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## Committee

President:	Pauline Turville
Membership:	Mary Petroff
Treasurer:	Tim Sandison
Committee:	Tony Michael
	Anne Miller
	Les Littlechild

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## UPCOMING WALKS

Love Stories for the Ages (10<sup>th</sup> February)  
Local Heroes (11<sup>th</sup> April)  
Ned Kelly Connections (11<sup>th</sup> May)

For further details – see page 8

## The Scene at the Cemetery

As we launch into a new year, there is a bit to report on with a couple of important events which took place at the cemetery towards the end of 2023.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> October the new Garden of Remembrance was opened by local MP, Jess Wilson, seen here with Trust Chairman, Peter Sliferski.



Then, on 7<sup>th</sup> December, following a long period of restoration, the newly restored Springthorpe Memorial was launched and it was well worth the wait. The repair work done to the badly damaged angel's wing is, I think, extraordinary.

Following are some images taken on the day.



The angel's wing has been rebuilt and the wreath above Annie's head has been reinstated. All of the statuary has been given a thorough clean and is looking pristine.



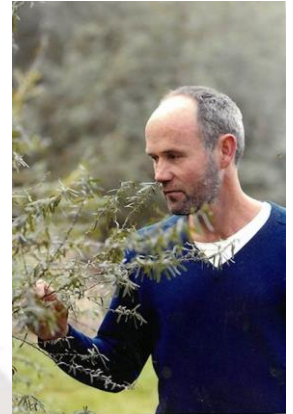
There is still further work needing to be done, specifically the paving around the perimeter of the memorial as well as landscaping.



## DOES ANYONE STILL SEND A POSTCARD ANYMORE - FOOD FOR THOUGHT AT THE AGM

At our Annual General Meeting. President, Pauline Turville, gave an excellent report on the year's activities, while Treasurer, Tim Sandison gave his Treasurer's report. However, all would probably agree that probably the most interesting part of the meeting was the talk on postcards given by Helen Page.

Does anyone still send a postcard anymore? Not likely! In this day of social media, emails and text messaging it is just too easy to use these tools to give a day-by-day account of your holiday.



Alexandra Gardens, Kew

Still, for over 150 years, sending postcards was almost an obligatory part of a holiday. "Did you remember to send your postcards" was the question asked at the end of a holiday? Did I forget to send a postcard to my friend, auntie or next-door neighbour?

Helen gave a most interesting talk on the post card collection of cemetery benefactor, the late Ken Duxbury, which included the history of postcards. With twice-daily mail deliveries, in addition to keeping friends and relatives up to date, it was possible to arrange social outings via postcard.

Ken's collection numbers around 2000 and has been donated to the State Library.

Helen shared many postcards from across the decades which included images of Kew, Melbourne Botanic Gardens, Kyneton, Bendigo and Hamilton!

Many will have seen old postcards and would remember how picturesque so many of them were. It can be interesting reading the messages that people wrote on the back of them can lead you to wonder what people were really trying to say and what the history of certain relationships was!



Cemetery entrance circa 1907, showing highly romantic planting scheme. The clock tower remains a major landmark, but is now partly obscured by dense 'native' plantings

Ken's handwritten comments on this early postcard of the Kew Cemetery.

Cemetery entrance circa 1907, showing highly romantic planting scheme. The clock tower remains a major landmark, but is now partly obscured by dense 'native' plantings

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2022-23.

*Postcards were not Ken Duxbury's only interest as FOBKC President, Pauline Turville, details in her annual report.*

The past year post-pandemic has been quite busy, notwithstanding that it's really returning to 'business as usual'. The day to day activities such as committee meetings, working bees, walking tours and producing newsletters means that there is always something in the works. This doesn't include attending to emails, as well as trying to keep Facebook, Instagram and the website updated. The work can be very rewarding, but the commitment is not insignificant.

Last year I was approached by Steve Stephanopoulos, former mayor of Stonnington and currently the archivist at Loreto Mandeville Hall who is also a passionate historian, suggesting a triumvirate with St Kilda and Brighton cemeteries, the aim being to support each other and coordinate our walks for National Trust Heritage Week and Open House Melbourne. The theme Steve suggested was the built environment. Kew put together an Architects and Engineers walk featuring, obviously, engineers and architects. I was initially a little apprehensive as previous engineers' walks appeared a little lack-lustre, but combined with architects it was ultimately one that was very successful. We will be working with Steve again next year and his enthusiasm and support for our work is quite inspiring.

Once again we've received a considerable amount of communication from the general public, feeding our now quite substantial database with interesting and influential stories of people interred in the Kew Cemetery. In April our Good Sports walk included some wonderful recently acquired stories about two never before heard of AFL identities.

Now in our 17<sup>th</sup> year, when compiling our newsletter, I'm conscious of repeating certain stories and occasionally I will ask myself the question – have we done this before? So last year I asked one of our committee members, Anne Miller, to create an index of all of our newsletters, numbering around 68. My preference was for it to be done in Excel, a format with which Anne was not familiar. To her credit she accepted the challenge and has recently completed this huge task. Now I can do a quick 'find' to see whether or not I'm repeating myself. Great job, thanks Anne.

As mentioned last year, I was invited to sit on the Trust's Asset Development and Major Projects committee. It's quite a privilege to be given such a level of inclusion and exposure to their work and I have to say there is a fantastic energy in the group about upcoming projects. You will no doubt have seen the new "Garden of Reflection" which will be opened next Thursday. The Springthorpe conservation is also nearing completion and that will be officially revealed at the end of November.

As you can see our financial position is very healthy. We have pledged \$10,000 to the Trust to go towards the conservation of the Springthorpe. We've been hoping over the years to be able to contribute to something really worthwhile and I think you will agree that the rejuvenation of the Springthorpe is one such project.





Tonight, Helen Page will talk to you about the Postcard Collection of Ken Duxbury. Helen was a close acquaintance of Ken's, and the Friends were bequeathed \$1000 to spend on trees to be planted in the cemetery in his memory. Working with Helen Page and the above committee, the trees have now been selected and sites for planting located ([see page 6](#))

I'd like to acknowledge and thank all of our wonderful members/supporters who continue to support the work we do. I'd like to also acknowledge our dedicated working bee crew. We have a core group (you know who you are) who show up rain, hail or shine.

Thanks as always to the girls in the office, Lucy and Wendy, for their support, CEO, Haydn Robins, as well a lovely new Manager – Corporate Services, Alyson Crawford.

In conclusion I'd like to express my appreciation to my committee. Tony, Tim, Mary, Anne and Les – I couldn't do it without you.

Pauline Turville – President

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## ANOTHER YEAR OF CHRISTMAS CHEER BY THE SPRINGTHORPE

A dozen or so members of the FOBKC and their friends and partners joined together for the annual Christmas drinks by the newly restored Springthorpe Memorial on Sunday 10 December 2023.



It was a wonderful chance to see the latest developments at the cemetery, catch up with the latest news and of course have a glass of bubbly if you felt so inclined!

It is amazing who you meet at these parties – not only people who have an interesting link to the cemetery but someone who went to the same school as you in some country town back in the day!

*Committee member, Les Littlechild, FOBKC stalwart, Gail White and her friend, Isabel, and President, Pauline Turville at the FOBKC Christmas party*

President's Note: The weeks leading up to Christmas are usually quite frantic, but I always find this event one of the most pleasant and relaxing. So, if you've not joined us before, we'd love to see you on the first Sunday in December this year. Pop it in your diary!!



## TREASURER'S REPORT

Income and Expenditure Account As At 30 June 2023

### BENDIGO BANK ACCOUNT

Funds bought forward as of 1 July 2022. \$ 12953.23

#### INCOME

Member subscriptions	\$ 520.00
Donations	\$ 280.00
Cemetery Tours	\$ 478.57
Cemetery Lady Bird Box, Book sales etc	\$ 375.00
Duxbury Bequest	\$ 1000.00
	<u>\$ 2653.57</u>

#### EXPENDITURE

RHSV Insurance	\$ 409.39
Cheques for reimbursements for tour costs, admin	\$ 180.30
eNom (web host)	\$ 76.27
Flowers for Frances Barrett	\$ 55.00
Transfers to Australia Post account	\$ 622.00
PO Box fee	\$ 153.00
Consumer Affairs	<u>\$ 61.20</u>
	\$ 1557.16

**Total profit \$ 1096.41**

Funds carried forward as of 30 June 2023. \$ 14049.64

### AUSTRALIA POST ACCOUNT.

Funds bought forward as of 1 July 2022. \$ 15.99

#### INCOME

Transfers from Bendigo Bank Account.	\$ 622.00
	\$ 622.00

#### EXPENDITURE

ZOOM subscription	\$ 291.40
Printer ink	\$ 81.82
Office works.	\$ 24.96
Consumer Affairs*	\$ 61.20
	\$ 459.38
Total profit	\$ 162.62

Funds carried forward as of 30 June 2023. \$ 178.61

### COMBINED ACCOUNT FIGURES.

Funds bought forward as of 1 July 2022. \$ 12969.22

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 3275.57</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$ 2016.54</b>

Total profit \$ 1259.03

Funds carried forward as of 30 June 2023. \$14,228.25

\*NB Consumer Affairs was inadvertently paid twice and a refund of \$61.20 is expected.





## New Tree Plantings

At the risk of this newsletter becoming the Ken Duxbury memorial newsletter (not a bad thing) the Friends, Helen Page and management set about fulfilling Ken's wish to leave a horticultural legacy at the cemetery.

Late last year five trees were purchased and planted close to the Duxbury family grave and near the Parkhill Road gate. They are a good size and will in time grow to further enhance our beautiful garden cemetery. Thanks Ken!!

*The Duxbury family grave is directly behind this tree.*



**Three trees near the Parkhill Road gate**





## TILL DEATH DO US PART - I DON'T WANT TO BE BURIED NEXT TO MY HUSBAND

*This amusing little item appeared in Danny Katz's 'Modern Guru' column of 'The Age Good Weekend' of 9 December 2023.*

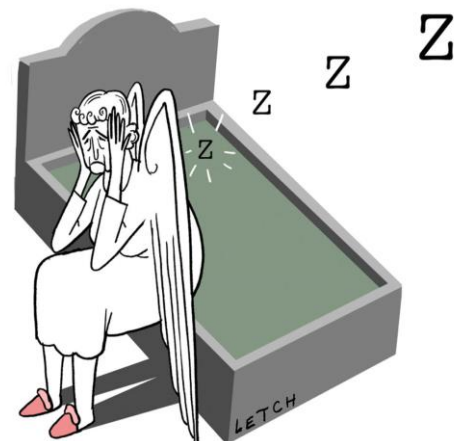
*My husband wants us to have our burial plots side by side. I love him dearly, but the thought of spending eternity with him is literally sending me into a cold sweat. Do I just have to go along with his romantic idea that we lie next to each other forever?*

**G.M., Mosman, NSW**

In one of my rare romantic moments, possibly the only one, I said same thing to my wife: that we be buried side by side, sleeping together for all eternity. And she said, "So you mean the same way we sleep now? With me holding a pillow over my head to block out your weird, mouth-popping noises? And my elbow forcing back your boob-gropeing hand? And my legs kicking away your scratchy, scaly feet? Uh, no thanks. I'd rather be cremated. Just burn me. Please. Like, soon."

That hurt a bit, but she made a fair point. Sleeping together for eternity is quite a commitment: it's not like you can take a break now and then and crawl out of your burial plot to sleep in a spare guest burial plot up the back of the cemetery. And what if the relationship goes downhill when you get older? You could wind up buried next to your ex-husband for eternity with his new wife Phyllis buried on the other side – the one he cracked onto during knitting circle at the Golden Goitre Nursing Home.

But if your husband is anything like me, romantic gestures come along maybe once in a lifetime. So I say, just go along with it and fill his heart with joy, raise his spirits high and hope that he dies first. Then sell your burial plot to a random stranger and let someone else spend the rest of eternity sleeping next to your husband, elbowing away his bony, gropey hand.



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One of our aims for 2024 is to get a new website. Our current website is essentially a blog and is fairly easy to work with, but has many limitations.

We are looking for someone who can help us set up an attractive but fairly easy to navigate website which will allow us to link documents and update with walks or news.

If you know anyone who can help us with this project we would appreciate their help. Email [kewcem@gmail.com](mailto:kewcem@gmail.com).

Pauline and FOBKC Committee





*Friends of Boroondara (Kew) Cemetery Inc*



## Upcoming Walks

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### Love Stories for the Ages – A Twilight Walk

With Valentine's Day approaching, love is, as they say, in the air. Boroondara Cemetery has some great love stories, the most amazing being that of John and Annie Springthorpe.

But there are many kinds of love from unrequited love to fleeting love and we'd love to share their stories with you.

When: Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> February  
Time: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm  
Cost: \$10 (members); \$15 (non-members)

Bookings are essential – email [info@fobkc.org](mailto:info@fobkc.org) or text/call Pauline on 0417 278 950  
Meet at the gates: Cnr. Parkhill Road & High Street, Kew

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### Local Heroes

Their stories do not reveal lives which were memorable for their great achievements in business or other fields of endeavor, but their lives are nonetheless valued, albeit cut tragically short. They left our shores to fight in the "Great War" and many of them died on the battlefields of Gallipoli or France. They are, however, remembered on family headstones.

When: Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> April  
Time: 2:00 pm  
Cost: \$15.00 / \$10:00 (Members)

Bookings essential – call or text Pauline on 0417 278 950 or email [info@fobkc.org](mailto:info@fobkc.org).  
Meet at the gates: Cnr. Parkhill Road & High Street, Kew

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We are once again taking part in the National Trust Heritage Festival and with their theme this year being "Connections" the following walk highlights all the *connections* Ned Kelly had with some of our cemetery residents.

### Ned Kelly – Hero or Villain

His name has become synonymous with courage, the phrase "game as Ned Kelly" having become part of the Australian lexicon.

Regardless of your viewpoint the Kelly legend is enshrined in Australian folklore. Join us and hear about some of those whose lives became linked with Ned's.

When: Saturday, 11th May  
Time: 2:00 pm  
Cost: \$15.00 / \$10:00 (FOBKC and National Trust Members)

Bookings essential – call or text Pauline on 0417 278 950 or email [info@fobkc.org](mailto:info@fobkc.org).  
Meet at the gates: Cnr. Parkhill Road & High Street, Kew

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