



Raves from the Graves

President's Report

We all have high hopes for 2021, and maybe we can still achieve that, regardless of January lockdowns and border closures. The future has started to give a glimmer of hope, and a glimpse of what we always considered a normal life.

Life will now always be signposted by pre-COVID and post-COVID, as we try to make sense of this new world and identify ourselves in the years to come.

This New Year, with its tantalising promise, has provided The Friends group with some confidence to plan ahead – just a little. We have a tour scheduled for Sunday, 21st March, *Almost Famous*, and another on Sunday, 2nd May, *Children of the Cemetery*. This is a topic not often touched on in tours, however, it as poignant a subject as any other. We look forward to possibly seeing you at one of our tours. There is more detail on both of these tours on page 3 of the newsletter.

Our projects are moving ahead slowly, with the help of our generous volunteers. One volunteer is capturing images of gravesites in an effort to update photos we have for Cheltenham Pioneer, as well as war veterans in both Cheltenham Pioneer and Cheltenham Memorial Park. Another volunteer is currently researching over 1500 war veterans, and another is catching up on entering burials into the database, which were missed due to COVID.

We hope you enjoy the articles in this newsletter, which were written by myself, along with a piece by a member of our Friends group, journalist, Teresa Murphy.

The Cheltenham Friends are also pleased to let our members know of a newly published book which has been researched and written by a member of our group. It is a disturbing true story of a young schoolgirl who was murdered in Melbourne, in 1930, and is buried in Cheltenham Pioneer cemetery. Further details can be found on page 10.

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FoCRC



Finally, but not least ...

For me it is always a privilege and a pleasure to work with my fellow committee members, and helpers who have joined us recently. We make a great team and I thank you all for your continued support throughout the year.

Rosemary Reddick
President

HELPERS WANTED

Are you interested in helping The Friends of Cheltenham Regional Cemeteries group? If so, we would love to hear from you.

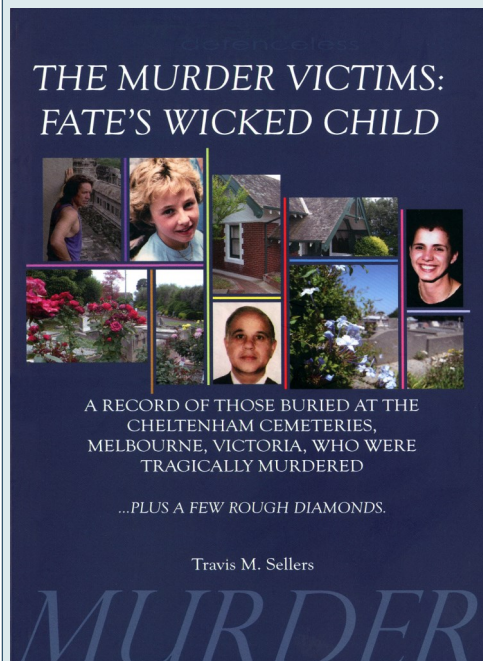
Maybe you have administration skills that you are happy to use, perhaps even with helping with our website or social media. Or do you love the thrill of the chase, when it comes to researching many of the interesting people who are buried at both cemeteries? Maybe you are interested in military research, 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 contact us for a chat, we would be delighted to meet you.

Contact: info@focrc.org

The Murder Victims: Fate's Wicked Child

\$42.00 (\$38.00 for financial members)



Whether a student, shop owner or senior citizen, policeman, prostitute or prisoner, the victims of fate's wicked child came from all walks of life. For all of the 29 murder victims buried at the Cheltenham cemeteries, their deaths were unnatural leaving family and friends to mourn their loss. And while time may heal their hearts, the pain never fades. Behind every victim is a loved one worth remembering...

Written by Travis M. Sellers, *The Murder Victims: Fate's Wicked Child* is the second book in the Remembering Them series published by the Friends of Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries Inc. The A5-sized book comprises 200 pages and 94,000 words with colour illustrations and an index of over 630 names. It includes birth and burial details, death notices, as well as extracts from newspaper articles, inquests and trial sentences. The book foreword is written by Professor Weston Bate, OAM author of *The History of Brighton* (1962).

We are pleased to announce that a limited second edition, which includes 4 newly discovered murders and updated information of other articles in the book.

\$42.00 incl. postage and handling (**\$38.00** for financial members)

To purchase your copy, download an Order Form [PDF-426KB] by clicking on the link below:
https://www.focrc.org/forms/Order_Murder.pdf

Please note: While the order form states the cost as being \$40.00 (and \$36.00 for financial members), the correct price is as listed above, **\$42.00** and **\$38.00** respectively.

Our online Order Form cannot be updated at the moment and we apologise for any confusion.

Our Tours are Back!

After a long absence, we are very pleased to be able to announce the following two tours scheduled for 2021 at Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery. Our interesting tours are researched and conducted by Sue Beazley.

Tours commence at **1.30pm**, with those attending meeting inside the gate of Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery, Charman Road, Cheltenham. The cost is **\$15 for Non-Members** and **\$12 for Members**, and refreshments are provided.

Bookings are required, so if you would like to join in, please contact us either by email at **info@focrc.org** or calling **9497 1318**.

We tour come rail, hail or shine, so come prepared with suitable clothing and footwear. Don't forget to bring an umbrella if you are concerned about the sun or rain.

Almost Famous

Sunday, 21 March at 1.30pm

Our new tour introduces you to some whose significant contributions to their community have been largely forgotten over time. Names such as:

- The Caudwell Brothers, timber merchants and builders of many of the early houses of Mentone
- Charles Keefer, boathouse operator, builder and proprietor of the Beaumaris Sea Baths and one of the best fishermen of his time
- The Gartside Brothers of Dingley, who operated what is believed to be the first vegetable cannery in Australia, providing employment for many of their neighbours
- Thomas Walker of Cheltenham, one of the first homeopathic practitioners in Victoria
- Catherine Nicholson of Chelsea, widow of Mark Foy the founder of Foy's Department Stores.

This will be our first tour in over a year, and we hope you can join us.

Children of the Cemetery

Sunday, 2 May at 1.00pm

Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery is the resting place of thousands of children whose lives were sadly cut short. Sue Beazley presents an insight into the lives of the children of this area and the sad fate that awaited some.

Meet the children of the Livingstone Home and those who looked after them. View the Public Burial Ground, the most poignant part of the cemetery, and home to the babes of the Royal Women's Hospital, Sandringham Hospital and the SIDS memorial.

We remember some of our local children, such as little Harry Long Mewett and Lucy Wawn, just having fun with their friends, along with Jackie Guest looking to help his father, and Thomas Pearce and Percy Morris just making a living.

All had their lives curtailed by the cruel hand of fate, their hopes and dreams left unfulfilled, with only their parents and friends left to mourn their passing.

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Harriet Elizabeth Rowell AKA Harriet Elphinstone-Dick

Researched and written by Rosemary Reddick

Harriet Elizabeth Rowell was born on 5 January 1852, in Brighton, Sussex, England. Her father was Phillip George Rowell and her mother was Harriet Smith. Phillip and Harriet were married in Brighton, in 1846, with their first child Ellen Ann born in 1848.



**Harriet Elizabeth Rowell
AKA
Harriet Elphinstone-Dick
1858 - 1902**

Harriet's father was a watchmaker and jeweller, following in a long line of Rowell's, who were also watchmakers and jewellers. Harriet was the third child in the family, and had 10 siblings, Ellen Ann, George Robert Rouse, Thomas Henry, John Thomas, Richard, Emma Alice, Frederick Arthur, Alexander Edward, Edith Sarah and Eleanor Susan.



**Business card of Phillip George Rowell
(Harriet's father)**

Sadly, the eldest and youngest children died after contracting diphtheria. Ellen Ann was 11, and baby Eleanor Susan was only 1 when she died.

In the 1860's, the Rowell's were living at 31 Old Steine, then later at 17 Castle Square Brighton, which was at the beginning of an area known as The Steine, in a row of 4 storey terraces. There was an awning over one of the lower street shops announcing 'Rowell's Clock Factory'. The Brills

Baths which were to feature greatly in Harriet's life were in the same street. It was also in Brighton that Harriet meet Caroline Mercy Alice Moon, and Alice was to play a major part in her life.



**Caroline Mercy Alice Moon
1855 - 1894**

The Rowell family was a sports minded family with activities like swimming, cycling and riding which were a large part of their lives. Even though Harriet was described as a miserably delicate child, she determined to devote herself to swimming and gymnastics. She proved herself to be a strong swimmer, giving swimming lessons at the local baths in Brighton, of which she was a member.

Harriet and Alice became firm friends when they were teenagers, and later it seems their relationship may have moved to a more intimate basis? During their teenage years Harriet made frequent visits to the Moon household. Alice's childhood and background was vastly different to Harriet's. Alice's mother had died in 1868, and her father was GP, Dr Henry Moon. The Moon family were financially very well situated. And Alice, it seems, had an enquiring mind, proving herself to be a very intelligent young lady. Her interests were art and the sciences, and she attended the Brighton College of Art in the 1870s. She would dabble in these interests at different times throughout her life. However, swimming was not something that Alice could master in the same way that Harriet did, despite Harriet trying to teach her.

By 1875 Harriet was using the name Miss Elphinstone-Dick, possibly like an actor uses a stage name and to disguise that she was a woman?

She was giving swimming lessons at the Brill Baths and competing in sea water races, in open rough seas. It was also at this time that Harriet announced that she and Alice intended to leave England to live in Australia. Maybe they felt Australia would be less prejudicial than the class society in England?



A street scene in Victorian Brighton (UK).

Brill's baths where Harriet taught and swam are on the left. The Rowell family shop (with clock mounted on façade above awnings) is street level in the tall centre building.

Before they left England, Harriet competed in a 6 mile (10K) open water swim from Shoreham to Brighton, which took almost 3 hours in open rough seas. She competed against Helen Saigeman, also a teacher at the Brill Baths, on 9 September, with both swimmers assisted by her father Phillip, and her brother George. They rowed alongside to keep up the spirits of both women and to make sure both were handling the rough seas. There were many spectators to view the spectacle, as it was quite unusual for two women to be competing in a swimming race.

In the London Evening Standard, 10 Sept 1875: *'Yesterday afternoon a great swimming feat was accomplished by two young ladies, instructors at Brills Baths, Miss H.E.Dick and Miss Saigman, who essayed to swim from Shoreham Harbour to Brighton West Pier, a distance of about 7 miles. The sea was rather rough and a strong wind from SSW.....Nevertheless Miss Dick accomplished the distance in two hours 43 minutes, and Miss Saigeman got as far as Mill terrace, when she was seized with cramp'*

In December 1875, Harriet set off for Australia with

her partner Alice Moon on the ship *Newcastle* – a sturdy steel hulled boat, arriving in Australia in March 1876. Harriet travelled under the name Emily Howell. It must have been a difficult time for the families, saying goodbye to their beloved daughters, never knowing if and when they may see them again. Alice was one of the youngest in her family, so it would have been incredibly challenging for her father to allow her go, but it seemed he always encouraged her to be a free thinking, independent person, and maybe it was Alice who sought this adventure? Her father also gave her a substantial gift of money before they departed. Possibly, so he could be assured that his daughter would want for nothing in the new world?

Two of Harriet's brothers, George Robert and Alexander Edward and also Frederick, eventually travelled to Australia during their lifetimes, with George finally settling in Perth.

When Harriet and Alice formed their intimate relationship in the 1870s, Brighton was quite a liberal city for UK, despite it being in the Victorian times. It appears that it was more palatable to the general public for women to live in together, than it was for men. People most likely regarded two women living together as spinsters who had not the good fortune to find a suitable husband?

It seems clear that Harriet and Alice were both spirited, brave women, who travelled half way around the world to find freedom, and start a new life in the colony. In Australia they mostly attained the freedom they sought, throwing off many of the restraints of fashion and society from a classed system back in England.

When they arrived in Melbourne, in March 1876, they may have been surprised at the vibrant town that Melbourne was, as it basked in the glory of the gold rushes. Substantial houses were being built, with new suburbs becoming established. The city was paved and there were tram carts, busy hotels, department stores, banks and grand public buildings. The opportunities were all around for a quick and smart thinking entrepreneur.

Harriet and Alice first settled in Elgin St Carlton, where they remained at for at least two years. At the time, Carlton was a working class suburb just north of the city. Now it is a sought after, prosperous, and well-heeled location. Alice wasted no time in placing an advertisement in the local paper advertising as an art teacher, looking for students. In the meantime, Harriet settled on giving swimming

lessons in St. Kilda.

Harriet, with Alice's assistance, quickly set about establishing them both in the sporting world. Captain Kenney's, at the Victorian Ladies Baths, engaged Harriet to teach swimming, and in turn he would promote her and the baths with scheduled tournaments and swimming matches. Swimmers were encouraged to use Captain Kenney's bathing-ship so they could attire themselves correctly for swimming. A newspaper article in *The Weekley Times*, Sat 9 Dec 1876 reported:

'Miss Elphinstone-Dick, the celebrated English swimmer, whose performances have been so highly spoken of by the old country Press, has arrived in this colony under engagement to Captain Kenney, of the Victorian Ladies Baths, St. Kilda.....On Wednesday Miss Dick, who enjoys the honour of being the champion lady swimmer of England, gave a private exhibition of her skill.....Miss Dick is a remarkably well-built young lady of about 20.....wore a handsome blue swimming-dress, decorated with medallion records of her victories in England. She dives well, and has magnificent breast stroke....without the slightest trace of jerkiness which is so noticeable in nine out of every ten swimmers. The movement of the legs – in which nearly every lady swimmer is at fault – is without reproach.....it is apparent even to the uninitiated that her swimming is without effort.'

LAST SEASON!

MISS ELPHINSTONE DICK
(ASSISTED BY MISS BEATRICE KENNEY),
IS GIVING
SWIMMING LESSONS
TO LADIES AND CHILDREN
AT
CAPTAIN KENNEY'S
VICTORIA LADIES' BATHS, ST. KILDA.

LESSONS ARE GIVEN
Every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday,
BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9 A.M. AND 1 P.M.; AND
ALL DAY ON SATURDAY.

TERMS (Payable in Advance):

SINGLE LESSON (Fancy Swimming)	£0 5 0
SIX LESSONS	1 5 0
PUPIL TAUGHT TO SWIM FOR	2 2 0

Lady's First-class Return Railway Ticket, including Bath, 10d.
Single Bath, 6d. Tickets, per dozen, 4s.

MISS DICK particularly requests that all Ladies who purpose taking Lessons from her will commence them as soon as possible, in order to complete the course this summer, as this is positively Miss Dick's last season for teaching.

The Baths are under the Personal Superintendance of MRS. KENNEY.
and are Lighted by Gas for Night Bathing.

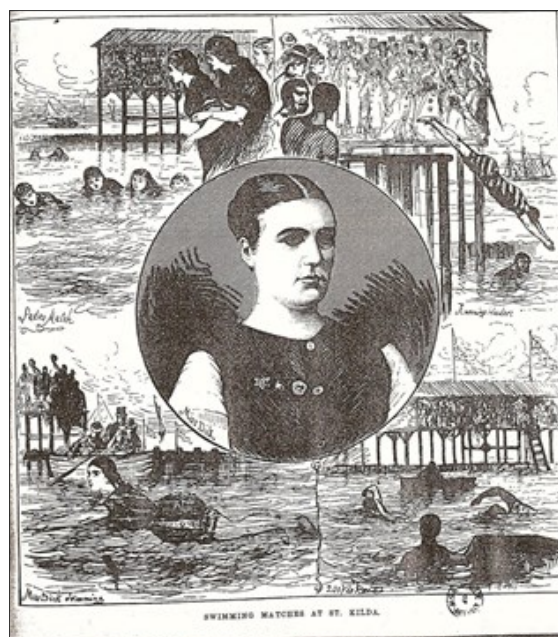
In her capacity of Instructor of Plain and Ornamental Swimming, Floating, Diving, &c., at the celebrated Bell's Baths, and the Star Swimming Club, Brighton, England, Miss Dick has given lessons to numerous members of the nobility, and has received from them many gratifying testimonials.

Harriet and Alice were both mentioned in advertising posters for teaching ladies and children how to swim. They conducted swimming tournaments, distance swimming races, demonstrated swimming styles, as well as introducing the English and continental system of wearing proper bathing costumes. In December 1876, Harriet competed against a Mr S McGonigal over a distance of two miles. *The Weekley Times*, Sat 23 Dec 1876:

'Mr S M'Gonigal (sic) presented himself to compete against Miss Dick for the prize, a silver cup to the value of £10 10s. Mr.M'Gonigal (sic) was disqualified after swimming 3,000 yards, for breaking one of the rules, which was to the effect that the same stroke was to be continued throughout the race, and Miss Dick who had completed 2,600 yards, was declared the winner'

Large spectator crowds had gathered to see this race, because of the unusual factor of a woman racing a man. No doubt there were many who would claim she was a disgrace to womanhood. And so it was, that Harriet would have to continue to prove her worth.

Throughout 1876 to 1878 Harriet continued to give swimming lessons, swimming in competitive races, generally against men, and providing education on how to swim in a bathing costume. There were races organised between swimmers from Fiji and Kitts (St. Kitts), diving matches, and 'fancy swimming'. During her two seasons at St. Kilda, Harriet taught over 300 ladies and children to swim. This helped to build community interest in healthy pursuits, especially for women.



Harriet in her swimming costume and wearing her swimming awards.

By the late 1870s, Harriet was now well known in Melbourne with articles, etchings and cartoons about her appearing in the newspapers. This, of course, made her swimming classes popular. And often the swimming classes were attended by notable people of Melbourne society, such as Lady Clark and Lady Bowen, who was the wife of the Victorian Governor General. Harriet taught their daughters how to swim.

In March 1878, Harriet terminated her engagement at the Victorian Ladies Baths, in St. Kilda. On her departure from the baths, Lady Bowen presented Harriet with a golden bracelet. The newspaper article of the day reported this by saying:

'In presenting it Lady Bowen expressed admiration of Miss Dick's swimming....Her Ladyship also spoke in flattering terms of Miss Dick's excellent method of teaching, which her daughters had experienced.'

In May 1878, Harriet and Alice returned to England to visit family, and with the intention of studying a method of elementary physiology, anatomy and medical gymnastics under the tutelage of Dr Roth, who was Physician at the London Institute for Treatment of Deformities. Harriet successfully completed a certificate of competency. They stayed in England for six months, and it must have been a wrench for their families to say goodbye again, as their relatives had no doubt determined that Harriet and Alice now called Australia home.

Once back in Australia they used funds that would have appeared to most likely be Alice's, and set up the Ladies Gymnasium in the city at the Mutual Provident Society building in Collins Street, advertising Miss H Elphinstone-Dick as Principal. The method of teaching was to be a gradual development of muscles. The apparatus they installed was aimed at assisting young women to practice healthy and graceful movement, promoting increased strength in the muscle and skeletal frame of the body.

Both Harriet and Alice believed that women should not be compelled by fashion to wear corsets, high heeled boots, or any garment with whalebone stays. It was now becoming newly recognised that these restricting garments were causing young women many serious ailments and deformities, such as curvature of the spine, organs being displaced, stiff and weak joints, and contracted chest amongst others. Dr Roth's remedial muscles movements insisted these were conditions that would benefit from movement, as they were caused by external

factors restricting the growth of bones and muscles, not internal disease. Harriet termed this 'Rational Gymnastics'.

Mr Barwell, surgeon to the Charing Cross Hospital, says *'a large number of cases of deformities depend on muscular conditions. The cure, therefore is better and more perfectly effected by causing the muscle to act right than by preventing their acting at all'*. This becomes the principle by which Harriet now began her gymnasiums.



**Miss Dick's gymnastic exhibition
Australasian Sketcher, 19 November 1884**

Many of the women Harriet and Alice courted for patronage were wealthy, and also women known for their benevolent activities in regards to women's rights. Many of their clients were the daughters of these wealthy, influential women. This also became an introduction to teaching in various ladies' colleges. By the early 1880s, they had over 100 pupils, with Harriet trying to instill in these young women that their muscles did not need the support of corsets and stays, but were perfectly able to function with good healthy exercise. Harriet had been known to comment ironically *'how fortunate women were to be born in a time when they could support their bones and muscles with corsets and stays!'*

In the 1880s, with a successful business, Harriet and Alice moved from Carlton to Collingwood, to St Heliers Street, a location now dominated by the Collingwood Children's Farm. This was Alice's purchase, a now wealthy woman in her own right as her father had passed away shortly after they returned to Australia. They called this house *The Steyne*, in recognition of where they had both lived in England. They also relocated the gym at this time, into the Hansen Buildings in Collins Street West. They undertook a great deal of advertising for the gym, and it is clear both women worked

extremely hard and long hours, promoting physical education for young girls. However, during this time Alice started to remove herself from the day to day operation of the gym, with a Josephine McCormick stepping in to teach alongside Harriet.

In 1882 Harriet and Alice received an invitation from the Education Department to work in Ballarat. They accepted this further work, making a weekly trip by train, but adding to an already busy schedule. They also gave lectures at the Australian Health Society about the dangers of young women wearing damaging undergarments. The lectures were aimed at educating women on dress reform, and encouraging women to agitate in their own right about what women were comfortable wearing. In 1884, ambitious for a wider audience, they moved the gym again to the Melbourne Town Hall, putting on gymnasium displays for the public. Newspaper reports comment that, '*their marching was precision-based and along with the beautifully orchestrated displays of Indian club swinging and ring-stress pulling, it was a grand spectacle*'.

It was also during the early part of the 1880s that they visited a contact of Alice's father in Beaconsfield. Alice was so enthralled with the location that she bought 20 acres, later adding a further 40 acres. Harriet and Alice built a house, set up vegetable gardens, poultry pens, basically living a more rural lifestyle. However, this came at a cost, as now there was a great deal of travelling to the gym in the city and the teaching at Ballarat every Wednesday. It was on one of those trips back from Ballarat were they were involved in a train crash. Alice was injured, and at least three people died.

Their lives seem to be moving at a pace now, as Alice decided to sell Beaconsfield in 1888 and move back to Melbourne to open a restaurant in the city. It also appears that the relationship between Harriet and Alice was now faltering. Alice moved away from any connection to the gym, leaving Josephine McCormick to work alongside Harriet in the business. Josephine McCormick, and her mother Ellen, now lived in Alice's house in Collingwood. Josephine had been a constant visitor to the Beaconsfield property and possibly it was she that came between Harriet and Alice?

The late 1880s saw Alice open a successful restaurant called the Central Luncheon Tearooms in Elizabeth Street. Maybe these days it would be classed as a café? Harriet was now excluded from Alice's life and it seems she wasn't sure what to do without Alice by her side. Harriet seems to have

clung to the hope that Alice would change her mind. In 1889, Harriet devoted her time to remedial work with deformed and damaged people, setting up a gym across the street from Alice's restaurant. By 1900, the Tearooms had been sold to a Mrs Tait.

By the early 1890s, Alice broke free from Harriet with her next move to Sydney. She was invited to live with a wealthy family in Double Bay, and became a journalist. Harriet, in her desperation to stay close to Alice, followed her, living in Randwick. Harriet has now left all her friends, wealthy patrons and clients to be near Alice. She opened a gym in Liverpool Street Hyde Park, while Josephine kept the Melbourne gym going. It appears that Alice occasionally agreed to Harriet joining her at functions with her new friends, but their relationship was never the same. Sadly, in 1894 Alice Moon passed away at Double Bay. Her friends believed she died under suspicious circumstances, but nothing was ever proved. Her death certificate stated she died of heart failure.

Harriet was bereft with grief, but there was a further blow as Harriet had not been included in Alice's Will. However, despite her sadness and grief, Harriet was not ready to give up. She moved back to Melbourne, and in 1899 was offered an honorary position, along with Josephine McCormick, at the Queen Victoria Hospital. Both women were to provide a new method of remedial therapeutic massage, the beginnings of modern physiotherapy.

In 1900, Harriet sailed back to England to visit family, and as history tells us, to visit her father for the last time. Her mother had died many years ago. Her siblings were now all married with children of their own. It must have been a painful farewell for her and her family when she set off again for Australia. On her return to Melbourne, Harriet opened yet another gym with a Miss G E Gaunt, in Collins Street. In 1901, Harriet became the Principal of the School of Culture and Medical Gymnastics, in Melbourne.

Harriet had also formed a relationship with a Miss Margaret Montgomery, a past student from Sydney. They only had a short time together, but it seems Harriet was happy again.

Sadly, it wasn't to last, as Harriet passed away in 1902, aged 50. She was living in Highett and left her estate to Miss Montgomery. Harriet Elizabeth Rowell AKA Miss Harriet Elphinstone-Dick is buried at Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery.

Harriet had an intense interest in physical fitness for women, and with Alice by her side they successfully achieved the beginnings of a change in attitude to women's fashion and healthy exercise for young women. They attracted many of Melbourne's independent women to their teachings, which allowed the popularity of physical fitness for women to grow.

Harriet and Alice were a formidable pair, both were determined, strong willed women who have paved the way for the women who followed them.

Sources

Wayne Salt article '*Harriet Elizabeth Rowell who Swam as Miss Elphinstone Dick*' Residents of Upper Beaconsfield and Surrounding areas History '*Harriet Rowell Elphinstone Dick*'

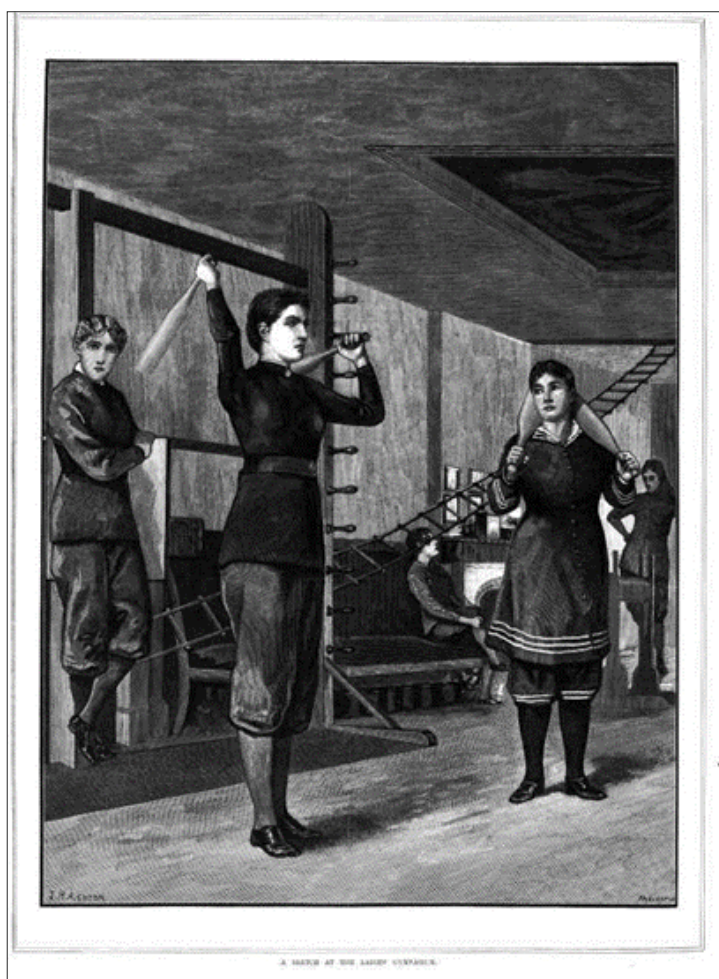
Trove

Ancestry

The Argus

Making Trouble: Tongued with Fire – Sue Ingleton

Various newspapers mentioned within the article



Harriet is demonstrating the Indian clubs while Alice stands behind her

From the Australasian Sketcher

16 July 1881



**Harriet standing beside a Miss Montgomery
Photograph believed taken 1890s in Sydney NS
Miss Montgomery was the beneficiary of Harriet's will**

THE SCHOOLGIRL STRANGLER

The Cheltenham Friends are pleased to let our members know of a newly published book which has been researched and written by a member of our group, Katherine Kovacic.

It is a disturbing true story of a young schoolgirl who was murdered in Melbourne, in 1930, and is buried in Cheltenham Pioneer cemetery.

The shocking true story of a serial killer in 1930s Melbourne.

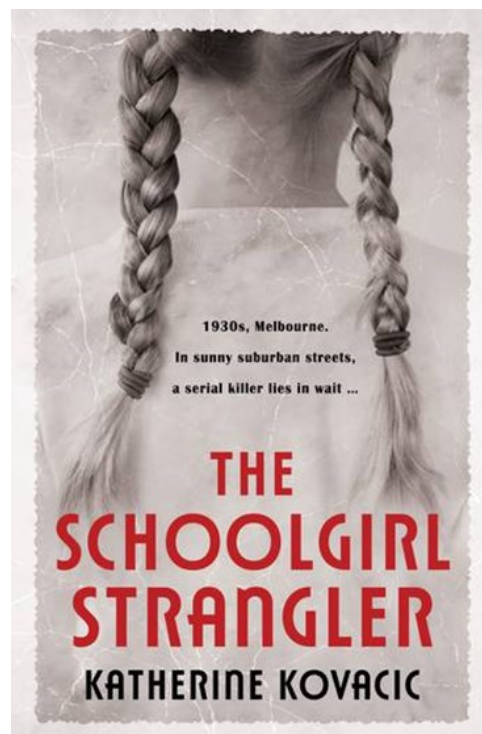
November, 1930. One sunny Saturday afternoon, 12-year-old Mena Griffiths was playing in the park when she was lured away by an unknown man. Hours later, her strangled body was found, mouth gagged, and hands crossed over her chest, in an abandoned house. Only months later, another girl was murdered; the similarities between the cases undeniable. Crime in Melbourne had taken a shocking new turn: this was the work of a serial killer, a homicidal maniac.

Despite their best efforts, police had no experience dealing with this kind of criminal. What followed was years of bungled investigations, falsely accused men - and the tragic deaths of two more girls - before the murderer was finally caught and brought to justice.

With all the pace of a thriller, Katherine Kovacic recounts this extraordinary, chilling true story - of failed police enquiries, a killer with a Jekyll and Hyde personality, and the families shattered when four innocent lives were cruelly taken.

The cost of **The Schoolgirl Strangler** is \$32.99, and the book is available through Allen & Unwin Book Publishers. The link below provides more information.

<https://www.allenandunwin.com/browse/books/general-books/true-crime/The-Schoolgirl-Strangler-Katherine-Kovacic-9781760686635>



Membership Subscription

Membership is open to anyone from around the world with an interest in the Cheltenham Cemeteries, Melbourne Australia. For just \$A20.00 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.

To Clean or Not to Clean!!

Cemeteries provide a historical record of local communities, and in some cases are an important record of significance to the larger district.

The memorials document the community's growth by recording important events or periods in the history of a district. Unlike other histories, burial grounds document the lives of all who are buried there, whether they be rich or poor, notable, or humble. They provide invaluable information about individuals and families, enabling later generations to conduct genealogy research.

Headstones reveal pioneers names, trends on names, birthplaces, occupations, and circumstances of death. They can be engraved with piety, regrets, happiness, love and an acceptance of their leaving a mortal life.

Over the years of being exposed to all the elements, often these headstones may require care and maintenance – or do they? Why clean?

It is commonly thought that it is dirt that causes most of the damage to headstones, particularly stone, and yes, dirt can be a problem, but the main issues are water, salts, and wind which can cause substrate and structural damage. It is essential to understand what the issues are requiring attention before undertaking any repairs. It is also a good idea to obtain qualified advice if it is a substantial repair.

Headstones should not be cleaned often as even the most carefully cleaned stone loses surface stone particles with each cleaning. It will also depend on what type of headstone it is, what sort of stone, timber, or metal.

Who is responsible for grave maintenance?

You may be surprised to learn that families and/or the holder of the Right of Interment (RoI), are responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of graves that their loved ones are buried in. Cemetery Trusts are responsible for the overall administration and Legislation of State law, as well as the maintenance and upkeep of grounds and other structures. It is not the responsibility of the Cemetery Trust to inform your family of the state of family graves.

What to do and what to use!

Stone:

The gentlest effective treatment for light soiling is simply washing with water and a soft natural fibre brush. This is often all that is needed and will not cause any damage.

Use warm water with a soft bristle brush on most

surfaces. If cleaning stone, then wet the area you are going to clean before using a brush.

You can use a mild stone **cleaning** solution (mild ionic soap or ph-neutral detergent), working in a circular motion to gently remove dirt and dust.

Wooden or plastic scrapers can be utilised to remove larger build-up, such as bird poo, but not using too much pressure.

Gently brush stone, then wet again to wash away any matter you have dislodged.

Metals:

For iron and steel, mix a solution of 50/50 fish oil (Fisholene) and Shellite, observing all safety precautions. Apply the mixture liberally with a brush, ensuring all parts of the iron are covered, and repeat this procedure next day. On the third day, apply a coat of undiluted fish oil, allowing it to dry. Be thorough, as uncoated areas will corrode. Then apply a primer and paint it on as recommended by the fish oil manufacturers.

A suitable protective lacquer for copper, brass and bronze is Inccralac.

With other metals Shellite, can help remove grime.

Fisholene and Shellite are available from hardware stores.

Timber:

As with general cleaning of stone, for timber it is best to use soft bristle brush, and you can also vacuum or compressed air at low pressure to dislodge dirt and debris.

What not to do and use!

Acidic cleaners on marble or limestone should be avoided.

Do not sandblast or subject any headstone or monument to high pressure spraying.

As they cause severe damage to fragile surfaces, wire brushes should never be used on any surface.

No cleaning with water should be attempted if the temperature is likely to fall low enough to cause freezing.

Lichens

It is generally not advisable to try and remove lichens from headstones as more damage may result. Certain lichens 'eat' stone, and it is difficult to remove these without removing stone. It is preferable to control the lichen by gently brushing off the loose material. This

helps to prevent or slows down further growth.

People often ask about herbicides and biocides to prevent algae growth, however no single substance can prevent regrowth of these plants. It should also be noted that some biocides are highly toxic.

Moderate chemical cleaners, which are short term fixers are hydrogen peroxide (3% in water), activated by a drop of ammonia. This may remove some plant matter, but it will not prevent further plant growth.

Copper sulphate washes may also help but can cause staining in white or very light-coloured stones, and on nearly all marble.

As these methods of cleaning are only short term, and risk damage to the substrate, they are not advised without obtaining expert advice first.



An example of lichen on a granite headstone at Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery

Lettering

It is acknowledged that there are different views about the value of trying to re-establish lettering that is deteriorating. If the words are important, they are best preserved by transcripts and photographs.

If attempts are made to remove lichen, it may also remove any paint as lichen lifts paint from the stone.

Another view is that re-lettering is a natural and traditional part of maintenance of a headstone. But generally, any newer cut stone will weather faster than the original, although it does extend overall the 'readable life' of the monument.

Metals

There are many types of metal monuments, such as lead, iron, steel, copper, bronze, brass and blended metals.

Rust and corrosion are generally the most common problem for these type of monuments. The majority of corrosion is fairly stable, so can be safely left alone.

Some household chemical cleaning products are very strong and should be used with a great deal of caution. It must also be considered that some cleaning techniques that are suitable for new monuments can damage older ones.

It is not advisable to polish copper, brass or bronze as this causes the loss of the patina, reducing the thickness of the metal over time. Most commercial polishes leave residues which can cause corrosion.



An example of a metal headstone at Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery

Professional Advice

When in doubt, consult the experts. In most cases it is better to leave the treatment and cleaning of cemetery monuments to the experts, such as fungal or termite damage in timber. And if headstones or monuments are of historical significance, it is vital to obtain expert advice.

Sources:

Conserving our Cemeteries – Edited by Celestina Sagazio. Published by National Trust in 2003. National Archives of Australia.

Cemeteries should be more than places where stones lie on the ground. Cemeteries hold the stories of the people who have lived in the past ... people who have shaped our past.

Clarice Beckett: *The Present Moment*

Some of you might remember the article which appeared in our newsletter in August last year on the life and works of local artist, Clarice Marjoribanks Beckett.

*One of our members, Teresa Murphy, has provided us with information relating to an exciting exhibition of Clarice's work entitled **Clarice Beckett: The Present Moment**, which is running from 27 February to 16 May at the Art Gallery of South Australia, North Terrace, Adelaide - details below:*

Now that we can cross the South Australian border again (fingers crossed!), art and history lovers should consider a road trip to Adelaide for a long-awaited new exhibition featuring Beaumaris artist Clarice Beckett.

The Art Gallery of South Australia (AGSA) now owns the most significant Beckett collection held by a public institution in the world, courtesy of philanthropist Alastair Hunter OAM. He purchased 21 Beckett works from the painter's champion and biographer, Dr Rosalind Hollinrake, and donated them to the gallery, which now owns 25 paintings works in total.

These stunning works are the centrepiece of *Clarice Beckett: The Present Moment*, which runs from February 27 until May 16. Curator Tracey Lock achieved the almost impossible by amassing nearly 130 works during COVID-hit 2020, drawn from public and private collections from around Australia.

This new exhibition, the first major retrospective of Beckett works in more than 20 years and certainly the largest ever staged, is particularly powerful and thought-provoking, with a focus on the impact of spirituality, music, nature and literature on Beckett, who could transform the every day into pure poetry.

An accompanying musical program and a superb catalogue are a credit to the AGSA team.

Tracey worked in tandem with Melbourne-based Dr Hollinrake, who completed her PhD thesis on Beckett in 2017 and is about to release her long-awaited biography on the mysterious artist.

Clarice Beckett, who exhibited each year in Melbourne in the 1920s and early 1930s, was largely ignored in her lifetime, for various reasons: most of her works were small and 'misty', the antithesis of the heroic landscapes that most critics and the public preferred; she was, briefly, a student of the divisive tonalist painter Max Meldrum; and, of course, she was a woman.

She would have remained a footnote in Australian art history if not for Hollinrake's Beckett obsession, which started 50 years ago when Clarice's sister Hilda took her to an open-sided shed in the Victorian countryside, near Benalla. Stored there, for 30 years, were almost 2000 Clarice paintings, exposed to the elements, rats and possums. Hollinrake wept at the sight. But she managed to save approximately 370 works, exhibitions were staged around the country and Beckett was finally acknowledged as one of Australia's finest painters, with her own unique vision. The total surviving oeuvre of Beckett works number around 600.

Further information about this exciting exhibition can be found by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.agsa.sa.gov.au/whats-on/exhibitions/clarice-beckett-present-moment/>

*Clarice's story can be revisited in Issue 15, August 2020 of *Raves from the Graves*.*

The following two pages display images of some of Clarice's works that will be on display.

The art of

Clarice Marjoribanks Beckett

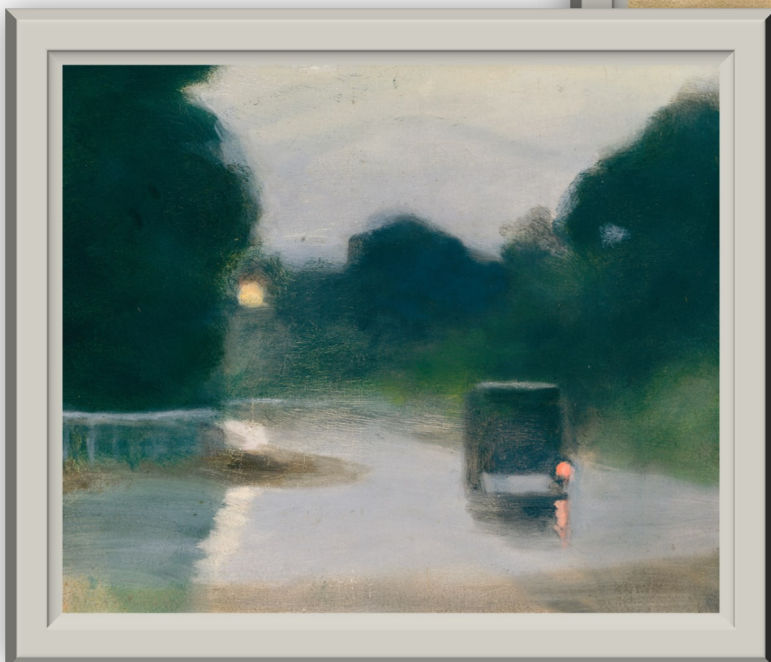


Evening, St Kilda Road, c1930, Melbourne

Oil on board, 33.8 x 39.5 cm (sight);
Purchased with funds provided by the
Australian Collection Benefactors' Program
2013 Art Gallery of New South Wales,
Sydney, Art Gallery of South Australia,
Adelaide, Felicity Jenkins. L/CB21/5-2

Misty evening, Beaumaris, 1930, Melbourne

Oil on canvas on cardboard, 35.9 x 50.8 cm;
Maude Rowe Bequest, 1937. Painting and
frame conserved with funds from the Gallery
Guides to mark their 30th anniversary and in
honour of Yvette Hiscock and Geraldine
Roberts who have guided for 30 years, 2019 Art
Gallery of Ballarat, Victoria, Art Gallery of South
Australia, Adelaide, Ben Cox. L/CB21/4-1



Wet Evening, c1927, Melbourne

Oil on cardboard, 25.7 x 30.4 cm; Maud Rowe
Bequest 1937 Castlemaine Art Museum,
Victoria, Art Gallery of South Australia,
Adelaide. L/CB21/3-4

The art of

Clarice Marjoribanks Beckett

Princes Bridge, c1923, Melbourne

Oil on pulpboard, 29.5 x 39.7 cm (sight);
Purchased with the assistance of the State
Library of Victoria Foundation 2006
Pictures Collection, State Library of
Victoria, Melbourne, Art Gallery of South
Australia, Adelaide, Imaging Studio.
L/CB21/2-1



Chestnut walk, Ballarat Gardens, c1927

Oil on canvas board, 30.5 x 40.5 cm;
Private Collection, Art Gallery of South
Australia, Adelaide. L/CB21/22-1



Collins Street, evening, 1931, Melbourne

Oil on canvas on cardboard, 35.4 x 40.6 cm;
Purchased 1971 National Gallery of
Australia, Canberra, Art Gallery of South
Australia, Adelaide. L/CB21/7-2



Our latest book

The Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery: Where History Rests

After 150 years serving the community, Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery is worth remembering ...

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).

[Download the index and see if your ancestor is included! \[PDF-177KB\]](#)

\$42.00 incl. postage and handling (**\$38.00** for financial members)
Purchase your copy using PayPal or download an [Order Form](#) [PDF-426KB] and return with your cheque or money order.

Pay Pal details at <http://www.focrc.org/shop.htm>

**** UPDATE ****

We are pleased to announce that a limited second print run of *Where History Rests* is now available. All books are individually numbered.

