



Newsletter Friends of St Kilda Cemetery Inc

January 2018

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FIND US ON FACEBOOK:



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of St Kilda Cemetery**

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Happy New Year and Welcome to the January 2018 newsletter and hope everyone is enjoying a pleasant summer vacation

Volunteers needed...

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



Printing of newsletter



Printed copies of our newsletters are provided courtesy of
SCOTSBURN NURSERIES

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

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

Featured Article

Edward Lowenstern Yencken

1854-1932

Merchant; Stained Glass Manufacturer

Buried 8 September 1932; IND D 208

The E. L. Yencken, Glass Cart Photo, c.1901-1910



E. L. Yencken & Co. Melbourne, Australia.

Photo has names written in pencil on the back:
"Yours truly".

I. Rankine, E. Töschler, W. Jones, W. Wilson, B. Bras, F. Chy, E. L. Yencken Wholesale oil colour and glass merchants.

(photo from Errol Vincent, New Zealand, October 2010)

Photo opposite provided courtesy of Ray Brown shows Yencken standing near horse

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

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Course, L J, Frater, William (1890 -1974), Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University;
<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/frater-william-6239>

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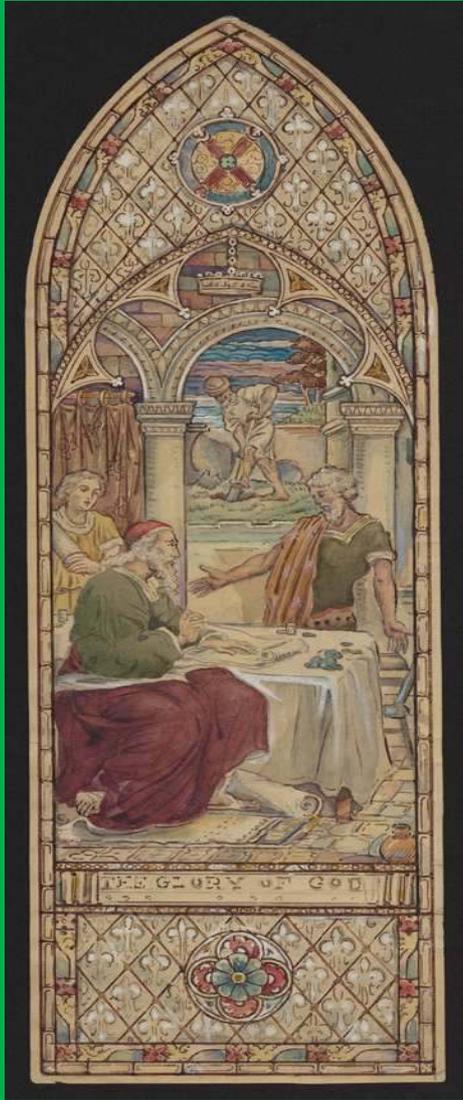
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Hughes, Bronwyn, Remembrance: Victoria's commemorative stained-glass windows of World War 1, La Trobe Journal, 96, September 2015, 182.

Sayers Stuart, Yencken, Edward Lowenstern (1854-1932), Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University,
<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/yencken-edward-lowenstern-9210>

Edward Lowenstern Yencken was born on 13 February 1854 at Brixton, Surrey, England, son of Edward Ferdinand Yencken, merchant, and his wife Ellen, née Druce. Young Edward attended school at Shrewsbury and, after his family arrived in Victoria, completed his education at Melbourne Church of England Grammar School. In 1871 he joined the Melbourne branch of the Bank of New South Wales, but next year removed to Brooks Robinson & Co., wholesale oil, colour and glass merchants and importers of painters' and decorators' supplies. In 1882, after reaching managerial level at Brooks Robinson, he decided to found his own business; he returned to England for ten months to establish connexions with British and European manufacturers, and to establish a buying office at 9 New Broad Street, London. In January 1883 E. L. Yencken & Co., wholesale importers and general indent merchants, opened for business at 3 Flinders Street, Melbourne, sharing a handsome building on a bluestone foundation, having cellars and three floors above with the tea merchants, Griffiths Bros.

Unlike many of his older competitors, Yencken was reputed to have begun with 'a large capital'. His business expanded rapidly



Sketch above: Unsigned but definitely the work of William "Jock" Frater. Stamped on verso: E.L.Yencken & Co. Pty. Limited Melbourne. A window based on this design was executed by Alan Sumner at Castlemaine Methodist Church, later removed to the Castlemaine Uniting Church. Image: State Library Victoria

and survived the loss in May 1885 of goods worth £70,000 in a sensational fire. By 1888 the firm had two adjoining city warehouses and a large store by the Yarra River. Its warehouses were equipped with 'every modern labour-saving appliance', including hydraulic lifts connecting with an iron tramway which delivered goods to their entrances. By 1904 the firm had expanded to 384-396 Little Collins Street where it remained until the closure of the stained glass department in 1942. The firm then shifted from the city to South Melbourne after World War II.

The bulk of Yencken's output was for domestic and commercial leadlights, but a proportion of the work came from church commissions, chiefly from the Nonconformist groups whose main requirements were for plain or ornamental leadlights. It is likely that Yencken drew staff from several well-known makers of the time including Ferguson & Urie whose business closed in 1899, his old firm Brooks Robinson & Co, and C Rogers & Co.

Two craftsmen and stained-glass designers who gained a high reputation in stained glass artistry during their time with Yencken were **William "Jock" Frater** OBE (1890 – 1974) and **Alan Sumner** (1911 – 1994). Frater had initially commenced with Brooks Robinson, but after his return from England in 1914, commenced with Yencken as head of the stained glass section and the firm's only designer. Frater had an excellent background from his training at the Glasgow School of Art and his exposure to the Glasgow Arts and Crafts movement. These schools influenced and complemented his understanding of the special needs of stained glass. Examples of his fine work can be seen in a series of windows designed for St Johns Uniting Church, Essendon, and the west window made for the porch of Wesley Church, Lonsdale Street, portraying *St Luke*, is regarded as one of his finest works. Frater however was primarily a painter and in 1940 retired from stain glass design to concentrate on predominantly figure and portrait painting and exhibitions.

Several of William Frater's sketch designs have survived in the scrapbooks of **Alan Sumner**, Frater's assistant. Despite having a reputation as a crusty and difficult boss, Frater was very supportive of his young "improver" and encouraged his continuing art. Sumner studied at Collingwood and Melbourne Technical Colleges, the National Gallery of Victoria School and at the George Bell School. A painter, silkscreen printer and stained glass designer, he was the head of the National Gallery School from 1954 to 1962. Examples of Sumner's stained glass windows can be seen in Chalmers Presbyterian Church, Auburn and the Methodist churches at Brighton, Balaclava and Ivanhoe.



Window at St Johns Uniting Church, Mt Alexander Road, Essendon North, Designer: William Frater, Photo: VHD



Sumner Alan, Artist ; Finished coloured sketch of a design for a stained-glass window of St. George, for St. Stephen's Anglican Church, Wynyard, Tasmania; State Library of Victoria



Photo: William "Jock" Frater

The diminution of orders in the 1930s resulted in the Yencken staff of twenty-five being reduced to a few key people. Frater and Sumner were retained. However, in accordance with government war directives, the Yencken firm closed down the stained glass department in 1940 and Frater retired. Sumner then became head of the department and fulfilled many orders in Yencken's name, with the completion of the last ones in the early 1950s.



Image above: Alan Sumner, *St. Francis of Assisi*, presentation sketch, Presbyterian Church, Clifton Hill, c.1974. Alan Sumner Collection, State Library of Victoria.

Edward Yencken died on 7 September 1932 at his Toorak home; his estate was sworn for probate at £11,863 .On 24 January 1882 at All Saints Anglican Church, St Kilda, he had married English-born Florence Orr who is buried in the same grave at St Kilda (11 June 1945, aged 88). A noted member of the Yorick Club from 1903, Yencken enjoyed golf and gardening. He was survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters.

Photo opposite: Yencken family grave, St Kilda Cemetery, courtesy of Ray Brown



Photos: ALBERT JACKA
COMMEMORATION SUNDAY 14
JANUARY 2018

Recent tour/events highlights

We have been so fortunate in 2017 for tours. No rain, even though it was threatened, and the sun always came out and shone on our parade! Fingers crossed for 2018. Please note that weather is something we have no control over.

On Sunday 22 October we led a tour for Port Phillip Seniors' Group. This was a general tour, and easy walk around the cemetery and enjoyed by all who attended it. A very well-informed and interested group who all contributed to the tour and stayed for afternoon tea. We hope to repeat this during 2018.

Our last tour for 2017 was **A Life in the Law Tour** on Sunday 26 November. Once again, a very good attendance...and an easy and informative walk around the cemetery.

Thank you everyone who attended our tours and made them such a success in 2017.

ALBERT JACKA COMBINED COMMEMORATION CEREMONY, SUNDAY 14 JANUARY 2018

The 86th Anniversary, Albert Jacka Memorial Service was held by the City of Port Phillip on Sunday 14 January 2018 at 2.00pm at St Kilda Cemetery. Albert Jacka (1893-1932) VC, MC and Bar of the 14th Battalion, AIF was the first member of the AIF to be awarded a VC in WW1 and was also a mayor of St Kilda.

The Friends of St Kilda Cemetery participated at this well attended ceremony by the laying of flowers at the grave site.



FACEBOOK

Our Facebook page **Residents and Friends of St Kilda Cemetery** has become very popular. As well as news about FOSKC, other items of interest and news from other Cemetery Friends Groups, both here in Australia and also in UK are included, as well as shared pages providing details of WW1 veterans bios and graves, newspaper articles and so much more. We have special featured posts from time to time with bios and photos of historic persons buried at St Kilda Cemetery and elsewhere on our born this day/died this day posts.

We can't put everything into a newsletter, but try to include up to date news and events on our Facebook page on a daily basis.

Why not Follow us on Facebook and see for yourself

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

Future Tours and events

PLEASE NOTE: The new toilets in cemetery are near front gate and now operational for future tours

FIRST TOUR FOR 2018:

The Sporting Life Tour, 2.00pm Sunday 25 February 2018

Mayors of St Kilda Tour, 2.00pm Sunday 25 March 2018

Anzac Tour, 2.00pm Sunday 29 April 2018

PLEASE FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK OR LOOK AT OUR WEBSITE FOR NEWS OF ALL FUTURE TOURS AND EVENTS

Tour Cost \$10; members free. Afternoon tea included. Bookings: email preferred info@foskc.org; or tel: Sheila 9531 3648 or Liz 0422379053

All our tours leave from the main entrance to the cemetery in Dandenong Road. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear as we go all weathers, rain, hail or shine.

Private Group Tours for 2018

We hope to do some tours for private groups in 2018. If your group is interested, please email info@foskc.org for more details. We charge \$10 per head for group tours and if possible, an afternoon/morning tea will be provided.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON OUR TOURS IN 2018. WON'T YOU COME AND JOIN US!

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.

