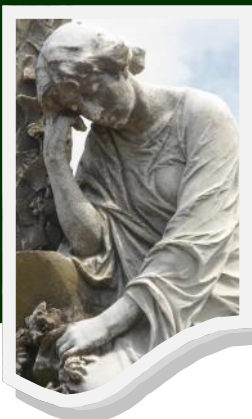




## William Douglas Bear

December  
2017

- Cemetery searches detailing the location of a grave, of those interred and a map of the relevant section of the cemetery can be arranged through the Cemetery office.
- The cemetery always has a number of burial and cremation memorials available for use—either pre-need or at-need. Enquiries can be made at the Cemetery office.
- While dogs are not permitted on the Cemetery grounds, with the closure of the coastal walk, dogs on the leash are permitted along the detour whilst repair work is underway.
- Waverley Cemetery  
St Thomas Street,  
BRONTE NSW 2024  
P: (02) 9083 8899  
F: (02) 9665 4785  
Email:  
cemetery@waverley.nsw.gov.au



“An indirect tribute was paid to the Metropolitan Fire Brigades yesterday, by a number of representatives of the fire insurance companies in Sydney, who met at the office of the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company to do honour to Mr. William Douglas Bear, the superintendent. The recognition by the insurance companies of the valuable services of the brigades in saving property from damage took the form of an extremely handsome gold chronometer stop-watch, made by Sir John Bennett, of London. Attached to the watch was a massive gold albert of very tasteful design, and a pendant in which were set a

diamond between two sapphires. The case of the watch was lavishly engraved on both sides, and bore within, the inscription, "Presented to William Douglas Bear, Superintendent of the Sydney Metropolitan Fire Brigade, by the fire insurance companies, as an expression of their appreciation of his skill, energy, and care in protecting their interests, whilst ably performing the arduous duties of his office. Sydney, 18<sup>th</sup> February, 1886. The presentation was made by Mr. Walter Church, chairman of the Sydney Underwriters' Association, who stated that the subscribers wished to let Mr. Bear know how greatly his



Image above from Australian Town and Country Journal (NSW : 1870 - 1907), Saturday 10 March 1888, page 30

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/printArticle?pg/71095290/4?print=n>

services in the reorganisation of the fire brigades had been appreciated by the insurance companies. The present was greatly admired by the men, to whom it was shown at the nightly roll-call.”

Sydney Morning Herald of Saturday 20 February 1886 p13.

William Douglas Bear, the first Chief (Superintendent) of the Metropolitan Fire

[Continued over page]

Burial plots and ash interment places are available. Come and discuss your requirements with the friendly team at the cemetery.

## Friends of Waverley Cemetery

Brigade 1884—1898 was buried 28 June 1916 aged 67 in Section 19. His grave is currently unmarked. His wife predeceased him. Late Annie Elizabeth Bear was buried 11 November 1907 aged 53 and she and William are interred together.

Annie and William's son, Albert, was lost at sea. A death notice in the SMH, 11 September 1893 reads:

“BEAR. - August 3, Albert Charles Bear, the beloved son of William Douglas Bear, Superintendent M.F.B., Sydney, late of M.F.B., London, and Annie Elizabeth Bear, lost at sea from the barque Kosciusko, aged 17½ years.”

From the Melbourne Argus 11 September 1893 p 6 we read of the circumstances of Albert's tragic death.

“During the voyage of the barque Kosciusko from Sweden to Sydney, the son of Superintendent Bear, superintendent of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, who was engaged as middy, fell overboard loosening the topgallant sail and was lost.”

## Take a tour

23 December 9.00am

30 December 9.00am

6 January 9.00am

13 January 9.00am

20 January 9.00am

27 January 9.00am

Bookings for tours are essential.

Book through Eventbrite on Waverley Cemetery's website—  
About—Waverley cemetery tours—  
click on link

or Waverley Council's website—  
Recreation—Calendar of events—  
Waverley Cemetery Tour  
[www.eventbrite.com.au/e/waverley-cemetery-tours-tickets-35366777985?aff=es2](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/waverley-cemetery-tours-tickets-35366777985?aff=es2)

### WEEKDAY GROUP TOURS

Are you a member of a group that would like to tour the cemetery but can't make the regular Saturday tours? Alternative arrangements can be made for a mid week tour.

To discuss the options contact Friends of Waverley Cemetery on

[friendsofwaverleycemetery@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwaverleycemetery@gmail.com)



### FRIENDS of WAVERLEY CEMETERY

“With the recent Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW (CCNSW) report warning that burial sites in Sydney will run out as early as 2051, the government is pushing ahead with 25-year grave recycling as it

continues to search to find a new cemetery location,” reported journalist Linda Silmalis in a recent Sunday Telegraph article.

Somewhat alarmingly, the article suggested that loved ones could be dug up after 25 years and stashed in a bone room as a means of solving the critical shortage of cemeteries and that the idea of a final resting place for your loved one was gone.

The Crematoria Amendment Regulation 2017 currently under consideration will allow for the choice between renewable interment rights and a perpetual interment option. Rights of tenure to burials allotments in cemeteries is not new. Waverley Cemetery has had rights of burial certificates in place since the first interment in the cemetery in 1788. A Right of Burial Certificate can best be described

as a licence to use an allotment and is based on an agreement between the client and the cemetery management. Right of burial can currently be secured for a periods of 25, 50, or 75 years or in perpetuity.

Gregory Ross  
President FoWC

