



Newsletter Friends of St Kilda Cemetery Inc

October 2016

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St Kilda Cemetery

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Welcome to the October 2016 newsletter

Urgent Call for SECRETARY to assist us

At the AGM held on Saturday 8 October we did not receive a nomination for the role of SECRETARY. We particularly need a **SECRETARY** or at the very least a **MINUTES SECRETARY**. If we cannot find someone to fill either of those roles, the Friends will need to consider folding. For more details contact Elizabeth Hore, Vice President, info@foskc.org

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



Printing of newsletter



Printed copies of our newsletters are provided courtesy of
SCOTSBURN NURSERIES

www.scotsburn.biz

The Friends thank Scotsburn. Their kind assistance is most
appreciated.

Contributions to our newsletter are
welcomed. Email to info@foskc.org.

Recent tour highlights

Talk at Emerald Hill Library, Saturday 16 July 2016.

Approximately 17 people enjoyed this free event with morning tea and heard Elizabeth Hore speak on *St Kilda and Boroondara Kew Cemeteries – Sculpture, Beauty and History*. A beautiful visual talk on these magnificent cemeteries and their residents!

Law Week Tour, repeat, Sunday 31 July 2016

What a Way to Go – unusual deaths and a history of the Melbourne morgue

20 People who could not join us on the May Law week tour, enjoyed the repeat of this unusual tour for Law Week 2016, visiting the graves of Edmund Samuel Parkes, Violet Edwards, Henry Cawsey, Frederick Pirani and Crawford Mollison (coroner's surgeon, forensic pathologist) and others. Thank you all who attended for making both the May and July tours so enjoyable this year. Two great groups!

Monumental St Kilda Tour with Geoff Austin, Sunday 28 August 2016

We were so pleased to have Geoff give a terrific tour for 15 people on a brilliant spring day. Geoff spoke about some of the larger (and highest) memorials in the cemetery and had a most appreciative and curious audience who were keen to hear more.

Lawyers and Judges Tour, Sunday 25 September 2016

12 People attended this tour on a sunny but slightly chilly afternoon. All enjoyed hearing some amusing anecdotes about lawyer and judges, and graves visited included Sir Thomas A'Beckett, George Kerferd, James Liddell Purves, Richard Ireland and Rupert Millane. Part 2 of this tour will be held in latter part of 2017.

AGM and Talk, Pere Lachaise Cemetery Paris and its Famous Residents, Saturday 8 October 2016

Thank you all who attended especially on a Saturday morning when people have so much to do. A great turn out at Emerald Hill Library.

Seniors Festival Tour, 11 October 2016

16 people attended this walk on a sunny, but slightly cold day. Fortunately the wind held off. The group were very appreciative and for many it was their first visit to St Kilda Cemetery. Attendees came as far away as Werribee and enjoyed visiting the Staunton family graves, as well as some of our most notable residents such as Albert Jacka, Sir Frederick Sargood who built Rippon Lea, Alfred Felton, Baron von Mueller and the racing driver, Joan Richmond. Thank you Mary Reid and Pearl Donald for leading this successful free event.



Enjoying Geoff Austin's Monumental St Kilda Tour, Sunday 28 August



Pere Lachaise Cemetery, Paris



Seniors Festival Tour, 11 October

Featured Article

Frances Georgina Watts (Ina) Higgins (1860-1948)

Died 26 October 1948

Buried: Bap B 0258



9 A portrait of sister Ina, gentle and pensive. As the youngest daughter, it was her duty to look after the parents in their old age.

Feminist, Landscape gardener, Suffragist

Always known as "Ina", Frances Georgina Watts Higgins was born in Fermoy, County Cork, Ireland in 1860, the daughter of John and Anne (nee Bournes) Higgins. She arrived in Melbourne on the *Eurynome* on 12 February 1870 with her mother and four siblings, Henry Bourne (politician, judge), George (civil engineer), Samuel Ormsby (doctor) and Anna Maria. An older sibling James Henry had died in Ireland of consumption, and a younger brother Charlie, aged 6, died on the voyage and was buried at sea. Her father the Reverend John Higgins and her other brother John came out later that year.

Ina's mother saw education as a way forward for both her sons and daughters, and Ina and her sister were enrolled as students at Presbyterian Ladies' College in Albert Street, East Melbourne in 1875, along with Vida Goldstein, the future suffragist leader. She sat her matriculation exam at Melbourne University in 1878 but did not continue on for further studies.

For a while she worked as a governess in New South Wales, however by 1891 she had returned to Melbourne and signed the Women's Suffragist Petition, listing her address as Killenna, Malvern. From 1894 she was the honorary secretary of the United Council for Women Suffrage and sat on its executive committee from 1900.

By 1899 Ina had decided to study horticulture. With the help of Mrs Laura Luffman (a suffragist and wife of the first principal of Burnley Horticultural College) Ina approached Charles Luffman because she wanted to learn how to prune roses and convinced him to allow women students – an action which horrified the Board of Horticulture at the time. It was indeed a most scandalous event...the women came alone without chaperones. Luffman agreed on the condition that Ina find six interested women to join her. She found 72, and in the end 25 women

Photo: Ina Higgins in "John Higgins the Rebel Judge" by John Rickard, 1984.

A thank you to Sandi Pullman from Burnley Horticultural College, for raising interest in Ina on one of our tours and asking for assistance to find the grave.

Sources:

Strewth! Women gardeners, with no chaperone!, Sandi Pullman, Garden Drum, January 18, 2016

<http://gardendrum.com/2016/01/18/strewth-women-gardeners-with-no-chaperone/>

Ina Higgins obituary:

<http://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/higgins-frances-georgina-ina-14248>

The Australian Women's Register, Higgins, Frances Georgina Watts (Ina) (1860-1948)

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/biogs/AWE5420b.htm>

enrolled. The women attended on two half day afternoons on Tuesday and Friday. The course consisted of lectures, demonstrations and limited practical hands-on work (no heavy work was allowed). Luffman also taught the women about small farm production with the idea that they could run their own small business. On 20 December 1900 Table Talk reported that Ina had received the highest marks, therefore first place in the school.

Ina went on to establish herself as Australia's first professional women landscape architect, whilst maintaining a prominent role as a political activist. Her list of known designs is impressive. In 1903 her brother Henry Bourne Higgins purchased Heronswood in Dromana. Ina's niece, Nettie Palmer records in her papers that Ina renovated the garden "designing a garden that wound into the bush". In 1906-07 she became involved in the design of the gardens at the Royal Talbot Epileptic Colony, Clayton. At the same time she became secretary to the Women's Work Exhibition held at the Melbourne Exhibition Buildings in 1907. She then returned to England for a well-deserved rest.

In 1911 she was employed to re-design the garden at Hethersett, Burwood which was purchased in 1938 by PLC. Through her many connections, including Vida Goldstein, Ina was appointed to assist with the planting schemes for two new model towns in the Murrumbidgee district, Leeton and Griffith.

However her biggest project was the establishment of the Women's Rural Industries Co-operative farm in Mordialloc. The farm was 14 acres and a cooperative was formed where women and girls who wanted to work in the rural industries could learn skills that would help them get a job. The scheme had the support of Burnley School of Horticulture. There was hope that the scheme would not fail, but fail it did for many reasons. Ina, who had to care for her ailing mother at the time, could not spend as much time as she would have liked at the farm.

Ina's last project at the age of 74 was to write an article entitled *Women and Horticulture* for The Centenary Gift Book (1934) which celebrated the first one hundred years of settlement in Victoria. It was a celebration of women's pioneering spirit and contribution. Ina's contribution provided a brief history of training provided for women in Victoria from the introduction of women into the Burnley School of Horticulture in 1899, when she studied there, and noted that in 1934 "in garden designing, which is perhaps the highest branch of horticulture, women have attained conspicuous success in England, America and Australia".

During her life, Ina mixed and worked with some talented people including Vida Goldstein, Hyde Champion, Adela Pankhurst, Walter and Marion Griffin, Miles Franklin, Katharine Susannah Prichard and Charles Brogue Luffman,

She never married and lived in the family home Killenna in Malvern until she died in 1948. Unfortunately there are fragments only surviving of the gardens she designed.



Women hoeing at Burnley c1900
Source University of Melbourne
Burnley Archives



Ina Higgins 1919, National Library of
Australia, nla.pic-vn3584625

New Committee for 2016-17
Elizabeth Hore, Vice President
Robin Douglas, Treasurer
Pearl Donald and Gabriel Hermes,
Ordinary Committee Members

Future Tours and events

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

History Week Tour: A Mixed Plot, 2.00pm Sunday 23 October 2016, meet at main gates, Dandenong Road. Cost \$10; members free. Bookings: info@foskc.org or tel: 9531 6832

AGM 2016 report from Vice President

This has been a very difficult year for Friends of St Kilda Cemetery.

At the 2015 AGM we lost both our President Kay Rowan (who had served on committee for many years) and also Mary Reid, Secretary. At the conclusion of the AGM I volunteered to be Acting Secretary in addition to Vice President as it is difficult for the Friends to function without a Secretary.

We were further saddened at the death of John Hulskamp in January. John had served as treasurer since the Friends' inception and his death was a great shock to all. Our sympathies were extended to Tanya and John's family and many friends. I am sure he is greatly missed in his many community roles.

We were fortunate indeed to find a new treasurer Robin Douglas from our members' ranks. Rob has been of significant assistance to myself and committee over the balance of 2016 in organising banking, the printing and distribution of our newsletter (thanks to Scotsburn Nurseries) and so many other things. To be honest, I don't know what I would have done this year without Rob's sensible and wonderful assistance.

On a bright note we have had very successful tours this year with wonderful attendances. Guest tour leaders have included Mary Reid (Notable Women Tour) and Geoff Austin (Monumental St Kilda)...both terrific tour leaders enjoyed by all who attended. Our tour for Law Week was so successful and overbooked that it was repeated at the end of July. We have had tours on the last Sunday of most months since September 2015.

We have assisted many people over the year with grave look ups and have had some very interesting people attend tours who have had family or people of interest to them buried in the cemetery and who have provided us with much information for the use of FOSKC in talks, newsletter and future tours. Thank you to all who have assisted us in this way.

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

As well as tours, I have spoken to AIGS and also spoken at Emerald Hill library twice. Talks are a great way to raise interest in the group and encourage people to join us or to come to our tours.

Whilst we have had some problems with our website, we now have a Facebook page (thank you Vivienne Dacey for setting it up) and that has created much interest and has been a good source of advertising. Find us on Facebook...Residents and Friends of St Kilda Cemetery. We post our tours and events on this page, plus any other news as it occurs.

Rob Douglas and myself have been attending the meetings of the Southern Metropolitan Historical Groups during the year. This brings together representatives from Port Melbourne, Glen Eira, Malvern, Prahran, Box Cottage, Brighton and Sandringham and enables us to share information and news about events and what our groups are doing. A most informative and helpful group to be part of.

I would especially like to thank those who assisted us over the year, especially Kelly Slatter (who was of wonderful assistance all year for tours and when I was overseas and who has put together some great computer research databases for us which will be most useful in planning tours)...thank you, Kelly, and good luck with your new employment.. Vivienne Dacey (as mentioned) and Kaye Goldenberg for her research work for the Lawyers and Judges tour.

Thank you all who supported us through what was really a most difficult year.

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 for a membership form.

