



# AROUND THE GRAVES

ISSN 1835-5641  
ISSN 1835-565X

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF CHELTENHAM AND REGIONAL CEMETERIES INC.

## Some Odds and Ends...

We'll start off with the murder of **Luigi Marchesi (Memorial Park, RC "137" 33)** (pictured left) on his Guyere farm near



Lilydale by his employee, Giacomo Tarca (pictured right). Apparently, Tarca asked politely for his wages—20 times in fact—but ended up settling the matter the Italian way. Sentenced eight years'



imprisonment, Tarca instead received a one-way return ticket back to Italy and sailed on the ship *Romolo* in July 1936. Apparently the authorities thought eight years in Pentridge was nothing compared to deportation.

Another Italian, **Francesco (Frank) Benvenuto (Memorial Park, Mausoleum "Hep" 1A)** (pictured) was heading to the tip with \$50,000 in cash in the back of his car boot. Always a cautious and careful man, when he saw a familiar face flag him down in the street near his home he naturally stopped only to be gunned down. The money was left untouched.



Rod-Stewart look-alike, **Paul Kevin Cremmen (Memorial Park, Lawn "C" 2 23)**—minus the husky voice—was a nasty man and a demented lunatic who loved to write and write and write. While a guest of Her Majesty Pentridge prison, between 22 Dec 1989 and 7 Jan 1990, Cremmen's pen pumped out 118 letters to a *single* person. Derryn Hinch gave Cremmen a public serve and three days later prison authorities removed their last remaining freedom—the sending of uncensored letters. Funny that Cremmen mysteriously died inside Cell 73 which no one knew anything about.

Careful what you wish for... Just before 5:00pm on 17 Feb 1929, **Ernest Aden Kay Cole, 17, (Pioneer Cemetery, CofE "A" 5A)** was with his mates larking in the water at

Sandringham performing somersaults. "I will do one more and then I will go out. I bet I will break my neck," remarked Cole as he proceeded to run 10 metres from the water. Broke his neck he did and died five days later.

And while on the bay, in March 1918, the *Moorabbin News* reported that "a shark was caught along the foreshore on Friday, it was found to contain quite a variety of articles including a box of strawberries and a felt hat, which have been identified as the property of **Mr. J. Monk (Pioneer Cemetery, CofC "A" 52)**, who we are glad to say, is in perfect health." We are not sure if the box was digested whole.

With a name like "Monk" it reminds us of the story of the funeral held for the **Brigidine Sisters (RC Sec "90")** at the back of the Pioneer Cemetery on the hill. On returning, one of the nuns was driving down the sharp dip on the north side but when she thought she was braking, was in fact accelerating. Too late to avoid a collision, the car crashed into the **Sturdee grave (CofE "111" 11-12)** but thankfully, the monument suffered only a minor chip which is still evident. It was all too much for the poor nun who was laid out on a grave to recover her bearings while medical attention was sought. And the surname of that grave? "Luck" (CofE "110" 19A) (pictured). Classic.



**George Walter Richards (CofC "93" 18)**, was well-known in Cheltenham as a war veteran and later Secretary and President of the Cheltenham RSL. He was born on 7 Dec, was married on 7 Dec and, yes you guessed it, died on 7 Dec 1931 aged 39 after doing a wobbly on his bike along Nepean Highway and was knocked down.

**The Daff family** are buried in both the Methodist (Meth "E" 66-67) and Church of Christ sections (CofC "42A" 32-35). When asked by a descendant why this is the case, the reply was that the Church of Christ girls were more prettier so the family switched religions.

**Cyril and Florine Clothilde Skill (Memorial Park, Lawn "H1" Row P 1A)** sure had a sense of humour when they named their children Zara, Zoe, Zane, Zander, Zela and...um, Bob.

Not many AFL/VFL players could say they played for two defunct teams and still managed to win a premiership. That's exactly what **Edgar Albert Kneen (Pioneer, Pres "70" 22)** did when he played for the Roy Boys (1904-06, 48 games, premiership 1904) and was also captain of University (1908-12, 46 games) in 1910.

You know it was a different time with different standards when in 1925, **Thomas Le Page (Pioneer Cemetery, CofC "A" 80)** handed down a sentence of 5/ with 5/ costs to a defendant before the bench in the Cheltenham Court for having crossed the railway line at the Melbourne end of the Cheltenham station. "I have down it often myself, but I am not going to do it again," said Le Page.

Maybe Cheltenham was just not good enough for old Bruce Carlyle Ruxton, AM OBE MBE (1926-2011). His father **Carlyle (Lawn "E2" Row R 5)** and wife **Ruth (Lawn "A1" Row B 3A)** are both buried at the Cheltenham Memorial Park, but it seems "Mr RSL", like many ex-Victorians preferred the Queensland sun for their eternal rest.

Longevity sure runs in the family of Mordialloc pioneer **Hugh Brown (Pioneer Cemetery, Meth "E"1)**. After a bad start in which his wife **Zillah** died aged 27, Hugh lived to 99 years and 11 months while his son **Frederick William Brown (Pioneer Cemetery, Pres "78" 9)** lived to 99 years and 3 months.

We wonder if the Henwood-Bungey family were just a tad confused when on the death of **Catherine Bungey née Henwood (Pioneer Cemetery, RC "C" 71-72)**, she was interred in the grave of her parents and a rather expensive double grave erected in her memory 13 graves away (RC "C" 11-12)...but no one is buried there (pictured)!

**Charles Blume (CofE "11" 53)** was an inmate of the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum and on his death was buried in the Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery on 23 Oct 1914. However, the Asylum didn't advise Uncle Sam of his death until 6 Jan 1917 so the institution continued to receive his invalid pension. *Tut tut.*

**The Friends acknowledge the ongoing support of W D Rose Funerals Cheltenham. For more information, visit [www.wdrosefunerals.com.au](http://www.wdrosefunerals.com.au)**

Hmmm. Was the gravedigger or the grim reaper on holiday during the period when there were no burials at the Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery for 85 days between 16 Feb 1870 and 11 May 1870?

And speaking of burials, was this a case of 'drumming up business' by **Wally Rose (Memorial Park, Lawn "G" Row A 26)** for his father, the undertaker **W. D Rose (Pioneer Cemetery, Meth "17" 28)**? The *Moorabbin News* reported that "In the Cheltenham v Sandringham match, W. Rose made several tremendous hits, but one especially not only received great applause, but did serious damage. The ball travelled from the wicket near "The Glebe" end, over a 6ft iron fence, and landed on the head of Mr Houghton, who was working in his garden. Houghton was rendered unconscious, and had to receive medical attention."

Shock apparently also killed **Rueben Gamel (Pioneer Cemetery, CofE "96" 9)** (pictured) who was the head chef on the Victorian Railways services at the time of his death. Gamel supervised the cooking on the Royal train between Melbourne and Adelaide carrying the Duke and Duchess of York in 1927. The strain proved too great for the WWI veteran, and he died a week after the arrival of the train in Adelaide.

They should rename the roundabout at the Cheltenham Cemetery "The Publicans' Circle". In that small area lie within a shout **Lambert Thorn (CofE "E" 251)**, Bridge Hotel Mordialloc; **Richard Bancroft (CofE "E" 255)**, Retreat Hotel Red Bluff; **John Morris (CofE "E" 254)**, Exchange Hotel Cheltenham and **Barry Gregg (CofE "D" 165)**, Gregg's South Brighton Hotel (Moorabbin); while buried close by are **Arthur Keys (CofE "D" 8)**, Bridge Hotel Mordialloc; **Richard Bloxside (CofE "E" 54)**, Bridge Hotel Mordialloc; **William Coleman (CofE "182")**, Bridge Hotel Mordialloc; **Frederick Etheridge (CofE "E" 225)**, Exchange Hotel Cheltenham and **Humphrey Morris (CofE "D" 34)**, Red Bluff Hotel.

And finally, while on his way to the Queen Victoria market laden with vegetables, market gardener **Hector Thomas Royal Walsh (Pioneer Cemetery, Meth "17" 4)** was killed when his cart was struck from behind by a greengrocer.

