

# Life

honour  
celebrate

SMCT NEWS UPDATE SPRING EDITION 2019



Our annual Father's Day Remembrance Service welcomed the community to reflect and honour their fathers.



Leading from the heart: Our Centre for Care and Wellbeing recently held their Music Matinee event for the community.



Our upcoming All Souls Day will be held in November across many of our site locations.

## LEADING FROM THE HEART

Spring is a wonderful time of year to appreciate the intimate relationships that bring meaning to our lives – nourishing our souls with joy and a sense of fulfilment. The most satisfying relationships are often those that allow us to be vulnerable and share our ideas and feelings to gain a better understanding of ourselves.

It is through exploration with others that we often define our own values and opinions. Take time to cherish those in your life and look for opportunities this spring to invest time into established or new relationships. The smallest of gestures can often count the most.

With the chill in the air thawing, and the buds beginning to flower, change is all around. Embracing change, we should dare to dream about the future. Take that courageous step forward and look within to uncover what is holding you back, and how you can create the change you want to be. Spring is a great time of personal reflection for me – an opportunity to have the important 'conversation with myself' about life, relationships and the changes

needed to be my best self, as it is said, 'what stands in the way becomes the way'.

It is then through us being the best reflection of ourselves that we have open hands and hearts to help others. As a purposed organisation, our brand is all about leading from the heart.

How can we keep supporting the Victorian community and challenge the expectations of us as an organisation?

As an organisation, we have broken many patterns of thinking. The traditionalist would look backwards and say that 'memorial parks and cemeteries are for the deceased.' Our organisation is progressive – we are here to support the living.

Abraham Lincoln said, "*The best way to predict your future is to create it.*"

It is with that philosophy that we lead the change of pace and allow the Victorian community to grieve, remember and be cared for according to their own needs.

In the coming months, the new facilities for our bespoke Centre for Care and Wellbeing will open. Our aspirations and care for the Victorian community are being realised, as we herald the next chapter of our evolution. Here we continue to 'turn the page', be curious about possibilities, challenge our dominant logic and provide services our community deserves in the 21st century.

So as we welcome the change in season, take that first step forward and reflect on your own feelings, relationships and opportunities. Make new connections, dare to dream of new possibilities and become the change you want to be in your own life.

Jane Grover  
SMCT  
CEO



# RESPECT

## RSL VICTORIA REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

As Victorians, we cannot deny that the sacrifices of those who have gone before us have laid the foundation for our community in this land we call home.

As each generation follows the next, we are here to share the stories, to honour, respect and acknowledge those who

served our nation. As an organisation, we have been entrusted to continue telling the story of those who fought and supported others during times of war. We do this by bringing Australians together to commemorate the servicemen and servicewomen who have helped shape our nation into the place we know and love today.

This November, SMCT is proud to host the annual RSL Remembrance service at Springvale Botanical Cemetery. On Sunday 10th November we will partner with the RSL to honour those affected by war, both past and present. We welcome you to join us on the day, as we stand together to reflect and remember.



## REMEMBERING OUR FATHERS

Everyone chooses to remember their loved ones in their own unique way, a way that is special to them and their families. Many of us share the desire to honour and respect those special people who have made a great impact on our lives. SMCT works hard to anticipate the community's needs, particularly during this time of year.

In remembrance, this year our Springvale Botanical Cemetery florist welcomed families with a beautiful display to honour Victorian fathers.

On Thursday 29th August our annual Fathers Day Remembrance Service was held at Bunurong Memorial Park. Every year, SMCT gives Victorian families the opportunity to celebrate and reflect on the lives of their fathers. This special evening brought the community together to support and care for one another during what can be a difficult time of year.

Many of us have special memories we hold dear of the father figures who have left an indelible impression on our lives. As an organisation, we believe

in supporting the living throughout their grief journey with personalised care and compassion. It is for this reason we have opened our arms to the community through such events, so their legacy can live on for years to come.

We extend our gratitude to Ellese Templeton and her colleagues at Templeton Funerals for their partnership in hosting this event, and the team at Bunurong Memorial Park for their dedication in making this a memorable evening for our community.



LEFT & RIGHT: Families reflect and honour their fathers and father figures, leaving personal notes of thoughts and wishes, and comforting one another at our annual Father's Day Remembrance Service. MIDDLE: Father's Day display in our Springvale Botanical Cemetery florist, Cafe Vita et flores

# COMMUNITY

## THE CENTRE FOR CARE AND WELLBEING – NEW FACILITIES OPENING SOON



Construction of the new Centre for Care and Wellbeing (CCW) is well under-way, and as an organisation we're looking forward to the impact these new facilities will have in serving our community.

Expected to be completed late this year, the new facilities will house beautiful interaction spaces, meditation

centres, music and art therapy for the community, plus on-site osteopathy and counselling services for our employees.

We look forward to welcoming you through the doors of the new CCW, which we expect will continue to play a pivotal role in assisting and caring for families through difficult times.



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

## OPEN HOUSE MELBOURNE

As part of the annual Open House Melbourne event held across the city, Melbourne General Cemetery's heritage-listed Gate Lodge was opened to the public on the 27th and 28th July, with more than 470 people in attendance across the weekend. This event not only provides a wonderful opportunity for visitors to access some of Melbourne's most significant buildings, but also allows them to go behind the scenes and experience the rich history of the site for themselves.

Visitors were able to participate in self-guided tours or free guided tours of the Gate Lodge and cemetery. The event was wonderfully received by our visitors, with one visitor sharing on social media: *"If you are thinking of going, it is well worth it."*

We love being able to share our story with the wider



The Melbourne General Cemetery Gatehouse has been an iconic building in Melbourne since the mid-1800s.

community and offer regular historical day and night tours of Melbourne General Cemetery (MGC), led by our knowledgeable tour guides. It would be our honour to host you at an upcoming tour.

## BRAND NEW SMCT WEBSITE

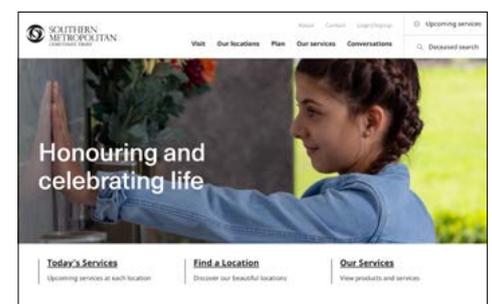
As an organisation, we are committed to ongoing growth and finding new ways to serve the community better. We aim to do this through every channel and touchpoint we can, keeping up with the needs of those who we serve here at SMCT.

Our SMCT website connects many people to our story, our services and our employees every single day. As time has passed, we've seen the need to provide a more streamlined online service, as the Victorian community seeks access to more information, and

more help in their time of need.

We are delighted to share our new SMCT website. Our new site aims to deliver easier access to information for our Victorian community, providing support for those pre-planning, and for those who need immediate advice. The new website now centralises all our sites, and the content is easy for visitors to navigate.

It also includes tools such as My Lifebook – designed for visitors to capture and record their own personal stories and plan how they want to



be remembered.

We invite you to visit our new website and experience SMCT as we continue to enhance the experience for the Victorian community.

# INCLUSION

## UPCOMING ALL SOULS DAY

Every year we open our arms and welcome thousands of members of the community to our All Souls Day services.

On the 2nd and 3rd of November, services will be held at Springvale Botanical Cemetery, Bunurong Memorial Park, Cheltenham Memorial Park and Melbourne General Cemetery, welcoming all denominations to remember and honour their loved ones.

The annual All Souls Day services provide those in attendance with the opportunity to reflect upon and

commemorate the lives of their loved ones. SMCT places value on offering a nurturing environment to allow all Victorians to grieve well and live well. Our purpose is to uphold the living and provide a space for them to honour and celebrate their family and friends in the way they choose.

We look forward to welcoming the community to our beautiful sites and warmly invite you to join us.

All Souls Day services will be held at Springvale Botanical Cemetery, Bunurong Memorial Park, Cheltenham Memorial Park and Melbourne General Cemetery this November.



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT SMCT LOCATIONS

EVENT	DATE AND LOCATION	ABOUT
<b>Special Children's Halloween Tour</b>	October 31, 7:30pm Melbourne General Cemetery	Melbourne General Cemetery is hosting a Halloween tour for children. The tour will be given by one of our Halloween themed tour guides who will entertain with tales of gruesome truths and historical facts.
<b>Halloween Tours</b>	October 31, 7:20pm-8:20pm Melbourne General Cemetery	Explore the graves of fascinating figures in Australian and Melbourne culture while your tour guide regales you with tales of mystery and history.
<b>Tour of Springvale Botanical Cemetery with free lunch</b>	Multiple dates available	Learn about the rich history and immense beauty of this cemetery on our fun and informative bus tours.
<b>All Souls Day</b>	November 2-3 Springvale Botanical Cemetery, Bunurong Memorial Park, Melbourne General Cemetery	We warmly welcome you to join with family and friends to commemorate and remember loved ones.
<b>Historical Night Tours of Melbourne General Cemetery</b>	September 13, 7:00pm-8:30pm - multiple dates available	The historic and iconic Melbourne General Cemetery is the final resting place of many notable Victorians. Our experienced guides will give you fascinating insights into one of Australia's most historically significant cemeteries.
<b>Historical Day Tours of Melbourne General Cemetery</b>	December 11, 10:30am-12:00pm - multiple dates available	Our experienced guides will 'introduce' you to Melbourne General Cemetery's who's who, while giving you fascinating insights into this historic and iconic cemetery.

For further information about SMCT events visit [smct.org.au](http://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.

Telephone (03) 9546 9377

600 Princes Highway Springvale – PO Box 1159, Clayton VIC 3169

Website [www.smct.org.au](http://www.smct.org.au) Email [enquiries@smct.org.au](mailto:enquiries@smct.org.au)