

Life

honour
celebrate

SMCT NEWS UPDATE SUMMER EDITION 2018



SMCT Trust Chairman, Sue Renkin, Victorian State Premier, Hon. Daniel Andrews, SMCT CEO Jane Grover



Artwork from a Centre for Care and Wellbeing visitor



St. Micheal the Archangel Mausoleum – Melbourne General Cemetery

A YEAR OF LIVING PURPOSEFULLY

'Life happened because I turned the pages'... Alberto Manuel a writer, translator, editor and now the director of the National Library of Argentina. Alberto's writing speaks to me on so many levels and in so many ways *'you put things away in boxes, sometimes at night they come back to haunt you'*. With another year ending and another new year beginning what will you remember, and what are the steps that you will take so that you can turn the next page?

Our future is a series of choices. Some of them will be easy and some will require much more consideration and it is in these moments, when I would encourage each one of us, to never underestimate the power of your community.

In this past year I have seen our community rise to many occasions and in these connections, I see great mateship honoured, friendships born, and great healing occur. Most importantly I have seen our community crystallise their purpose and truly be there for each other. As leaders in supporting the living, we are incredibly proud to have made the choices we have. We in fact, turn each page with clear purpose and care.

Our events for Mother's and Father's Day, All Souls and Christmas Remembrance have attracted record numbers and it continues

to be our honour to provide these important services for our communities. We also continue to develop infrastructure at our core sites to ensure we deliver world class facilities that are extremely well maintained in perpetuity. This is the promise we have made to each of your loved ones in our care and as we reflect on this promise, we also turn our attention to you as you navigate a new normal.

These times can be complex yet allow the opportunity for us to reflect and unpack. It is in the unpacking that you understand your full story, your true story. All you need is time and a chance to find, understand and define. Your story is never definitive; it keeps evolving.

As our organisation keeps unpacking our purpose, which is multi layered and shaped by the ever-changing fabric our community, our demonstration is really 'the moment of truth'. Our story is also never definitive. It too keeps evolving.

With a new year on the immediate horizon, I thought it timely to share the next chapter in our story book;

The opening of our new Centre for Care and Wellbeing in 2019. The centre will focus on your wellbeing as we assist you, our community, navigate loss, loneliness, grief, build resilience and forge new connections.

Our new website will narrate your stories, the images will connect with your heart and soul and will represent an organisation where words and actions mirror... our new website... your new website, will be revealed in April. Saint Padre Pio Three will open in May and our Activate Mental Health for our employees will be a program that is aligned to our values about care, compassion and community.

This edition of Life focuses on discovery and purpose – the importance of living, honouring and supporting your truth. As we turn the pages together, on behalf of the team at SMCT we would like to wish you and your extended families all the best for the holiday Season.

Jane Grover
SMCT
CEO



Sue Renkin
SMCT
Trust Chairman



SUPPORT

“TO KEEP GREEN THE MEMORY OF FALLEN SOLDIERS”

On Friday 9th November, Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (SMCT) were given the honour of sitting with Returned and Services League state President, Dr. Robert Webster.

As the marking of the 100-year anniversary since Armistice Day draws to a close, our conversation began with reflection upon the original purpose of the RSL (Originally called the Returned Soldiers Association).

Rob shared with us an excerpt

printed in The Argus, 27th September 1915. The original direction set was “to keep green the memory of fallen soldiers, lend a helping hand to deserving comrades, help one another in fighting the battle of life, and assist members in obtaining employment, to foster and encourage the universal defence system, to establish benevolent and funeral funds and secure naval and military funerals, to hold social reunions and assist in patriotic and charity movements”.

To this day, 100 years on, the

core mission has barely changed, however what has changed is the environment. The RSL is currently in it's 6th generation of service. They provide care for widows, all the way through to an eight-year-old son of a man who served in Afghanistan.

Their field force consists of 60,000 volunteers over 282 sub branches and as true to the original mission they set out 100 years ago, they continue to keep the memory alive of fallen soldiers, raise funds, hold reunions and most importantly, lend a hand.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE IN THE INDESCRIBABLE JOURNEY

On the evening of December 2nd, alongside our partners Andrews Funeral Care, Springvale Botanical Cemetery was privileged to host the 2018 Children's Christmas Remembrance Service.

Despite some poor weather, the service was attended by nearly 600 members of our community, who decorated stars and bravely wrote cards to their dear children. One by one nearly 150 families lit their lanterns and placed their

cards on two Christmas trees. The connection in grief was palpable as is the support between members of this unique community.

After the conclusion of the service, Café Vita et Flores, provided families with delicious food, music and the infamous lolly bar for the young and young at heart to enjoy.

We thank our families for allowing us to support them again this year.



Children's Christmas Remembrance Tree



SMCT CEO Jane Grover and Andrews Funeral Care Company Director Kevin Reardon



Lighting the Lanterns

RELEVANCE

THE IMPORTANCE OF A PLACE AND REFLECTION

SMCT were honoured to host a remembrance service for the RSL on 4th November. Hosted by Dr Robert Webster (RSL State President) along with many community members in attendance including guest speaker Dr Rosalie Triolo and The Hon. Daniel Andrews, Premier of Victoria.

As we reminisced about the success of the day, it compelled us to explore the importance of a war memorial to the community. With more than 66,000 Australian war dead in identified graves around the world and another 35,000 whose remains were never found, cremated or lie in unidentified graves, the importance of war memorials cannot be overstated. Memorials serve the community as a defacto grieving place.

Many relatives never saw a grave of a lost one and these very important locations are a physical reminder and serve as a place to grieve. They do in fact serve the living to grieve well. A philosophy very close to our heart here at SMCT.

Then there are the returned service men and women. Who have bravely fought or supported others during war times, who have experienced comradery under extreme circumstances and who went to war



RSL Remembrance Day - Springvale Botanical Cemetery 2018

with strangers and came back as mates. For these men and women, war memorials serve as a place to have plaques in one place. Each plaque giving way to reflection for the members who have not returned or passed since returning. They continue even after life, to stand together.

And it is in this standing together and providing for the community that we see the continued relevance of an organisation such as the RSL now and into the future. SMCT admires the RSL and its ongoing service to the community and hopes that our connection of bringing people

together to honour and celebrate life continues to strengthen. Our shared common ground of respect, integrity and dedication lay a rich foundation on which we will build to serve all Victorians who come into our care and connect with the purpose our individual organisations deliver.

The RSL relies on donations to continue to tailor specialist services to the needs of current and former service men and women, and their families. To donate, please go to:

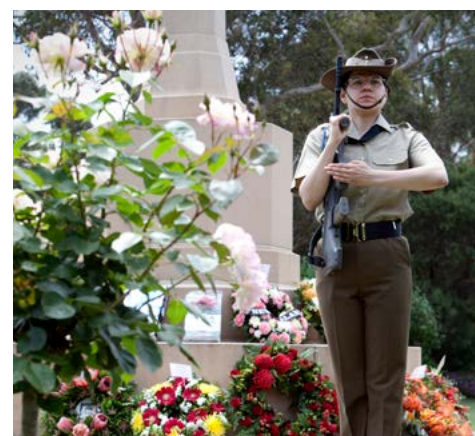
**www.poppyappeal.com.au or
www.anzacappeal.com.au**



Remembering Fallen Soldiers – Springvale Botanical Cemetery



Hon. Daniel Andrews attends RSL Remembrance Day



Honouring Traditions and Lives

VALUES

WE RELY ON EACH OTHER - LOOK LEFT AND RIGHT

We live in a society that changes as soon as we have become used to it and in a world that is becoming increasingly involved by digital technology, so we often wonder how purpose driven organisations that exist to serve the health of human kind, look like in the future.

In conversation with the RSL, their future state is very clear and is rooted in those values set many years ago. For them, one of the main roles in the future is to help returned service men and women transition back into civilian life and for some this path is far more complex than we imagine.

The RSL of the future will help provide community connections to reduce risk around social isolation, they will advocate for pensioners and their families. What struck us most was the acknowledgement that in today's world, the support needed for individuals requires significant collaboration.

The badge the organisation wears has become less relevant and true community connection and strong empathy to help people as they transition is where the RSL predict their future to lie.

Dr Robert Webster shared an unofficial saying "look left, look right,

because they rely on you too". In this moment, we were given a window that helped crystallise the importance of being there for each other and the rich connection we all share. Our communities are wide but also right next to us. What a lovely way to end the year and welcome in the year ahead.

As our time with RSL State president Dr Robert Webster concluded, we were comforted to know that with such strong values alignment, our part in the calendar of RSL events was meaningful, important and provided great support to service men and women.



Gallery of images from 100 year Armistice Day Anniversary Remembrance Service held at Springvale Botanical Cemetery, 4th November 2018

WE WISH YOU WELL ON YOUR WAY TO THE WISHING WELL



"Love and grief are two sides of the same coin, you cannot have one without the other" Dr. A Wolfelt

The Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries trust is proud to announce that all proceeds from the Wishing Well at Springvale Botanical Cemetery are donated to the Koala Kids Foundation, a Victorian volunteer-driven organisation that provides small things that make a difference to the

lives of children and young people in cancer treatment. Koala Kids works with Children's Cancer Centres at the Royal Children's Hospital and Monash Children's Hospital, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and nine regional hospitals in Victoria. So next time you pass by, please make a wish.

www.koalakids.org.au

Wishing Well at Clarence Reardon Centre -
Springvale Botanical Cemetery



OUR JOURNEY ISN'T PERFECT, BUT IT'S OURS AND I'LL STICK WITH YOU UNTIL THE END



Our wonderful team at the Centre of Care and Wellbeing (CCW) are settling in nicely to the temporary location at Smith Road.

The variety of rooms and vast space has been overwhelmingly well received. SMCT staff from across the organisation are supporting in every way possible with food and beverage, delivering goodies and our horticulture team developing a garden in front at the new location.

So much in the world of our valued CCW visitors has changed and we acknowledge that this transition may have

brought about feelings of uncertainty. Many are missing being close to where their loved ones are, along with missing the hustle and bustle of the café.

The team at CCW are committed to providing care, compassion and support and encourage all visitors past and present to continue staying connected.

***The Centre for Care and Wellbeing is open Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am – 3pm,
23A Smith Road, Springvale. Ph 03 8772 6111***



Enjoying Conversation



Movement Class



Artwork Wall



Walking Time



Group Chat



Art Therapy

THE YEAR IN PICTURES - OUR AMBITIONS IN ACTION



Saint Micheal the Archangel Mausoleum Opening 2018



SMCT Annual PRIDE Awards 2018



SMCT Annual PRIDE Awards 2018



All Souls Day



Carols on the Lawn



Father's Day Remembrance Service



Halloween 2018 @ Melbourne General Cemetery



Hotham Monument Restoration



Jade Burial Suit on loan from the Chinese Museum



Wedding Reception - Springvale Botanical Cemetery



Our People



Elf @ SMCT Staff Xmas party 2018



**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 Community and St Kilda cemeteries.

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