

# TEMPLESTOWE CEMETERY MEMORIAL GARDENS & CHAPEL

263 FOOTE STREET, TEMPLESTOWE, VIC 3113



The Greater Metropolitan  
Cemeteries Trust  
Lasting memories, peaceful places.



## ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT:

During 2015/2016 The Greater Metropolitan Cemetery Trust (GMCT) developed a series of short histories as part of its obligations under the Public Records Act 1973. The documents focus on the administrative history of each cemetery, providing a range of information which may be useful to researchers, including a brief historical overview, timeline and bibliography. GMCT gratefully acknowledges the work of Dr Jan Penney and Sarah Hurley in the development of this document.

**Cemeteries are controlled by a Trust appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the responsible Minister. The Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust is a Class A Trust and a body corporate with perpetual succession established by the Governor in Council pursuant to regulations under the *Cemeteries Act 1958* and updated within the *Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003*. The Trust is responsible for the maintenance of the cemetery, the handling of funds and the erection of monuments. Core services include interment in graves, interment in mausolea, interment of cremated remains, cremations, venue hire, hospitality, memorialisation, perpetual maintenance, archival cemetery and genealogical records and community events.**

From 1864 to August 1873 The Commissioner of Public Works and the Public Works Department were responsible for cemeteries including the appointment of Trustees and fees charged (VRG28). From 1873 to 1888 The Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey and the Department of Crown Lands and Survey were responsible (VG18). In 1888 the Chief Secretary and his Department (VRG26) were in control of cemeteries, but in 1890 the Minister for Health and the Department of Public Health (VRG39) become responsible under the Public Health Act 1889 – 53 (Vic No:1044).<sup>1</sup> In 1944 the new Ministry of Health Act (1943) and the Cemeteries Act 1944 (5025) saw the Minister for Health and the Department of Health become the responsible entity.<sup>2</sup> On 1 January 2015 the Department of Health and Human Services was formed, integrating the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services Sport and Recreation.

In 2002 the government initiated a Report on the financial viability of Cemetery Trusts which raised a number of concerns over the viability, financial management and governance of some cemeteries.<sup>3</sup> In 2004 The Department of Human Services was advised of concerns related to probity at some cemeteries and the Auditor General completed a review which was reported to Parliament in May 2005.<sup>4</sup> As a result the Minister for Health requested the Auditor General to widen the Review to include all major cemeteries<sup>5</sup> Government then initiated a review of the major cemetery trusts under section 50 of the Public Services Act (relating largely to the governance and effectiveness of the cemetery sector as a whole) which was undertaken by the State Services Authority and tabled in Parliament in June 2007.<sup>6</sup>

In July 2008 the State Government announced reforms to the fourteen major metropolitan and regional Cemetery Trusts that report to Parliament.<sup>7</sup> Two major metropolitan Trusts were created, the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust, and the Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust, three regional Class A Trusts and five other Trusts. Another major review of the five Class A Trusts was completed in May 2013 to ensure that the reforms were proceeding smoothly.<sup>8</sup>

Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust was formed in 2010 and assumed responsibility for twenty cemetery sites.<sup>9</sup>

**Templestowe Cemetery, Memorial Gardens & Chapel** is administered by the State Government through an independent Trust Board, the Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust, Class A, established in 2010.<sup>10</sup>

Templestowe Cemetery, Memorial Gardens & Chapel covers 3.9 hectares and is situated in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne.<sup>11</sup> It offers burial services and interment of cremated remains.<sup>12</sup> The cemetery at Templestowe also includes a variety of monuments, lawn graves and niche walls, against a hilled, green landscape, with a Chapel at its backdrop.<sup>13</sup>

On 9 July 1858, Trustees were appointed for the ground set apart at Templestowe as a site for a general cemetery.<sup>14</sup> They were the first in a series of Trustees, governing Templestowe in accordance with the Rules and Regulations published in the *Victorian Government Gazette*, from 1858 until 2010.<sup>15</sup> Although the Trust was only ever responsible for the Templestowe Cemetery, Memorial Gardens & Chapel, it had a continuous relationship with surrounding cemeteries at Lilydale, Anderson's Creek and Burwood, as well as interaction with the Bendigo Cemeteries Trust.<sup>16</sup> As one of the larger and more-established cemeteries in the eastern suburbs, Templestowe Cemetery, Memorial Gardens & Chapel cooperated with smaller, surrounding cemeteries and had an interest in their success.<sup>17</sup>

The first burial at Templestowe Cemetery occurred on 20 March 1860, in memory of the enfant, William Hurlily.<sup>18</sup> This is a rare early record, however, as most burial registers prior to 1879 were ill kept and are difficult to uncover.<sup>19</sup> Those records that are available, though, reflect a small, rural community at Templestowe that expanded from the 1960s onwards to become more multicultural, with a variety of denominations.<sup>20</sup> This changing community impacted on the cemetery, allowing for the introduction of Lawn graves on 19 October 1968, and a Children's section on 8 July 1972.<sup>21</sup>

On 8 April 1987, Templestowe Cemetery, Memorial Gardens & Chapel was officially closed by the Victorian Government.<sup>22</sup> Numerous changes have been made to the interior of the cemetery since 1987 to reopen the cemetery and create new places of interment.<sup>23</sup> Variations to the closing order of Templestowe Cemetery occurred on 12 July 1988 following a change in the cemetery's road network.<sup>24</sup> On 6 February 1991, 43 vaults were introduced to reopen the cemetery at Templestowe.<sup>25</sup> A further 62 vaults were then installed on 18 Dec 2006.<sup>26</sup> Lastly, an amendment on 1 July 2005 to the Crematoria and Cemeteries Act 2003 made new grave sites available at Templestowe, as space between graves was reduced to allow for additional third burials in certain graves.<sup>27</sup>

Further attempts were made by the Templestowe Trust to allow for additional internments, involving proposals to buy additional land. The earliest purchase of land by the Trust was made on 7 August 1908.<sup>28</sup> The urgency for increasing space at Templestowe Cemetery, Memorial Gardens & Chapel reflected a sudden and continuous rise in public interest from the 1960s onwards.<sup>29</sup> The Trust purchased land adjacent to the cemetery on 4 November 1978, and another four acres on 5 April 1979.<sup>30</sup> On 18 October 1980, land within Templestowe Cemetery, Memorial Gardens & Chapel was rezoned, creating more internment sites, followed two years later on 5 June 1982 with the purchase of additional land from MMBW.<sup>31</sup> Several land purchase requests by the Trust were refused by the Department of Health during the 1970s and 1990s due to insufficient Trust funds.<sup>32</sup> One example was the unsuccessful proposal to buy land adjacent to the cemetery on 27 July 1968.<sup>33</sup>

From 28 February 1967, the newly established City of Doncaster and Templestowe Council began working with the Templestowe Cemetery Trust to administer the Templestowe Cemetery, Memorial Gardens & Chapel, in accordance with the Cemeteries Act (1958).<sup>34</sup> The local council became involved in purchasing land for the cemetery and, later, ensuring the cemetery remained open during its period of increasing popularity. Doncaster and Templestowe Council organized additional land for the Templestowe Cemetery when widening the northern boundary along Foote Street on 23 April 1988.<sup>36</sup> At various times, councilors were on the Templestowe Cemetery Trust.<sup>37</sup>

Management of Templestowe Cemetery was transferred from Manningham Council on 15 December 1994 and is now administered by the government through an independent Trust Board, the Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust, established in 2010.<sup>38</sup>

**FUNCTIONS:**  
**INTERMENT, INTERMENT OF CREMATED REMAINS,**  
**MEMORIALISATION AND COMMEMORATION, CHAPEL, CATERING<sup>39</sup>**

## PARLIAMENTARY ACTS AND BILLS RELATING TO CEMETERIES

- 1850 An Act for the Establishment and Regulation by Trustees of a General Cemetery Near the City of Melbourne - 1850 NSW 14, No: 19
- 1854 An Act for the Establishment and Management of Cemeteries in the Colony of Victoria 17 Vic, No: 12 (1854)
- 1864 An Act to Consolidate and Amend the Laws relating to Cemeteries - 27 Vic No: 201 20, April, 1864; "The Cemeteries Statute 1864"
- 1867 An act to Amend the Laws Relating to or Affecting Public Health - 31 Victoria No. 310
- 1880 The Cemeteries Statute Amendment Act 1880 - 44 Victoria No. 677
- 1889 The Public Health Act 1889 - 53 Victoria No. 1044 - section 14
- 1890 Cemeteries Act 1890, 10 July 1890, an Act to Consolidate the Laws relating to Cemeteries - 54 Vic No. 107; in operation on the 1 August, 1890
- 1903 Cremation Act 1903 - Act No. 1876
- 1904 Northern Suburbs Cemetery Act - 30 November 1904 No. 1952
- 1905 Amendment to the Act, No.3098
- 1909 Cemetery Act No. 2218
- 1915 Cemetery Act No. 2626
- 1928 Cemetery Act No. 3652
- 1930 Cemetery Act No. 3982
- 1931 Cemetery Act No. 4046
- 1944 Cemeteries Act No. 5025
- 1958 Cemeteries Act 1958 No. 6217
- 1970 Cemeteries Act 1970 (Coburg Public Cemetery)
- 1971 Cemeteries Act 1971, Cemeteries (Fawkner Crematorium and Memorial Park Act, Cemeteries Act 1958-Sect. 86)
- 1994 Cemeteries Act 1958, Rules and Regulations, Mausolea Approval
- 1995 Cemeteries (Incorporation of Trusts) Regulations, Version 010, Ser. No. 137, 14 May 1998

- 2003 The Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003 (initiated in August, 2003)
- 2005 Cemeteries and Crematoria Regulations No. 76/2005 (current)
- 2010 Amendment to the Cemeteries Act (2003) Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003, Ver. 20 80/2003 1 March 2010, creation of Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust
- 2015 Cemeteries and Crematoria Regulations, Version 001, Ser. No.59, 27 June 2015

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- 2006 Auditor General, (July 2006) *Review of Major Public Cemeteries*
- 2006 Department of Human Services, *Costing Study for Cemeteries and Crematoria*, (2006) prepared by Pitcher Partners, Melbourne (online)
- 2007 State Services Authority for the Auditor General, (2007) *Review of Cemetery Trusts*, State Services Authority Interim Report April 2007, Final Report June 2007
- 2013 Department of Health and Human Services, *Review of the Governance and Management of the Class A Cemetery Trusts* (2013), Melbourne

## Templestowe Cemetery, Memorial Gardens & Chapel Timeline

- 1800s Ground for the Templestowe Cemetery marked out as a reserve on the subdivision map of the Parish of Bulleen<sup>40</sup>
- 1850s - Templestowe district began as a rural area with a small farming population.<sup>41</sup> Many of the cemetery internal roads are also named after persons from the district<sup>42</sup>
- 1850s Templestowe Cemetery divided into denominational sections, although these were not strictly adhered to<sup>43</sup>
- 1850s Public demand for a cemetery at Templestowe<sup>44</sup>
- 1857 August 12 - Request by Surveyor General at Templestowe for a public cemetery<sup>45</sup>
- 1858 July 9 - Trustees appointed for the ground set apart at Templestowe as a site for a general cemetery<sup>46</sup>
- 1860 March 20 - First burial for the enfant William Hurlily<sup>47</sup>
- 1860 November 9 - The Trust governed the Templestowe General Cemetery site in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Templestowe Public Cemetery, published in the *Victorian Government Gazette*<sup>48</sup>
- 1863 First Deputy Registrar of Births and Deaths for the district of Templestowe appointed (Alfred Krone)<sup>49</sup>
- 1867 July 30 - March 1879 - Poor record of burials kept<sup>50</sup>
- 1900s Early - Portion of the cemetery was fenced off and let for cattle grazing<sup>51</sup>
- 1908 August 7 - Application for grazing portion of land within cemetery grounds.<sup>52</sup> This grazing portion of land began to be sold as graves by 1929<sup>53</sup>
- 1953 Templestowe Cemetery Trust given funding for memorial gates.<sup>54</sup> These gates were erected at the Foote Street entrance in 1954, but were later removed in the 1990s due to the reconstruction of Foote Street<sup>55</sup>
- 1960s Templestowe Cemetery was considered a country cemetery and received small grants from the State Government for care and maintenance<sup>56</sup>
- 1960s Dramatic increase in the amount of burials at Templestowe Cemetery<sup>57</sup>

1967	February 28 - The Shire of Doncaster and Templestowe was proclaimed as a City and the Doncaster and Templestowe Council was established. <sup>58</sup> The council begun to administer the Templestowe Cemetery and have greater involvement in the Cemetery Trust in accordance with the Cemeteries Act (1958) <sup>59</sup>	1981	September 15 - Graves at Templestowe Cemetery to be sold from now on in perpetuity. Pioneer family burials section established. More vaults installed <sup>79</sup>
1968	First mention of Private Monumental Works in Trust Minutes <sup>60</sup>	1981	November 10 - Second Memorial garden created <sup>80</sup>
1968	July 27 - Proposal to buy land adjacent to Templestowe Cemetery <sup>61</sup>	1982	February 20 - Second Cremated remains wall installed <sup>81</sup>
1968	October 19 - Introduction of Lawn Cemetery <sup>62</sup>	1982	June 5 - Purchase of additional land (from MMBW) <sup>82</sup>
1969	February 1 - Pegging out new lawn section <sup>63</sup>	1982	August 28 - 10 new vaults installed <sup>83</sup>
1969	July 22 - Second burials approved in cremation section <sup>64</sup>	1984	December 8 - Additional niches for cremated remains built <sup>84</sup>
1970/1990s	Request for additional land by the Templestowe Trust to the Health Department were refused due to insufficient Trust funds <sup>65</sup>	1984	May 12 - Installation of 34 vaults <sup>85</sup>
1971	May 8 - Burials for 3 persons in one burial spot accepted <sup>66</sup>	1986	November 29 - Proposed Lilydale cemetery. 7 new vaults <sup>86</sup>
1972	July 8 - Children's section created. War memorial established on Templestowe Cemetery grounds <sup>67</sup>	1987	April 8 - Templestowe Cemetery 'closed' by Health Department, supply of graves exhausted <sup>87</sup>
1972	November 11 - Interdenominational cemetery established in Box Hill <sup>68</sup>	1987	May 30 - Rose garden memorials for cremations established. All cremated remains now to be sold for perpetuity <sup>88</sup>
1973	May 5 - Lawn section renamed 'James Read Lawn' <sup>69</sup>	1987	October 10 - Additional Trustees became part of the Templestowe Cemetery Trust <sup>89</sup>
1973	October 6 - Drainage of Church of England sections <sup>70</sup>	1988	February 6 - One additional Trustee became part of the Templestowe Cemetery Trust. Cremated remains memorial established under the Cypress tree <sup>90</sup>
1974	February 15 - Contract for vaults <sup>71</sup>	1988	April 23 - The City of Doncaster and Templestowe Council organize the northern boundary along Foote Street to be widened, increasing the amount of land available for the Templestowe Cemetery <sup>91</sup> Additional land for Templestowe Cemetery use was approved by the Health Department on 13 Feb 1990 <sup>92</sup>
1974	May 11 - New interdenominational monumental section at Templestowe <sup>72</sup>	1988	July 12 - Variation to the closing order of Templestowe Cemetery, which allowed for an additional 29 burials, following a change in the cemetery's road network <sup>93</sup>
1976	September 18 - Cremated remains wall built <sup>73</sup>	1990	September 11 - Commencement of Boundary Road capping <sup>94</sup>
1978	September 5 - Plots at cemetery purchased for Templestowe Trust members <sup>74</sup>	1990	October 1 - Additional areas for graves at Templestowe Cemetery to allow the cemetery to remain open, suggested by the Health Department <sup>95</sup>
1978	November 4 - Purchase of land adjacent to Templestowe Cemetery (from Mr. Coulton of Albury) <sup>75</sup>	1991	February 12 - Changes to the boundary wall and internal roads within Templestowe Cemetery allowed for more graves. An extension of the Garle Lawn and the North Eastern Corner that would also allow for more lawn graves was approved by Health <sup>96</sup> Department
1979	April 5 - Approximately 4 acres of land purchased (from Peter McDougall Wallace and Anglises Trust) <sup>76</sup>		
1980	February 16 - Cremated remains wall extended <sup>77</sup>		
1980	October 18 - Land rezoning inside Templestowe Cemetery <sup>78</sup>		

1991	February 6 - Second variation to the closing order of Templestowe Cemetery, involving the introduction of 43 vaults <sup>97</sup>	2008	February 11 - Parking Area proposed <sup>113</sup>
1991	October 8 - The City of Doncaster and Templestowe Council involved in the altering of Church Road within Templestowe Cemetery <sup>98</sup>	2008	July 7 - Templestowe Cemetery Trust withdrew its offer to buy 5 Waites Court <sup>114</sup>
1995	From 1995 onwards, Trust members were appointment for a period of five years. Prior to this, appointments were for life, or until resignation <sup>99</sup>	2008	January 30 - Poor condition of lawn graves <sup>115</sup>
1998	August 21 - Proposed Chapel complex 1858/ 2004 There had been 39 trustees <sup>100</sup>	2008	December 5 - Government proposal for an Eastern Region Cemeteries Trust <sup>116</sup>
2005	June - New record keeping requirements introduced at Templestowe Cemetery <sup>101</sup>	2008	Templestowe Cemetery Trust has a relationship with Bendigo Cemeteries Trust <sup>117</sup>
2006	Public interest for the introduction of a Mausoleum at Templestowe Cemetery <sup>102</sup>	2008/ 2009	Templestowe Cemetery is still open with available graves and niches for cremated remains <sup>118</sup>
2006	February - Proposed introduction of crypts at Templestowe Cemetery <sup>103</sup>	2010	January 1 - Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust takes over administrative control of Templestowe Cemetery <sup>119</sup>
2006	February 16 - Templestowe Cemetery affected by droughts <sup>104</sup>	2012	Templestowe Cemetery is situated on 3.9 hectares <sup>120</sup>
2006	March 31 - Templestowe Cemetery began a partnership with four other cemeteries, including those at Lilydale, Burwood and Anderson's Creek <sup>105</sup>		
2006	December 18 - Third variation to the closing order of Templestowe Cemetery, with the addition of 62 vaults after the closure of a minor road <sup>106</sup>		
2006	December 4 - Transportation of vaults within the Templestowe Cemetery, from Church Street entrance <sup>107</sup>		
2007	February 19 - Johnston Avenue vault project commences <sup>108</sup>		
2007	February 9 - Clay Red Rose Garden established <sup>109</sup>		
2008	January - Fourth variation to the closing order of Templestowe Cemetery. New grave sites made available following an amendment on 1 July 2005 to the Crematoria and Cemeteries Act 2003, which reduced the space between graves to allow for a third burial in certain graves <sup>110</sup>		
2006	September - Proposal to close Johnston Avenue for the installation of 62 vaults <sup>111</sup>		
2007	October 15 - Possible purchase of 5 Waites Court for Templestowe Cemetery <sup>112</sup>		

## **Templestowe Cemetery, Memorial Gardens & Chapel Names List**

1858 – 1977 Templestowe Public Cemetery<sup>121</sup>

1977 - 2010 Templestowe Cemetery, Memorial Gardens & Chapel<sup>122</sup>

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