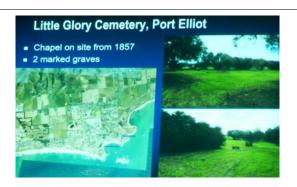




HISTORY ROOM NEWS

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In a nice use of very modern technology for historical purposes, last August a Flinders University team, commissioned by the Port Elliot National Trust, did a geophysical survey of the Little Glory Cemetery in Waterport Road, a long-unused cemetery with a number of unknown burials. On May 11, Dr. Ian Moffat, (above), the principal investigator, gave a summary report of the results to a well-attended P.E.N.T. Meeting. (It was nice to see foreigners from the V.H. and Goolwa branches there, amongst many others.)

After a brief historical introduction to the cemetery and the project by Lorraine Pomery, Dr. Moffat explained the basic science behind Ground Penetrating Radar, whereby, from a drone or kite (and he explained why a kite is often better), high frequency waves are sent and reflected, and record electro-magnetic changes that tell of earth movement, (or detect contaminants and/or metal). As it detects ground change, it has become, in the last 25 years, a very useful method to find unmarked graves, mapping out the rectangular grave-sites. Dr. Moffat has already done a lot of work in this area internationally and locally, including the Tabernacle (Yilke) Cemetery in Encounter Bay, and work with Ngarrindjeri people.

On the day, the on-ground machinery was surprisingly smallish, as can be seen in the photo on the next page, from Dr. Moffat's written report.

The results, however, were anything but small, with at least 69 unmarked graves found, as well as the location of a chapel that was part of the cemetery. The marvellous map on the next page shows the final outcome. The crowd at the talk were most impressed, and had many questions – Dr. Moffat had to talk and respond for nearly an hour and a quarter, and everyone learned quite a bit.



The Mala X3M Ground Penetrating Radar system used for this survey.

And then, to finish the night on a nice note, Anthony Presgrave, (of the Goolwa N.T. and, of course, our Local History Room, and author of some of these Newsletters) was Special Surprise Guest, and came bearing an Award to the P.E.N.T. from the Alexandrina Council Heritage Advisory Committee, for this very work they, P.E.N.T., commissioned.

By the time you lucky lot read this, I will have made copies of the written report for the History Room and P.E. Library Depot, and – even better – a DVD of Ian's talk, having videoed it, also available in same places, and borrowable.

(Above and below pics are from Dr. Moffat's report and slide-show, except the pic of him, what I took.)



HAPPY RESEARCHING FRODO

Help is available in the History Room when a volunteer is on duty. If you are travelling some distance it may be advisable to phone the Library on 8555-7000 to ascertain whether a volunteer is available.

For comments, suggestions or to receive this newsletter via email history.goolwa11@gmail.com

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