



WAVERLEY
CEMETERIES



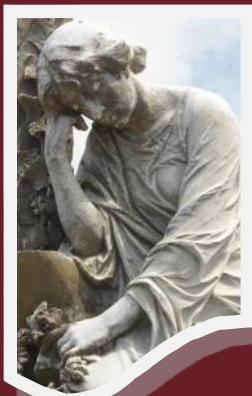
Friends of Waverley Cemeteries (Volunteers)



AUGUST
2022

Neville Gruzman

- Cemetery searches detailing the location of a grave of those interred in Waverley Cemetery and South Head General Cemetery can be found on the website.
- Waverley Cemeteries offers a service of grave planting sites with Gazania (prostrate ground cover with silver foliage and yellow flowers, as can be seen in banner). Contact Waverley Cemeteries office if you are interested in this and other services, such as annual maintenance of allotments.
- Waverley Cemeteries office is at the corner of Trafalgar Street and St Thomas Street, BRONTE NSW 2024
- P: (02) 9083 8899
F: (02) 9665 4785
Email: cemetery@waverley.nsw.gov.au



Neville Gruzman, AM (1925 - 1 May 2005) was an Australian architect, mayor of Woollahra, writer and architectural activist. He is considered to have exerted a decisive influence on Sydney's architecture, mostly through his dedication to designing architecture that reacts to the landscape and to the needs of the client. Gruzman was born in Sydney, Australia. His parents—Sam Gruzman and Rosalind Gunzburg—were of Russian origin. His childhood near Cooper Park, Bellevue Hill, exerted a certain influence on him regarding his attitude towards landscape. He initially intended to fulfill his mother's wish to study medicine but enrolled for architecture after graduating from Sydney Boys High School.

In the late 1940s he entered the University of Sydney, where *Beaux Arts* was a main subject. The first three years of his studies were difficult for him as he wasn't proficient in drawing. However, he profited from his work experiences. He developed an interest in ballrooms, particularly mirrors and reflections, and won some skills with glamorous decoration from an interior decorator, Margaret Jaye. In his fourth

year at university, he was attracted to the European Modernists, who influenced and furthered him. Before he graduated, he designed the *Lapin House*, Rose Bay for his aunt. He graduated in 1952 and travelled to Europe with other graduates. Returning to Australia, he opened an office with Bill and Ruth Lucas. He read the work *Architectural Beauty in Japan* and was deeply attracted by wafer thin concrete roofs, screen glazing and floating upstands sitting over the garden. Therefore, he travelled to Japan for a four-and-a-half-months studying visit. Later, Gruzman was amazed by the work of Frank Lloyd Wright. His understanding of the aspects of planning and of the necessities of an ongoing development grew decisively, in this period. In about 1967, he devoted himself to teaching; he is reported to have renounced holidays to provide extra tutorials for his students. He also participated in politics, to improve the quality of built environment. Gruzman had poor health. He suffered from asthma and heart attacks but managed to recover. He also had an accident that led to brain surgery causing the loss of most of his memory, including for details such as door dimensions, which he



most attentively relearned. Gruzman mostly built residential houses in Sydney. His works are varied forms of Modernism known as Organic Modernism, or Regionalism; some show a strong influence by the works of Frank Lloyd Wright. The impressions exerted on him on his trips to Japan—mainly by the traditional post and beam architecture he saw at places like Katsura Imperial Villa—influenced some of the homes he created and into which he eventually included Japanese elements (*Goodman House*, Middle Cove). In the 1960s Gruzman gained recognition for private homes built for wealthy and sometimes eccentric clients along Sydney's north shore, such as the *Hill's House* (1966), designed for a nudist and the "theatrical" *Holland*

Why not join the Friends of Waverley Cemeteries?

House (1962), built for an actress, who would both delight and scare her guests by dancing on the house's rail-less balcony hanging over a cliff-face. His work has been described as "major gestures, very Hollywood glamour." Gruzman's architectural principles included maximum exposure to sunlight and privacy visually and audibly.

Gruzman is loosely connected to the "Sydney School" of architects of the 1950s and 1960s—a movement that started in opposition to the International Style of modernism supported by other Australian architects and that has recently been re-discovered by home buyers and architectural fans, leading to a trend to preserve the homes from the period. However, Gruzman's work deviates from the Sydney School style in important traits; Gruzman himself denied a connection to the movement.

In the 1990s Gruzman became politically active and was elected first as a councilor and then mayor of Woollahra, on a platform of responsible urban development. He was a critic of urban planning in Sydney, and also Sydney architects, notably Harry Seidler. Both his architectural criticism and time as mayor were controversial.

Gruzman began teaching at the University of New South Wales in the 1960s with a number of contemporary modernist architects such as Bill Lucas and Harry Howard. He became an Adjunct Professor and, as a critic of shortening teaching hours and increasing class size, was known for using Saturdays and public holidays to give extra classes to his students at his own home. In 1970, Gruzman was the subject of the winning entry for the Archibald Prize, painted by Eric Smith. Gruzman sat for Smith several times, and commissioned Smith to contribute mosaics and stained glass for buildings he designed, including the South Head and District Synagogue in Rose Bay, as well as paintings Smith produced for the houses of his clients. Most of Gruzman's houses were photographed by Max Dupain and David Moore.

Gruzman was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 1985 Australia Day Honours.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
Neville Gruzman is interred in South Head General Cemetery

Take a tour

General History Tours A, B, C & D are held on Saturdays

06 Aug 09.00am B (Doug)
13 Aug 10.00am C (Greg)
18 Aug 09.00am D (David)
25 Aug 09.00am A (Greg)

03 Sep 09.00am B (Doug)
10 Sep 09.00am C (Greg)
17 Sep 09.00am D (David)
24 Sep 09.00am A (Andrew)

Bookings for tours are essential.
Book through Eventbrite for
Waverley Cemetery's Saturday
Tours

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/waverley-cemetery-tours-tickets-35366776982>



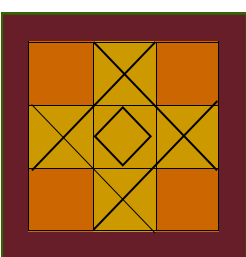

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Friends of Waverley Cemeteries

The next meeting of the Friends of Waverley Cemeteries (FoWC) is the AGM which will be held on **Saturday 13 August 2022 at 9.00am.**

All members of the Friends of Waverley Cemetery are invited to attend. You are required to be financial members in order to stand for office or vote at the AGM. If you are intending to accept a nomination for a position on the executive you need to be in attendance at the AGM. Membership dues are required as of 1 July. Fees are \$15 per annum and we encourage members to add a \$5.00 donation to their fee if they feel that they can so do.

If you would like to become a Friend you are encouraged to contact the group through its email which is friendsofwaverleycemetery@gmail.com



To visit the FoWC Face Book Page which is updated every few days, go to <https://www.facebook.com/FoWCBronteNSW2024>

If you are interested in taking a midweek tour please email and we will attempt to accommodate your request.

Gregory Ross President/Secretary

