

**Andersons Creek Cemetery
Cemetery Rd. Warrandyte.**

The old Andersons Creek Public Cemetery, gazetted in October 1866,⁶⁷ is associated with an area where gold was discovered in 1851 and where the present Warrandyte township had its origins. Warrandyte was once known as Andersons Creek.⁶⁸ Although it is not the earliest district cemetery (the Waldau Lutheran Cemetery at Doncaster dates from 1854 and the Templestowe Cemetery from 1858) , the Warrandyte Cemetery is among the earliest rural cemeteries in Victoria.⁶⁹

Although the full history of the Warrandyte Cemetery remains unknown as a result of the destruction of cemetery records in the 1939 bushfires, some important information is kept in the *Cemetery Register* and other records held by the Cemeteries Section of the Department of Health and Community Services. In addition, recent research carried out by Bruce Bence on behalf of the Andersons Creek Cemetery Trust and the Warrandyte Historical Society, has added to our knowledge of the cemetery's early history. A list of trustees and of those buried there, includes the names of many well-known district people. Among the earliest trustees were four appointed in 1871- Lewis Grant, Richard Breen, James Russell and Alexander McDonald.⁷⁰ The Sloan family has a long association with this cemetery, seven Sloans acting as Trustees and a number being buried there. James Sloan, stonemason, who came from Northern Ireland, arrived in Andersons Creek from the Californian goldfields. After his death (aged 82) he was buried at the Andersons Creek Cemetery, as were 26 other members of his family. A descendant, Terence Sloan, is currently acting as Secretary to the Trust.⁷¹

Recent research confirms that the graves of a number of Anderson Creek miners are among the unmarked burials at the cemetery dating from 1867 to 1938.⁷²

⁶⁷ Cemetery Register vol.i p.8, Department of Health and Community Services, Cemeteries Section,File H CEM 516.

⁶⁸ James Flett, *The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria*,pp.27-36.

⁶⁹ *Cemeteries*,ed. Celestina Sagazio pp. 82,91.

⁷⁰ Cemeteries Section File H CEM 516.

⁷¹ Bruce Bence, *Unmarked Burials Anderson's Creek Cemetery.1866-1988,Appendix 111,p.53.*

⁷² Bruce Bence,*Anderson's Creek Cemetery Warrandyte 1866-1988, Appendix 111.p.53, Unmarked Burials Anderson's Creek Cemetery 1867-1938.*

As other outer suburban cemeteries became full, the old district cemeteries at Warrandyte and Templestowe became more popular. The third district Waldau Cemetery at Doncaster was closed in 1888. The two remaining old cemeteries have required upgrading and grants of additional land. In 1975 an adjoining area of bushland was cleared and a lawn cemetery established at the Andersons Creek Public Cemetery. At this time, the three acre site was enclosed by a cyclone wire fence. In 1979, new paths and kerbing were laid and works undertaken to conserve the old headstones. Additional land was granted and gazetted on 9 November 1988.⁷³

Of local historical significance as an early cemetery within the municipality, among the earliest rural cemeteries established in goldfields areas in colonial Victoria, and notable as one of two nineteenth century district cemeteries still in use.

⁷³ Cemeteries Section File H CEM 516; *Doncaster and Templestowe News* 18 Sept. 1979
Gov. Gazette
9 Nov. 1988.