

# ALTONA MEMORIAL PARK

2-14 DOHERTY'S ROAD, ALTONA NORTH, VIC 3025



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>

**Altona 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>

Altona Memorial Park covers 53.3 hectares and is situated in the western suburbs of Melbourne. It offers burial and cremation services. It is a spacious lawn cemetery featuring landscaped spaces, mostly planted with native species, with extensive memorial gardens and a limited number of upright headstones.

The Altona area was first explored by J.H. Wedge in August 1835.<sup>11</sup> In 1836 the first pastoral licence was granted to Alfred Langhorne for 248 acres (Laverton station or Truganina) and a year later the still surviving Altona homestead was built.<sup>12</sup> Langhorne bought more land in the later land sales eventually owning or leasing over 19 square miles of land.<sup>13</sup> The area was slow to develop but in 1864 Altona became part of the Shire of Wyndham (Werribee).<sup>14</sup> Trains were scheduled to bring potential buyers to a major land sale in 1888 but the land boom did not last.<sup>15</sup> The Shire of Wyndham changed its name to Werribee in 1909 but settlement was still slow.<sup>16</sup> Once again trains were used to bring buyers to the next land sales in 1917 which was more successful this time and Altona began to grow.<sup>17</sup>

By 1946 Williamstown Cemetery, the local cemetery, was reaching capacity and the Trustees were cognizant of the increasing interest in cremation as a popular option.<sup>18</sup> Space at Williamstown for a crematorium was limited and, after much discussion and reflection, the Williamstown Cemetery Trustees took an option over land at Geelong Road, Altona.<sup>19</sup> The Trustees start planning for a cemetery focused on cremation and lawn graves with plantings of native species all of which were relatively new ideas and attractive to cemetery managers as maintenance of lawn cemeteries was far easier and less costly than a monumental cemetery like Williamstown. After several options over the land at Altona had expired and the government had not formally approved the purchase, nor the requested loan, the Trustees purchased the land with a deposit of 20,000 pounds trusting government would supply the rest of the funds as required.<sup>20</sup>

The local newspaper reported on the consternation of the Altona riding councillors at the purchase price for the land reserved for the Altona cemetery quoting the council valuation of 15 pound per acre against the reported purchase price of 333 pounds per acre, and noting the highest price ever paid locally was @200 pounds per acre.<sup>21</sup> The total amount of the loan was 246,000 pounds.<sup>22</sup> The loan had to be repaid to government and this took some years.<sup>23</sup> Although Williamstown Public Cemetery and Altona Memorial Park (Western Suburbs Memorial Park) were two different sites, and of a different nature; Williamstown being monumental and with a mausoleum, Altona a crematorium and lawn cemetery only; both were managed by the same set of Trustees as separate arrangements until they formally merged in 1996.<sup>24</sup>

After years of work and planning Altona Memorial Park (then named Western Suburbs Memorial Park) was opened by Minister for Health, Mr Cameron on December 15 1960 with a new 200,000 pound crematorium and lawn cemetery of 2 acres of native gardens with niche walls for the ashes. It was said to be the most modern cemetery in Australia.<sup>25</sup> The large and ornate wrought iron gates from the (Former) Eastern Market, (designed by Reed and Barnes and demolished to make way for the Southern Cross Hotel in the early 1960s), were relocated to the front entrance of Altona Memorial Park in 1968.<sup>26</sup>

The early Trustees were from religious denominations or were local councillors but in the 1960s Trustees from other areas of life began to be represented and many acted for long periods of time, some from 1968 until 2010 when the Greater Metropolitan Cemetery Trust was formed.<sup>27</sup> Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, when the cemetery expanded and prospered, Altona Memorial Park (Western Suburbs Memorial Park) and Williamstown Public Cemetery were managed by the one Trust and the one manager but as separate entities.<sup>28</sup> The cemetery continued to expand and in 1989 there were upgrades and extensions to the administration building, garage and workshop completed and in 1990 two new computerized cremators were installed.<sup>29</sup> In 1994 the Chapel of Peace (cost \$1.3 mill) was opened by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health, Dr Denis Napthine and it was the third largest cemetery/crematorium complex in Victoria at that time.<sup>30</sup>

The Trust became incorporated under the Cemeteries (Incorporation of Trusts) Regulation 1995, No 137 and the Altona Trust and the Williamstown Trust were officially merged and titled "The Memorial Park" in 1996 although, in fact, the Trustees had operated both Trusts together from the beginning and the Regulations were amended to declare Memorial Park Altona and Williamstown Public Cemetery were to operate as a Trust.<sup>31</sup> In 2001 The Cemetery Trust changed its name to "the Trustees of the Altona Memorial Park" and continued to manage two cemeteries, Altona Memorial Park and Williamstown Public Cemetery.<sup>32</sup>

Altona Memorial Park is administered by the government through an independent Trust Board, the Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust, established in 2010.<sup>33</sup>

**FUNCTIONS:  
INTERMENT, CREMATION, MEMORIALISATION AND  
COMMEMORATION, CHAPEL, CATERING**

**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

### Altona Memorial Park Timeline

- 1835 August 31-1 September, J.H. Wedge explored the area and noted it was good for pastoralism<sup>34</sup>
- 836 Alfred Langhorne was granted pastoral license for 248 acres (Laverton station or Truganina) which was operative from 1836 onwards, the area later to become Altona<sup>35</sup>
- 1837 Langhorne arrived at Port Phillip and began construction of the Altona (or Laverton) Homestead, the first homestead on the foreshore of Port Phillip Bay and also bought several allotments nearby and at Laverton over the forthcoming years<sup>36</sup>
- 1842 Homestead, now Altona Homestead, marked on surveyor Robert Hoddle's map during the first official land survey of the area<sup>37</sup>
- 1850 Langhorne bought several plots at the first land sales, eventually owning or leasing over 19 square miles of land<sup>38</sup>
- 1852 2 Parishes were created (Truganina and Cut Paw Paw) on the land which later became Altona<sup>39</sup>
- 1861 Altona first appeared as place name on a map, possibly named by a German called Taegtow who came from Altona city on the river Elbe in Hamburg, and who was instrumental in the local coal industry later or perhaps because the original settler, Alfred Langhorne, had German family connections<sup>40</sup>
- 1864 Altona became part of the Shire of Wyndham (Werribee)<sup>41</sup>
- 1888 September 8 - First train to Altona (from Spencer Street Station) brought purchasers for land opened up for development as a township and land sales continued every Saturday throughout the next three months but the land boom did not last and trains were cancelled after August 1890<sup>42</sup>
- 1909 Shire of Wyndham name was changed to Werribee<sup>43</sup>
- 1917 Steam rail links re-established, again to link potential purchasers with a reopened land development, and this land boom was more successful<sup>44</sup>
- 1928 Riding of Altona was established<sup>45</sup>
- 1946 A crematorium was proposed by the Williamstown Cemetery Trust to be built at Williamstown and was approved by the Health Dept. but the Dept. was unable to allow the release of materials (due to war shortages). Long and sometimes heated discussions, with the Trustees finally indicated that a new area in the vicinity of Geelong Road and Kororoit Creek should be considered for cemetery expansion and the inclusion of a crematorium, rather than on the limited land available at Williamstown<sup>46</sup>

- 1947 Major industrial development began at Altona starting with Vacuum Oil Refinery although many other industries were already established and thriving bringing an increase in population<sup>47</sup>
- 1947 The Trustees continued to recognise the growing popularity of cremation as an option rather than internment, and were interested in the development of the new and popular lawn cemeteries, and they took an option over land at Geelong Road, Altona<sup>48</sup>
- 1947 Trustees started to plan for a cemetery focused on cremation and lawn graves with plantings of native species all of which were relatively new ideas and attractive to cemetery managers as maintenance of lawn cemeteries was far easier and less costly than a monumental cemetery like Williamstown<sup>49</sup>
- 1948 After several options over the land at Altona had expired, and the government had not formally approved the purchase nor the requested loan, the Trustees purchased the land with a deposit of 20,000 pounds trusting government would supply the rest of the funds as required<sup>50</sup>
- 1948 December – local newspaper reports that the government has loaned the Trustees 15,000 pounds for the purchase of land for cemetery purposes<sup>51</sup> The loan later had to be repaid to government.<sup>52</sup> The total amount of the loan was 246,000 pounds<sup>53</sup>
- 1949 Local newspaper reported on the consternation of the Altona riding councillors at the purchase price for the land reserved for the Altona cemetery quoting the council valuation of 15 pound per acre against the reported purchase price of 333 pounds per acre, and noting the highest price ever paid locally was @200 pounds per acre<sup>54</sup>
- 1950- Although Williamstown Public Cemetery and Altona Memorial Park (Western Suburbs Memorial Park) were two different sites, and of a different nature; Williamstown being monumental and with a mausoleum, Altona a crematorium and lawn cemetery only; both were managed by the same set of Trustees as separate arrangements until formally merged in 1996<sup>55</sup>
- 1950s Trustees devoted much of their time and energy to establishing the Altona Memorial Park, often to the detriment of Williamstown Cemetery<sup>56</sup>
- 1957 26 February – Shire of Altona proclaimed a separate shire which began on 29 May 1957, and compromised the Altona Riding of the Shire, which included Altona itself as well as Altona North and Altona Meadows<sup>57</sup>
- 1960 October – Scale of Fees for Western Suburbs Memorial Park, Altona North, proclaimed with Trustees noted as E.S. Loft, (Chair) J. Criggal, D. Dignan, A.W. Hick, F.R.Speechkey and S.H.Robinson<sup>58</sup>
- 1960 15 December – New 200,000 pound crematorium and cemetery opened at Altona by Minister for Health, Mr Cameron, named Western Suburbs Memorial Park, and consisted of 2 acres of native gardens, niche walls and the crematorium and was said to be the most modern cemetery in Australia<sup>59</sup>
- 1961 Competition between various urban cemeteries to open a crematorium resulted in the Western Suburbs Memorial Park (Altona) opening before many others but with a large debt of 246,000 pounds<sup>60</sup>
- 1961- Altona Memorial Park management took over the day to day running of Williamstown Cemetery<sup>61</sup>
- 1962 Williamstown Cemetery Trustees were given consent to borrow 25,000 pounds towards the establishment of the Altona Memorial Park, also named as Western Suburbs Memorial Park<sup>62</sup>
- 1963 Altona Shire offices opened<sup>63</sup>
- 1968 21 December - Altona separated from Werribee and became a city in its own right<sup>64</sup>
- 1968 Large and ornate wrought iron gates from the (Former) Eastern Market, (designed by Reed and Barnes) and demolished to make way for the Southern Cross Hotel in the early 1960s, were relocated to the front entrance of Altona Memorial Park<sup>65</sup>
- 1968 John Patterson appointed a Trust member on 14 September 1968 and served as a Trustee until Greater metropolitan Cemeteries Trust was appointed in 2010, the longest serving Trust member <sup>66</sup>
- 1970 Appointment of Barry Heath, horticulturalist at Williamstown Council, (together with Barry Moore and Howard Whittaker) started the process of appointing professional and specialist people with skills other than a denomination or a municipal post to the Board of Trustees (note they were appointed to the Williamstown Cemetery Board)<sup>67</sup>
- 1971 Trustees of Williamstown Public Cemetery (the Memorial Park) received \$50,000 for the extension of the Lawn Cemetery<sup>68</sup>
- 1971 Scale of Fees for Memorial Park Williamstown Public Cemetery including cremation fees indicating this refers to Altona Memorial Park with Trustees noted as S.H. Robinson, J.E.Patterson, D. Smith and C. Sidway as Manager and Secretary; Trustees also of Williamstown Public Cemetery<sup>69</sup>
- 1974 June - Separate Scale of Fees proclaimed for both Williamstown Public Cemetery and Williamstown Public Cemetery (The Memorial Park) by the same Trustees, E.S.Loft, H. Whittaker, and S.H. Robinson and with C.W.Sidway as Manager and Secretary for both cemeteries<sup>70</sup>

- 1974 August - Separate Scale of Fees proclaimed for both Williamstown Public Cemetery and Williamstown Public Cemetery (The Memorial Park) by the same Trustees, E.S.Loft, H. Whittaker, S.H. Robinson and with C.W.Sidway as Manager and Secretary for both cemeteries<sup>71</sup>
- 1976 November - Separate Scale of Fees proclaimed for both Williamstown Public Cemetery and Williamstown Public Cemetery (The Memorial Park) by the same Trustees, E.S.Loft, H. Whittaker, S.H. Robinson and with C.W.Sidway as Manager and Secretary for both cemeteries<sup>72</sup>
- 1978 March - Separate Scale of Fees proclaimed for both Williamstown Public Cemetery and Williamstown Public Cemetery (The Memorial Park) by the same Trustees, B. R. Moore, B. Heath, S.H. Robinson and G.J. McGill as Manager and Secretary of both cemeteries but with several new Trustees in place and a new manager for both cemeteries<sup>73</sup>
- 1978 Scale of Fees proclaimed for both cemeteries on June 21, 1978; 5 July 1978; 4 April 1979 and 15 August 1979 with same information<sup>74</sup>
- 1979 Trustees of the Williamstown Public Cemetery (the Memorial Park) receive \$36,000 to be expended on the development of a lawn area, the funds being the balance of funds allocated<sup>75</sup>
- 1980 March - Separate Scale of Fees proclaimed for both Williamstown Public Cemetery and Williamstown Public Cemetery (The Memorial Park) by the same Trustees, R.A. Wiseman, B. Heath, H. Whittaker and G.J. McGill as Manager and Secretary for both cemeteries<sup>76</sup>
- 1980s Considerable amounts of money expended on sending Trustees and staff interstate and overseas to study current cemetery practices<sup>77</sup>
- 1981 Scale of Fees proclaimed for both cemeteries with same Trustees for each and same manager in March, July and December<sup>78</sup>
- 1983 Scale of Fees proclaimed for Williamstown Public Cemetery by the Trustees of the Williamstown Public Cemetery and for the Memorial Park Public Cemetery by the Trustees of the Memorial Park Public Cemetery, with same three Trustees for each cemetery (Howard Whittaker, John Pattterson and D. Smith)<sup>79</sup>
- 1988 Jacy Critchley appointed Trust member and served until 2010<sup>80</sup>
- 1989 1989/1990/1991/1992 Williamstown and Altona cemeteries had Scales of Fees proclaimed with same Trustees listed<sup>81</sup>
- 1989 Upgrade and extension on administration building, garage and workshop completed<sup>82</sup>
- 1990 Two new computerized cremators installed<sup>83</sup>
- 1992 D. W. Hanlon appointed a Trustee of Memorial Park Altona (but also listed under Williamstown) the first time the name "Altona" is mentioned in the Gazette<sup>84</sup>
- 1993 Scale of fees proclaimed for only one cemetery and this time Altona was noted as Memorial Park Altona<sup>85</sup>
- 1994 Williamstown Council amalgamated with Altona Council to become City of Hobsons Bay following the Kennett government series of amalgamations
- 1994 Three new Trust members appointed, Joseph Yacano (June), Pamela Jellie (July) Gary Lee (August)<sup>86</sup>
- 1994 July 15 New Chapel of Peace (cost \$1.3 mill) opened at Altona Memorial Park by Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health, Dr Denis Napthine and it was said to be the third largest cemetery/crematorium complex in Victoria at that time<sup>87</sup>
- 1994 Cemetery (Mausolea) Regulations comes into force and allows above ground vaults to be built within public cemeteries<sup>88</sup>
- 1996 January – Incorporated under the Cemeteries (Incorporation of Trusts) Regulation 1995, No 137 when the Altona Trust and the Williamstown Trust were officially merged and titled "The Memorial Park", although in fact the Trustees had operated both Trusts together from the beginning<sup>89</sup>
- 1996 1 June 1996 - Regulations amended to declare Memorial Park Altona and Williamstown Public Cemetery are to operate as a single Trust<sup>90</sup>
- 1997 April and October Scale of Fees proclaimed for both cemeteries in a single proclamation rather than separately as had been the case previously with Trustees J. Patterson; H Whittaker; W Crofts (J. Yacono in October) and G. McGill as Secretary and Manager<sup>91</sup>
- 2000 Works included redevelopment of front entrance, provision of a new lake and cleaning of the old lake, and tenders were called for a new Childrens Section<sup>92</sup>
- 2001 February 20 – The Cemetery Trust changed its name to "the Trustees of the Altona Memorial Park to manage two cemeteries, Altona Memorial Park and Williamstown Public Cemetery"<sup>93</sup>
- 2002 Government commissioned a report on the viability of Cemetery Trusts which discovered that there were a number of concerns over viability, financial management and governance at a number of cemetery trusts<sup>94</sup>
- 2002 Altona Memorial Park Childrens Section completed<sup>95</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<sup>96</sup>
- 2005 Findings of Auditor General's Review were reported to Parliament in May 2005<sup>97</sup>
- 2006 Following this Review the Auditor General completed a review of thirteen major Cemetery Trusts (printed in July 2006) and raised a number of concerns over financial probity and governance issues<sup>98</sup>
- 2007 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 2007<sup>99</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<sup>100</sup>
- 2008 Three new Trust members appointed to Altona Memorial Park; G.J. Murdoch (July); A. DeFazio (July); Josie Thwaites (July)<sup>101</sup>
- 2010 Two major metropolitan Trusts were created as a result of the reviews, the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust and the Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust plus three regional Class Trusts and five other Trusts<sup>102</sup>
- 2010 1 March 2010 Establishment of Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust as a Class A Trust under an amendment to the Act (2003) to manage one Trust after the consolidation of eight existing cemetery trusts into one. These include locations in Altona, Anderson's Creek, Fawkner, Keilor, Lilydale, Preston, Templestowe and Wyndham<sup>103</sup>
- 2010 1 March- First meeting of the Greater Metropolitan Cemetery Trust<sup>104</sup>
- 2011 Government releases a discussion paper "Victoria's Cemeteries and Crematoria: Options for Legislative Change"<sup>105</sup>
- 2013 A review of the five Class A Trusts was completed in May 2013 to ensure that the reforms were proceeding smoothly. While some minor changes were recommended on the whole the government was satisfied the reforms had succeeded<sup>106</sup>
- 2014 Tenders called for new crematoria and chapel upgrade at Altona Memorial Park<sup>107</sup>
- 2015 New Regulations to the Cemetery and Crematoria Act released<sup>108</sup>
- 2015 November – re opening of the new crematoria and chapel upgrades expected<sup>109</sup>

## Altona Memorial Park Name Changes

- 1950s Altona Memorial Park<sup>109</sup>
- 1962 Western Suburbs Memorial Park<sup>110</sup>
- 1978 The Memorial Park Altona<sup>111</sup>
- 1992 Memorial Park Altona<sup>112</sup>
- 1993 Memorial Park Altona Public Cemetery<sup>113</sup>
- 1995 Memorial Park<sup>114</sup>
- 2001 20 February – The Cemetery Trust changed its name to "The Trustees of the Altona Memorial Park to manage two cemeteries, Altona Memorial Park and Williamstown Public Cemetery"<sup>115</sup>
- 2010- Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust - Altona Memorial Park<sup>116</sup>
- 2014 Western suburbs Memorial Park and Crematorium<sup>117</sup>
- 2015 Altona Memorial Park (name most used in recent times)

## Altona Memorial Park Bibliography

### ARCHIVES - 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

Altona Memorial Park Oral History Project, (2003) (Helen Doyle interviewer)

Williamstown Cemetery Trust, Minute Books, 1889-1948

Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust Annual Reports 2010 – 2015

Altona Memorial Park Annual Reports, 1995-2010

### ARCHIVES - HEALTH DEPARTMENT ARCHIVE

#### Archives - Public Records Office

Public Records Office of Victoria: Altona Memorial Park Cemetery: Department of Health File (incorporating material from Office of Crown Lands and Survey) 1850s – CEM 769-02 and also Public Records Office of Victoria: Williamstown Cemetery: Department of Health File (incorporating material from Office of Crown Lands and Survey) 1850s – CEM 532 Part 1 (1857-1948); Part 2 (1949-1984); Part 3 (1946-1984); Part 4 (1971-1977); Part 5 (1976-1985) and Part 6 (1849-1969) relating to Point Gellibrand

#### Newspapers and Articles

*The Argus* var

*The Age* var

*The Williamstown Chronicle: 1856-1954*

#### Government Gazettes

Government Gazette NSW, 1837-1839

Victoria Government Gazette, 1839-

### 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

## Websites

*Australian Cemeteries*, last updated 2010, produced by P. Applebee, <http://www.australiancemeteries.com/>

*Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Online Edition, Copyright 2006-2015, updated continuously, published by Australian National University, <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A010146b.htm>

*Cemeteries and Crematoria Amendment Act 2009* (NO. 61 OF 2009) – Schedule 4, 'Victorian Numbered Acts', last updated 20 Aug 2015, published by Australasian Legal Information Institute, [http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/num\\_act/cacaa200961o2009348/sch4.html](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/num_act/cacaa200961o2009348/sch4.html) **\*Lists those cemeteries which were incorporated into GMCT in 2009**

*Cemeteries and Crematoria Regulations 2015*, last updated 14 Aug 2015, managed and authorised by the Department of Health and Human Services, State Government of Victoria, <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/cemeteries/legislation/review-regulations.htm>

*New Store*, last updated 2008, published by The Age Company Ltd., <http://newsstore.theage.com.au/apps/newsSearch.ac>

*Resources*, last updated 2015, published by The Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust, <http://www.gmct.com.au/resources/>

*The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic.: 1848 – 1957), last updated 01 May 2015, published by the National Library of Australia, <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/title/13>

*Victoria Current cemeteries and crematoria*, regularly updated, published by the National Library of Australia, <https://www.nla.gov.au/research-guides/australian-cemetery-records/victoria>

*Victorian Government Gazette Online Archive 1836-1997*, last updated 20 Aug 2015, published by State Library of Victoria, <http://gazette.slv.vic.gov.au/>

### WEBSITES – LOCAL

*Altona Laverton Historical Society Inc.*, last updated 2011, *Altona Laverton Historical Society Inc.*, <http://www.alhs.com.au/index.php>

Heritage area studies listed by local government area – Altona [www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/heritage/research-and-publications/heritage-area-studies/heritage-area-studies-by-council](http://www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/heritage/research-and-publications/heritage-area-studies/heritage-area-studies-by-council)

The Memorial Park Crematorium and Floral Lawn Cemetery, established in 1961, at Dohertys Road, Altona North. - See more at: <http://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/15011#sthash.WNCaJHfM.dpuf>

## Pamphlets, Articles, Reports and Theses

Altona Shire Council, (1965) *Souvenir Brochure*, Altona Public Library Official Opening, 1965 (SLV)

Altona Shire Council, (1966) *Souvenir Brochure*, Altona Public Library Services, Opening of the East Branch, (SLV)

Altona Shire Council, (1965) *Altona, A Place to Live, A Place to Work*, (SLV)

Butler, Graeme and Assoc. (2001) *Altona, Laverton and Newport Districts Heritage Study*

Butler, G and Assoc. & Helms D. (2003-4), (amended 2014) *Hobsons Bay Heritage Study*, Hobsons Bay City Council

Guiney, Michael, (1988), *The Altona Bay Railway*, (SLV)

Hobsons Bay (Vic.) Council & Graeme Butler & Associates & Victoria. Dept. of Infrastructure (2001). *Altona, Laverton and Newport districts Heritage Study Stage 2. Volume 1 & 2*. Hobsons Bay City Council, [Williamstown, Vic.]

Phillips, Walter, 'The Denominations', in Miles Lewis (ed.), (1991) *Victorian Churches: Their Origins, their story & their architecture*, National Trust of Australia (Vic), East Melbourne, pp. 8-19.

## Books and Secondary Sources

Clark, Allan, J and Altona Historical Society, (1974) *History of Altona*, Altona Historical Society, (online)

Hutchinson, Garrie, (2014) *In Memoriam: A Guide to the History and Heritage of Victoria's Cemeteries*, Hardie Grant Books in conjunction with the State of Victoria, Department of Health, 2014

Lemon, Andrew & Morgan, Marjorie, (1990) *Buried by the Sea: a History of the Williamstown Cemetery*, Published by Rivka Frank & Associates, Melbourne

Lemon, A & Morgan, Marjorie (1990) (2005) *Buried by the sea: a History of the Williamstown cemetery revised and updated by Helen Doyle*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne

Priestley, Susan, (1988), *Altona: A Long view*, Hargreen Publishing, Melbourne

Sagazio, Celestina (ed.), (1992) *Cemeteries: Our Heritage, National Trust of Australia* (Victoria), East Melbourne


Trouwer, Rosalie (1988) *Altona – A Good Place to Live and Work*, Scoresby, Victoria


## FOOTNOTES


- 1 Public Health Act 1889 – 53 Vic No:1044
- 2 Cemeteries Act 1944, Act No. 5025
- 3 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]
- 4 Auditor General Victoria, Results of Special Reviews and Other Investigations, Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries Trust, Review of Expenditure and Related Matters, May 2005
- 5 Auditor General, Review of *Major Public Cemeteries*, June 2006
- 6 State Services Authority, Review of Cemetery Trusts, Interim Report, April 2007, final Report June 2007
- 7 See Amendments to the Cemetery and Crematoria Act, 2003
- 8 Review of the Government and Management of Class A Cemetery Trusts, May 2013
- 9 Creation of Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust 1 March 2010, via Amendment to the Cemeteries Act (2003) Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003. Ver. 20 80/2003
- 10 Greater Metropolitan Cemetery Trust Archives, Annual Reports var, Creation of Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust 1 March 2010, via Amendment to the Cemeteries Act (2003) Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003. Ver. 20 80/2003.
- 11 See Priestley, Susan, (1988) *Altona – A Long View*, Hargreen, Melbourne, p. 3-7 for early description of lands
- 12 Clark, Allan, J and Altona Historical Society, (1974) *History of Altona*, Altona Historical Society, [online], p. 6.
- 13 Clark, Allan, J and Altona Historical Society, (1974) *History of Altona*, Altona Historical Society, [online], p. 6
- 14 *Victoria Government Gazette*, (1864) 11 March, vol. 24, 591
- 15 Clark, Allan, J and Altona Historical Society, (1974) *History of Altona*, Altona Historical Society, [online], p. 10
- 16 *Victoria, Government Gazette*, (1909) 15 December, vol. 156, p. 5361
- 17 Clark, Allan, J and Altona Historical Society, (1974) *History of Altona*, Altona Historical Society, [online], p. 15
- 18 Williamstown Cemetery Trust Minute Books, var discussions noted
- 19 Williamstown Cemetery Minute Books, (1947) pp 551, 555-56, 558
- 20 Williamstown Cemetery Minute Books (1948) pp.569-70
- 21 *Williamstown Chronicle*, 2 September, 1949, p. 5
- 22 Memorandum 20 December 1961 Health Department file in the Cheltenham Western Suburbs Memorial Park (Altona). Crematorium completed 1961. The Trustees were in debt to the Government of £246,000 (Memorandum dated 20.12.1961, Health Department file on the Cheltenham Cemeteries 93/387/28116/1).
- 23 Interview with Les Crofts in (2003) in Altona Memorial Park Oral History Project, (2003) (Helen Doyle interviewer) Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust Archives
- 24 See various *Victoria Government Gazette* proclamations in endnotes
- 25 *The Age*, 15 December, p. 2
- 26 Butler, Graeme and Assoc, (2001) *Hobsons Bay Heritage Study*, Thematic Environmental History, p. 57
- 27 *Victoria Government Gazette*, (1970) 2 December, vol. 109, p. 3777 and interviews with former Trustees (2003) in Altona Memorial Park Oral History Project, (2003) (Helen Doyle interviewer) Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust Archives
- 28 See *Victoria Government Gazette* var years whenever Scale of Fees were proclaimed or Trustees appointed
- 29 Media Release, Department of Human Services 15 July 1994
- 30 Media Release, Department of Human Services 15 July 1994
- 31 *Victoria Government Gazette*, (1996) 23 May vol. 20 pp. 1326-1333
- 32 *Victoria Government Gazette* (2001) 20 February cited in Altona Memorial Park Annual Report 2001
- 33 Greater Metropolitan Cemetery Trust Archives, Annual Reports var, Creation of Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust 1 March 2010, via Amendment to the Cemeteries Act (2003) Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003. Ver. 20 80/2003.
- 34 Priestley, Susan, (1988) *Altona – A Long View*, Hargreen, Melbourne, p. 3-7 for early description of lands
- 35 Clark, Allan, J and Altona Historical Society, (1974) *History of Altona*, Altona Historical Society, [online], p. 6.
- 36 *Victoria, Government Gazette*, var over 1837-1851
- 37 Clark, Allan, J and Altona Historical Society, (1974) *History of Altona*, Altona Historical Society, [online], p. 6
- 38 Clark, Allan, J and Altona Historical Society, (1974) *History of Altona*, Altona Historical Society, [online], p. 6


- 39 Clark, Allan, J and Altona Historical Society, (1974) *History of Altona*, Altona Historical Society, (online), p. 17
- 40 Clark, Allan, J and Altona Historical Society, (1974) *History of Altona*, Altona Historical Society, (online), p. 6
- 41 *Victoria Government Gazette*, (1864) 11 March, vol. 24, 591
- 42 Clark, Allan, J and Altona Historical Society, (1974) *History of Altona*, Altona Historical Society, (online), p. 10
- 43 *Victoria, Government Gazette*, (1909) 15 December, vol. 156, p. 5361
- 44 Clark, Allan, J and Altona Historical Society, (1974) *History of Altona*, Altona Historical Society, (online), p. 15
- 45 Clark, Allan, J and Altona Historical Society, (1974) *History of Altona*, Altona Historical Society, (online), p. 17
- 46 Williamstown Cemetery Trust Minute Books, var discussions noted
- 47 Clark, Allan, J and Altona Historical Society, (1974) *History of Altona*, Altona Historical Society, (online), p. 19
- 48 Williamstown Cemetery Minute Books, (1947) pp 551, 555-56, 558
- 49 Williamstown Cemetery Minute Books (var)
- 50 Williamstown Cemetery Minute Books (1948) pp.569-70
- 51 *Williamstown Chronicle*, 10 December 1948, p. 7
- 52 Interview with Les Crofts in (2003) in Altona Memorial Park Oral History Project, (2003) (Helen Doyle interviewer) Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust Archives
- 53 Memorandum 20 December 1961 Health Department file in the Cheltenham Western Suburbs Memorial Park (Altona). Crematorium completed 1961. The Trustees were in debt to the Government of £246,000 (Memorandum dated 20.12.1961, Health Department file on the Cheltenham Cemeteries 93/387/28116/1).

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT GMCT AT:

 Address: 1187 Sydney Road, Fawkner VIC 3060

 Mail: P.O. Box 42, Fawkner VIC 3060

 1300 022 298

 03 9355 3111

 enquiries@gmct.com.au

 www.gmct.com.au

ABN 89 704 536 022