



# Newsletter Friends of St Kilda Cemetery Inc

October 2019

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**FIND US ON  
FACEBOOK:**



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Friends of St Kilda  
Cemetery**

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SPRING at last and arrival of warm weather...Just the time to enjoy a stroll around St Kilda Cemetery

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)

COMMITTEE FOR 2019-2020

Elizabeth Hore,  
President

Rob Douglas, Treasurer

Gabriel Hermes,  
Secretary

Claire Barton, Ordinary  
Committee Member



#### 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

## President's Report

FRIENDS OF ST KILDA CEMETERY  
PRESIDENTS REPORT

Annual General Meeting

Held Emerald Hill Library and Heritage Centre, Bank Street, South Melbourne

31 August 2019

Thank you for your attendance today at our 21st AGM. Yes, we have been in existence as a group of cemetery friends for that length of time.

2018-2019 has been a successful year for Friends of St Kilda Cemetery but not without some challenges.

Our tours have mostly been successful and have had good attendances apart from when the weather let us down. For the first time in my memory we cancelled a tour at end of February due to the excessive heat. We know people were disappointed but it is a health and safety issue that we don't wish to take people around the cemetery in 35 degree temperatures and it is unfair to ask our tour leaders to attend under those severe weather conditions. We then had several tours where it rained on the Sunday. Whilst this meant that some people who had booked did not turn up, we still run tours on rainy days and those who attended saw it as a challenge and had an enjoyable day... and the welcome chance of a refreshing hot cup of tea with cake in the pavilion at end of tour.

We have continued this year to lead tours for community groups including City of Port Phillip, Port Melbourne Historical Society and participated successfully in Victoria Seniors Festival and intend to continue this in future. As well, during the year I spoke at a Port Melbourne Historical Society meeting.

In addition, we have assisted many people in finding graves in the cemetery, some of whom travelled long distances from interstate to visit the cemetery, and one person travelling from UK who has now organised a plaque for his family's grave which was previously unmarked.

We have also traced old editions of our newsletter Cemetery Conversations as best we could and have uploaded these to our website.

I want to thank our loyal 2018-2019 committee: Rob Douglas as treasurer and for looking after our website; Claire Barton and Gabriel Hermes for cemetery tours. Mary Reid once again assisted with conducting the seniors festival tour. Thank you, Mary, it is wonderful to have your assistance.

Thank you as ever to our members for their loyal support.

Elizabeth Hore  
President  
Friends of St Kilda Cemetery

Thanks to Margaret Bennett, Qld who has family connections to the Kerr family for drawing to our attention the unmarked grave of Peter Kerr.

## Featured Articles

### **PETER KERR, FRIBA, ARCHITECT, PARLIAMENT VICTORIA.**

**DIED 31 MARCH 1912; BURIED 2 APRIL 1912  
PRES C 453A UNMARKED GRAVE.**

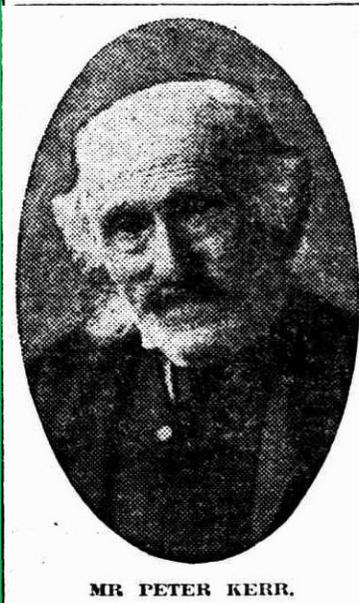
On 6 April 1912, The Weekly Times noted that with the death of Mr Peter Kerr, FRIBA, Victoria loses one who has given to the city of Melbourne the most dignified and impressive of its architectural features, the House of Parliament in Spring Street.

Kerr learned architecture young and learned it well. Born on 21 April 1820 in Aberdeen, Scotland, son of James Kerr (b.1791), shipmaster and leather merchant, he served his articles with the Aberdeen architect, Archibald Simpson (1790-1847). Upon his articles having expired he then went to work with George Fowler Jones at York. In 1845 he was invited by the Duke of Sutherland to renovate and extend Dunrobin Castle for the visit of the Queen Victoria and her consort. In 1848 he went to London and worked in the office of Sir Charles Barry (1795-1860), architect of the new Houses of Parliament at Westminster. Soon after they were opened by the Queen and in February 1852 Kerr migrated to Melbourne. He brought the plans of the Westminster Houses with him, and these afterwards helped him with the greatest of his works.

Kerr joined the partnership of J G Knight & Thomas Kemp, architects and engineers. After Kemp returned to England in 1855 the firm of Knight & Kerr continued to about 1860 when Knight turned to other occupations. For a while Kerr followed the pursuit of cattle raising on the Upper Yarra, but, not making much of a success of it he returned to Melbourne, and took on architecture again, amongst the buildings he designed being Goldsborough's Wool Store, the Port Phillip Club Hotel, and the old Connell, Hogarth building.

In 1877 the Royal commission on the Parliamentary buildings appointed Mr. Kerr as the architect of Parliament House. Kerr served in the Public Works Department as an architect, rising to first grade with a salary of £600 and taking charge of the 'principal Metropolitan Buildings'. Other buildings included the Post Office, the Law Courts and the designs for a great deal of the detail of Government House. He was one of the able architects who enriched Melbourne with some of the finest classical public buildings in Australia but his reputation rests on the claim that he alone designed the impressive Houses of Parliament in Spring Street.

In a letter to the *Argus*, 15 January 1892, Kerr claimed that 'Our firm ... brought influence ... through our Mr. Knight and in the end the carrying out of the Houses of Parliament was entrusted to us. The designs for the Council and Assembly Chambers [built by 1858] and for the library [built in 1859] were prepared by me with my own hands and the drawings are still in existence [at the P.W.D.] to speak for themselves'. He also claimed that the building of these two projects were supervised by Knight and himself. In 1877 Kerr was appointed architect by the royal commission on extending



MR PETER KERR.

Photo: Weekly Times,  
Saturday 6 April 1912  
Crossed the Bar.  
DEATH OF MR P. KERR

## Sources:

George Tibbits, 'Kerr, Peter (1820–1912)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/kerr-peter-558/text6221>, published first in hardcopy 1974

Obituary, *Argus* (Melbourne), 1 April 1912, p 7



Baron Ferdinand Von Mueller

accommodation in the parliamentary buildings. He designed and superintended the building of the Queen's Hall and the Vestibule, opened in 1879. He continued to work on the final scheme which included a massive dome and an overpowering Roman Doric façade round the entire building but only the west façade was completed by 1892. In June 1904 his paper on 'The Melbourne Houses of Parliament: The Ancient History' was read to the general meeting of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects and published in the institute's journal.

Kerr served as a building referee in the administration of the Melbourne Building Act. His last work was as an honorary superintending architect for the memorial to Queen Victoria in the Alexandra Gardens, Melbourne. He died at South Melbourne on 31 March 1912, survived by his wife Harriette, née Bertrand, whom he had married in Melbourne on 8 August 1857, and by two sons and two daughters of their seven children.

Kerr was a fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects. He also helped to found the Victorian Institute of Architects in August 1856, served on its first council and was made an honorary fellow when the institute received a royal charter in 1889.

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## Baron Ferdinand von Mueller – the unveiling of the memorial by the Governor-General – an interesting article from *The Leader*, Saturday 30 November 1901

His Excellency the, Governor-General on Tuesday in the, St. Kilda Cemetery formally unveiled the memorial erected by his friends and co-workers throughout the world to the memory of the late Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, Government Botanist to the State of Victoria for considerably over 40 years. The history of the movement which has resulted in the memorial is so well known to the public that it needs no reference here, but it may be said that, as far as the Australian States are concerned, it partook of a distinctly Federal character, while in Great Britain, Germany, and in many other parts of the world, practical interest was aroused among learned bodies, men of science and others, who one and all contributed.

The ceremony was timed for 3.30 p.m., and well before that hour arrived a number of people, including members of the Royal Society, the Melbourne University, the Federal and State Parliaments and of various departments in the State assembled at and near the grave, above which, sheeted and shapeless, towered the tall memorial.. The weather, was pleasant, with a cool breeze and dull sky. Punctually at 3.30 p.m. his Excellency arrived. He was received at the end of the centre (or south) drive by Mr. H. G. Turner, the president of the cemetery trustees; Mr. C. Truelove, President secretary and manager; Cr. Edward O'Donnell, mayor of St. Kilda; Cr. Luxton, mayor of Prahran, and other gentlemen; and escorted to the platform, where the Rev. W. Potter, literary executor of the late botanist; Dr. A. Buttner and Mr. H. Buttner. co-executors; Professor Kernot, Dr. Jamieson, representing the Royal Society; Mr. T. S. Hall, of the Field Naturalists' Club; and other gentlemen welcomed him. As his Excellency mounted the dais members of the Melbourne Liedertafel some 80 strong, under Mr. Slede, sang God Save the King, and several memorial wreaths were handed up and placed about



Von Mueller grave and memorial, St Kilda Cemetery

the tomb. When his Excellency had acknowledged the greeting, Mr. Potter read a number of letters and telegrams from distinguished bodies and individuals. Sir Clement Markham, president of the Royal Society, wrote regretting that it was Impossible for the society to send a representative to the ceremony, but he assured the executors that he was delighted at their success in raising a memorial to one who had done so much for Australia and for science. The Prime Minister, the Federal Attorney-General and other gentlemen sent their regrets, and Sir Samuel Davenport, of South Australia, wrote, "as one. of the earliest, friends of Von Mueller," expressing his sorrow at being unable to attend. Mr. Potter further announced that all the States of the Commonwealth were specially represented. As far as the memorial itself was concerned, he said that it was the outcome of a wish expressed by Baron von Mueller on receiving a notification from the cemetery trustees to the effect that they had conferred on him a grant of land for his final resting place. Von Mueller asked that nothing might be done, save to plant flowers on his grave, until some memorial worthy of the gift of the trustees could be erected upon it.

Speeches having been delivered by Professor Kernot, Mr. Gurr, Minister of Education; Sir John Forrest, Sir Langdon Bonython, Mr. J. H. Maiden, Government-Botanist, Sydney; Mr. Brahe, consul for Germany: Dr. Jamieson and Mr. Edwards, M. P.; (Queensland), His Excellency unveiled the memorial.. It is a tall, grey granite column, topped with a draped vase, and standing upon a triple-pedestal, railed In with oxidised iron: railings.- The whole has been made and erected by Messrs. Chambers and Clutten. On the front of the pedestal In gold lettering is the following inscription, with a handsome bronze medallion showing Von Mueller in profile:—

*Dedicated by co-workers in the field of science and admirers throughout the world to the memory of Baron Sir Ferdinand Von Mueller, K.C.M.O., M.D., F.R.S., &c., born in Rostock, Germany, 30th June, 1825, Government Botanist of Victoria from 1852 until his death, 10th October, 1896; director Melbourne Botanical Gardens, 1857-1873, whose erudite works on the flora of Australia have secured him immortal fame amongst the renowned systemic phytologists of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.*

*Zage nicht! Es giebt noch edle Herzen. Die fur das Hohe, Herrliche ergluhn!— Schiller.*

*(Despair not! There are still noble hearts That plow for the august and sublime!)*

*"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."— Matt, v., 8.*

His Excellency pulled the cord which released the draperies, saying as he did so:—

*"I should like to assure you that it is to me a source of melancholy satisfaction to be able to take part in this ceremony. I join with you in doing honor to one who honored me with his friendship, and who was known throughout the world for his attainments as a man of science."*

Just as the proceedings terminated a little incident occurred which was almost an omen. A large brown fritillary which had been fluttering about prior to the unveiling settled on the head of the medallion and remained there for some minutes. If the Pythagorian theory be true it was passing strange.

### 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 2020. 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](mailto:info@foskc.org) for a membership form.



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

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## Recent /news/tour/events highlights

We thank Susan Grant, Port Phillip Pioneers and Flinders Historical Society for her fascinating talk on Joseph Panton at our AGM on 31 August 2019

Bad weather for our last two tours for 2019. Our tour for Port Melbourne Historical Society was on a cold day. Only a small number attended but Ray Jelley entertained all with his splendid research of graves associated with "Port". We hope to repeat this tour for Port Melbourne.

The Artists buried in St Kilda Cemetery Tour for Port Phillip was blighted with bad weather. Thanks to the intrepid people who still attended. To keep out of wind and rain, we sheltered in pavilion and Elizabeth Hore and Gabriel Hermes conducted a talk with visual laminations of the artists and their work. We also thank Liz Kelly from St Kilda Historical Society who kindly gave an introductory talk at beginning of this tour on Horace Allkins, artist, who painted many of the mayors and councillors of St Kilda and is buried in a public grave in the cemetery.

Elizabeth Hore, President has just returned from the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe conference held in Ghent, Belgium 3-5 October 2019. The conference theme was conserving heritage cemeteries.

Elizabeth Hore will speak at the Felton Museum, The Esplanade Hotel, St Kilda **on Alfred Felton, his life, friends and colleagues**, 11 and 13 November 2019. Felton is buried in St Kilda Cemetery

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## Future Tours and events

**PLEASE NOTE: The new toilets in cemetery are near front gate and now operational for future tours. Please ask tour leader for the code to open door.**

**FUTURE TOURS AND EVENTS FOR 2020:**

**Please note that tours for 2020 are still in the planning process.**

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

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