



Friends of St. Kilda Cemetery

# Newsletter

## Friends of St Kilda Cemetery Inc

October 2015

### In This Issue

- Committee News
- A Call for Volunteers
- Recent Tour Highlights
- James Liddell Purves, Lawyer
- Future Events
- Other News
- Become a member of the Friends
- Thank you

### Contact Us

Email: [info@foskc.org](mailto:info@foskc.org)

Telephone: 9531 6832 or 9817 4896  
(Secretary)

Web: <http://www.foskc.org>

Mail: PO Box 261, St Kilda Vic 3182

## Welcome to our newly styled newsletter

---

### Committee News

At the conclusion of the AGM held on 20 September 2015, the Committee consisted of:

President (vacant)

Vice President – Elizabeth Hore

Acting Secretary – Elizabeth Hore

Treasurer – John Hulskamp

Committee member – Pearl Donald; Meni Christofakis

---

### Call for Volunteers to assist us

**WE HAVE SEVERAL SPOTS TO FILL ON COMMITTEE AND WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US.** We need assistance in preparing the newsletter, putting together a new Facebook page, organizing and assisting on tours and many other interesting and challenging things.

Cemeteries are a significant part of our community – history, art and sculpture, architecture, social significance, family history, and horticulture, are all found there, and much more...

Tours and their planning are enjoyable and interesting...and research work can be very gratifying...we would love your input and assistance.

**COME AND HELP THE FRIENDS BE A WONDERFUL HISTORICAL GROUP.**



*For more information on Ferguson & Urie stained glass manufacturers see link below*

<https://fergusonandurie.wordpress.com/>

This particular window at St John's Anglican Church, Ballan is in memory of Juliet Vivian Lyon, daughter of Colonel Joseph Anderson. Juliet laid the foundation stone for the church. She died on 16 March 1874 and is buried together with her parents at St Kilda Cemetery

Buried CE B 0117

## Recent tour highlights

**Gone but not forgotten Tour** – 23 August – Twenty people enjoyed this bright and entertaining tour in wonderful weather and visited a series of notables that we have not talked about for many years, including Colonel Joseph Anderson, Edmund FitzGibbon, and James Liddell Purves who is the subject of the Featured Article below. The tour was enhanced by photos of Ferguson & Urie stained glass church windows erected in memory of many of the deceased.



### **Seniors Festival Tour, Notable Interments** – 6 October

In spite of a forecast maximum temperature of 35 degrees, 14 intrepid seniors braved the blustery conditions to visit the graves of some of the many notable people buried in the cemetery and to learn about their lives. They were particularly interested to learn of people they had heard of but knew little about such as Alfred Felton, who left a large bequest to the National Gallery of Victoria, and Baron von Mueller who was the first government botanist and director of the Botanic Gardens.

Among the women's graves visited were those of Joan Richmond, 'racing car driver and animal lover', who achieved great success in motor racing in England in the years leading up to the second world war, and Caroline Hodgson, better known as Madame Brussels, who was, and remains, Melbourne's best known brothel owner. The tour finished on an elevated note with a visit to the grave of Katherine Mulquin, an Irish Sister who arrived in Melbourne with six others in December 1873 and founded the Presentation Convent and College in Windsor.

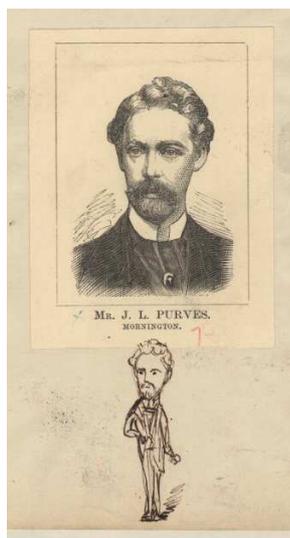


## Featured Article

**JAMES LIDDELL PURVES, Lawyer**

Buried CE B 0255 25/11/1910

“The Bully of the Bar”



Purves was born on 23 August 1843 in Swanston Street, Melbourne, the eldest son of James Purves and his wife Caroline. His father was an early Victorian colonist from Berwick upon Tweed who became a station owner and race horse breeder near Western Port.

Purves attended several Melbourne schools, but his health was poor and he was sent to Europe in 1855 to complete his education. His diary of that voyage to London was later published as “A Young Australian’s Log” (1856).

In 1861 he matriculated and entered Trinity College, Cambridge to study medicine, but soon changed to law at Lincoln’s Inn, London. In 1865 he was called to the Bar and, in December 1866 on his return to Melbourne, was admitted to the Victorian Bar.

His varied education produced quick intelligence, a fluent and often brilliant tongue, and great charm. Although privately a kindly man to whom many younger colleagues turned for assistance, Purves was notoriously brusque with witnesses, and gained himself a reputation as a bully. When a doctor whose reputation he had impugned in court later knocked him into the gutter in Collins Street, public sympathy was not all with the lawyer. His obituary included a circumstance in which Purves had verbally abused his legal opponent in court with personal attacks on that lawyer’s mother, reducing that lawyer to tears, and

*For more information on James Liddell Purves, see Australian Dictionary of Biography*

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/purves-james-liddell-4419>

Also see Trove for many newspaper articles concerning James Liddell Purves

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/>

resulting in the hearing being adjourned and fresh counsel being appointed. Letters in newspapers called him a brute, who could make women weep and weak men collapse and causing judges to say they would commit him for contempt.

All that being said, he was respected at the Victorian Bar as a leader and inspiration. He was counsel for the Argus and The Age, and worked tirelessly for the Australian Natives' Association, which, despite his and others' claims, he did not found.

He was a man of extravagant habits and spent all he earned by his profession. Mosspennoch, 36 Clarendon Street, East Melbourne (near Hilton Hotel) was built in 1881 for James Liddell Purves, QC and was designed by Charles Webb. Purves lived there until 1903 when he moved to new premises and the property became a boarding house. Inside was a noteworthy library befitting an eminent lawyer.



Photo: Mosspennoch

Purves was prominent in Victorian sporting circles as an owner of fine race-horses, a champion shot, and a keen lawn-tennis player and yachtsman. In 1875 he married Annie Lavinia, daughter of R Grice; she died in childbirth, and in 1879 he married Eliza Emma, daughter of W A Brodribb.

He had one son by his first marriage (Godfrey Liddell Purves, died at Gallipoli) and two sons and three daughters by the second. A son from his second marriage William Richard Walter Purves died at Gallipoli 27 April 1915. Pte WRW Purves was killed on the second day after the landing at Gallipoli under Captain Clement. Purves went out with a group of others and did not come back and was presumed to have been killed. His mother Eliza moved to England, looking for him in vain and subsequently died in UK. Both sons and Eliza are commemorated on the grave memorial.

Purves died on 24 November 1910.

For more information, search the Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial website

<https://www.awm.gov.au/>

Webpage for Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery

[www.kensalgreen.co.uk](http://www.kensalgreen.co.uk)

Webpage for Brighton Cemeterians

[www.brightoncemeterians.org.au](http://www.brightoncemeterians.org.au)

For more information on Samuel Thomas Gill see Australian

Dictionary of Biography

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/gill-samuel-thomas-2096>

Also State Library of Victoria

<http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/>

---

## Future events - forthcoming TOURS

**PLEASE NOTE: The Trust has provided portable toilets in the Cemetery for use during tours until such time as toilets are repaired.**

**A Mixed Plot**, 2.00pm Sunday 29 November...come and visit some of the highlights of the year, and a few new finds, led by Elizabeth Hore. Tour bookings: Ring Pearl 9531 6832.

---

## Other news

**Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery** (London UK) have a new and up to date Facebook page. This is one of the oldest cemeteries in London and one of the Magnificent Seven. Noted burials include Anthony Trollope, Isambard Kingdom Brunel and many other notables. Find their page on Facebook

**Brighton Cemeterians 160<sup>th</sup>**...Congratulations to Brighton for a most successful event on 18 October 2015.

**St Kilda Cemetery** is also celebrating its 160<sup>th</sup> and the Friends are organizing for old photos of the Cemetery to be loaded onto our web page.

**St Kilda Cemetery AGM** – We welcomed Gabriel Hermes, President of Prahran Historical and Arts Society who provided a comprehensive history of the first burial in the cemetery.

**S T Gill, Painter of the Goldfields.** Those who visited the wonderful exhibition at State Library Victoria might wish to visit Gill's grave at Melbourne General Cemetery. Gill died on the GPO steps, a pauper and the HSV organized for this headstone to be placed on his grave.



**Cemetery talks** – Elizabeth Hore (Vice President) spoke on the Cultural Significance of Cemeteries to our Community at Emerald Hill Library on Saturday 15 August and at AIGS, Blackburn on Saturday 3 October.

St Kilda Cemetery is located on the corner of Dandenong Road and Hotham Street, ST KILDA EAST

---

## Become a member of the Friends...

### **PLEASE COME AND JOIN US...**

Membership costs \$15, includes free tours throughout the year and newsletter. Email [info@foskc.org](mailto:info@foskc.org) for a membership form.



St Kilda Cemetery

---

## And finally...a Thank You...

On their retirement from Committee, the Friends would like to extend thanks and appreciation to Kay Rowan (former President and long serving committee member) and Mary Reid (former Secretary) for their many years of hard work and support to the Group, both on committee and as tour leaders and many other roles. Mary will still be leading tours, so we haven't lost her entirely, and we hope Kay will find time to assist us on special projects in the future. We wish them both well...