

Well....again we woke to a grey rainy day when the Swan River Chapter was about to embark on an outing that really needed some sunny weather.

Today, Sunday 6 May, we were heading to the East Perth Cemeteries for a presentation, walk and talk hosted by Lorraine Clarke, a First Fleeter amongst other things, and Cherie Strickland, whose family crypt is in one of the 9 cemeteries that make up the East Perth Cemeteries precinct.

The weather was a bit undecided but regardless, there were great numbers who rolled up on time and the group of 16 moved into the wonderful little St Bartholomew's Church which stands proudly among those souls who helped to establish the Swan River Colony in 1829.

The first person buried in the Cemetery Hill was interred on 6 January 1830 and it is estimated that as many as 9000 people were buried there between 1829 and 1919 in seven independently administered denominations or sections, thus causing Cemetery Hill to be known as the East Perth Cemeteries.

Lorraine gave the history of the Cemeteries and the tiny mortuary chapel before a walk and talk to some interesting headstones and gravesites of three former convicts. Lorraine and Cherie had compiled stories around these three souls, Glass, Elton and Bufton and left the group eager to explore more stories around the historical graves.

Visit the East Perth Cemeteries web site: <http://www.eastperthcemeteries.com.au/>