



# Newsletter Friends of St Kilda Cemetery Inc

October 2018

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### FIND US ON FACEBOOK:



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St Kilda Cemetery

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## Welcome to the October 2018 newsletter

### 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

[www.scotsburn.biz](http://www.scotsburn.biz)

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

Contributions to our newsletter are  
welcomed. Email for further  
information to [info@foskc.org](mailto:info@foskc.org)

## 19<sup>th</sup> AGM, SATURDAY 13 OCTOBER 2018

### FRIENDS OF ST KILDA COMMITTEE

2018-2019

President Elizabeth Hore

Treasurer Rob Douglas

Secretary Gabriel Hermes

Committee Member Claire Barton

The Friends of St Kilda Cemetery

thank

Dr Celestina Sagazio for speaking at  
our 2018 AGM

on

MELBOURNE GENERAL  
CEMETERY



Dr Celestina Sagazio speaking at the  
Holt memorial during a tour through  
Melbourne General Cemetery

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thank you to members and others who are in attendance today. The Friends of St Kilda Cemetery have now been in existence for 20 years...a great achievement. This is our 19<sup>th</sup> AGM!

2017 – 2018 has been a successful year for the Friends of St Kilda Cemetery. We have conducted some new and some old favourite tours over the year and have been very fortunate in that we have had excellent advertising for our tours, particularly from The Leader newspaper who included a small article about our tours during the year. We now serve afternoon tea on our tours and in 2019 we are increasing our tour price to \$15 for non-members. This is the first increase in many years.

I thank Claire Barton particularly for leading tours with a local community interest during the year which has resulted in attendances from members of local historical groups and we are always pleased to see them on our tours. I also thank Mary Reid for leading our Seniors Festival tour again in October 2018. Mary is a wonderful tour leader and we are very grateful for her assistance.

The Friends have continued to participate in meetings with other historical groups in the south eastern area and we have a regular meeting each year with SMCT, and I thank SMCT for their support to us. In July I organised a lunch with representatives of other Friends of Cemeteries Groups here in Melbourne so that we could all meet each other and form a network. Representatives from Brighton, Cheltenham, Coburg, Boroondara Kew and Williamstown groups attended and we now have a Network Cemetery Friends Vic private Facebook page on which we can share views and experiences. I thank Meg Jenkins from Williamstown for setting up that page initially.

Over the year I have given a talk to Port Melbourne Historical Group and have also attended several tours at Boroondara Kew Cemetery and have much admired the work they have done in their gardens.

We have also received many inquiries for grave photos from within Australia and UK during the year and I thank all who shared their family history with us. Our Facebook page is thriving; why not have a look as we cannot include everything in our monthly newsletter.

I would like to thank our loyal committee of Rob Douglas, Treasurer, Gabriel Hermes, Secretary and Claire Barton for all their hard work and support during the year. And also Sheila Harris who has been of much assistance to us during the year in taking phone bookings.

Elizabeth Hore, President

The Friends of St Kilda Cemetery sincerely thank Mr Darren Draper, UK for drawing to our attention the Draper family buried at St Kilda Cemetery.

#### **SOURCES:**

##### ***Victoria Births Deaths and Marriage Indexes***

<https://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/research-and-family-history/search-your-family-history>

##### ***Newspapers and Journals (all below available on Trove)***

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>

*The Kitson Lamp – Alexandra and Yea Standard, Friday 28 September 1906*

*“Nerve Centres of the City”, The Age, Saturday 24 August 1929, p 5*

*“Telephone Jubilee; Fifty Years Expansion; How Melbourne Led the Way”, The Age, Saturday 18 January 1930.*

*Obituary Thomas Theophilus Draper, The Argus, Saturday 4 June 1921*

*The Australasian Sketcher, 5 February 1881*

*Town and Country Journal, 10 September 1887*

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## Featured Article

### **THOMAS THEOPHILUS DRAPER**

**Baptised 22 August 1841, Camden, St Pancras UK; Died 1 June 1921, Camberwell, Victoria, Australia**

**Buried St Kilda Cemetery 3 June 1921 CE B 0202**

**ELECTRICAL ENGINEER and JOINT OWNER OF  
THE MELBOURNE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE COMPANY;  
AUSTRALIA’S FIRST TELEPHONE EXCHANGE**

Thomas Theophilus Draper was the second son of William Draper and Eleanor Brooks and was born in London (St Pancras) in 1841. He and his family came to Melbourne between 1852 and 1857. His parents settled in Bourke Street, Melbourne however it is likely that at the early stage of their arrival in Victoria they lived for some time at the goldfields.

In 1880 Thomas Theophilus Draper and W H Masters were responsible for the installation of Australia’s first telephone exchange in Melbourne. It was operated by the Melbourne Telephone Exchange Company which was owned by Masters and Draper; the manager of the company was H. Byron Moore. The exchange opened on 28 June 1880 and commenced operation in the August. At that time, no formal agreement existed between the Exchange Company and the government, however the latter said it was willing to erect and lease wires for a period of ten years and reserved the right to establish a public exchange if it saw fit.

"The Australasian Sketcher", 5 February 1881 wrote of the new Melbourne Telephone Exchange:

*Of its utility there can be no two opinions. As an invention which will enable a man sitting in his own office to ask his bank manager for an overdraft, order a coat from his tailor, and send his wife any reasonable excuse for his non-appearance at home at the usual hour, deserves a first class certificate in the direction of usefulness...*

*At present over 70 subscribers have sent in their names to the Melbourne Exchange list . . . each subscriber has in his office or house, fitted against the wall on the mantel piece or in any convenient place, a small box containing the wire, attached to*

*which are two wires ending severally in an ear and mouth piece, while on the board in the central office are a button or peg and a little brass plate like the outside of a Brahmah lock, with his number attached. It is at this board, presided over at present by two young ladies, that the important operation of "switching" or connecting the two persons desirous of talking, is conducted...*

*In conclusion, we can only say that any persons who may have any doubts as to the facility and speed with which telephonic communication is carried out, need only pay a visit to the "Palace of Winged Words", and Mr. Byron Moore will speedily dispel them.*

This was only two years after the world's first exchange in the United States, and just four years after Bell first spoke on a telephone. The exchange was located in the old Stock Exchange building at 367 Collins Street. In 1884, the operations of the Company, by then known as the Victorian Telephone Exchange Company, had grown considerably and were transferred to Wills Street, Melbourne. Private ownership of this company continued until 1887, when it was bought out by the Victorian Colonial Government.

At the time of the Government take-over in September 1887, there were 887 subscribers and the Company had 21 employees. When approached by the government to sell the exchange, Masters and Draper were unwilling to lose their significant asset and named a high price of £100,000, but later settled for £40,000. Their views of the profitability and success of the company were sustained when in the following year the number of subscribers was 1,462 and continued to grow.

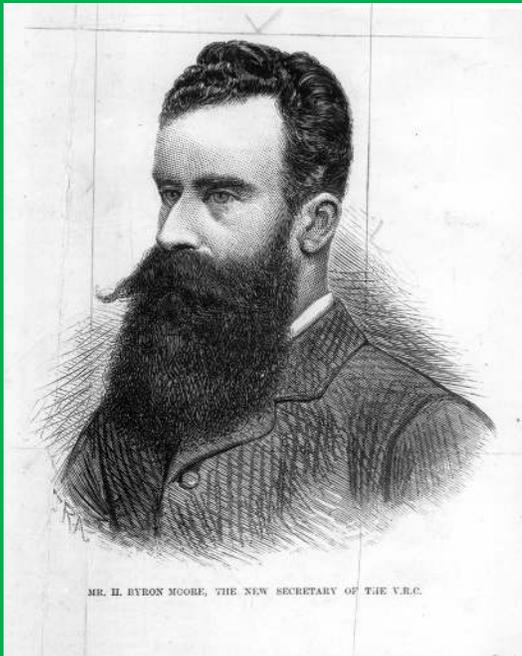
Albeit that there was public pressure for a government take-over, Byron Moore commented:

*"The Government, which had looked on us as idle dreamers, soon became jealous of our success and seven years later, most unworthily squeezed us out..."*

The "Town and Country Journal", of 10 September 1887, commented on the Wills Street Exchange:

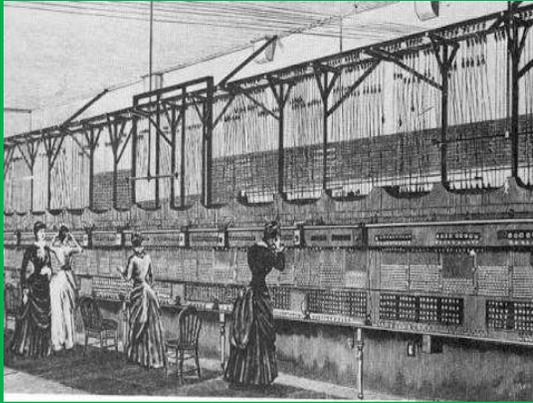
*"The operators stand up when attending to subscribers' calls, chairs being, however, provided for the leisure moments of the fair and nimble-fingered battalion of operators. There are in all twenty-four lady operators employed in the Exchange, the time-table being so arranged as to provide eleven always in attendance at the switchboard..."*

*Place yourself in the middle of the room and gaze upon the delicate hands in magic confusion playing as it were upon metal switches,*

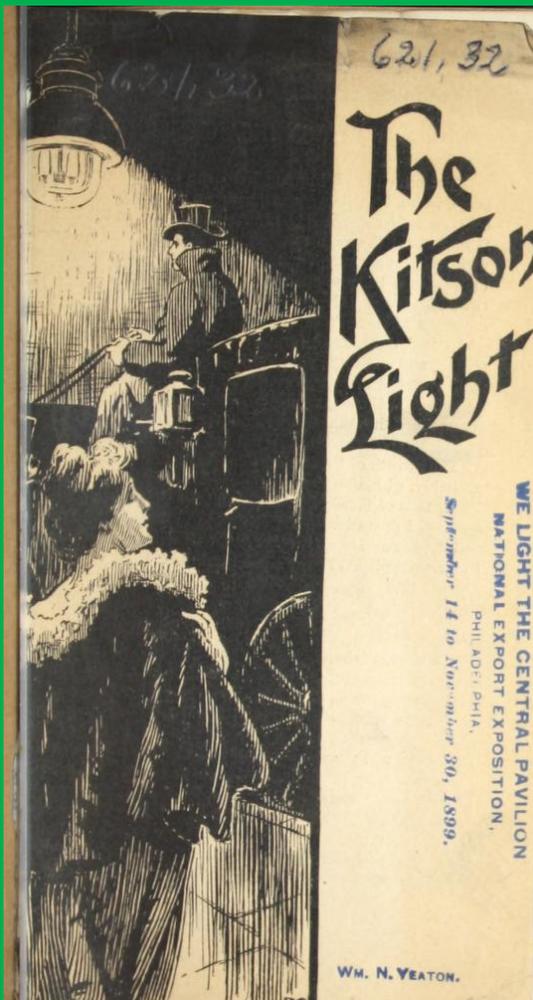


Mr Henry Byron Moore, Manager,  
Melbourne Telephone Exchange  
Company,

Photo: SLV



The Lady Telephonists, Wills Street Exchange, Melbourne



Advertisement for The Kitson Light

*plugs and switching cords. There is no shouting or even excitement — no apoplectic strain into the machine's mouth. The young ladies rarely turn their heads. There is a soft sighing murmur in the room: and one could easily imagine the spare forms to be automatic figures; and yet that little pouting delicate mouth is wrestling with the pangs, groans and tempers of 100 subscribers, that number being attended to by one lady operator...."*

Thomas Draper's firm T T Draper and Co also erected the telephone exchanges at Ballarat and Bendigo, which were then bought out by the colonial government. As well he traded under the name of Draper, Dyer & Co. nickel and silver platers.

In 1882 he imported the Edison electric lighting plant which was the first system of incandescent lighting to be introduced into Australia. This plant was used to illuminate Victoria's parliament's Legislative Council chambers. Draper's Union Electric Light Company supplied the streets of Melbourne with incandescent lighting until the work was taken over by the City Council.

In 1888 Thomas imported and installed the first overhead electric tramway wiring which was used between Box Hill and Doncaster, supplied electric lighting for night sporting events, and in 1889 he introduced electric welding.

In 1906 T T Draper and Co were the agents for the Kitson Lamp which was a lighting system by petroleum and which had praise for its glorious brilliancy being the "nearest approach to sunlight". It was advertised as up to 15 hours from one gallon of petroleum and "considerably less than one penny to run" for one hour. Thomas took an active part in his business up to the time of his death.

Thomas also enjoyed sporting activities and was a member and sometime Hon. Secretary of the Victorian Rifle Association. Frederick Sargood ("Ripponlea") was also on that committee and in 1870 Draper traveled with the first Australian rifle team to visit England and America.

He married Mary Gullifer on 24 September 1886 (Mary died 18 February 1915 CEB 0200) and together they had 12 children. Thomas died aged 81 on 1 June 1921 at his home "Bewdley" 5 Moorhouse Street, Camberwell East, Melbourne. His estate was valued for probate at £26,432.

Many of Thomas Draper's family are buried at St Kilda Cemetery, including his parents William and Eleanor, his uncle George Draper, his brothers William Valentine Draper (and family) and Goodwin Draper (and family) and his sister Sarah Eleanor Snare (nee Draper), making this a large family identity at St Kilda Cemetery.



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

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## Future Tours and events

**PLEASE NOTE:** The new toilets in cemetery are near front gate and now require a code to open door. Please ask tour leader.

### **FURTHER TOURS**

Our Tour program for 2018 is now finished. Thank you to all who attended during the year and made our tours such a success. Please look out for our 2019 program which will be available at end of January 2019. Keep an eye on our website for details.

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

Tours Cost \$15; members free. Afternoon tea included. Bookings: email preferred [info@foskc.org](mailto: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 2019**

We hope to do some tours for private groups in 2019. If your group is interested, please email [info@foskc.org](mailto: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 2019. WON'T YOU COME AND JOIN US!**

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## 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.

