



Buried Treasures

Newsletter of Friends of Coburg Cemetery Inc. (A0057103A)

Issue Three, December 2012

Looking back on our first year

What a year we've had!

It began with the launch of our self-guided heritage walk in April, which just happened to be our launch, too.

Since then we've held two 'Shed Days', one in August and one in November. These days have provided us with the opportunity to meet our members and to work on the Friends' Shed, which is starting to look like a home away from home.

In September we received the news that our Heritage Walk had been shortlisted for the Victorian Community History Awards and were delighted to receive a Commendation in the Historical Interpretation section.

In October we held a guided tour of part of our Heritage Walk and welcomed over 30 people to the Cemetery.

We have more planned: a Working Bee and Christmas BBQ on Saturday 15 December and a Women's Walk in March next year (24 March 2013).

In the meantime, the Committee is working hard to develop the resources of the Society and to plan a range of exciting member events. Among other projects, the survey of World War One soldiers buried at Coburg Cemetery is continuing to grow.

We welcome your contributions, so let us know if you can help us.

In the meantime, enjoy the summer. Stay cool and safe.

Cheryl Griffin (Editor)

Coming soon: Working Bee and Christmas BBQ

Come along and join us for our final event of the year.

Saturday 15th December 2012

10am - Midday Working bee
Midday - 2pm BBQ

BYO gloves, hats, secateurs for the working bee.

BYO drinks, salads and sweets and a fold-out chair for the BBQ. (We will supply sausages, condiments and bread.)

Bookings essential. Contact wtodd@gmct.org.au or (03) 9355 3146



Edging tile, Coburg Cemetery. Maker: Austin & Sons.

Can anyone tell us more about this company?

Perhaps you have photos of other forms of grave decoration you would like to share. If so, please contact the Editor.

Image courtesy Cheryl Griffin

Constable David McGrath's grave restored

It was a warm spring day. The guests gathered just before 10am and filed through the graves up the hill where they assembled around the last resting place of police hero Constable David Edward McGrath. The cemetery looked splendid: the grass was newly mown and flowering daisy bushes on graves up the hill provided splashes of yellow.

McGrath's grave is Number 1 on the Friends of Coburg Cemetery's Self-Guided Heritage Walk. This was noted by, and especially important to, the McGrath family members. When we began our research, it had been surprisingly plain, the top raised and resting on a solid stone edging but covered with dirt and stones and lacking a headstone. The new grave is covered in stone slabs and the headstone identifies the grave as that of a policeman who 'died in the line of duty'. The name of David McGrath's wife, Annie Josephine, has been included on the headstone as she is also buried in the grave.

A moustached Senior Sergeant Greg Davies started the dedication by commenting that he wondered what moustached Constable McGrath would think of a man like him, standing before McGrath's grave almost ninety-seven years after his burial. McGrath was shot dead in a passage at Trades Hall, Carlton in the line of duty on 1 October 1915 while attempting to stop a

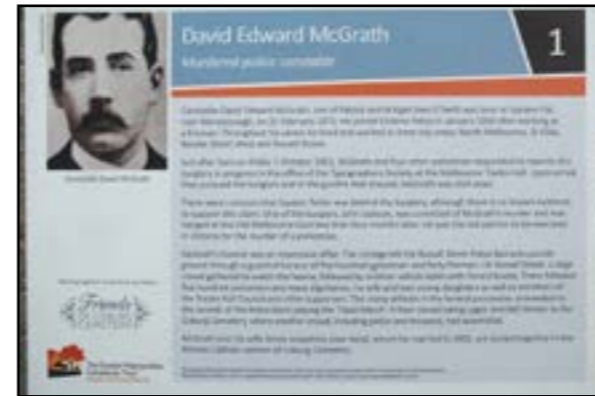
burglary. This dedication of the restored grave was only a few days short of the 97th anniversary of the event.

Those who addressed the crowd included Mr Neil Soullier, who read out Constable McGrath's splendid career record, blemished only by a snooze in the North Melbourne Court House whilst he was on duty, and for which he was fined over £4. This drew a chuckle from those present. The Minister for Veterans Affairs, the Hon. Hugh Delahunty (representing the Police Minister), gave a short speech supporting the work of the police in the community. Constable McGrath's grandson, Peter Tracey, spoke on behalf of the many family members present, some from interstate. The Chief Commissioner of Police, Ken Lay, acknowledged that policing is a dangerous occupation and reiterated his commitment to work to ensure the graves of police who had died whilst on duty were identified and looked after. Two police clergy were present. Reverend Jim Pilmer said the prayers and directed those present to say their own silent prayer during a minute's silence. Then Reverend Dr John Broughton dedicated and blessed the grave and recited the police ode. A wreath of multi-coloured spring flowers was laid on the grave by Constable McGrath's granddaughter, Jean Sharpe. Retired Chief Inspector Ralph Stavely listed the names

of other policemen who had died doing their job and whose graves need to be repaired or rebuilt and for which funding had now been allocated. A lone piper concluded the ceremony. The entire occasion was very solemn and moving.

As well as many descendants of the McGrath Family, the dedication was attended by the Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Melbourne Cemetery Trust, Ms Briggs-Weatherill, the then Mayor of Moreland, Councillor John Kavanagh, accompanied by Council Officer, Tony O'Brien, who is interested in all things historical, and two Police Museum staff, one being the curator, Sergeant Terry Claven. There were several professional photographers present to record the event. At the conclusion of the ceremony and over coffee, tea and biscuits, the family expressed their great gratitude for the organisation of the occasion by the Police Force and in particular its Graves Restoration Committee, as well as the staff of the Greater Melbourne Cemeteries Trust.

Marilyn Moore, Friends of Coburg Cemetery Inc. Committee Member



Images courtesy Terry Claven

Did you know?

Moreland City Libraries has just launched a new Local History Database.

To access the database, go to www.moreland.vic.gov.au/libraries.htm and click on the link to the Online Catalogue. Once there, go down the list on the left hand side of the page until you find the Local History Catalogue. Then it is simply a matter of checking out what's there and seeing how you can contribute to the history of our local area.

This database is an ideal way to share our connections to Coburg Cemetery and once we have our own website up, we will organise a link from the Local History Database.

In the meantime, do check out the database and please consider adding your own contribution.

2012 Victorian Community History Awards

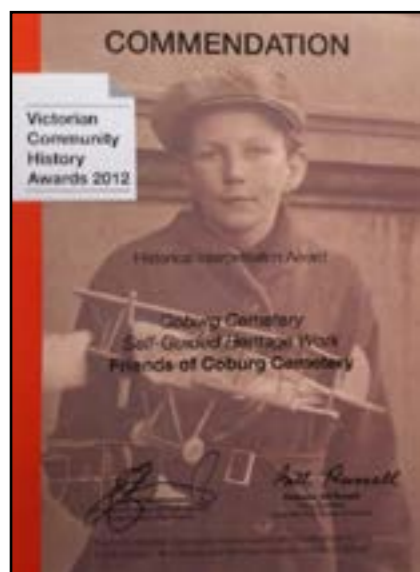


Image courtesy Victorian Community History Awards

The Awards ceremony was held on 23 October 2012 in the Great Hall of the National Gallery of Victoria, before about 200 Victorian history enthusiasts. The Royal Historical Society of Victoria and the Public Record Office of Victoria co-sponsored the Awards.

La Trobe University's Dr Richard Broome gave an inspiring address on community, local history and awards and illustrated his talk with references to his work on his local history book *Coburg: Between Two Creeks*.

The short-listed entries in each of seven categories were announced by the RHSV President. The

winning entry was then announced and the others awarded commendations. Our entry, Coburg Cemetery Self Guided Heritage Walk, received a commendation in the Historical Interpretation Section, This section was won by Gib Wettenhall for his Goldfields Track Walking Guide.

Our thanks go to our Secretary, David Down, who took so much care in preparing our submission.

We are already thinking ahead to the 2013 Awards. If you have ideas or would like to be involved, please let us know.

Marilyn Moore, Committee Member

From the Archives



Image courtesy Cheryl Griffin

Over the past few months, David Down and I have been working on preparing an inventory of the Coburg Cemetery Archives which are housed at Fawkner Crematorium and Memorial Park.

This work is now complete and we now know exactly which records from Coburg have survived.

Among our discoveries were several old maps in poor condition (see left), a number of indexes to the burial registers and a huge collection of photos of graves taken in the mid 1980s.

Disappointingly, there were no records of burials prior to 1875, even though the first burials took place in early 1860s.

There is still much work to be done, especially in tracing those very early burials, but we are pleased with the start we have made.

Our inventory has suggested several projects for the future. We will keep you informed as these projects take shape.

Cheryl Griffin, editor of Buried Treasures and Committee Member

The meningitis epidemic of 1915

The following 31 World War One soldiers died of meningitis between May and November 1915 and were buried in Coburg Cemetery. Most died during August and September 1915, at the height of the epidemic and most were not from Coburg. They were all patriotic young men who had answered the call, gone into training camps but who never made it to the shores of the Gallipoli Peninsula where so much of the Australian ANZAC legend was born.

During the crisis, the Alfred Hospital was requisitioned by the military to deal with the huge number of cases. This occurred in mid-August, at which time the Base Hospital in St Kilda Road was converted back to a general military hospital. By mid-August over 600 cases of meningitis had been reported. During this time, recruiting for the war ceased, despite the heavy losses experienced on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

Pte William Ball, died at the Alfred, 1 October 1915, aged 22. Of AIF Training Camp, Ascot Vale. Buried CofE D 598.

Pte John Archibald Beaton, died at the Alfred, 10 September 1915. Of AIF Depot. Buried Pres A 686.

Pte John George Butcher, died at the Alfred, 16 August 1915, aged 18. Of AIF Depot. Buried Meth A 560.

Pte Henry W. Butler, died at Base Hospital, St Kilda Road, 14 July 1915. Of AIF 8th Bn Australian Infantry. Buried CofE D 495.

Pte Howard Castle, died at the Alfred, 1 September 1915. Of AIF Depot. Buried CofE D 581.

Pte James Alfred Dewar, died at the Alfred, 15 August 1915. Of AIF Depot. The Argus, 16 August 1915, page 8 reports that he was 21 and came from Drouin. Buried Pres A 690.

Pte Walter Charles Roxburgh Emery, died at the Alfred, 2 August 1915, aged 18. Of AIF Depot. Buried Pres A 698.

Pte Aubrey Hampton, died at Base

Hospital, St Kilda Road, on 21 June 1915. Of AIF Depot. Buried CofE D 472.

Pte Richard Hand, died at the Alfred, 13 November 1915. Of AIF Depot. Buried CofE D 679.

Pte Eric John Hanrahan, died at Base Hospital, St Kilda Road on 11 August 1915. Of AIF Depot. The Argus, 12 August 1915, p. 7, reports that he was 19 and had been in the Seymour Camp. Buried RC E 145.

Pte Albert Morgan Harris, died at Base Hospital, St Kilda Road on 6 August 1915, aged 23. Of AIF 5th Bn Australian Infantry. Buried Meth A 50.

Pte Henry (Harry) Haysen, of AIF Depot, died on 17 August 1915 and was buried CofE D 558. According to the Argus, 27 August 1915, page 7, he died at the Alfred, was aged 22 and was from the Seymour Camp.

Pte Leslie Thomas Houston, died Bendigo Hospital, 20 August 1915, aged 21. Of AIF Depot. Buried CofE D 547.

Pte Kenneth Keith Ford King, died at Base Hospital, St Kilda Road on 15 August 1915. Of AIF Depot. The Argus, 16 August 1915, page 8 reports that he was 28 and lived in Carlton Street, Carlton. Buried CofE D 560.

Pte John W. Langdon, died at Melbourne Hospital, 23 May 1915. Of AIF Depot. Buried CofE D 445.

Pte Thomas McCall, died at General Hospital #5, 21 October 1915. Of AIF 5th Bn Australian Infantry. Buried Pres A 678.

Pte Patrick McHugh, died at the Alfred, 24 August 1915, aged 25. Of AIF Depot. The Argus, 21 August 1915, page 20 reports that he was brought in from the Broadmeadows Camp. Buried RC E 165.

Pte Raymond McLean, died at the Alfred, 22 August 1915, aged 19. Of AIF Depot. The Argus, Monday 23 August 1915, page 10 reported that he was of Wandiligong, that he'd been brought in from the Seymour Camp and that he died the previous day. Buried Pres A 683.

Pte Alfred Mark Neems, died at the Alfred, 15 September 1915. Of AIF 10th Bn Australian Infantry. Buried Pres A 662.

Pte James Vernal Nicholson, died at the Alfred, 22 September 1915, aged 23. Of AIF Depot. Buried Pres A 669.

Pte Henry Charles O'Connell, died at the Alfred, 23 August 1915. Of AIF Depot. The Argus, Monday 23 August 1915,

page 10 reported that he was 19, of Nicholson Street, North Carlton and was in the 79th Coy. Buried CofE D 540.

Sgt Arthur James Polson, died at the Alfred, 3 September 1915, aged 26. Of AIF Depot. Buried Pres P 257.

Cpl. William Frederick Roberts, died at the Alfred, 21 August 1915. Of AIF Depot. The Argus, 21 August 1915, page 20 reports that he was 19 years old, that his address was Weston St., Brunswick and that he had been brought in from the Showgrounds Camp. Buried Meth A 569.

Pte Arnold Edward Rodda, died at the Alfred, 3 September 1915. Of AIF Depot. Buried RC B 229.

Pte Albert Severs, died at the Alfred, 14 August 1915. Of AIF Depot. The Argus, 16 August 1915, page 8 reports that he was 22 and came from Stock Street, Croxton. Buried CofE D 544.

Pte Cornelius F. Shelton, died at the Alfred, 7 October 1915. Of AIF Depot. Buried RC E 209.

Pte John Morris Sherman, died at Base Hospital, St Kilda Road on 4 August 1915, aged 22. Of AIF Depot. Buried Pres A 576.

Pte Ambrose Arthur Smith, died at the Alfred, 18 August 1915. Of AIF 10th/6th Bn Australian Infantry. Buried CofE D 554.

Pte William Frederick Alfred Terry, died at the Alfred, 1 September 1915. Of AIF Depot. The Argus, Monday 23 August 1915, page 10 reported that he was 25, of Drouin West and had been brought in from the Seymour Camp. Buried Meth A 566.

Pte John James Waghorn, died at the Alfred, 23 September 1915. Of AIF Depot. Buried CofE D 599.

Pte David Jeffrey Willis, died at the Alfred, 26 August 1915. Of AIF Depot. The Argus, 27 August 1915, page 7 reported that his name was Daniel, he was 28 and came from Rosedale and had been brought in from the Seymour Camp. Buried CofE D 552.

Pte Eric W. Wise, died at the Alfred, 2 September 1915. Of AIF Depot. Buried Meth A 575.

Sources:

WW1 dossiers, National Archives of Australia and *Coburg Cemetery Heritage Study*, 1988

October Heritage Walk

More than 30 people joined us on our highly successful Heritage Walk, held on Sunday 14 October 2012.

It was a time to welcome members old and new and to reflect on the lives of nine people (or groups of people) buried in the Cemetery.

We visited the graves of Abel Greenwood, Frederick Buzaglo, William and Thomas Anketell, the Spry family, James Smith, Montague Dare, the Chinese section, David McGrath (see article on page 2) and James Jewell.

Along the way, we heard tales

of great drama and pathos and learned more of some of Coburg's early influential citizens.

Thank you to all who attended and we hope to see you again at our Women's Month Walk next March.



Images courtesy Julie Stratford and Cheryl Griffin



Friends of Coburg Cemetery Inc (A0057103A) Membership Application Form



Contact Details

I, _____
(Name of individual / group or organisation)

of _____
(Postal Address)

desire to become a member of Friends of Coburg Cemetery Inc. If accepted as a member by the committee, I agree to be bound by the Rules of the Association for the time of my membership.

(Signature of applicant) (If representative, please sign here)

Date _____

Mobile _____ Phone _____

Email address _____

Annual Membership from 1 July 2012 - 30 June 2013 (please circle)

* Full Friend \$20.00 *Pension / unwaged \$10.00

* Corporate/Organisation \$20.00

Donations

Yes, I would like to make a donation to the Friends of Coburg Cemetery:

\$ _____

Please return this application form with your cheque or money order (not cash) made payable to "Friends of Coburg Cemetery Inc":

Friends of Coburg Cemetery Inc.
PO Box 54
Brunswick East 3057

For more information, contact us via email: wtodd@gmct.com.au or write to us at the above address.

News from the Friends' Shed

We have been hard at work making the Friends' Shed into a very cosy and useful headquarters.

Thanks to the resourcefulness and generosity of committee members Lee Anthony, David Down and Julie Stratford, we now have two filing cabinets, a magazine rack, a lounge suite and other useful items that have helped us transform the Shed not only into a home away from home, but also a useful resource centre for members.

None of this would be possible without the support of our GMCT liaison officer Wendy Todd. Nor would it be possible without the support of the GMCT itself. Thank you, too, to the members of the Lilydale Cemetery Operations Group who made it possible to get the lounge suite from Croydon to the Shed in time for our Christmas BBQ!

If you have items you would like to donate to the Shed, please let us know. And when you join us for the BBQ on December 15th, make sure you check out the new look Shed.

Not to be missed

The first two events of 2013 are not far off.
Please note in your diaries:

Wednesday 20 February 2013, 8pm.

Joint meeting of Friends of Coburg Cemetery and Coburg Historical Society at the Coburg Library meeting room, 26 Louisa Street (corner Victoria Mall and Louisa Street), Coburg 3056. Our guest speaker will be Celestina Sagazio of the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust and her topic is 'The heritage value of cemeteries and conservation techniques.'

Sunday 24 March 2013. Time to be confirmed.

Our next cemetery walk will celebrate the lives of some of the women who are buried at Coburg Cemetery and is our contribution to Australian Women's History Month. Further details in the next newsletter.

Have a safe and happy summer.



Buried Treasures

Friends of Coburg Cemetery
Inc. (A0057103A)

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Items for publication should
be sent to The Editor, Friends
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Copy deadlines for 2013:

Friday 22 February

Friday 24 May

Friday 23 August

Friday 22 November