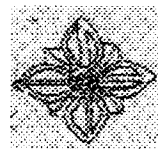


CEMETERY CONVERSATIONS

The Newsletter of the Friends of St Kilda Cemetery Inc A0038728J



Issue 3

November 1999

Latest news of the Friends

Incorporation

THE Friends of St. Kilda Cemetery was formed in 1988 by a small group with shared interest in the history of the Cemetery. Initially the Group chose not to become incorporated, but rather review the idea at some later stage, depending on the level of interest in the Group's activities. A number of successful tours were then organised during 1998 and 1999, culminating in a successful application for funding through the **Commonwealth Federation Community Projects Program**. This grant was applied for through the **Historical Society of St Kilda Inc.** to promote the Cemetery and its associations with **Australia's Federation**. Throughout this regular contact was maintained with the **Necropolis** (the managers of the Cemetery) and they had been supportive and positive in their communications.

Given the success of the grant application and level of interest in the Group's activities, it was considered appropriate to apply for **Incorporation**.

A meeting of the 'Friends' in October voted to adopt the Model Rules for an Incorporated Association and asked our Secretary Geoff Austin to process the application and notify the Necropolis of this thrust.

Incorporation was ratified some weeks later and we are now **'Friends of St Kilda Cemetery Incorporated, Registration No: A0038728J'** as can be seen in the newsletter banner above.

Statement of Purpose

OUR Statement of Purpose under the Rules of Incorporation is as follows: **'To promote the conservation and appreciation of the St. Kilda Cemetery as a place of remembrance, of historic importance and of natural beauty.'**



Program for the Year 2000

OUR program of events for the first half of 2000 is presented over-page. Unless otherwise indicated, all tours of St Kilda cemetery will leave from the main entrance gates in Dandenong Road at 2.00PM. But before our year ends we have one more very important meeting for this year.

Sunday 5 December at 2.00pm

'The Charlie Truelove Tour'

This tour will be conducted by one of St Kilda Cemetery's more colourful characters, Charlie Truelove. Charlie was secretary/manager of the Cemetery in the last Century and under his jurisdiction several scandals and humorous episodes occurred. Although buried in our cemetery, he has kindly consented to be resurrected to conduct the tour, and to give us his version of events! **Tour commences at 2.00PM from the Dandenong Road gates.**

Program for the Year 2000

• **Sunday 6 February at 2.00PM**

Evolution of the modern cemetery

Up until the second half of the Nineteenth Century, most of the population of Britain, the United States and even the Australian Colonies were buried in churchyards or burial grounds attached to churches. The cemetery as we know it is essentially a Nineteenth Century phenomenon says Geoff Austin who will conduct this tour. Please assemble at the Cemetery Gates at 2.00PM.

• **Sunday 5 March at 2.00PM**

Once removed - relatives of famous people buried in St.Kilda Cemetery

You might be surprised at just who was related to who in the St Kilda Cemetery. Come and enjoy this entertaining and enlightening tour conducted by amateur cemetery historian Pearl Donald. The tour begins at 2.00PM and will leave from the main gates on Dandenong Road.

• **Sunday 23 April at 2.00PM**

Military tour of the cemetery

This ANZAC Day tour looks at military people buried within the Cemetery. St.Kilda Cemetery has associations with the Napoleonic Wars, the Eureka Stockade, the New Zealand Maori Wars, the Crimean War, the Boer War and the First World War. Come and learn more about the Cemetery's rich military associations. Tour begins from the main gates at 2.00PM.

• **Sunday 4 June at 2.00PM**

General tour of the cemetery

Our ever popular general tour of the St Kilda Cemetery looks at the graves of famous and not so famous people including the 'Glen Huntly' pioneers who had associations with Australia's first quarantine post. Conducted by Geoff Austin and Pearl Donald, the tour leaves from the main gates in Dandenong Road at 2pm.

Plaque to honour St Kilda's first Mayor

THE 'Friends' have applied to the City of Port Phillip for a commemorative plaque to be placed on the grave of St Kilda's first mayor - Benjamin Cowderoy.

Mr Cowderoy, who lived to the great age of 92, saw four monarchs on the throne of England during his lifetime. He was one of the most widely known and highly respected men of his time in Victoria. Born in Reading, England in 1812, he migrated to Australia in 1853 and quickly identified himself with Melbourne's commerce and municipal sectors. He was a founder of the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce and later became its secretary (1852). Many regarded Mr Cowderoy as one of the guiding lights of Melbourne's commercial world. He served five years as a municipal councillor, becoming chairman (mayor) of St Kilda Council from 1857-58 and again in 1861. He designed the City's first crest and motto before retiring from Council in 1866.

Mr. Cowderoy, who married three times, lived in Fulton Street, St Kilda. He died aged 93 on October 1, 1904 at Notting Hill near Oakleigh. His funeral cortege took two hours to travel from Oakleigh to the St. Kilda Cemetery for his burial. At the time of his death he was one of the oldest Justices of the Peace in the State.

Cowderoy Street and Cowderoy Drain are named after Benjamin Cowderoy.

- Pearl Donald

Funding for Federation

FRIENDS president Freda Erlich and secretary Geoff Austin met with representatives of the Historical Society of St Kilda with the suggestion that the Commonwealth Federation grant be transferred to the Friends of St Kilda Cemetery Inc. Our group resolved to invite the Historical Society to work with the 'Friends' on the grant project and nominate a person for the Steering Committee.