



WAVERLEY
CEMETERIES



R.I.P.orter

DECEMBER
2023

SIR ROBERT DUFF 1835 - 1895

- 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



Sir Robert Duff died at Government House at 11 minutes to 6 o'clock last Friday afternoon. In the morning, after a consultation, at which Drs. Fiaschi, P. Sydney Jones, R. Scot Skirving, A. Jarvie Hood, and A. McCormack were present, a surgical operation was performed. The operator was Dr. Fiaschi, assisted by Dr. McCormack. The other medical men in consultation were present. All the symptoms previously had pointed to the existence of an abscess within the liver, requiring immediate surgical interference. The operation consisted of a series of punctures in the liver, followed by exploratory incisions, with a view of removing the pus. The liver was found to be studded with abscesses. The doctors immediately afterwards issued a bulletin that his Excellency's condition was serious ; indeed, it was clear that there was

no possible hope of recovery. Sir Robert Duff rallied sufficiently to speak to Dr. Fiaschi and the two nurses. About 3 o'clock his Excellency gradually lost consciousness, and slowly sank. He died peacefully and painlessly. There were present at the time Dr. Fiaschi, Lady Duff, the butler, and the two nurses. The Primate, who had called early in the morning, in company with the Rev. A. Pain, arrived immediately after the patient had breathed his last. The Chief Justice, Sir Frederick Darley, came a few minutes later. The Misses Duff arrived from Moss Vale at 6.25 p.m. This is the first occasion on which a Governor of New South Wales has died during his tenure of office. Sir Robert William Duff belonged to an ancient Scottish family, allied by marriage to some of the best families in the United Kingdom. He was born at Banff on the 8th May, 1835, and was educated at Blackheath, near

London. He entered the royal navy in 1848, and in May, 1854, attained the rank of sub-lieutenant. Two years later, in 1856, he was made lieutenant and subsequently commander, on which rank he retired in 1870. On the 21st February 1871, he married Miss Louisa Scott, youngest daughter of Sir William Scott, Bart. of Anerum, by whom he had three sons—the eldest being Robert William, born the 7th March 1873 — and four daughters. Until 1801 he bore the name of Abercrombie, as assumed by his father; but succeeding to the estate of his uncle, Mr. Robert Duff, who died at the end of that year, he resumed the ancestral name. He was presently returned to the House of Commons as member for Banffshire, and this seat under many administrations and through the changes and chances of political life he uninterruptedly occupied up till the time of his appointment as Governor of New South Wales. From 1882 to 1885 Mr.

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Duff moved in the innermost circles of active politics. He acted as whip to Mr. Gladstone's second Government. In the brief administration of 1885-6 he was made Civil Lord of the Admiralty, and on Mr. Gladstone returning to power in 1892 he was offered a household appointment with a privy councillorship. Mr. Duff accepted the latter honour but declined the former. Following his appointment to the Governorship came the announcement of his being raised to the knighthood, and her Majesty personally invested him with the insignia of Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. Sir Robert Duff came to Australia by the R.M.S. Parramatta, which arrived in Sydney on 29th May 1893. In the discharge of Sir Robert Duff's official duties there were two events that attracted attention, and in the discussion that they provoked somewhat rudely

interrupted the noiseless tenor of the Governor's way. The first was his granting a summary prorogation of Parliament to the Dibbs Government on 8th December, 1893, at a time the when the Ministry found the House hostile and the country anxious for a general election. The second occasion was that memorable one on which he refused to appoint twelve gentlemen as members of the Legislative Council on the recommendation of Sir George Dibbs, the then Premier. Sir Frederick Darley was sworn in as Lieutenant-Governor at noon on Saturday. The funeral took place on Sunday after noon. The procession moved from Government House at two o'clock and marched by way of Macquarie, College, and Oxford streets to the Waverley cemetery.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article22272674>

Take a tour

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

02 Dec @ 09.00 am (Greg) C
 09 Dec @ 10.00 am (Greg) D
 16 Dec @ 09.00 am (David) A
 23 Dec @ 09.00 am (Andrew) B
 30 Dec @ 09.00 am (Maggie) C

Bookings for tours are essential. 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](#)



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Friends of Waverley Cemeteries

If you would like to become a Friend you are encouraged to contact the group through its email which is friendsofwaverleycemetery@gmail.com Members of the Friends group are involved in leading tours, weeding and/or adopting graves, researching individuals interred in the cemetery or are involved in a major project to photograph every headstone in the cemetery.

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 accommodate your request.



Wishing all members Season's Greetings and all the best for a prosperous 2024

Gregory Ross President/Secretary

