



Buried Treasures

Newsletter of Friends of Coburg Cemetery
Inc. (A0057103A)

Issue Five, June 2013

Past and Future Activities

We have been very active in recent months. The Remarkable Women of Coburg Cemetery tour in late March proved so popular that we repeated the walk in early May.



Julie Stratford with a large audience. Image: David Down

In addition Julie and Lee presented a 'virtual' version of the tour to an audience at Coburg library on 1 May. It has been good to research and recognise the contributions made by these women to our society.

In April Lee conducted a tour of the cemetery showcasing its history and commenting on the various styles of memorials that can be seen. Again this event proved to be popular with some thirty attending visitors.



Lee Anthony talking to our visitors. Image: David Down

We are planning to conduct two more walks this year. The first will be a guided tour of the graves of some outstanding politicians, councillors, union officials and lawmakers of Melbourne. This walk will be held on Sunday 14 July at 2 pm. Please advertise the event as widely as possible. A brochure is available for downloading from our website. The second event will be a Halloween Night tour. If you would like to help with the planning and conduct of the event please email focc.group@gmail.com

We meet at the cemetery each third Sunday of the month at 1 pm. Come and join us as we prepare for future events. Unfortunately the electricity was not connection to the Shed at the time of our last meeting but we hope that this will be remedied before our next meeting on 21 July.

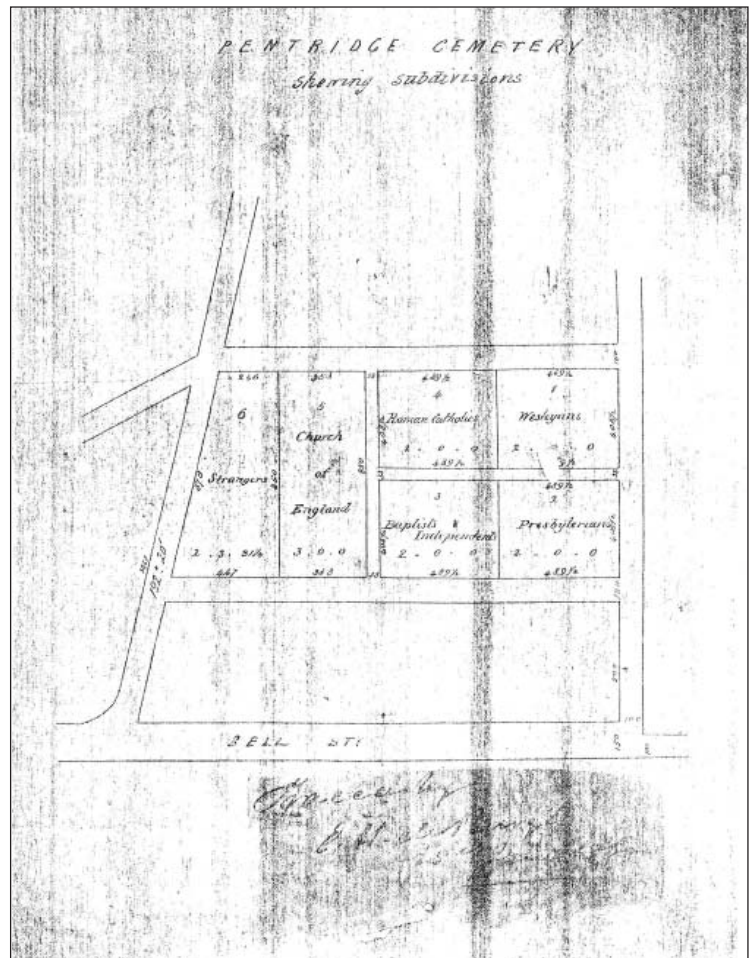
We have recently been discussing a number of future activities. We would like your input to those topics and we would welcome any other ideas. Those mentioned to date include:

- * Photograph the angels in the cemetery and organise an exhibition
- * Photograph all graves, memorials and plaques and use the images as the source material to index all names.
- * Flora & fauna surveys
- * Clean-up activities - Pull weeds/pick up glass etc
- * Research the State funerals that may have occurred at the cemetery
- * Develop grave preservation information sheet
- * Research the stonemasons who have been active at the cemetery
- * Identify the graves of WW1 service personnel which do not yet have a plaque attached
- * Make contact with other local interest groups in the Darebin City Council area to work together on common interest projects.

David Down (Editor)

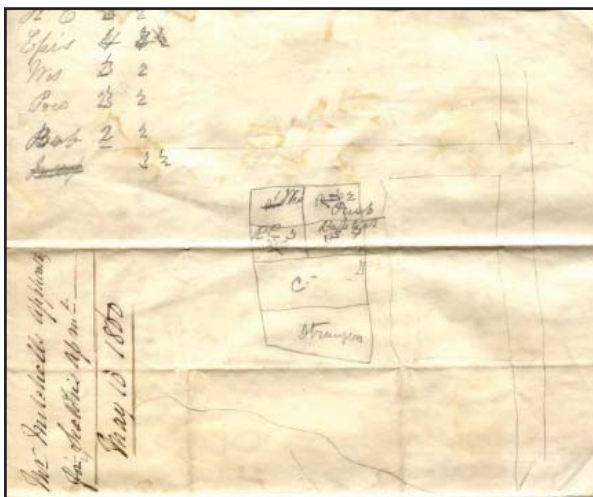
Maps and Plans

A number of maps exist which tell the story of the development of Coburg Cemetery. One of the earliest dates from 1860 when the cemetery was first planned and a little over 14 acres (5.75 hectares) had been set aside on the eastern boundary of the Coburg Township. The new Trustees had allocated compartments within the cemetery for the major denominations and an area for 'strangers'. As can be seen the cemetery in 1860 did not front Bell Street as it does today but the southern boundary aligned with Urquhart Street which bounded the Penal Stockade west of Merri Creek.

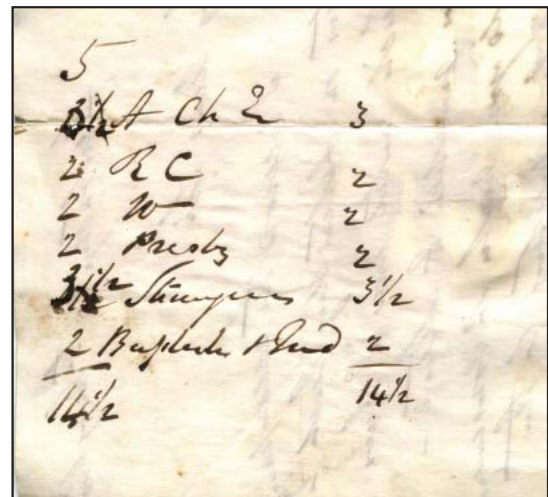


Pentridge Cemetery showing subdivisions, 1860 (?)
SLV Manuscript Collection MS13139

The Trustees discussed the allocation of the compartments as evidenced by notes scribbled on a letter from George Duncan to his fellow Trustees and the back of an application from a Mr Mitchell for the position of Sexton.

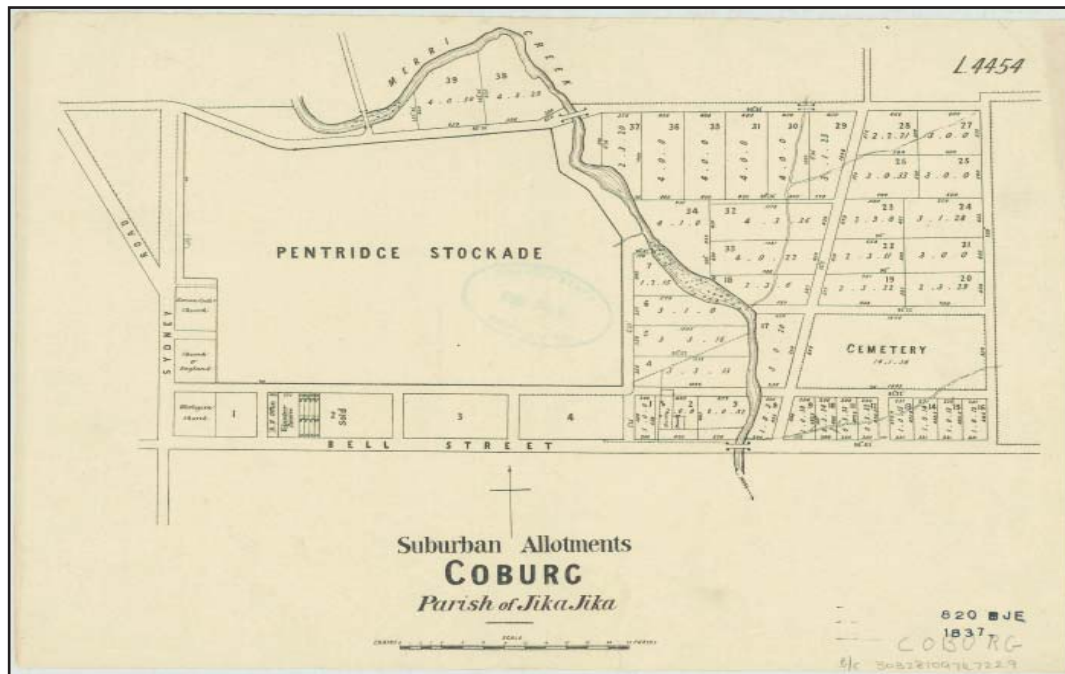


Back of application for Sexton position, 10 May 1860
Coburg Cemetery Archives - FB-S03-04



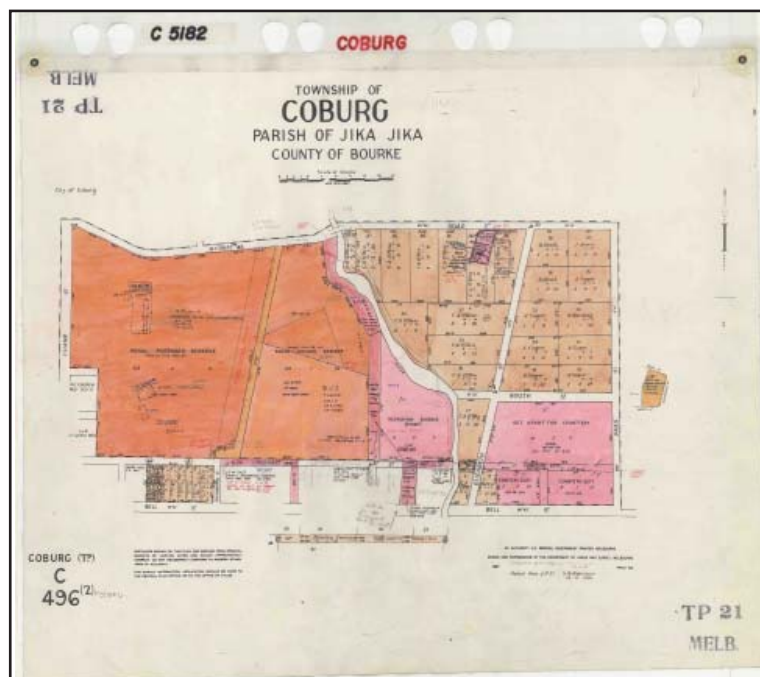
Jottings on letter from G Duncan, 16 May 1860
Coburg Cemetery Archives - FB-S03-04

The early layout of the cemetery is better seen in this Suburban Allocation map of Coburg dating from the 1870s. The allocation of housing blocks south of the original cemetery are clearly shown and numbered 9 to 16. These were later gazetted as part of the cemetery following extensive petitions from the Trustees.



Suburban Allocations, Coburg, 1870s. Source SLV Map Collection

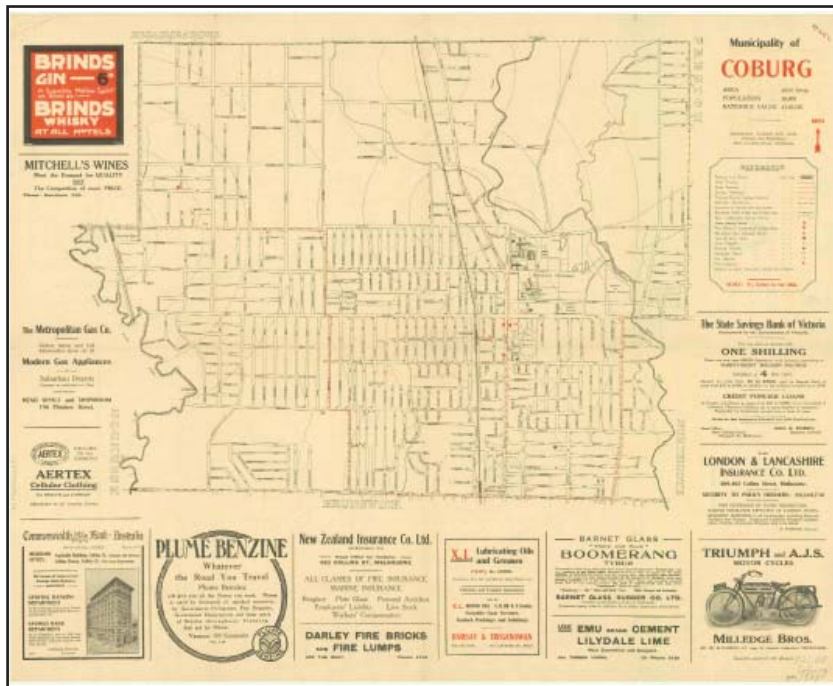
The Coburg Township Plan (Parish Map) published a little later indicates that these housing blocks are now 'cemetery extensions' except for one acre block on the south-west corner allocated to Harris. The road extension of Urquhart Street is likewise now part of the cemetery.



Coburg Township Plan, Parish of Jika Jika, C5128.
PROV Series 16171

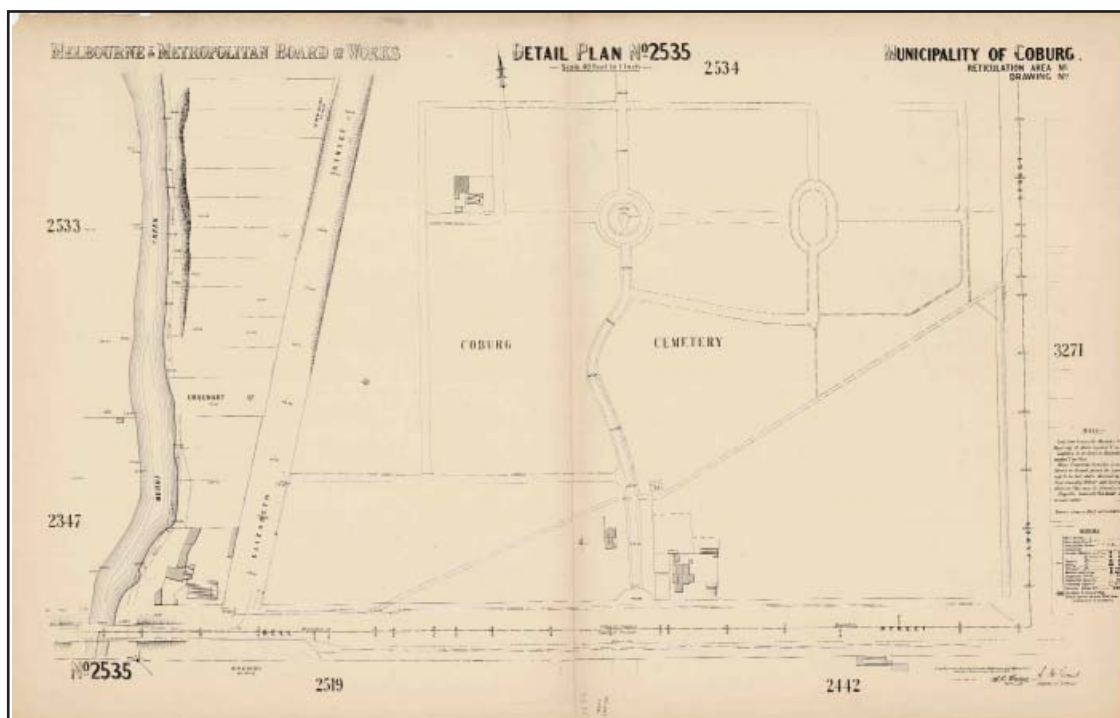
The digitised Parish maps for all of Victoria are available online by searching the Public Record Office Victoria's website.

In 1921 Anderson Gown Pty Ltd published a map of Coburg. The cemetery is shown with the current day boundaries. The section as it has been drawn would suggest that the compartments located closest to Bell Street had yet to be laid out. This may well be simply 'artist licence' so further research is needed.



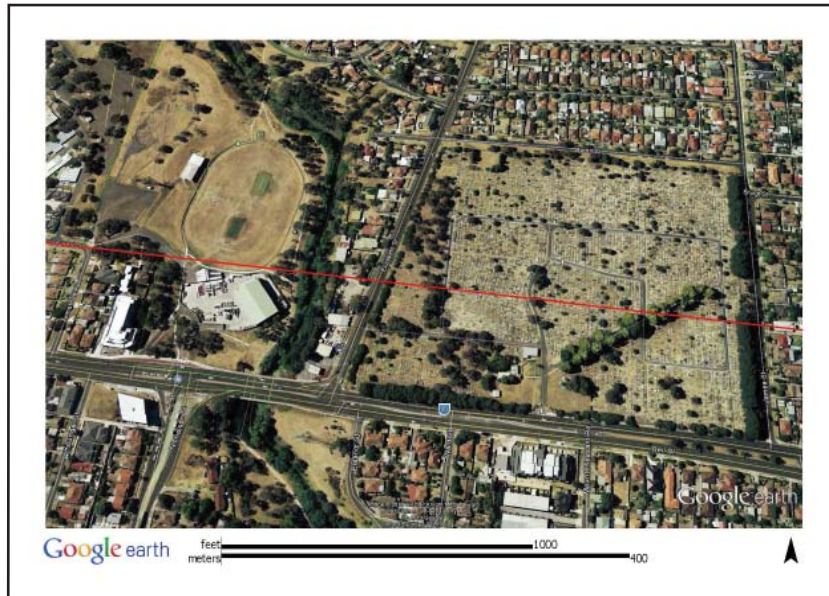
Municipality of Coburg, 1921, Anderson Gowan Pty Ltd
Source: SLV Map Collection

The Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works surveyed areas as they prepared sewerage connections. These maps have been digitized and are available on the SLV website. This 1926 plan of the cemetery shows the internal roads and buildings. The caretaker's residence, office, stables and sheds close to the gates are clearly shown. The buildings in the north-west corner have not been identified.

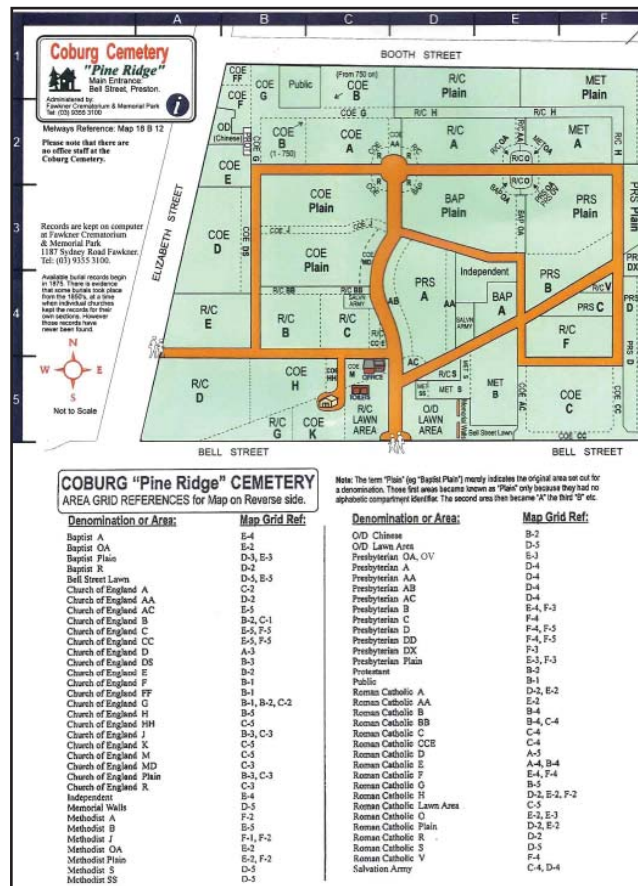


MMBW Plan 2535, Coburg Cemetery, 1926
Source: SLV Map Collection

The current layout of the cemetery can be seen on the following map and plan. The Google Earth scan has been overlaid with a line marking the approximate extension of Urquhart Street on the western side to indicate the area of the original cemetery to the north.



The various compartments of the current day cemetery are shown on this plan.



Plan of Coburg Cemetery, 2000 (?) Source: GMCT

This article has been posted on our website where the thumbnails are linked to high resolution copies of the images.

David Down, June, 2013

Our Website

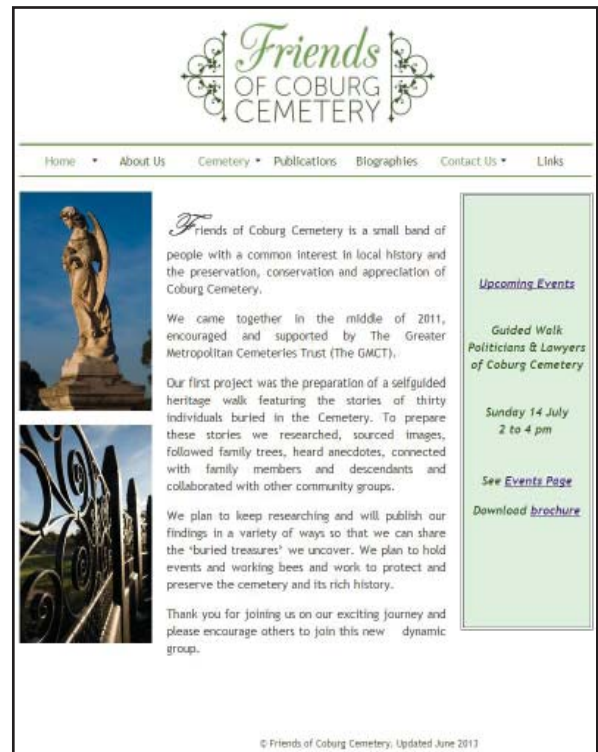
Our website has been up and running for several months now.

The site advertises our various events as they are planned and provide links to our membership forms, our storyboards and our brochures. It also contains links to the history of the cemetery and the local area and links to like organisations and historical societies. The electronic enquiry form is frequently used and we have had some very positive feedback from those using this facility.

We would welcome your suggestions for improvements and material to populate existing pages or new pages. Email your suggestions to David Down at dpd1949@gmail.com

Please tell your friends and contacts about our site and take the opportunity to promote the site and the Group as much as possible.

David Down



From Julie Stratford's blog



Cremated ashes, Vientiane. Image: Julie Stratford

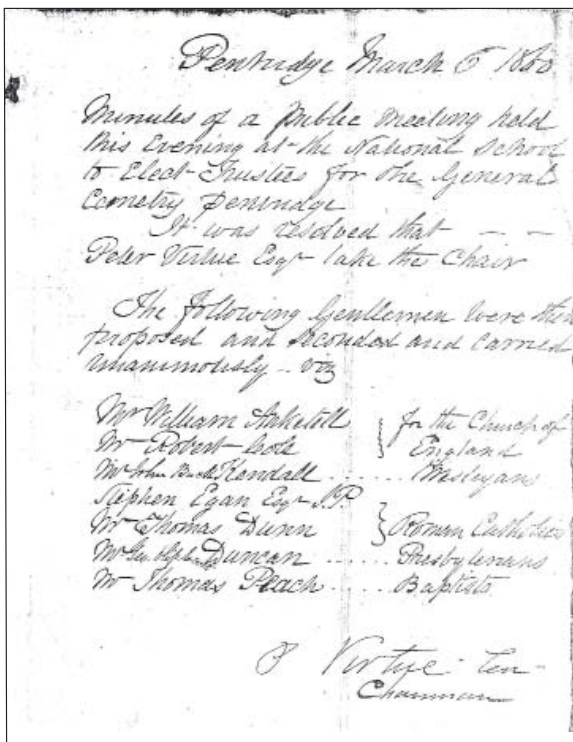
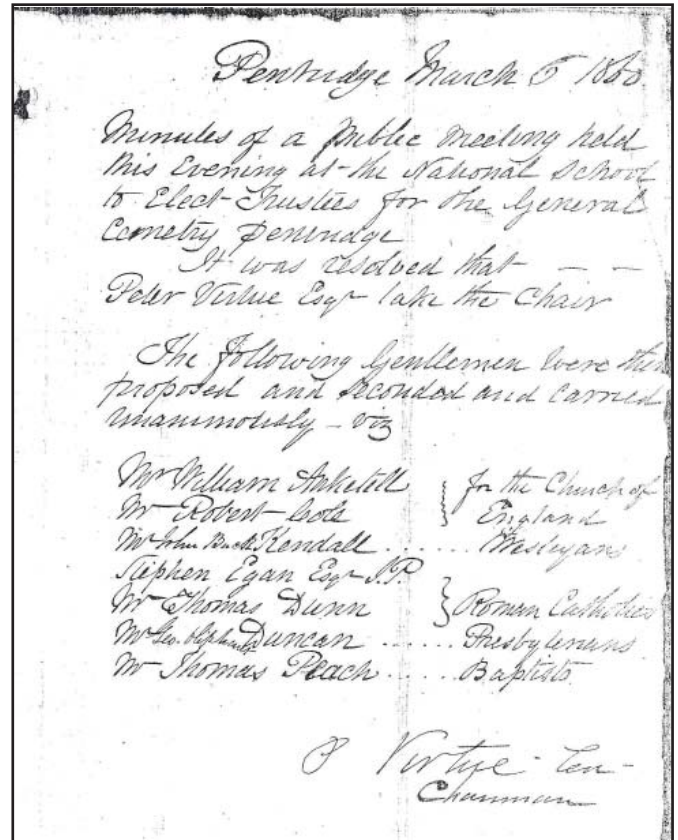
Julie, our President, is currently living in Vientiane, Laos and working for the Lao Federation of Trade Unions. You can follow her experiences and adventures by reading her blog - <http://sinhcity.blogspot.com.au>

The following snippet is taken from her latest entry.

'After cremation, some people's bone and ashes are placed in a jar (sometimes a recycled food jar with a plastic lid) and cemented into small spirit-house memorial things on pedestals with a picture and dates. No avoiding the reminder of your own mortality.'

Gems From The Archives

From the SLV Manuscript Collection MS 13139 comes this note dated 7 July 1859 from Richard Hart and George Loxton recording who was at the meeting held 'on the ground on the east side of the street this day for the purpose of fixing on the most convenient site for a cemetery.' It also records that the attendees voted unanimously 'that a new road to the north of Bell Street running East and West be the new boundary' .. 'that a new road to Newlands running north & south be the western boundary and that "Shepherds" fence be the Eastern boundary and the northern boundary be at the extent of Twenty acres.'



Also from the SLV Manuscript Collection MS 13139 is this copy of the minutes of a meeting held at Pentridge on 6 March 1860. This document records that the following Trustees of Coburg Cemetery were elected:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| William Anketell | } for the Church of England |
| Robert Cole | } |
| John Kendall | } Wesleyans |
| Stephen Egan | } Roman Catholics |
| Thomas Dunn | } |
| George Duncan | } Presbyterians |
| Thomas Peach | } Baptists |

Cemetery scenes



Poppies. Image: Lee Anthony



Grave border ceramics. Image: Cheryl Griffin



Free standing statue. Image: David Down

Buried Treasures

Friends of Coburg Cemetery
Inc. (A0057103A)

P.O. Box 329 Carlton South
3056

Email: focc.group@gmail.com

Website: www.friendsofcoburgcemetery.com

Established 2011

President: Julie Stratford

Treasurer: Lee Anthony

Administrator: David Down

GMCT liaison officer: Tanya
Tabone

Editor of Buried Treasures:
David Down

Items for publication should
be sent to The Editor, Friends
of Coburg Cemetery, P.O.
Box 329 Carlton South 3056 or
emailed to
focc.group@gmail.com

Copy deadlines for 2013:

Friday 24 May

Friday 23 August

Friday 22 November

Dates for your diary

14 July: Politicians and Lawmakers Tour

18 August: FOCC Open Day

15 September: FOCC Open Day

20 October: FOCC Open Day

31 October: Halloween Night Tour

17 November: FOCC Open Day