

Remarkable Women Who Have Shaped Our World

The "Remarkable Women of Coburg Cemetery" tour continues to be a crowd pleaser. This September we attracted an interested crowd to wander about in the sunshine and hear stories of some of the fascinating women buried here.



This tour describes some fascinating lives and achievements. Most of these women lived through harsh times and struggled against adversity. Through their work and influence they helped shaped our community.

The tour includes...

- an outspoken barmaid with a strong sense of social justice who influenced her son John Curtin, Australia's 14th Prime Minister
- a missionary who worked with Melbourne's poorest in the slums of Richmond
- the matriarch of Coburg's famous Walker's stores
- one of the first female lawyers in Victoria

- an autobiographer who wrote a woman's view of life on the goldfields in the 1850s
- the matron at the Austin Hospital who improved healthcare standards for all Victorians
- a wartime nurse, business women, wives and mothers.

We will be running the tour again in June 2016. As with all our tours, book by emailing us.

If you are interested in getting involved we are always looking for members to help run tours.



Diary Dates:

LUNCH

- END-OF-YEAR MEMBERS LUNCH - SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER, 1 PM TO 3 PM AT THE OLD COP SHOP, 160 BELL STREET COBURG

2016 TOUR DATES

- APRIL 17 - THE ANZACS
- JUNE 19 - REMARKABLE WOMEN OF COBURG CEMETERY
- AUGUST 21 - MONUMENTS AND MASONRY
- OCTOBER 16 - LAWYERS, GUNS AND MONEY

AGM

- JULY 17 2016

Drainage and Water Damage

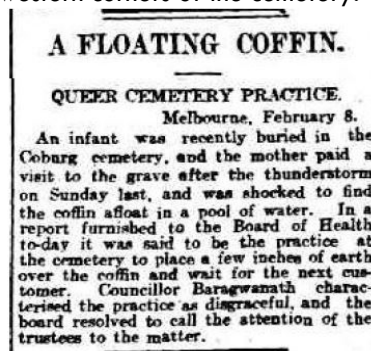
During the past twelve months we've had earthmoving equipment and large concrete pipes littering the South west corner of the Cemetery. Yarra Valley Water have been working hard to resolve some of the drainage problems underneath Coburg Cemetery. Although there is not much to see now, they have replaced pipes and re-established drainage systems.

Water damage has been a problem for the cemetery since the beginning. Erosion of soil has undercut many graves and added to their decrepitude. Deep channels have formed in the soil, running west into the Merri Creek.

This problem was worse 100 years ago. In 1911 the local papers reported on a sad situation when a mother came into the cemetery

and found her child's grave floating in a pool of water.

Although burial practices have improved dramatically since then, it's not hard to imagine how a day of rain could fill the gaps, create gutters and wash soil to the far western corners of the cemetery.



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Members' End of Year Lunch

Sunday 13 December, 12.30pm
The Old Cop Shop
160 Bell St Coburg
Email us to book a place:
focc.group@gmail.com

Friends of Coburg Cemetery Inc.

(A0057103A)

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

Established 2011

President: Julie Stratford
Treasurer: Lee Anthony
Administrator: David Down

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



The Name of the Rose

F OCC members, locals and visitors to Coburg Cemetery may have seen the heritage tea rose growing in the north eastern corner, sprawling over a 101 year old grave. Since it was spotted and reported in a Melbourne newspaper a few years ago, the rose has been keenly watched and maintained by the GMCT's horticulturalists. Although unidentified, it was thought to be very old, planted around a hundred years ago, and not tended for many, many years. Left to survive as best it could, the ragged, thorny bush sprawled and flourished.

It has now been identified by an expert from [Heritage Roses in Australia](#) as Madam Lambard.

One of many tea roses bred by the French rose breeder of the 1800s, Francois Lacharme,

Madam Lambard was released in 1877 and is still growing in gardens and cemeteries across the world. It is a large bush with prolific pink blooms and a mild scent. It is also known as the Cemetery Rose because it grows well in dry, untended places. The long canes are covered in spiky thorns that provide good protection for birds' nests.

Although we don't know the family who is now responsible for this plot, the GMCT and Friends of Coburg Cemetery plan to keep watch over this heritage delight and help it survive another 101 years.



Wildlife Watch

The palms have gone, the earthmoving equipment and cranes are gone, the cemetery is cleaner, neater, in better condition than it has been for many years. And here come the wildlife!

Recently seen in this ten hectare public space:

- A family of laughing kookaburras
- A noisy group of pied currawongs
- Several blue-tongue lizards
- Several foxes
- Many rabbits



A Word from the President

Preparing this year's President's Report for the August AGM, I found myself going back over meeting notes and newsletters to find we've had a really busy year! We've run 5 successful tours and there's one more to go this month. We've kept the wheels turning on other projects, increased our membership and raised our role in the local community. Well done us! Now to look forward to the year ahead.

We've planned four guided tours for 2016 - see the list on the front page of this newsletter.

We'll also be making a concerted effort to get more active members who share our interest in protecting and promoting Coburg Cemetery. We will participate in Clean Up Australia Day again and we plan to get involved in other community activities. We are participating in the [Coburg Quest](#) this month and will be consulting with the Trust as their plans for new buildings and plantings are designed and executed.

The **members' end-of-year lunch** is on Sunday 13th December at 12,30 at The Old Cop Shop, 160 Bell Street Coburg. Hope to see you all there. Cheers! Julie