

# COBURG CEMETERY

CNR ELIZABETH AND BELL STREETS, PRESTON, VIC 3058



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 internment in graves, internment in mausolea, internment 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>

**Coburg Pine Ridge Cemetery** is administered by the State Government through an independent Trust Board, the Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust, Class A, established in 2010.<sup>10</sup>

Coburg Pine Ridge Cemetery was established in the late 1850s covering 10.3 hectares and is situated near the Merri Creek in the City of Darebin. It was first established to cater for the staff and inmates at Pentridge Prison and includes the graves of many from the labour movement. It is primarily a monumental cemetery with some lawn grave areas and places for memorialisation of cremated remains. It is now closed for burials.

Coburg Cemetery was established in 1859 to provide a burial place for the growing village settlement of Pentridge to the north of Melbourne.<sup>11</sup> It consisted of some 10.3 hectares of land (24 Acres) and is bounded by Bell Street, Elizabeth Street, Booth Street and James Street, just to the east of Merri Creek. It opened in 1862 and was laid out in six compartments for the six major denominations with a separate section for “strangers”.<sup>12</sup> Burials began almost immediately but official burial records are not available until the 1870s.<sup>13</sup> According to the oldest headstones the first burials were in the prominent Wesleyan section.<sup>14</sup>

The site, on a slight rise on the eastern side of Merri Creek, was within the Pentridge Village reserve and close to Pentridge Prison. Originally set back from Bell Street, the land between the cemetery and Bell Street was gradually reclaimed for cemetery use.<sup>15</sup> The original land grant in 1859 was supplemented over the years by additions of land in 1877, 1884 and in 1911.<sup>16</sup>

The early burials and headstones reveal a cemetery for working class residents although there were some large landholders and gentlemen represented.<sup>17</sup> Merchants, shopkeepers, warders from the nearby Pentridge Prison as well as artisans and tradesmen lie together with monuments over sporting personalities, trade union leaders and Labor members of parliament.<sup>18</sup>

The original Trustees, (John Hatton, Samuel Woodman, Henry Kennedy, James Edward Taylor, Patrick Scully and Michael Deegan) represented the six major denominations as well as being prominent members of their local community.<sup>19</sup> In 1969, after repeated public complaints over the mismanagement of the cemetery Fawkner Cemetery Trustees were approached to assume the management of the Pine Ridge Memorial Park as Coburg Cemetery was then known and by 1971 government gazetted the change in management.<sup>20</sup> Fawkner Trustees were by this point independent trustees rather than municipal appointments.<sup>21</sup>

Various buildings were erected over the years for the caretaker's residence, the sexton's residence, office and boardroom but none of the early buildings now exist. Fences, gates and plantings have been altered over time although the current Cypress Pine plantings would appear to be about 100 years old. Constant problems with drainage through the steeper parts of the site have caused considerable damage above ground and meant the installation of large drainage works under the cemetery itself but the site continues to suffer from lack of sufficient drainage requiring ongoing maintenance.

In 1994 the amalgamation of municipalities meant that the former City of Coburg amalgamated with City of Brunswick to become the City of Moreland and City of Northcote amalgamated with the City of Preston to become City of Darebin. At this time the boundaries were redrawn and the new eastern boundary of Moreland meant that the Coburg Cemetery was now just within the City of Darebin.<sup>22</sup>

Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust was formed in 2010 and assumed responsibility for Coburg Cemetery among a number of other cemeteries.<sup>23</sup> Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust Community Advisory Committee decided to make Coburg Cemetery the focus for its attention for one year, as a result of numerous public complaints and regular local newspaper reports on the sorry condition of the cemetery. This led to an increased focus on needed maintenance upgrades, the development of several public events such as guided heritage walks and the beginnings of the Friends of Coburg Cemetery.<sup>24</sup>

**FUNCTIONS:  
COBURG PINE RIDGE CEMETERY PROVIDED INTERMENT,  
MEMORIALISATION AND COMMEMORATION SERVICES TO  
THE PUBLIC**

**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

**REVIEWS OF CEMETERIES UNDER THE ACT**

- 2002 Department of Human Services, *Evaluation of the Financial Viability of Victoria’s Cemetery Trusts and the Development of Fee Models*, (2002) prepared by RSM Bird Cameron, Melbourne (online)
- 2005 Auditor General Victoria, (May 2005) *Results of Special Reviews and Other Investigations, Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries Trust, Review of Expenditure and Related Matters*
- 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

**OFFICIAL RECORDS**

- Government Gazette NSW*, 1836-1850
- Victoria Government Gazette*, 1850-

**Coburg Cemetery Timeline**

- 1837 Area was surveyed by Robert Hoddle and space marked out for a village<sup>25</sup>
- 1840 Village named Pentridge established but often called Pentridge Stockade<sup>26</sup>
- 1849 Pentridge Village was formally surveyed as a long rectangle of land with Bell Street as the southern boundary although there was a strip of private land between Bell Street and the actual cemetery site<sup>27</sup>
- 1850 Pentridge (Penal) Stockade established in December 1850 to hold 16 prisoners transferred from the overcrowded Melbourne Gaol which quickly became a large institution employing large numbers of local people as staff.<sup>28</sup> By the 1850s more than a third of the local residents were prisoners and by 1865 the rate book lists 312 houses with over 1000 free inhabitants, many of which were related to the prison in some way.<sup>29</sup>
- 1859 Pentridge Prison Governor Mr. W. Champ wrote to the Office of Lands and Survey suggesting land be set aside at east end of Village for a cemetery<sup>30</sup>
- 1859 Prison Governor and local church ministers met on site to discuss the cemetery layout<sup>31</sup>
- 1859 29 February, A Notice for a public meeting was advertised in *The Argus*, p.8<sup>32</sup>
- 1859 6 March 1859 – a public meeting was held at the local National School and Trustees were elected for the General Cemetery Pentridge. The Trustees were 2 representatives from the Church of England, 2 from the Roman Catholic Church, 1 Wesleyan, 1 Presbyterian and 1 Baptist and all were members of their church and prominent local businessmen or residents<sup>33</sup>
- 1859 15 August – land was set aside for cemetery, a portion situated within the town reserve of Pentridge, as a site for a public cemetery. 14 acres, two roods county of Bourke, Parish of Jika Jika.<sup>34</sup>
- 1860 Following a popular election, the first meeting of Trustees discuss the layout of site on the 6 March 1860. An idea of this layout had already been generated at the onsite meeting in 1859. The site consisted of 5.6 hectares (14.5 acres) divided into six compartments reflecting the 6 main denominations, Church of England, Roman Catholic, and Presbyterian. Wesleyan and Baptist, plus an area for “strangers” to hold the remains of the local Chinese market gardeners, Muslims and others<sup>35</sup>

1860	Trustees were appointed: John Hatton, Samuel Woodman, Henry Kennedy, James Edward Taylor, Patrick Scully, and Michael Deegan by Order in Council <sup>36</sup>	1886	Trustee sends a deputation in August to Minister for Public Works to seek funds for a drain through the cemetery due to scouring. <sup>49</sup> An inspection of site by Mr Reed (Health Dept.) reported on the nature of site and its soils and the scouring action of water across the site. 7 Sept 1886. The site on the side of a hill leading down to Merri Creek meant there were constant issues with overland drainage during wet weather causing scouring, grave subsidation and memorial instability. <sup>50</sup>
1862	Rules and Regulations for Pentridge General Cemetery were gazetted <sup>37</sup>	1890	Erection of “wing” extension to Caretakers for an Office & Boardroom. A committee was appointed to oversee Office extension to drawings by Mr Sheffield and erected by “Chrisford” at £70 <sup>51</sup>
1860s	Although early records are lost it would seem that the first burials may have been within the Wesleyan Methodist section as the Wesleyans were a strong force in the working class areas of Brunswick and Coburg. <sup>38</sup> The oldest headstones found in the cemetery are Wesleyan <sup>39</sup>	1890	Official return to Health Dept. identified that the office was in the course of erection, the site was enclosed by picket fence bound by hoop iron and the caretaker was Mr J Taylor (remuneration £26 plus house), and the sexton was resident in grounds as well. <sup>52</sup> Note: in 1890 the oversight of Cemeteries passed to the Health Department who sent out questionnaires to every Cemetery Trust to identify (inter-alia), the date of setting up the cemetery, whether there were rules and regulations, what structures had been built, how the site was enclosed, how often the Trustees met, how many burials there had been, how many grave sites there were, how many had been used and so on. Many Trusts were not particularly liberal in supplying answers to these questions and the official returns provide a somewhat sketchy view of what was happening.
1862	Government grant of 59 pounds was made to provide fences and other amenities which was later increased to 150 pounds. <sup>40</sup> Many other applications for grants over the years were dismissed and the cemetery Trustees constantly struggled to afford proper maintenance.	1895	“Health Officer” reported on hardness of Ground in Cemetery <sup>53</sup>
1863	Letter from Chairman of Trustees sought a new access road from Bell St, a vertical street that became the current entry road, as the existing access (the Urquhart St extension, was impassable in wet weather. An amended plan with new road is shown dated 1867 <sup>41</sup>	1902/6	Fawkner Cemetery was created after a series of Cemetery conferences held by the City of Melbourne and local northern municipalities and land was acquired on the branch rail line from Coburg and Fawkner Cemetery opened in 1906 <sup>54</sup>
1870s	The first years under Trustee’s control were spent dealing with quorums and administrative issues with meetings sometimes abandoned. Ongoing discussions about layout of cemetery, landscaping, watercourse issues and fencing took up most of their time. <sup>42</sup>	1906	Constant problems with drainage plagued the site with erosion and scouring a common problem, somewhat eased by the installation of a main drain in 1906 following other drains installed in 1888 and later <sup>55</sup>
1870	There was constant public opposition to being associated with Pentridge Prison, often referred to as Coburg Prison, and the population made frequent attempts to change the name of the area <sup>43</sup>	1910	Erection of Buildings – Offices and Boardroom to the design of Murray Pullar Essendon, Contractor <sup>56</sup>
1875	11 June 1875, the first recorded burial, is of Margaret Sullivan, 19 years old, who died of consumption but many other burials had taken place since 1859 (records were lost or destroyed) <sup>44</sup>	1911	Land along the south west corner was acquired by the Trust and used for burials until 1930s but not gazetted as Crown Land until 1964 <sup>57</sup>
1877	First extension of land to cemetery with an extra 4 acres 1 rood, allotments 14,15,16,17, the areas around the south east corner of the site <sup>45</sup>	1911	Complaints of mismanagement and poor keeping of graves after bodies were found floating in water filled graves resulted in a report by the Public Health Department. The Inspector heavily criticised the management and Trustees and the article was circulated in various interstate newspapers as a result <sup>58</sup>
1880	Caretaker’s Cottage erected. “A three room house” with architect Nunn and builder Mr Gilbert who accepted a tender of £148.15.6 <sup>46</sup>		
1884	Second extension of land to cemetery which is the area directly to the west of the Bell Street gate entry and consists of another 2 acres 1 rood. <sup>47</sup>		
1884	Trustees meet in <i>Summer house</i> which is the first mention of such a building on site and they continue to do so until 1890s <sup>48</sup>		

- 1912 Health Dept. writes to Trustees to request a Salvation Army member be appointed. When disputed by the Trustees, the Govt seeks legal advice ending with the Trustees required to appoint Major Robert Lord of Salvation Army to Trust.<sup>59</sup>
- 1912 Complaints of illegal burials were made which involved the Trustees and the Board of Health<sup>60</sup>
- 1914 Trustees begin paving with bricks between the graves<sup>61</sup>
- 1914 Formalisation of “kink” in main drive<sup>62</sup>
- 1915 New north east to south west drain by Mr Murray Pullar Engineer and Architect (9ft below ground, 6 foot wide in concrete) with a 20ft road to be built over top.<sup>63</sup>
- 1915 A 20ft roadway was built over the drain installed the same year and it is possible the current Cypress Pines were planted along the roadway at that time<sup>64</sup>
- 1916 Official return on PROV file, identifies the brick paving and other drainage works in progress<sup>65</sup>
- 1918 Anon. letter sent to Trustees asking why a German gardener is employed, which reflected community concerns over the First World War, and this was also reported in newspapers<sup>66</sup>
- 1918 Old picket fence removed and replaced with cyclone wire fence<sup>67</sup>
- 1918/9 Cemetery began open on Sundays to cope with extra demand as a result of the influenza epidemic<sup>68</sup>
- 1920 Significant upgrades to paths, water service extensions, new picket fences and front entrance gates<sup>69</sup>
- 1920s Controversy over Trustees using internal roadways for burials restricting access to graves erupted, a practice which continued into the 1950s and caused the Dept. of Health to issue warnings which were ignored<sup>70</sup>
- 1924 New Entrance Gates added<sup>71</sup>
- 1925 Gum trees along the eastern boundary removed and replaced with Cypress Pine hedge<sup>72</sup>
- 1927 Misappropriation of monies by the late Secretary of the Trustees was recorded and attempts were made by the Trustees to recover the funds from his estate<sup>73</sup>
- 1937 MMBW completed a bored sewer line NE to SW through the cemetery with no effect on cemetery. Picket Fence erected on James Street (£100 + £120)<sup>74</sup>
- 1945 Aerial photograph of site reveals Booth and James Street were unmade tracks with no houses, trees along NE-SW path appear to be Canary Island Palms (7) and some trees and hedging were planted along Elizabeth Street boundary. There appear to be no other trees. Buildings were confined to an area around the entry gates.
- 1949 Last official return on Dept. Health form held on PROV file: dated 31.Dec 1949 for year July 1948- 30 June 1949 states “Works: Painting of Office, Lodge, Outbuildings £350 Works: Repairs Roads and Paths £175 Total Graves used 22,313 New Last year 47, Unused Grave sites: 350. Total burials since cemetery opened 48,311 past year burials: 476, Total burials to date 48,787 at 30 June 1949”<sup>75</sup>
- 1950s Criticism of the Board of Trustees begins to mount<sup>76</sup>
- 1960s Local newspapers continued to criticise the Trustees over the general lack of maintenance with frequent photographs showing heavy weed growth and leaning monuments<sup>77</sup>
- 1960s Coburg Cemetery becomes less financially viable as land available for burials was no longer able to be found and the Trustees struggled to manage the site<sup>78</sup>
- 1962 Original roadway which was once the boundary was officially incorporated into cemetery land although it had been in use as an internal road since 1877 as the extensions of land were acquired. Allotment 9 was formally incorporated into Cemetery land and this was the final extension of the current cemetery at a cost of Thirty One Pounds.<sup>79</sup>
- 1964 Former employee of Coburg Council who rented the caretaker’s residence was evicted to create space for a lawn cemetery once the building was demolished.<sup>80</sup>
- 1964 Lawn cemetery was created where old caretaker lodge was which instituted the name change of this section to Pine Ridge<sup>81</sup>
- 1964 Master of Stone Masons Association challenges the Board of Trustees over the low number of licences issued and accuses the Trust of corruption.<sup>82</sup> The Secretary of the Trustees was also a stone mason and was accused of protecting his own interests by limiting the number of licenses issued<sup>83</sup>
- 1966 New complex consisting of office, mess room, store and board room was built<sup>84</sup>
- 1967 Trustees attempted to ban photography within the cemetery to try to stop visitors and newspapers publishing images which showed the poor state of the cemetery<sup>85</sup>

- 1967 Trustees approached the Coburg Council to accept management of the cemetery but this request was refused<sup>86</sup>
- 1968 Lawn section of the cemetery was renamed “Pine Ridge” Memorial Park in an attempt to deflect criticism away from the Coburg Trustee’s management<sup>87</sup>
- 1969 Fawkner Cemetery Trustees were asked to take over the management of Coburg Cemetery after the Monumental Stone Masons Association placed a ban on the cemetery which forced the state government to remove all the Trustees<sup>88</sup>
- 1970 3 August 1970 Coburg Public Cemetery Trustees hold their last meeting as the operating Trust<sup>89</sup>
- 1970 Fawkner Cemetery Trust were appointed managers of Coburg Public Cemetery then known as Pine Ridge Memorial Park and the Cemeteries (Coburg Public Cemeteries) Act 1970 allowed the Fawkner Trustees to use general funds towards the maintenance of Coburg Cemetery<sup>90</sup>
- 1971 Fawkner Cemetery Trust moves from a municipal base of members to an independent membership appointed by Governor in Council<sup>91</sup>
- 1971 New Fawkner Cemetery Trustees noted the responsibility for the management of financially non-viable Coburg Cemetery (Pine Ridge Memorial Park)<sup>92</sup>
- 1971 Cemetery was closed to new burials although current rights of internment holders may still be accommodated<sup>93</sup>
- 1979/84 Continued complaints over levels of maintenance and damage by vandals were published in local papers plus discussion over the increasing maintenance costs and deteriorating monuments<sup>94</sup>
- 1984 Plans developed for a Pioneer Memorial Park section, possibly modelled on the Old Pioneer Section at Fawkner Cemetery, were opened for public comment<sup>95</sup>
- 1986 The Trustees, with the approval of the Dept. of Health, approved the removal of unsafe and dangerous monuments which resulted in loud and vocal opposition to these acts in the media and in local politics. Many monuments were bulldozed and removed, others were replaced when families complained and others were stored on site where they remain. The area was semi landscaped under the Community Employment Scheme but public opinion continued to oppose the situation until the appointment of specialist advice was sought.<sup>96</sup> Some 4,100 grave sites holding 3000 monuments were removed and the area landscaped using funds obtained through the Community Employment Program.<sup>97</sup>
- 1987 April, Loder and Bayly Pty Ltd were appointed as heritage consultants to assist Fawkner Crematorium and Cemetery Trust to develop some proposals to manage the high maintenance costs<sup>98</sup>
- 1987 Continued complaints over mismanagement at Coburg led to a visit by the Mortuary Industry and Cemeteries Administration Committee<sup>99</sup>
- 1988 March 1988 a public protest connected to the “Save the Coburg Cemetery Action Group” led a petition to the Health Minister and Minister White visited the cemetery<sup>100</sup>
- 1989 In January Loder and Bayly Report finalised the Report which recommended the establishment of a Pioneer Park type cemetery with the headstones removed and placed in a wall or similar as the most financially viable option<sup>101</sup>
- 1990 Only a minority of responses to a public questionnaire on the future of the cemetery supported the notion of the creation of a “pioneer park” and the majority wanted the cemetery to be maintained in its present form which was an expensive option with no income able to be generated<sup>102</sup>
- 1994 The amalgamation of municipalities meant that the former City of Coburg amalgamated with City of Brunswick to become the City of Moreland and City of Northcote amalgamated with the City of Preston to become City of Darebin. At this time the boundaries were redrawn and the new eastern boundary of Moreland meant that the Coburg Cemetery was now just within the City of Darebin<sup>103</sup>
- 2000 Maintenance costs at Coburg continued to concern the Fawkner Trustees and the garden maintenance was briefly contracted out to low risk offenders from the Coburg Community Corrections and also to the Koori Garden Team but neither was successful in the long term<sup>104</sup>
- 2004 The Department of Human Services was advised of concerns related to probity at the Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries Trust which instigated a review by the Auditor General
- 2005 Findings of Review were reported to Parliament in May 2005<sup>105</sup>
- 2006 July - Government then decided to initiate a larger review of the fourteen major cemetery trusts in the state resulting in an Interim Report in tabled in Parliament on July 2006<sup>106</sup>
- 2006 August 2006 an administrator was appointed to the Fawkner Crematorium and Memorial Park after allegations of fraud and the Trust was dismissed.<sup>107</sup>

- 2008 July 2008, the State Government announced reforms to the 14 major metropolitan and regional Cemetery Trusts that report to Parliament under the Financial Management Act 1994.
- 2010 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<sup>108</sup>
- 2010 Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust is formed and assumes responsibility for Coburg Cemetery among a number of other cemeteries<sup>109</sup>
- 2010 1 March - first meeting of the Greater Metropolitan Cemetery Trust<sup>110</sup>
- 2010 Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust Community Advisory Committee decided to make Coburg Cemetery the focus for its attention for one year, as a result of numerous public complaints and regular local newspaper reports on the sorry condition of the cemetery. This led to an increased focus on needed maintenance upgrades, the development of several public events such as guided heritage walks and the beginnings of the Friends of Coburg Cemetery<sup>111</sup>
- 2011 Upgrades include new front fence, refurbishment of entrance gates, new fence along Bell Street façade, demolition of the unused administration building, removal of vegetation and trees past their useful life and posing a danger to visitors and monuments.<sup>112</sup> Friends of Coburg Cemetery formed<sup>113</sup> Publication of a self-guided cemetery walk focussing on some 30 prominent individuals.<sup>114</sup>
- 2012 Erection of Pavilion on near Bell Street entrance provided undercover space for visitors near the refurbished toilets<sup>115</sup>
- 2012 Development of a published series of heritage walks by Friends of Coburg Cemetery in conjunction with GMCT<sup>116</sup>
- 2013 A review of the five Class A Trusts was completed in May 2013 to ensure that the reforms were proceeding smoothly.<sup>117</sup> While some minor changes were recommended on the whole the government was satisfied the reforms had succeeded.

## Coburg Cemetery Name Changes

- 1859 General Cemetery Pentridge<sup>118</sup>
- 1860 General Cemetery Pentridge<sup>119</sup>
- 1870 Cemetery Pentridge<sup>120</sup>
- 1876 Coburg Cemetery<sup>121</sup>
- 1877 Pentridge (Coburg Cemetery)<sup>122, 123</sup>
- 1878 Coburg Public Cemetery<sup>124</sup>
- 1884 Cemetery (Coburg)<sup>125</sup>
- 1886 Coburg Cemetery<sup>126</sup>
- 1910 Coburg Cemetery<sup>127</sup>
- 1966 Coburg General Cemetery<sup>128</sup>
- 1968 Pine Ridge Memorial Park (lawn section only)<sup>129</sup>
- 1969 Coburg General Cemetery<sup>130</sup>
- 1970 Pine Ridge Memorial Park<sup>131</sup>
- 1971 Coburg Public Cemetery<sup>132</sup>
- 1998 Coburg Pine Ridge Memorial Park<sup>133</sup>
- 2007 Coburg Pioneer Memorial Park<sup>134</sup>
- 2010 Greater Metropolitan Cemetery Trust – Coburg Pine Ridge Cemetery<sup>135, 136</sup>
- 2010 Coburg Public Cemetery and Pioneer Memorial Park, Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust<sup>137</sup>

## Coburg Cemetery Bibliography

### ARCHIVES - GREATER METROPOLITAN CEMETERIES TRUST

Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust: loose material held at Fawkner Offices including original minute books, loose certificates, plans and photographs, burial records and annual reports among others docs

Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust: Coburg Public Cemetery (1987) Fawkner Trustees, pp. 1-3

Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust Annual Reports 2010 - 2015



## ARCHIVES – HEALTH DEPARTMENT ARCHIVE

Files headed Coburg Cemetery, var including correspondence and Annual Reports to the Dept. of Health

## ARCHIVES - PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE OF VICTORIA

Public Records Office of Victoria: Coburg Public Cemetery: Department of Health File (incorporating material from Office of Crown Lands and Survey) 1850s – CEM 125-01 (1859-1950); CEM 125-02 (1951-1965); CEM 125-A (1964-1966); CEM 125-05 (1987-1988); CEM 125-04 (1983-1987) and CEM 125-3 (1965-1980)

City of Coburg – var including Minute Books, Outward Letter Books, Public Works Committee Minutes; PROV VPRS 011314P/001, Units 00018-36

## MAPS AND PLANS

State Library of Victoria, Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works detail plan. 2535, Municipality of Coburg [cartographic material].

## Newspapers and Articles

*The Argus* 1848-1957

*The Coburg Leader* 1890-

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*\*Lists those cemeteries which were incorporated into GMCT in 2009*

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