

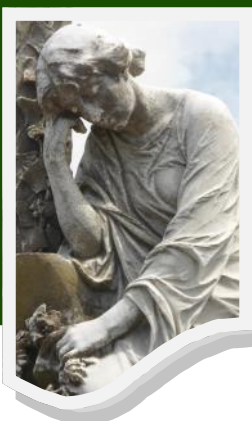


R.I.P.orter

Florence Baverstock (1861-1937)

May
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



**FLORENCE
BAVERSTOCK**

born in Melbourne in 1861 and dying in Mosman, Sydney in 1937 was one of the pioneer women journalists of Australia, starting on the *Melbourne Argus* when women journalists were indeed rare.

In 1896, she took over *The Bulletin's A Women's Letter* page and wrote under the name of CLEO, addressing her letters to **My dear Myee**.

The Bulletin later reported she **“wrote these pages when social Sydney bowled along in broughams and Handsom-cabs”**.

She wrote in her column of 19 December 1896: **“Coloured dinners are now a nice form of hospitality. A ‘pink’ bean-feast means candle shades, flowers and silk fixings all of a rosy hue, with lots of cochineal in the cookery. The**

vermillion insect is innocuous so anything in that tint is all right. ‘Yellow’ repasts are shaded in saffron, also harmless, though physicky to taste. But a ‘green’ banquet must make guests think hard and run over in their minds all the dyes to give a verdant hue, from angelica to arsenic. Green soup may owe its tone to spinach, but green chops and steaks only suggest decomposition.”

Baverstock moved to the *Daily Telegraph* in 1907 and the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1914 as social write and editor of the women’s page. **“She had a graceful and interesting style in her writing, which was not confined to topics of interest only to women, but which included articles of a general nature and musical and dramatic criticisms”** reported the *SMH*.

A member of the Institute of Journalists and the first President of the Society of Women Writers, Florence Baverstock was the first Australian woman journalist to write and send back articles from abroad.

Mrs. Baverstock visited Samoa in 1886 and became a close friend of Robert Louis Stevenson.

She came of a literary family. Her father was Mr. David Blair, first editor of the Melbourne "Age" and a member of the "Argus" staff. Mr. Blair was a member of the Legislative Assembly in Victoria.

Her son and two daughters also became journalists.

Her uncle, Mr. James Grant, was at the Eureka stockade and afterwards he became Minister for Justice in Victoria.

The Sun of 8-9-1937 commented on Florence’s

The Cemetery offers a service of grave plantings sites with Gazania (prostrate ground cover with silver foliage and yellow flowers, as can be seen in banner). The cost of this service for a standard 3' x 8' allotment is \$205.00. Contact the cemetery office.

Friends of Waverley Cemetery

death with the following words, “Mrs. Baverstock's brilliance was matched by her understanding and kindness, and she will be mourned by friends all over Australia.

She is buried in Waverley Cemetery near the founder of *The Bulletin*, J.F Archibald. Her grave has a headstone of scrolled sandstone with a white marble inscription plate, typical of the era.

This article was first published in hardcopy in Waverley Cemetery Who's Who: Pen & Paper compiled by Marion Corry, Local History Officer, Waverley Library 1977.

(Sources: Waverley Cemetery Archives; Company of Heralds by Gavin Souter; Pen Portraits by Patricia Clarke; Yesterday's News by R.B.Walker; The Bulletin 19-12-1896, 15-9-1937; Sydney Morning Herald 9-9-1937; West Australian 9-9-1937)

Take a tour

06 May 9.00am
13 May 9.00am
20 May 9.00am
21 May 9.00am—Sunday
27 May 9.00am

03 June 9.00am
10 June 10.00am
17 June 9.00am
14 June 9.00am

Bookings for tours are essential.
Contact the Cemetery office
on 9083 8899 or email
cemetery@waverley.nsw.gov.au

Bookings for tours can also be made via
the Cemetery's website.

You can also find a NEW link there to
Friends of Waverley Cemetery
newsletter;
www.waverleycemetery.com/about

National Trust Australian Heritage Festival 18 April - 21 May 2017

As part of the National Trust Heritage Festival a presentation by Dr Lisa Murray the author of *Sydney Cemeteries: a Field Guide* will be held at the Cemetery on Sunday 21 May commencing at 10.30am. Lisa describes Waverley Cemetery as 'Sydney's most famous cemetery'.

The FoWC will run an additional tour on Sunday 21 May prior to the book talk. The tour will commence at 9.00am. Bookings are necessary for the tour and the talk.



CEMETERY NOTES

Waverley Council has received a \$3 000 grant from the Federal Community War Memorial Fund for the Middle Head Submarine Mine Explosion Memorial. Minister for Veterans Affairs announced the grant at the Cemetery. The monument was originally unveiled in 1894 in the presence of thousands of people including all branches of the military and many prominent Sydney residents.

A grant from the NSW government has restored the obelisk marking the resting place (in South Head Cemetery) of former NSW premier Charles Gregory Wade. Wade was Premier from 1907-1910, Agent general for NSW and a Judge of the Supreme court. He was born at Singleton and educated at Bathurst and the King's School, Parramatta and Oxford University.

INTRODUCTION OF WEEK DAY TOURS

If you are interested in enjoying a tour on a weekday, contact the Cemetery Office to discuss the available options. Bookings must be made through the office.

GIFT VOUCHERS

Looking for an unusual gift idea — gift vouchers for tours can be arranged through the Cemetery office.

Gregory Ross, Chairman FoWC

