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New committee members always welcome.
Email kewcem@gmail.com if interested

Committee

President:	Pauline Turville
Membership:	Tony Michael
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The Scene at the Cemetery

Where to begin!! The scene over the past few months has been one of great activity. We have seen -

- The retirement of Judith Voce as Chair of the Trust and the subsequent appointment of Peter Sliferski.
- The appointment of a Horticultural Manager, Lukas Avramov (see below)
- The commencement of the new Garden of Reflection (page 2)
- The resumption of work and imminent completion of work on the Springthorpe Memorial (page 3)

Recently started in the role of Manager – Horticulture, Operations and Grounds, Lukas brings a depth of experience and knowledge in horticulture, landscaping and garden design from high-end residential to commercial and open space. Lukas will



lead the outdoor team in continuing the great work undertaken over the last few years in beautifying, planting and maintaining this grand cemetery. Welcome to the team Lukas!

We wish Judith Voce well as she steps away from her role on the Trust. She is, of course, keeping her hand in with her role as President of the Kew Historical Society.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter.

Pauline, Tony, Tim, Anne, Mary and Les

Garden of Reflection

Boroondara Cemetery is excited to be able to announce that construction has commenced on their new 'Garden of Reflection' – a space of beauty, nature, and serenity. The garden will have space for over 800 interments of cremated remains and has been designed by award winning garden designers Lisa Ellis Gardens featuring tranquil water features, meandering bluestone paths, a sculpture by local artist (Poldi Mimovich), places for rest and reflection and beautifully planted and manicured gardens.



Artistic renderings of the proposed
Garden of Reflection

View from the road (left)



This new area will be located between the Gatehouse and the Mausoleum. To better identify where the new area is - this photo was taken early in the construction.

There will be several types of interment. If you are interested please contact the office for further details.



SPRINGTHORPE UPDATE:

Work is also almost finished on the long-awaited conservation of the Springthorpe Memorial. The following update (including photos) was recently uploaded to our Facebook page by Tony Michael.

The restoration began in February 2022. Visiting the Memorial this week reveals plenty of change.



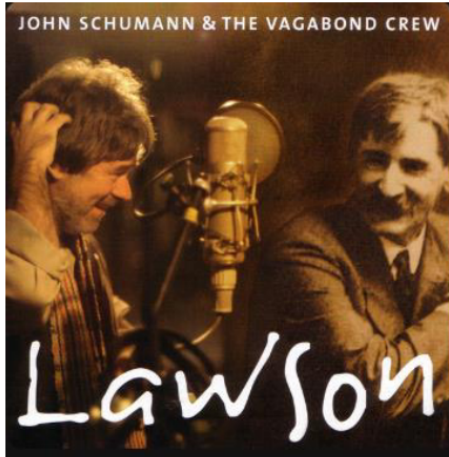
The angel's wing has been restored using some of the original marble and a composite resin. Internal steel rods have been fitted up to the shoulder, giving additional support. The final step with the sculpture will be to apply a color to the repairs to even out the shading.

Andrew Thorn, the conservator, was on hand to explain that the wreath was not a recreation of the original, rather it is symbolic and also provides an object to fit in the hand of the angel. When this work has been completed they will move on to repairs and installing protection to the glass roof.



HANNAH THORBURN – HENRY LAWSON’S MUSE FEATURED IN NEW ALBUM!

It is interesting what you hear on the radio – FOBKC committee member, Tim Sandison, heard an interview with former Redgum singer, John Schumann about Boroondara Cemetery ‘resident’, Hannah Thorburn



John Schumann and his band The Vagabond Crew have recorded the album 'Lawson' which consists of the poetry of Henry Lawson put to music. The album was performed in its entirety at the Memo Music Hall on 13 May, 2023.

The significance of this to Boroondara Cemetery devotees is that Hannah Thorburn, whom the poet became infatuated with, is buried in the cemetery. Henry's infatuation with Hannah and his drinking caused his wife, Bertha, to go to the offices of 'The Bulletin' and ask the editor for two passages to New Zealand and for letters to people who might help her husband find work. It was on a return trip to Melbourne in July, 1902, that Henry discovered that Hannah had died on 1 June, 1902.

Henry Lawson wrote a poem about Hannah, and it is this poem that has been set to music. You can listen on Spotify – it's really lovely. It is track 9 – 'To Hannah' – its popularity evident in the number of plays – almost three times more than most of the other tracks.

SPIRIT GIRL ... by Henry Lawson

Spirit girl to whom 'twas given
To revisit scenes of pain,
From the hell I thought was Heaven
You have lifted me again;
Through the world that I inherit,
Where I loved her ere she died,
I am walking with the spirit
Of a dead girl by my side.

Through my old possessions only
For a very little while,
And they say that I am lonely,
And they pity, but I smile:
For the brighter side has won me
By the calmness that it brings,
And the peace that is upon me
Does not come of earthly things.



John Schumann at Hannah's grave which quotes the following stanza of the poem

Spirit girl, the good is in me,
But the flesh you know is weak,
And with no pure soul to win me
I might miss the path I seek;
Lead me by the love you bore me
When you trod the earth with me,
Till the light is clear before me
And my spirit too is free.



Did you know ...

The Beehive Hotel, was named after the town of Beehive in Ireland where James Colvin, the first publican, was born in 1810.

The Beehive Hotel first opened its doors in 1855. One of the first Public Houses open east of the Yarra River, the current building has stood proudly on Barkers Road - originally named Beehive Road – since 1882.

While The Beehive has changed much throughout the generations, the original interiors are still featured today - giving off a rustic and earthy feel.



FOBKC Membership Renewals

reminder

We have once again been encouraged by the number of members/supporters who have renewed their membership this year and in addition those who have made generous donations. To all who have done so – a huge thank you.

This is a reminder to those who may have overlooked their renewal. We value all of our members and we appreciate your support.

We are also asking our **working bee volunteers** to become full members so that we can fulfill our insurance requirements.

If you would like an application/renewal form please email a request to marypetroff@bigpond.com.

Benefits of Membership:

- A reduced rate for our walks.
- Our fantastic newsletter which is aimed to keep you informed on what is happening at the cemetery
- This year our popular **Christmas Soiree** will resume and it has been decided to make this year's a "Members Only" event as an added benefit of being a member. However, each member will be able to bring a partner or friend if they so wish. (See page 9 for the date) Exceptions will be considered on a case by case basis.

NEW FINDS

Back at the beginning of June the Friends received the following email ...

Hello. While on holiday from Chicago, I visited Boroondara General Cemetery on 29 May. My longtime hobby has been Wikipedia editing, and I took a number of digital photos of notable individuals' graves and uploaded them to [Wikimedia Commons](#). Lucy, at the office, was tremendously helpful with locating ones I didn't have coordinates for. She suggested that I send you links to what I worked on, in case any of it is of use for tours or talks.

*I've included a summary below. The photo pages all contain GPS coordinates.***

I also created the Commons categories [Burials at Boroondara General Cemetery](#) and [Graves at Boroondara General Cemetery](#) for more convenient access.



It was great to be able to explore the space and its history, and the staff were incredible. It's been a high point of my visit to the Melbourne area.

Adam S. Aronow

I replied to thank him and enquired how he came to visit Boroondara (Kew) Cemetery and knew what to look for. He replied as follows ...



Well, I started fixing typos on Wikipedia in 2006, and gradually branched out into other types of editing. Around the start of the pandemic, I was living near Rosehill Cemetery - Chicago's oldest and largest - and started taking photos of notable

people's graves, mostly as a way to get some exercise in one of the easiest settings for social distancing. Since then I've taken a few hundred at other cemeteries in the area. A grave photo isn't the most important part of a biography, but a picture's worth a thousand words, and can sometimes help people connect with history in a way that text can't.

I'm in Melbourne with my girlfriend, who was working at the Rotary International conference. While she was busy for the first week of our trip, I explored on my own, and visited Melbourne General Cemetery, Kew, St Kilda, and Brighton. Now that the conference is over, we're doing some more traditional tourist activities, like a tour of the Great Ocean Road tomorrow.

I planned out my cemetery visits in a few ways. First I searched Find a Grave for famous burials with GPS coordinates. I added these as saved places in Google Maps. I then added ones where only the section was listed, making use of cemetery maps posted online, and marking the general area in Google. I also looked at the What Links Here feature for the cemeteries' Wikidata entries, e.g. <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Special:WhatLinksHere/Q4946285>.

Continued ...



Adam then listed some of the graves he had found. Most of them we were already aware of, but there quite a few (a lot of footballers) we didn't know about.

Checking several I didn't know I found the following entry particularly poignant.

George Henry Ward (22 April 1877 – 2 August 1921) was an Australian rules footballer who played with Essendon in the Victorian Football League (VFL)



Military

He enlisted in the First AIF on 6 July 1915, and served overseas with the 60th Battalion. He was wounded in action, in France, on 19 July 1916, where he sustained gunshot wounds to his right arm and left leg. He required four operations, and his left leg was amputated mid-thigh, in France. He was repatriated to England, and spent more than 12 months hospitalized there. He was declared unfit for general service in November 1917, and left England in March 1918, returning to Australia in May 1918.

Death

He killed himself "while suffering from [war caused] mental depression" in the dressing shed at the Yarra bathing ground, in Alphington, Victoria, in August 1921 (he was last seen on 2 August 1921, and his body was discovered, with the throat cut, and a razor lying near the body, on 11 August 1921). He was buried at the Boroondara General Cemetery on 13 August 1921

Another good find via Adam was the following architect who could have been included in our recent Architects & Engineers walks.

(Edythe) Ellison Harvie (18 May 1902 – 27 September 1984) was an Australian architect and an advocate for the professional development of women. In 1938, she became the first Australian woman to graduate with a Diploma of Architectural Design. Four years later she became the first woman to be elected to an Australian Architectural Institute council in 1942, as well as the first female Fellow of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects in 1946. That same year, she became the first Australian woman to become a partner in a large firm.

Harvie was recognised as an expert in hospital planning and administration, working on numerous Australian projects, including Mercy Hospital in East Melbourne (1934–36) and the original four multi-storey buildings of the Royal Melbourne Hospital (1936–41).



Early life and education

Harvie was born on 18 May 1902 in Prahran, Melbourne. Her parents were Robert William Harvie (3 January 1868 – 5 October 1922), a photographer, and his wife Alice Edington Harvie, née Marshall.

Robert William Harvie is notable in the history of Australian movie photography for filming in 1897 both the Caulfield and Melbourne Cups, developing the film and showing them the same evening at the Melbourne Opera House.

(Edythe) Ellison Harvie ... Cont'd ...

As a child, Harvie was fascinated by architecture and encouraged by her father. After having attended Warwick, a girls' school in East Malvern, she sought to gain employment as an articled assistant at a Melbourne practice. However, as she was unsuccessful, she enrolled at Swinburne Technical College in 1920 and continued her architectural training there for three years.

In 1921, she was invited by her lecturer Arthur Stephenson to join his newly established firm and serve her articles there. The firm, formed with Percy Meldrum, specialised in the design of hospitals, public housing developments and commercial developments. After graduating from Swinburne Technical College, she travelled to Europe to broaden her architectural knowledge and to learn about the latest trends and techniques in architecture. In 1925 she returned to Melbourne, where she completed her articles at Stephenson & Meldrum. It was at this time that she also attended the Architectural Atelier at the University of Melbourne, where she studied until 1928. Along with other architects at the Atelier, such as Margaret Morison, the course prepared articled students for the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects qualifying exams. **Harvie won both the University of Melbourne's Atelier award and the President's Prize for best student work in 1927. In 1938 Harvie became the first Australian female recipient of a Diploma of Architectural Design.**

Career

Harvie registered with the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects in 1926 and was elected an associate in 1928. The same year that she registered, Stephenson & Meldrum appointed her architect in charge of the Jessie MacPherson Wing of the Queen Victoria Hospital in Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. She would go on to contribute to every hospital project the firm worked on in Melbourne and Sydney during the 1930s, leading the work on St Vincent's Hospital (1933), Mercy Hospital (1934–36) and Freemasons Hospital (1935).

As Stephenson & Meldrum's international reputation grew, its restructuring into Stephenson & Turner in 1937 saw Harvie being made an associate of the firm. In this new role she became responsible for running the Melbourne headquarters while a new office in Sydney was being established. When war broke out in 1945 however, Harvie effectively ran both practices. She was made a partner of the firm - the first Australian woman to do so in a large practice. As well as qualifying as an accountant, she developed a new building contract that could adjust to the economic instability of the time.

Throughout the remainder of her career, Harvie cultivated a high public profile as a successful female architect, being mostly involved in large commercial and civic projects, rather than in residential architecture (the traditional domain of female architects). She was a strong advocate for the professional development of women and for their participation in public life. Melbourne's Lyceum Clubrooms (1959) and St Hilda's College (1963), Melbourne University, two of her few private commissions, were built to specifically serve women and clearly demonstrate the strong influence of International Modernism in her work.



St Hilda's College, Melbourne University

Harvie sat on the committees of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects from 1929 and was a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Frustrated with the lack of architectural appreciation in Australia, she served on the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects Board of Architectural Education from 1946 until 1956 and on the board of the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Architecture from 1945 until 1973. In 1942 she became the first woman to be elected to an Australian Architectural Institute council and, later, was a life fellow of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. She continued to work on hospitals until her retirement from full-time practice in 1968. Harvie died at East Melbourne on 27 September 1984.



WALKING TOURS

GOOD SPORTS WALK

Back in April Pauline Turville and Tim Sandison conducted a sports themed walk through the cemetery. The walk included the graves of --

- Ossie Pickworth (golfer),
- EA Haley (owner of champion racehorse, Tulloch)
- John Wren (Collingwood Football Club, horse racing and boxing)
- Daniel Minogue (Played for Richmond and Collingwood)
- Sherrin family (makers of AFL footballs).



Tulloch owned by E.A. Haley

Nine people attended, some of whom had connections to football! One lady had been to the President's dinner at Collingwood the previous Friday night. Another lady was the daughter of a former AFL player.

David Weatherill from RSL (Victoria) later emailed us saying that Daniel Minogue was never appointed to the Flying Corps but spent his time in the AIF as a Bombadier associated with an artillery unit. The RSL War Graves Working Group looked into Minogue as part of their research in a series of World War I servicemen.

Architects & Engineers

Following on from the above walk we conducted multiple walks talking about Architects & Engineers. As part of National Trust Heritage Festival we ran walks on 23rd April and 13th May and then conducted another two walks on Saturday, 29th July. These walks were all really well attended and we are consequently encouraged to organize the following walks.

Dates for the Diary

We are planning a couple of walks for the remainder of the year. Stand by for further info.

Saturday, 21st October, 2pm

Best of the Best

We've cherry-picked the best stories from our themed walks.

Sunday, 12th November, 2pm

We Remember Them

Local heroes who gave their lives for our freedom

Sunday, 10th December, 5pm

Annual Christmas Soiree

Twilight end of year celebration at the newly restored Springthorpe – This will be a "Members only +1" event.



WHEN HUMANS HURT, WOMBLE HELPS OUT.

FOBKC committee member, Les Littlechild, discovered this article about a special dog, Womble, in 'The Senior', 1 July, 2022.

Meet Womble, Australia's first funeral home comfort dog.



He has already begun his journey to bring much needed comfort to the grieving families that Kings Funerals support across the Geelong, Bellarine Peninsula, Surf Coast and Golden Plains regions in Victoria.

Comfort Dogs are increasingly employed by funeral homes in the USA to console bereaved families suffering through the loss of a loved one, while comfort dogs have also been put to great use at aged care facilities and hospitals internationally.

Inspired by the service comfort dogs provide, the Kings Funerals family spent two years searching for their perfect comfort dog, while researching best practices from around the world.

They eventually found Womble in 2019, with the assistance of a local charity. First trained as a Seeing Eye dog, Womble didn't meet the high standard of sight required, and was reclassified as a Comfort Dog.

"At Kings Funerals we understand the comfort a trained companion pet can provide to people experiencing grief and loss. People love Womble, he's got a really gentle, sweet, calm nature. If he senses that people would welcome it, he comes close to them, he might put his nose on their leg or just sit close for pats and cuddles," said Beth King, general manager of Kings Funerals, a family business in operation for over 65 years.

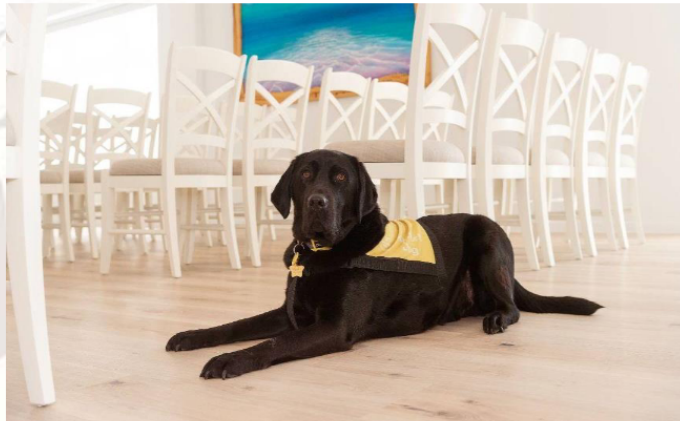
Kings
FUNERALS



WHEN HUMANS HURT, WOMBLE HELPS OUT (Cont'd).

Womble lives with Kings' staff member Jo, and her family, and is focused on his purpose to help the community. Once Womble's work vest is on, he knows what to do. Attuned to his environment, he has the ability to read people's emotional state and approach those looking for comfort. As a valuable member of the Kings team, Womble is there for grieving families and helps to provide the highest levels of empathy and compassion during the funeral process.

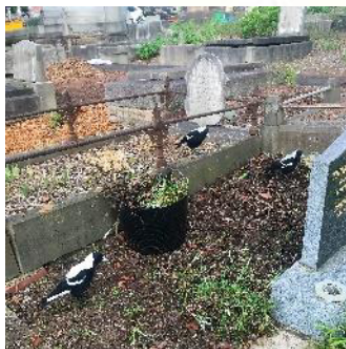
Roxanne Neylon recently experienced Womble's comfort dog service for her father's funeral at Kings' Geelong venue. *"Funerals can sometimes feel cold, but it broke the ice, having a dog there. We had a few small children, and if they were upset, they would go and pat and play with the dog. It builds on that empathy when you have an animal there, who understands how you're feeling on a different level. I felt that the service he provided was priceless,"* said Roxanne.



Research shows that adults accompanied by a therapy dog during a traumatic event experienced lower anxiety compared to those who were alone. Comfort dogs have also been found to increase overall well-being and coping with stressful life events. Petting a dog increases our 'feel-good' hormones; serotonin, dopamine, and oxytocin; which promote growth and healing as well as reduce loneliness and stress.

Womble has also been a positive influence on the Kings team, providing comfort and a distraction on difficult days. Womble even has daily rituals, like sharing Operations Manager Briohny Fitzgerald's carrots at morning tea.

GARDENING WORKING BEES



We have a wonderful core group of volunteers who attend our working bees each Saturday and Wednesday and we are so grateful for their ongoing contribution. In addition, we continue to attract new volunteers who come with great enthusiasm and we've been making great strides in recent months. We've cleared more gazania (yellow daisy low-growing plant) in preparation for planting. (The magpies love it and are so tame but don't do a scrap of work).

However, we have quite a large email distribution list but sadly there are many we have not seen for a very long time. We'd love to see you back!!! An email will be sent out shortly asking if you wish to be removed from our email list.