

Issue 12 - Sept/Oct (electronic)  
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**News:**

**Did you know that there are 522 cemetery trusts responsible for maintaining the grounds of Victoria's public cemeteries. That is, the grounds, pathways, fences, chapels administrative buildings etc and of course cemetery records.**

**Many people do not realise that responsibility for each grave lies with the individual (or their direct descendant) who paid for the right to bury someone there)**

The Victorian Department of Human Service is currently seeking suitably qualified and experienced parties to undertake an analysis of the perpetual maintenance requirements considered necessary to maintain Victoria's public cemeteries to an appropriate minimum standard, and to develop options for a set of minimum perpetual maintenance standards to reflect these requirements. To commence by November 2008.

See [www.tenders.vic.gov.au](http://www.tenders.vic.gov.au)

**A CURIOSITY IN THE CEMETERY**

E. Hore

Whilst family feuds on death are usually confined to wills, a most unusual dispute occurred in 1916 over a tombstone in the cemetery. In 1913, Henry Greer had wanted to place a tombstone on his mother's grave. His father considered the expense too great, and thought that a fence would suffice.

However, Henry proceeded to erect a tombstone. It stayed there for two years, when around 24 June 1915 it disappeared, the family having ascertained that it had been sold to Mr O'Rourke. Henry said that he had removed

it because the family had voiced concerns that it was not good enough, and had signed his and his father's name to order to the cemetery trustees, authorising the removal of the tombstone, and thereby committing a forgery. The Bench ordered that the defendants return the tombstone to plaintiff within 14 days, or pay its value; £14, with £2/2/- costs. Samuel Greer charged his son Henry and Joseph O'Rourke, monumental mason, with illegally removing a tombstone erected on his wife's grave, valued at £11. The case was heard in the Prahran Court on 9 October 1916.

Was the tombstone replaced? Read more in our next newsletter.

*Ref: The Argus, Tuesday 10 October 1916, page 4*



**FOBKC Calendar of Upcoming Events**

Wednesday, 24th September 2008

AGM

7pm 20 Highbury Grve Kew

Helen Harris will speak about 'Helen Hart', public lecturer, feminist, and suffragette. Helen Hart was buried in an unmarked grave at the cemetery 100 years ago this year (CofE, Section C, Grave No. 3138). It is also the 150th commemoration this year of women obtaining the vote in Victoria.

**Sunday, 19th October 2008**

Tour of memorials to Pioneers and Trustees of Kew 2pm

Meet at Cemetery Gates

Booking essential (contact below).

Cost of tours = \$15 (Includes refreshments). Members of Friends of Boroondara (Kew) Cemetery = \$8!)



**FRIENDS OF BOROONDARA (KEW) CEMETERY INC.**

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**FRIENDS OF BOROONDARA (KEW) CEMETERY INC.**

Meetings are held at:

Kew Baptist Church Hall

20 Highbury Grove, Kew

4th Wednesday of the month

(Excl. Dec and Jan)

8pm

GENERAL PUBLIC INVITED

**NEW CRYPTS in HIGH ST**

**T. Michael**

Back in 2001 the Cemetery Trustees built the Peace Haven Mausoleum near the main gates, which raised funds for cemetery operations. Still facing financial shortages, the Trustees sought another opportunity with some unoccupied land at the bottom of High Street. Fence. In an area adjacent to the paupers' graves and between the Cypress trees, some vacant land has been designated to become self-contained outdoor crypts. They have been designed by noted Kew architects McIntyre Partners, led by its principal Peter McIntyre. They will have a maximum of 3 tiers high and staggered between the trees or extend into the cemetery like fingers protruding from the brick fence.

Work on this new project commenced mid August. The first sign was with a panel of the historic brick fence being removed so the builders could access the site with their equipment and supplies. Permission was given by Heritage Victoria Whilst work is quickly progressing, the finished crypts will not be ready until early 2009. To aid access, some of the old paths have been relaid with bitumen.



Photo: T.Michael

**DID YOU KNOW?**

In July 2008 the Victorian Minister for Health announced a number of changes to the structure of the cemeteries sector that will result in 10 of the largest existing trusts in metropolitan Melbourne being consolidated in two new entities of comparable size.

The new trust covering the north and eastern metropolitan areas will be made up of Fawcner Crematorium and Memorial Park, Altona Memorial Park, Keilor Cemetery Trust, Preston Cemetery Trust, Wyndham Cemeteries Trust, Anderson's Creek Cemetery Trust, Lilydale Cemetery Trust and Templestowe Cemetery Trust. The trust covering the southern metropolitan areas would include Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries Trust and the Necropolis. These changes will take effect over the next 18 months.

Further information on the Minister's announcement is available at <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/cemeteries>

**Ian MacFarlan (1881-1964)**

**T. Sellars**

Ian MacFarlan had a diverse and unique career culminating in a term as the second shortest serving Victorian Premier (51 days between 2 October and 21 November 1945). He was born in North Carlton, Victoria the tenth child of James and Mary *née* Nairn, who both arrived from Scotland during the rush to be rich. Locally educated and later at Scotch College, he had a brilliant education at the University of Melbourne (*LL.B.*, 1907) and the following year was admitted to the Bar. While the Law was MacFarlan's calling, he was a politician by instinct. indeed, MacFarlane's career was all but settled on the appointment of his elder brother, the socially genial but judicially irascible, Sir James (1872-1955) to the Supreme Court (1922-49). And Ian MacFarlan entered the political arena. MacFarlan was appointed Attorney-General and Solicitor-General (Nov 1928-Dec 1929) in the McPherson ministry and by September 1930 was deputy-leader in Opposition. His rapid promotion was a reflection in which trained legal men have a way of creating order from chaos rather than personal ambition. MacFarlan was renowned for his wide legal knowledge in particular Constitutional Law; he took silk in 1934. In 1926, when he acted on behalf of the Victorian Railway Commissioners against a claim for compensation arising from the Caulfield Railway disaster (1926) he readily accepted liability.

Travis is the President of the Friends of Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries Inc. For more info visit [www.focrc.org](http://www.focrc.org).

*Ian MacFarlane is buried in PRS A section of the Cemetery No 0381*

*Photo reproduced with kind permission by Parliamentary Library, Parliament of Victoria.*



**COPPIN, GEORGE SELTH (1819-1906)**

**G. White**

Born in Sussex, Coppin grew up with a theatrical background, helping in his father's company where he learned to sweep out the theatre, deliver handbills, sell tickets, lead the orchestra and play small parts. When theatrical prospects looked grim in England, he tossed a coin to decide whether he would migrate to America or Australia.

Australia won and he and his wife Maria arrived in Sydney in 1845. He lost his money in commercial ventures. He became a man of many parts. He acted on stages in all the major cities in Australia, built a number of theatres, speculated in hotels, mines and pleasure gardens (notably Cremorne Gardens in Richmond), sat in the Victorian Parliament for many years and is credited with introducing camels and thrushes into Australia.

He was prominent in establishing the Victorian Humane Society, the St John Ambulance in Melbourne and the Old Colonists' Association. He is generally considered to be the father of Australian theatre and "father of Sorrento" where he developed real estate, built a train from the pier to the back beach and his family home "The Anchorage".

He married three times and had ten children. He died at his home in Pine Grove, Richmond. His interesting gravestone can be found in Church of England Section B, No. 1529.

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Source: "Singers of Australia" by Barbara McKenzie, 1967.



*Friends of Boroondara (Kew) Cemetery Inc. gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Kew Baptist Church in making their hall available for our meetings*