this special burial area is for the Sisters of Mercy who worked in Broken Hill.

2A FRANCIS JOSEPH FLYNN (1864 –1898)
Catholic L: Grave 2

Also known as "General Mite", Flynn was an American dwarf and showman who competed world-wide and married English dwarf Millie Edwards. The couple were exhibited as "Royal American Midgets" and moved to Australia in 1890. Flynn died in Broken Hill one day before his 34th birthday and at the time was thought to be the smallest adult in the world.

3 EDNA BOULUS (1907 – 1934)
Catholic Section S-: Row 15 Grave 6

This grave has a charming marble angel statue. The surname Boulus and Arabic text at the base of the inscription is indicative of the wave of immigration and the diversity of the community of Broken Hill from the time of settlement.

4 EUGENE PATRICK (Paddy) O'NEILL (1876-1953)
Catholic K-: Grave 44

As an ex-miner, O'Neill was the Barrier Industrial Council's longest-serving president. Under O'Neill's presidency (1924 - 1949), the BIC not only consolidated its influence over local industrial relations but also emerged as a social regulator. As a council employee, he was also a Municipal Employees Union official and a social conservative.

5 KEVIN CHARLES (PRO) HART (1928-2006)
General 5: Row 7 Grave 22

Born at Broken Hill, Pro Hart grew up on the family sheep station "Larloona" before beginning work in the mines at the age of 18. It was here that Pro Hart acquired the nickname Pro(fessor) for his wide general knowledge while working underground. In 1960 he left the mines to pursue a career in the production of art. Pro Hart's vibrant paintings bore a recognizably Australian image and not only won numerous awards, but were also exhibited world-wide. His funeral (May 2006) was the first state funeral held west of the Great Dividing Range.

5A WILLIAM ARTHUR (1866-1895)
Methodist M4: Row D Grave 22

Married with three children, William Arthur was one of eight men killed in the Broken Hill South Silver Mine disaster. The death of the men occurred when a compressed air wave, caused by a cave-in on the 400 feet level, hurled them against the underground walls and timbers. The other men killed in this tragedy included: A. Trembath, B. Snell, F. Pearce, J. Lee, G. Holmes, W. Mc Leash and W. L. Panter.

6 THOMAS MCGRATH (1878 -1900) AND JANE VICTORIA MCGRATH (1885 – 1888)
Methodist Section M4: Row M Grave 13

The heartache for Ellen, mother of Thomas and Jane, must have been indescribable when her daughter died aged three years and seven months, most probably from the typhoid epidemic. This personal tragedy was followed twelve years later by the death of her oldest son Thomas who at the age of 22 was killed at North Mine.

6A SACKVILLE KIDMAN (1855-1899)
Methodist I: Grave 31

Sackville Kidman was a pioneer butcher of Broken Hill who formed a partnership with his brother Sir Sidney Kidman, the famous pastoralist. Together they purchased a number of cattle stations around Australia.

7 DR. WILLIAM DAVID KERR MCGILLIVRAY (1866-1933)
Presbyterian E: Row 11 Grave 1

Dr. McGillivray set up a General Practice in Broken Hill in 1897 and stayed here until his death in 1933. He was President of the Broken Hill Field Naturalist Club and one of the first to run a motor car in Broken Hill.

8 RICHARD LOUIS DIAS - Jewish: Row 4 Grave 2

The mining industry in Broken Hill attracted many migrant workers. Richard Dias was a Jewish citizen working at the BHP mine. He suffered terrible injuries and died on the way to the hospital after a truck ran backwards down into the open cut and struck him while he was working on the mine.

9 CHILDRENS MEMORIAL - Children's Memorial Garden

Dedicated in 1998 by the citizens of Broken Hill, the Children's Memorial Garden was built by volunteers and various organisations. It is the only section in the cemetery established just for children.

10 MUSLIM GRAVES (Unknown) - Muslim: Western corner

These two brick graves follow the Muslim burial custom where the body is buried without a coffin and the deceased faces Mecca – the holiest city in Islam (roughly west-north-west from Broken Hill). Muslims believe that the body should return to the soil naturally and that burials should take place as soon as possible after death.

10A EARLIEST MARKED DEATH (1884)
Independent: Row 6 Grave 9 & 10

This headstone marks the earliest death in the cemetery of ten month old son Leonard, son of Sophia Mounsey. Two other infant children had also died before Sophia's death (aged 38) in 1893. This tragedy was typical of the harsh conditions for young families. The headstone was erected by Fraser and Draysey, well known monumental masons from Adelaide.

11 GEORGE URQUART (1845-1915)
Presbyterian B: Row 6 Grave 3

George Urquhart was a local sheep overseer and one of the seven members of the "Syndicate of Seven". This syndicate was formed to lease and mine Broken Hill's outcrop after it was first discovered by Charles Rasp (a boundary rider for the Mount Gipps Station) in 1883. Seven blocks were pegged to contain the whole ridge and each member contributed funds towards the working of the claim under the unregistered 'Broken Hill Mining Co.' Tests revealed in 1885 that the area contained one of the richest Iodes of silver-lead-zinc in the world, which led to the formation of Broken Hill Proprietary Co. (BHP), the rapid growth of the mining industry at Broken Hill and a fortune for the members of the syndicate who held on to their share.

11A MASTER JOHN GEORGE ARMITT (1878-1890)
Methodist M4: Row 14 Grave 8

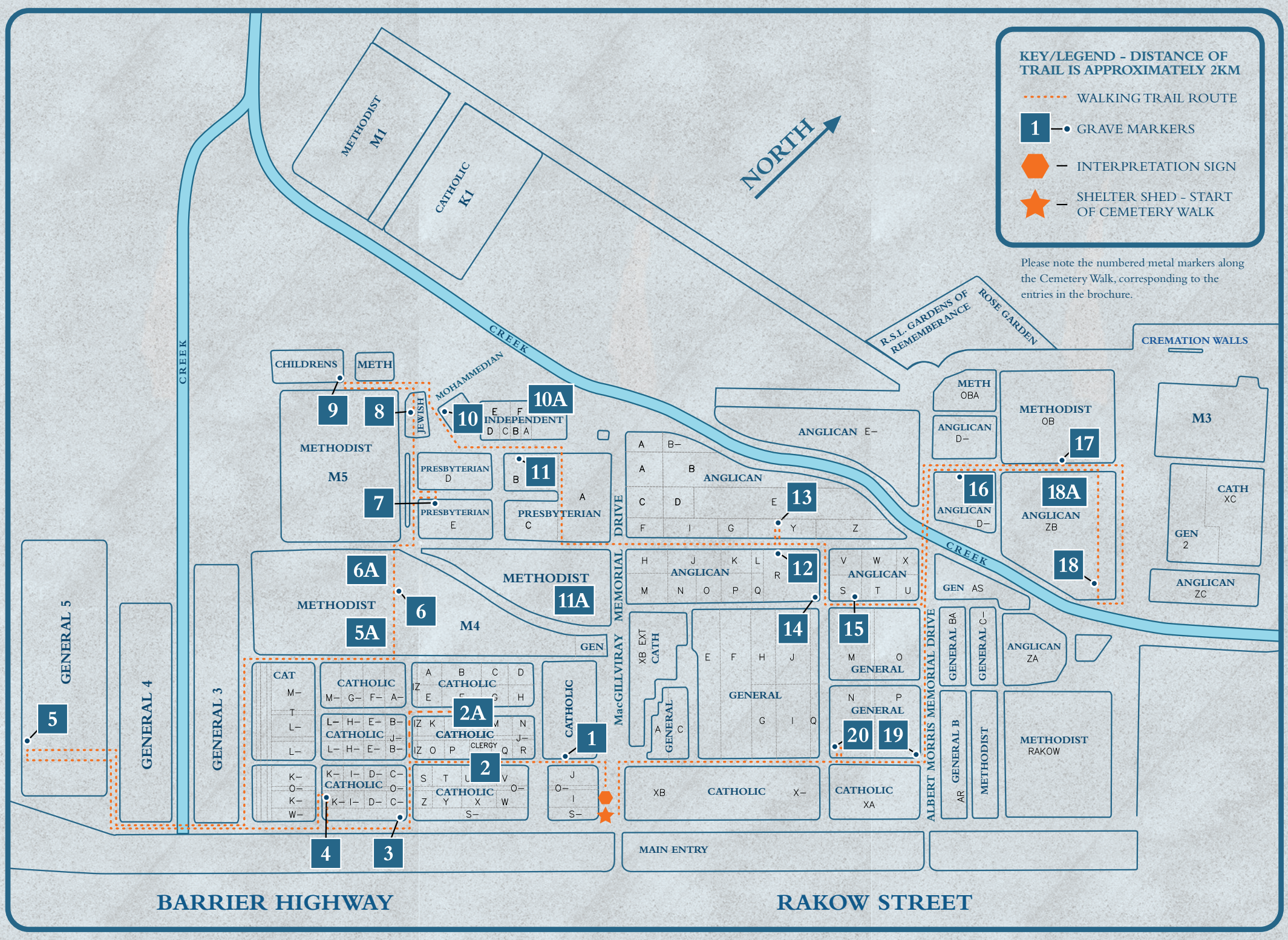
Master J.G. Armitt was only twelve when he was overcome by dynamite fumes. He recovered sufficiently to walk home but died the next day at Broken Hill Hospital. His family had come from New Zealand and his father was also a miner.

12 HORACE STERLING TAYLOR (1889)
Anglican R: Grave 72

Horace Taylor was killed when he fell 130 feet from a ladder down the shaft at the Silver Ring Mine, 8 miles North of Broken Hill. This monument was erected by the Barrier Colonial District No 3 AMA of Australia in his memory.

13 JULIA IDRIESS - (1861-1908)
Anglican Y: Grave 47

Mother of the famous author Ion Llewellyn Idriess (1889 – 1979) Julia died during a typhoid epidemic which also nearly killed her son. In the early years of settlement, Broken Hill's death rate from epidemics was twice the State's average due to the remote and harsh living conditions, the extreme temperatures, water shortages, poor sanitation and ignorance of basic hygiene rules. Ion's contribution to Australian literature was profound. His writing drew on his own experiences as a prospector, bushman and soldier. He travelled extensively around Australia and authored more than 50 books over 43 years from 1927 to 1969. His writing includes The Silver City: Early Days at Broken Hill (1956), The Cattle King (1936) , and Flynn of the Inland (1932).



MORE INFORMATION

BROKEN HILL VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE
Corner of Blende and Bromide Street
Opening hours: 9am – 4pm Mon – Fri, 10am – 2pm Weekends
Phone: (08) 8080 3560
The Information Centre can provide you with brochures and maps on Broken Hill Heritage Trails

BROKEN HILL OUTBACK ARCHIVE (CITY LIBRARY)
245 Blende Street - Phone: 08 8080 3460
Broken Hill Outback Archive collection holds historical material related to Broken Hill and surrounding regions. We are unable to answer detailed family history enquiries.

BROKEN HILL FAMILY HISTORY GROUP
Broken Hill Railway Station, Crystal Street
Phone: 08 8088 1266.
If you are researching family history, first contact the Broken Hill Family History Group, focusing on family history collections, archives, data and research.

This cemetery is a very special place for the people of Broken Hill. All visitors are requested to observe all signs and directions and respect the rights and needs of other visitors.

BROKEN HILL
CITY COUNCIL

Broken Hill

CEMETERY WALK

Cemeteries are an important part of every city's heritage. Dedicated in 1889, the Broken Hill Cemetery on Rakow Street provides a valuable record of the diversity of Broken Hill's early mining community and a valuable insight into the development of Broken Hill and the surrounding region.

ABOUT THIS SELF GUIDED TOUR

Let the gravestones at Broken Hill Cemetery help you understand more about the city of Broken Hill and its remarkable history. This walking tour highlights some of the burial sites within this once isolated outback community which was built on the mining industry. The cemetery tells the story of many different Broken Hill residents and a series of historical events that have helped shape the City. What was the Picnic Train Massacre? Why was Broken Hill's death rate from epidemic diseases twice the State's average? Learn more about the lives of early miners, pastoralists and other significant individuals and the harsh living conditions they endured. Explore the vibrant multi-cultural heritage of the district and discover the notable historic events that occurred throughout the development of the city. Use the map and the metal markers (which show the grave number as described in the text) set into the ground to navigate your way through the cemetery. You can also shorten the walk by taking short cuts where the track re-traces itself.

14 CICERO JOHN TULLY
(Date of Internment - 10 June 1888) Anglican R: Grave 230

The burial of Cicero Tully is one of the first known interments in Broken Hill's Cemetery. The grave incorporates a cast iron surround cast by RJ Hooper of Railway Town, and the mesh cage is common in the cemetery and was used to deter vermin and pest from flowers and other offerings left on graves.

15 EDGAR READ MASON (1862-1901)
Anglican S: Grave 59

Edgar Mason was one of six men killed in the mining disaster at South Mine. The men – including J.Prideaux, H.Down, S.Havelock, W.Bennetta and J.Edwards - were on the 600 feet level when the stope above them collapsed and buried them under tonnes of ore and mullock.

16 ALBERT MORRIS (1886-1939)
Anglican Section D: Row 5 Grave 22

Albert Morris was once the chief assayer for the Central Mine in Broken Hill. His interest in the plants of the arid interior led to his idea for a green belt to control sand drift around the city of Broken Hill. This concept was first adopted by the Zinc Corporation Ltd in 1936 with such success that within 18 months the North Broken Hill and Broken Hill South mines followed the example. Known as the "Father" of Broken Hill's Regeneration Scheme, Morris helped to found the Barrier Field Naturalists' Club and served as its secretary until his death. The second drive-way to the Cemetery takes on Morris' name in his memory.

17 JAMES CROCKER (1885-1960)
Methodist Section OB: Row 12 Grave 2

James Crocker received the Salvation Army's highest award, the 'Order of the Founder'. Instituted in 1917, this order of merit marks meritorious Christian example and witness, and distinguished or memorable service.

18 JAMES CROCKER (1885-1960)
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18A JUNE BRONHILL

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19 SAMUEL BYRNE (1883-1978)
Anglican ZB: Row 18 Grave 51

Samuel Byrne worked as a miner in Broken Hill from the age of 15 until he retired, aged 66. The famous Broken Hill artist began painting when he was 70 and became one of Australia's best naïve artists. He exhibited internationally, often documenting the social history of Broken Hill and highlighting environmental issues in his paintings.

20 PERCIVAL (Percy) BROOKFIELD, MP (1875-1921)
General P: Grave 232

Percy Brookfield was an early socialist who began work as a miner before being elected as a Member of Parliament for Sturt. He fought for worker's rights and was a leading activist in the 1916 campaign for the 44-hour week for underground miners in Broken Hill. Brookfield was fatally shot on Riverton Station, South Australia, whilst trying to disarm a crazed assassin. This memorial was erected by public subscription and the words on the monument are testament to his character and his politics.

21 ALMA COWIE (1898-1915) - General N: Grave 41

Alma Cowie was the youngest victim of the Picnic Train Massacre where four people died and seven more were injured. Regarded as the only outbreak of war hostilities on Australian soil during World War 1 the incident began when two Turkish sympathizers, who were flying the Turkish flag, shot at a trainload of picnickers on their way to the annual New Year celebrations at Silverton.

22 Earliest Marked Death (1884-1884)
Independent: Row 6 Grave 9 & 10

This headstone marks the earliest death in the cemetery. Note that the deaths of the two other children are within days of one another and are most likely a result of illness. The headstone was erected by Fraser & Draysey, well known monumental masons from Adelaide.

23 Harold Milligan (1914-1935)
Catholic S: Row 11 Grave 1

Harold Milligan was only 21 when he died (together with three other men) of asphyxiation by noxious gases. The men, R. Theiforde, J. Giffin and A. E. Taylor were clearing an old shaft of the BHP Mine which was forty feet deep and had been used as a drain hole.

HISTORY

The first Cemetery in Broken Hill functioned from the beginnings of settlement (circa 1886) and was located in Lane Street.
After the typhoid epidemic of 1888 which claimed 123 lives during that year, the opening of a new and larger cemetery became necessary. A large area of land was laid out to the north-west of the town on Rakow Street for a plantation and cemetery. The plantation reserve works were gazetted on 11 August 1888 and the current cemetery was dedicated at the centre of this reserve on 12 April 1889. The cemetery was originally laid out in six allotments according to individual denominations of the time. The initial reserve of the cemetery was expanded after 1902, and since then has gradually increased in size, to the east and west and also north of the main creek. The RSL Garden of Remembrance was established in the 1950s and a specific burial area for children was created near the southern junction of the two main creeks in 1998. The cremation walls are a more recent addition to the cemetery.

DISTANCE & TIME

Approximately 2 kilometres.
60 - 80 minutes to do a walking tour (note that times take into account approx. 3 minutes spent at each grave).
Please note the numbered metal markers along the Cemetery Walk, corresponding to the entries in the brochure.

RESPECT FOR GRAVES

Please help us to preserve our heritage by being respectful of the graves in the cemetery whilst undertaking this tour.