



WAVERLEY
CEMETERIES



Friends of Waverley Cemeteries (Volunteers)

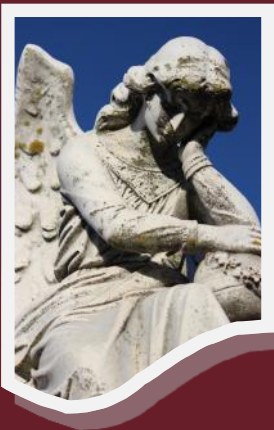


GEORGE PEACOCK [1824–1900]

OCTOBER
2025

- 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



George Peacock, jam manufacturer arrived at Hobart Town in 1850 and opened a grocery and fruit shop in Murray Street.

By 1867 Peacock had become one of the first manufacturers of canned jam in the colonies. In 1870 he moved his factory to a large stone warehouse on the Old Wharf, Hobart, with copper pans and two boilers to supply the necessary steam for canning. Reputed a hard worker and disciplinarian by his factory hands, Peacock was also interested in their welfare.

He conducted hymns and prayers before each day's work, strongly disapproved of blasphemy and dismissed any man who showed signs of drinking.

In 1880 Peacock decided to make jam in Sydney and opened the Produce Exchange in Sussex Street with his stepson H. J. Pryde as manager. He imported fruit from Tasmania despite continual difficulties over duty imposed on boiled fruit. Apple and pear pulp travelled well and was exempt from duty but berry fruit had to be boiled to stand the journey and was dutiable. In 1881 he was allowed to import parboiled



fruit in cases, free of duty, but in September 1884 it was found that some fruit was being imported in open tubs and other containers on deck, in such condition that the inspector of nuisances often had to condemn the pulp as unfit for consumption. In 1886 he published a pamphlet, *What is Pulp Fruit? Should it be Dutiable?* In that year the assistant government analyst, W. M. Hamlet, examined a tin of Peacock's jam which was alleged to have poisoned a family of six. Tests showed no

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fault in the jam but an accumulation of organic matter swarming with bacteria of putrefaction at the angle between the bottom and sides of the tin. His son William changed the firm's name to the Australasian Jam Co. and tried to bribe Hamlet to give a favourable report on the jam. In a letter to the colonial secretary, G. R. Dibbs, William claimed if the report were published it 'could mean nothing short of positive death to the firm's commercial existence'.....

In 1882 George Peacock had experimented with canning fish and sent samples to every Australian capital. They were well received but he did not continue the supply because of the high cost of installing refrigeration. He retired in 1891 and the Hobart business was taken over by his son Ernest Alfred, the foreman (Sir) Henry Jones*and A. W. Palfreyman.

He died at his home in Petersham on 29 April 1900, survived by his wife and eleven children. His estate in NSW was valued at £1151; his wife received the income from his estate which at her death was to be divided equally between her two unmarried daughters.

Peacock, George (1824–1900)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/peacock-george-4378/text7125>, published first in hardcopy 1974, accessed online 24 September 2025.

Take a tour

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

11 Oct @ 10.00am Tour D (Michael)
18 Oct @ 9.00am Tour A (David)

8 Nov @ 10.00am Tour B (Michael)
15 Nov @ 9.00am Tour C (David)
29 Nov @ 9.00am Tour D (Sally)

13 Dec @ 10.00am Tour A(Michael)
20 Dec @ 9.00am Tour B (David)

*Henry Jones had worked from the age of 12 for Hobart jam manufacturer George Peacock, rising to become the foreman. When Peacock retired in 1891 Jones took over the business, renaming it H Jones & Company. Jam-making continued in the Hunter Street premises and in 1895 the company purchased a building in Melbourne – the landmark Jam Factory. Incorporated as Henry Jones IXL ("I excel in everything I do") in 1903, the company became a significant Australian food processor.

[Henry Jones IXL jam company founded - Australian food timeline](#)



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Congratulations to those who were elected to office at the Annual General Meeting on 13 September. The remaining General Meetings for the year will be held on October 11 and December 13 @ 9.00am at Waverley Cemetery

Currently we require two or three people who would be interested in leading tours on the 1st and 4th Saturdays of the month and the occasional weekday.

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

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

Tony Billingsley President/Secretary

