

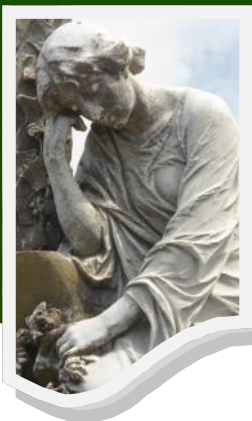


# R.I.P.orter

## Eliza Ann Ashton (c.1851–1900)

June  
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



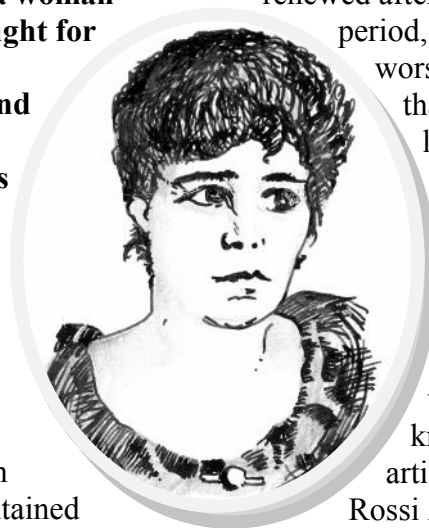
**E**liza Ann Ashton had literary and musical interests and was a social writer for the *Daily Telegraph* in the 1890s. She was a foundation member and councillor of the Womanhood Suffrage League of New South Wales, which she later embarrassed by her outspoken criticism of marriage, and was on the committee of the Women's Literary Society.

According to her obituary in the *SMH* Eliza Ann was “**a conspicuous figure in literary circles... a polished and effective writer...(and) ...Mrs Ashton’s contributions to the Herald over the signature FANSHINE will be well remembered.**” She wrote widely for the metropolitan press, including the *Herald* and the *Daily Telegraph*. The *Bulletin* wrote, “**While grief for the death of Mrs Julian Ashton is**

**still so new and poignant, it is hard for those who knew her so well to coldly sum her titles to affection and esteem. She was justly considered a clever woman, a woman who thought for herself, a sincere and conscientious woman.**”

The Sydney Women’s Literary Society. Formed in 1890, contained several women who were the nucleus of the NSW Womanhood Suffrage League and Eliza Ashton was amongst these. Eliza caused a stir when she spoke on marriage at a meeting of the League. The *SMH* reported her as saying that after suffrage “**was attained for women, their first work must be to amend the marriage laws.**” The

speech was widely reported and sensationalised by the press, some journalists claiming that she was advocating a kind of ‘lease’ marriage, to be renewed after an agreed period, or—worse than that—free love. She was, however, ably defended by her husband, well-known artist, Julian Rossi Ashton.



In an 1899 article “**Our Girls**” she exhorts older women to offer encouragement to the younger members of their sex. “**Let us help them fulfil their destiny. We have had our day of youth and joy; let us stand aside a little and give the girls a breathing space, not try selfishly to overshadow them when they stand**

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

at such a disadvantage in their ignorance of life and its methods, and their dumb yearnings which make them often only awkward and self-conscious.”

The *Daily Telegraph* reported, Mrs Ashton’s funeral “was of a private nature, it being held at an early hour and attended by only intimate friends of the deceased. Mr J. R. Ashton (the deceased’s husband) is seriously ill, and was unable to be present.”

“Those present included the immediate personal friends of the deceased lady and her husband. The Rev. R. McKeown, rector of St. Mary’s Church, Waverley, officiated at the grave.” [Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), Tuesday 17 July 1900, page 4 ]

No headstone marks her last resting place.

Citation:

Sources: Waverley Cemetery Archives; Australian Dictionary of Biography Vol 7; Woman Suffrage in Australia by Audrey Oldfield; The Bulletin 21-7-1900; Centennial magazine Vol 1 June 1889; Daily Telegraph 17-7-1990; Sydney Morning Herald 17-11-1891,16-7-1900) and printed in Waverley Cemetery Who’s Who: Pen & Paper compiled by Marion Corry 1997.

## Take a tour

10 June 10.00am  
17 June 9.00am  
24 June 9.00am

01 July 9.00am  
08 July 9.00am  
15 July 9.00am  
22 July 9.00am  
29 July 9.00am

05 August 9.00am  
12 August 9.00am  
19 August 9.00am  
26 August 10.00am

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**

**Join the volunteers; the Friends of Waverley Cemetery (FoWC).  
New members are welcome.**



### CEMETERY NOTES

Dr Lisa Murray’s talk at the Cemetery on Sunday 21 May as part of the National Trust Heritage Festival was very well received by those in attendance. The author of *Sydney Cemeteries: a Field Guide* described in detail how she gathered the material for her book and why she listed Waverley Cemetery as the best of her shortlisted cemeteries.

### 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

