

# Newsletter of FRIENDS of BOROONDARA (Kew) CEMETERY Inc.

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## 2008-2009 Committee—

**President:** Tanya Warms  
**Vice President:** Gail White  
**Secretary:** Tony Michael  
**Treasurer:** Catherine Shaw  
**Public Officer:** Pauline Turville  
[www.fobkc.org.au](http://www.fobkc.org.au)

## New venue for our meetings in 2009 —

**The Leo Baeck Centre**  
**37 Harp Rd East Kew.**  
Enter via rear Car Park

Our first meeting will be at 8pm on 25th February and continue every 4th Wednesday of the month after that.

### PARKING:

There is a large car park at the rear (entrance to car park at 31 Harp Road)/  
NOTE: Parking is NOT allowed in Harp Road after 8pm.

### BY TRAM:

Tram routes 24 and 48 pass nearby at Harp Junction, a two minute walk up Harp Road.



## FRIENDS OF BOROONDARA (KEW) CEMETERY INC.

### FEBRUARY

NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO  
SPEAKER AT THIS MEETING

### MARCH

Speaker will be a member of the Carmichael family—one-time residents of the Cemetery Gatehouse

## Whispers...

*As we enter our 3rd year the Friends group is very excited about our plans for 2009. We have many and varied walks and talks scheduled.*

*Our first walk this year is also our very first Twilight walk (see below). As February can be very warm during the day we thought this would be a way to 'beat the heat', not to mention the 'spooky' factor.—it should be lots of fun!*

*Finally, on 12th March there will be a re-enactment of the first burial at the Kew Cemetery. This will be performed by a professional group and from the "whispers" I have heard it sounds truly amazing. We'd love you to join us for that event, as well as the official commemorations on Saturday, 14th March. As a member of our Group you will receive a personal invitation to attend the "Invitation Only" afternoon tea.*

*Hope to see you soon...*

## FEBRUARY TWILIGHT WALK UNTIMELY ENDS



Date: Friday, 13th February  
Time: 7:15 pm (gates locked after this time)  
Cost: \$15:00; Seniors = \$10; Members = \$8  
Meet at gatehouse, Cnr. Parkhill Road and High Street, Kew  
Bookings: Call Gail on 9762 5543  
This is one for those souls brave enough to venture into the cemetery after dark. Bring your torch (and your courage). Refreshments will be served.

## 150th Anniversary of Boroondara (Kew) Cemetery

The following events have been planned to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the cemetery.

### 12th March 2009

#### RE-ENACTMENT OF FIRST BURIAL

**What:** Evening tour re-creation of first burial of Ellen Quick  
**Date:** Thursday, 12th March  
**Time:** 7pm for 7:30 pm  
**Cost:** There is no charge—but places are limited. **Book early.**  
**Bookings essential:** - Cemetery Office Ph: 9853 7025 for details



Meet at the Gatehouse,  
Cnr Parkhill Road & High  
Street, Kew. Melways  
Ref: 45 F5

### 14th March 2009

- 1:30pm Demonstration of various stonemason techniques by Lodge Bros.
- from 2pm Music by local band
- 2:30pm Parade of horse & funeral carriage - Allison Monkhouse
- 2:45pm Talk by Chairperson of Cemetery Trustees – Charles Harkin
- 3:00pm Commemorative plaque unveiling and tree planting
- 3:30pm Afternoon Tea  
- *by invitation only*

**Date:** Saturday, 14th March

**Time:** 1.30pm onward at Boroondara General Cemetery, Cnr Parkhill Road and High Street, Kew. Melways Ref: 45F5

**Cost:** Free Event—no booking necessary

**Contact:** - Cemetery Office  
Ph: 9853 7025 for details



## DISPLAY OF MOURNING COSTUME



As a lead in to the celebration of the 150th birthday of the Boroondara Cemetery, the Trustees held this exhibition in the light-filled Daley Gallery at Trinity Grammar in early December 2008. The twenty six costumes were provided by Ann Dixon from her own extensive collection. The clothes illustrated the history of mourning costumes and customs through the ages. There were dresses and accessories, including jewellery, shawls, hats, shoes, handbags etc. The dresses were from the 1860s up to the 1960s when the wearing of black dresses became acceptable as everyday clothing. The jewellery included some fascinating pieces - jet beads, mourning brooches and, in particular, a fob chain made from plaited hair.



There was a good response from the people who came to see the exhibition on the four days it was open and on Saturday afternoon Ann gave an informative, illustrated talk about mourning customs through the ages.

Thank you to Ann Dixon and Bygone Days, the Trustees and all the members of the Friends Group for making this event such a success.

To watch Ann Dixon's interesting talk online go to  
[www.vimeo.com/3003367](http://www.vimeo.com/3003367)



### Are you a Taphophile?

Do you have an interest in graves and cemeteries? Wikipedia defines taphophilia as a *passion for and enjoyment of cemeteries*. If you have a strong interest in cemeteries (like us!) and see such places as "interesting, historical and educational", then you may be thought of as being a taphophile.

Taphophilia involves epitaphs, gravestone rubbing, photography, art, and history of (famous) deaths

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## The Miller Vault—Brighton Cemetery

Submitted by Lois Comeadow, Brighton Cemeterians

The Miller vault is the most ornate mausoleum in the Cemetery with its gothic style, although it has fallen into disrepair hopefully in the future it will be restored to its former glory, Septimus's daughter Gwendoline died aged 13 from diabetes in 1902, Septimus had the mausoleum erected with an effigy of Gwendoline and when his wife Clara died in 1910 aged 44 years her effigy too was included in the vault.



(In the style of our Cussens')

Septimus has a cross and entwining ivy on his tomb. He died in 1925 not before remarrying at the age of 62 to Helen Muriel Henderson and having a son, Ronald Nevil Damian who owned one of Australia's finest inland properties and was part owner of the domestic airline Mac Robertson – Miller.

Septimus was an inventor, the son of Henry "Money" Miller MLC, pastoralist, founder of the bank of Victoria and land speculator, he managed many of his father's station properties while living in Geelong. \*\*

In 1893 the Miller family moved to Melbourne and bought a property in Dandenong road, Caulfield called "Cantala". It was set in 15 acres and was considered a Melbourne landmark, The Millers were part of Melbourne's social set and were frequent guests at Government House. Septimus's passion was horse racing especially steeple-chasing, he was committee member of the Victoria Racing club for 37 years and chairman for 12 years. The most famous horse he owned was "Red Leap" after which he named his stables at Bundoora, these stables are still partly standing and used by the police for horse training.

The Cemeterians in conjunction with Septimus's grandson have attached a brass plaque to the Vault as many visitors are curious to know the origin. The Cemeterians are trying to find out more about the building - who built it - does someone have copies of the plans etc so that with grants, donations and fund raising this wonderful vault can be restored to its former glory.

\*\*Henry "Money" Miller has a close connection to Kew. Two streets are named after him, Henry St and Miller Gve (off High Street South)