

# Life

honour  
celebrate

SMCT NEWS UPDATE SUMMER EDITION 2019



Laying of wreaths in honour and respect of our servicemen and women at the RSL Remembrance Service



Families light the remembrance candle at our annual Children's Christmas Remembrance Service



Trust Chairman Vanda Fortunato lights the Remembrance Candle with CEO of Allison Monkhouse, Kevin Reardon

## AWAKENINGS

In October we farewelled our retiring Chairman, Ms Sue Renkin, and welcomed Dr Vanda Fortunato. In farewelling Sue, I spoke a great deal about the word 'wake' and the many ways this word is utilised – to wake from a sleep; the wake behind a boat; the wake after a funeral service and the wake of a new reality; to wake up feelings; or awakening to see things differently.

Our organisation has been in a constant state of curiosity and awakening, challenging what we do and all that we stand for. The next chapter of our awakening will honour the past, embrace the future and continually challenge the status quo, by being curious and listening to the Victorian community.

The Christmas season for many families will wake feelings of loss, emotion and memories of loved ones as they resurface. It can be a time where you are feeling vulnerable or disorientated – this is understandable and so very normal, so think about connecting with friends, family or perhaps start to build bridges with

people that you may be estranged from.

Throughout the 'thanksgiving' season, reflect on the year that was, the importance of gratitude and take that first step forward and embrace possibilities.

Our organisation is here to give you support and make your life easier. Please visit our website [smct.org.au](http://smct.org.au) to find out about our many services that are provided 365 days of the year – from the delivery of fresh flowers, Christmas Carols on the lawn or a visit to our 'world class' café where you will receive a heartfelt welcome.

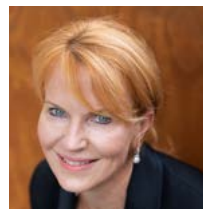
Our narrative is that cemeteries and memorial parks are here for the living, and in January 2020 our new Centre for Care and Wellbeing (CCW) will be open to the Victorian community. Programs that are on offer include yoga, meditation, art therapy, counselling, and importantly, a place to connect, share stories and even make new friends. Our employees will also have access to CCW and will be able to utilise all the services offered, ensuring their wellbeing is aligned and demonstrated

by our organisational philosophy of care, compassion and community.

Summer is here, so let's connect, support, honour and celebrate life. Ensure that you turn the next page and start the next chapter of your life, and remember our organisation is here to support you.

On behalf of the entire team at the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (SMCT), wishing you a heartfelt season's greetings. Ensure that your awakenings embrace the possibilities of a joyous 2020 and let the sunshine in.

Jane Grover  
SMCT  
CEO



# RESPECT

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

The end of a calendar year brings with it many emotions. There are moments of celebration, laughter and fun, of reflection and forethinking about the year ahead. This can be a difficult time as families and friends get together, perhaps missing someone for the first time.

We see many people coming through our gates with many needs; most often to celebrate, grieve and reflect on those special times they shared with their loved one. Every year in partnership



with Allison Monkhouse we host our Children's Christmas Remembrance Service, to uphold families who have experienced the loss of a child.

This year we welcomed over 600 members from our community with open arms, singing carols, writing Christmas thought cards and sharing stories about their precious loved ones. Children decorated remembrance stars and families lit their lanterns in remembrance during the service. Our Christmas trees were filled with cards



of love and wishes, carefully written by mothers, fathers, siblings and grandparents alike. It was a beautiful service that brought families together through what can be a difficult time of year.

As an organisation, we strive to provide the Victorian community with care and services that are relevant and meaningful. Our core values reside in fostering anyone who comes through our doors, encouraging them to grieve well, to then go further and live well.



## FLORAL DELIVERY SERVICE

SMCT strives to do everything we can to make life easier for you. Each of our services are conducted with care and compassion, to fulfil the needs of you and your family. Our Café Vita et flores is one of the many services offered to our community, allowing you to find the right floral arrangements for any occasion, at any location.



Our team of onsite florists at Springvale Botanical Cemetery and Bunurong Memorial Park can assist you in selecting the perfect flower arrangement for any occasion. If you're unable to be there in person, we are able to deliver fresh flowers to graves and memorials for you, with a variety of personalisation options.



You can also purchase flowers online via our website <https://smct.org.au/visit/florists>. Our team is able to deliver your desired arrangements directly to a memorial service or grave side at either of our Springvale or Bunurong locations.

Allow us to help and care for you this Christmas by looking after the details.





# COMMUNITY

## SMCT — AN AWARD WINNING OFFERING

SMCT has always worked hard to bring warmth and helpful services to the community where we see a need. In creating Café Vita et flores, we set out to welcome our visitors with a place to commune, socialise, gather with their friends and family over food and coffee.

In continuing our service to the Victorian community, our organisation was recognised at the recent Dandenong Chamber of Commerce Business Awards.

We were honoured to receive The Overall Award and the Employment Award for being an organisation

who actively develops and trains their employees beyond their field of employment, and who employ team members from marginal communities, those with a disability or from ethnic groups.

It's our greatest privilege to serve the community in such a tangible way, and we will continue to ensure everyone who walks through our doors feels welcomed and valued. Congratulations to our incredible team on such a wonderful achievement.



Our Café Vita et flores team members have been recognised for their service to the community

## RSL VICTORIA ANNUAL STATE REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

SMCT stands to honour and respect the men and women who have gone before us and paved the way for our generation, and those to come. Without their sacrifice and bravery, this nation we call home would not be as we know and love it today.

We were honoured to co-host the RSL Victoria Annual State Remembrance Service at the

Springvale Botanical Cemetery on Sunday 10th November. The service hosted many guests, including RSL State President Dr Robert Webster OAM, the Hon. Bill Shorten and Premier Daniel Andrews. Local students, community and government representatives were invited to lay wreaths during the service – a sign of everlasting growth, strength and honour.

It is community gatherings like these that are important to us as an organisation. They allow us to pause, reflect, and preserve the traditions that honour our great service men and women. We aim to continue bringing the Victorian community together to commemorate and cultivate a culture of thanksgiving and respect for now and the generations to come.



Chairman of the Trust Vanda Fortunato, Victorian Premier Hon. Daniel Andrews and SMCT CEO Jane Grover



Australian war veterans and soliders at the RSL Remembrance event



The Australian War Graves Garden of Remembrance at our Springvale location was filled with poppies

# INCLUSION

## CCW MOVING LOCATIONS

It's not long now until our brand new Centre for Care and Wellbeing (CCW) facilities will be completed at our Springvale Botanical Cemetery location. This initiative is one of the only services of its kind, providing the Victorian community with the assistance and care they need during grief and remembrance. These new facilities will house

beautiful meditation, music and art therapy interaction spaces for the community, as well as on-site osteopathy and counselling services for our employees.

We will continue to use this space to pioneer and challenge expectations of our industry. Our core values are all about honouring and assisting the families within our care, and we



are excited to welcome the Victorian community through the brand new doors at CCW in the new year.



Our SMCT employees celebrated a wonderful year with their families at our Bunurong Memorial Park

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT SMCT LOCATIONS

EVENT	DATE AND LOCATION	ABOUT
Sunday jazz sessions at Café Vita et flores	Sunday 22 December Sunday 12 January Sunday 9 February 12:30pm-3:30pm Springvale Botanical Cemetery	Across Summer we have Sunday jazz sessions – the perfect place to meet friends, listen to live music and enjoy the warming weather. Join us for a relaxing afternoon filled with great food, coffee and smooth sounds from our live band in the alfresco area. Bookings are not essential, however we recommend contacting us to secure your spot. Please call (03) 8558 8238 for any inquiries and bookings.
Christmas luncheon at Café Vita et flores	Wednesday 25th December 12:00pm-2:30pm Springvale Botanical Cemetery	\$99 per head, bookings essential via (03) 9546 9377 or info@cafevita.org.au.
Melbourne General Cemetery tours	Wednesday 15 January, 10:30am Saturday 18 January, 8:30pm Friday 24 January, 8:30pm	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.
Springvale Botanical Cemetery tour	Wednesday 22 January, 10:30am	Learn about the rich history and immense beauty of this cemetery on our fun and informative bus tours.

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)