

# FRIENDS OF COBURG CEMETERY

CELEBRATING, CONSERVING, PROMOTING, RESEARCHING, COLLABORATING

# WHO ARE WE:

The Friends of Coburg Cemetery are a small group of volunteers that was established in 2011.

We work within GMCT's Coburg Cemetery, Bell st, Preston.

Our aim is to celebrate, preserve and create awareness and appreciation for the historic cemetery.



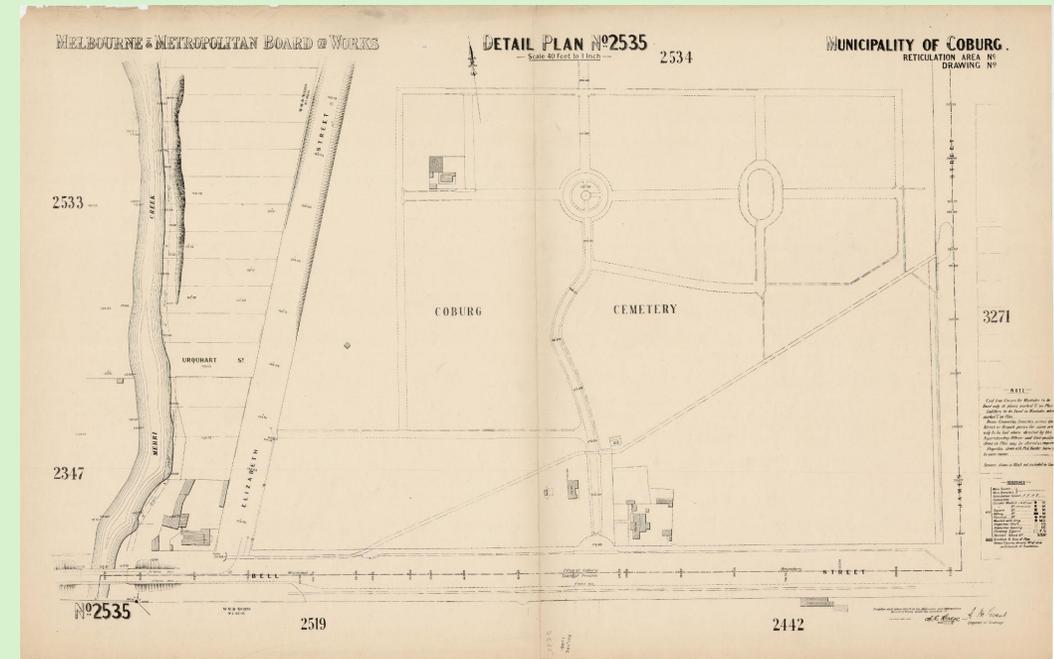


# WHAT DO WE DO:

- Run tours and events at the cemetery.
- Conduct grave searches and locate the site for both public enquiries and for the FoCC group's records.
- Research people and share their stories.
- Several newsletters a year.
- FoCC website and Facebook.

# WHAT RECORDS DO WE HAVE AND WHERE DO WE FIND THEM:

- FoCC store records and information in Google Drive. Researched individuals each have separate folders.
- GMCT's burial records.
- Trove.
- Ancestry.
- Family submitted information.



# WHAT CAN CEMETERIES DO FOR THE PUBLIC:

## Cemetery records provide detail on:

- Commemoration - Anzac Day, prominent public figures (sports, politics etc).
- Historical Education - early settlers, significant events eg. Sunshine rail disaster 1908.
- Social and Ethical Values - changes in occupations and their safety aspects, religion, burial requirements and racial views.
- Diversity - various cultures and races and how their presence within the cemetery reflects the greater community at various times throughout the area's history.

- Graves display art and architectural styles from various periods.
- Connection to family - providing records to assist with genealogical research, and providing links to cultural heritage.
- Cemeteries often act as green spaces within urban settings, (as proved very popular during Covid). A space for people, flora and fauna.
- Many Cemeteries and Cemetery Trusts provide on site facilities for members of the public and “friends of” groups to enable them to play an active role in research and upkeep. These provide an example for other cemetery trusts to follow. Good facilities and associated cemetery groups encourage and invite interested visitors other than mourners.



# IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVATION:

- Future engagement of communities in local history - this includes individuals researching their own families and groups collectively researching for others or looking into areas of historical significance.
- Keeping history alive: the good, the bad and the ugly.

# WHY CEMETERY GROUPS ARE IMPORTANT:

- Draw members of the public into the world of cemeteries and what they have to offer. In a more inviting and less morbid fashion.
- Advocate for the deceased and provide care for untended graves.
- Make connections. Provide information to families or interested people who are seeking to know more about the deceased, particularly those who are unable to attend the cemetery in person.
- A point of contact in assisting visitors to the cemetery to locate a grave, in a deeper personal sense than receiving a location and needing to find it themselves.

# WHAT FoCC HAS ACHIEVED

- Currently averaging 4 tours per year – Open House Melbourne Weekend, ANZAC Day, International Women’s Day, Sports are a few examples.
- Headstone reinstatement – Negotiations, lobbying and hands on participation in replacing and restoring headstones that sat in storage for several decades.
- Self guided heritage walk.
- Working bees – Pruning, weeding, removal of litter, cleaning graves and removing graffiti.



# Coburg Cemetery Heritage Walk

