

Ron and Ruby - the "Tossing Testros"

The "Tossing Testros" were internationally renown performers from Melbourne. Ron and Ruby Maloney juggled, balanced, amazed and entertained audiences around the world in the early 1900s at royal command performances, casinos, circuses and theatres in Europe, South Africa, Morocco and across Australia.

Both were born into show business families. Ruby was the daughter of Madam Zinga Lee, fortune teller, and Frank Cartwright, the actor, acrobat and dancer who was murdered at Eastern Market in 1899. Ruby worked as a dance hall girl until she eloped at 15 with Ron Maloney, a comedian and juggler who had been onstage since he was a boy. Taking on a more exotic name, Ron and Ruby became a famous comedy, acrobatic and juggling act, famous for juggling balls and plates, and balancing a piano, rickshaw, a table set with glassware balanced on billiard cues on his head, wearing elaborate costumes and thrilling audiences. One newspaper report in 1911 described an astounding feat where Ron played a mandolin while balancing a piano and



his wife, who played the piano, on his head. They were described as "one of the best exhibitions of balancing and juggling feats ever witnessed in Australia".

Ron and Ruby had several children and some of their descendants are still in the limelight. Their son Rex became a famous comedian, entertaining WWII troops: Stacey Testro, the film producer and manager is their granddaughter and another grandchild, Warren Maloney, who provided much of the information for this article and who features in the Dead and Buried podcast episode about the Eastern Market Murders, has been Mayor of both Brunswick and Hepburn.

Ron and Ruby's grave is not far from where Ruby's mother, Ann, the fortune teller, is buried. These are just a few of the fascinating stories of the thousands of people buried at Coburg Cemetery.

Diary Dates:

CEMETERY TOUR

THE FINAL CEMETERY TOUR SCHEDULED IN 2017 IS NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATIONS:

17 SEPTEMBER - 'THE GOLD RUSH COMES TO COBURG'

THE GOLD RUSH OF THE MID 1800S BROUGHT THOUSANDS OF HOPEFULS TO VICTORIA. THIS TOUR WILL TELL STORIES OF EUREKA STOCKADE REBELS, AUTHORS, MINERS AND BANKERS NOW RESTING AT COBURG CEMETERY.

COST: \$10 OR \$2 FOR FOCC MEMBERS. BOOKINGS FOCC.GROUP@GMAIL.COM

AGM

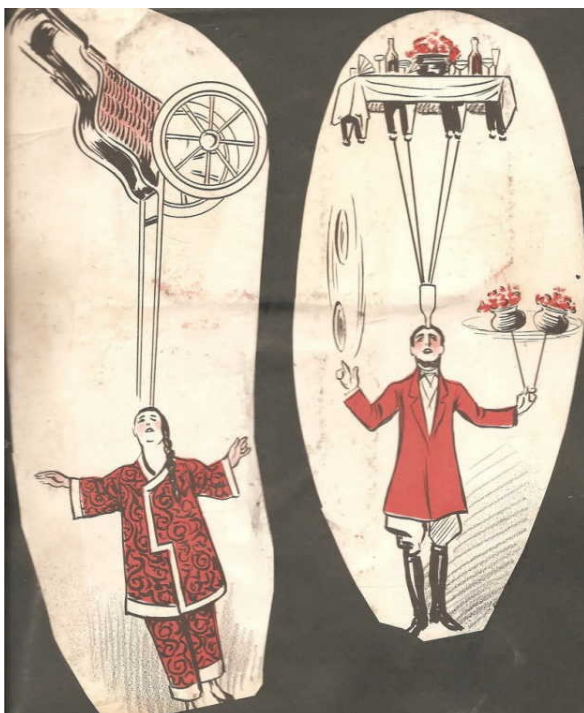
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE COMBINED WITH OUR AUGUST 'SHED DAY'. COME ALONG AND GET INVOLVED!

- 20 AUGUST 2017 ON SITE AT COBURG CEMETERY

SHED DAYS

1 PM, THIRD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH (EXCEPT DECEMBER AND JANUARY).

- 20 AUGUST (AGM)
- 17 SEPTEMBER
- 15 OCTOBER
- 19 NOVEMBER
- AND STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS OF THE END-OF-YEAR PARTY IN DECEMBER!



Willy fountain restored to its former glory



Built in 1882, the historic landmark fountain at the Williamstown Cemetery has been restored to its former glory as part of a joint funding initiative between Victoria's Heritage Restoration Fund and GMCT. Drop in for a tour or to just soak up some early Melbourne maritime history.

2017 Cemetery tours



We have now run three of the four cemetery tours planned for 2017. In February we ran the "History of Coburg Cemetery" tour and in May the "Lawyers, Guns and Money" tour about gangsters and victims and the law. Despite wintry weather, the Monuments and Headstones tour ran in July with a small crowd of dedicated cemetery buffs.

Apart from the Friends having a ball with these tours, we attract lots of people who might otherwise never considered the value of Coburg Cemetery as a source of interest, of local history and a lovely walk in the sun. Money raised from these tours funds our webpage, printing costs, catering and incorporation fees.

During our final tour for 2017 we will meet some of the "residents" who were lured to the Victorian goldfields and its promises of riches and success.

GMCT visit to FOCC

Dropping in to our April meeting, GMCT representatives David and Amanda filled us in on current plans for plantings, buildings, a new niche wall and what's happening with the gravestones that have been sitting in the shed for a several decades.

We are now working together to establish a system for funding and

contracting the work to move the "shed stones" back onto their graves, although the plan will take 30 years to implement.

A new niche wall is planned but the location is still uncertain and families will need to be contacted.

We are planning a gardening working bee to plant a range of ground-covers around the cemetery in Spring. Watch this space or check our website to find out how to get involved.

Friends of Coburg Cemetery Inc.

(A0057103A)

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Established 2011

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

Send items for publication to
The Editor,
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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:

- Prepare and edit this newsletter
- Maintain the website
- Website and Facebook page
- Liaise with local community groups
- Grave searches and photograph headstones
- Research, prepare and conduct tours
- Prepare grant applications
- Undertake administrative tasks
- Promote FOCC activities
- Coordinate clean-ups and plantings

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

RESEARCHERS WANTED

HELP! We need researchers to dig up information for our next tour. If you have access to the internet and ancestry.com and can spare a few hours over the next few weeks, email us on focc.group@gmail.com.