

4. Henry Kett

Henry was a butcher and publican who owned three hotels. During his lifetime he also was a police officer and councillor. Henry was the first manager of the Wangaratta Brewing and Malt Company which was originally located in Chisholm Street. Henry was also well known for being the first person connected to mains water in the town.

5. George Faithfull

George Faithfull was born at Canterbury, New South Wales in 1814 and came to the Murray District of Port Phillip as a young man. He settled with his cattle at Oxley Plains and named his homestead "Wangaratta".

George developed an interest in the growing settlement at Ovens Crossing, later to be known as Wangaratta, and bought land in the business centre. He was elected as trustee of the land donated by William Clark for Holy Trinity Cathedral and was made an honorary Justice of the Peace in 1852.

He died in 1855 aged 42 and his memory as a pioneer is perpetuated in the naming of Faithfull Street, a plaque in the Holy Trinity Cathedral and a tomb in the Wangaratta Cemetery.

6. Vault of the Unknown Children

"Our little Ernest & Poor Anthony" is the inscription on the top of this vault and is the only clue to the identity of these children. The burial register has no record of a burial and hence the burials may have taken place between the years 1851 when burials began and 1862 when the burial register commenced.

The Wangaratta Family History Society undertook extensive research and believes that the boys might be Anthony R Spearing aged 11 months who died in 1872 and Ernest J Spearing aged 4 months who died in 1867.

7. Benjamin Warby

Benjamin was a pioneer of the Taminick/Wangaratta area and hence the Warby Ranges were named after his family. He is credited with pioneering the introduction of thoroughbred bloodlines to district horses.

8. William Cook

Crushed by a falling horse at Urana Races on 12 April 1869, William was taken to Wahgunyah for treatment. He was said to be the best Steeplechase Rider in the Colony at the time of his accident.

9. Fr William Hely

William was born in Ireland in 1837 and ordained as a priest in 1861. Sometime after that he arrived in Australia and was curate to Rev T J Egan at Wangaratta prior to 1876.

William, who had been showing signs of eccentricity, left his post allegedly stealing 300 pounds from the seminary.

Two policemen noticed William in Wagga and acting on information received, were convinced that the man they saw had committed a robbery at Toganmain two weeks before. Upon being accosted in a hotel room, William fired at the intruders, believing them to be bushrangers as they were not in uniform. The police returned fire and eventually William was mortally wounded.

It was later found that Fr Hely had not stolen property or money and hence he was exhumed from his paupers grave in Wagga and given a decent burial in Wangaratta on 4 November 1976.

10. Daniel Charles Crotty

Daniel was an Australian Champion Roper and Rider. The Stockmans Hall of Fame at Longreach have a large feature display of Daniel's feats and achievements.

11. Michael Cusack

Coming out from Ireland as a convict for stealing a pig, Michael ended up owning most of Wangaratta. He was a member of Wangaratta's first council, was a publican and built the Council Club Hotel. He was also a butcher, auctioneer and early pioneer of the town.

12. Brigidine Order

The large concrete slabs contain the graves of many nuns. Nuns continue to be interred at this site today.

13. Sargent Athur Loftus Maule Steele

There is debate over whether Sargent Steele was a villain or hero. He was a police officer involved in the Glenrowan Siege.

14. Jones Family

Johnny Jones died in the Glenrowan siege from an errant bullet. Jane Jones died two years later. Other family members are also buried here.

WANGARATTA CEMETERY

Self Guided Tour

*Explore the secrets
of the
Wangaratta Cemetery*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Rural City of Wangaratta would like to acknowledge the assistance of the Wangaratta Family History Society Inc and the Wangaratta Historical Society.



Wangaratta Cemetery
Mason Street, Wangaratta 3677
(PO Box 238, Wangaratta 3676)
(03) 5721 3698



RURAL CITY OF
Wangaratta

Introduction

Welcome to the Wangaratta Cemetery where both famous and infamous people are buried. From the following list, you will note that there have been a number of popular persons interred here who have an interesting history. We hope you enjoy your self guided tour and unlock the secrets of the Wangaratta Cemetery.

Each name has been allocated a number which is located on the map (see inside brochure). White poles have been placed at each site for you to easily locate each person.

Your tour begins at the heritage rotunda and should take approximately one hour.

History

The first cemetery in Wangaratta, now known as the Pioneer Cemetery, was originally located in Faithfull Street close to the junction of the Ovens and King Rivers. Only very few records and headstones of those buried at the Pioneer Cemetery still exist today.

In 1849, Dr Francis Murphy JP of Tarrawingee in a letter to the Department of Crown Lands and Survey, requested the establishment of a new burial ground for the town.

The cemetery, now located on the corner of Tone Road and Mason Street was officially opened in 1851. No records were kept until 1862, eleven years after the cemetery was opened. It is assumed that there were many burials which took place during this time that have not been recorded.

The Borough of Wangaratta assumed responsibility as trustees for the cemetery in 1854. The Borough continued in this capacity until 1862 when on 10 April a public meeting was held to elect religious trustees to the cemetery. Each religious denomination was to have a representative, those elected were:-

- * William Clark, Church of England;
- * Michael Cusack, Roman Catholic;
- * Edward Lucas, Wesleyan;
- * Francis Riley (Ryley), Unitarian;
- * James Dixon, Baptist;
- * Hugh Munro, Presbyterian; and
- * Zadok Porter.

As was the normal custom, all religious denominations had an allocated section in the cemetery along with a section for 'strangers'. Signposts in the cemetery identify the respective denominations.

Official burial records at the Wangaratta Cemetery began in 1862. Those noted as buried here before hand is mere speculation. Some of those thought to be buried here are really just the headstones that have been moved from the Pioneer Cemetery.



1. Doris Myra Oulton Tilson JP

Doris was born at Wangaratta in 1893 and was educated at various schools in Victoria as her father moved around the state due to his work as a station master.

Doris became a borough councillor and was the first female to be elected as Mayor.

In 1953 Doris received a Coronation Medal for her work with the Hospital Auxiliary and the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind. She was made a Life Governor of the Wangaratta District Base Hospital and the Royal Victoria Institute for the Blind.

She died on her 75th birthday in 1968.

2. Sir John Bowser

Sir John Bowser came to Australia from London, England with his parents in 1859 when he was three years old.

In 1880 he took up a position as editor of The Chronicle at Wangaratta. He became widely known in the district and respected for his integrity. In 1894 John was persuaded to stand for parliament and was elected member for Wangaratta and Ovens in the Legislative Assembly.

In 1917 his party won the election and elected him as Premier of Victoria. During his political career he held the positions of Chief Secretary, Minister for Labour and Minister for Education. He did not seek re-election when his term ended in 1929.

In 1927, on the occasion of the opening of the Federal Parliament in Canberra, John Bowser received a knighthood, conferred on him by the Duke of York, later King George VI.

Sir John Bowser died aged 81 in 1936. He was accorded a State Funeral with a guard of honour formed by both High School and Technical School students.

3. Isabella Pressley

Isabella is possibly the oldest person to be buried in the cemetery at 106 years old. She was only two months away from celebrating her 107th birthday.



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WANGARATTA CEMETERY

Self Guided Tour

Explore the secrets of the Wangaratta Cemetery...



15. Edna May Harman

Edna was a member of the Airforce as a cook in her younger days. She was also a bookbinder and a well known local identity and historian. Edna was a researcher for the Wangaratta Historical Society and was virtually a walking history book of Wangaratta.

16. Ambrose Parnell

Ambrose was a stonemason who produced the majority of the early headstones seen in the Wangaratta Cemetery.

17. William Henry Edwards

Working as a blacksmith, William was a foremost citizen of his time and wrote accurately and copiously on Wangaratta. He was captain of the Wangaratta Fire Brigade for 25 years and served 30 years on the hospital management board.

18. Heritage Rotunda

Built by the Rotary Club of Appin Park in 2004, with assistance from the Goulburn Ovens TAFE, the Heritage Rotunda has been styled similarly to a rotunda that originally stood here. The rotunda is a gift that acknowledges the 150th year of involvement of the cemetery trust.

19. Agnes Reid

Agnes Reid was born in Scotland in 1793. She arrived in Australia in 1823 with her husband and three children.

Agnes owned 'Carraragarmungee Run' - a property extending 35 km from Ovens to Yackandandah. Her life there was a saga of a pioneering woman in lonely Australian lands. Agnes Reid died in 1860 aged 67.

20. Mah Ket

Mah Ket was born in 1836 at Ning Yur (now Toi Shan), China. He was an educated Chinese man and came to the colony in 1855.

Mah Ket later established his household closer to Wangaratta where he became a respected store keeper and tobacco grower. His family consisted of five daughters and one son, William, who became a prominent lawyer.

The respected Mah Ket, later known as Ah Ket, died in 1896.

21. Agnes "Hazel" Smith

Agnes Hazel Smith was born in 1910 in Wangaratta. In 1931 a Girl Guide group was formed in Wangaratta and Hazel Smith was one of the four chosen leaders.

Three years later Hazel formed the 2nd Wangaratta Guides and was its leader for twelve years. She became District Commissioner for the Baree Region for four years and Regional Training Adviser from 1978 to 1983.

In 1970 Hazel received the City of Wangaratta's Civic Award for her long service to guiding in the Wangaratta community. In 1981 she received the Wattle Award for "Meritorious Service to Guides" and in the same year a 50 year Service Award. She died in 1991 aged 81.

22. Henry Archibald John (Jack) Dick

Jack was a wonderful and colourful character, an avid storyteller, farmer, swimmer, diver, professional sprinter, and member of the 1936 Wangaratta Magpies Premiership side.

In his later years, Jack was frequently seen in the community riding his bicycle with his faithful dog on a box behind him.

23. William Hughes

A Welsh wheelwright, blacksmith and foundryman, William arrived in Australia in 1857.

In 1868 he opened the first iron foundry at North Wangaratta. William was a draftsman, designer and inventor and therefore able to build his own designs of machinery which included harvesters, strippers, winnowers and single and double furrow ploughs until his foundry was washed away in a big flood and all his patterns were lost.

He lived at Boralma until he died in 1900.

24. Verner Kentman

Verner was born in Estonia in 1903.

His father was one of the two church dignitaries controlling the Lutheran Church in Russia and held a position at the Imperial Court in St Petersburg. The 1917 Russian Revolution brought danger to the Kentman family. Verner, who was fifteen, was the first to escape from the new Bolshevik regime and eventually the whole family were re-united in Estonia.

In 1955 Verner and his wife Trudi became the first migrant family to be naturalised in Wangaratta. They were active members of the Good Neighbour Council, Lions Club of Wangaratta and many other worthwhile organisations in the city. Verner was also a Migrant Councillor and established the Migrant Housing Commission where a total of over 470 migrants were helped to purchase homes. The Merriwa Park Soundshell is named in his honour.

Verner died in 1988 aged 85.

25. Dr Richard Howell Stanistreet

Richard Howell Stanistreet Ph C, FPS, MB, BS, FRAC was born in 1923 at Ballarat and was the first surgeon to work in rural Victoria. In 1956 Richard was appointed to the Wangaratta Base Hospital and became widely known for his work as a surgeon in north east Victoria and to the Snowy Mountains Authority.

Richard retired as a visiting medical officer to the Wangaratta Base Hospital in 1989 and later the same year he died suddenly at the age of 66. The clinical services block at the Wangaratta Base Hospital is named the 'R H Stanistreet Wing' in his honour.

26. Daniel Morgan

Daniel Morgan was a notorious bushranger in the mid 1800s. A plaque is attached to Daniel's memorial that details his interesting life events.

27. Chinese Grave Sites

Part of the 'strangers' area for burial of denominations not recognised elsewhere in the cemetery. These Chinese were mostly miners and market gardeners and are not actually buried in the cemetery. These markers have been placed here by their families in recognition of their lives.

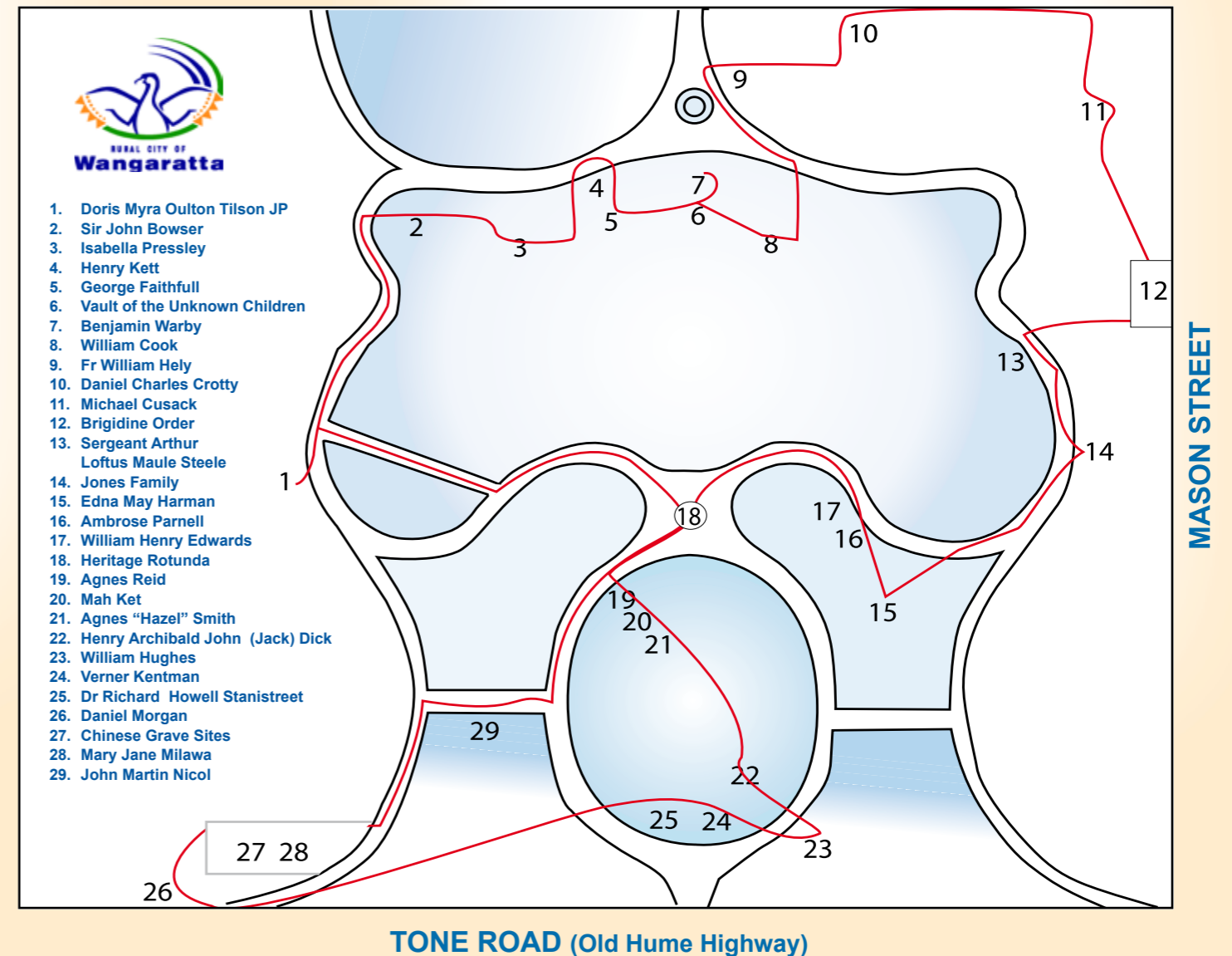
28. Mary Jane Milawa

Mary, reported as the last of the Pangerang Tribe is a popular assumption not founded on fact.

A plaque is attached to her memorial that commemorates her life.

29. John Martin Nicol

During his time as a Councillor, John became a great hero of The Great Flood of 1917. He died while trying to rescue others in raging flood waters.



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