



Membership Application/Donation Form

Annual Family Membership \$15.00

Life Membership \$150.00

Donation to Queenstown Cemetery Preservation Fund

I would like to assist in working bees
And or projects

NAME (Mr,Mrs,Miss,Ms).....

.....
NAME/s of RELATIVE/s BURIED IN
CEMETERY.....

.....
ADDRESS.....

.....
PHONE.....

.....
EMAIL.....

Please complete, tear off and return this form
to The Treasurer
Friends & Relations of Queenstown Cemetery
PO Box 59, Smiths Gully, Victoria 3760

Direct Transfer Bendigo Bank
- Please add name
BSB 633 000 A/C 124739418



Preserving Our Past For Our Future

How to find Queenstown Cemetery –
Smiths Gully Road, Smiths Gully.
1km from Smiths Gully Store
Opposite Peter Franke Reserve.
There is a good history/nature walk from
Peter Franke Reserve to St Andrews.

May 2021 – Queenstown Cemetery Trust.



**Cemetery of the Caledonian Gold Rush
'Market Square'
Old Caledonian Gully, Smyths Gully***

The Wurundjeri Willam people of the Kulin Nation camped here over 30,000 years. Their many descendants continue to live across Victoria.

The Queenstown Cemetery became the Cemetery for the Caledonia Diggings after gold was discovered in Smyth's Creek in 1854.

The rush to these Diggings resulted in a tent city named "Market Square" and the establishment of Queenstown (now St Andrews).

Over 380 burials are recorded. Among the earliest of these are Chinese, probably miners.

Many Chinese and other itinerants were buried in unmarked and unrecorded graves.

After the rush of the 1850's, the remaining families, mainly German and English, retained the Cemetery. Descendants of these early pioneers still live in the district with familiar names recorded on many headstones.

In 1962, a bushfire burned through the Cemetery, destroying picket fencing, grave markers and the cypress boundary planting of the early 1900's.

The box/stringy bark woodland and forest in the 1.7 ha reserve is regrowth from this time.

The indigenous and heritage vegetation of the Cemetery is protected, and includes many significant species.

*Known today as Smiths Creek and Smiths Gully

- 1861** The first recorded burial. There is no original plan or map of the Cemetery. Trustees of the Cemetery were members of the local community
- 1866** The Cemetery officially declared a Cemetery Reserve.
- 1948** The Trusteeship of the Cemetery taken On by the Shire of Eltham
- 1951** The Cemetery closed for burials
- 1960** Burials in existing family plots
- 1964**
- 1981** Last burial in existing family plot
- 1999** Cemetery trusteeship reverted to the Community under Nillumbik Shire Council. Appointment of six local Residents as Trustees, gazetted by Department of Human Services
- Launch of Friends and Relations of Queenstown Cemetery
- 2000** The Cemetery Reserve registered "Land for Wildlife"
- 2006** Increase of Trust members to seven
- 2008** A Public Authority Management Agreement with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment for the management and protection Of the vegetation in the cemetery reserve
- 2010** A memorial Cairn in honour of the miners and pioneers of the district, and a plaque of the Queenstown Cemetery Register 1861-1981 completed



The Trustees need your Support

Become a "Friend" of Queenstown Cemetery or a Life Member

Your support will help preserve our heritage and enable you to receive newsletters and advice on social events, working bees and research projects.

The Trustees manage the Cemetery and with support of the local community and the 'Friends and Relations', aim to maintain and preserve the Cemetery, repair and where possible, restore the graves and headstones.

Research and recording of history is ongoing. Our group works closely with St Andrews/Queenstown Historical Society.

For further information
Call Maryanne 0417 117 949.

Or Secretary – Friends & Relations of Queenstown Cemetery –
PO Box 59, Smiths Gully, 3760

Email - enquiries@queenstowncemetery.org.au