



Raves from the Graves

President's Report

Welcome to this edition of our Newsletter, *Raves from the Graves*. Greetings to all. The Committee of The Friends extends a warm welcome to all our new members, and many thanks to our current members for their continued support of the group and our aims.

The Friends of Cheltenham group are looking forward to a successful year in 2018, with 4 tours planned. Two are advertised in this issue, with others to follow later in the year. We have found that our tours continue to be very well received, with good attendances and we now have a fantastic group who come along to almost every tour we conduct. It is wonderful to know that people support the work our volunteers do. And Sue Beazley is a first rate researcher and tour guide, keeping her audiences fascinated during each tour, so who wouldn't want to be involved?

Fingers crossed that our website and database are now back and operating as they should be. But I always say this with trepidation, because modern technology can be so fickle at times! And when you don't have a head for computers it can become a bit of a nightmare. Again, The Friends would like to apologise to anyone who sent us emails last year and did not receive a response. We are truly sorry, but unfortunately it was out of our control. A situation we are working towards never happening again!!

The end of 2017 ended in rather a strange way for The Friends of Cheltenham, with a bush fire burning out of control in the surrounding bushland/park, which did eventually impact the cemetery. Due to leaf debris in the cemetery there were many spots fires, however due to the actions of the remarkable MFB, damage was kept to a minimum. Please see article in this issue.

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Current Committee :

President: Rosemary Reddick
Vice President: Margaret Osborne
Secretary: Vacant
Treasurer: Sue Beazley

Ordinary Committee Members: Ric Norman

Contact details:

Friends of Cheltenham Regional Cemeteries
www.focrc.org
info@focrc.org

PO Box 2958,
Cheltenham 3192

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(Rosemary)

The main article in this edition is the sad story of the drowning of three brothers from one family, the O'Mara family, who lived in Sandringham. Many O'Mara family members are now buried in a family plot at Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery. The O'Mara extended family were very well known in the area, and had endured great loss and tragedy in Ireland before travelling out to Australia c1840.

I reported in our previous issue that our fund raising, in an attempt to restore or at least halt the deterioration of the oldest headstone – Richard Tilley et al - at Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery has been thwarted by time and the ravages of weather. The Committee has now begun investigating the possibility of placing a plaque on the gravesite, which mirrors the wording from the headstone and also stating that it is the oldest headstone. This, at least, will retain the wording for future generations. So, to that end we will now be seeking family related to Richard Tilley who can give approval for this project. If you are a Tilley – preferably a direct descendant - we would appreciate hearing from you regards this matter.

As always, I would like to thank The Committee of The Friends for all their hard work and tireless efforts to keep the group moving forward. Everyone has their own specialty, which makes for a very cohesive and unified group.

I thank you all for your continued support for The Friends of Cheltenham Group and I look forward to hearing from you throughout the year, if you have feedback, concerns, or stories you would like to share with us all.

Rosemary Reddick
President

HELPERS WANTED

Are you interested in helping The Friends of Cheltenham Regional Cemeteries group? We would love to hear from you. Maybe you would like to help us on tour days, greeting people, or helping out with our afternoon teas?

Maybe you have administration skills that you are happy to use. Or do you love the thrill of the chase, when it comes to researching many of the interesting people who are buried at both cemeteries? Or are you interested in military research, as there are many service personnel buried at Cheltenham cemeteries and the committee is currently attempting to put together a catalogue of all these gallant men and women?

If you are interested in helping the group, please come along and have a chat with any of us on the committee, we would be delighted to meet you. There is no pressure to be a committee member, we would just like to meet our members to encourage your involvement in your group – not to mention that we could use an extra pair of hands occasionally!

Contact: info@focrc.org

Membership Renewals

A reminder that our membership year ends on 30 June every year.

If your membership was due to lapse on that date, you should have received an email from Rosemary Reddick.

If your membership has lapsed since then, we look forward to hearing from you as you continue to support your group.

Fire at Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery Dec 2017

While most of us were relaxing during the Christmas New Year break and taking a well-earned rest from volunteer work related to The Friends of Cheltenham group, we were suddenly catapulted back into action when it was reported on 27 December that a bush fire may impact on the Pioneer Cemetery, The Cheltenham Primary School and the surrounding houses!

This was as startling as it was astounding! How does a bush fire happen in Metropolitan Melbourne? But, these events can happen anywhere, we have just become a little immune and possibly complacent as we are so well protected by the amazing MFB, who did an outstanding job protecting the cemetery and surrounding properties.

The fire did impact the cemetery, as pine trees from a neighbouring property were so affected by fire that they either fell or had to be cut down. Large limbs fell on graves that border the back fence line, and substantial damage was done to some of those graves. One of the lovely older trees within the cemetery had a limb removed and another tree was removed. The fence was also flattened in a number of places, which has had the effect of opening up the back of the cemetery to all and sundry. This has resulted in rubbish and debris from 'night time party' revellers leaving all sorts of rubbish in the cemetery.

Other evidence of the fire is plain for all to see down at the front of the cemetery, as ash and black smoke settled on graves at the lowest part of the cemetery. Many of the oldest graves are now blackened with smoke. It would be wonderful if we were able to hold a working bee to clean many of them. It would be a mammoth task to clean them all, and hopefully winter rains will wash some of the sediment away?

We have corresponded with SMCT (Southern Metropolitan Cemetery Trust) as to the repairs required and if the damaged graves are covered by insurance. You may not be aware that all graves are the property of the family or person who purchased the grave. Legally they do not belong to the Cemetery Trust and thus are NOT maintained by them. This is the responsibility of the family, but we are hoping given the type of event which caused the damage, that insurance can cover some graves being repaired?

This event has clearly highlighted to us, The Friends of Cheltenham, and other likeminded organisations, the upmost importance of placing a higher value on our heritage and past, which includes cemeteries. Not just for posterity, but because it explains 'us', our culture and helps us plan the future.



Smoke from the grass fire drifts across the cemetery.
Picture: Ian Currie. Source: News Corp Australia



Dozens of units were sent to battle the blaze.
Picture: Yuri Kouzmin. Source: News Corp Australia



Fire trucks battling the blaze.
Picture: Yuri Kouzmin.
Source: News Corp Australia



Emergency crews were praised by locals.
Picture: Ian Currie. Source: News Corp Australia



Fire crews remain at Cheltenham Park & Pioneer Cemetery to ensure all is safe. Source: ABC News: James Oaten

RESEARCH ARTICLE

The O'Mara Family

Researched and written by Rosemary Reddick

The history of the O'Mara family from Holycross, Tipperary, Ireland to Sandringham in Victoria, is an epic tale of tremendous human endeavour, resilience and courage through years of turmoil.

In 1827 Mara (O'Mara) brothers, Philip, Thomas and Daniel were hard working small land holders-cum-tradesmen and were employed to build the Police Barracks at Rathcannon, Tipperary. On 30 June 1828 Philip Mara saw two ruffians shoot dead and rob the Land Agent, Richard Chadwick. Philip reported this to the police and named the murderer, Patrick Grace, who was convicted on the strength of Philip's testimony. Patrick was sentenced to death, however his family swore revenge for their Patrick and vowed to exterminate all the Mara's. Some days later an armed gang was ready to ambush and 'finish off' Daniel and Philip, however due to driving wind and rain Philip Mara was able to escape his attackers. But Daniel was not so lucky, he took shelter in a neighbour's property but was tracked down and wildly beaten with gun butts. Then one of the attackers shot Daniel in the chest with a rifle. Unfortunately the police were unable to gather enough evidence to arrest the culprits, it seems everyone was scared of them – for good reason. After this the Mara family had to be relocated under police escort for their own protection.

Some weeks later a man named Fitzgerald was caught stealing, and in an attempt to escape gaol he admitted being involved in the killing of Daniel Mara. As a consequence, he handed over the names of all the other

accomplices. Sixteen men in all were rounded up, arrested and charged, with six eventually hanging for Daniel's murder and six transported for life. After this it was believed that the Mara family would never again be able to live in peace in Ireland, so negotiations with the Irish Government were held and it was decided they could immigrate to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) and take up land grants promised by the Irish Government.

Their passages were paid for by the Irish Government, and they arrived in Hobart Town with much eagerness for a new start, but sadly the land grants were not honoured by the Irish Government. Once again the Mara family found themselves left to stand alone and cope with a massive upheaval in their lives. Their son and brother torn from them, now transported over half way round the world, and in a place that was as foreign to them as being on the moon.

This synopsis of events in the lives of the Mara's to this point does not do justice to their story of courage and forbearance, but it does contribute to the understanding of the descendants who settled in Victoria c1840, and their capacity for genuine hard work, resilience and the ability to overcome adversity when it struck them.

In 1840 James O'Mara born in Holycross, c1825, left Van Diemen's Land and made his way to Victoria. This James was the son of Thomas, brother of Daniel. At the age of 16, James married Bridget Hickey in Melbourne in 1841, in fact they married twice, on 11

Membership Subscription

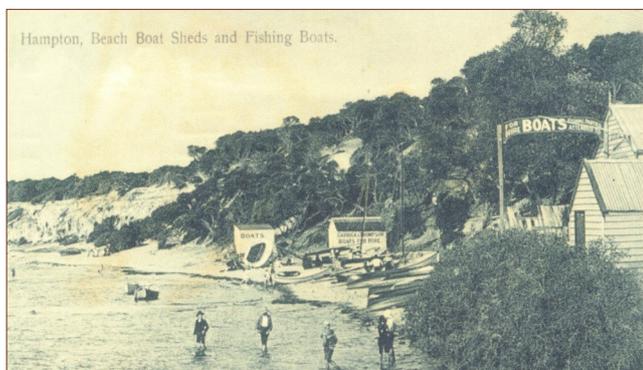
Membership is open to anyone from around the world with an interest in the Cheltenham Cemeteries, Melbourne Australia. For just \$A15.00 per annum*, members receive a range of benefits. We also welcome organisations. Please download a membership application form, complete & return to PO Box 2958, Cheltenham Vic 3192 or email to info@focrc.org. Payment details are available from the website.

www.focrc.org. * Plus \$A10.00 joining fee for new members.

February at St. James Cathedral, then 21 February at St. Francis Church, Melbourne. James, who was a bricklayer, was only 32 when he died of General Debility and Rheumatism, on 16 January 1857. He lived at Pic-Nic Point (Jetty Road), a very picturesque part of the area, then known as Gypsy Village (current day Sandringham). At the time of his death, he and Bridget had eight children aged from 3 to 15, with one infant not surviving. Their children were Thomas 15, John 13, James 9, Bridget 7, Michael 5, George 4 and Mary 3.

In 1866, the second eldest of James' children, John, a fisherman who lived in Brighton, married Margaret Taylor, who was from Scotland. They were both 23 at the time, and married at the Scots Church in Melbourne. They had two daughters and five sons, three of whom would drown in Port Phillip Bay, whilst pursuing their occupations as professional fishermen. John O'Mara died aged 42 of Phthisis (pulmonary TB), in 1884. At the time of his death they had seven children – Mary Jane 17, James 15, Thomas 13, Lily 11, John 8, William 5 & George 3.

James, the second eldest child of John and Margaret, was born 19 January 1869 at Pic-Nic Point and William, the second youngest, was born 19 February 1879, also at Pic-Nic Point. The O'Mara family home was built at the top of the cliff, just north of the area now known as Trey Bit Reserve. Along with their brothers and sisters James and William grew up in this coastal bushland setting, which was home to many families who pursued their livelihood in fishing or market gardening. John O'Mara was a professional fisherman, so it was natural for his sons to learn the skills required to sail the changeable and sometimes dangerous waters of Port Phillip Bay.



Hampton Beach

On Wednesday 20 March 1901, three O'Mara brothers, James aged 32, John aged 24 and William aged 22, left Sandringham in fishing boats to sail across to the bay to fish at Sheoaks near present day Point Cook. It is believed that James

was on the boat called *Helene*, with a 10 foot dingy in tow, and John O'Mara was on his boat *Waterwitch*. It is not clear who William was sailing with. They enjoyed a successful fishing expedition at Sheoaks during the afternoon and evening, then James and William decided to take *Helene* and its load of fish back to Sandringham the next morning, pick up provisions and return to Sheoaks.

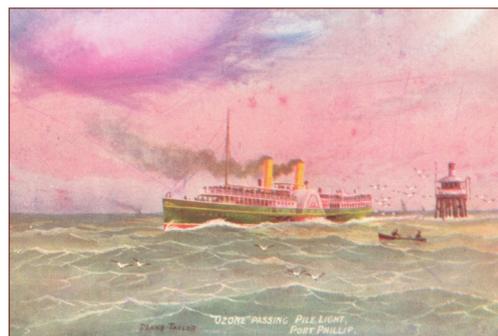


James O'Mara (standing) & John O'Mara (seated) with the *Waterwitch*

During Thursday 21 March 1901, the weather deteriorated into what was described by the newspapers of the day, as 'a gale of phenomenal strength which raised the heaviest sea known for many years'. James and William were caught out on the bay during the worst part of the storm.

Fishermen at Sandringham saw *Helene* at approximately 6pm, when she was four miles off-shore, her mast was up, but no sail set. The *Helene* was running before the gale, being taken by the wind and sea. At the same time fishermen saw the paddle steamer *Ozone*, known as the greyhound of Port Phillip Bay, steaming northwards on a course that would cut across the path of *Helene*.

The *Helene* was seen until the *Ozone* blotted her from view, but when she had passed, *Helene* could not be seen – she had disappeared from sight. Their boat had capsized, and James and William O'Mara were never seen again, even though their boat, *Helene* was retrieved four weeks later.



P.S. Ozone

SANDRINGHAM.

Very severe weather prevailed during the latter end of last week, a gale of phenomenal strength being experienced on Thursday. The local yachts and boats at anchor at their moorings from Brighton to Mordialloc were nearly all sunk or washed ashore, having been torn from their anchorage. At Sandringham a feeling of gloom has been cast over residents by the deaths of two local fishermen, James and William O'Mara, who were caught in the storm whilst out fishing. The brothers (32 and 21 respectively) were well known and respected locally, together with other members of the family. The eldest is a married man with six children. John O'Mara, aged 24 years, states that on Wednesday he accompanied his brothers on a fishing expedition to Point Cook on what was formerly Mr. J. W. Allee's yacht Helene, having a 10 feet dinghy in tow. J.

O'Mara was in his fishing-boat, the Waterwitch. They fished off the She-oaks during the afternoon and evening, and in the morning he left them in a dinghy to take back the fish which they had caught and obtain more provisions, as the fishing was very successful. The two brothers, however, did not return. Whilst the fishermen were attending to their boats about 6 o'clock, and trying to save them, they saw the p.s. Ozone coming up the bay from her usual trip. When she was about four miles S.W. of Sandringham the men on shore saw a fishing boat with her mast up, but no sail set, driving before the gale, and dead in the Ozone's course. The boat was seen until the Ozone blotted out the view, but when she had passed, though they strained their eyes, they could not see the fishing boat. The captain and chief officer of the Ozone, when questioned by the Port Melbourne police, denied having seen or heard anything of the boat or its occupants. They added, moreover, that as the decks of the Ozone are usually crowded with passengers an accident of that nature could scarcely pass unnoticed. On Saturday John and George O'Mara and Joseph Bertotto went over in the Waterwitch to Point Cook, and searched the foreshore with no success. While they were away one of the fishermen, named Jensen, who had been over at Point Cook, and returned to Williamstown on Thursday, told the Sandringham residents that he had seen the O'Maras just before he left Point Cook. They were then putting the net into their dinghy, and preparing to return to Sandringham. He was the last to see them. He had the utmost difficulty in reaching Williamstown, and said he could never have got to Sandringham.

Report of drowning deaths of James & William O'Mara
Brighton Southern Cross
30 March 1901

The wreck of the *Helene* was discovered in about eight fathoms on Saturday, 6 April 1901. Local residents were saddened when they heard the news of the tragedy. They were also indignant at the neglect of the Ports and Harbours Department, as they did not immediately send out a steamer to raise the *Helene*, in case the brothers were trapped inside.

When the *Helene* was eventually raised there was no sign of the two brothers and no signs of impact from the *Ozone*. Did this mean that the Captain and crew of the *Ozone* were not to blame? Or did the large paddles of the *Ozone* create a massive turbulence that added to the already heavy swells from the storm? The reports of the fishermen and newspapers of the time implied that the *Ozone* played a key role in the tragic episode.

James' wife was pregnant with their seventh child when he disappeared. William was born on 14 July 1901. His family was now left bereft and in great despair. James's brother, William, was not married.

The O'Mara brothers were well respected in the community, so the tragedy caused much grief. The Rev. Howell of All Saints Church formed a committee who arranged a fund raising concert to aid the widow and her children. The Hon. T. Bent MLA presided at the function.

SANDRINGHAM

We understand £300 has been raised for the O'Mara relief fund. The executive committee have convened a meeting of subscribers to be held in All Saints' Schoolroom, Sandringham, on Monday 27th instant, at 8 p.m., to secure their approval or otherwise to the purchase of a selected and approved house for Mrs. O'Mara and her family, appointment of a trust to hold

Brighton Southern Cross
25 May 1901

In November 1918, the O'Mara family suffered further tragedy when another son of John and Margaret, George, disappeared along with his crew and his boat the *Mavis*. George was born in May 1881 and followed in his father's, and older brothers' footsteps, becoming a professional fisherman.

FISHING BOAT OVERDUE.

THREE MEN ON BOARD.

Fears for Safety.

The gravest fears are entertained for the safety of three men who left Cowes, in Westernport Bay, for Sandringham in a fishing boat on Tuesday, November 26, and of whom no tidings have since been received. The party comprised George O'Mara, a resident of Sandringham; Humphrey Jones, a retired English civil servant, whose residence is at Hampton; and P. Callaghan, who, it is reported, is a painter in the employ of the Railways department, and whose home is at Sandringham.

The three men left Cowes in Mr. O'Mara's boat *Mavis* at 6 o'clock on Tuesday morning of last week, and in ordinary circumstances should have reached their destination at about 8 o'clock the same evening. Seafaring men, however, state that a strong wind arose at about 10 o'clock in the morning, causing a rough sea, and as the boat is only 26ft. long, with an 8ft. beam, it is feared that she may have been swamped when approaching the Heads. The party is now nine days overdue, and though the Ports and Harbours authorities have, with the co-operation of the telegraph offices, notified fishermen from Cowes to the Heads, and the authorities at Inverloch and Warratah Bay, of the missing boat, no trace of it or its occupants has been seen. A sharp lookout for wreckage is being kept, although it is said that with the heavy ballast she usually carried—together with the weight of the motor-engine with which she is fitted—the boat would sink like a stone if capsized.

Mr. O'Mara had had the *Mavis* at Cowes for the oyster-fishing season, but as the season had finished he intended to bring the boat home for the ordinary summer fishing in Port Phillip Bay and it was in their desire to help him on the voyage that Messrs. Jones and Callaghan had joined him at Cowes. Mr. O'Mara is regarded as one of the most skilful sailing men in Victoria, and those who knew him intimately placed the greatest confidence in his ability to weather the fiercest storms. He is a married man, with a wife and six children, whose ages range from 16 years down to 2 years. He is about 38 years of age. Mr. Jones and Mr. Callaghan are said to be each about 50 years of age. They are both married, with grown-up families. Mr. O'Mara's two brothers were drowned in similar circumstances in Port Phillip Bay about 18 years ago.

Report of George O'Mara's Death
The Argus
5 December 1918

In the spring of 1918, George had been oyster fishing in the Cowes area, but intended to head home to the Sandringham area for the ordinary summer fishing season. Two friends, Humphrey Jones and P Callaghan joined him in Cowes to assist in the journey back. The *Mavis*, with the three men aboard, left Cowes at 6am on Tuesday 26 November, but by 10am a strong wind arose. The *Mavis* and her crew were never seen again. Seafaring men feared that she may have been swamped when approaching the Heads. She was 26 feet long, with an 8 foot beam, and carrying heavy ballast and engine. It was thought she could 'sink like a stone' if capsized. The actual circumstances relating to the disappearance of the *Mavis* were never determined, and after a week or so, the community believed that the boat and her crew had been lost at sea.

George was survived by his wife Isabel Brennan and six children, whose ages ranged between 17 and 5 years of age. He was 37 when he died, and his two friends were believed to be in their 50s. George, like his family, was well known and had over the years saved the lives of many people in difficulties on the bay. Therefore, shortly after his disappearance on the *Mavis*, the Mayor of Sandringham, Cr. Champion, held a public meeting to consider what action could be taken to assist George's widow and their young children. Over 130 residents attended. The community raised enough funds to complete the purchase of their family home, and established Mrs O'Mara in a business so that their future would be ensured.

The death of George O'Mara was a cruel repeat of the family's earlier tragedy, when his brothers James and William lost their lives. The O'Mara family had suffered much over the years but they are remembered in the area, as the Sandringham Historical Society has many stories and images relating to them. The family grave at Cheltenham Pioneer also pays tribute to many of them, including the three brothers who were lost at sea.

Sources:

Shirley Joy: Eminent Sandringham local historian
 The Friends of Cheltenham Regional Cemeteries Inc.
 BDM's Victoria
 State Library – Image of *P.S. Ozone*
The Brighton Southern Cross newspaper
The Argus



Grave of James & William O'Mara
Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery



Grave of George O'Mara
Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Lucy Eveline Wawn

Original tour notes prepared by Sue Beazley, Friends of Cheltenham & Regional Cemeteries Trust Inc., for the Children's Tour August 2016.

Newsletter revision March 2017.

Wednesday, 17 January 1894, broke with the promise of another warm summer day. Robert Wawn decided to take his two daughters, 17 year old Lucy and 19 year old Gertrude for a trip to the seaside at Mordialloc with a young friend Bertha Craig, who was visiting from Ballarat. Around 3pm, the girls decided they should have their first swim in the sea at the popular Mordialloc Sea Baths before their return home. At the time there were sea baths operating in the area at Sandringham, Mentone and Mordialloc. These baths were popular with seaside visitors who considered them a safe place to swim.

This was the first time the girls had bathed in the sea and none of them could swim. The sea was rough, but not sufficiently so to make bathing dangerous. The girls initially stayed in the shallows before deciding to link hands and venture further out to sea. They were in about 4 feet of water when a wave swept them off their feet. Lucy panicked and grabbed at the other two girls pulling them all under the water. They surfaced and immediately screamed for help, but for some reason other bathers did not respond to their cries for assistance. Lucy was caught by an undercurrent which swept her to the fence at the extreme end of the baths.

Miss Craig managed to make her way to the fence surrounding the baths and assisted Gertrude to also reach the fence where they continued to scream for assistance whilst being battered against the fence by the heavy seas. Fred Comport, the son of Mr George Comport, the lessee of the baths, came to their rescue. He managed to bring Lucy out of the water and attempted to revive her. Robert Wawn arrived at the baths just in time to see his daughter's lifeless body being taken from the water. The local doctor, Dr George Scantlebury, was sent for and came quickly. He spent hours trying to revive Lucy until finally he had to declare her dead and her body was removed to the Wawn family home in Tucker Road, East Brighton, where a magisterial inquiry was held the next day.

Miss Craig testified that there were 'fully a dozen female bathers in the baths at the time, but not one of them rendered assistance'. The magistrate, Mr Ward, asked what life saving equipment was employed at the baths. George Comport replied there was one life buoy only and that was located on the wall of the baths shop. The attending Constable from Mordialloc stated that in his opinion the baths were in an unsafe condition. The jury returned a verdict of 'death by drowning'. No further action was taken.

Lucy Eveline Wawn was laid to rest on 19 January and the local paper reported that "the funeral cortege consisting of 70 carriages was perhaps the longest that had passed through the district for many years." Cruelly, tragedy again struck the family later that year when Lucy's brother Wilfred passed away on 16 December at the age of 10 years and 10 months. A beautiful memorial was placed in The Age on 17 January 1899 recalling the two deaths:

*At home, in beautiful dreams we will come,
And will see them as ever in the dear old
home;*

*We will smile the old smiles as we stand by
their side,*

*And whisper these words, "Death cannot
divide."*

*We do not forget them, we loved them too
dearly*

*For their memory to fade from our lives like a
dream;*

*The lips need not speak when the heart
mourns sincerely.*

*And the thoughts often rest where they
seldom are seen.*

Gertrude never married and in 1927 she passed away at Randwick in New South Wales. Her body was brought back to Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery and laid to rest in the grave next to her sister and brother. Their parents rest in a nearby grave.

Sources:

The Age 19 January 1894, page 5 – “The Inquiry”

The Leader, 20 November 1894, page 23 “Sad Bathing Fatality”

The Caulfield & Elsternwick Leader 27 January 1894

The Age, 17 January 1899 Family Notices



Mordialloc Sea Baths



Grave of Lucy Eveline Wawn
Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery

Have you received your copy of our Newsletter?

If you have not received any previous Newsletters and you are a financial member, please notify Rosemary Reddick.

info@focrc.org

Coming up at Brighton

April 25th

Anzac Day Walk @ 2pm
(meet at front gate)

May 20th

Law Week - Law & Order @ 2pm

July 1st

Glen Eira Story Telling Walk
“Let Us Entertain You” @ 2pm

August 12th

Annual General Meeting
Lodge, Brighton General Cemetery @ 2pm

A reminder about our latest book ...

The Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery: Where History Rests

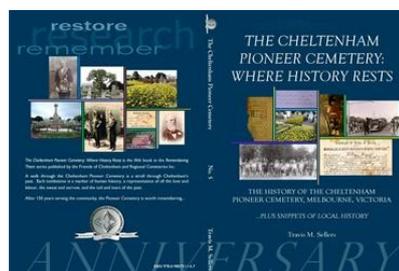
Written by Travis M. Sellers, *The Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery: Where History Rests* is the fifth book in the *Remembering Them* series published by the Friends of Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries Inc. With an index of over 800 names, it is a rich source covering not only the history of the Pioneer Cemetery, but snippets of local history featuring persons buried at the cemetery. The publication contains a number of appendices including a summary of the trustee minutes (1863-1932).

\$40.00 incl. postage and handling (\$36.00 for financial members)

Purchase your copy using PayPal or download an [Order Form](#) [PDF-426KB] and return with your cheque or money order.

http://www.focrc.org/forms/Order_Cheltenham.pdf

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WALKS AROUND

Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery 2018

The Friends of Cheltenham Regional Cemeteries will endeavour to conduct 4 tours this year. Details on our first two is below. Please check our future newsletter issues for details of tours later in the year. All of our walks are conducted by our fabulous researcher Sue Beazley, with assistance from Margaret Osborne, Ric Norman and myself. All are volunteers.

Early Settlers Tour

Sunday, 25 March

Join Sue Beazley on this intriguing tour and hear about the lives of the early settlers who carved out a living in areas that are now known to us as Cheltenham, Brighton, Beaumaris, Mentone, Mordialloc, Keysborough, Moorabbin and Dingley. They were strong, adventurous and capable people who may be one of your ancestors! The tour will be colourful and engaging as Sue is a brilliant story teller.



Tragic 30's Tour

Sunday, 27 May

The '30s in Australia became the decade of adventure as ordinary citizens pushed the boundaries of personal freedom and engaged in activities that we take for granted today. This tour is a reflection on life in the 1930s and you'll hear stories about skiing mishaps, sailing accidents, the death of a jockey, murder suicide, a one punch death and an aeroplane accident. Please join Sue Beazley and her fantastic group of volunteers for an interesting and reflective tour.

HEADSTONE RESTORATION

Are you related to Richard Tilley?

Fund Raising for **Oldest Headstone** at Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery

In our previous Newsletter I reported that our fund raising, in an attempt to restore or at least halt the deterioration of the oldest headstone – Richard Tilley et al - at Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery has been thwarted by time and the ravages of weather. The Committee has now decided to direct those funds towards placing a plaque at the gravesite. The plaque will comprise all the wording from the headstone, along with a statement indicating that it is the oldest headstone. This, at least, will retain the wording for future generations.

However we require the approval of someone from the Tilley family. So, to that end we will now be seeking family related to Richard Tilley who can either prove Rights of Burial for this gravesite or be prepared to be the appointed family person for this project. There will be no costs incurred by this person. If you are a Tilley – preferably a direct descendant - we would appreciate hearing from you in regards to this matter.

The headstone was erected sometime after 1865 and represents eight individuals buried in three graves, with four being babies. Richard Tilley d 1865, George Tilley d 1927, Mary Ann d 1908, Thomas Tilley d 1876, Alice d 1882, Emily d 1886, Reginald d 1887 and George E 1889.

Please contact us so we can begin the project: info@focrc.org

And, if you would like to donate to our overall restoration fund:

Bank: Bendigo Bank Limited

Account name: Friends of Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries Inc.

BSB: 633-000

Account: 130896830

Or take advantage of paying by PayPal. It's free and secure. Just visit our website.

<http://www.focrc.org/joining> and click on the "Donate" button. Payment can be made by credit card.

Current Total: \$1,643

