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Welcome & Attendance Register

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## Purpose & Agenda

- ◆ Purpose:
- ◆ To provide feedback to all stakeholders regarding the process to date
- ◆ To communicate the latest proposal
- ◆ And the way forward

### AGENDA:

1. Welcome & Attendance Register
2. Purpose & Agenda
3. Background
4. Feedback & Proposed Way Forward
5. Option 4 (Two-Fold)
  - i. Permit 1 – Core Memorial Area / HMMC / CMP
  - ii. Permit 2 – Ground Truthing / Test Excavations
6. Feedback from Stakeholders?
7. Hardekraaltjie Memorial Management Committee (HMMC) - Formation
8. Next Steps.
9. Closing remarks from Stakeholders?

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## Background (2014 to 2023)

What is Memorialisation: To keep memory alive. Portray a sense of history, belonging, social acknowledgement and justice for the communities that are connected, through their forefathers, to the cemetery.

Why are we memorialising:

2014 - Mr. Daniel Dietrich (from Ravensmead) informed the Dean of Stellenbosch University of his forebearers buried at the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery, this started the US restitution process.

2019 - Visual Redress Task Team, was tasked to take responsibility for managing a restorative process linked to Hardekraaltjie.

2020 - SU commissioned a Radar Survey to determine the location of possible graves.

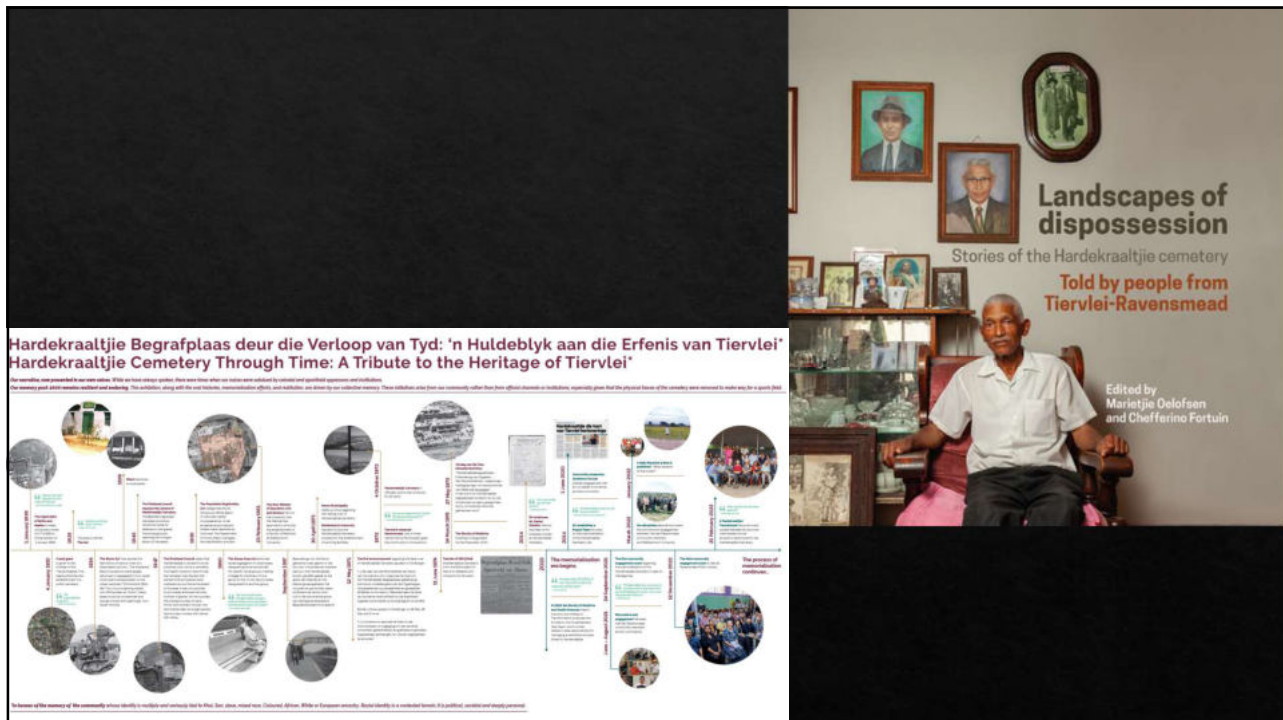
1 June 2020 - community researcher, Chefferino Fortuin, engaged with SU on behalf of his family and the Ravensmead/ Tiervlei community, resulted in SU Project Team focused on the memorialisation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery. A Hardekraaltjie Steering Committee was formed.

2021 - 2023 – Focus group meetings/ engagements were held between community members and SU.

Oral History was captured, resulting in the publication of “Landscapes of dispossession: Stories of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery: Told by people from Tiervlei-Ravensmead” and a community banner/ timeline.

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## Background (2024 to 2025)

Numerous Heritage Studies were undertaken pre and post PHS involvement.

January 2024 - PHS Consulting formally appointed to apply to Heritage Western Cape ("HWC") its Section 36 of the NHRA.

The initial proposal involved the Memorialisation of Erf 15349 the 'Hardekraaltjie Cemetery' in accordance with the 1910 SG Diagram.

PHS recommended further Radar Scanning within the extended buffer area resulting in a number of potential grave targets being identified.

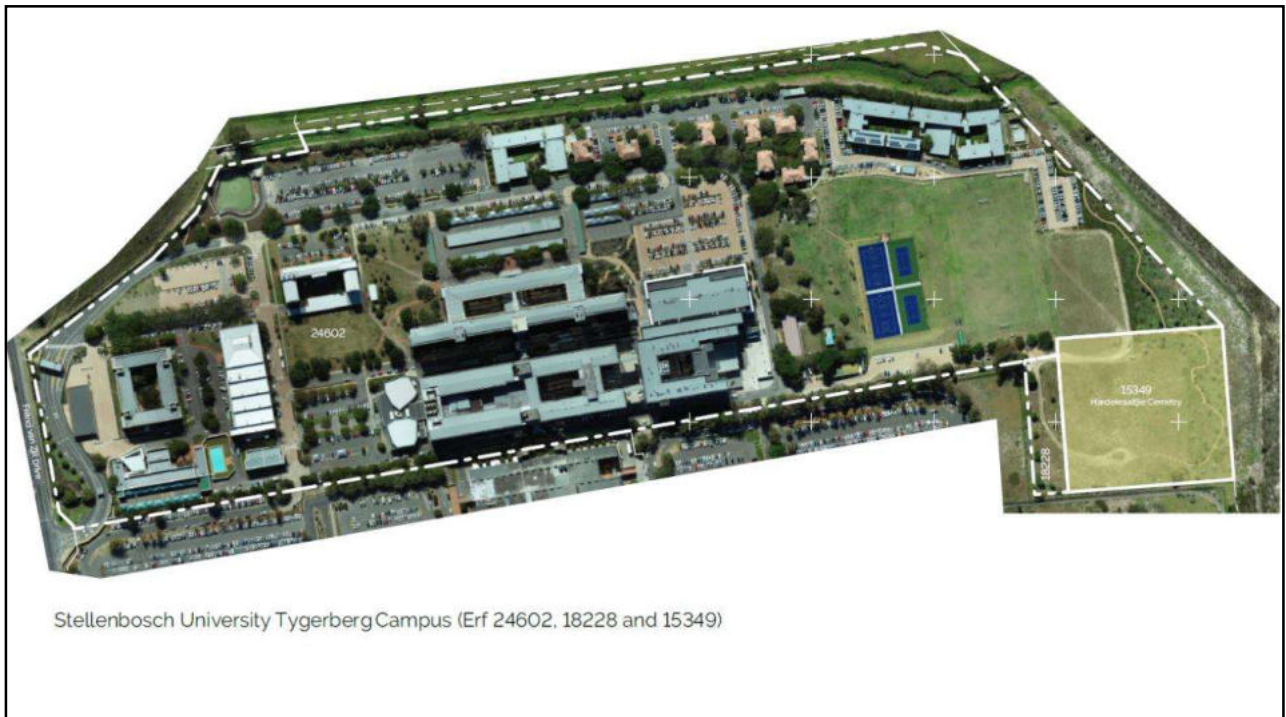
As part of the formal Section 36 HWC process, PHS Consulting undertook the compilation of a Heritage Statement, and a formal ongoing public consultation process was undertaken at the end of 2024 .

Comments were captured and processed to determine the way forward. Memorialisation was supported, however through comments received, we realised that a revised option needs to be presented to address the grave targets in the buffer.

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## Feedback and proposed Way Forward (1)

- ◆ This meeting is considered part of the formal engagement process, and all invited attendees are considered Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs).
- ◆ The outcome of this meetings will be captured as part of a HWC submission to be tabled in December 2025.
- ◆ Memorialisation requires approval from HWC and without it there is no Memorialisation.
- ◆ Considering the process started in 2014, obtaining HWC approval in terms of the Section 36 Permit Application will be a milestone.
- ◆ Research, stakeholder involvement, programmes and management of the site will be ongoing.

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## Planning Fixes & Variables

- ◆ Consensus that Memorialisation is supported.
- ◆ 'Look and Feel' and Do's and Don'ts was established in the process forming the basis for the Memorial area.
- ◆ According to the additional Radar Scanning, 6 potential grave targets were identified within the extended buffer area, this requires further investigation, considering that scanning is not necessarily accurate.
- ◆ An area of contention was the extent of the memorialised area within the buffer zone, but more importantly the fact that sports activities were continuing to be played within an area where potential graves were located.
- ◆ This has resulted in Option 4 – proposed way forward.

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## “Do’s and Don’ts” (1) - All works to be monitored by archaeologist

### ◆ INFORMATION BOARDS

1. Name board: “Hardekraaltjie Cemetery”.
2. A minimum of Five (5) information/ interpretation boards telling the story

### ◆ SOFT LANDSCAPING:

3. Local, indigenous vegetation is to be used in landscaping (Cape Flats Sandstone Fynbos).
4. Use of local medicinal plants and herbs used by the Khoisan and broader communities.
5. Shrubs or small ‘organic’ shaped trees (e.g. Wild Olive) can be used between packed stone walls to visually allude to boundaries.
6. Areas with large potential grave clusters to remain as is. These areas can be seeded using indigenous grass or vegetation mixes.
7. No Trees or plants requiring big holes to be dug are allowed anywhere else.

### ◆ HARD LANDSCAPING:

8. Packed stone can be used to define the edges as well as ‘entrances’ and ‘exits’ to symbolise the original 1910 Cemetery boundary. Some of these will be symbolic and others functional. Wrought iron/ wooden gates could be used symbolically.
9. Pathways can be bordered by gum poles with crushed stone aggregate ‘klippies’ used to fill the pathway.
10. Concrete benches can be strategically placed within the landscaped areas.

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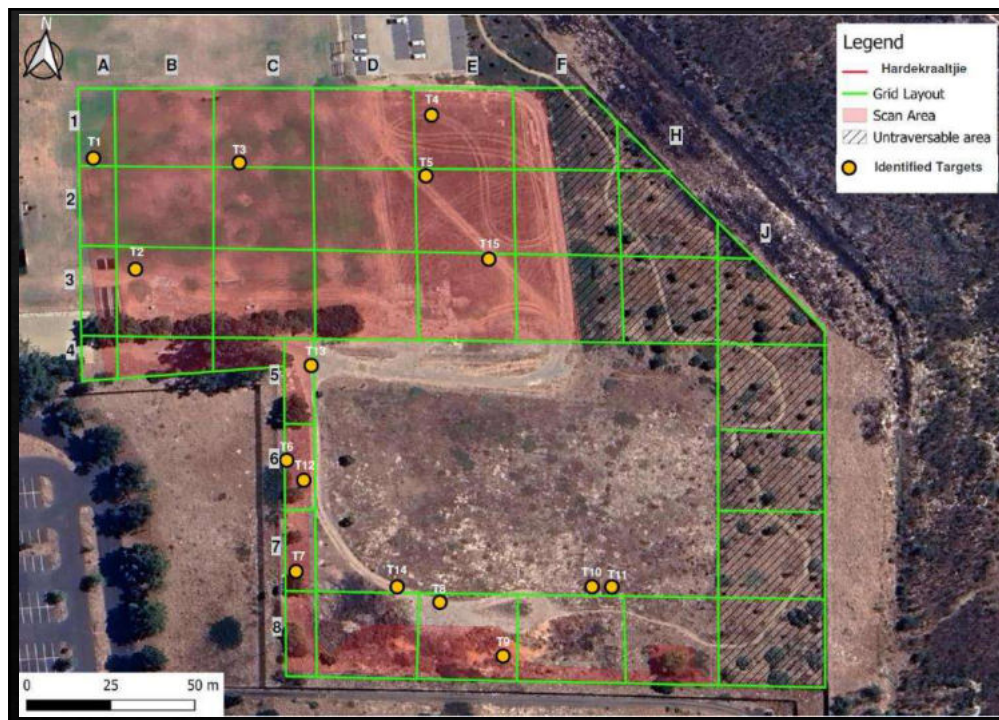


## “Do’s and Don’ts” (1) - All works to be monitored by archaeologist

### ❖ CENTRAL MEMORIAL:

11. Final design of the central memorial will be concluded by the new management committee to ensure it captures the “wishes” of the wider community.
12. The central memorial circle will include a crushed stone aggregate path around the circle.
13. The central circle can be constructed using pieces of shells, old crockery and/or stones/bricks (items used to depict graves in old cemeteries) to create a mosaic type floor or base.
14. A memorial remembrance symbol will be placed in the centre of the base drawing the eye to the ground, i.e a stone slab or wall is recommended. This will include a list of names of those buried at Hardekraaltjie as well as the space for any future additional names to be identified.
15. A symbolic representation of the possibility of bones being displaced or removed, which cannot be accounted for, will be considered as being part of the central memorial space. The placement thereof would need to be carefully thought out.
16. Concrete benches can be placed strategically around the Memorial Circle OR a low, stabilised packed stone wall can encircle the memorial ‘base’ which can duplicate as seating.
17. Wording is recommended on the memorial symbol: “Beneath this garden lies the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery” and the final words: “May their memory be blessed” with a Khoisan blessing e.g. Toa Tama !Tams khè.

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T1, T2, T3, T4,  
T5 & T15 –  
“most likely grave  
targets” falling  
within the  
extended buffer  
area.

T1, T2 & T3 fall  
inside the  
Soccer/ Rugby  
Field.

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## Feedback and proposed Way Forward (2)

- ◆ It was established that a 'core' memorialisation area (part 1) needs to be established, and this would be defined within the legal parameters of Erven 15349 and 18228. This area will be the symbolic representation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery which will be memorialised upon approval of the Landscaping Plan by HWC. This will provide an ageing community with something tangible where they can pay their respects.
- ◆ As the playing of sports within the extended buffer area and over the possible presence of graves was considered a 'no-go' from the community, SU agreed to stop sports temporarily and conduct further research in this regard. The area has been demarcated to create awareness and sports has subsequently stopped.
- ◆ Therefore, prior to implementing memorialisation aspects within the extended buffer zone, there is a need to confirm whether the potential grave targets identified during the GPR scanning are indeed human burials or not.
- ◆ As a result, a permit will also be required for ground-truthing (part 2) the potential high confidence grave targets identified by the GPR scanning within the extended buffer zone on Erf 24602 (SU Campus).
- ◆ The Section 36 Permit Application would therefore involve a two-fold approach -

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## Option Tabled for Approval

### Part 1:

- Memorialisation of the Core Area (Erven 15349 and 18228) through the HWC approval of the Landscaping Plan. This area will be the symbolic representation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery and Burials which will be memorialised.
- The Memorialisation will take place in the form of: "Do's and Don'ts; "Look and Feel" & Landscaping Plan.
- The engravement of the list of names indicating those (Approx. 1026) intended to be buried at the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery can take place.
- The formation of the Hardekraaltjie Memorial Management Committee (HMMC).
- A Conservation Management Plan (CMP) will be compiled in consultation with the HMMC and submitted to HWC for approval. The CMP will address several aspects including the management of the core memorialisation area as well as the spatial configuration of the extended buffer zone.

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## Option Tabled for Approval

### ◆ Part 2:

- Approval will also be sought to undertake test excavations/ ground-truthing within the extended buffer zone. The future of this area will be determined by the outcome of the ground-truthing.
- It is important to note that no exhumation is being proposed, only the ground truthing of six “most likely” burial targets
- Pre excavations the HMMC will be established to allow for transparent feedback to the various communities or establishments represented on the committee.
- Two community leaders will be present at the test excavations.
- Archaeologist, Dr. Jayson Orton, has been appointed to undertake the ground-truthing should HWC approve the permit.
- It is paramount that the Memorialisation of the Hardekraaltjie Cemetery is not delayed further, not only to allow those who can still recollect stories connected to Hardekraaltjie see something tangible taking place, but to educate and inform the younger generations of their heritage.

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### Option 4 – Way Forward:

Core memorial area (2 erven)

Sport is to stop within the extended buffer area until ground truthing is undertaken.

The outcome of the ground-truthing will determine the future of the area.



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## Ground-Truthing Methodology

- ✦ The locations of several potential graves were surveyed, and the surveyor will return to the site prior to the excavation work and mark the six targets.
- ✦ The amount of disturbance will be minimised. It is assumed that if these six most likely targets prove negative then the remaining less likely targets will also be negative.
- ✦ Once the targets are pegged by the surveyor, Dr Orton will visit the site and hand excavate small trenches at 90 degrees across the potential targets. The aim will be to look for:
  - ✦ (1) disturbance in the soil indicative of a grave shaft,
  - ✦ (2) brown stains or wood fragments indicating the edges of coffins (the lids cave in and rest on the bones in the base of the coffin, but the full height of the side walls of the coffins is usually preserved), and
  - ✦ (3) human remains.
- ✦ Note that NO exhumation is proposed and the plan will be to affect the minimum amount of disturbance possible in order to gain clarity on whether graves occur in the 'extended buffer zone' on Erf 24602 (SU Campus) or not.
- ✦ Therefore, the ground truthing proposed is only to establish that graves are present and not to move them in any way. At this point we do not know if there are graves, but all the necessary precautionary measures have and will be taken.

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## Feedback from Stakeholders?

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### Hardekraaltjie Memorial Management Committee (HMMC) – Proposed Formation Approach

A functional working committee is required that will be:

- involved in guiding the implementation and management of the memorialised area after the Section 36 permits are issued;
- that is representative of all willing participation groups; and
- involved in drafting the content of the Conservation Management Plan that is intended to describe the management of the site.

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# HMMC

Steps:

1. Identify Groupings
  - that participated in the process to date and
  - new groups that want to register
2. Selecting representatives
  - in many cases leaders, heads, managers are known and can be co-opted
  - new nominations welcome
  - election and nomination should be done within groups own structures, and formally presented to consultant
  - to allow for a functional committee it's preferred that one representative per group is co-opted
3. Constitution
  - once committee is formed a constitution will be drafted
  - a chairman and secretary will be elected

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Comments ?

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## HMMC – Proposed Detail

### 1. Identified Groupings – Any other grouping?

- ◆ Landowner – SU
- ◆ Neighbours – Transnet & Tygerberg Hospital
- ◆ Organs of State – CoCT, HWC etc.
- ◆ Heritage Conservation Bodies
- ◆ Tiervlei Erfnis Community (Ravensmead)
- ◆ Khoi
- ◆ Bisop Lavis Action Committee
- ◆ YMCA
- ◆ Religious Organisation / Ravensmead Ministers Forum

### 2. Selecting representatives

- Nominations via own internal structures to be presented to PHS Consulting in writing by 11 December 2025.
- After receipt of nominations a formation meeting will be convened: Date to be confirmed.
- NB: Representatives can be co-opted onto the HMMC later.

### 3. Constitution

- Draft to be tabled for discussion at formation meeting: Date to be confirmed.
- Chairman and secretary to be elected at above meeting.

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## Next Steps?

- ◆ HMMC to convene should HWC approve the Core memorialised area and/ or Ground-Truthing.
- ◆ Constitution, Chairperson and other operational matters regarding the HMMC will be discussed if HWC approves memorialisation.

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Closing remarks from Stakeholders?

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Thank you.

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