

---

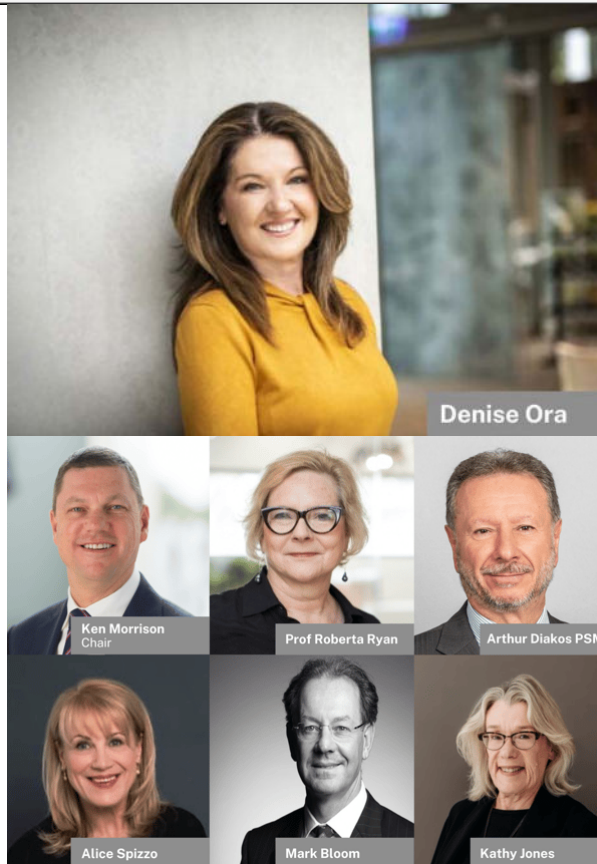
24 January 2024

**Metropolitan Insights: for Community**

Welcome to the New Year and the January edition of Metropolitan Insights: for Community, our dedicated publication for our community.

As always, we encourage your feedback on this newsletter via the link below to help us provide you with relevant content and information each month.

## Metropolitan Memorial Parks update



### **Metropolitan Memorial Parks CEO appointed.**

We are delighted to announce that Denise Ora will join Metropolitan Memorial Parks as our inaugural Chief Executive.

Denise, former Chief Executive of the Botanic Gardens of Sydney, is an experienced leader with a passion for people and purpose. [Read more.](#)

### **Appointment of Metropolitan Memorial Parks inaugural Board**

We are delighted that former Administrator Ken Morrison has been appointed to chair what is a very senior and experienced Board.

A warm welcome to all our incoming Board members: Mark Bloom, Arthur Diakos PSM, Kathy Jones, Professor Roberta Ryan, Alice Spizzo. [Read more.](#)



**Coming soon: Our unified brand**

As we move forward with consolidating our three Land Managers, we have been working on creating a unified Metropolitan brand. Our team has been working on developing this new brand, including a new logo to represent Metropolitan Memorial parks.

We are in the final stages of this process and look forward to revealing our new brand within the next few months.

*Restoration projects and new development areas*





### **Rookwood: Frazer Mausoleum restoration project**

We have made significant strides in restoring the Frazer Mausoleum. The stained-glass windows have been beautifully restored and work has commenced to repair the damaged stonework.

### **Rookwood: Muslim 8 Block D - Pathway Safety Programme**

Rookwood General Cemetery is conducting safety improvements in this section to meet current safety standards. These works began in November and will take around three months to complete.

### **Woronora: Full and Lawn Monumental Area**

The monumental lawn project delivers additional full and lawn monumental interment sites. Works are currently in progress and scheduled for completion in early 2024. Development of this new burial ground will ensure we are meeting our community's needs and increasing demand. [Read more.](#)



## Our History



### **Learn about the History of Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery**

Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery is a cemetery of historical significance situated on Sydney's lower north shore. The cemetery spans over an area of five hectares and features an Edwardian Garden, which makes it an ideal place for quiet contemplation.

Building on the history, the Friends of Gore Hill Cemetery have published a 69-page history book that documents the cemetery's rich heritage since its closure in 1974. The book is available for purchase at \$30, along with postage and packaging. To order a copy please contact [gorehillcem@gmail.com](mailto:gorehillcem@gmail.com).



## First establishment at Frenchs Forest Bushland Cemetery

This photograph was taken on 31 August 1940 and shows the first establishment at Frenchs Forest Bushland Cemetery. The Lands Department officially dedicated the site on 23 January 1932. However, it was not until eight years later, on 24 April 1940, that the first burial took place. The Anglican Archbishop of Sydney, Howard Mowll, consecrated the Cemetery on 20 February 1955, and Rabbi Israel Porush, Senior Rabbi at the Great Synagogue, Sydney, consecrated the cemetery on 12 September 1943. Up till 1990, the Cemetery was known as "Frenchs Forest General Cemetery", with the change to the present name of Frenchs Forest Bushland Cemetery reflecting its native bushland setting.

### *Upcoming Tours and Activities*



**Have you heard about the monthly Friends of Rookwood history tours?**

Journey back 150 years to learn more about Australia's most historic working cemetery.

Join the Friends of Rookwood in the cool of the early evening for a wander around Rookwood to meet some of the colourful characters who reside here. Some are nice, some are not so nice, some are important in the establishment of the colony, and some are ordinary Joes.

### **Cape Banks Family History Society Research Room**

Curiosity is part of our DNA, and Cape Banks Family History Society is feeding our curiosity through their research room. Cape Banks Frangipani Research Room at 2 Curie Avenue, Little Bay, will be re-opening on Tuesday, 16 January.

Opening days are Tuesdays from 10:00 to 3:30 and Saturdays from 10:00 to 3:30. To assist you with any findings or research, they have experienced researchers available both days.

Any cemetery can be a valuable resource for all levels of schooling to study, geography, English, science (flora and fauna), and humanities and social studies. The Frenchs Forest Bushland Cemetery : geography, English, science (flora and fauna),



its disciplinary and based on the achievement standards and outcomes of the new Australian Curriculum (2016). This packet uses collaborative outdoor and hands-on learning activities. All cemeteries are historically significant sites and important local primary resources that are suitable for inquiry-based examination at all levels of historical understanding. Continuity and change are concepts integral to investigation on any site.

For more information please contact Beth Robertson: [bethrobertson@aapt.net.au](mailto:bethrobertson@aapt.net.au).



### **Helping Hands gardening group**

The Helping Hands gardening group, part of the Friends of Rookwood, welcomes anyone interested in enjoying the weather, the sounds of nature and the open air of Rookwood through gardening in the heritage areas of the Necropolis. Over the last

year, we've been busy removing overgrowth from graves, pruning roses, cleaning gutters and weeding.



If you are interested in helping us for a couple of hours in the mornings of the second and fourth Saturdays of the month (weather permitting), you would be very welcome. Just bring a few tools (gloves, garden spade, pruning shears) and enthusiasm.

*Are you following our socials?*

Keep up to date with what's happening in the public eye, discover interesting facts and learn more about notable people interred within our parks by following us.

**Metropolitan Memorial Parks LinkedIn**

**Metropolitan Memorial Parks Instagram**

**Eastern Suburbs Facebook**

**Frenchs Forest Facebook**

**Gore Hill Cemetery Facebook**

**Macquarie Park Facebook**

**Rookwood HIDDEN Facebook**

**Rookwood HIDDEN Instagram**

**Rookwood Cemetery Facebook**

**Woronora Memorial Park Facebook**

**Sandgate Cemetery Facebook**

---

Metropolitan Memorial Parks, 78 Waterloo Rd, Macquarie Park, New South Wales 2113, Australia