

Buried Treasures

Sydney Road Street Party



Saturday 3 March 2019

We were there – despite the heat. (It was really hot!) Our numbers were down and we struggled to make it through the day with the sun in our faces and the wind playing havoc with our noticeboard, but we were there!

And we had a great time. Many people came and chatted. Some heard about us for the first time. Some booked in to our tours (see the list on the right hand side of this page). Others told us stories about family members who are buried at the Cemetery.

Thanks to everyone who came and said hello.

Diary Dates:

CEMETERY TOURS

7 APRIL - 8PM.

THE DEAD OF NIGHT

If walking amongst the dead doesn't freak you out, come along for a moonlit tour (clear skies permitting) to hear about fascinating people and their stories and the history of this 140 year old cemetery. Cost \$10 or \$2 for members. Bookings essential.

5 MAY - 2PM.

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 members. Bookings essential.

15 SEPTEMBER - 2PM.

STREETS AND STATIONS - THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE NAMES

So who was Dare of Dare street? Jewell of Jewell Station? What about Anketell Street? Spry Street? Walker Arcade? Wander with us around Coburg Cemetery to hear some of the stories of the people behind the names of nearby streets, stations and parks. Cost \$10 or \$2 for members.

17 NOVEMBER - 2PM

POLITICS AND PUBLIC LIFE

Commemorate the centenary of the end of the biggest war the world had ever seen and hear the stories of local soldiers and their families.

Cost \$10 or \$2 for members.

AGM

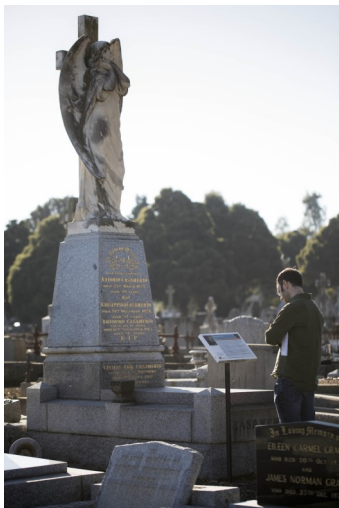
The FOCC AGM will be held at 1pm 18 August. Please come along and have your say about our future activities. Venue to be confirmed.

Around the Cemetery

If you have visited Coburg Cemetery recently, you will have noticed some changes.

- A new side fence has been installed
- Trees and shrubs are being removed around the south-west corner along Elizabeth Street to allow for new fencing to match the fencing along Bell Street.
- Trees have been planted along the front fence
- Perennial ground covers are being planted to suppress weeds and minimise weed growth.

Did you know?



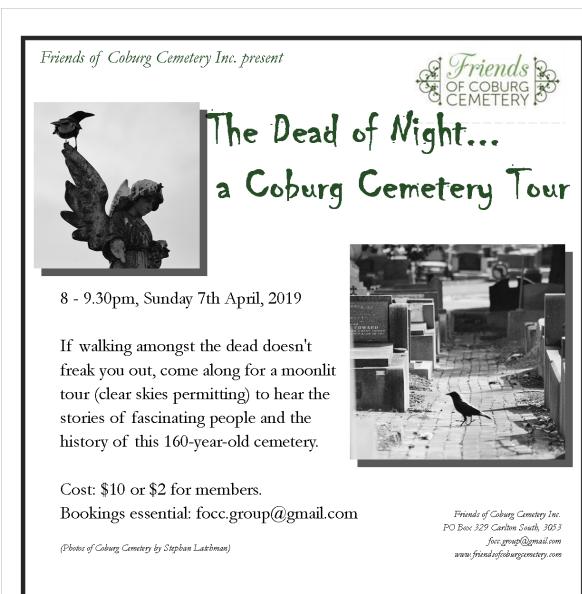
Before the cemetery came into being in 1859, it was part of a property leased by Timothy Shephard (sometimes spelled Shepherd) and known as 'Shepherd's Run'. It extended from the Merri Creek through to East Preston.

The first burials began in 1859 or 1860, we think, but the first records we have date from June 1875 with the burial of a 19 year old Irish servant, Margaret Sullivan, who died of consumption (TB).

We believe that about 250 (probably more) burials took place between 1860 and 1875.

For a time in the 1860s, the cemetery was referred to in newspaper death notices as Pentridge Cemetery. This is the same place as the Coburg Cemetery we know today. When the locality changed its name to Coburg, so did the cemetery.

Dead of Night tour



Friends of Coburg Cemetery Inc. present

**The Dead of Night...
a Coburg Cemetery Tour**

8 - 9.30pm, Sunday 7th April, 2019

If walking amongst the dead doesn't freak you out, come along for a moonlit tour (clear skies permitting) to hear the stories of fascinating people and the history of this 160-year-old cemetery.

Cost: \$10 or \$2 for members.
Bookings essential: focc.group@gmail.com

Friends of Coburg Cemetery Inc.
PO Box 329, Carlton South, 3053
focc.group@gmail.com
www.friendsofcoburgcemetery.com

William Whan - buried by moonlight

An Irishman from County Tyrone, William Whan was a veteran of the 86th Regiment of Foot (Royal County Down Regiment).

At the time of his death in July 1871 he was a retired prison officer at the Pentridge Stockade, a position he had held for 17 years.

A bachelor whose family lived in County Tyrone and New York, there would have been no mourners if it were not for his Pentridge colleagues.

He was buried by moonlight at Pentridge Cemetery (yes, they called it that for a while) because his fellow prison officers could not get permission to leave work earlier.

The funeral procession must have been quite a sight as his comrades marched from the Golden Fleece Hotel in Sydney Road to the Cemetery in full uniform.

2018 tours

What a great year we had last year!

As well as our regular cemetery tours, we welcomed a range of different groups to the Cemetery and conducted a number of sessions for individual community groups, such as scouts and school groups.

We welcome enquiries from groups and individuals. Maybe you know of a Probus group, or a University of the 3rd Age class, or an RSL sub-branch, or a sports

group that would be interested in joining us at the Cemetery for a tour.

And if you have a particular theme that you would like us to consider, please contact us. Possible themes might be cyclists buried in the cemetery, or AFL footy players, or people from a particular country like Lebanon (see our story on page 3 about the Malouf family) or China.

You can reach us by emailing us at focc.group@gmail.com



Enjoying a tour at Coburg Cemetery.

Save the date!

Headstone Impressions

Sunday 5 May 2019 2:00 – 4:00 pm

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. Bookings essential:

focc.group@gmail.com

It's on the weekend before Mother's Day and an ideal Mother's Day gift. Treat your mother to an afternoon of good company and craft at the Coburg Cemetery.



Joseph and Souses (Susan) Malouf and family outside their boot repairer's shop and dwelling at 58 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, 1918. Image H92.250/1118. Image courtesy State Library of Victoria.

Malouf family

Joseph Malouf was born at Zhaleh, Mount Lebanon in 1876. His wife Souses, also from Zhaleh, was born in 1885. Part of the Ottoman Empire, Zhaleh was such a long distance from Macedon, Victoria where Souses gave birth to her first child in December 1906.

The Malouf children are shown in the photo on the left in age order. From right to left are Joseph (their father) then Zoie (born 1906), George (born 1907), Eileen (born 1909), Leslie (born 1911), Walter David and Salen (or Samuel) Joseph (twins born 1913), Hilda (born 1915), Mary Veronica Miriam (born 1917), Souses (their mother). To the right of Joseph Malouf is a boy, believed to be the photographer's assistant, holding a slate identifying the building as 58 Lonsdale Street.

Souses (Susan) Malouf and her husband Joseph are buried at Coburg Cemetery in the Roman Catholic section, Compartment F, grave 684. Souses died on 4 July 1968 aged 83 and Joseph on 13 March 1974 aged 97.

You can find out more about Australia's Lebanese Heritage at www.alhs.org.au

Sources: The Australian Lebanese Historical Society's Newsletter no. 19, Spring 2005; Victorian Births Index; GMCT Deceased Search, State Library of Victoria Picture Collection, Ancestry family tree, Geoff Langsworth, Edenhope.

We are always interested in learning more about the people buried at Coburg Cemetery. Please contact us if you have a story to share. (focc.group@gmail.com)

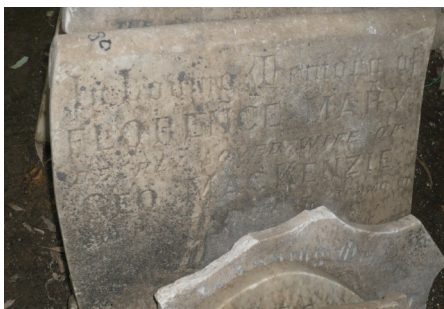
Shed stones

No, this is not a weight loss story. But it IS a good news story of sorts.

For years, the shed near our HQ has been filled with headstones, waiting to be returned to the cemetery proper and now GMCT has been granted State Government funding to move them back into the cemetery.

This means some disruption to our meetings and we have already had to remove our material from the main shed, but it's a great outcome.

The project is still at the tendering stage, but we are hopeful that work will begin sometime in late autumn-early winter. We'll keep you posted.



A Word from the President

For Friends of Coburg Cemetery, 2018 started with a hive of activity.

We wrote and printed a newsletter, advertised and filled a night-time tour and met with GMCT reps several times to sort out what was happening with various projects, plans and projections.

We got a bit stuck in the middle of the year – wintery weather put a halt to a couple of scheduled activities – and then by the end of the year we had sparkling new niche walls, new fences and new trees thriving along the Bell Street edge, thanks to the work of the GMCT.

We ran an ANZAC-themed tour to commemorate the centenary of the end of WWI and gave several community talks and tours. We agreed to GMCT's exciting plans to re-situate 400 headstones that have been languishing in the shed since the '80s.

Somewhere in there we roped in a crowd for a professional photo shoot and searched for, found and photographed many graves for people doing family trees or just looking for

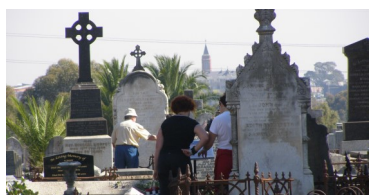
Aunty Gladys.

2019 is looking just as full. We've already promoted FOCC to a few thousand people who saw our stall at the Sydney Road Street Party in March, we've planned and advertised four events for 2019, organised to get a newspaper article in a local newspaper, progressed work on our new website and co-opted key community leaders to get involved in our work to promote appreciation for Coburg Cemetery.

We continue to seek researchers, volunteers, tour leaders, newsletter articles and people who will help us attract the community back into the cemetery.

A big THANKS to the volunteers and members who have helped out by researching and presenting throughout 2018 and to Cheryl who has put this newsletter together. I'm looking forward to another fruitful, fascinating year ahead. See you amidst the headstones sometime!

Julie Stratford



Friends of Coburg Cemetery Inc.

(A0057103A)

P.O. Box 329
Carlton South 3056
focc.group@gmail.com
www.friendsofcoburgcemetery.com

Established 2011

President/Administrator: Julie Stratford
Treasurer/Administrator: Lee Anthony

Send items for publication to
The Editor,
Friends of Coburg Cemetery,
P.O. Box 329
Carlton South 3056
focc.group@gmail.com

Get involved!

We are a small group with some big ideas!

If you'd like to get more involved we are looking for people to:

- Maintain the website and Facebook page
- Liaise with community groups
- Conduct grave searches and photograph headstones
- Research, prepare and/or conduct tours
- Prepare grant applications
- Undertake administrative tasks
- Promote FOCC activities
- Coordinate clean-ups and plantings
- help in any way you can!

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

Don't miss out! Book now for our Dead of Night Tour. Sunday 7 April.

Email us at focc.group@gmail.com

Australian raven (Corvus Coronoides). Photos by Stephan Latchman.

