

WINTER 2005

# EASTERN SUBURBS MEMORIAL PARK

cemetery and crematorium

# PARK NEWS



## Winter... a time for reflection and planning

George Passas, Chief Executive Officer

**S**pring will soon be upon us, with winter having hardly happened this year.

I hope that despite the magnificent weather, there has been enough time indoors to do all those things that one normally saves up for a rainy day.

The content of this newsletter falls in the "to do and think" about category. We believe that this interesting and informative format change will assist you with reflection and planning for the dark days that

each of us undoubtedly face.

It is in the spirit of helpfulness, in a forward looking way, that we emphasise in Park News "Winter 2005" the importance of planning and memorialising and encourage taking steps today to honour your cherished memories of your loved ones.

I hope you will continue to enjoy the wonderful Sydney sunshine and I look forward to our "Summer" newsletter when all of the Park's magnificence will be in full bloom.

## Crematorium Open Day

**E**astern Suburbs Memorial Park will host a Crematorium Open Day Sunday 16th October 2005.

Tours explaining the cremation process will be given at 10.30 am and 11.15 am. Each will be followed by a short audio/visual presentation that highlights funerals as "Celebrations of Life".

Following the conclusion of each presentation morning tea will be served and staff will be available to answer any questions you have regarding memorialisation.

We encourage anyone interested in learning more about the respect and care given to departed loved ones to come along to what will be an informative and inspiring day.



# Do you Remember? Memories

“I have taken my time to share these thoughts because I think people should always be remembered... This is a privilege and this is your honour for them. Be proud you can do this.”

that place, to tell her and all of us, that she is there – with love.

In recent years I needed to arrange the funeral and memorial for my defacto partner of thirty years. Despite a complex relationship it was important to celebrate his life and create permanent memories. Recognising and honouring the life of those we are connected with is important even if the relationship hasn't been perfect.

His funeral was memorable. His church service was spoken of by many people for a long time. The Rector knew him well, and the Choir with whom he had sung for twenty years, and with whom he had ultimately been Cantor, sang for him. As his coffin was carried from the church they stood as Guard of Honour on either side to honour his memory. In the yellow cascade of flowers on the coffin was a small blue flower carrying his baton. I wanted him to have it with him always.

He wanted to be cremated at Eastern Suburbs Crematorium, where his mother's ashes were scattered. For this I had to choose the music. But what music? He was a musician. How can I relate this whole life in two short pieces of music?

And then I also needed to know exactly where to put his ashes. I came to the gardens. I looked at areas near where Kenn's mother had been. I looked further... I walked for over an hour even further and further and saw so many beautiful places which may perhaps have been for Kenn. And suddenly I came upon the pond, a pond with water lilies. A pond with

the sun shining through the pillars around it. A pond with flat stone benches around it. Stone benches to be there forever. I knew I was in the right place and had found the best possible position there for him.

Kenn had always wanted a bench in his back garden. He now has his own Memorial Bench. His ashes lie behind this in the garden with another simple plaque upon them. He has the wonderful view of the water and the trees. He has the sunshine and the shadows of their branches around him. The peace that I felt in this place, I have left with him forever. Here he is at rest.

I believe that everyone will find a place which they know is exactly the right place for relatives and friends, or even yourself. Look for it.

I wanted our friends to see and share Kenn's last, but very special space. The late afternoon sun was still there as our greeting, as many of us, with the Park's permission, gathered there with him, for a champagne celebration.

Kenn was an avid stamp collector, and with all the letters to his friends and colleagues at his death, and then for the wonderful celebration at the Pond of Tranquility, these were posted both in Australia and overseas with stamps which had his picture on them. Australia Post offers this service for all of us. These too are lasting memories for him and for his friends.

Kenn was also honoured by the Board of his Church with a beautiful plaque for him on the Cantor's seat at the front of the choir stalls.

Kenn was a musician and music



**M**y father was a businessman, and therefore always had everything organised. And so he purchased two niches for himself and my mother, for the time when they would eventually die and then be cremated. Sadly he died of a heart attack too early. He was still only middle-aged. But his ashes and his name and dates are in the spot that he had arranged. Thirty six years later I was able to lay my mother's ashes into that last empty space beside him. Now that long wall at the Crematorium was full of memories.

Where once this wall just overlooked a grassy ledge and wild bushes from the hill, over the years the Crematorium had grown and changed and now there is a rose garden along the pathway in front of it.

In that flower bed, quite by accident, I saw there was one space left, right in front of my parents' memorials. I think God must have known that I would really still like to be with them! I have had it reserved for me. My son is totally enthused that he now knows what to do with my ashes when that time comes, and that he does not have to be concerned about things like that himself.

I also know that over fifty years ago, my grandmother's ashes were spread over the roses on the upper level of the gardens. So many years later I have put a small plaque into the area near

# now are really forever! *by Evelyn Klopfer*



**Kenn's Bench at the Pond of Tranquility**

teacher, who had achieved so much for the Public Schools as well as with Musical Societies and Opera. I designed a Bookplate which was then put into two and a half thousand of his musical scores and hundreds of books on music. Most of these, with his musical instruments, were given to the Public School Music Library, some to his church and a few to some universities. A little of his past and the future he believed in for so many students and artists, will now be there forever for him and others.

I have taken my time to share these thoughts because I

think people and their past should always be remembered. Commemorating a life is not a chore but an honour.

Someone has to be there at the very end. This is a privilege and this is your honour for them. Be proud that you can do this.

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**We would like to acknowledge Evelyn Klopfer's generosity in providing this intimate view of the meaning and value of memorialisation and also thank her for her recommendation to rename the Spirit Sculpture area The Pond of Tranquility.**

## Recording your personal details

Along with other important information, don't forget to keep a record of the following personal details. This will greatly assist the person arranging your funeral and ensure that births, deaths and marriages has an accurate record of your details. When registering a death in NSW the following information is required:

Surname .....  
 Given Name(s) .....  
 Address .....  
 .....  
 Occupation .....  
 Sex .....DOB.....  
 Place of Birth.....  
*If born overseas emigration date.....*

### Marriage details (for all marriages)

Name of Spouse .....  
 Your age at the time of the marriage .....

### Children's details (in order of birth)

*(include deceased children and children not born alive)*

Given Names .....  
 Sex .....DOB.....

### Father's Given Name

Surname .....  
 Occupation.....

### Mother's Given Name

Maiden Surname .....  
 Occupation.....

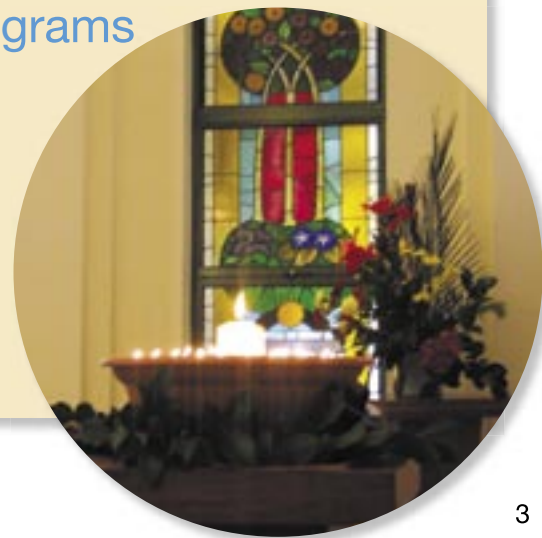
**Making known your choice of burial or cremation, funeral and memorial wishes is also of great benefit to those you leave behind.**

## Families grateful for our memorial programs

**A** growing number of families regularly attend and receive support from our quarterly memorial presentations. Designed to help heal the heart, through the power of remembering, the programs also offer important information to assist families with their grief.

The remaining 2005 programs will be at 11am Saturday September 3rd and at 6pm Wednesday November 30th.

All are welcome to attend. Please confirm your attendance by phoning Catherine Taylor on 9661 5655.



To obtain details about advertising in this newsletter please phone Catherine Taylor 9661 5655

# Notice Board

## The Condolence Room for after funeral catering

Managed and catered by Grinner's Catering, menu details and bookings can be arranged by phoning 9310 4735.

Brochures can be obtained at the office or by calling 9661 5655.



## 60 Year Tenure Revocation Report

In adherence with the Cemeteries Legislation Amendment (Unused Burial Rights) Act 2001 No 122, Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park will, at the expiration of the current Public Notice in November, officially revoke the unused burial rights of graves where the grantee or family have not been heard from.

In addition to the Public Notices published in the Sydney Morning Herald and Southern Courier, lists of the affected graves and their respective grantees on record are displayed throughout the cemetery.

Families are encouraged to check the lists for details of relatives and contact our office on 9661 5655 if a family member is listed.

## Burial and cremation information at a touch

Located in the office foyer, and for week-end search in the Kiosk at the entrance to the "old" cemetery, our touch screen service allows families access to important burial or cremation details regarding their loved one.

Significant dates and burial site or memorial location display when surname and first names are entered into the system.

The same information is also accessible from the search menu of our website.

The touch screen is an important technology that meets the needs of families and demonstrates our commitment to providing ongoing quality service.



## EASTERN SUBURBS MEMORIAL PARK

cemetery and crematorium

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Matraville NSW 2036

**Phone** 02 9661 5655

**Fax** 02 9311 3654

**Email** enquiries@esmp.net.au

**Website** www.esmp.net.au

**Office Hours** 9am – 4pm  
Monday to Friday

**Grounds open** 7am – 5pm daily

*Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park is administered by the Botany Cemetery and Eastern Suburbs Crematorium Trusts. Member of Australasian Cemeteries & Crematoria Association Ltd, Member of Cemeteries & Crematoria Association of NSW.*