

## Palm removal continues

The Canary Island palms that have wreaked havoc across Coburg Cemetery are slowly disappearing. A concerted effort by GMCT to clear these pests has changed the landscape. They have been poisoned, trimmed and lifted out by cranes. Only a few grey, dried stumps remain littering graves



and tilting slabs. Many have been cut down, taken away and in some cases graves have been dramatically restored. Below is a story about the Hannon family graves and their remarkable transformation back to their former smooth, clean lines and glossy stone.

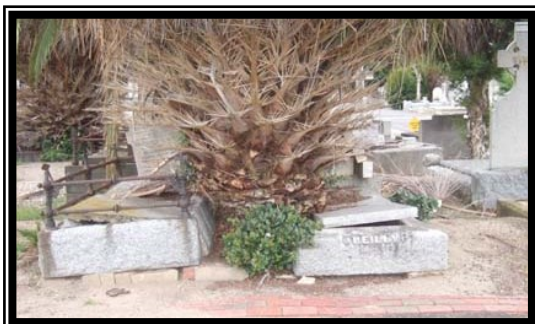
### Diary Dates:

- NEXT FOCC MEETING AND SHED DAY - SUNDAY MAY 16TH 1PM
- ANZAC TOUR DATES:  
19TH APRIL 2015  
17 MAY 2105  
21 JUNE 2015  
15 NOVEMBER 2015

## Restoring the memories

The Hannon family has long associations with Coburg. The family lived in Rennie Street since the 1800s so I was not surprised to find that there were family graves in the Coburg cemetery.

The earliest grave was purchased by the family in 1860; a second adjoining grave was purchased in 1875.



When I found the graves I was disappointed at the state they were in. A very healthy, self-sown palm tree had grown between them.

Each grave was very badly affected and I could see that this was going to be difficult and expensive to repair. Despite this I knew the situation could not be left as it was.

After contacting GMCT at Fawkner cemetery I learned that the cemetery takes responsibility for removing the tree. I had to arrange with a monumental mason to remove the tombstones so that the tree could be completely removed; the gravestone would then need to be repaired and the grave reassembled.

At first the tree was cut off at the level of the gravestones and then it was evident how damaged the graves were.

The graves were finally repaired and I am very pleased with the outcome of my efforts. It was also pleasing to learn that the cemetery insurance covered a large proportion of the costs incurred.

*By Mary Dennett*



### Inside this issue:

WWI GUIDED TOUR	1
FOCC PROJECTS	1
DIGITISING OLD CEMETERY RECORDS	2
STUDY LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORY	2
CLIPPINGS OF HISTORY	3
CLEARING PALMS	3
POPPY TILES	3
A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT	4
THE LAST WORD	4

## A Word from the President

Article

Cheers! Julie Stratford

**Buried Treasures**  
**Friends of Coburg**  
**Cemetery Inc.**  
(A0057103A)  
P.O. Box 329  
Carlton South 3056  
Email: [focc.group@gmail.com](mailto:focc.group@gmail.com)  
Website:  
[www.friendsofcoburgcemetery.com](http://www.friendsofcoburgcemetery.com)  
Established 2011  
President: Julie Stratford  
Treasurer: Lee Anthony  
Administrator: David Down  
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](mailto:focc.group@gmail.com)

## Goshawk sighting



article