

Cypress tree removal and tree replacement program

The Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (GMCT), which manages Coburg Pine Ridge Cemetery, conducted an extensive audit of trees across the site and has been monitoring closely the declining cypress trees in the southern section along the James Street boundary.

This audit recommended the removal of 40 trees due to the potential risk they posed to members of the public.

Removing any tree is always a hard decision, but if it is past its useful life and is a safety hazard it must be removed.

The removal of the cypresses took

place between October and November 2020.

They will be replaced by the same mix of native evergreen species that have been planted in the northern section along the James Street boundary. These natives are fast growing, and are well adapted to the location, attracting native bird life and providing seasonal interest .

The re-planting will occur in autumn 2021, which is the next planting season. This will allow for the soil to recover and any remaining roots to break down so that the new trees will have the best environment for establishing and growing well.

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Coburg cemetery. Location of mature cypresses to be removed. 14/09/2020 The Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust



A Word from the President

Well, that 2020 sure was one for the scrapbook! We saw and heard and experienced a whole lot of stuff that we'd never imagined. Like staying home all day, everyday for weeks on end. I've never cooked so many of my own meals! Coburg Cemetery came into its own, though. The community discovered it as a new spot for exercising, walking kids and dogs. And despite all the restrictions and cancellations and uncertainty, Friends of Coburg Cemetery still rocketed along, producing newsletters, a video tour, publishing the new website, researching and publishing new stories about people buried at

Coburg. Meeting in person for the AGM in February was a novel experience and it was exciting to see all the freshly laid old gravestones finally out of the shed, back where they belong. Lee and Cheryl and I have now scheduled events for 2021. See the back page of this newsletter for details and get in touch to book in for the headstone rubbing session or one of the tours later in the year. And if anyone wants to volunteer to research, write newsletter articles, present at a tour, promote the group or recruit members, please get in touch. I look forward to seeing you in 2021 and meanwhile hope you all enjoy sunny Autumn days not having to wear a mask!

Edward Thomas Code (1864 – 1918): Best known conductor in the Commonwealth



Born of Irish immigrants on the goldfields of Central Victoria, Edward Thomas Code and his three brothers started playing in brass bands while still very young. So successful were they that in a history of brass bands they are referred to as a 'Famous Band Family'. They played in the Bendigo City Brass Band where, playing tenor horn and cornet, Edward was quickly promoted to Band Sergeant.

At 21, Edward moved from Bendigo to Port Melbourne, married a Bendigo girl, Annie Payne, secured work as a picture framer and continued to play in local brass bands. He quickly rose to the position of bandmaster of the South Melbourne City Band then formed his own band, 'Code's Melbourne Brass Band'. Edward and his band shot to brass band stardom, and were promoted as the most famous band in the Southern Hemisphere as they travelled across the country winning a variety of national championships.

Edward was well known for developing bands with a high level of musical proficiency, raising the

standard for brass bands across Australia. He was a conductor of some note and a well known and respected competition adjudicator across Australia and New Zealand.

By 1903, Edward was living in Carlton where he and Annie raised four children. During World War One he volunteered to work with AIF bands at Broadmeadows Camp, skilling patriotic and heart-swelling brass bands who then embarked with their units for Gallipoli and the Western Front.

All of Annie and Edward's children played brass instruments, but only the boys were allowed to play in public. Their eldest, Edward Perceval (Percy), achieved international success with his cornet, touring the world and eventually becoming the senior conductor of the ABC Orchestra.

In his 50s, Edward was still playing, conducting, teaching and judging. He was involved in police and army bands, was the Brigade bandmaster of the Commonwealth Military Forces and conducted for the Melbourne and Metropolitan Band Association.

He died in 1918 aged 54 and newspapers reporting his death

referred to his fame, his honesty, his proficiency as a player and conductor and his services to the brass band community across Australia.



The welcome parade of the Besses o' th' Barn Band to Melbourne. The parade is being led by a combined 22 brass bands under the direction of Edward Code and is turning the corner from Collins St into Swanston St in front of the Melbourne Town Hall. (Source: Manchester Digital Music Archive, [13953](#))



Edward Code's grave at Coburg Cemetery. Methodist B, Grave 120

Migration stories: settlers from the Mediterranean



One of our members is keen to collect migration stories to feature in future walks, in our newsletter 'Buried Treasures', on our website and our Facebook page.

To begin with, she is looking for stories about people and families who came from the Mediterranean region. So many countries, so many stories – and

so many of them have yet to be told.

The countries include: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.

If you can help, please contact us at focc.group@gmail.com using the Subject line Attention: Migration Stories.

William Cawston: Convict Boy to Colonial Photographer 1827-1916

Transported from England to Van Diemen's Land, young William Cawston pleaded guilty to the theft of a gold ring, one sovereign and one shilling. Due to a previous conviction, he was sentenced to transportation for 7 years.

William arrived in Hobart Town in 1845 as a seventeen-year-old. His occupation was given as 'carpenter'. Having completed an apprenticeship in 1854 he advertised himself in the business of 'carver, glider and frame maker' in Hobart.

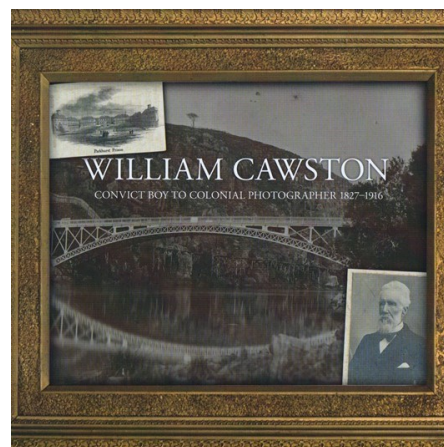
After twelve years in Hobart, William moved to Launceston where he advertised himself as a 'Carver, Gilder and Picture-frame Maker' and appeared in the electoral roll for the first time. He ventured into the new and exciting field of photography and was taking pictures of Launceston scenery and buildings when, in 1866, he received an order

for twenty-one photographic views of Launceston for the Intercolonial Exhibition in Melbourne. These images were all the same size and individually framed and for this work William was awarded a medal for Architectural and Landscape Views.

William Cawston moved to Melbourne and in the latter years of his life, resided for 6 months at the Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor in St Georges Road, Northcote. He died on 3 June 1916 and was buried at Coburg Cemetery.

A book entitled *William Cawston, Convict Boy to Colonial Photographer* authored by Christopher (Gus) Green was published in 2018. A copy of this book has been kindly donated to FOCC by Mr Rod Oliver, a member of the Northern Tasmanian Camera Club and Launceston Historical Society.

Rod reached out to FOCC to request



a grave marker be erected to acknowledge William Cawston and his photographic work. FOCC will explore how best to address this request and are open to funding ideas to assist. FOCC will also include William Cawston's story in future tours and look forward to sharing more of his story.

By Lee Anthony

Mickleham Methodist Church Cemetery: a hidden gem

This little known 'cemetery amongst the red gum trees' operated from about 1858 until about 1883. It is believed that as many as 200 people might be buried there. Mickleham is not far from Coburg so if you have forebears who lived in the area and were Methodists, you might like to explore the Craigieburn Historical Interest Group's website (<http://chig.asn.au/mickleham-cemetery/>) You will find additional information (provided by Tony Lugton) on the Australian Cemeteries website. <http://www.australiancemeteries.com.au/vic/hume/Mickleham.pdf>



Photograph by Rod Beveridge. Courtesy Australian Cemeteries Website

Join FOCC and get involved!

We are a small group with some big ideas! If you'd like to get more involved in FOCC activities we are always looking for members and people who can research, write stories, take photos, present on tours, hunt up funding sources and promote FOCC activities.

Contact us to find out more: focc.group@gmail.com

Coming soon...

18 April 2021 Headstone Impressions

Get crafty and learn how to rub an impression of some of the beautiful stone carvings found in Coburg Cemetery. Grown-ups only. All materials provided. Cost: \$25 or \$15 for FOCC members. Strictly limited numbers. Time: 2pm – 4pm, Sunday 18 April 2021.

21 August 2021 Saturday Night at the Cemetery

If walking amongst the dead in the dark doesn't freak you out, come along for a moonlit night (clear skies permitting) to hear about some of the people of Coburg Cemetery and their stories. This tour will introduce you to people not included in past tours, ranging from fascinating achievers to sad stories of lives cut short. Time: 6.30 – 8pm, Saturday 21 August 2021. Cost: \$10 or \$2 for FOCC members.

3 October 2021 Lucky Dip Cemetery Tour

This tour is a bit of everything all in one. Dip in and see what treasures we can find. This all-new tour will discover angels, remember events, take a fresh look at the cemetery environment and consider some of the people and their stories that we've never included in tours before. Time: 2pm – 4pm, Sunday 3 October 2021. Cost: \$10 or \$2 for FOCC members.

Bookings for all events are essential:
focc.group@gmail.com

New FOCC Website!

Friends of Coburg Cemetery has a fresh new website with bright photos, interesting stories, old and new maps and invitations to join us and to get involved.

We have added past newsletters, shared some biographies of people buried at Coburg and a brief history of the cemetery.

This new webpage will be easier to manage and to interact with people who are finding us online.

Check out the "Events and Links" page for what's happening and read some of the new bios about interesting lives that will be presented at some of the upcoming tours. Find our new website at www.friendsofcoburgcemetery.com



Have you renewed your membership?

It's easy to forget to pay your membership fees and we really do appreciate (and need) the ongoing support of our members.

It's also easy to find out whether you are still financial. Simply send an email to focc.group@gmail.com marking it "Attention Membership Secretary" and I'll be in touch.

Cheryl Griffin (Membership Secretary)

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