



WAVERLEY  
CEMETERIES



## Friends of Waverley Cemeteries (Volunteers)

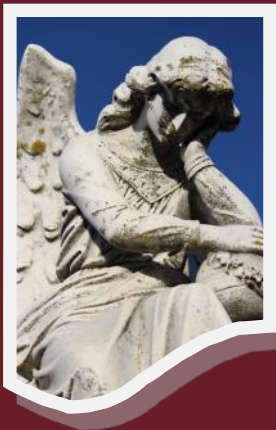


# R.I.P.orter

**James Patrick West Devine (a.k.a. J.P.WEST)**

**AUGUST  
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



**J**ames Patrick West, representative old actor, died at his residence at Bondi on Friday morning. He was 80 years old; he had been 62 years on the stage, and he had never travelled or acted outside Australasia. That is a record that suffices to prove that Australia is not quite the crude young country that some folks would have us suppose. West in his time played many parts, and he had a wide experience in Shakespearean repertory. He was naturally of the old school of fastidious study and conscientious work; he took his profession seriously. His Deacon Skinner in *Struck Oil* will be remembered with the play. He was a staunch friend and a genial companion all his life through. Some of his latest appearances were made with Mr. Harry Roberts and Miss Maggie Moore, who was one of the oldest of his friends. Of late years the old actor had been failing. He lost, his sight almost entirely. But he did not lose his spirit, and he lost none of his hold on the hearts of his devoted wife and his large circle of friends. Just before he died

there was a project of arranging a benefit for him. Something of the sort may still be put in hand to honor (sic) his memory and help those he leaves behind.<sup>1</sup>

We read in *The Daily Telegraph* of 23 March, 1918 more of J.P.Wests' career.

There passed away yesterday morning, at his late residence, Alfred Street, Waverley, one of the oldest identities of the Australian stage, Mr. James Patrick West. He had but lately passed his 80th birthday. Mr. West (Devine was the family name) was born at Parramatta on March 12, 1838. Commencing his career as an actor at the age of 18, in Sydney, he was never once outside Australasia, but he travelled in nearly every one of the States and New Zealand. Beyond the memory of present playgoers, he delighted the world of stage land with a variety of characters. As a young man, his studies in light comedy parts were a feature of the Australian drama. Later he became a tragedian and



Shakespearean actor of note and supported many visiting English and American actors. As an actor-manager, his reputation was of the highest for probity, judgment, and intelligence. He was the manager in Australia of many well-known tragedians, including William Creswick with whom he played Iago, as he did also with Fairclough, alternating with the latter in the leading parts. With Sam Emery he played Desmaret in *Fouche*, and he was cast with many other "stars," including Charles Warner, Stark, the American actor, Mr. and Mrs. Waller, George Milne, and others. In later days he was conspicuous for his work in

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melodrama. He was the original Danny Mann and Harvey Duff in Boucicault's Irish dramas and was Gabbet in Marcus Clarke's *Natural Life*. He enacted *Deacon Skinner* in *Struck Oil*, in conjunction with the late J. C. Williamson, the, happily, still-living Miss Maggie Moore and H. R. Roberts. A part, too, that Mr. West made entirely his own was that of Old Forty-nine, in one of the most successful mining dramas ever produced in Australia, *Forty-nine*. He had for the last few years been weak and ailing, so blind that he was unable to read or even safely find his way about alone. A movement was on foot just before his death to accord the veteran a testimonial benefit.<sup>2</sup>

According to *The Sydney Morning Herald* of 25 March 1918, "There was a considerable gathering of mourners at the graveside of the veteran actor James Patrick West (Devine), at Waverley Cemetery, on Saturday afternoon, chiefly of relations and old friends, including his wife. Mrs. Alice West. Masters Jack and George West (nephews, Mrs. Devine, Mr. A. Devine (nephew). Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Devine, Miss Florence and Siml (?) Devine, Mr and Mrs. John J Utting. Mr. Francis Utting, Mr. G. Marr-Thompson. Private F. Gent, Mr. Hemsworth Huntingdon, Miss Lulu Waters, and Miss Clara Stephenson (Mrs. Willis) a well-remembered actress, who appeared with the deceased as long ago as 1870, when Mr. and Mrs Charles Matthews were here. The Rev. G North Ash, who recited the Burial Service. briefly addressed the gathering."<sup>3</sup>

#### Citations

- 1 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article123132422>
- 2 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article239255023>
- 3 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15779320>

## Take a tour

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

9 Aug @ 10.00am Tour C (Michael)  
16 Aug @ 9.00am Tour D (David)  
30 Aug @ 9.00am Tour A (Sally)

13 Sep @ 10.00am Tour B (Michael)  
20 Sep @ 9.00am Tour C (David)

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)



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## Friends of Waverley Cemeteries

The next meeting of the Friends of Waverley Cemeteries which is the AGM was originally scheduled for August 9 from 9.00am to 10.00am. The AGM has been rescheduled to September 13 as the President/Secretary will be overseas in August. The next General Meetings will be October 11 and December 13.

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](mailto: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

