

Life

honour
celebrate

SMCT NEWS UPDATE WINTER EDITION 2019



Trust, Executive Leadership and Award winners at the annual PRIDE Awards



Families write letters at Mother's Day service at Bunurong Memorial Park



Auxiliary Bishop Terence Curtin blesses the crypts in the Saint Padre Pio Mausoleum precinct at Springvale Botanical Cemetery

OUR PEOPLE

The art of leadership is understanding what you cannot compromise on. Those willing to challenge and change the status quo achieve something that is quite unique. They overcome resistance of people they trust, people they work with and work for. Leading and changing organisations is the work of leaders; and is the essence of our organisation.

Belief and faith are the unstated characteristics of a leader, who wants to unlock their own, and their teams' potential to ensure that the organisation is proud, progressive, and remains true to its purpose.

In this edition of *Life* I want to reflect on 'our people'. Recently we hosted our employee recognition awards known as *PRIDE Awards* where we came together to celebrate our collective achievements.

Employees nominate individuals across the organisation and provide examples of people who lead, challenge, make a demonstrable difference to the organisation, and importantly, the community we are

committed to serving.

What resonated with me was the depth and breadth of skills within the organisation, the dedication and commitment to continuous improvement, growth mindset, respect and care for one another.

Recipients were from the following departments;

Customer Experience - Steph and Briony,
Operations - James, Matt, Cathy and Kelly,
People and Capability - Georgie,
Food and Beverage - Paddy.

This group of people demonstrate our organisational values every day, and importantly, all our people lead from the heart – a sincere thank you.

We also acknowledged and celebrated the significant contribution and leadership of our Chairman Ms. Sue Renkin who is retiring after almost a decade as the inaugural Chair of the Trust. The transformation of this organisation and the contemporary services that we provide the Victorian community have been delivered under her stewardship.

Together, we will continue to expand on Sue's vision in serving our community.

When our diverse community is the most vulnerable, disorientated, and need absolute care and compassion, our team is there to guide them so their beliefs and faiths are honoured and celebrated.

A sincere thank you to the entire team at Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust who care for and serve the Victorian community.

Jane Grover
SMCT
CEO



Sue Renkin
SMCT
Trust Chairman



RESPECT

SONG HE XIN YUAN OPENING



TOP: Monks sculptures representing the different stages of life;
BOTTOM LEFT TO RIGHT: Members of the community enjoy the opening event; The monumental bell at Song He Xin Yuan;
Trust Chairman Sue Renkin, Mr Jinseng Wang and SMCT CEO Jane Grover.

Respect and inclusion have always been core values here at SMCT. We value people from all walks of life and desire to preserve the sense of belonging and inclusion that our community seek when in a vulnerable time of need. Confucius once said, *"I want you to be everything that is you, deep at the centre of your being"*. As an organisation and a team, we strive to fulfil the individual needs of everyone that comes into our care, allowing them to remember their loved ones in the way that best suits their preferences. Our daily commission is to honour tradition and custom both at present and for the generations to come.

In meeting the needs of our Asian

communities here in Melbourne, Springvale Botanical Cemetery was proud to introduce the brand new Song He Xin Yuan to the community on Sunday 19th May. With over 150 members of the community including international and community leaders in attendance, we launched the largest Asian cemetery in the Southern Hemisphere, followed by cultural activities and delicious food being served.

We are delighted that the opening was well received by both local and international guests, with some of the comments from the day including: *"This is the most beautiful cemetery I have ever visited"* and *"I've not seen a*

cemetery do as much as [SMCT] have done to be able to meet the needs of their customers". Such a wonderful response from our guests on the day reiterates our purpose and values that create safe spaces for all Victorians.

In addition to our existing Song He Yuan and Lotus Garden, the Song He Xin Yuan precinct is inspired by Feng Shui design, and honours the values of the many Asian communities.

We encourage you to visit Song He Xin Yuan in all its beauty – something that we can be very proud of. A thank you and congratulations to all who were involved in both the planning and opening of this stunning precinct.

COMMUNITY

WORKS HAVE COMMENCED AT THE CENTRE FOR CARE AND WELLBEING (CCW)



You may have noticed that The Centre for Care and Wellbeing (CCW) is being renovated. Exciting works have commenced at Springvale Botanical Cemetery and the new CCW building is expected to be completed in October this year.

To best serve our community, these new facilities will house beautiful

interactive spaces, meditation centres, music and art therapy for the community, as well as on-site osteopathy and psychology services for our employees.

These facilities have been thoughtfully designed to provide support and have a positive impact on the lives of the broader community.



Exciting new facilities under construction for The Centre for Care and Wellbeing

SAINT PADRE PIO MAUSOLEUM – STAGE THREE OPENED

As our organisation grows, so does our awareness of our community's needs. Over time, we have seen the great opportunity to meet the needs of our community so they can continue to honour their traditions and customs.

SMCT is excited to introduce the third stage of the Saint Padre Pio mausoleum precinct at Springvale Botanical Cemetery. The welcoming courtyard-style architecture is designed for the comfort and pleasure of families and friends visiting their loved ones.

The grand opening of this mausolea was held at Springvale Botanical Cemetery on Thursday 30th May, opening its doors to many guests from the Italian community. Blessed by Auxiliary Bishop Terence Curtin, the Saint Padre Pio mausoleum now houses 207 crypts or 360 casket spaces.



Auxiliary Bishop Terence Curtin speaks to members of the community

We are truly honoured to open our arms to the Italian community once again to preserve their family values of love and honour. It is an incredible honour to continue this ongoing relationship with the Italian community.

MOTHER'S DAY SERVICE

At SMCT we hold mothers dear to our hearts. We wouldn't be anywhere without these women and the sacrifices many have made.

Our annual Mother's Day service held at Bunurong Memorial Park was a beautiful celebration to honour women. We welcomed over 200 members of the community to celebrate and remember the mother figures in their own lives, and provided a safe place for them to grieve.

Families lit candles, wrote letters, reflected on cherished memories and shared stories amongst friends in a touching service hosted by our SMCT team, in partnership with Templeton Family Funerals. A heartfelt thank you to all who were involved and made this a special Mother's Day service.



Community members posting letters at annual Mother's Day service

INCLUSION

CAFÉ VITA ET FLORES TAKE HOME MEALS COMING SOON

Our world-class Café Vita et flores welcomes thousands of guests each month. Every day we see many people come into the café, often with different needs of care and nourishment.

To better serve our community, our amazing hospitality team are about to launch take-home meals – a packaged version of your favourite meals that are served everyday at Café Vita et flores.

We are excited to launch these meals in the month of June.

All packaged meals will be available for purchase at the main café counter, and are made with the freshest ingredients. Keep an eye out at our Springvale Botanical Cemetery location over the coming months for this exciting new offering.



Cafe Vita et flores will soon offer take away meal options, available for purchase

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT SMCT LOCATIONS

EVENT	DATE AND LOCATION	ABOUT
Open House Melbourne	Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 July Melbourne General Cemetery	Every year we open the doors of the Melbourne General Cemetery Gatehouse Lodge and St Mary of the Cross Mausoleum to the general public as part of the Open House Melbourne city-wide event.
Father's Day Remembrance Service	Thursday 29 August Bunurong Memorial Park	This annual event is held at Bunurong Memorial Park, attended by over 200 individuals that allow the local community to honour their fathers.
Melbourne General Cemetery and Springvale Botanical Cemetery Tours	Returning September 2019	Official site tours at Melbourne and Springvale will be closed for the winter months. However please call our Customer Service Centre to book a personal tour with one of our consultants on (03) 9546 9377.

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 Community and St Kilda cemeteries.

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