



WAVERLEY  
CEMETERIES



NOVEMBER  
2023

## JOHN MILES LITTLE (1933 – 2023)

- 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



**M**iles Little was a visionary who changed the landscape of medicine and medical ethics through the force of his ideas. Just as importantly, Miles created lasting influence by the way he lived his own life and the way that he treated others - through his integrity, kindness, thoughtfulness, hospitality and wisdom. (On completing school) he enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts at Sydney University.

Miles' respect for knowledge and ideas was not, however, restricted to the humanities - but also included the physical and social sciences which took him back to Sydney University where he studied medicine.

Miles completed his internship as Resident Medical Officer at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney and from 1961 to 1964 he was the surgical registrar. He gained his fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 1963. Throughout this time, he also worked in various academic roles, firstly as a

Demonstrator in Anatomy and then as a Tutor in Surgery to both the Women's College and St Paul's College at the University of Sydney. In 1964 Miles became Clinical Superintendent at RPAH. He developed a particular interest in vascular and hepatobiliary surgery. In 1966, he was awarded the Nuffield Dominion Travelling Fellowship and travelled with his young family to Scotland, where he trained at the University of Glasgow.

Returning to Australia in 1967, he became Honorary Assistant Surgeon at RPAH and Senior Lecturer in Surgery at the Faculty of Medicine - becoming Associate Professor in 1971. During this time, he was also a highly active teacher and researcher - conducting bench and clinical research on a wide range of issues including peripheral vascular disease, liver and pancreatic disease and cancer chemotherapy. He published a book on the management of liver injuries in 1971 and another on amputations

for vascular disease in 1975.

In 1978, he became the foundation professor of surgery at the newly established Westmead Hospital - a position he held until 1996 - and Chairman of the Department of Surgery until 1990.

His decision to be part of the Westmead project - distant from the established intellectual bastions of medicine in Sydney - was a key moment in his life, in the successful development of the hospital, and in the future of Australian health services.

Working as part of a visionary and energetic team, Little created an extraordinary new public teaching hospital. Under the team's guidance, Westmead thrived - attracting scores of clinicians, researchers, teachers, and trainees anxious to practise medicine that mattered not just to the local community, or to the NSW population, but globally.

During this time he held visiting professorships in the United Kingdom,

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China and Hong Kong, and received numerous national and international awards for his work. In 1993, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia for "his services to medicine, particularly in the fields of hepatic and vascular surgery".

In 1995 Miles stopped practising surgery to establish an ethics centre at the University of Sydney – the Centre for Values, Ethics and the Law in Medicine (VELiM) – because he believed that medicine had lost sight of its moral base and humanist foundations, and had begun to serve technocratic and scientific imperatives instead of the lives and interests of patients and communities.

Under Miles's leadership, the atmosphere at VELiM was uniquely constructive, lively, and intellectually daring. Ethical principles of power-sharing and inclusivity produced new thinking, new resources, warm collegial processes and lifelong friendships.

Little stepped down as director in 2003.

He had an intense appreciation of music, art, literature, poetry, and the lived and natural environment. He developed a close friendship with painter Russell Drysdale and his wife Maisie, collaborating with Drysdale on a volume of poetry, *Round Trip*. A passionate bushwalker and photographer, he spent much of his spare time exploring less-travelled tracks in the national parks of NSW.

A committed and sometimes compulsive collector of watches and clocks, he drew on his surgical skills and instruments to become a watch-mender.

Citation: Read the full story by Ian Kerridge and Wendy Lipworth S.M.H. @ [Foundation surgeon at Westmead Hospital brought global recognition \(msn.com\)](#)

Miles Little was a descendent of John Macpherson who was twice Mayor of Waverley (1872-1873; 1875-1883) and whose name appears on the main gates to the cemetery.

## Take a tour

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

04 Nov @ 09.00 am (Greg) C  
11 Nov @ 09.00 am (Greg) D  
18 Nov @ 09.00 am (David) A  
25 Nov @ 09.00 am (Andrew) B

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](mailto: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.



Gregory Ross President/Secretary

