
the southern
CEMETERIAN

SMCT NEWS UPDATE | **AUTUMN EDITION 2016**



The smoking ceremony commences for the Official Opening of the Southern Aurora Centre at Bunurong Memorial Park

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Cemeterian. The first months of 2016 have passed quickly with a hive of activity across all of our Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (SMCT) locations.

At Bunurong Memorial Park, it was our great pleasure to host over 200 guests for the Official Opening of the Southern Aurora Centre on Sunday 17 April.

SMCT had the vision to transform Bunurong into a special destination for Victorians where lives are honoured and celebrated, and also where people can simply come to enjoy themselves. To that end, we set in motion the masterplan development to create a suite of multipurpose community facilities and to redevelop this 101 hectare site with Australian native landscaping.

It is our hope that visitors will come to Bunurong to relax, reflect or maybe just

have a picnic alongside the memory of their friends or relatives.

At SMCT we are committed to offering choice, flexibility and value to all of our communities.

In designing and building Bunurong we sought to anticipate the needs of this new Victoria not only today but more than 50 years into the future.

The approach we took was to simply listen to our communities by conducting extensive face to face meetings to find out what they wanted, to hear what rituals they honoured to mark the passing of their loved ones. These principles are in keeping with our commitment to ensure that every person can honour and celebrate life in the way that they choose.

I'd personally like to thank the Hon Daniel Andrews MP, Premier of Victoria, and the

Hon Jill Hennessy MP, Minister for Health, for their support towards SMCT and this project and for joining us for the Official Opening.

We are very excited about Bunurong and our ambition for this place operates on a large canvas.

I encourage all of you to visit Bunurong to experience this new place for yourselves, and perhaps sit still for a while in this stunning park and take it all in – I can only hope you come to enjoy it as much as I do.

Sue Renkin
Chairman
SMCT



OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE SOUTHERN AURORA CENTRE AT BUNURONG MEMORIAL PARK SUNDAY 17 APRIL 2016

Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (SMCT) were delighted to host over 200 guests across government, industry and community for the official opening of the Southern Aurora Centre at Bunurong Memorial Park on Sunday 17 April 2016.

The official ceremony commenced with a smoking ceremony and Welcome to Country from the Crossing at Lake Australis. SMCT are grateful to the Bunurong and Wurundjeri elders for their valuable contribution to the day.

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP, Premier and the Hon Jill Hennessy MP, Minister for Health officiated the ceremony.

Addressing the audience in the Cumulus Stratus Reflection Spaces, the Premier gave a resounding endorsement of SMCT's visionary development of Bunurong Memorial Park.



The Premier and Minister unveiling the plaque at the conclusion of the ceremony

"It's the best of everything in every way. Responding to multiculturalism, responding to diversity, a modern picturesque and beautiful space, but one that is made all the better by the love, the care and respect that is shown

to everybody who turns to this place... I think with facilities like this, I think with the culture that exists right across the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust - we measure well... I know this facility will be of care and comfort, of love and

support in the celebration of so many lives for many, many years to come."

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP, Premier, addressing the audience during the official ceremony at the Opening of the Southern Aurora Centre.



A beautiful vocal performance by the children during the ceremony

OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE SOUTHERN AURORA CENTRE AT BUNURONG MEMORIAL PARK SUNDAY 17 APRIL 2016

Bunurong Memorial Park has been developed as a suite of world class multipurpose community facilities set within beautiful Australian native parkland.

This development represents the realisation of SMCT's vision to transform cemeteries and memorial parks into vibrant, active community spaces.

Bunurong is already a destination for thousands of Victorians across cultural and faith communities, young and old alike.



Marion Lau OAM, of Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria at our World Map for Guests



L to R: Ronee Wang and Jackie Zhang of Stonemart with Emily Choi of Onsum Funerals

"... dealing with the pain of grief and loss is a very difficult thing to do, but to do so in a place that has a culture of acceptance and warmth and compassion, and acknowledgement of a person's life, acknowledgement of their culture, acknowledgement of their spirit, and acknowledgement of the pain of those that are left behind - that is a really spectacular contribution that all of those involved in this project have made to the local community."

The Hon Jill Hennessy MP, Minister for Health



Guests enjoying the hospitality of the function rooms

TRUST APPOINTMENTS



L-R: Leigh Mackay, Matthew Mills, Julie Busch, Gaye Mason, Sue Renkin - Chairman, The Hon Daniel Andrews MP - Premier of Victoria, Jane Grover CEO, Brian Oates, The Hon Jill Hennessy MP - Minister for Health, Stephen Shipp, Richard Jones, Sam Afra.

Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (SMCT) was advised of a number of appointments to the Trust in early March, for the term 1 March 2016 – 30 June 2018.

Class A Trust Appointments are a process coordinated through the Department of Health and Human

Services, Cemeteries and Crematoria Unit and legislated through the Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003. Each Class A Trust member is appointed for a term up to 3 years, and are eligible for reappointment. The appointments are made by the Governor in Council.

SMCT are delighted to announce that the current Trust Chairman, Sue Renkin, and Trust Member, Julie Busch have been reappointed.

SMCT also welcomes three new Trust members who joined us, effective from 1 March 2016: Leigh Mackay, LLB, Brian Oates, JP and Sam Afra, JP.

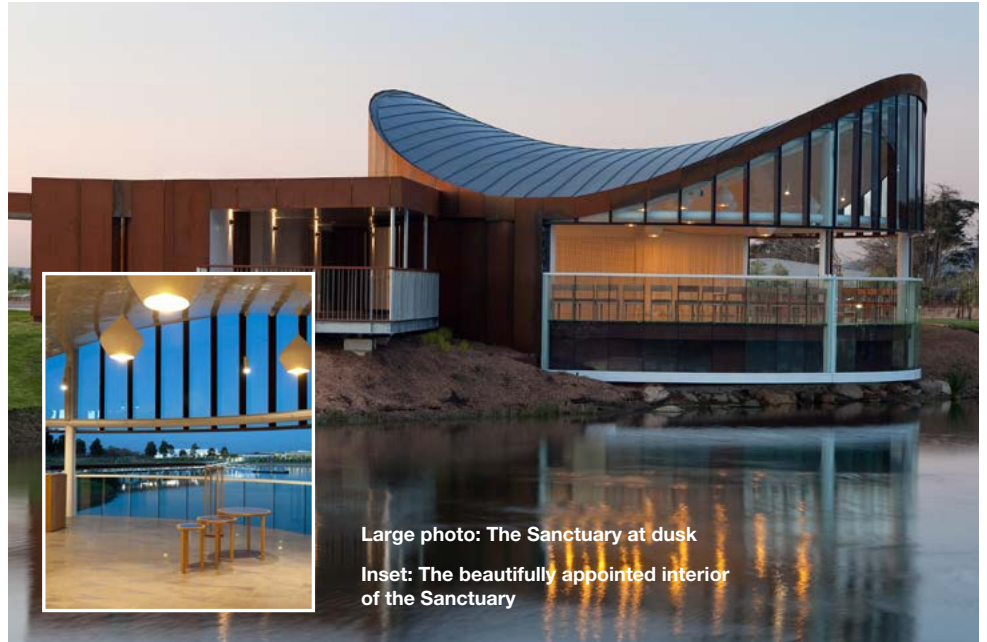
THE SOUTHERN CEMETERIAN

INTRODUCING THE SANCTUARY REFLECTION SPACE

Construction of the spectacular Sanctuary Reflection Space at Bunurong Memorial Park was completed in April.

Partially suspended over the edge of Lake Australis, The Sanctuary is stunning, with uninterrupted water views. An impressive operable glass wall opens to balustrade height, creating an open air atmosphere, so you feel at one with the elements.

Fully equipped and comfortably seating 80 guests, The Sanctuary is a unique and stunning location. It will be available for bookings shortly, as a multipurpose space that is equipped to accommodate a variety of functions.



Large photo: The Sanctuary at dusk

Inset: The beautifully appointed interior of the Sanctuary

SMCT AWARD WINNING FLORAL DESIGN

SMCT exhibited at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show, held from 16 –20 March at the Exhibition Buildings. As a first time exhibitor and entrant, SMCT are delighted to have won the Gold Award in the Floral Design category.

SMCT's stunning display was developed as a collaboration by renowned floral consultant Michael Strownix, of Where the Grass is Green, who worked with Vicki Stratoudakis, SMCT's lead florist of Café Vita et flores, along with our horticulture and planning teams.

The display design is symbolic of the essence of the eight cemetery and memorial park locations for which SMCT is responsible, including the stunning botanical gardens of Springvale Botanical Cemetery and the Australian native landscapes of Bunurong Memorial Park in Dandenong South.



SMCT Exhibit at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show,

The stunning display was recreated with natives for the Official Opening of the Southern Aurora Centre at Bunurong Memorial Park in April.

Café Vita et flores are located at both Springvale Botanical Cemetery and Bunurong Memorial Park.

EVENTS ACROSS SMCT LOCATIONS

ANNUAL CHING MING FESTIVAL – INAUGURAL ASIAN BUFFET

Over 500 people visited Springvale Botanical Cemetery's Song He Yuan on Sunday 3 April for the annual Ching Ming Festival.

This year's festival saw the introduction of an Asian Buffet created by SMCT's chef Allan Koh. The buffet proved very popular, and was enjoyed by over 160

guests that we were delighted to host.

The festival was captured on film by Taiwan TV providing international coverage of this significant day in the Buddhist Calendar.

The Official Ceremony was conducted in the beautiful Di Zhang Wang Temple within Song He Yuan. SMCT is very

grateful to the Wat Thai Temple and Abbot Ajun Boonsom for conducting the blessing and the official transfer of Merits ceremony.

We extend our gratitude to the Buddhist Council of Victoria in acknowledgement of their ongoing collaboration and support.



From left to right as follows: Ms Chloe Zang - State Trustees, Mr Colin Heath, Ms Jenny Tran - State Trustees, Mr Albert Chang - Buddhist Council of Victoria (BCV), Bianca Paliagia - BCV, Helen Heath - CAC Member, Jane Grover - SMCT, Stephen Grover, Peggy Page - BCV, Cr Youhorn Chea - City of Greater Dandenong, James Page - BCV



LAUNCH OF THE HISTORICAL RESTORATION AND REFURBISHMENT FUND AT MELBOURNE GENERAL CEMETERY

Former Victorian Premier, the Hon Jeff Kennett AC joined former Federal Science Minister, the Hon Prof Barry Jones AC to co-launch SMCT's Historical Restoration and Refurbishment Fund at Melbourne General Cemetery (MGC) on 8 March.

The Fund is the first of its kind in Victoria, and will focus on the restoration of monuments of historical or heritage significance, community interest or tourism appeal, to preserve our shared cultural heritage for future generations.

Over 50 attended the private launch which included a short tour to visit significant monuments on the Fund's priority restoration list.

The launch received substantial media coverage and Historian & Manager of Cultural Heritage, Dr Celestina Sagazio has confirmed receiving a donation of \$5000 towards the restoration of the Sir William Clarke monument from Trinity College of the University of Melbourne.

"Janet Clarke Hall of the University of Melbourne has also pledged \$2,500 for the same project. It is exciting to report that the restoration work on the Sir William Clarke monument has commenced," she said.

SMCT are currently exploring the feasibility of using crowd funding to raise finance for the restoration of monuments. We are also

commencing discussions with the National Trust, which has tax deductibility status, about entering an auspicing arrangement with them to start a public appeal for the Hotham Monument at MGC.



Jane Grover, CEO with The Hon Jeff Kennett and The Hon Prof. Barry Jones at the launch

AWARD WINNING - CLARENCE REARDON CENTRE

SMCT was announced as winner in the Sustainable Development category of the City of Greater Dandenong Sustainability Awards, for the ground breaking development of the Clarence Reardon Centre at Springvale Botanical Cemetery.

SMCT commissioned Architects GHD Woodhead with the design brief for innovation in sustainability and best practice environmental performance.

This design excellence applied to the construction and engineering has created a carbon neutral building that is a local leader in sustainable design and operation.



Infrastructure Director Terry King with Mayor Heang Tak and Cr Matthew Kirwan

THE KNOCKING ON HEAVEN'S DOOR SESSIONS

The second session of our new Knocking on Heaven's Door series was held at Bunurong Memorial Park in March.

Panellists included Celebrant Kimba Griffith (pictured); Graham Fountain, CEO of Remembrance Parks Central Victoria; and Celebrant and author Sally Cant. The central theme for the evening "Why Face the Fear of Death?" sparked wide ranging discussion.

Guests enjoyed the hospitality of Café Vita et flores and the opportunity to take the conversation further with panellists and fellow guests alike.



Keynote speaker Kimba Griffith

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT SMCT LOCATIONS

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
Rose Pruning Demonstrations	9-20 May	SBC & BMP
Open House Melbourne	Saturday 30 July, and Sunday 31 July, 10am - 4pm	MGC
Knocking on Heaven's Door Session 3	August (date TBC) – register your interest to attend *	SBC
Father's Day Remembrance Service	Thursday 1 September, 7pm	BMP
National Police Remembrance Day – End of Day Reflection Service	Thursday 29 September, 4pm	SBC
Café Vita Jazz	Resuming on selected Sundays in Spring	SBC

For further information about SMCT events, please go to our website www.smct.org.au and follow the link smct.org.au/events-calendar/

*To register your interest to attend, please email events@smct.org.au