

the southern
CEMETERIAN

SMCT NEWS UPDATE | **WINTER-SPRING EDITION 2016**



Rose Pruning Sessions held at Springvale Botanical Cemetery and Bunurong Memorial Park annually, led by Rose Services Coordinator Rolfe Stok

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND CEO

Welcome to the Winter - Spring edition of the Cemeterian. As the weather turned cooler we were delighted to host a record number of people for our rose pruning tours across Springvale Botanical Cemetery and Bunurong Memorial Park. Over 120 attended to experience this aspect of our service offering.

At Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (SMCT) we are committed to promoting community conversations around planning ahead, death and dying. It was a pleasure to see the conversation really take off at the recent Knocking on Heaven's Door session, held to coincide with Dying to Know Day in August.

Our inspiring panellists sparked robust audience participation, focussed on baby boomers and planning ahead, the importance of family discussions regarding rituals and ceremony and many wanting to know where to find independent advice regarding planning ahead.

To that end, SMCT have recently launched *MyLifebook* which assists families to plan

ahead at their own pace and record their final wishes.

MyLifebook is available online at the Victorian Cremations website, a new service offering from SMCT, and the first ecommerce solution for cremation certificates in Australia. We encourage everyone to take advantage of the opportunity to download this complimentary resource.

In keeping with our focus on how we can best care for our communities, SMCT has created a new stream of services in response to the identified needs of our customers and stakeholders. A number of new wellbeing services will soon become available at Springvale Botanical Cemetery, with the Centre for Care and Wellbeing due to open this summer. These services will range from grief and loss support, to personal health and wellbeing programs. We are delighted to be able to offer these additional programs for our communities.

We look forward to welcoming you to the many events that we have scheduled over the coming months in the lead up to the

festive season. The first of these will be the Opening of the refurbished Boyd and Renowden Chapels at Springvale Botanical Cemetery.

These iconic chapels have been restored exquisitely to maintain their heritage and lift their functionality, with the addition of *The Atrium*, a state of the art multi-purpose space. We are confident that these facilities will continue to meet the needs of our communities well into the future, providing the space for honouring and celebrating life.

Jane Grover
SMCT
CEO



Sue Renkin
SMCT
Trust Chairman



LAUNCH OF NEW VICTORIAN CREMATIONS WEBSITE AND INNOVATIVE MYLIFEBOOK

Victorian Cremations is a new online initiative of Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (SMCT).

The website enables people to pre-purchase a Cremation Certificate that can be used at Bunurong Memorial Park or Springvale Botanical Cemetery.

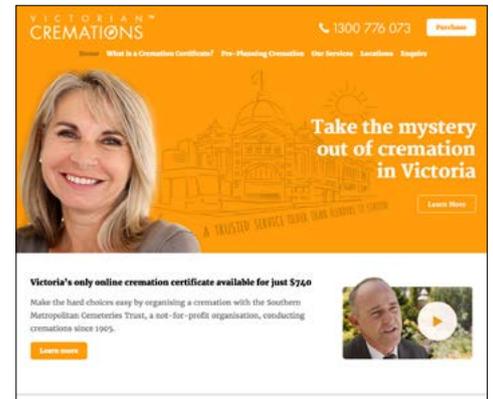
Victorian Cremations is the first initiative of this type in Australia and the cheapest in Melbourne.

In response to the growing interest that people have in making plans now for how they will be remembered, Victorian

Cremations also offers the innovative *MyLifebook* which is also available online.

With *MyLifebook* people can even write their own eulogy. This takes the burden away from loved ones as they will have peace of mind knowing how the deceased wanted to be remembered.

Victorian Cremations seeks to overcome other hidden problems for family and friends who want to track their ancestors in the future when creating family trees. If you're cremated in Victoria, you ensure that your records will remain in Victoria – accessible to future generations for genealogy.



SMCT's new Victorian Cremations website

Download a copy of MYLIFEBOOK to start planning how you want to be remembered.



MYLIFEBOOK allows you to reflect on your legacy, funeral wishes and other things you would like to let your family and friends know about. Go online to download your copy today.

www.victoriancremations.com.au



VICTORIAN™
CREMATIONS

KNOCKING ON HEAVEN'S DOOR – BABYBOOMERS DOING DEATH DIFFERENTLY

The third session of Knocking on Heaven's Door was held at Springvale Botanical Cemetery on 11 August, with over 60 people attending to focus on the how "baby boomers are doing death differently."

The discussion between the panel and the audience focussed on "what is a good death?" with the interesting perspective shared that our sentiments about this can change a lot over our lifespan.

There was also a high level of interest in the concept of planning ahead, with the discussion unpacking the various motivations and all the aspects of planning that people considered important.

A huge thank you to our panellists Molly Carlile AM, Deathtalker © and CEO of South East Palliative Care; Martin Tobin Specialist Death Care Sector consultant; and Carly Dalton, Greenhaven Funerals.

Q &

Are baby boomers changing the way we do death?

A

I'll do it my way.

THE SOUTHERN CEMETERIAN

BETRAYAL, GRIEF AND LOVE PLAY OUT AT THE GATE LODGE

SMCT are excited to announce the interactive theatre performance, 'Mr Naismith's Secret', will be held at Melbourne General Cemetery from 25 October until 13 November 2016.

A first for SMCT the play is in keeping with our vision of engaging with wider parts of the community and broadening the offering of enriching cultural activities via our multi-purpose locations. 'Mr Naismith's Secret' holds elements of mystery that the audience is 'immersed' in as they move with the cast from room to room as the drama unfolds.

Audience members are given the opportunity to participate in the scenes should they wish, adding an extra layer of improvisation and excitement to the production.

The play will be brought to MGC by tbc Theatre, an ensemble theatre company formed in early 2014 by Melbourne actors. Trudi Boatwright, tbc Artistic Producer, was excited at the prospect of joining forces with SMCT to challenge the traditional notion of

theatre through unearthing rare, unusual and unknown stories which are produced in locations that ignite an exciting sensory theatrical experience for the audience. "The play was written specifically with the Gate Lodge and surrounds in mind as the architecture of the building lends itself perfectly to the era and tensions of the plot."

Written by tbc Theatre member, H. Clare Callow, the story is loosely based on 'Jane Eyre' and is set on an October evening in Melbourne, 1892. The audience has been invited to celebrate the engagement of Mr Edward Naismith, a chemist and business owner, to Miss Jane Adair, a prominent Melbourne socialite. It's a time of celebration, but not everything is as it seems. As the evening progresses, the audience is led through scenes, and their own investigations, through a story of betrayal, grief and a deep love.

To maintain the interactive nature of the play, audience numbers are strictly limited for each session so please book early to avoid disappointment as tickets will sell out fast.



Mr Naismith's Secret:

When: 25 October to 13 November, 2016 (no performances on Mondays)

Where: Melbourne General Cemetery,
Gate Lodge, College Crescent, Parkville

Time: Tuesdays to Saturdays 8pm;
Sundays 6pm (Note the play runs for approx. 90 mins)

Bookings & Enquiries: 0410 147 988



RESEARCH BY ENGAGEMENT TO BETTER UNDERSTAND OUR COMMUNITIES

In an extension of our research by engagement model, SMCT has entered into a collaborative research partnership with Monash University to conduct thorough research into the funeral rites and rituals of non-denominational and Christian Chinese.

This project will deliver both qualitative and quantitative insights

into the preferences of these communities, to enable SMCT to optimise our service offering to meet their needs into the future. It will also inform design concepts and identified customer requirements for future developments across Springvale Botanical Cemetery.

Left to right: Professor Gil-Soo Han, Will Babington (SMCT), Dr Helen Forbes-Mewett (lecturer at Monash), and Wilfred Wang (Research Assistant)



WINTER-SPRING EDITION

HISTORICAL RESTORATION OF THE CLARKE MONUMENT AT MELBOURNE GENERAL CEMETERY

In March this year, the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (SMCT) were honoured to launch the Historical Restoration and Refurbishment Fund (the Fund), a unique initiative of SMCT and the first of its kind in Victoria. The Hon Jeff Kennett AC and the Hon Professor Barry Jones AC co-launched the Fund at the iconic Melbourne General Cemetery (MGC), which will stand testament to the passion inherent at SMCT and the wider community about the preservation of culture and heritage.

While undertaking a tour of MGC led by Dr Celestina Sagazio, Historian & Manager of Cultural Heritage at SMCT, Trinity College learned of the Trust's choice of the Clarke monument as the first project to be financed from the Fund. Trinity College invited Janet Clarke Hall to join together in donating funds to expedite the Clarke monument



Sir William Clarke and Lady Janet Clarke circa 1880

OPEN HOUSE MELBOURNE

Melbournians and tourists alike once more proved there is a genuine interest in the heritage captured within the grounds of Melbourne General Cemetery (MGC).

Over 350 visitors flocked to the Open House Melbourne event held at MGC across the weekend of 30 and 31 July.

If you are interested in learning more about MGC and historical tours, please visit the website.

www.mgc.smct.org.au

restoration project to ensure valuable history is not lost for future generations. On Friday 16 July, Trinity College hosted a special afternoon tea in the College's Clarke building to honour the contributions of Janet Lady Clarke and Sir William Clarke to the College and Janet Clarke Hall.

Janet Clarke Hall Principal Damian Powell noted that the charitable works of the Clarke family extend to the wider University and community, "Well beyond the buildings which honour their family name, changing lives for the better over the generations."

The afternoon tea provided the opportunity for Trinity College and Janet Clarke Hall to announce the joint gift for the restoration of the historic monument.

Trinity College Warden Professor Ken Hinchcliff highlighted, "It seemed fitting to us that the College should acknowledge the support of the Clarke family during the foundational years of the College through a gift from the College to enable restoration of the Clarke monument."

Acknowledging the generosity of both Trinity College and Janet Clarke Hall,



Sir William Clarke Monument at MGC

Jane Grover, CEO of SMCT, said, "It is the commitment of such institutions to honour our shared heritage that will ensure that our common goal is achieved - the preservation of history."

The restoration work on the monument of Sir William Clarke, Lady Janet Clarke and the adjacent grave of Clarke estate workers has already begun, and will be completed to the highest conservation standards.

For further information, or to make a contribution to the Fund, contact Dr Celestina Sagazio on Ph: 8558 8210 or visit the SMCT website.



Attending the afternoon tea to acknowledge the generosity of donations to the Fund - Professor Ken Hinchcliff, Warden at Trinity College; Louise Morris, Great-Granddaughter of Lady Janet Clarke; Sir Rupert Clarke; Dr Celestina Sagazio, Jane Grover and Dr Damian Powell, Principal at Janet Clarke Hall.

THE SOUTHERN CEMETERIAN

HOLMESGLEN STUDENTS BRANCH OUT AT SPRINGVALE BOTANICAL CEMETERY

The Cemeterian recently interviewed Kiah Martin, Educational Services Consultant Holmesglen TAFE, to find out how the Certificate III (Arboriculture) students are utilising Springvale Botanical Cemetery (SBC) as part of their training.

Can you describe the training provided to the students in the Arboriculture program at Holmesglen?

Training in our Certificate III in Arboriculture program encompasses trimming and cross cutting trees (on the ground) and felling trees of all sizes. In addition, it includes identifying and inspecting, climbing, pruning, cabling and bracing, and removing trees with and without aerial rigging. We also perform aerial rescues on a 'casualty' not able to descend the tree without assistance. Also incorporated are the all-encompassing OHS and first aid areas and development of maintenance programs for established trees.

How does Springvale Botanical Cemetery feature in the training program?

The Certificate III in Arboriculture requires ongoing assessment across a broad range of trees and environments. We jump at every opportunity to assist with tree works at SBC as this exposes our students to the interesting and challenging jobs that working in a cemetery provides.

What do you see as the greatest benefits to the students in gaining experience within a cemetery locale?

SBC offers a unique experience for our students due to the extensive and varied 'overstorey' (tall) vegetation.

How do the students react when they realise they will be working within a cemetery?

Some students are familiar with SBC through having family interred here or attending services, whilst for others

the practical school sessions are their first exposure to the grounds. Most students are simply in awe of the scope and magnificence of the resource they have at their disposal

Are there any specific learning opportunities that are unique to a cemetery environment?

The main difference I witness is that if students are engaged by families on site, their response tends to be more thoughtful, subdued and respectful and if we are working with machinery and equipment, we cease noisy work if a service is occurring nearby

Can you describe a little bit about your background in the Arboriculture profession?

I have been working in the Arboriculture industry since 1992 and have had many and varied roles throughout my career. I have many awards for climbing at a State, National and International level (VTIO, ISAAC, AA, ISA) and have represented the industry at these levels too.

Anything else you would like to add about the program and Springvale Botanical Cemetery?

We feel very fortunate to have the ongoing support and assistance of the SBC Arboricultural staff and the enthusiastic encouragement from the corporate team at SMCT. It's an association that's provided many benefits to the students and long may it continue.

If you'd like further information on the Arboriculture program at Holmesglen go to: www.holmesglen.edu.au/courses/horticulture_and_environment



Inset: Kiah Martin, Educational Services Consultant Holmesglen TAFE

Main: Arboriculture underway at SBC

UPDATE - REFURBISHMENT OF THE ICONIC BOYD AND RENOWDEN CHAPEL COMPLEX

Works continue apace at the Boyd and Renowden Chapel complex at Springvale Botanical Cemetery. Due for completion in September, the refurbishment project will lift these chapels to the 'state of the art' standard of the facilities across our locations whilst maintaining their unique heritage qualities.

These works also include the addition of a new multi-purpose facility, *The Atrium*, between the two chapels. We look forward to re-opening the chapel complex and welcoming our industry partners and communities into these new spaces, thoughtfully redesigned to honour and celebrate life.



Works nearing completion on the Boyd and Renowden Chapel Complex

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT SMCT LOCATIONS

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
Spring Jazz at Café Vita et flores	Sunday 25 September 1 – 4pm	Springvale Botanical Cemetery
National Police Remembrance Day – End of Day Reflection	Thursday 29 September – 4pm	Springvale Botanical Cemetery
Opening of the refurbished Boyd & Renowden Chapels	Monday 3 October – 2:30pm	Springvale Botanical Cemetery
Spring Jazz at Café Vita et flores	Sunday 30 October 1 – 4pm	Springvale Botanical Cemetery
Vietnamese All Souls Day Mass	Saturday 5 November – 11am	Springvale Botanical Cemetery
All denominational All Souls Day Mass	Saturday 5 November – 3pm	Springvale Botanical Cemetery
All denominational All Souls Day Mass	Sunday 6 November – 3pm	Cheltenham Memorial Park
All denominational All Souls Day Mass	Sunday 6 November – 3pm	Bunurong Memorial Park
All denominational All Souls Day Mass	Sunday 6 November – 3pm	Melbourne General Cemetery
Spring Jazz at Café Vita et flores	Sunday 27 November 1 – 4pm	Springvale Botanical Cemetery
Children's Christmas Remembrance Service	Sunday 4 December – 6.30pm	Springvale Botanical Cemetery
SMCT Annual Meeting	Tuesday 6 December – 4pm	Bunurong Memorial Park
Christmas Remembrance Service	Thursday 8 December – 7pm	Bunurong Memorial Park

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