

# Epping Cemetery



## About

Epping Cemetery provides a glimpse of the cultural and natural history of the region with historical graves dating back to the mid-19th century and nationally significant remnant grassland that pre-dates European settlement.

The cemetery is an island of the original vegetation and landscape that existed prior to settlement on land of the traditional owners, the Wurundjeri-Willam Clan. In the mid-19th century much of the Epping region became pastoral land. Four acres was set aside for a cemetery to service this growing agricultural area and the Epping Township.

No burial records survive prior to 1894 when the Sexton's hut holding the first burial register, was destroyed by fire. The second register exists from 1894 and includes many familiar names of the district's early settlers. The cemetery was closed in 1967 to all except those holding deeds to sites.

The Epping Cemetery is now managed by the City of Whittlesea's Bushland Management Team.



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Epping

Melways Map 182 B8



Take a walk back into history with a glimpse of some of the oldest local graves which date back to the mid-19th century.

See landscapes and vegetation as they were well before European settlement arrived in this area.

Walking Difficulty – Easy

Accessibility – Good; formed gravel and mown grassy paths

Parking – O'Herns Road, Epping

Further information  
City of Whittlesea  
Tel: (03) 9401 0524  
www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au



Photography: Tim Connell Peter Bire Russell Best

Epping Cemetery is of national botanical significance due to its rare grasslands and grassy woodland vegetation. Management of this reserve ensures that the rich indigenous flora species of the grassland persist for future generations.

Invasive weeds are a major threat. The management of these weeds requires spot spraying with herbicide, slashing, hand-weeding and ecological burning at appropriate times. Works are undertaken carefully to preserve the biodiversity values whilst maintaining the historical character of the cemetery.

Grasslands and Grassy Woodlands are complex ecologies which contain a diverse range of colourful and beautiful plants supporting a range of native fauna. Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) is the dominant species along with Wallaby Grass and Common Tussock Grass.

A range of colourful daisies, lilies, orchids and native peas provide a delightful wildflower display through spring. The large River Red gums support fauna populations, in particular birds and small mammals. The Epping Cemetery also contains one of the greatest densities of the nationally endangered Matted Flax-Lily (*Dianella amoena*) plants in Australia.

## What to See and Do.....

- Take the time to appreciate the local historical interest of the cemetery and the beauty of the rare grasslands.
- Look for shiny skinks basking in the sun upon the graves and rocks.
- Photograph and encounter range of local indigenous flora and fauna.
- Listen and look out for the Red-rumped Parrots while they perch and flutter in the open grasslands.

- See the colour explosion of Spring-time wildflowers in the grasslands.
- Take in the audio-visual feast with the sounds of the Common Froglet and the trilling of the birds as they agilely manoeuvre through the trees.
- Read the inscriptions on the headstones and learn about the lives of Epping residents of the past.



Please keep to the paths while travelling through this important site and avoid climbing on any graves or headstones.