

CEMETERY CONVERSATIONS

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FELTON'S BEQUEST

January 8th 2004 marked the 100th anniversary of the death of Alfred Felton. Who was the man behind Australia's famous art and charitable bequest?

He was born in 1831 in East Anglia and arrived in Melbourne in 1853, at the height of the Gold Rush. Felton became a merchant and pharmaceuticals manufacturer, through which enterprises he amassed an extraordinary fortune. With his business partner, Frederick Grimwade, he expanded their business interests to create ACI bottle works. Many household pharmaceutical names of today arose out of this early partnership; Bosisto's Parrot brand eucalyptus oil, Hypol cod liver oil and Euky bear products, to name a few.

Felton's bequest of 378,033 pounds (estimated to be \$40 million in today's money) was to be used, half on charities, and half on art acquisitions for the National Gallery of Victoria. He nominated a committee of friends to administer his trust.

Buried in St. Kilda Cemetery, this eccentric, generous bachelor died in a simply furnished room in St. Kilda's Esplanade Hotel, four months after scrawling in his diary "Wealth!! Get it spent".

Learn more of this intriguing man, and others, on our planned Artists and Photographer's Tour. The date of this tour will be published in our March newsletter.

TOUR PROGRAM FEBRUARY-MARCH 2004

DATE	TOUR THEME	DESCRIPTION
Sun 8 Feb 2.00 pm	St Kilda Cemetery Tour (part of St Kilda Festival)	Led by Geoff Austin, visit Alfred Deakin, Sir Geo. Steward (aka Pickle the Spy) & merchant and philanthropist Alfred Felton.
Sun 29 Feb 2.00 pm	Notable Women (part 2)	Led by Kay Rowan, visit Elizabeth Parsons (Victoria's first notable artist) Presentation Convent's founder, Katharine Mulquin & many other women of note.
Tues 16 Mar 10.00 am	St Kilda Cemetery Tour (part of Seniors Festival)	This mid-week tour led by John Hulskamp includes visits to graves of Capt. Albert Jacka & Baron von Mueller.

To whet your appetite for the forthcoming tour, two significant features of Box Hill Cemetery have recently been included on the Victorian Heritage Register. They are the Columbarium and Sidney Myer Memorial.

The following is an extract from the entry in the Victorian Heritage Register for the Columbarium which was erected in 1929.

"The columbarium is historically significant as an early and unusual means of storing cremated human remains at a time when cremation remained a minority practice. It is believed to be the only example of its kind in Victoria. The columbarium is architecturally and aesthetically significant as a wonderfully august and refined example of the Byzantine style, and evokes the early Christian church. The building was designed to terminate vistas along narrow avenues of trees, and give the landscape a strong visual focus."



Box Hill Cemetery Columbarium

The entry in the Victorian Heritage Register for the Sidney Myer memorial reads:

The Myer memorial is of aesthetic significance as an austere but elegant memorial with unusual integration of planting into the design. It has historical significance as one of only two memorials in Victoria designed by the eminent architect Edwin Lutyens. The memorial has social significance for its association with one of the greatest Australian businessmen and philanthropists of the twentieth century.

The Edwin Lutyens referred to above was one of the most significant English architects of the early twentieth century. Lutyens also designed the monument to his friend Nellie Melba, who is buried in the Old Lilydale Cemetery. ■

Tour Program

Our program of events for the remainder of 2004 is presented below. Unless otherwise indicated, tours of St Kilda Cemetery leave from the Dandenong Road entrance gates at 2.00 PM.

Sunday 3 October 2004 at 2.00 PM Marvellous Melbourne

Melbourne was a booming city in the late nineteenth century built upon the proceeds of gold mining and pastoral wealth. Many of those associated with the creation of "Marvellous Melbourne" are buried at St Kilda. This tour will be led by Judith Buckrich, historian and author of books such as "Melbourne's Grand Boulevard - The story of St Kilda Road" and "The Long and Perilous Journey - A history of the Port of Melbourne".

Sunday 7 November 2004 at 2.00 PM Military tour

In the lead up to Remembrance Day, join Keith Dudley on this tour which will focus on the lives of various military people buried in St Kilda Cemetery.

Sunday 5 December 2004 at 2.00 PM Eureka and Gold

This tour coincides with 150th anniversary of the Eureka rebellion. The tour visits the graves of a number of people associated with the gold rushes in Victoria including some who were involved with the Eureka uprising at Ballarat such as Colonel Robert Rede (Assistant Gold Commissioner) and Richard Ireland (defence Barrister for the Eureka rebels). ■

Works Update

Visitors may have noticed that works have begun in preparation for the reopening of St Kilda Cemetery for further interments. A number of improvements have been made to the cemetery entrance including the removal of the unused brick columbaria walls. The removal of the brick columbaria has enhanced views to the impressive Robb monument.