

# reflections

Spring 2014



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The Greater Metropolitan  
Cemeteries Trust  
Lasting memories, peaceful places.



## FROM THE CHAIR

I am pleased and proud to accept the position of Chair for the Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust. I acknowledge the work of my predecessor, Catherine Brown, in taking GMCT through the early years of amalgamation, and the immense contribution she has made to both the Trust and our community.

I look forward to building on her legacy and ensuring GMCT continues to serve the community, be responsive to changing needs, and actively working towards our mission: We provide the final care for your loved ones, with dignity and kindness. We respect all peoples, our heritage, our communities and the environment.

Di Rule, Chair



## FROM THE CEO

Once again, it has been a busy few months for GMCT as we continue to work towards our strategic goals, deliver improved facilities and work with our communities and stakeholders.

Customer Care is our focus throughout 2014-15 and we are constantly working to improve the customer experience, in particular engaging with community groups and actively seeking their feedback on our activities. Our annual All Souls' Day services are a wonderful event that brings the community together as they remember loved ones. Details about this year's services can be found on page 8. Over recent months, a number of staff have also attended or presented at industry conferences, which is a testament to the skills and expertise of our team not to mention our commitment to continuous learning.

Jacqui Briggs-Weatherill  
CEO

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# Celebrating All Souls' Day

**All Souls' Day**, or the **Feast of All Souls Day**, is a day of prayer for those who have passed away, particularly but not exclusively one's relatives.

An annual celebration for Western Christianity held on 2 November, All Souls' Day is associated with All Saints' Day (1 November) and its vigil, **All Hallows Eve** or **All Saints Eve** (Hallows means "a saint or holy person"). It is also referred to as **The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed** and has been celebrated since the 10th Century.

The colour violet, which symbolizes penitence, humility and longing, as well as black, which symbolizes sadness and mourning, may be worn on All Souls' Day in some churches.

To find out about upcoming All Souls' Day services, please refer to page 8 of this publication.

We look forward to welcoming you to one of our All Souls' Day services in October or November.

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## Horticulture Update

Kevin Walsh, GMCT Manager, Horticulture Planning recently presented at two conferences. On 12 June he presented a paper entitled **Planning for the Impact of Climate Change on Cemetery Landscapes** at the **Australasian Cemeteries and Crematoria Association** mid-year seminar in Melbourne. In August he presented a paper at the **National Conference of Parks and Leisure Australia**. This talk was entitled **Memorial Parks and Cemeteries – More than mourning and memories** and encouraged the audience to see beyond the core use of cemeteries as places of interment and memories, to cemeteries as public open spaces, such as havens of biodiversity and conservation, places for passive recreation, guardians of horticultural history and heritage, and green spaces within urban areas.

DRAFT

# Masterplanning



Over the past two years, the Strategy and Planning department has been working on masterplans for a number of key GMCT sites: Altona Memorial Park, Lilydale Memorial Park, Northern Memorial Park and Keilor Cemetery. However, a number of factors have necessitated a review of this progress and the development of a revised approach. These factors include a backlog of inventory and facility development on the active cemetery sites, changes to the organisational structure, and expectations articulated by the Trust at the strategic planning day (21 March 2014).

The new program will involve the following tasks during the 2014/15 financial year:

- Establish masterplanning program working groups in each region

- Review the existing masterplans with the new Regional Managers
- Confirm the existing masterplans with the new Trust
- Collect background information and commission specialist advice on all of the remaining active sites (7 sites in addition to those listed above)
- Undertake preliminary analysis and develop preliminary masterplans for those sites.

Once this work is complete, GMCT will be better placed to manage infrastructure development and complete masterplans for the remainder of the sites in the following years.

For more information on GMCT Masterplans, contact the Strategy and Planning team: (03) 9355 3142 or email [irobertson@gmct.com.au](mailto:irobertson@gmct.com.au)



*Kevin Walsh was interviewed by ABC Radio National.*

## Our cemetery landscapes feature on Radio National

GMCT cemetery landscapes were the focus of an ABC Radio National program which aired 21 June. The 'Off Track' program features landscape issues from across Australia and this segment looked at the many issues and challenges that cemetery landscapes face, as well

as day to day management. This was a great opportunity to improve the public's understanding of the variety of issues grounds maintenance staff face in maintaining and planning our peaceful places. Several GMCT horticulture staff were interviewed for the program.

## Garden of Eternal Memories, Fawkner

The hedge that separates the public car park from the Garden of Eternal Memories has been lowered to around 1.4 metres from its previous height of over 2 metres. This will allow more light into the Garden of Remembrance areas, while still screening the view of cars from inside the space. The maidenhair creeper that was on the fence will be allowed to grow back to create the look of a hedge while hiding the fence. The reduced height also means that maintenance will be safer and easier for GMCT horticulture staff.

# OPEN DAYS AT ALTONA, FAWKNER & LILYDALE



## Be Grave and Shave!

GMCT staff have participated in this worthwhile fundraiser since 2011. This year was our biggest effort to date with seven staff members volunteering to shave their hair or beards. Together, we raised \$2,600 for the Leukaemia Foundation. You can track our results on our team page here: [www.my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/GraveShavers](http://www.my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/GraveShavers)



The GMCT would like to thank the Sponsors who volunteered their time, skills and equipment:

David from Dida Hair Salon  
Shop 4/419 High St  
Preston VIC 3072  
9470 5473

Kylie from HBK  
0419 095 265  
[facebook.com/HairByKylieRobinson](https://www.facebook.com/HairByKylieRobinson)



## IN BRIEF

### Chapels upgraded

Fawkner Memorial Park Chapel is currently being upgraded to meet compliance standards and to improve the quality of chapel services.

The new chapels will feature upgraded amenities, weather shelters for outdoor guests mingling before and after the service, and a hearing loop to improve sound quality for those with a hearing impairment. The works are projected to be completed by November.

In the meantime, we have received very positive feedback about the temporary chapels which have been available during this time; the Tanderra and Eden Chapels. The quality marquee-style facilities will prove invaluable during future refurbishment projects.

GMCT thanks everyone for their patience and understanding while the Chapel upgrade takes place.



## Friends with Angels

Meets at the Commemoration Centre Café, Northern Memorial Park at 10am on the second Wednesday of every month.



# OUT & ABOUT

## Fawkner Historical Bridge Works March 2014



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please note: in case of emergency, the street address for Northern Memorial Park is 56 Box Forest Road, Glenroy 3046. The address for the caretaker house is 2 Meadowbank Street, Glenroy, 3046.



## Friends Groups

We have friends groups at Emerald, Lilydale, Coburg and Fawkner (Children's and Orthodox)

If you are interested in joining one of our friends groups please contact 9355 3106 for more information.

# OUT & ABOUT

## Volunteer Week 12 – 18 May 2014



On 14 and 15 May we held two functions to recognise and thank our community volunteers.

In the East, two members from the Lilydale Friends Group and four members from the Emerald Friends Group (known as F.A.C.E.S. – Friends and Carers Emerald Section) joined Regional Manager East, Andrew Eriksen

who hosted morning tea at Lilydale Memorial Cemetery and Cr Maria McCarthy presented the Volunteers with commemorative pins.

The Emerald friends group meets on site every Monday, from 10am – 12 noon and generally weed, rake and tidy the Emerald Cemetery. The Lilydale Friends Group is a new group who are currently discussing ideas for group activities, what their responsibilities should be, and how can they involve the community further.

In the North we held a lunch with the Friends with Angels (FWA) group; Orthodox community with family buried in the La Trobe section of Northern Memorial Park.

The group meets on the second Wednesday of every month at the Commemoration Centre in Northern Memorial Park. They are a social group who are active within the cemetery, organising clean up days in the La Trobe section, as well as social activities. Headed by Nina Kessaridis, the group were very appreciative of the Volunteer Week recognition and happily celebrated with a luncheon.



**F.A.C.E.S**  
Friends And Carers  
of Emerald Section



## West Region Update

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*The Rose Garden at Altona Memorial Park*

The Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (GMCT) is the custodian of 20 cemeteries and memorial parks, including two 'greenfield sites' (currently undeveloped) located within the North, East and West of Melbourne.

Our Western region covers Altona Memorial Park, Truganina Cemetery, Werribee Cemetery and Williamstown Cemetery.

Major renovations for our Altona Memorial Park Crematoria complex are scheduled to commence late 2014 and will take place over a period of approximately 10 months.

During this time, a temporary chapel, known as the Chapel of Reflections, will be installed on the lawns adjacent to the crematorium and will feature a spacious layout with seating for approximately 120 and a new state of the art audio-visual system.

## Welcome to our new Chair



Di has been a member of the GMCT Trust since March 2013 and was recently appointed new GMCT Trust Chair, replacing Catherine Brown.

Our September regional breakfasts were the perfect opportunity to officially welcome Di - who enthusiastically attended each one - and for her to personally meet and speak with many of our staff across all sites.

In addition to her professional background in journalism, publishing, education and

Government, Di brings a very personal and passionate approach to the Trust.

Di is heavily involved with other community work, with past and current roles on a number of Boards and committees, including the Kathleen Cunningham Foundation Consortium for research into Familial Breast Cancer at Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute.

Di will be an active and visible Trust Chair and we look forward to seeing her regularly at our sites and events.

## More news from the West

- » Developed Funeral Director visitation program
- » Membership of local networking groups
- » Continued relationship building with local community groups
- » Adjustments to West region structure creating a more streamlined and effective communication and reporting process
- » Continued work with Friends of Kororoit Creek

## Current Projects

- » Altona Crematoria refurbishment
- » Altona Memorial Park mulching program
- » Opened Court of Four Seasons
- » Altona Memorial Park fall arrest system
- » Williamstown Mausoleum step repair work
- » Williamstown Foundation Graves
- » Werribee entrance concrete edging
- » Werribee boundary tree planting
- » Melton fencing project

# Commemorative Poppy Tile



We all well understand the supreme sacrifice made by the women and men of our armed forces, during WW1, who gave up their lives for our nation.

What is perhaps not so well known, by the general community, is that of those who returned from the war, there were almost another thirty thousand who died within several years of the end of the fighting in 1918, and many, many others, who continued to suffer the effects of their war service, for years to come.

Those women and men, who served and returned were true casualties of the ongoing effects of war.

Not only were they the casualties but so too, were their families who often had to care for relatives who, despite having returned from the horrors of war, were still suffering.

We now have a method of showing that these heroes can be identified and recognised with a symbol that we have used for many years, the red poppy.

The families who place such a symbol on the grave, plaque, or memorial site of their relative or family friend, will be letting our nation know how proud of them they are.

That red poppy will tell us all that we are looking at one of our nation's unsung heroes, who served, who fought, and who returned to make this nation the magnificent country it is when the sacrifices, mateship and care for each other, which began through the service of our diggers on Gallipoli, became the way we, in our nation, deal with floods, fires, droughts and all those



catastrophes that horrify us from time to time.

We, in the RSL, are delighted that this initiative has been undertaken by the Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust and we will do what we can to support it, well done!

Words delivered by **Major Logan** (above left) during the launch of the Poppy Tile Project.

To find out more about the commemorative Poppy Tile Project contact GMCT [poppytile@gmct.com.au](mailto:poppytile@gmct.com.au) or telephone (03) 9355 3180

## Werribee Mausoleum Extension

We are excited about the opportunity to provide new mausoleum services at our Werribee Cemetery. This is in response to long standing community interest, including a waiting list with expressions of interest that date back to 2009.

The project to build approximately

200 mausolea positions will include single and double positions, as well as a small number of private mausolea. The development provides the community with a specific and appropriate response to their needs, but also assists GMCT in building positive community relations.



Above: Artist's impression of the new Werribee Mausoleum.

## Friends Groups

We have recently received expressions of interest from community members who are keen to form Friends Groups in Williamstown and Werribee. If you're interested in joining or starting a Friends Group in your area, please contact our Corporate Communications Advisor, Judith Mooney: 9355 3106 or [jmooney@gmct.com.au](mailto:jmooney@gmct.com.au)

# GMCT upcoming events

## October



**26/10**  
All Soul's Day Mass  
Preston Cemetery 2.30pm

### 11/11 Remembrance Day

Remember, reflect, honour.  
All Sites

### 23/11 Unveiling of The Yarra Valley Italian Heritage Memorial

Lilydale Lawn Cemetery 2pm  
All welcome

### 26/11 GMCT Annual Public Meeting

Fawkner Cornell Chapel  
1.00pm All welcome.  
RSVP [jmooney@gmct.com.au](mailto:jmooney@gmct.com.au)

## November



**2/11**  
All Soul's Day Mass  
Altona Memorial Park  
2.30pm in Maltese | 4pm in Polish



**2/11**  
All Soul's Day Mass  
Williamstown Cemetery 2.30pm



**8/11**  
All Soul's Day Mass  
Lilydale Memorial Park 11am



**8/11**  
All Soul's Day Mass  
Keilor Cemetery 11am



**9/11**  
All Soul's Day Mass  
Fawkner Memorial Park 2pm



**The Greater Metropolitan  
Cemeteries Trust**  
Lasting memories, peaceful places.

The Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust is a not-for-profit community based organisation that cares for: Altona Memorial Park, Anderson's Creek Cemetery, Burwood Cemetery, Coburg Pine Ridge Cemetery, Emerald Cemetery, Fawkner Memorial Park, Healesville Cemetery, Keilor Cemetery, Lilydale Lawn Cemetery, Lilydale Memorial Park, Melton West, Northcote Cemetery, Northern Memorial Park, Plenty Valley, Preston Cemetery, Templestowe Cemetery, Truganina Cemetery, Werribee Cemetery, Williamstown Cemetery, Yarra Glen Cemetery  
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