

Friends of St Kilda Cemetery Inc



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THE END OF AN ERA

Staffing changes at the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries, which is responsible for the care and maintenance of St Kilda Cemetery, means the end of an era in the management of the cemetery. Wayne Sharp and Quynh Phan have been familiar faces at the cemetery for over twenty years.

As 'general dogsbody', as he refers to himself, Wayne has been responsible for maintenance planning and execution, supervision of contractors and public relations (including liaison with interest groups and local councils). He has often been the first contact for potential purchasers of grave sites and been involved in research on graves. During his time at the cemetery, he developed an unparalleled knowledge about the cemetery and its 'occupants' and was always keen to share this with visitors.



Wayne was ably supported by Quynh who quietly and efficiently carried out everyday maintenance. During their time at the cemetery the lawn cemetery was developed and the cemetery reopened for sales in 2004.

Wayne feels that the cemetery provides a wonderful resource for students of photography and film. He

remembers several fashion model shoots and even a wedding in period costume.



Quynh hard at work

One of Wayne's outstanding memories is of a night tour run by FOSKC when, unbeknown to the organisers, vandalism had occurred at Footscray Cemetery. As a result, the police helicopter made its way to check out a suspicious light in the cemetery, thus providing an additional light source to aid in the identification of graves. When a police van arrived shortly afterwards, Wayne found he had some explaining to do!

Wayne also recalls how Gus Allen, who lived in the now-demolished caretaker's house when he was a boy and planted a Christmas tree one year, is now the 'owner' of one of the most significant trees in the cemetery in the shape of the cedar on the Michaelis lawn.

FOSKC would like to thank both Wayne and Quynh for their support of our activities since our incorporation. They have been unfailingly helpful in aiding us in locating graves and supportive of our objective of promoting 'the conservation and appreciation of the cemetery'. We wish them well for the future.