

Thursday, 13th May, 2021.

All Souls Chapel, Rookwood



Don't you just love Autumn! A clear sky heralded a beautiful day for our tour of heritage-listed Rookwood cemetery. This day was rather more about the experience than the drive.

Members started arriving at 9.30 at our designated meeting place.....All Souls Chapel at Rookwood for a 10.00 commencement.

In all, thirteen cars were in attendance with 20 members being present. On the day we had 2 new cars making an appearance.....a mighty ML Mercedes and a ford Prefect....we even had a ford Falcon ute! A cute Corolla was in the mix, an Audi TT along with a slew of Mercedes of varied models.

And what an amazing place Rookwood cemetery turned out to be!

Under the auspices of our knowledgeable guide Mark Bunby who has been working at Rookwood since 1992, we commenced our tour with firstly a presentation by Bob followed by the screening of 2 DVDs about the history of the site. Very interesting indeed!

We learnt that the cemetery has been operating since 1867 and received its name from the number of crows (rooks) in the area.



We also learnt that it had its own railway station used for receiving its permanent guests from Sydney. Cost was 1 shilling return but for permanents the trip was free! Due to the rise of the motor vehicle, in 1948, the 'Mortuary' station as it was known, ceased to operate.

Some famous residents...Anthony Hordern, John Fairfax, Roy 'Mo' Rene, Captain Moonlite and also Jack Bradshaw, the last of the bushrangers, to name just a few.

The tour, both on foot and by car, lasted approximately 2 hours with the group debunking to the Carnarvon golf club for lunch.

A pleasant, enjoyable day was had by all but we hardly scratched the surface!

