

Life

honour
celebrate



Placing 'Thoughts & Wishes' cards at the Father's Day Remembrance Service, Bunorong Memorial Park



The 'Angel of the North' sculpture, Gateshead, England



Raising funds for Breast Cancer Network Australia

HONOUR AND SERVICE IN A CHANGING WORLD

I would like to share with you the story of the 'Angel of the North', a sculpture that resonates with meaning for me, and with the 33 million visitors that pay homage to it every year. Designed and sculpted by Sir Antony Gormley, the 'Angel' is located at Gateshead just outside Newcastle in the United Kingdom.

Completed in 1998, this iconic Corten steel artwork is the largest and heaviest angel sculpture in the world. Its significance lies beyond its size, as it commemorates the industrial heritage of the North and pays tribute to the generations of coal miners who lost their lives bringing change as part of the industrial revolution. It signals that the world is forever changing, whilst highlighting the importance and the sanctity of life and being able to acknowledge both concurrently.

In July this year, a visit to this beautiful landmark was in many ways a pilgrimage for me. Even from a distance, I was moved by the angel's presence, grace and strength. Standing as a protector of the past and a symbol of hope and love for

the future. I was moved by thoughts of my mother and father and the feeling of such love and loss sat with me for a while.

As I walked around the Angel, I spent time speaking with families from all over the world who had travelled there on their own personal pilgrimage. The conversations were as if between kindred spirits and connected me with strangers in a display of warmth, reflection and kindness.

On my train trip back to London I reflected on my wonderful day and a quote by Dr Alan Wolfelt came to mind; "Death ends a life, but only alters the relationship, moving it from one of presence to remembrance." This resonates particularly as we approach the centenary of the end of WWI in November. We will remember the ultimate sacrifices that were made by men and women from all walks of life. Just as families from around the world connect under the Angel of the North, the sacrifices of our brave servicemen and women will unite us on 11 November.

At Springvale Botanical Cemetery we are proud to host the RSL Remembrance

Service annually. This year's centenary will be particularly poignant as our multicultural community comes together to pay respect to the honour and service of a century of WWI heroes. For many Victorians visiting one of our locations, this is a regular pilgrimage of memory, reflection, comfort, mateship and of love.

This edition focuses on honour and service – the importance of honouring the past and of having special places to visit to reflect and remember the service given to us from those who have shaped our lives.

Jane Grover
SMCT
CEO



Sue Renkin
SMCT
Trust Chairman



HONOUR

RECOGNISING WAR HEROES

On ANZAC Day this year, the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (SMCT) felt privileged to assist in honouring WWII veteran, Reg Andrews' Hero's Wish.

An initiative of Vasey RSL Care, Hero's Wish honours veterans and war widows with experiences that add to their cherished memories. These are only enabled with the support of local organisations and through donations to deliver the wishes.

Reg's wish was simple, but very poignant - joined by his brother Peter, Reg wanted to attend an ANZAC Day service with his family and lay a wreath

on his father's and mother's graves located at Springvale War Cemetery and Springvale Botanical Cemetery.

Jane Grover CEO, SMCT said, "When we heard about the wish we wanted to pull out all the stops to ensure it was a memorable and meaningful event for the two brothers and their families."

The brothers gathered with three generations of their family to fulfil this touching wish to honour their father who served in WWI and their mother who was part of the WAAC of Britain.

With such a distinguished history of service to their countries, there were plenty of stories and many reflections

exchanged between the family members as they lay the wreaths. The conversation and memories continued to flow on-site at Café Vita et flores, where the hospitality team were delighted to serve the table of fifteen guests on such a worthy occasion.

"The smiles on the family members' faces was the most gratifying thing to see on the day and we were honoured to serve them," Grover said.

If you'd like to learn more about the Hero's Wish initiative at Vase RSL Care, or make a donation, go to; www.vaseyrslcare.org.au/heros-wish/



Springvale War Cemetery, Springvale Botanical Cemetery



Three generations of the Andrews family honour their hero, Springvale War Cemetery, Springvale Botanical Cemetery



Reg and Peter Andrews pay their respects to their father, Daniel Andrews, at Springvale War Cemetery, Springvale Botanical Cemetery

CAFE LOVERS SPRING TO IT

Spring has finally sprung and that means coming out of 'hibernation', catching some sunrays and catching up with family and friends.

Our team at Café Vita et flores are looking forward to greeting you with the freshest coffee and cakes or something more substantial. There's a playground to keep the kids happy too.

Open 7 days a week at Springvale Botanical Cemetery and Bunurong Memorial Park, Café Vita et flores is the destination to honour and celebrate life, and Spring, this season. Go to cafevita.org.au to find out more.

Did someone say, "Afternoon tea at Café Vita?" Café Vita et flores at Springvale Botanical Cemetery and Bunurong Memorial Park



LOVE

FROM SHOULDER RIDES TO SHOULDERS TO CRY ON – HONOURING OUR DADS

On Thursday 30 August, it was our great pleasure to host the annual Father's Day Remembrance Service at Bunurong Memorial Park (BMP).

Designed to honour the legacy of the fathers and father figures in our lives, this very special evening brought together our community for a poignant night of reflection and meaningful memories.

In a moving speech, Jane Grover CEO, SMCT said, "Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust believes in supporting the living throughout their grief journey with personalised care and compassion. That's why we are dedicated to creating nights like this. From shoulder rides, to shoulders to cry on, these are the men who left an indelible impression on our lives. These are the men who are at the heart of tonight's Father's Day Remembrance Service. I welcome you to take this opportunity to reflect on your own cherished memories in a way that is meaningful to you."

Touching reflections were provided by the celebrant for the evening, Marg Fitzpatrick. These gave guests the space, and the time they needed, to pause and honour the unique and everlasting bond between father and child. Following the service, the night culminated with each guest receiving a gift of herbs and sharing refreshments together on-site at Café Vita et flores.

The service this year was once again arranged in partnership with Templeton Family Funerals. We were grateful to Ellese Templeton and her colleagues for their collaboration towards this service and the team at BMP for their dedication and pride in assisting to make this a memorable evening for our community of families.



Placing 'Thoughts & Wishes' cards at the Father's Day Remembrance Service, Bunurong Memorial Park



Jane Grover, CEO Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust, placing a personal 'Thoughts & Wishes' card, Bunurong Memorial Park



Writing 'Thoughts & Wishes' cards before the service, Bunurong Memorial Park



Lighting Remembrance Candles during the service, Bunurong Memorial Park



Bunurong Memorial Park employees, Celebrant Marg Fitzpatrick and Templeton Family Funeral employees serving the community with pride and care

RESPECT

HOTHAM – REMEMBERING THE MAN, RESTORING HISTORY

Sir Charles Hotham (1806-1855), naval officer and governor, was born on 14 January 1806 in Dennington, England. Hotham was a brilliant naval commander and wanted to continue his naval career, but when he was offered the Governorship of Victoria in Australia he was convinced to emigrate.

Hotham became a controversial Governor and was credited with mismanaging the Eureka Stockade Rebellion in Ballarat in 1854, Australia's only armed uprising.

Despite his ill-fated handling of the Eureka Rebellion, the Hotham Monument, commissioned by Lady Hotham following her husband's death, is one of the most important cemetery

monuments in Australia. Believed to be the only example of the work in Australia of architect George Gilbert Scott and sculptor John Birnie Philip, it was designed and built in England and dominated the skyline of Melbourne General Cemetery for nearly 140 years.

The metal rod in the tall column cracked, and it was dismantled in 1996 and the pieces safeguarded at Springvale Botanical Cemetery awaiting restoration. We are excited to announce restoration has commenced, but we need your help to finish the job!

Through the Historical Restoration and Refurbishment Fund we have raised funds for restoration of the monument's sub-structure, base and column. We require assistance to help raise further

funds for the final piece of the project - restoring the intricate tabernacle at the top of the monument.

Restoration works have begun around the base and excavation has already revealed the substructure to be one of the most extensive of any monument in Victoria.

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) has agreed to conduct the heritage restoration appeal for the Hotham Monument and has classified the whole cemetery at a national level, recognising that it is essential to Victoria's heritage and must be preserved.

Further details of how to make a contribution to the restoration of this unique monument will be coming soon.



The Melbourne General Cemetery of a bygone era with visitors to the Hotham Monument



The Hotham Monument is one of the most popular stops along the Melbourne General Cemetery tours



Restoration works have commenced on the Hotham Monument, Melbourne General Cemetery

STANDING SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER IN A 'FIELD OF WOMEN'

On Sunday 12 August, a team of Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust staff joined CEO, Jane Grover, to support Breast Cancer Network Australia's (BCNA) 'Field of Women' event at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

"The ethos and purpose of the BCNA is aligned with ours, in that they support and care for those experiencing the

most difficult and challenging of circumstances. I was proud to brave the weather with my team and stand shoulder-to-shoulder with them to raise the profile of this worthy organisation," said Grover.

To find out more about BCNA's work or donate go to www.bcna.org.au



Jane Grover, CEO Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust with a team of employees at the MCG for 'Field of Women'

JOURNEY WITH US – THE CENTRE FOR CARE & WELLBEING IS MOVING TEMPORARILY

Since first opening our doors at the Centre for Care & Wellbeing in February 2017 we have supported over 600 visitors a month. Each one has received care and comfort along with the opportunity to meet others in similar circumstances.

As our community at the Centre grows, we plan to develop our current premises at Springvale Botanical Cemetery into a multi-use facility that ensures we can continue to support those navigating their way through grief well into the future. Redevelopment of the Centre is an investment in our community and will create a space that will provide the most relevant and considerate support services.

This redevelopment will be commencing in October and will be completed by mid-next year (2019).

From Monday 8 October onwards, all



Artist's impression of the Centre for Care & Wellbeing redevelopment, Springvale Botanical Cemetery

sessions and operations out of the Centre for Care & Wellbeing will be delivered from our temporary home at 23A Smith Road, Springvale. Look out for the Centre for Care & Wellbeing signage to show you the way.

We look forward to seeing you journey

alongside us during this exciting new chapter of our service to you.

If you have any enquiries please contact Dianne Lee on (03) 8772 6111, email care@smct.org.au or follow our progress at www.sbc.smct.org.au/CentreforCareandWellbeing/

WAR HERITAGE BOOKLET SERVING OUR COMMUNITY WELL

“Fascinating”

These are just a few of the positive comments our Victorian War Heritage booklet has received since its publication earlier in the year.

This valuable resource honours the servicemen and women who are cared for at Springvale Botanical Cemetery and Springvale War Cemetery.

Over 600 free hard copies have been distributed to schools in the Springvale and Dandenong district and community and over 100 free copies have been downloaded to date. The Springvale War Cemetery regularly distributes copies to visitors

“History has come alive”

and local school, Wellington College, is using the booklet as the foundation for conducting their own tours of war graves.

We are so excited by our community embracing this publication, we are nominating it for a Community History Award, through the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, so watch this space.

In the lead up to Remembrance Day, download your own free copy of ‘Victorian War Heritage’ from www.sbc.smct.org.au/WarHeritageVictoria/

“Wonderful photos”



Official opening of the Springvale War Cemetery
Image - State Library Victoria

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR

Our beautiful and iconic locations empower our communities to honour and celebrate all stages of life. It's no surprise that the Sanctuary at Bunurong Memorial Park has been used as a stunning location to host memorials, weddings and conferences.

We are proud to offer choice for our community and to give them the space and time they need to hold events in a beautiful setting like the Sanctuary.

With catering available from our very own Café Vita et flores, this is a unique venue for up to 70 seated guests or 80 standing.

If you're looking for a different locale for your next corporate event or a big family function, the Sanctuary provides an intimate and warm space to gather.

For further information go to cafevita.org.au or call (03) 8523 1611

The Sanctuary at Bunurong Memorial Park is a unique venue for honouring all stages of life



FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT SMCT LOCATIONS

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
Tour of Springvale Botanical Cemetery with free lunch <i>For further information go to smct.org.au/workshops</i>	Thursday 27 September, 10.30am – 1.30pm Thursday 18 October, 10.30am – 1.30pm Monday 22 October, 10.30am – 1.30pm	Springvale Botanical Cemetery
General Tour of Springvale Botanical Cemetery and Brave Conversation session <i>For further information go to smct.org.au/workshops</i>	Tuesday 20 November, 10.30am – 1.30pm Tuesday 4 December, 10.30am – 1.30pm	Springvale Botanical Cemetery
MYLifebook: My Traditions session <i>For further information go to smct.org.au/workshops</i>	Thursday 25 October, 10.30am – 1.30pm	Springvale Botanical Cemetery
MYLifebook: Storytelling Our Lives session <i>For further information go to smct.org.au/workshops</i>	Monday 15 October, 10.30am – 1.30pm	Springvale Botanical Cemetery
MYLifebook: Plan a Funeral <i>For further information go to smct.org.au/workshops</i>	Wednesday 31 October, 10.30 – 1.30pm	Springvale Botanical Cemetery
Advance Care Planning <i>For further information go to smct.org.au/workshops</i>	Tuesday 23 October, 2.00pm – 4.00pm	Springvale Botanical Cemetery
Art of Living & Dying Well	Wednesday 12 December, 10.30 – 1.30pm	Springvale Botanical Cemetery
Halloween Night Tours <i>For further information go to mgc.smct.org.au/Night-Tours</i>	Wednesday 31 October Tours run half-hourly starting from 6.30pm	Melbourne General Cemetery Gatehouse Lodge, College Crescent, Parkville
Historical Night Tours	Friday 21 September 2018 - 7.00pm	Melbourne General Cemetery

For further information about SMCT events visit smct.org.au



SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN CEMETERIES TRUST

Honouring and celebrating life

The Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust is a not for profit, community based organisation that cares for Bunurong and Cheltenham Memorial Parks, and Brighton General, Cheltenham Pioneer, Dandenong Community, Melbourne General, Springvale Botanical, Sorrento and St Kilda cemeteries.

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