

Templestowe Cemetery
Church Rd., Templestowe.

Templestowe Cemetery was the earliest public cemetery in the municipality, gazetted 6 July 1858, some seven years before the Anderson Creek Cemetery at Warrandyte.⁵¹ Templestowe Cemetery is also the oldest district cemetery still in use. The Waldau Lutheran Cemetery in Victoria Street, Doncaster, opened in 1854 but closed in 1888.⁵²

⁴⁷ Green and Beavis, p.13.

⁴⁸ City of Doncaster and Templestowe RB 1944-45 Warrandyte Riding NAV 547-549 (Valued at 116 pounds for water rating purposes).

⁴⁹ *Auction Plan. Park Orchards Estate, Mitcham. Dec., 1946, Haughton Collection, SLV.*

⁵⁰ Green and Beavis, p.6.

⁵¹ Anderson Creek Cemetery, Cemetery Register, vol.1.p.8.

⁵² Templestowe Public Cemetery File, Ministry for Health and Community Services, Public Health Division, Melb.

In 1857 William Malcolm requested the provision of a burial ground at Templestowe "because last winter on two occasions bodies were detained by the floods and then crossed to Heidelberg at great inconvenience." The following year, on 6 July 1858, the present cemetery area of 9 three-quarters acres in Church Road was officially gazetted. A contemporary plan of the proposed Cemetery Reserve dated 6 May 1858 shows its division into sections for Presbyterians, Roman Catholics, Protestant Dissenters and Episcopalians, and a section labelled "Reserve for Extension."⁵³ Cemetery records confirm that the southern part of the present cemetery was the earliest section.⁵⁴

The cemetery allotment is marked on an 1874 map of the area near the land owned by the Hewish family.⁵⁵ A later, 1892 Directory map shows the Cemetery Reserve.⁵⁶

Most Trustees were wellknown district people, long serving and chosen on a denominational basis from local churches. James Read, pioneer district fruitgrower, was the first Trustee in 1858. Other prominent local fruitgrowers who became Trustees included Frank Smedley (1894), Thomas Hewish (1894), Thomas Henry Petty (1905), Albert Aumann (1936).⁵⁷ By the 1920s, as shown on an Army map, the Templestowe Cemetery was located outside the township within an extensive orcharding district.⁵⁸

The first burial at this cemetery was on 20 March 1860. The first official record of fees was in 1895 when a burial site plus digging cost three pounds. Many early settlers and their descendants are buried there. By the end of 1981, there had been 5,842 burials at Templestowe. The cemetery became increasingly popular as the Kew and Box Hill Cemeteries were filled. The Lawn Section at Templestowe which today accounts for 90 per cent of all burials, was opened in 1970. Lawns were named after important district people and include the Newman Lawn (after Major Charles Newman of Pontville), the Chivers Lawn and the Read Lawn.⁵⁹

Of *local historical significance* as the earliest public cemetery in the municipality, and the oldest district cemetery still in use with early associations with well known district families.

⁵³ Templestowe Public Cemetery File H CEM 477.

⁵⁴ Context Pty Ltd., City of Doncaster and Templestowe Heritage Study, pp 117-118.,

⁵⁵ *Plan of Bulleen*. Parish of Bulleen, Plan 526 B, 1874.

⁵⁶ *Parish of Bulleen*, Directory Maps of the County of Bourke, 1892.

⁵⁷ Templestowe Public Cemetery File H CEM 477.

⁵⁸ *Ringwood*. Military Survey 1 inch to a mile prepared by Australian Section. Imperial General Staff, June 1922.

⁵⁹ Templestowe Public Cemetery File H CEM 477.