



# AROUND THE GRAVES

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NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF CHELTENHAM AND REGIONAL CEMETERIES INC.

## When Old Ideas Are New Again

Recently, the Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries Trust amalgamated with The Necropolis to form the new Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust which also includes the Brighton, Dandenong, Melbourne General and St. Kilda cemeteries. The Friends welcome the amalgamation and look forward to working in partnership with the new body in the lead up to the 150th anniversary.

The idea of a 'mega' trust is not new as this article from *The Argus* in 1933 shows;

*"A special meeting of trustees of all metropolitan cemeteries held at the Town Hall yesterday was attended by 60 trustees. Councillor A. E. Kane (Fawkner) presided.*

*Mr. H. J. Baker, chairman of the Box Hill trustees, who explained the reason for calling the meeting, said that a movement had been begun in Parliament for the formation of one central cemeteries trust to assume the control, now exercised by a separate trust for each cemetery.*

*Several speakers said that the formation of such a trust would result in the confiscation of the large perpetuity funds that several cemetery trusts had built up."*

The meeting formed a deputation to wait on the Premier, Sir Stanley Argyle and included **George Brownfield** (d 1944) who at the time was chairman of the Cheltenham Cemetery Trust and who in March that year opened the new Cheltenham Cemetery No. 2 in Wangara Road.

(Source: *The Argus* 4 Nov 1933 p22)

## Fallen Jockeys

Not a month goes by without the Friends finding more and more interments who were associated with the local horse racing industry that once thrived in the Bayside area centred around Mentone and Mordialloc.

As for those pint-sized darlings of the racetrack, race after race they risked life and limb to earn a living in conditions that is borne out by the number of jockeys who died compared with modern times. As the list below shows, a number who lost their lives are buried at Cheltenham:

### Cheltenham Memorial Park:

Raymond Valentine GARDNER (Mentone, 1954)  
William Rupert LEE (Moonee Valley, 1938)  
Edward Spencer MEREDITH (Mentone, 1936)  
John Crown VASIL (Bacchus Marsh, 1959)

### Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery:

Leslie ELLIS (Mentone, 1929)  
Patrick Michael HYNES (Redan, 1932)

**John Crown Vasil** was riding in the first jumps meet at Bacchus Marsh in 25 years when he lost his life. (*The Fallen Jockeys' Memorial had incorrectly ascribed the location as 'Caulfield' until the error was pointed out by the Friends*). The tragedy of Vasil's death is that he died just two weeks after his marriage to Brenda (d 2006) and had only recently bought a home in Taylor Street, Parkdale. Tony Vasil, the Caulfield Cup winning trainer (and a 'darling' himself) was born after his father's death.

Come along to our **NEW** "Mostly Murders" tour scheduled for July and hear the story of John Crown Vasil.

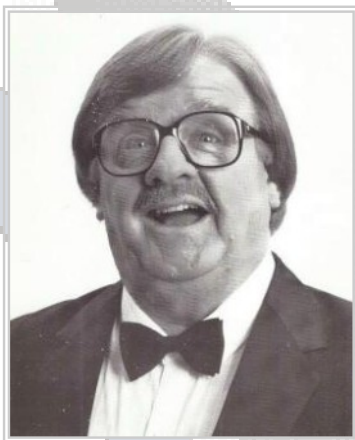
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## Who Am I?

I was born in Hobart on 26 May 1928 and gained fame as a much loved entertainer and comedian. I played the overweight, moustache-sporting "rough-and-tumble" cop Bluey Hills in the 1970s police show *Bluey*. In 1993, I gained a new generation of fans when *The Late Show* dubbed footage from *Bluey* with comical effect and I became Detective Sergeant Bargearse, the eating, drinking, farting fat slob of a cop. Such was my popularity, I had my own fan club in England. I died at Parkwood, Queensland on 27 July 2007 and my ashes were later interred in the Cheltenham Memorial Park with my parents. Who Am I?



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(Log on to the Members' Area of our website to find out the answer—[www.focrc.org/members.htm](http://www.focrc.org/members.htm))

## Lawrence Motherwell

The genesis of our latest initiative, the re-Member wiki portal is a solution to the problem of how to 'record' the many bits and pieces of information that we often come across. These odd bits of information are insufficient to write a story or include the subject in a walking tour but are valuable nonetheless. To put another way, how best can we manage 'information overload'. The problem is best illustrated by the case of **Lawrence Andrew Motherwell** (1919-54) who is buried in the Cheltenham Memorial Park (Pres "199" 54). *The Argus* newspaper reported the case before the Cheltenham Court in which Motherwell and another young man were allegedly involved in a series of thefts from farms in the Cheltenham and Moorabbin districts between 9 December 1937 and 30 January 1938. Motherwell was noted as a cordial factory employee residing at Highett Road, Highett and was committed for trial on charges of larceny of articles. In the Criminal Court before Justice MacFarlane, he was found guilty and placed on a good behaviour bond. Motherwell later enlisted for active overseas service on 15 August 1941 and was discharged on 3 April 1946. He died in 1954 aged 35.

By adding these bits of information to re-Member, we are actively remembering the lives of those buried in the Cheltenham cemeteries. The Friends believe that each person is worth remembering and that no life is any less interesting than those who were in the public eye.

Visit the re-Member portal at <http://bit.ly/boWi3T> to see the entry for Lawrence Motherwell.

(Source: WW2 Nominal Service Record—<http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/script/veteran.asp?ServiceID=A&VeteranID=468976>; *The Argus* 3 Feb 1938 p1, 18 Feb 1938 p9 and 24 Oct 1948 p3)

## Higgins Dairy: Recollections

Many readers would be familiar with *Brighton Recollections 1920s-1930s* and the book's author, **Lindsay Nesbit Mace** (1917-2009) whose ashes were interred in the Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery (Memorial Wall "1" 96), not far from his parents **Frederick William Mace II** (1855-1929) and **Godfreda (Freda) Irene Mace nêe Reeves** (1883-1968)—CofE "A" 11A. In 1921, the Mace family moved to Windermere Crescent.

In his book of vivid recollections, Mace wrote about the Higgins family who owned a large parcel of land in Middle Brighton where they operated a crop and dairy farm;

*"As the youngest in the family, it was my job twice a day to walk the few minutes from my home to the dairy, and collect the milk in a billy-can. It was never really a chore as there was always something of interest going on at the farm. The Higgins family, I remember, were Jim and Mary, parents of Jim, Ailee and May, and Jim senior's sisters, Sarah and Jane (Polly). The buildings were situated at the western end of the property, and consisted of the home facing Dendy Street. Extending north behind the home, was the servery and the dairy...The milk from the Jersey cows was delicious and produced a thick layer of cream on top if left to stand."*

**James A (Jim) Higgins jnr** died in Oct 1957 aged 57 and was buried in the Cheltenham Memorial Park (CofE "193" 1).

(Source: Mace, L., *Brighton Recollections 1920s-1930s* (1994) p71)



Grave of Frederick and Freda Mace—CofE "A" 11A