

# Friends of St Kilda Cemetery Inc



## NEWS BULLETIN NOVEMBER 2014

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 18 October at the Emerald Hill Library and Heritage Centre in South Melbourne. After the meeting, our President, Kay Rowan, gave an illustrated talk, 'If only these stones could speak', an armchair tour of the cemetery and its history and some of its notable interments.



Christina Rutherford Macpherson who wrote the music for *Walzing Matilda*, one of the 'notable interments' in the cemetery.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2013 -2014 (edited)

Oh behalf of the Committee I welcome

you to this our annual general meeting.

First of all I would like to thank the Friends' Committee (Lyn Annetta, Pearl Donald and John Hulskamp) for all their work this past year. I would especially like to thank our Secretary, Mary Reid, for not only being the secretary but the newsletter editor as well. More thanks are due to our members, Geoff Austin and Liz Hore, who continue to provide excellent tours for the public to enjoy.

We accomplished part of our list of wants this past year when we were given the use (not exclusively ours) of a small room at the St Kilda Library for our committee meetings and have a lockable filing cabinet in the room. We thank the Port Phillip Library Service for this offer.

Another item on our list which will take longer to accomplish, but some progress is being made, is that SMCT will assist us to build a new website. We hope this coming year it will be completed.

Last year we proposed to the SMCT that they host a meeting from time to time for the 'Friends' of the eight cemeteries they manage. This happened once this year and a similar meeting is scheduled for next year.

We would like to encourage interested people to take some cemetery tours. Our tours are usually subject based so if, for example, you are a military buff you may like to find out about some of the soldiers buried at the cemetery, or you may have

another historical passion. Come and join us!

Thank you.

Kay Rowan, President, FOSKC

### **THOMAS CLARK, ARTIST AND TEACHER (1814 - 1883)**

Born in 1814, the son of an English merchant, Thomas Clark was a student of the Royal Academy, London, and a teacher of importance at both Birmingham and Nottingham School of Design. He arrived in Australia in late 1852 and became the Drawing Master at the newly established National Gallery School of Design. Both Tom Roberts and Frederick McCubbin were his pupils. He died in 1883, leaving behind a relatively small body of work detailing his own interpretation of the new colony.



A view of Mr Winter's Run, Western District of Victoria, 1860

Much of his work was done in Western Victoria and is considered to be an important record of the area, showing us what it was like prior to serious white settlement. The rolling landscapes in his paintings are certainly recognisable as Western Victoria but they also suggest British pastoral scenes with their soft light and scenery. However, Dan McOwen, Director of the Hamilton Art Gallery (where an exhibition of Thomas' paintings was held in 2013), claims, 'Nonetheless he really did manage to get on top of the gumtree in a way very few other colonial artists did.'

He also painted scenes of Melbourne and Portland, including a view of St Kilda and of Kenney's Baths, St Kilda.



Coast scene of St Kilda, 1857, National Gallery of Victoria, Felton Bequest

The Wannon Falls near Hamilton became one of the most popular subjects for landscape painters in the colony and Thomas Clark made painting them his speciality. Clark had been awarded a gold medal for landscape painting by the Royal Academy of Arts in England and he continued to be recognised in the colony, along with his contemporaries, Eugene Von Guerard and Nicholas Chevalier, for his fine brushwork and pastoral effects which were so much in demand by local pastoralists.

### **OUR 2015 PROGRAM**

Details of our program for 2015 will appear in our February Bulletin. We are always happy to receive suggestions for tours and events from members.

### **YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2015**

Kay Rowan, President  
Elizabeth Hore, Vice President  
John Hulskamp, Treasurer  
Mary Reid, Secretary  
Lyn Annetta, Committee Member  
Pearl Donald, Committee Member  
Meni Christofakis, Committee Member\

Congratulations to Elizabeth Hore, who rejoins the Committee and to Meni Christofakis, our new Committee member.

**SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2014**