



WAVERLEY
CEMETERIES



Friends of Waverley Cemeteries (Volunteers)



R.I.P.orter

APRIL 2025

Victor J. W. P. Daley

- 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



(2005). Victor Daley, 1858-1905. John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland

Victor James William Patrick Daley (1858-1905), poet and journalist, was baptized James on 5 September 1858 at Navan, County Armagh, Ireland. His early schooling was sketchy as he preferred roaming the countryside and visiting the sites of history and legend as recounted by his grandfather. He claimed that many of his relations were Fenians and that as a child he had often helped to 'cast bullets at night'. He became a clerk in the Plymouth office of the South Devon (later Great Western) Railway Co.

In 1878 Daley set out for South Australia where he

had connections but disembarked in Sydney. He soon earned enough to go to Adelaide where he worked as a clerk and reputedly contributed to a small evening newspaper, the *Star*, edited by H. Allerdale Grainger. About 1880 he moved to Melbourne, *en route* for New Caledonia, but lost his money at the races. He wrote about racehorses for the *Carlton Advertiser* then joined its staff.

About 1881 Daley set out to see Australia: in southern New South Wales, he worked on the *Queanbeyan Times*, then moved on to Sydney where he wrote for *Sydney Punch* and later the *Bulletin*. In 188 J. F. Archibald described him 'as the rising poet of this country. For a long time, we have not had more melodious and imaginative verses from an Australian writer'. Thereafter Daley's verse, much of it lyrical and often fashionably

melancholic, appeared regularly in the *Bulletin*. In 1890, at the height of 'ballad fever', he was described in the *Bulletin* as 'one of the few Australian writers who are justified in styling their verse poetry'. That year Archibald gave more space to his verse in *A Golden Shanty* than to the work of any other poet.

Elizabeth Ann Thompson bore him six children over the next eight years. He returned to Melbourne, probably in the late 1880s and contributed, sometimes as 'Creeve Roe', verse, short stories and articles, to newspapers and magazines. He knew the Lindsay family, especially Lionel, and reputedly amused his friends recitations from English Romantic poets 'but frowned down the bawdy story'. 'Of medium height and build' and 'youthful appearance', in 1895 Daley wore a 'full brown beard' and spoke with a slight Northern Irish accent. In 1898 he returned to Sydney where

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his first book of verse, *At Dawn and Dusk*, had been produced under the guidance of Alfred George Stephens. It was received most favourably and a whole *Bulletin Red Page* was devoted to praise of Daley's verse by his contemporaries. As the 'symposiarch', he was chief participant in the Dawn and Dusk Club, named after his book and a light-hearted society of such artists and writers as Henry Lawson, Norman Lindsay, Bertram Stevens and Frank Mahony.

Suffering from tuberculosis, Daley stayed with E. J. Brady at Grafton in 1902. Next year some of his friends got up a testimonial fund to send him to New Caledonia, but his health did not benefit. He died at his home at Waitara, Sydney, on 29 December 1905 and was buried in section 18 of Waverley cemetery. He was survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters, whom he left in financial difficulties.

Daley's *Poems* (1908) and *Wine and Roses* (1911), with a memoir by Stephens, were published posthumously.

This article written by G. D. Ailwood Keel was published in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 8, 1981 and online in 2006.

[Biography - Victor James Daley - Australian Dictionary of Biography](#)

Take a tour

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

12 Apr @ 10.am Tour B (Michael)

19 Apr @ 9.00am Tour C (David)

10 May @ 9.00am Tour D (Michael)

17 May @ 9.00am Tour A (David)

31 May @ 9.00am Tour B (Sally)

Book through Eventbrite for Waverley Cemetery's Saturday Tours

[A Walking History Tour of Waverley Cemetery gives a glimpse into the past. Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)

Congratulations to Michael who joined the guiding team earlier in the year. He generally leads a tour on the 2nd Saturday of the month.



BECKE BEILBY Family Reunion

Next June in NSW there will be a Family Reunion for the descendants of Frederick & Caroline Matilda BECKE (nee BEILBY)

They came to Australia on the *Layton* in 1833 and *James Laing* in 1836 and were the parents of Australian author Louis BECKE (1855-1913).

<https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/becke-george-lewis-louis-5177>

If you are interested, please contact anna.underwood@bigpond.com



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Friends of Waverley Cemeteries

Bench seating is being installed in the contemplation shelters scattered through Waverley Cemetery as their restoration continues.

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

Currently we require two people who would be interested in leading tours.

You are cordially invited to attend the annual Easter Sunday Commemoration at the 1798 Irish Memorial. This year's commemoration occurs during the 200th anniversary of Michael Dwyer's death and will be held: 12.00 pm to 1.00 pm Easter Sunday, 20th April 2025 at Waverley Cemetery.



To visit the FoWC Face Book Page which is updated every few days, go to

<https://www.facebook.com/FoWCBronteNSW2024>

Tony Billingsley President/Secretary

